



LORD OF THE MOUNTAINS

ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 2024



BE LOVE

I'm not normally an NFL football watcher. I'm normally more of a college football fan. Yet, this season, I've found myself watching more of the NFL; including this past weekend when I watched all six NFL wild card games.

In each game I watched, I noticed that all the players had "Be Love" on the back of their helmets and it was in at least one or two end zones.

The NFL stated that all 12 teams wore this on their helmet in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. since the games were played on MLK Jr. weekend. While it's nice the NFL is using its platform to spread love, most savvy watchers will note how much it's also a marketing scheme.

Regardless, I wish we all would follow that phrase just a bit more in our lives.

Be Love.

So much of our faith can be summarized by that one little statement, for love is at the core of who God is.

"Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love."

- 1 John 4:8



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Where we are
TODAY

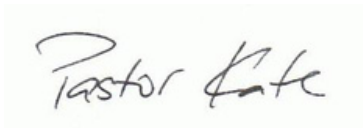
Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

- Mark 12:29-31

Love is central to who God is and to all the ways we are to understand our life together. First, to be love is to be at least a little like the Divine. Every experience of love is an experience of God.

Likewise, we are to love God and our neighbor as much as we love ourselves (which can all be very tricky). Thus, I posit that the more we embody love, the closer to God we get.

In the pages that follow, I hope you will get a sense of how our love shows to the community through our various ministries. Only some parts of our life as a congregation are highlighted here but we hope you begin to get a glimpse of the ways your presence and financial gifts are blessings to so many - an experience of love for the sake of LOTM and others.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Kate".

OUR MINISTRY

Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

-Luke 10:8-9

Our life together as a community of faith is in part about our own growth. But it is also about being in service to one another and the wider community - to help care for others in their deep need just as we need care. This is part of God's reign on earth - practicing love toward each other as God already loves us.

To show some of the ways our courage, dignity, and love are emerging, some of our ministry leaders have submitted highlights from the past year in their area of ministry.

They have also submitted a hope - something we wish to accomplish together this next year.

Hopefully, these will give you a small window into the ways Lord of the Mountains is showing love to the world.



God's Love in
ACTION

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Music is one of LOTM's strengths and why many folks find and stay in our community. This year's fantastic music was led primarily by Caroline Hesford and Christy Reinking, including guest musicians, special services, and a cantata.



At the end of January, Caroline took over as Music Director and Collaborative Pianist. Leading much of the music at LOTM, there was much to be proud of including (but certainly not limited to) the following.

- The choir collaborated with the Littles to perform a piece alongside a slide show for Palm Sunday. Then they sang with the Rocky Mountain Brass Quintet and Ann Steele on organ at the Easter services.
- Choir members performed instrumental and vocal solos as well as duets as part of worship.
- Christy Reinking and John Preckshot regularly organized worship led by guitars and basses.
- Toward the end of the year, for Advent, the choir performed Joseph Martin's Tapestry of Light and then sang at the 7:30 service on Christmas Eve.

Christy Reinking led our handbell choir and she offered these highlights and hope for the coming year:

- Frequent participation in worship providing Preludes, Postludes, and Offertory Anthem.
- The enthusiasm with which all ringers participate and the commitment of the group to enhance the worship experience at LOTM.



A hope: A larger pool of ringers in 2024

PERSONNEL

Donna Clark agreed to continue as our sole Office Administrator.

We were sorry to say goodbye to our Choir Director, Chris Keelan, and her husband, Nick.

Yet, pleased that Caroline Hesford agreed to accept the new combined position of Music Director and Collaborative Pianist.

We are looking forward to a strong year with everyone working together for LOTM.

- Your Personnel Committee: Ben Little, Annette Bolt, Ruth Hendricks, and Kevin Clark.



EDUCATION

There was much that happened in both adult and youth education. Highlights from 2023 in adult education include table talks on a variety of subjects ranging from end-of-life decisions, spirituality, and care; to creation care, to nurturing our faith. Pastor Kate continues to lead a Bible study on the book of Luke each Wednesday morning and has started a once-a-month, evening study group as well.



This year, we look ahead to a conversation about how to be more welcoming, loving, and affirming of our LGBTQIA+ community members as well as a long-awaited special event, which had to be canceled during COVID. International sustainability advocate Hunter Lovins will offer a LOTM Table Talk, followed by an afternoon community presentation at Colorado Mountain College.



Our youth and families began meeting for family faith events once a month this past year. These events always involve dinner, a story or lesson, and a craft.

The Christmas event with Santa, Comet, and Conductor Joe's trains was exceptional as always.

CARE FOR OTHERS

You may not be aware, but there is a whole team dedicated to ensuring that when care and support from others is needed, such as following a death or during recovery from surgery or after an accident, there are people to provide meals, rides, and fulfill other needs.

While many people participate with this care team, Christy Reinking is the coordinator.



She offered these thoughts:

Highlights: A wonderful response from congregation members willing to help when a need arose.

The compassion that people have for our LOTM family and their desire to live it with actions of service.

Hope: That a framework remains in place that provides a way for care requests to be organized and directed by one person to give effective help in a timely manner to the family/individual in need.



YAK AND YARN

Holly Holden has been leading a group she claims is just a fellowship group to socialize and peruse fabric arts. Yet, they also care for others in that socialization and by making prayer shawls.

In 2023, Y&Y distributed 80 handmade items, up from the year before.

In conjunction with the Prayer Shawl Ministry knitting instructions were provided to 1 person and a \$50 donation was made to LOAF in memory of Connie Haseloh.

They are looking to add new people to the group this year.





SECOND OFFERING SUNDAY

In 2023 the Lord of the Mountains congregation generously donated \$23,477.69 to various non-profits locally, nationally, and internationally through Second Offering Sunday. See the chart below for more highlights, a hope, and donation totals to each group supported.

2023 Second Offering Sunday (SOS) Highlights

In keeping with the mission and values of Lord of the Mountains, for the first time SOS had an environmental recipient: Eagle Summit Wilderness Alliance (ESWA). Christy Reinking was the champion.

SOS continues to support local, national and international non-profits.

In 2024, SOS will seek more ideas and input from the LOTM congregation.

2023 Second Offering Sunday (SOS) Recipients

Month	Recipient	Champion	Amount Collected
January	Love One Another Fund (LOAF)	Karen Johns	\$3155.00
February	Doctors to the World	Darlene Muschett	\$1570.69
March	Lutheran Disaster Response: Ukraine, Turkey & Syria	Ron Gebhardtsbauer	\$4139.00
April	No Offering		
May	Eagle Summit Wilderness Alliance	Christy Reinking	\$706.00
June	Community Dinner	Darlene Muschett	\$1113.00
July	Advocates for Victims of Assault	Christy Reinking	\$1459.00
August	Unsheltered in Summit	Diane Luellen	\$1919.00
September	FIRC	Julie Cope	\$1251.00
October	Thanksgiving to Go	Holly Holden	\$2009.00
November	Cambodian Wells Project	Karen & Ben Little	\$4976.00
SOS Totals:			\$22,297.69
*Nicaraguan Asylum Refugees			\$1180.00
LOTM Totals:			\$23,477.69

DAY SERVICES

We have offered our homeless men and women in Summit County a place where they can come twice a week, on Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 1-4, to take a hot shower, do laundry, have a hot meal, and relax within a supportive community. We also offer warm clothing and a high-quality sleeping bag for those who need them.

The number of people taking advantage of our program varies by season and weather. On a typical day, we usually have between 8-18 people coming for our service.

Our clients all suffer from mental health issues, or drug & alcohol addiction. Many will secure jobs of various kinds but are rarely able to maintain them because of their issues.

The food we serve may be donated by the Community Dinner, but on occasion, there is a need to buy food and other supplies such as laundry products.

We have been fortunate in 2023 to be the recipient of a monetary gift from St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, as well as the Interfaith Council. We are beyond grateful for these gifts, as well as the generous support from the congregation of Lord of the Mountains. Without this support, these most vulnerable people in our community could not survive.



LOVE ONE ANOTHER FUND

LOAF is used to assist members within our congregation or in our community when they find they have financial shortfalls.

In the past year, this fund has been used to secure a motel room for a vulnerable family whose car broke down in Summit County, as well as to help new immigrants who have come from Central America to buy warm clothing and other necessary items. Other uses include helping a young man who could not afford the repairs needed for his car, so he could get to his job.

We have on occasion contributed towards rent for families who had mounting medical/dental bills

This ministry is entirely funded by the generosity of the congregation at Lord of the Mountains.



GREEN TEAM

In addition to table talks on sustainability and creation care, LOTM has continued to provide support for all sorts of recycling and food waste programs in the county and in the congregation.

This year, the team looks forward to continuing recycling and composting efforts in addition to determining more ways within the congregation to reduce our environmental footprint.

FELLOWSHIP

We are, of course, a community of people and this means there is need to foster that community through various social and communal events. 2023 was full of soup suppers before midweek worship in both Lent and Advent as well as all sorts of fun events like our Oktoberfest.

We look forward to many more opportunities to connect with each other in the coming year, including LOTM's 50th anniversary celebration!



ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The Charitable Endowment fund was created in 1994 with a generous gift of \$120,000. The purpose of the endowment fund is to provide for mission work beyond the operational budget of our congregation. The committee meets quarterly to respond to grant requests. During the 2023 fiscal year the committee distributed the following gifts:

2022 - 4th Q - \$1,000 Bethany Immigration Services

2023 - 1st Q - \$3,000 Colorado Mountain College

2023 - 2nd Q - \$1,500 World Central Kitchen Ukraine

2023 - 3rd Q - \$2,000 Faces of Karma

2023 - 4th Q - \$500 Summit Choral Society

At the end of 2023 the Charitable Gift Endowment investment was \$145,327.93.

The Legacy Gift Endowment is currently worth \$52,599.25. The Legacy Gift Endowment is an opportunity for members of the congregation to make a transformation gift to Lord of the Mountains that will allow the congregation to support both mission and ministry into the future.



PROPOSED 2024 FINANCES

While a fair amount of our ministry and work can and do happen without financial resources, there is still much that requires money.

We are immensely thankful for all the gifts you gave in 2023 and the ways you continue to support the mission and ministry of LOTM.

We were able to end the year roughly \$3,000 ahead of where we planned because giving ended better than projected and we kept expenses down. We still had a deficit and while this next year looks to have a deficit spending plan as well, we hope to work our way closer to a balanced spending plan.

As we look to this coming year, here is how we project our financial picture to look.

Income	
Member pledged	233,000 (a)
Member unpledged	16,000
Loose	30,000
Building use income	20,000
Interest income	10,000
All other income	4,215
	313,215 (b)
Deficit (Funds from operating reserve)	38,004 (c)
Total income	351,219
Expenses	
Administration	15,050
Building	31,750
Contract labor	20,750
Education	3,750
Finance (includes 31,429 mortgage)	60,308
Hospitality	6,600
Stewardship	500
Synod/Outreach	12,000
Total for Pastor	132,765
Total non-clergy staff	53,076
Total payroll tax for all staff	11,270
Worship	3,400
	351,219

- (a) 2024 member pledges are 6.2% lower than 2023 pledges
- (b) 2024 total income is projected 2.5% higher than 2023 actual income
- (c) 2023 required \$39,022 from operating reserve to balance



Our Finance
OVERVIEW