



Light For Your Life

May 2017



Message from Pastor Jay...

“The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.”

Dates to Remember....

- LWML Spring Tea, 5/13
- Mother's Day, 5/14
- Bible & Prayer Basics class, 5/20
- New Member Class, 5/21
- Mission Bylaw Class, 5/24
- Memorial Day (office closed), 5/29
- Cottage Meeting, 5/31

This parable is about the reign of the kingdom of Heaven coming through Jesus and how it grows.

The action of leaven is imperceptible to the naked eye, but its dramatic effects can be seen with time. There are two keys we must buy into to get raised dough. The first key is patience, allowing the leaven to do its work according to its own timing. The second is trust, confidence that what is known about leaven will happen even though it can't be seen.

The same is true of Jesus reign in the hearts of people, the life of a church and His work in the world.

As God's people, we can quickly become discouraged and doubt filled when our lives seem absent of joy or peace or any of the fruit of the Spirit that we long to see. There are days and sometimes entire seasons of "dryness", when we long for significance, inspiration and the feeling of God being near and yet it is the farthest thing from our experience.

Similarly, there are stretches in our church life when all the services, activities, programs and relationship efforts seem like just going through the motions. We spend time, energy and money trying to "build the kingdom" and the kingdom appears to remain unchanged.

Add to that all our praying, witnessing, blessing, giving and serving for the sake of the world which often doesn't even seem to make a drop of difference in a sea of darkness, and we can be left seriously wondering about what we're doing wrong or why God is absent.

History can add our names to the list of Old Testament people wandering in the wilderness, the discouraged prophet under the broom tree, the psalmist who cries out, "How long Lord, will you hide yourself forever?" We are in the company of those who expected Jesus' immanent return during the first century persecutions, the plagues and wars of the middle ages and the saints in this day who wonder how much worse will this world get.

In the midst of our impatience and often feeble faith, the Apostle Paul has a word for us from Philippians 1: "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

Jesus is still bringing His Kingdom. He is bringing it in you by His Spirit. He is bringing it to His church by Word and sacrament. And He is bringing it into the world by His Word and Spirit working through His people. So be patient. Trust Him to do what He promises. His Kingdom is coming. Amen. Come Lord Jesus!

Pastor Jay

Grow-Matthew 6:33

Connect-1 Corinthians 12:27

Go- Matthew 28:19-20



May 14th will be Mite Box Sunday this month. All proceeds will go to LWML mission projects.

Hospitality Fellowship teams 2017 schedules

(Please save the dates to help your team out)



January-Penney Team

July-Penney Team

February-Ulatowski Team

August-Ulatowski Team

March-Hogge Team

September-Hogge Team

April-Penney Team

October-Penney Team

May-Ulatowski Team

November-Hogge Team

June-Hogge Team

December-Ulatowski Team

Please get with your Hospitality team leads know your availability to serve in the months that your team is scheduled for in 2017.

THANK YOU from Elk Grove Rotary...

Cheri:

The Taste of Elk Grove again was a successful event. The baskets from Light of the Valley Church were well received. Again the items donated by the church were popular. The "Homer Bucket" had several bids. One of our Rotarians got the basket for outdoor fun. She said she wanted the basket to share with her grandchildren.

Taste of Elk Grove is our major annual fundraiser and it provides money to fund our annual contributions to local charities. Some of the recipients are: Elk Grove Food Bank; EG Teen Center; Emancipated Foster Youth; EC Senior Center; Running of the Elk; ALBIE Aware; Horses Healing Heroes; Chick In Crises; Math Attach and My Sister's House (for abused women).

We also have an international project with Ataco, the Sister City of Elk Grove. Annually we provide funds to construct homes for needy families in Ataco. Each home costs approximately \$1500. The homes are extremely small but they provide a place to call "home."

Again we thank you.

Warmly,

Jo Anna

Thanks to the following LightHouse groups for your generosity:

Carol Matranga's Monday lunch bunch, Summer Mitchell's Monday night group, Lee Hunter's Tuesday night group, Chris Burton's Thursday night group and Men's Saturday morning group



A **GREAT BIG THANK YOU** to all those who served and helped out during **HOLY WEEK** including David Penney's hospitality team.

And a special thanks to Pam Hogge's **Maundy Thursday** team of ten volunteers who helped make our Seder meal and service a big success. We had 83 people participate in this service.

Thank you to Steven Mitchell who portrayed Jesus on **Good Friday**. The 99 who attended the service were very moved.

Our **Spring Fling** was a huge success! A special thanks to Co-Directors Becca Hoffman and Susan Holm along with their 40 volunteers! There were 2,418 eggs filled for the Easter Egg hunt in one hour (980 more than last year). 138 kids attended this fun community outreach event.

Thanks to the Hunter LightHouse group for the fabulous **Easter Breakfast**. Extra kudos to MaryAnn Taylor and her team of 17 volunteers. 189 people were served breakfast on Easter morning (84 more than last year). 30 dozen eggs, 800 sausages and 30lbs of pancake mix were served along with 6 gallons of orange juice and 120 small cartons of milk. We also had 244 people attend our **Easter Services**.

A special thanks to Lisa Dube` for helping to beautify the sanctuary with decorations and all of her other special touches! Thank you Pam Hogge for ordering and delivering the Easter lilies as well as those of you who purchased lilies to help beautify the sanctuary.

Holy Week in Review...



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MAUNDY THURSDAY

GOOD FRIDAY



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EASTER BREAKFAST



EASTER SERVICE



LoV U... Course Schedule Updates

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Fee</u>
May				
<i>Bible & Prayer Basics</i>	5/20	Sat	9am-2pm	\$0
<i>New Member Class</i>	5/21	Sun	12-3pm	\$0*
<i>Church Mission Bylaws</i>	5/24	Wed	6:30-8pm	\$0
*recently rescheduled from 4/30				
June				
<i>Listening to God</i>	6/17	Sat	9am-2pm	\$0
July				
<i>Experiencing God</i> (13 week session)	7/26-10/18	Wed	6:30-8pm	\$0
August				
<i>Experiencing God</i>	7/26-10/18	Wed	6:30-8pm	\$0

New Member Class

Three hour membership class that covers-

- ♦ Our purpose and vision for ministry in this community
- ♦ Our core values
- ♦ The structure of our church
- ♦ Why join Light of the Valley (or any church for that matter)
- ♦ LoV membership requirements
- ♦ Membership expectations & opportunities

Bible and Prayer Basics Workshop

How to read, understand and apply the Bible to your life. Grow comfortable in learning prayer and how to pray simply and effectively.

Listening to God Workshop

Learn how to see and hear God's voice in the world around you and understand His will for your life.

Church Mission Bylaws: Light of the Valley legal voting requirements call for members to know and sign our bylaws and constitution under the state of California.

This workshop is for new members wanting to become voting members at Light of the Valley.



LoV annual spring cleaning was held on Saturday, April 1st (no fooling). A great big **THANK YOU** to the following people who helped out: Wendell & Darlene Alff, Ian & Lisa Bailey, Andreas, Jill & Adler Batiansila, Allen Elston, Douglas Erickson, Rochelle Hamilton, Cody, Becca, Adi & Claire Hoffman, Marilyn Hunter, Michael Kohlbaker, Pat Mason, Sue Mason, Ron & Cheri Miedema, Pam & Cameron Nickson, David Penney, Jim Pigg, Pastor Jay Reed, Brennan Reed and Birney Schramm.

Thank you also to our “Adopt a Plot” owners (Chris & Letha Burton, Ron & Cheri Miedema, David Penney, Kathy Seatris and Todd Taylor family) who spruced up their plots prior to our spring cleaning day.

Everything looked so nice and clean for Holy week.



May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 <i>Quilters & Crocheting 1-3pm</i>	3 <i>Confirmation class 6:30-8pm</i>	4	5	6 <i>SPC Leadership planning 9am-12pm</i>
7 <i>“Real Talks” 10am</i>	8	9 <i>Quilters & Crocheting 1-3pm</i>	10	11	12	13 <i>Men’s Bible Study & Breakfast 8am; Spring Tea 12pm</i>
14 <i>Mother’s Day</i>	15	16 <i>Quilters & Crocheting 1-3pm</i>	17 <i>PrimeTimers 12-2pm; Confirmation class 6:30-8pm</i>	18	19	20 <i>Bible & Prayer Basics 9am-2pm</i>
21 <i>New Members class 12-3pm; “Real Talks” 10am</i>	22	23 <i>Quilters & Crocheting 1-3pm</i>	24 <i>Mission By-Law class 6:30-8pm</i>	25	26	27 <i>Men’s Bible Study & Breakfast 8-10am</i>
28	29 <i>Memorial Day– office closed</i>	30 <i>Quilters & Crocheting 1-3pm</i>	31 <i>Cottage meeting 6:30-8pm</i>			

What we are about:

Walking with one another reflecting the light of Jesus.

What it looks like:

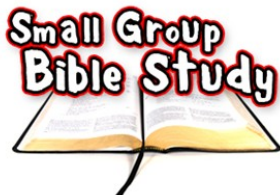
A relationship with God that is personal and daily.

Relationships in the home that reflect God’s grace.

Relationships in the church that reflect God’s love.

A relationship with the world that engages neighbors and nations.

LightHouse Groups Schedules...



Walking with one another in the light of Jesus

<u>Group Host</u>	<u>Day of Week</u>	<u>How often</u>	<u>Time**</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Demographics</u>
Matranga	Monday	Weekly	12:00pm	LoV	Mixed Group
Mitchell	Monday	Weekly	6:30pm	LoV	Young Families
Alff	Monday	Weekly	7:00pm	LoV Conf Rm.	Mixed Group
Hunter	Tuesday	Weekly	7:00pm	Sweet home	Mixed Group
Reed	Tuesday	Weekly	7:00pm	Reed home	Mixed Group
Burton	Thursday	Weekly	6:30pm	Burton home	Mixed Group
Michael Dube`	Saturday	2 nd & 4 th	8:00am	LoV	Men

Groups are 1.5 hours in length with the exception Matranga Lunch Bunch and Men's group who also have food time.

MAY SUNDAY WORSHIP

Ulatowski Hospitality
Fellowship team

LAWN CARE

5/3-5/6	Allen Elston	5/24-5/27	Birney Schramm
5/10-5/13	Ron Miedema	5/31-6/3	James Pigg
5/17-5/20	David Penney		

KID'S CHURCH

	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Helper</u>
5/7	Nick Leach	Virgil Stephens
5/14	Melissa Riley	Rosie Penington
5/21	Summer Mitchell	Virgil Stephens
5/28	Carin Hill	Keanna Wong

COUNTERS

5/7	Hogge, Miedema & Penney's	5/21	Bailey & Cadwising
5/14	Burton's & Seatrix	5/28	Alff, Daniels & Riepe

May Birthday's

- 2 Elaine Holm
Joann McCarthy
- 3 Ron Baker
Todd Talyor
- 4 Stan Sala
- 6 Evelyn Sahlin
- 7 Joan Stringer
- 8 Delores Sahlin
- 9 Celiena Mammen
- 10 Sue Mason
Ellen Schramm
Frank Thornton
- 12 Trevor Leach
- 15 Remy Mitchell
- 17 Daniel Judge
- 18 Linda Briones
- 19 Nicolas Hines
- 20 Dottie Voxland
- 23 Camilla Wilson
- 24 Steven Mitchell
- 25 Lois Berndt



To our Friends at Light of the Valley
We had our annual Giving Day on April 26th.
Students did a great job helping out at the
various community projects.
Teacher Appreciation week is May 1-5, and the
LHS parents and students have some wonderful
surprises in store for the staff.
Honors and Awards Night is Thursday, May
18th. This is an enjoyable evening when we
recognize the students for all their hard work.
Fifteen seniors are on pace to graduate on
Friday, May 26, 2017. This year the graduation
ceremony will be at Greenhaven Lutheran,
starting at 6:30 p.m.
We appreciate your prayers for the staff and
students as they finish out the school year and
for all the support you have given LHS over the
years.

In Christ,
LHS Students and Staff



Be informed!

- Cottage Meeting (informational meetings to
review & discuss new fiscal year budget).
Wednesday, 5/31 6:30-8pm or
Saturday, 6/3 9-10:30am
- Annual voters meeting, 6/4 at 12pm to vote
on new fiscal year budget and vote on new
Strategic Planning Council (SPC)
member(s)

May Anniversaries

- 2 Milburn & Sandy
Guillory
- 5 Chuck & Joan
Brophy
- 12 Juan & Kelly Reyes
Tom & Hermie
Shine
- 16 Mike & Cyndie
Brown
- 20 Jim & Arleen
Ferguson
Robert & Amanda
West
- 27 John & Erin Brooks
- 29 Birney & Thisbe
Schramm
- 30 Joe & Betty Freitas



***Thank You
for your
Faithful giving!***

LoV Budget Update

*(July 2016-
March 2017)*

Receipts/Income:
\$323,478

Expenses:
\$306,374

Surplus:
\$17,103

***First to the Lord
Pledge Summary***
(For 3/1/2017-2/28/2018)

Goal:
\$336,457

**Total Received:*
\$37,270

% of Goal:
11%

**as of 4/25/2017*

Psalms 116:12

ELECTRONIC

We want to remind you that LoV offers electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for members and provides for consistency in giving.

Direct Debit Giving is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account.

You can also go to LoV website at any time to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history.

As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. Authorization forms are available from the church office or visit the LoV website: <http://www.lightofthevalley.net/give>



Has ministry gone to the dogs?

Well, if you ask the dedicated people working with Lutheran Church Charities (LCC), based in Addison, IL, you might find that, in a way, the answer is “Yes.” **Light of the Valley** met the only two Northern California Lutheran Comfort Dogs, Rueben (1st Lutheran in Yuba City) and Aaron (St. John's in Napa) on Sunday, April 2nd. We would like to discuss whether K-9 Comfort Dog might join us at LoV in ministry.

In 2008, LCC began a human care ministry using specially trained and certified Golden Retrievers to serve people who are hurting and suffering. Some of those people are in nursing homes, hospitals, schools and counseling centers. Others are victims of tragedies and disasters, such as the school shooting in Sandy Hook, CT, the deadly fires in Prescott, AZ, and the devastating tornados in Moore, OK.

The K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry of LCC brings the comfort, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ to people in our community and across the nation. The K-9 Comfort Dogs **provide the bridge** between the handler (ministry contact) and the person being comforted and served. A growing number of Lutheran congregations and universities across the nation are joining in this exciting ministry. Many are adding one or two comfort dogs to their own ministry staffs and are becoming affiliate members of the LCC K-9 Comfort Dog ministry.

In the very near future, you will hear much more about this ministry. What really is a “K-9 Comfort Dog?” Could a K-9 Comfort Dog enhance our mission and outreach ministries by being a bridge at **Light of the Valley** and our community? How? What do we have to do to be a part of the LCC Parish K-9 Comfort Dog program? How much will this cost? Do we want to participate and support this unique ministry opportunity? If so, how do we want to support it?

We look forward to exploring the mission and outreach possibilities together and determining God's will for us. Please pray for God's discernment regarding this ministry. If you are interested learn more or are interested in this ministry, we are planning an interest meeting on **Sunday, 5/21, at 12-1:30 pm in the church.**

For more information, check out the LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry @ www.lutheranchurchcharities.org



Spark Imagination at VBS this summer!

**At Maker Fun Factory VBS, kids will
learn they're created by God and built
for a purpose!**

Register at: Light of the Valley
(church name)

VBS dates: July 17-21, 2017

VBS times: 6pm-8pm

For more information, call: 916-691-3568

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Service Times:

Traditional-8:45am

Contemporary-10:30am

*(Kid's Church at the
10:30 service)*



Light of the Valley Church

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www.lightofthevalley.net

www.facebook.com/LightoftheValleyElkGrove

