



Voices of the Valley

The Monthly Newsletter of Lord of the Valley Lutheran Church

"That We May Know, Live, and Share the Love of Christ."

January 2020

Volume 24, Number 1

ALL ARE WELCOME

As a community of the people of God, the people of Lord of the Valley Lutheran Church are called to welcome all people, regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ *"there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female."* - Galatians 3:28

Lord of the Valley Lutheran Church

PO Box 843 Granby, CO 80446 (970) 887-9252

Email: lotvoffice@lordofthevalley.org website: lordofthevalley.org

Church Office Hours – Monday – Thursday 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Rev. Brian Bergum – Pastor (970-531-4312)

pastorb@lordofthevalley.org

Kris Kuhnel - Newsletter Editor / Office Administrator

Church Council Members:

John Price 970-409-9200

Susan Odneal 816-210-4792

Chris Tinkum 725-3440

Pat Edwards 970-406-8108

Jane Fisher 970-302-9067

Linda Behlen 720-289-1422

Pete Roehrs 218-355-1144

Raymond Covington 970-846-9187

Suzanne Gerhart 970-887-3956

Greg Orzech 720-810-4966

Alicia Scott 303-946-2180

The church council meets the second Monday of each month. All church council meetings throughout the year are open to anyone. If you have something that you would like to present in front of the church council, or an item of concern please contact one of the church council members listed above.

The next Church Council Meeting is on Monday, January 13th at 6:45 pm.



Ski Together Days

Ski Together Thursdays begin on January 2nd at 10:00 am. Skiers from LOTV and their friends gather at the lower doors of Snoasis. We take a couple runs together and then often break into smaller groups based on skill level or terrain interest before rendezvousing for lunch at an agreed upon time and location.

It is great fellowship and fun!

Saturday Evening Worship

Saturday Evening Worship returns on January 4th and continues for the months of January, February and March. Services begin at 5:30 pm. Please remember we offer this alternative setting during the high recreational season in Grand County. We utilize Holden Evening Prayer with Holy Communion as our main liturgy on these winter Saturdays. Join us for these less formal worship opportunities.



Grace, mercy and peace be to you this Christmas and New Year!

This is a wonderful blessing isn't it? Grace, Mercy and Peace. Certainly such attention from God is welcome, longed for even. There is room for such gifts from God in our world, our nation and our own lives. Grace, the underserved love that God brings to us, because that simply is who God is. Mercy, God's steadfast lovingkindness; receiving kindness though we don't always extend the same to those around us. And Peace, which can be the absence of violence and the goodness of getting along with others, particular those difficult to get along with; and of course the peace that dwells within that can settle us when we are disturbed, uncertain, or confused.

Grace, Mercy and Peace. Gifts that arrive in unexpected times, in unexpected ways, from unexpected sources, but always are needed, and life giving! Life giving when they are recognized and received. Life giving when they are encountered in and through our own lives. Perhaps this is part of the unexpected mention above; that these gifts of God are ours to give, to live and offer.

Watch for this blessing in the time ahead, during these holi-days (holy days) and after. For these gifts can carry us through days of darkness, doubt, and uncertainty. They can also fill us with joy and delight so that our celebrations are full.

Grace, Mercy and Peace, they are life giving. They are the gift of Jesus Christ for you, for us, for the world.

A Blessed Christmas and New Year, filled with grace, mercy and peace, filled with the presence and promise of Jesus Christ!

Pastor Brian Bergum

Looking For a Way to Deepen Your Worship Experience?

For many people, looking at the Bible readings before Sunday helps put the message in context of their lives. As you read the lessons, ask yourself: Is there anything in the readings that relate to your life right now? Is there anything that surprises you in the readings? Disturbs you? Try doing this for a couple of weeks, see if following this on a weekly basis strengthens your personal faith life, and deepens your worship experience.

The Lessons for Worship in January

These are the Bible readings that we will hear during our worship services this month. They are provided that you might use them for personal devotion and meditation.

January 5th – Second Sunday of Christmas

Jeremiah 31: 7-14
Ephesians 1: 3-14
John 1:[1-9] 10-18

January 12th – Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 42: 1-9
Acts 10: 34-43
Matthew 3: 13-17

January 19th – Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49: 1-7
1 Corinthians 1: 1-9
John 1: 29-42

January 26th – Third Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 9: 1-4
1 Corinthians 1: 10-18
Matthew 4: 12-23

Ministers of Worship in January

January 5

Communion Prep – Carolyn Stahl

Greeter – Robin Donner

Ushers – Jerry Stahl, Roger Odneal

Readers – Robin Donner, Chris Tinkum

Communion Assistant – Carolyn S., Chris T., Susan O.

Acolyte – Emry Burns

January 19

CP – Sue Brooks

G- Dan and Alicia Scott Family

U – Bob Means

R – Dan Scott, Kathy Means

CA – Kris Kuhnel, Alicia Scott, Kathy Means

A – Makenzie Moyer

January 12

CP –Julie Anderson

G –Paul and Suzanne Gerhart

U –Ron Servis, Paul Gerhart

R – Pat Edwards, Don Anderson

CA – Suzanne Gerhart, Pat Edwards, Judy Servis

A – Joey Gagnon

January 26

CP – Gary and Linda Behlen

G – Roger and Susan Odneal

U – Greg Orzech, Roger Odneal

R –Susan Odneal, Gary Behlen

CA – Susan Odneal, Lori Orzech, Char Heins

A –Gunnar Bjerken

If you are unable to help be a worship minister on the particular day, please try and find a replacement to take your place or to switch days with you. Thank you for sharing in the ministry of Lord of the Valley.

Christmas Poinsettias

The following people graciously donated a poinsettia plant to help adorn our worship space for our Christmas Services. Poinsettias may be taken home anytime following our last worship service on Christmas Eve. Thank you to Royal Heins for getting these from his friend Brian Gold who grows them.

Don and Julie Anderson in memory of Lloyd & Rozetta Anderson.

Don and Julie Anderson in memory of Ewald & Yvonne Hartman.

Jerry and Edna Anderson in honor of our sons Reuben and Nathan.

Jerry and Edna Anderson in honor of Jerry's brother Alan who is battling a form of Parkinson disease and his wife Patsy.

Pastor Brian and Karen Bergum in honor of the LOTV Community.

Mike and Cathy Childress in honor of our children: Amanda, Heather, Samantha, Kat, Melissa.

George and Pat Edwards in memory of our parents.

George and Pat Edwards in honor of our family and this Christmas Season.

Dennis and Jane Fisher in memory of Dennis's parents Vic and Pauline Fisher.

Dennis and Jane Fisher in memory of Jane's mother Betty Nyquist.

Paul and Suzanne Gerhart in honor of our family.

Lonna Hovland in memory of Klara Enger.

The Moyer family in memory of Michael Dickinson "Pa Bull".

The Moyer family in memory of Irene Moyer.

Jim and Mary Mulholland in memory of our parents.

Jim and Mary Mulholland in honor of our grandchildren.

Roger and Susan Odneal in memory of Roger, Linda and Darleen Odneal.

Greg and Lori Orzech in memory of Elinor Dunaway & George Edwards.

Greg and Lori Orzech in memory of Lorraine & Zigmund Orzech.

Andy and Kathy Osborne in honor of our LOTV family who is so special to us.

Andy and Kathy Osborne in honor of Rebecca and Todd for your unwavering love.

Dave, Ellen and Lauren Parri in memory of Art Lipton.

Dave, Ellen and Lauren Parri in memory of Sam Parri.

Shana and Pete Roehrs in honor of Lois Sorensen, grandmother.

Shana and Pete Roehrs in memory of Elaine Roehrs, mother.

Shana and Pete Roehrs in honor of Marion Krahenbuhl, grandmother.

Ron and Judy Servis in memory of James and Nora Abernathy.

Ron and Judy Servis in memory of William G. & Valentine A. Servis.

Ron and Judy Servis in memory of Marie & Marius Reynouard.

Ron and Judy Servis in memory of Helen Servis.

Jerry and Carolyn Stahl in memory of our parents.



Second Sunday Special Offering January 12th

With the help of our children we invite members and friends to bring nonperishable food items to church on the Second Sunday each month to support the food pantry at Mountain Family Center. We will have our green wagon in the back of the sanctuary and our children will be invited to bring these items forward during worship. Thank you!!

Confirmation

Our Confirmation Class will meet on January 5th and 19th at 11:30 am.

Appreciating God's World

Many members of our congregation have had the opportunity to travel to many parts of the United States and the world. We are continuing a program where members of the congregation share their travel experiences with other LOTV members and the community. The 30-40 minute presentations are at 2:30 pm on the third Friday of the month. Afterwards, there is time for questions.

Attendees / presenters may bring appetizers to share. ***This month's presentation will be on January 17th. Greg and Lori Orzech will share their experience in Ireland and Scotland.***

If you have been blessed to travel internationally or within the United States and would like to share your experiences, please sign up on the sheet at the back of the sanctuary or visit with or call Jerry or Edna Anderson at 970-887-9773 with any questions about the series. We would be glad to help you organize your presentation. Bob and Kathy Means will also host these events.





The Women's Bible Study sessions continue in January on Tuesday, January 7th and 21st at 11:00 am. All women of LOTV are invited for a time of sharing, study and support while enjoying a light lunch. For more information please call Pat Edwards at 970-406-8108, Carolyn Stahl 887-9352 or Mary Mulholland 303-898-6743.

Men's Ministry

On Wednesday mornings at 7:00 am a group of men gather at Lord of the Valley for breakfast, conversation, prayer and study. This group welcomes men to join them whether for a week or two, a season or year round. They take turns providing breakfast for each other. Sometimes the conversations linger, but they understand if some need to leave earlier. They seek to offer an encouraging, supportive time together. Everyone is invited to participate.

Home Devotions / Living Lutheran Magazine

Located on the table at the back of the sanctuary are home devotionals you are invited to take and use at home. They are free, and they are a simple way to spend a few minutes each day focusing on your relationship with God. Also, at the table you will find information relating to our ministry at LOTV and the January issue of the *Living Lutheran* Magazine. Feel free to take what you might find useful.

Sunday Morning Fellowship

We would like to thank those who have generously hosted Sunday morning fellowship in the past few months. It is an important part of our ministry as it is a time to share in conversation and welcome guests. We have a few Sundays available in January and February for those interested in hosting Sunday morning fellowship. Please see the signup sheet at the back of the sanctuary as well as a list of responsibilities.

Health and Wellness

January is Glaucoma Awareness Month

Make eye health a New Year's Resolution

Every New Year, you make a list of things you will do to stay healthy so you can feel your best. But, did you realize that feeling your best includes seeing your best too? January is Glaucoma Awareness Month – the perfect time to spread the word about the disease. So, this year, add learning about glaucoma to your list! Your eyes will thank you for it.

1. **Glaucoma can cause vision loss and blindness, which can't be reversed.**
Glaucoma causes fluid to build up in your eye, causing pressure that can damage the optic nerve, which transfers visual images to your brain. But, you can save your vision with early detection and treatment.
2. **There are no early symptoms.**
Glaucoma often has no early warning signs. No pain. No discomfort. No blurry vision. Only advanced glaucoma will affect your vision. Don't wait for symptoms to visit your eye doctor!
3. **In the United States, half the people who have glaucoma don't know they do.** Nearly 3 million Americans have glaucoma. Half don't know it. Lack of awareness and the absence of symptoms are preventing people from detecting the disease early. You can change that! Find out if you have glaucoma.
4. **Some people are at higher risk than others.**
African Americans over 40, adults over 60 – especially Hispanics/Latinos, and people with a family history of glaucoma are at higher risk, making early detection especially important. Are you at high risk? Talk to your family about glaucoma.
5. **There is only one way to know if you have glaucoma.**
Getting a comprehensive dilated eye exam is the only way to find out if you have glaucoma. During the exam, an eye care professional places drops in your eyes to widen the pupils and looks for signs of the disease in the optic nerve.

Now that you've got the facts about glaucoma, make a resolution for healthier vision. Schedule a comprehensive dilated eye exam today! And encourage your friends and loved ones to do the same.

Dinner for Six

Sign-Up by January 8th for “Dinner for Six” Groups. Dinner for Six is the chance you have to get together with other people from Lord of the Valley (usually in groups of six – hence the name) for dinner and conversation. The way that it works is that you agree to have dinner together three times. Each time you rotate hosts and the dinner moves from house to house. “Dinner for Six” is for all adults, of all ages, couples and singles are invited to join. This is a great chance to meet other people from Lord of the Valley. Sign up at the back of the sanctuary today and be part of a small group enjoying good food and good conversation with good people. Contact the church office for more information.

Cooperative Ministry events coming.

On January 26th Lord of the Valley and Church of the Eternal Hills will have a pulpit swap. Pastor Paula Steinbacher will preach and preside here at LOTV and Pastor Brian will preach and preside at CEH. It is an opportunity for our two faith communities to share and get to know each other better.

Also in the New Year Pastor Paula and Pastor Brian will look at the possibility of mutual ministry for our youth in middle and senior high. CEH hosts a Thursday evening Youth Night where students come together for supper and then break into the two age groups for learning and sharing, Faith Formation. Our Pastors are considering using resources called Peer Ministry Leadership that equips young people to support each other and discover the depth of friendship. Please keep this potential ministry sharing in your prayers as we evaluate it’s potential for our young people, their friends and households. If this sounds like something you might like to become part of please talk with Pastor Brian.

Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

We want to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for our members and provides donation consistency for our congregation. Direct Debit Giving is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church’s bank account. As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. Authorization forms are available at the back of the sanctuary. Please call the church office for more information, 887-9252.

Angie’s English School

Julie Anderson invites you to join her in support of Angie’s School, which teaches English to children in Somoto, Nicaragua. Elmer Revas Mendoza, a long-time interpreter for our Mission Teams, is teaching English to student’s age 6-14, 2 hours a day, 4 days a week. This is outside of their regular half day of school. We are looking for sponsors to provide \$15.00 per month to sustain his work in the Julio Velasquez neighborhood near Somoto. This monthly scholarship will supply all that is needed in the way of work books, supplies and teaching time for one child to complete a one-year English course. Sponsors will receive a short video of their student speaking English once every two weeks to observe their progress. As of right now, there are 20 students. If you feel moved to help with this program and become a sponsor or receive more information please contact Julie Anderson, 719-342-5245.

Vocal Ensemble

Would you be interested in singing in a vocal ensemble once a month or so for worship? We utilize digital accompaniment for members to learn their parts at home. We then come together for brief rehearsals before sharing our music offering during worship. If you would like to add your voice please visit with Pastor Brian or Rich Klingner.



Monthly Blood Pressure Checks

Don’t forget we offer free blood pressure checks following our worship service once a month. The next free blood pressure check will be on Sunday, January 5th.

City Market Community Rewards

Thank you to our families who have signed up for the City Market Rewards program. If you haven’t signed up go to: www.citymarket.com. Once there, click on *Create an Account* or sign in to your account. Once you sign in to your account you will have the option to *View all Organizations* and select Lord of the Valley Lutheran Church. This is a quick and simple way to support Lord of the Valley Lutheran Church while doing your grocery shopping.