

Advent Lutheran Church Newsletter



PASTOR MATT'S CORNER

By Pastor Matthew Larson

Happy Anniversary! Usually I am all about anniversaries, however, it has been one year since we have been locked down, quarantined, mask on, staycation planned, drive thru weary, and online (for church and school). We are so close to getting through this. I am as anxious and antsy as all of you.

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As some of you may have heard in my sermon from February 21st, during this wilderness we will experience wild beasts and angels. We have fought through sickness, improvised family gatherings, challenged ourselves with technology, cried and laughed, and have gone a long time without physical contact with our families, friends, and each other at Advent. But we have also seen people step up and help. Checking to see if their friends and neighbors have enough food, are getting to their appointments, shoveling snow, checking on their mental health. This has all been happening!

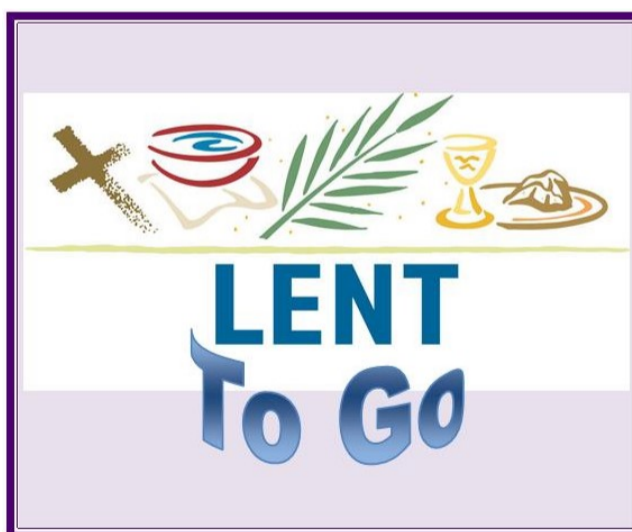
During this past year and on through tomorrow there is still grace, love, and mercy. God continues to be with us. Sometimes it is a struggle and it is hard to see God in it. But God's promise is that He is there. In the dark shadowy paths he walks with us. God comforts us. We may fight and be tempted by our own wild beasts but we will also be ministered to by angels when we open our heart and our eyes.

Soon, we will be gathering for in-person worship. Slowly at first, but with the great intention of being open with no limits!

Remember to join us **Wednesday evenings at 7pm for our Lenten worship** with Holden Evening Prayer (these were distributed with the Lent to Go bags). If you still need one please let us know! This worship will be livestreamed through our **YouTube channel** www.youtube.com/c/adventlutheranspokane.

It would be nice to celebrate the anniversary with some cake and refreshments but we will wait and have a real good homecoming party when we are back together!!

Blessings,
Pastor Matt



LETTER FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

By Sharon Pegau

Last month I wrote to you of the roof at the Sullivan campus and how the windstorm moved up our plans of replacing it. I thank all of you who prayed for an answer for us.

This month I am happy to report that God has provided! Bonnie had come up with a great plan on how we could pay for the roof without dipping into our reserves. Last year we had received a very generous gift from the estate of Reverend Omar Stuenkel that covered a little over half the costs. She found funds that would cover the other half. While it would mean we would start the year in a tight position financially we would be able to take care of the pressing need of the roof.

Then, less than a week after the Council met, the Endowment Committee met and they decided to distribute a portion of the gains from last year to the roofing effort! Not only does that mean we won't have to dip into any discretionary funds, but we will have a small amount left in the building fund that hopefully will carry us through any small repairs that we face this year. As you and I both know, with facilities as old as ours, something will always come up.

As I said last month, things have a way of working out. Just as the Church was blessed by the gifts from others that came through in our time of need, I hope that as a Church we will also remember others in their time of need. This Lenten season we are collecting on behalf of Spokane Valley Partners. Those of you who have picked up your Lent-to-go bags found a brochure from Spokane Valley Partners in the bag. Their need has always been large but, as outlined in their brochure, with COVID the need is even that much greater. I pray you will consider making a special gift dedicated to Spokane Valley Partners this Lent. Also in the bag is a giving envelope for the 2021 Lenten offering or you may give as you regularly do, just make sure that you note Lent Offering on the memo line of your check or with your gift.

Thank you for all the support you have given to the church, its members and the Spokane Valley community over the years. You truly are the hands of God, doing his work.

LENT
Pray + Fast + Give

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHILD CENTER NEWS

By Heidi Perry, Director

We finally got snow and can call it a real winter! We go outside for recess every day, even in the snow or rain, and our kids were excited to finally get to play in it! With the snow came colder temperatures, and there were a few days we had to keep everyone inside when it dropped too low. Thankfully, our teachers know how to adjust and plan for indoor recess.



PARISH NURSE

By Debbie Martin, RN, Parish Nurse

Fauci: Data 'Favorable' That Vaccines Limit Transmission

Researchers know by now the available COVID-19 vaccines prevent people from getting COVID around 95% of the time. But the million-dollar question remains: Are people less likely to spread the illness after they get the vaccine? According to preliminary data, the odds are good. "The looming question is, if the person who's been vaccinated gets infected, does that person have the capability to transmit it to another person," Anthony Fauci, MD, the White House COVID-19 Response Team's chief medical adviser, said during a White House briefing Wednesday. "Some studies are pointing in a very favorable direction." Fauci cited studies from [Spain](#) and [Israel](#) published this month, showing the amount of viral load -- or the amount of the COVID-19 virus in someone's body -- is significantly lower if someone gets infected after they've been vaccinated, compared with people who get infected and didn't have the vaccine. Lower viral load means much lower chances of passing the virus to someone else, Fauci says.

"There's a direct correlation with viral load and transmission," he says. "In other words, higher viral load, higher transmissibility; lower viral load, very low transmissibility." Fauci says that Israel has more thorough data on this than the United States because it has given 78 doses per 100 people -- well above the U.S. vaccination rates, which is currently 16.7 doses per 100 people.

These early findings will need to be proved with more studies, Fauci says. "This is another example of the scientific data starting to point to the fact that the vaccine is important not only to protect people from infection and disease," Fauci says, "but it also has very important implications from a public health standpoint."

People who have been vaccinated should still practice social distancing, hand-washing, and, most importantly, mask-wearing, he says. But the data further highlights how important the vaccine will be in the efforts to curb the pandemic.

The COVID-19 Response Team also announced an investment from the federal government of \$1.6 billion in three areas: testing in schools and underserved populations, increasing genomic sequencing, and making critical testing supplies.

Genomic sequencing plays a key role in identifying new COVID-19 variants. This is how the United Kingdom and South African strains -- now found across the United States -- were discovered. The technique analyzes the structure of the virus to spot mutations. The COVID-19 Genomics Consortium has been studying COVID-19's genetic history for nearly a year.

Of the \$1.6 billion, \$200 million will be invested in sequencing. The CDC will increase its sequencing efforts from 7,000 samples per week to about 25,000 per week.

PARISH NURSE-Continued

An additional \$650 million will go toward testing in K-8 schools and underserved settings like homeless shelters. CDC Director Rochelle Walensky, MD, reported during the briefing that COVID-19 rates are still dropping -- there was a 21% decline in COVID-related hospitalizations over the past week -- but that cases are still higher than they were over the summer.

The drop, she says, is not a result of the vaccinations. "Only 5% of people have received two doses," she says. "We're not in the place where the current level of vaccination is driving down surge of disease."

Sources

MedRxiv: "Initial real world evidence for lower viral load of individuals who have been vaccinated by BNT162b2."
The Lancet: "Transmission of COVID-19 in 282 clusters in Catalonia, Spain: a cohort study."
News briefing, White House COVID-19 Response Team, Feb. 17, 2021.

Parish Nurse Ministry



SUPER YOUTH TEAM

By April Marshall

I would like to take some time to extend my thanks to the kind and generous families who make up our core Sunday School. When I got the prayer request for **Atiya Yeoman's family** because she had unexpectedly lost her dad, Danny, over the weekend, my heart sank. I knew that if we were having regular Sunday School classes the kids would want to do something for Atiya beyond including her and her family in our prayers. I sent out a text that Tuesday morning to these families, asking the kids to make cards for Atiya, and wondering if anyone had any ideas of a gift I could get her. Within minutes I got responses—everyone wanted to do something. So we agreed to do a basket of love for Atiya and everyone would make cards and get a little something. By Friday, I picked up these gifts from the church office—and I also had gifts dropped off at my house—and I realized a basket wouldn't be big enough. So I ended up getting an 18-gallon Rubbermaid to hold everything these amazing families wanted to comfort Atiya with. I can't imagine how a child processes the loss of a parent, but the feeling of loss must be tremendous. Atiya is such a sweet girl, and she is truly loved by her friends at Advent. I'm so glad we were able to bring some light and joy to her in a dark time. I know she is grateful that we thought of her. I didn't really know Danny well, but when he came to Youth and Family activities, he was always quick to offer help to me and thank me for the event. He will be missed.

Although I shouldn't be, I am always astonished by the generosity of our congregation. God truly shines through our church family time and time again. I am so grateful to not only our core Sunday School families, but to everyone of you who has stepped up when I have needed you. Thank you!



THANK YOU

Atiya Yeoman sent us this special thank you note.....It states, "Thank you from Atiya. You are a big tree that is loved and kind." We continue to keep Atiya and her family in our prayers. Her Great Grandmother is Midge Kiourkas and her Grandmother is Kathy Karlin.

Thank you, from
Atiya. You are a big
tree that is loved
and kind.



NEWS FROM CAMP LUTHERHAVEN

Greetings from Camp!

Camper parents, we know you've been waiting for this essential summer planning tool! Sit down with a cup of coffee and have fun dreaming about sunny summer days! With lower camper numbers this year, spots will fill fast.

Spring Crafty Crew Retreats

Gather some friends, select dates that best fit your schedule, and come to Camp Lutherhaven for a crafty getaway on Lake Coeur d'Alene!

Bring your favorite crafting, quilting, or scrapbook project and create together with friends. Pause for meals, a walk around camp, a chat with staff—otherwise the time is yours! We have several meal options for you to choose from, in our dining hall or in your crafting space.

Together we'll work out the dates and the details to make it possible for you and your crew to enjoy a relaxing getaway on Lake Coeur d'Alene. Contact us for more information and available dates.



Summer-Long Volunteer Call for Faithful RVers
Looking for a beautiful place to park your RV for the summer and engage in meaningful work?
We're looking for faithful volunteers to join us for a summer of a lifetime as we work together to bless campers of all ages!



NEWS FROM CAMP LUTHERHAVEN-Continued

Now Hiring Summer Staff!

Would you or someone you know love to be a part of a life-changing summer and join summer staff at Lutherhaven Ministries?

We're looking to hire camp counselors, support staff, life-guards, cooks, kitchen assistants, maintenance workers, wranglers, and more at Camp Lutherhaven and Shoshone Mountain Retreat & Ranch!

Camp staff positions are rewarding, challenging, and unforgettable. Apply today!



**Amazon Wishlist
Thank you!**

If you're looking for a way to bless campers, check out our **Amazon Wishlist**. We truly can't thank you enough for your faithfulness!

From cleaning supplies to games, and patio heaters to kitchen tools, these gifts all help us operate camp in the best possible way.



Questions?
Email us!

laura@lutherhaven.com
www.lutherhaven.com

Lutherhaven Ministries Inc.
3258 West Lutherhaven Road
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
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HAPPY HELPERS

By Forrest Diehl

Like last year, we began this year's Lenten Journey in February also, but we started it quite a bit differently this year. The one thing Marlene and I really missed was attending St. Mark's Fat Tuesday Jazz Mass. Rather than attending said mass, Marlene and I began this Lenten journey at home by watching the YouTube Advent Lutheran Church Ash Wednesday Service (me with my perfectly drawn ashen cross on my forehead and Marlene with her shakily drawn ashen cross on her forehead). Thanks to all who took part in preparing and furnishing the "Lent to Go" bags. That was really a good idea - a tangible reminder that we are still a church family even though the pandemic seems to be tugging at our social and spiritual ties to one another.

I received the following from **Bill Thurston** in an email and wanted to share it with you. I thought these were pretty funny. The quips are laced with the "lighter side" of our pandemic and getting older predicament (not an easy thing to do)

Now That I'm Older...

Don't be worried about your smartphone or "Alexa" spying on you. Your vacuum cleaner has been collecting dirt on you for years.

If you can't think of a word - say "I forgot the English word for it." That way people will think you're bilingual instead of an idiot.

I'm at a place in my life where errands are starting to count as going out.

I'm getting tired of being part of a major historical event I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I missed my exit.

At what point can we just start using 2020 as profanity? As in: "That's a load of 2020." or "What in the 2020." or "abso-2020-lutely."

My goal for 2020 was to lose 10 pounds. Only have 14 to go.

Ate salad for dinner. Mostly croutons and tomatoes. Really just one big round crouton covered with tomato sauce, and cheese. FINE, it was a pizza.... OK, I ate a pizza! Are you happy now?

I just did a week's worth of cardio after walking into a spider web

I don't mean to brag, but I finished my 14-day diet food supply in 3 hours and 20 minutes.

A recent study has found women who carry a little extra weight live longer than men who mention it.

Kids today don't know how easy they have it. When I was young, I had to walk 9 feet through shag carpet to change the TV channel.

Senility has been a smooth transition for me.

Remember back when we were kids and every time it was below **freezing** outside they closed school? Yeah, Me neither.

I may not be that funny or athletic or good looking or smart or talented. I forgot where I was going with this.

I love approaching 80, I learn something new every day and forget 5 other things.

A thief broke into my house last night. He started searching for money so I got up and searched with him.

I think I'll just put an "Out of Order" sticker on my forehead and call it a day.

HAPPY HELPERS-Continued

Just remember, once you're over the hill you begin to pick up speed.

Having plans sounds like a good idea until you have to put on clothes and leave the house.

It's weird being the same age as old people.

When I was a kid, I wanted to be older...this is not what I expected.

Life is like a helicopter. I don't know how to operate a helicopter.

It's probably my age that tricks people into thinking I'm an adult.

Marriage Counselor: Your wife says you never buy her flowers. Is that true? Me: To be honest, I never knew she sold flowers.

Never sing in the shower! Singing leads to dancing, dancing leads to slipping, and slipping leads to paramedics seeing you naked. So remember...Don't sing!

If 2020 was a math word-problem: If you're going down a river at 2 MPH and your canoe loses a wheel, how much pancake mix would you need to re-shingle your roof?

I see people about my age mountain climbing; I feel good getting my leg through my underwear without losing my balance.

So, if a cow doesn't produce milk, is it a milk dud or an udder failure?

Corona-coaster: noun; the ups and downs of a pandemic. One day you're loving your bubble, doing workouts, baking banana bread and going for long walks and the next you're crying, drinking gin for breakfast and missing people you don't even like.

I'm at that age where my mind still thinks I'm 29, my humor suggests I'm 12, while my body mostly keeps asking if I'm sure I'm not dead yet.

You don't realize how old you are until you sit on the floor and then try to get back up.

We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

Thanks Bill!

Book report time; I read a good one and highly recommend it to you. ***The Traitor and the Spy*** by Ben Macintyre is a wonderful biography of a Russian KGB agent. But I did not begin reading it because I was interested in reading a biography - I was interested in reading a fast-paced, action-packed thriller. This book was touted to be just that (read the review by Bill Gates), and after reading the book, I agree wholeheartedly. I am amazed that a historical account of actual events could be written so suspensefully. Although Oleg Gordievsky is a KGB Russian agent, he's the good guy, not the villain. Macintyre's book gives the reader an inside look at the training, organization, and international work of the KGB agency through the lens of Oleg Gordievsky's biography. That may sound mundane and banal, but believe me, it is not. I think the main reason this historical account reads like a novel is that the book is character driven and not necessarily chronologically driven. I will admit that I did not lose any sleep in reading the first half of the book - although, it definitely held my interest - but half way through the book, I could not put it down. Macintyre is a skilled story-teller and gives insight in the British intelligence system M-16 and M-15.

HAPPY HELPERS-Continued

The other thing that appealed to me is that this book brought back memories of events and people I remember (i.e., Cold War, Exercise "Able Archer", Prime Minister Margret Thatcher, President Reagan, Khrushchev, Brezhnev, Andropov, Gorbachev, etc.). After you read the book, I think you will do as I did – add Oleg Gordievsky to your list of heroes. Notice I only identified the Spy in this book, and not the Traitor. You'll just have to read the book to find out who that was (you'll recognize the name).

February's accomplishments at the Broadway and Sullivan campuses, that I know about, include: sanding and refurbishing Child-Care classroom doors - before his fall (**Ken Otteman**); trouble-shoot make-up air heater unit on roof, above kitchen (**Jeremy Hostetler**); reported the electric failure of the Infant Room heaters to Boone Electric – heaters were restored (**Heidi Perry**); etc.

The Happy Helpers are looking forward to the month of March, with the return of daylight savings time on Sunday, 14 March, and the first day of spring on 20 March. Easter is on 4 April, this year – an early one! We (**Harry Benton, Linda Camp, Dave Cook, Steve Emig, George Harrison, Clancy Howard, Ken Otteman, Roger Scheurer, Bill Thurston, Kent Tibbetts, Wes Todd, and Wade Wipperling**) continue to look forward to the time at which we can once again meet on Thursdays. Many others are "on call" and willing to help!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

By Babs Velategui

Please consider sending a donation to Spokane Valley Partners for their Food Bank. You may also drop off food at the Church for the barrel.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten Worship Services: Each **Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm** on our Advent Lutheran **YouTube** channel. The **theme for Lent** this year is "**Going into Exile,**" as we have been in a kind of exile for a year now. However, this will be exile as we read it in the Bible and where God is in exile with us. The first talk will be "**People go into exile - Jonah, Job, and Jesus.**"

The Endowment Committee has approved the 5% annual withdrawal of Endowments funds. A portion of these funds will be made available to the congregations in our Synod as well as local ministries. Application forms are available in the Church office. The deadline is **March 31, 2021.** The Council will review the applications then notify the recipients of the amount of the award. Please contact the church office at **509-928-7733**, if you have questions.

Barb Potter fell and broke her arm recently. She is in need of some assistance. If you are available, please contact Barb at **509-599-0693.**

Episcopal Church of the Resurrection Tri-Parish Sunday School Zoom class. Their wonderful Sunday School teachers have been doing a zoom Sunday School class each **Sunday at 4pm**, and wanted to extend the invitation out to the Tri-Parish group. The kids participate in songs, crafts and a weekly lesson for an hour each week. Its a lot of fun and a chance for some normalcy for the kids during the COVID closures and restrictions. Here is the zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88973710560?pwd=Y3NHZFIPTjdWZU4vdkc4VzVFMGNxdz09> Please contact **Meloni Armstrong** at **509-999-2171** if you have any questions.

Lutherhaven Camperships: Camp Lutherhaven is now accepting applications for summer camp. If you wish to sign up your child for camp this summer, we are again offering our camperships. Please call the **Church office** at **928-7733** to place your child's name on the list. If you have questions about the camps, please contact Laura at Camp Lutherhaven: laura@lutherhaven.com or **208-667-3459.**

INCOME/EXPENSE INFORMATION

By Bonnie Calhoun

Advent General Fund Income/Expense

	<u>January</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	37,531.17	37,531.17
Expense	<u>29,618.76</u>	<u>29,618.76</u>
Net	7,912.41	7,912.41

Child Center Income/Expense

	<u>January</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	57,582.17	57,582.17
Expense	<u>64,190.84</u>	<u>64,190.84</u>
Net	-6,608.67	-6,608.67

Notes for Advent Lutheran Church

- **In January, income exceeded expenses by \$7,912.** Average monthly income came in \$7,413 higher than average budgeted monthly income.
- January income was higher because it included once a year giving as well as monthly giving.
- Sunday offerings for January 2021 came in \$1,767 higher than January 2020.
- Average monthly expenses came in \$497 lower than average budgeted monthly expenses.
- Expenses included the budgeted disbursement (10%) of benevolence dollars for the ELCA, Spokane Valley Partners, Maasai Health Systems, and Lutheran Community Services.

Notes for Advent Lutheran Child Center

- **In January, expenses exceeded income by \$6,609.**
- The net loss in January reflects the struggle to keep classrooms staffed according to guidelines while enrollment numbers are down. However, four new students enrolled in February which should help boost tuition income.
- Total income for January 2021 decreased by \$12,657 when compared to January of 2020. This decrease in income is primarily due to reduced enrollment caused by the COVID-19 shutdowns from which the Center has never fully recovered.
- Total expenses for January 2021 decreased by \$2,195 when compared to January of 2020. The decrease was mainly driven by the reduction in staff corresponding to the reduction in enrollment during the COVID-19 shut down in 2020, then offset by the increase in minimum wage for 2021.
- On a positive note, in early February the Center received a CARES Grant totaling \$30,000 which should give the Center time to adjust to the changing enrollment and corresponding staffing demands.
- **The Center has \$39,472 in reserve, which translates to .5 months of average expenses. In order to maintain financial health, it is the goal of the Center to reach one month of average expenses in its reserve (\$77,509).**

PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS

For our Church Family and Friends: COVID-19 pandemic crisis, Altha's family, Don Amundson, Steve Amundson & family, Bennie and his wife Linda, Phyllis Bauer, Harry Benton, Kathy Bowers, Kathy Bower's former brother-in-law, Joelene Boyd, Sandy Brose, Gary Bowker, George Calhoun, Cheana & baby Gracelyn, Chris Conway, Bud & Betty Jo Cook, Tomas Corsini, Georgia Coulston, Gary Dillon, Stan Drumm, Drummond family, Lillian Enman, Jim Gunby, Hong family, Leigh & Steve Hopkins, Arlo & Gwen Huber, Eli, James & Geraldine, Kathy Karlin, Audrey Knuttel, Midge Kiourkas's daughter Jodi, Midge Kiourkas & her family, Eddie LaBabera, Lexi & Serenity, Jan Madden, Maureen & family, Mike & Sandra McCune, Flo McDougall, John & Nancy McLaughlin, SaraLu Moore, Jeff Orwick & family, Ken & Amaryllis Otteman, Tim O'Rourke, Jen Parman, Rick Parman, Randy Peterson, Beth Phillips, Herb Postlewait, Barb Potter, Terry Powell, Betty Quinn & her family, Ann Schoenwald, Kimberley & Kreagan Shipbaugh, Diana Tesdal & family, Glenn Stedman, Velategui family, Kathy Wipple, Duane Yates, and Atiya Yeoman.

For Family Members & Friends Serving in the Military:

1 Lt. Ashley Allingor-Army; CPT Zane Allingor-USAF, CPL Damien Anderson, MSGT Ryan Armstrong, Major Ryan Baker, Majors Megan & Robert Barnwell, SGT Alex Baron, USAF, Capt. Jordon Bolster, CPT Christopher Finch, Robert Guyton, TSG Christine Johnson, CW2 Aaron Lang, Sr. Airman Richard Luna III, MSgt. Duncan McFarlane, Bryan McGoan, SSG Aaron Moeller, Sam Nelson, GySgt. Alex Pohle, AF Staff Sgt. Garytt Shirey, Kurt Strigel, Sgt. Cody Strunks, Colin Wells, U.S. Air Force, Ryan Wells, Master Sgt. AF Nat'l Guard Sarah Meddock, TSG Jason Wood, CPT Michael West, Sgt. Steven West, Staff SGT Jacob McKenzie, Capt. Stephen King, Airman Chase Strunk, U.S. Air Force, LCPL Jared Martin, Rafe Rector in Marines, Staff Sgt. Dan Zabriskie in the National Guard, LCPL Breandan LaFontaine, and Airman Justin Wise, US Air Force, Henry Domine 194 artillery, Minnesota.

For Family Members & Friends Serving in Mission Fields around the world.

*If you have a **prayer request**, please send an email to the church office at alcspokane@comcast.net or call the church office at (509) 928-7733.*

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

Sunday Morning: 9:30 am Worship Service Online
Wednesday Morning Bible Study: 10:00 am- Zoom
Lenten Worship Service: Wednesday, 7:00 pm - YouTube

“Called by God’s Grace to Love and Serve”