

The Love Letter

Volume 45

December 2015

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Sun.: 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
9:15 a.m. Sunday School

Mission Statement: Celebrating and sharing God’s love in a welcoming community of faith, while serving others.

A Look Ahead

It’s a very special month for Christians everywhere, including those of us at Lord of Love. If you want to help decorate for the season, please meet at the church on Saturday, Dec. 5 at noon.

The Youth have returned from their Lutheran Youth of Nebraska trip to Hastings. Starting on page 9, Heather recounts all their experiences and offers thanks to the congregation for supporting our Youth.

Pastor Glenn has been preparing for his trip abroad, so in place of the usual note from the pastor, you will instead see an Advent reflection. I took editorial license and chose a post from Creighton University’s Online Ministries’ “[Praying Advent](#)” section of their website. I hope you will find it as worthwhile as I did.



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ADVENT REFLECTION

Why is it So Difficult to Enter Into Advent?

It happens every year, as predictably as drawing up a shopping list and decorating the tree. We think, "THIS is the year when I really will enter into Advent." And there it stays. Nothing happens. We know in our hearts that Advent can be more than a "pre-Christmas" season, more than those four weeks of getting ready for December 25. We sit in church and hear the different readings, the darkness and the promise of hope

We ponder in our hearts: Our lives are full, our families are good, our homes beautiful. We have everything we could want. But in the quiet darkness, we are aware of something stirring in our hearts. Something that no trip to the store, no decorations or new ornaments can fill. The longing might be uncomfortable, so we push it away — quickly — and busy ourselves again.

*The days are coming, says the LORD,
when I will fulfill the promise
I made to the house of Israel and Judah.
-Jeremiah 3*

The stirring returns. What is this promise for us? What does it mean for us in our comfortable, complicated and messy lives? We are so often impatient with our children, unreasonable with our spouses and, we might even admit, disappointed in our lives. We echo the disciples' confusion and disappointment after the crucifixion: "We had thought it would be different." If we have everything we could want, what else is there?

*The Lord GOD will wipe away
the tears from all faces;
The reproach of his people he will remove
from the whole earth; for the Lord has spoken.
On that day it will be said:
"Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!
This is the LORD for whom we looked;
let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"
-Isaiah 25*



What if this Advent, we allow ourselves to imagine a life that is different? What if our hearts were at peace and our lives more satisfying? That longing in the most hidden corners of our hearts is something holy.

We might squirm at that and stammer all of the excuses we know: "Not now. I'm really busy. I'm not a very holy person. I'm going to get to a serious relationship with God as soon as my kids are gone... when I don't have to care for my parents; when I get the promotion at work..." There are dozens of ways we can evade the issue, but still, that longing is there for something more.

Advent is a time to recognize both our holy longing and the healing love God has for us, despite the many barriers we put up between ourselves and God. We can start simply and just rest at the edge of our beds in the mornings, open our hands and whisper, "Come, Lord Jesus!" If we let ourselves feel what is in our hearts, we know they are filled with love. We can carry that experience with us as we go through even the busiest of our days.

It's just about taking the first step. Even if we are fearful about this next step, we can say to God what is in our hearts. In this Advent season, it's time to risk, to make the first step, to find our way back home. You can start with this prayer:

Loving God, I don't have the right words. I'm not sure where to begin, but I know you are the hope and promise of the peace to come in my life. Be with me this day. Let me look at my life and my day today and open my heart completely as I begin, "Come, Lord Jesus."

Adapted from [Creighton University Online Ministries website](#).

MONTHLY CALENDAR

December 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Pr. Glenn on vacation through Dec. 22 8:00am Quilters 7:00pm Vision & Coordination Mtg.	2 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 7:00pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:15pm Sr. Choir Rehearsal	3 7:00pm Boy Scouts	4 7:30pm AA Meeting	5 Decorating of the church for Christmas 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
6 8:00am & 10:30 a.m. Worship/Comm 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Adult Forum 2:00pm Piano Recital 5:00pm Bell Choir	7 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	8 12:00pm Lutheran Women of Omaha	9 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 7:00pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:15pm Sr. Choir Rehearsal	10 5:30pm Escalante Hills Homeowners 7:00pm Boy Scouts	11 7:30pm AA Meeting	12 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 9:00am Goodie Tin Prep & Project Linus
13 8:00am & 10:30 a.m. Worship/Comm 9:15am Adult Forum 10:30am Sunday School Program 11:30am Chili Potluck & Caroling 1:00pm Dist. 18 AA 4:00pm Fusselman Cello Recital 5:00pm Bell Choir	14 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	15 8:00am Quilters 7:00pm Church Council Mtg.	16 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 7:00pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:15pm Sr. Choir Rehearsal	17 12:00pm Aged to Perfection Lunch 7:00pm Boy Scouts	18 7:30pm AA Meeting	19 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 6:00pm Fellowship Hall Reserved
20 8:00am & 10:30 a.m. Worship/Comm 9:15am Adult Forum 5:00pm Bell Choir	21 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	22	23	24 4:30pm Christmas Eve Family Worship 10:30pm Prelude Music 11:00pm Candlelight Service	25 7:30pm AA Meeting	26 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
27 8:00am & 10:30 a.m. Worship/Comm 9:15am Adult Forum 5:00pm Bell Choir	28 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	29	30 6:00pm Brass 7:15pm Sr. Choir Rehearsal	31 7:00pm Boy Scouts		

WORSHIP

Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	Dec. 6	Dec. 13	Dec. 20	Dec. 27
Greeter(s)				
8:00 a.m.	Jesse & Pat Brewer	Harry Naasz	Brian & Deb Lund	Paul & Peg Murphy
10:30 a.m.	Paul & Ann Kroll	Dan & Ruth Manning	Dave & Susan Lueders	Doug & Karen Armitage
Liturgist				
8:00 a.m.	Jesse Brewer	Karen Mullen	Judy Egr	Matt Garder
10:30 a.m.	Matt Willard	Christmas Program	Don Rowen	Ashley Vandeventer
Communion Servers				
8:00 a.m.	Brian & Deb Lund	Peg Murphy & Pat Brewer	Egr family	Garder family
10:30 a.m.	Lisa Willard, Bill & Nicole Quackenbush	Volunteers please	Paul & Ann Kroll	Lori Vandeventer & Messerschmidt family
Altar Care				
8:00 a.m.	Cathy Aden & Sue Dieter	Connie Walther & Lisa Meyer	Mardi Fiske	Joan Witt
10:30 a.m.	Nicole Quackenbush & Karen Anderson	Janet Guthrie & Nancy Shinrock	Paul & Ann Kroll	Deb Quadhammer & Judy Messerschmidt
Ushers				
8:00 a.m.	Kenn Garder, Matt Garder, Paul & Deb Christenson, Craig Pennell			
10:30 a.m.	Rett Messerschmidt, Rob Anderson, Paul Barnett, John Edwards			
Nursery				
10:30 a.m.			Lisa Rieff	Ashley Meier
CD Recording				
10:30 a.m.	Pat Brewer	Paul Christenson	Dave Lueders	Paul Murphy



WORSHIP

Thank you, Worship Servants

On behalf of the Worship Committee, Heather Hansen and Joan Witt say thank you to all the many members of Lord of Love who assist with the worship services. Whether it be as worship planners, greeters, ushers, liturgists, communion servers, altar care team, tape ministry team, nursery attendants or schedulers, your service to Lord of Love is very much appreciated.

A special thank you to **Shawn Lorenzen** for leading the worship planning team, **Kathy Christiansen** for scheduling the greeters the past 2 years, usher captain **Dave Hild**, **Dayla Miller** for scheduling the liturgists and communion servers, as well as **Ann Kroll** and **Pat Brewer** who lead the altar care team.



Get Involved as a Worship Servant!

Worship is our most central and holy activity at Lord of Love, and it takes many hands to make it so special. If you are interested in assisting with worship, please contact **Christie Klos**, who is now scheduling the worship servants, at mcklos@cox.net or 402.415.7417.



But, you might be wondering, I'm not sure what's involved. If you have questions, in **January** the worship committee will offer an orientation session/workshop during adult forum to familiarize you with expectations for worship servants.

Whether you have been a member for years or just joined our church family, learn helpful information so that you might take the opportunity to become an usher, greeter, liturgist, communion server, worship planner, altar care servant and/or tape ministry servant. Stay tuned for the date.

Midweek Advent Services and Christmas Eve Worship

Midweek Advent services are at **7 p.m. on Wed., Dec. 2, 9, 16, and 23.** Join us for a peaceful midweek time of worship with Holden Evening Prayer.

On **Dec. 24**, we celebrate the birth of Christ at two different services. The first one is at **4:30 p.m.** The candlelight service is at **11 p.m.** (with gathering music beginning at 10:30 p.m.). Please join us for a Christmas celebration.



NURTURE

Aged to Perfection Luncheon

Wednesday, Dec. 17 is the next Aged to Perfection luncheon. There will be a white elephant exchange for anyone interested. Please mark whether your item is intended for a man or woman. If you choose to purchase something, please limit your gift to \$10. Participation is voluntary.



Sunday School Christmas Program

The Sunday School Christmas program performance, "Twas the Night before Christmas", will take place on **Sunday, Dec. 13** during the **10:30** service. Rehearsal will be **Saturday, Dec. 12, 9 - 11 a.m.**



OUTREACH

Fall Festival Report

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! The general consensus among the committee members at our review meeting was that our Autumn European Tour was the best fall festival ever! Of course, we also took time to suggest some improvements for next year's event.



Receiving high marks were the delicious meal, "fabulous and fun" decor, emcee Jesse Brewer, UNO string ensemble and the auctioneers! We extend our thanks to all who participated in any way (we love our strong men who willingly set up and break down the sanctuary seating), the youth group for their excellent service, the donors of the silent auction items and the purchasers! Also, we appreciate your generosity in providing about \$700 for the youth in the tip jars.

In summary, we served 78 dinners (dinner income: \$1,155); auction income was \$4,136 for a total income of \$5,391.00. After our expenses of \$1,101.99, our profit of \$4,189.01 was divided as follows: Heartland Hope Mission: \$2,144.51, and \$1,072.25 each to the LOL WELCA operating fund and scholarship fund.

Potluck Chili Lunch and Caroling

Please join us in a potluck chili lunch in the Fellowship Hall following the Sunday School program on **Sunday, Dec. 13 at about 11:20 a.m.** Bring some chili to put in the roaster, and/or something that goes with chili.

We'll get organized and head out to carol by 12:15 p.m. All are welcome to join the choir in bringing song to folks who need some Christmas cheer. We should be back to the church by 3 p.m. or earlier. Contact Deb Lund for questions.



Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist (from elca.org)



ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton (right) and Bishop Denis J. Madden, auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Baltimore, hold copies of "Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist" – a unique ecumenical document that makes visible a pathway to Christian unity between Catholics and Lutherans.

What is the "Declaration"?

This is a unique ecumenical text that draws on 50 years of Lutheran-Catholic dialogue in preparation for the 500th Reformation anniversary coming in 2017.

Major sources are dialogues at the global level. But, as happened in the formation of the 1999 *Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification*, there's mutual reinforcement between global and more local conversations, including those in the U.S.

What does the "Declaration" say?

The heart of the Declaration is the Statement of Agreements. It draws together a litany of 32 consensus statements, where Catholics and Lutherans already have said there are not church-dividing differences between them. An elaboration of these agreements grounds them in the dialogues' work.

A more tentative section identifies some "remaining differences" – not intending to be comprehensive but suggesting ways forward.



MISSION

Declaration, continued

What does the Declaration hope to do?

By demonstrating how far Lutherans and Catholics have come together on three crucial topics, the Declaration indicates much ground that need not be retraced again. It offers these Agreements to the churches to be received into their common life. In this way, it helps inspire continuing work toward the visible Christian unity, which is Christ's prayer.

Where does the Declaration stand now?

In October 2015, the Statement of Agreements was unanimously affirmed by the ELCA Conference of Bishops, which requested the Church Council also accept them and forward the Declaration to the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly for reception. The text has been shared with The Lutheran World Federation.



Mission Possible Update

Remember that the special offerings for Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas are designated to the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response for those affected by the summer and fall wildfires in the western US. Thanks for your generosity in remembering these victims of natural disaster.

The team will meet to discuss where to designate Lenten offerings in January. If you have ideas or concerns to share, please contact one of the team members: Charise Adams, Paul Christenson, Jackie Combes, Paula Foster, Deb Lund, Brenda Mac, and Jeri Morgan.



YOUTH

Youth Group Holiday Event

Saturday, Dec. 12 at 9 a.m., youth are invited to help fill goodie tins and tie fleece blankets with church members.

Then from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., they will have lunch, play games and have a Christmas ornament exchange between members of the youth group. Bring an ornament for exchange. Cocoa and cookies will be served for dessert.



YOUTH

Middle School Gathering

Middle School Gathering, MSG 2016, for 6 - 8th graders is happening **Jan. 16-17, 2016** at Sheridan Lutheran Church in Lincoln. The Gathering is an interactive experience for youth and their adult leaders. Each year, the MSG only lasts about 31 hours, but the memories last a lifetime. Participants will take part in service learning around Lincoln; worship together; make new friends; rock climb, swim and play at the Cooper YMCA and take part in workshops based on the theme: "Open...and Invited", Acts 8:26-39.



Registration forms are **due by Dec. 15**. Cost will be \$35 per participant. The remaining fee and travel costs will be covered through fall festival fundraising monies.

We need a male chaperone to volunteer to join us! Contact Heather at 402.206.9205 if you can help or have questions.

Youth Mission Trip Planning

Save the date: Youth Mission Trip is June 13-17, 2016. Congregational and youth volunteers are needed to start planning for the Senior High mission trip. Help with the theme, logistics, supplies, meals, or activities...many hands make a light load. Consider volunteering for this experience, which will be held in Omaha and at Lord of Love this summer!



Meetings will start in January on Tuesdays or Thursdays based on volunteer availability. Contact Heather Christensen to volunteer at Heather@lord-of-love.org or 402.206.9205.

LYON Trip, by Heather Christensen

Five Senior High Youth ventured to Hastings, NE the weekend of Nov. 20-22 to participate in the Synod's Lutheran Youth of Nebraska weekend. Nearly 200 participants came together to explore the theme of "Be Courageous : Running Life's Maze" and the Bible verse Joshua 1:9 - "I hereby command you: be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

The weekend was fun and impactful in many ways. A few memories we'd like to share (*continued, next page*):



LYON Trip, continued

- Friday night's musical performers were great. They talked about their personal journeys and how it isn't always easy. Their encouraging message was of strength and confidence in who we are, because God crafted each one of us and loves us unconditionally.
- We had daily study with small groups that were made up of a mix from all the participants. This was a good way to make some new friends and find old friends from elementary and middle school as well as the National Youth Gathering. The opportunity for reunions like this is a great reason to support these Synod events.
- We got to partake in worship with Bishop Maas hearing an encouraging message of perseverance, including a tale of his own courage and perseverance regarding dating in college (he married that date).
- Our youth were honest, sincere and insightful during devotion. They grew closer as a group and supported and encouraged one another. They came wanting to grow their faith, feel God's presence and be helpful hands.
- We laughed and sang and laughed together some more. #ChurchFamilyRocks

These opportunities are so important and I am grateful that our youth have the support of their families and congregation to attend! Next year's event will be held at Carol Joy Holling in November 2016.



Above: Walk for Water educational/interactive activity. These boys were challenged to be uncomfortable while getting water. On that cold day, it meant no coat, hat, gloves. In another country it might mean hot temperatures and no shoes.



Above: Outside for the Walk for Water activity.



Above: At the food pantry making trail mix for the sack lunch program.

CHURCH COUNCIL AND RESOURCES

2015 Lord of Love Church Council

Vision and Coordination: Brian Walther, President; Dave Hild, Vice-President; Judy Messerschmidt, Secretary; Jackie Combes, Treasurer

Nurture: Susan Lueders and Lisa Willard

Outreach: Mardi Fiske and Scott Reinhardt

Resources: Craig Pennell and Bill Quackenbush

Worship: Heather Hansen and Joan Witt



Giving Status

General Fund Financial Information for October 2015:

Actual Income - \$23,057.00

Actual Expense - \$24,785.24

Financial Information Year-To-Date as of the end of October:

Actual Income - \$249,465.81

Actual Expense - \$259,480.85



As of the end of September, the available cash deficit has increased. It is (14,912.02). Weekly offerings of \$6,799 are needed to meet budgeted expenses. The weekly offering average through the end of October was \$5,700. The monthly offering average was \$24,736.11 at the end of September and \$24,509.70 at the end of October. Thank you for your support and for keeping your pledges current.

Stewardship: For the Fruit of All Creation, Thanks be to God! By Deb Lund

Many of you know that Brian and I are new grandparents. The gift of a grandchild is one of the most amazing and wonderful things one can have on this earth! And, to be close to that grandchild and spend time with her regularly is fantastic. We are thrilled and filled with joy! The immediate love, care and concern for this precious baby is hard to describe.

I think God may be just like a new grandparent when each of us is born. Isn't God's love for us as strong and powerful? And, of course, God's love is even greater than our human love, and more amazing than we can comprehend.

Our granddaughter Erin reminds us that there are things to learn and experience that are new every day, and that each day brings us many gifts. We as grandparents want to do whatever we can to help her grow and fulfill what God may call her to be and do (*cont., next page*).



RESOURCES

For the Fruit of all Creation, continued

We love her just for being our grandchild. She doesn't have to do anything to earn that love. God loves us because we are God's children. We do not have to do anything in return to earn God's love, because it's called "GRACE." God provides for us throughout our lives, and always wants the best for each of us. Likewise, let us as disciples of Christ encourage and help each other to be the followers of Christ that God has called **us** to be!

In this time of Thanksgiving, let's remember the bounty bestowed on us, and consider giving back a portion to help us be the hands of Christ. We can touch many lives with our gifts of time, talent, and treasures and truly do God's work. **Thanks be to God!**



Endowment Grants, by Doug Aden

From January through September, the Endowment Committee received six grant request totaling \$7,346. According to Lord of Love's constitution, the committee could make total grants in the range of \$2,923 and \$4,872.

In the committee's deliberation, we decided to give grants to organizations that do not have a wide base of support and do not have continuing annual drives or a multiyear drive. Since the financial markets had declined in midyear, and to ensure that the endowment fund is maintained for sustainable giving, the committee opted to give in the middle of the range of funds available.

Based on those guidelines and the amount of money that was available, the committee awarded the following grants totaling **\$3,162.00**.



Tanzania Tuition Support: \$862.00

This was the last tuition payment for Martha Mkumbo as she has finished her studies and in December will receive her degree. You may read about Martha and her support from Lord of Love in the November Love Letter.

Machame Hospital Fund: \$1,000

The Machame Orthopedic Fund is for poor persons in Tanzania. The fund is overseen by Dr. John Lyimo and is administered by Bob Kasworm. The patients helped tend to have serious and have long-standing orthopedic problems and have depleted their resources.

Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry: \$1,000

The goal of this program is to connect students with churches in the Omaha Area. The results thus far has been the development of two solid ministries which are God & Grads and NeMO. Both of these ministries work with institutions of higher learning in the metropolitan area and are engaging more students than at any time in the 35 years of the Campus Ministry program (*continued, next page*).

RESOURCES

Endowment Grants, cont.

Prison Ministries, N.P.M.: \$300

Followers of Christ Prison Ministry, an outreach program of the Nebraska Synod E.L.C.A., purchased annual subscriptions to The Lutheran for prison inmates the Omaha Correctional Center, Nebraska State Penitentiary, Lincoln Correctional Center, Nebraska Correctional Center for Women, and the Tecumseh State Correctional Institution.



The magazines will be available in the chapels in these institutions. The goal is to provide Bible Study opportunities and a connection to the mission of our church. The grant helps fund the subscription cost.

MEN'S CORNER

Men's Bible Study

Lord of Love's men's group and Bible study meets on **Saturday mornings** in our Fellowship Hall. The 7 a.m. breakfast is followed by Christian study and fellowship. We close the meeting at 8 a.m.

Plenty of food and seating is always available. Come join us for food and stay for the fellowship. All men are welcome.



WOMEN OF LOVE

Goodie Containers and Project Linus

On **Saturday, Dec. 12**, you are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee at 9 a.m. followed by the preparation of "goodie" containers for the elderly, shut-ins and those with special needs. Please bring 2 dozen cookies for the containers. We still need a few large coffee containers— if you have some to donate, they can be left in the kitchen.

To date, we have 18 recipients on our list. If you know someone who should be added to the list, please contact Ruth Manning, 402.451.0221.



Following that, you are invited to help make fleece blankets for "Project Linus." Their mission is to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized or otherwise in need. You will need 2 pieces of coordinating fleece for each blanket. Finished size is 1-1/2 yards X 60". Contact Jackie Combes at 402.498.4283 for further information.

WOMEN OF LOVE

About the Women's Team and Women of the ELCA

W/ELCA Mission Statement

To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.



Purpose Statement

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

Members of the Women's Team at Lord of Love

<i>Team Coordinator:</i>	Rose Roberts, 402-689-4802, dougroberts@cox.net
<i>Communications Coordinator:</i>	Nicole Quackenbush, 402-491-4169, nicole.quack@gmail.com
<i>Financial Coordinator:</i>	Gwen Edwards, 402-291-1087, gfedwards@gmail.com
<i>Publicity Coordinator:</i>	Deb Christensen, 402-493-9187, paulordeb@cox.net
<i>Members-at-Large:</i>	Beth Olson, 402-578-6730, influencelady@cox.net Jane Gehringer, 402-312-2521, jgehringer@yahoo.com
<i>Kitchen Coordinator:</i>	Julie Concannon, 402-457-4084, concannonfive@q.com

If you would like to join the team or volunteer for a special project, please talk to Rose. Extra hands are always appreciated!

Monthly Women's Events

Gather Bible Study

One group meets on the first Monday of the month at Village Inn at 3304 S.143rd Plaza. Please talk to Rose Roberts if there are questions. The second group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at Lord of Love. Please talk to Ruth Manning (402.451.0221) if you have questions.

The Bible study group meets from September to May. The resource used for the Bible Study is the *Gather* Magazine, which contains not only the Bible study, but also devotions and inspirational articles. The annual subscription is \$15 and can be ordered by going online to the [W/ELCA website](#) listed. Subscribers can view *Gather* on a computer and with apps in iTunes, the Google Play store and on Amazon for your Kindle.

The **December** Bible study is "Imagining...an Advent Lesson." The Monday evening group meets at 6 p.m. on **Dec. 7** at the Oak View Village Inn. The Wednesday evening group will meet at 6 p.m. in the Mary Room on **Dec. 9**. All women are invited to attend and enjoy a brief respite from the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season.



*Women's
Bible Study*

2016 Calendar for W/ELCA Team

<p>January 10th: Secret Angel Reveal & Lunch (after 2nd service) 23rd: NSWOW Winter Retreat in Grand Island 31st: Bowling for Jesus with Youth 12-2</p>	<p>February 10th: Ash Wednesday 28th: "Bold Women" Adult Forum-Women of ELCA 101 Presentation by Gwen Edwards</p>	<p>March 9th: Monthly & General Meeting 9:00 AM 27th: Easter</p>
<p>April 2nd: Metro Spring Gathering @ Luther Memorial in Omaha "Happy in God's Grace" 9th: Day Retreat @ Chalco Hills 9AM-3PM</p>	<p>May Confirmation Service 11th: Monthly Meeting 6:00 PM</p>	<p>June 6th: Bible Study Hong Hing Reunion @ 6:00PM (90th & Fort)</p>
<p>July</p>	<p>August Gather Bible Study Retreat at Deb Lund's date TBA</p>	<p>September 14th: Monthly Meeting 6:00 PM</p>
<p>October 8th: NSWOW Autumn Renewal 9th: Thankoffering Sun. 15th: Monthly & General Meeting, Election of Officers, & Event Planning 9:00 AM</p>	<p>November Fall Festival Date TBA</p>	<p>December 10th: Assembly of Cookie Tins & Project Linus 9:00 AM</p>

Mark Your Calendars: The National W/ELCA Triennial Convention will be held in downtown Minneapolis on July 13-16, 2017. Theme: All Anew Registration begins in September 2016.

WOMEN OF LOVE

Monthly Women's Events, cont.

Crane Coffee Fellowship

This group meets every other Friday at the 77th and Cass Crane Coffee location at 8 a.m. You don't have to drink coffee to join us. Please talk to Ruth Manning (402.451.0221) if you have questions.

This month, there will be no coffee fellowship on Dec. 25, but we are meeting at 8 a.m. on **Friday, Dec. 11** at Crane Coffee. All women are invited to attend.

Women's Ministry Team

The women's team will **not** meet in December.



Secret Angel Ministry

Deb Christenson and Ruth Manning are hosting a Secret Angel Ministry brunch at **9:15 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 11**. This year's participants are invited, as well as anyone who is interested in finding out more about this ministry! Please bring a signed card for your secret angel. We'll have registration forms available for 2016.

Ladies Soup Lunch

It's time for some new soup recipes! We will have a Soup Lunch at **noon on Saturday, Dec. 19** at the home of Amy Kragnes (309 S. 155th Ave, Omaha). No sign up sheet this year – nobody ever signs up anyway. Just let me know you're coming so I know how many chairs to get out. You can email (akragnes@centurylink.net), call (402.697.9165), or even just talk to Amy.

Quilters

The women meet on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at Lord of Love at 9 a.m. Being able to sew is not a prerequisite.



Projects may also be done at home if you are unable to join us at the church. Please talk to Ann Kroll (402.496.3772) if you have questions.

Lutheran Women of Omaha

The **Dec. 8** noon luncheon meeting of Lutheran Church Women of Omaha will be held at Lord of Love. Cost of the luncheon is \$6. Please contact Ruth Manning with your reservations at 402.451.0221 by Sunday, Dec. 6.

2016 NSWO Winter Retreat

December flies by so quickly, we want to share information on the annual [Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization](#) winter retreat. It will be held from **9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Jan. 23** at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Grand Island. Registration is \$18 (including coffee break and lunch) and is due Jan. 15.



Further information is included on the registration form found at the end of this issue. The retreat date was inadvertently left off of the flyer.



IN OUR PRAYERS

Antoinette Anania (cousin of Deb Lund)
Chris Beckman (friend of Jane Gehringer)
Dick Bell
Carl (friend of Saylor Boylan)
Connie Bennett (cousin of Karen Armitage)
Syd Brinkman
Patricia Connolly (friend of the Thoms)
Elizabeth (student of Carol Novak)
Sgt. Dean & Erin Hansen (Delina Wiater's son
& his wife)
*Marjorie Holbrook (mother of Judy
Messerschmidt)*
Janet Jensen (mother of Dawn Burton)
Glenna Lee
Lisa Lueders (sister-in-law of Dave Lueders)
Charles Meyer (father of Pr. Brad)
Vi Neu (stepmother of Carol Novak)
Don St. Ours (brother-in-law of Lynda McGraw)

Dave Piehl & Dan Piehl (brothers of Deb Lund)
Nancy Shinrock
Georgene Sones (mother of Dayla Miller)
Brenda Thom
Cynthia Palmer (friend of Dave & Lisa Rieff)
Betty Wallwey (aunt of Shari Garder)
*Ted Whitfield (former co-worker of Brian
Shinrock)*
Steve Wiitala (friend of Karen Mullen)
*Caregivers and those who suffer with
depression*
Those seeking employment

Those Who Mourn
The family and friends of Wayne Witt

Those Who Are Deployed
Steve Slone

If you would like to add a name to the In Our Prayers section, please contact the office at 402.493.2946, send an email to marylou@lord-of-love.org, or fill out a prayer request note available in the narthex and place it in the basket.

Please help keep this list current by informing us when a name can be removed.
Thanks!

LOVE NOTES



MERRY CHRISTMAS



10405 Fort Street
Omaha, NE 68134-1298

Return Service Requested

Mission Statement: Celebrating and sharing God's love in a welcoming community of faith, while serving others.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

This Month

Dec. 12 Youth Holiday Event,
Goodie Tins & Project Linus

Dec. 13 Sunday School Christmas
Program, Chili & Caroling

Dec. 17 Aged to Perfection Luncheon

Save the Date

Jan. 11 Secret Angel Brunch

Jan. 16-17 Middle School Gathering

June 13-16 Sr. High Youth Mission
Service Event

Jan. 23 NSWO Winter Retreat

Articles for The Love Letter can be submitted to the editor in the Love Letter mailbox at church or by email at loveletter@lord-of-love.org. Articles (including recipes or favorite poems, etc.) must be received by the 20th of the month.

2016 Winter Retreat Gathering

Beauty to Ashes Theme Song

Isaiah 61:3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion- to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness, instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor. NIV

St Paul's Lutheran Church
1414 Harrison Street
Grand Island NE
9:00 to 3:00

Registration with coffee 8:30 to 9:00.

Agenda Summary

Keynote Speaker: Vicki Nielsen, inspirational speaker and singer, she will energize us and how to dump the baggage that holds us back and set us free.

- Bishop Maas will be with us for scripture
- Saved to Serve projects for 2016
- Lunch with Phyllis Erickson
- Several pieces of entertainment
- And a lot of fun and fellowship
- The day offering will be split: 1/2 Lakota Lutheran Scottsbluff & 1/2 Lutheran Service Corps in Omaha

- Registration cost \$18.00 Please mail by Friday January 15, 2016

Registration

Cut off and return to JoAnn Rohrs NSWO Treasurer: 1409 10th St, Auburn NE 68305

Name _____
email _____
Address _____
Town _____
State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
Church _____
Conference _____

Registration is transferable, but not refundable