



The Love Letter

Volume 41

March 2013

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Worship Schedule

Sun. 8:00 a.m. Worship Service
Sun. 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
Sun. 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

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

A Look Ahead

This Lenten season, we are encouraged to pause and reflect on our relationship with God. We also look forward to Easter, when we celebrate our risen Lord! Learn more about the events taking place at Lord of Love from Lent through Easter in this issue of *The Love Letter*.

Wednesday night **soup suppers** and midweek **Lenten worship services** continue this month on March 6, 13, and 20 (see page 5, Nurture). During Holy Week, we will have worship services on **Maundy Thursday** (March 28) and **Good Friday** (March 29). Then on **Easter Sunday** (March 31), we will have a sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. as well as worship services at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. **Easter breakfast** will be served by the Youth Group at 9:00 a.m. (see page 5, Worship). Our **special offerings during Lent and Easter** will go to Table Grace Café (see page 7, Outreach).

For those interested in serving as a liturgist or communion server, or for those who already serve in this capacity but want a little refresher, a **Liturgist and Communion Server training** session will be held on Sunday, March 17 at 9:15 a.m. (see page 4, Worship).

Looking ahead to April, for those who would like information on estate planning, sign up now to attend a **Legacy of Giving presentation** on Sunday, April 14 at 11:45 a.m. (see page 9, Resources).

This issue of *The Love Letter* also includes information on preschool registration, a planned AED training course, updates to our church library, results of the Mission Possible survey, plans for the Lord of Love Community Garden, results of our stewardship drive pledges for 2012 and 2013, and upcoming women's ministry activities.

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Prayer Practices by Pastor Brad

The season of Lent invites us to a time of reflection on our relationship with God. I find that moments of prayer throughout my day are best to connect with God. There isn't a specific way to pray that is best—it is just however a person is most comfortable praying.

So often, we feel that we don't have the time to pray, cannot set aside the time to pray, or are too anxious to pray. I actually have a book titled *Prayer for People Who Can't Sit Still*. It's kind of a book of prayer styles for people on the go.

Prayer practices vary in style and purpose and have developed over centuries. I wish to share with you a couple of Prayer Practices that might be used during the days of Lent and Holy Week as you go about your day.

Prayer Walking

Walking under the open sky in prayer is an ancient practice. Not only will it do your heart good, not only will it do your spirit good, but it will do your community good. Keep your eyes, your ears, and your spirit attuned to God as you walk.

"Set out on your prayer walk by listening to your spirit. Walk slowly with your eyes open and ears open for clues to how God might direct your prayers. You will want to especially be mindful of your surroundings as you take each step. Rather than listening to the sounds of nature, listen to the sounds of your neighbors and your neighborhood...God will often reveal where the Spirit is working in their conversation."



Prayer Drawing

You do not need to be a great artist, just a doodler, to use this prayer practice. Gather some paper and some colored pencils or crayons, and spend time drawing your prayers.

Simply think of a person or situation that you have on your mind and invite God's presence to be in the midst of it. Draw or doodle something that reminds you of the person or the situation while praying for the spirit of God to be with them. Don't get hung up on whether the drawing is perfect—just connect with God's presence.



No matter how you spend time with God during Lent, or any season of the church year, the important thing is the time you set aside to pray. May God's presence be with you, inspiring you and drawing you into a deeper relationship.

Peace,
Pastor Brad



MONTHLY CALENDAR

March 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 8:00am Crane Coffee 7:30pm AA Meeting	2 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 9:00am Novak Recital 2:00pm Girl Scout Event 7:00pm Jr. High Girls Lock-In
3 8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir	4 6:00pm "Gather" Bible Study @ Old Country Buffet 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	5 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Vision & Coordination Mtg.	6 5:30pm Luther Kids 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm "Gather" Bible Study 6:35pm Youth Choir 7:00pm Lenten Worship 7:45pm Chancel Choir	7 9:30am Text Study at Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	8 7:30pm AA Meeting	9 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
10 Receive New Members 8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir	11 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	12	13 5:30pm Luther Kids 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Ministry Team Mtg. 6:35pm Youth Choir 7:00pm Lenten Worship 7:45pm Chancel Choir	14 9:30am Text Study at Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	15 8:00am Crane Coffee 7:30pm AA Meeting	16 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 5:00pm Boy Scout Lock-in
17 8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir	18 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	19 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Church Council	20 5:30pm Luther Kids 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:35pm Youth Choir 7:00pm Lenten Worship 7:45pm Chancel Choir	21 9:30am Text Study at Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	22 7:30pm AA Meeting	23 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 10:00am Erin Crosby Recital
24 8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30am Fellowship Hall Reserved 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir	25 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	26	27 6:00pm Brass 7:15pm Chancel Choir	28 9:30am Text Study at Guthrie's 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service	29 8:00am Crane Coffee 7:00pm Good Friday Service 7:30pm AA Meeting	30 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
31 6:30am Sunrise Worship 8:00am Worship 9:00am Easter Breakfast 10:30am Worship						

Liturgist and Communion Server Training

There will be a Liturgist and Communion Server training on Sunday, March 17 at 9:15 a.m. This is for anyone who wants training or for those currently not on the volunteer list but would like to be!



Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	March 3	March 10	March 17	March 24	March 31
Greeter(s)					
8:00 a.m.	Josh and Carissa Combes	Paul and Sue Dieter	Paul and Traci Cadwallader	John and Val Florea	Brian and Nancy Shinrock
10:30 a.m.	Bill and Nicole Quackenbush	Barb Haskins and Julia Ritonya	Dave and Susan Lueders	Tom and Beth Olson	Jesse and Pat Brewer
Liturgist					
8:00 a.m.	Brian Lund	Kenn Garder	Doug Aden	Paul Christenson	Randi VenHuizen
10:30 a.m.	Lori Vandeventer	Tom Olson	Stephanie Baird	Heather Christensen	Brian Fanders
Communion Servers					
8:00 a.m.	Lund family	Garder family	Doug and Rose Roberts, Doug and Cathy Aden	Jim and Jeri Morgan	Brad and Randi VenHuizen
10:30 a.m.	Vandeventer family	Olson family	Barb Haskins and Julia Ritonya	Christensen and Yarger families	Brewer family
Altar Care					
8:00 a.m.	Vandeventer girls	Ed and Marjorie Keiser	Cathy Aden, Sue Dieter	Connie Walther, Lisa Meyer	Janet Guthrie, Nancy Shinrock
10:30 a.m.	Brenda and Suzanne Mac	Rowen family	Brewer family	Karen Anderson, Mardi Fiske	Paul and Ann Kroll
Ushers					
8:00 a.m.	David Hild, Paul Murphy, Claude Hall, Mike Klos, Bob Christensen				
10:30 a.m.	John Edwards, Dan Manning, Rex Quadhamer, Gary Ramsay, John Ramsay				
Nursery Attendant(s)					
10:30 a.m.	Anne Yarger	Sarah Horan	Lisa Rieff	Ashley Meier	Traci Cadwallader
CD Recorder					
8:00 or 10:30	Pat Brewer	Paul Christenson	Karen Pickens	Brian Fanders	Brian Fanders

WORSHIP

Lenten and Easter Worship Services

During Lent, we are focusing on moments in our daily lives for “pause.” We pause to appreciate stillness, reflect on our relationship with God, contemplate the wonder around us, take time for others, and spend time in prayer.

Take a moment to “pause” at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, March 6, 13, and 20 as we worship and experience moments with God through the LBW Evening Vespers service.



HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

During Holy Week, join us for worship at 7:00 p.m. on Maundy Thursday (March 28) and Good Friday (March 29). On Easter Sunday (March 31), we will have a sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. and worship services at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m., with breakfast served by the Youth Group at 9:00 a.m.

NURTURE

Lenten Soup Suppers



Lenten Soup Suppers will be served in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, March 6, 13, and 20. Please join us for supper before worship!

A free-will offering will be collected for the meal, and all proceeds will go to Table Grace Café, a local restaurant that serves lunch to people for a free-will offering. Table Grace Café also provides training and assistance for those who may want a position in food service. Your extra giving toward this mission will help feed those who may not be able to afford a meal.

Thank you so much to all who have signed up to prepare and serve the Lenten Soup Suppers!

Youth to Prepare Easter Breakfast

Youth will be meeting on Saturday, March 30, at 9:00 a.m. to help prepare the Easter breakfast. The youth will help prepare the egg casserole and cut up fruit. All youth are encouraged to attend!



Junior Choir

Junior Choir is open to all children who are in 2nd grade and up! In March, practices will be held on Wednesdays, March 6, 13, and 20 from 6:35 to 7:00 p.m. in the Joseph Room. The Junior Choir will sing on Sunday, March 17 during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. If you have questions, please contact Jane Hawkins at 402-343-1680 (please leave a message).

Preschool Registration

Lord of Love Preschool is now accepting registrations for the 2013-2014 school year! If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Michelle Petersen at 402-493-2946.



Thanks, Bowlers for Jesus!

We had the largest group of bowlers this year at our annual “Bowling for Jesus” event. Forty-nine people of all ages had tons of fun, and a few of us just ate lunch and were the “encouragers.” We’re pleased to announce that bowlers and other donations provided an additional \$330 for “Women on a Mission.” We now have a total of \$2850 for this project.

AED Training

Plans are underway to offer training on how to use the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) that Lord of Love purchased in case of a cardiac event. Although it may sound "scary," the AED will walk you through helping a person who has a medical emergency. You do not need a medical background to learn how to use the AED. Once a date is set the training, you will be informed in *The Love Letter*, the bulletin, and E-News!



Library Update by Ann Kroll



I have recently tidied up (and dusted!) the library, and I have rearranged several of the categories. We still have these main categories: Martin Luther, Reference, Biographies, Poetry, Devotionals, Bible Study (guides and commentaries), Music, Bibles (different versions and some study Bibles), Worship, Church Seasons, Church (change and growth of the church), Grief and Death, Spiritual Growth, Social Issues, Parenting, and Marriage and Family. I have added some new categories after sorting through the books we have. These new categories are: Lutheran Humor (only about eight titles), Cookbooks, Jesus, Inspirational Fiction (non-series titles), Christian Fiction (series, women's themes), History (general and church related), Youth, About the Bible, Sunday School and Children's Curriculum, Psychology and Philosophy, Health and Seniors, Women's Devotions, and Children's. There are several DVDs available in a few of the categories.

We could use some more recent Christian-themed materials for the Youth section as well as for the Marriage and Family section. Please place any new donations in the book return basket.

We are going to use the Lutheran Honor System for checking out books and DVDs: If the book has a card, fill it out and leave it in the little basket. If it doesn't have a card, don't worry about. After you have finished reading a book, or when you feel guilty for having had the book out for too long, return it to the bigger book return basket. If you want to leave me a note about which book you have checked out, that would be fine too.

If you have any questions, comments, or requests, contact Ann Kroll at 402-496-3772 or krollit@juno.com.

Weekly Education Opportunities at Lord of Love

<p>Sunday 9:15 a.m. Sunday School (Preschool – High School) @ LOL Classrooms Adult Studies @ LOL Abraham, Mary, and Joseph Rooms</p>	<p>Wednesday 5:00 p.m. Confirmation (7th & 8th grades) @ LOL Abraham Room 6:00 p.m. Luther Kids (1st – 6th grades) @ LOL Preschool 6:00 p.m. <i>Gather</i> Bible Study @ LOL Mary Room (first Wednesday of month)</p>
<p>Monday 6:00 p.m. <i>Gather</i> Bible Study @ Old Country Buffet (first Monday of month)</p>	<p>Thursday 9:30 a.m. Text Study @ Guthrie's</p>
	<p>Saturday 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast and Bible Study @ LOL Fellowship Hall</p>

Lenten and Special Easter Offerings Support Table Grace Café



Offerings given at the Wednesday night Lenten services, proceeds from the soup suppers, and the special Easter offering continue to go to Table Grace Café. Matt Weber of Table Grace Café told us about their ministry at the Adult Forum on February 17. Table Grace Café is a community restaurant that serves gourmet pizza, soup, and salad lunches to customers, regardless of one's ability to pay. Those who need assistance are encouraged to work at the restaurant, go through a training program in restaurant work, and

participate in music ministry. The goal is to nourish the body and soul of all those who need assistance. The majority of folks who eat at the cafe pay very little. We would like to provide sponsorship for at least one-half month. In addition, please visit the cafe for a delicious, nutritious lunch, and/or volunteer to assist with a meal. Thanks for your generosity and support!

2013 Mission Survey Results

The results of our 2013 mission survey are in!

Votes:	Category:
35	Hunger
27	Homelessness
22	Disaster Relief
22	Abuse or Violence
18	Education
10	ELCA Mission Congregations

Programs mentioned by name:

4	The Food Bank
4	Together Inc.
3	Lutheran World Relief
3	Lutheran Family Services <i>At Ease</i>
3	Project Hope
2	Habitat for Humanity
2	College Campus Ministry
2	Lutheran Family Services
2	Tanzania
2	ELCA Malaria Project



Also mentioned: Siena Francis House, Youth Mission Projects, Disabled American Veterans, Human Trafficking, World Mission League, Open Door Mission, Lydia House, ELCA Disaster Response, Carol Joy Holling, Women of the ELCA 25th Anniversary Appeal, Free Gift Healing Clinic at Kountze Memorial, HETRA (Heartland Equine Therapeutic Riding Academy).

The Mission Possible team will use this information to select categories and organizations to support with our allocated mission funds in 2013. Thank you for your input!

OUTREACH

Blood Drive a Success!

Thank you to all who participated in the recent blood drive and donated the “gift” of life. We were able to donate 30 units of blood, which is an excellent result. Thank you!



Lord of Love Community Garden

We hope to receive OmaGro for the garden in March. After that is worked into the soil, we'll be ready to plant early crops—potatoes on Good Friday, for one! Talk to Deb Lund or Jeri Morgan, if you would like to become involved.



Nebraska Synod Seeks Office Volunteers



If you are a volunteer and wish to know more about how the Synod office works, there is an opportunity for you. The Nebraska Synod is seeking volunteers to assist with various office-related projects on an as-needed basis. If you are interested in volunteering or just want more information, contact the Synod office at office@nebraskasynod.org or 402-896-5311.

ELCA Disaster Response

Through ELCA Disaster Response, the ELCA is responding in areas affected by Hurricane Sandy. In the Caribbean, through our global church partnerships, we are providing basic needs such as food, water, and shelter. In Haiti, outbreaks of cholera have been reported. The ELCA has been working with the Lutheran Church of Haiti to build capacity in preserving health and wellness related to cholera. Throughout the United States, we are working hand-in-hand with synods and ministry organizations who are experts at outreach in their communities.



Photo credit: Adam Hunger/REUTERS

We are working with church bodies in Cuba and Haiti and are in close contact with synods, congregations, and disaster response partners within the United States to meet the immediate needs.

What you can do:

Pray

As the communities work to recover, please keep them and those who work on their behalf in prayer.

Give

Your donations to ELCA Disaster Response designated for Hurricane Sandy will be used entirely (100 percent) to help families whose lives and livelihoods have been impacted by this disaster. Donations from people like you allow this church to respond to those in need.

Connect

Learn more about the situation and the ELCA's response by receiving ELCA Disaster Response alerts and checking the ELCA Disaster Response blog.

RESOURCES

Pledged Giving from Commitment Cards for 2013

During our annual Stewardship drive in the fall, many members of Lord of Love complete and turn in pledge cards identifying the monetary gifts that they intend to give to Lord of Love during the coming year. The following are the figures for the number of pledges and the total amount pledged for 2012 and 2013.

2012

Pledges: 63

Amount Pledged: \$203,856.25

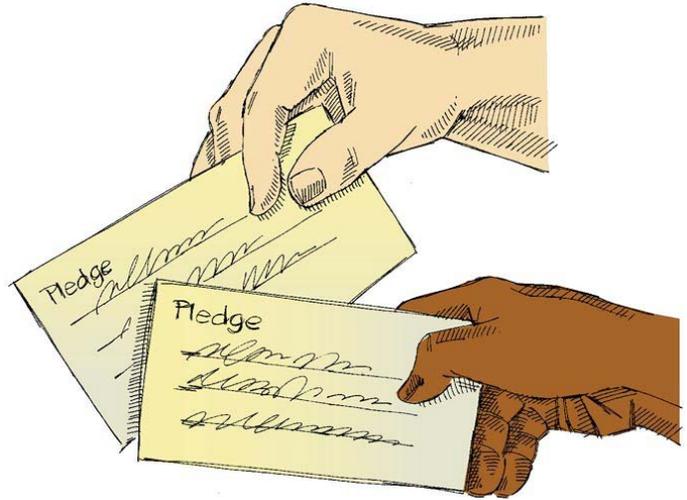
2013

Pledges: 74

Amount Pledged: \$209,499.00

Total giving for the year 2012 was \$345,499.20.

When the budget for the coming year is calculated, pledges are not a consideration. A significant amount of the monies taken in during the year are not pledged. Pledges are one way families/individuals make a commitment to God in giving back to Him what He graciously has given us.



Legacy of Giving

Gather with us on Sunday, April 14, for a Legacy of Giving presentation from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Lord of Love. A catered meal will be served at 11:45 a.m. provided by the Mission Investment Fund.



Craig Stirtz of Lutheran Planned Giving Services will give a presentation covering estate planning basics, including ways people can give to loved ones and to ministry or charity, as well as on mistakes people make when creating their wills or trusts (for example, paying too much in taxes, giving the wrong assets to their children, and not taking advantage of charitable vehicles).

Lutheran Planned Giving offers free, confidential, focused planning including creating your first wills and power of attorney, personal property lists, living trusts, or updating any of these instruments.

This will be a very beneficial presentation to help in the responsible planning of your estate. Please consider attending this presentation! No products or services will be sold.



RESOURCES

Why Do We Spend Time at Church? by Kathy Christiansen

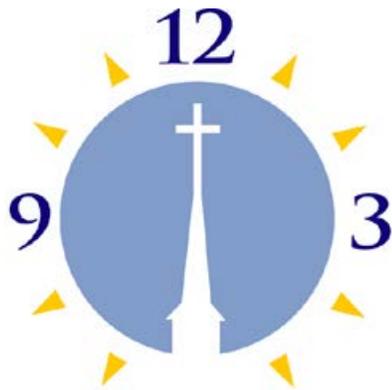
1 Thessalonians 5:11 *Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.*

In doing a little research about this topic, I found a wonderful description about the life of congregations. It described congregations as “soul communities”—a place where members are soul-mates, bound together as an extended family of God, who love, support, and sustain one another.



Encourage
one another
and build up
each other...

1 Thessalonians 5:11, NRSV



Whether you spend an hour a week at Lord of Love or twenty or more, my hope is that you find it a caring place. People are greeted warmly, we pray for and support each other during good times and bad, and there are numerous opportunities to hear and live out God’s word. I think it would be easy to classify Lord of Love as a soul community. Being a “soul community” is a wonderful gift, but with that great gift, we also need to remember the responsibilities that come with it. We are called by God and instructed by scripture to care for each other, to “encourage one another and build each other up.” Let us continue our great Lord of Love tradition of caring for each other and move beyond our walls to show our response to God’s blessings and continue to do God’s work.

COUNCIL REPORT

Our Giving Status by Barb Haskins, Council Treasurer

General Fund financial information for January 2013 is as follows:

- Income: \$22,110.50
- Expenses: \$17,933.18

Thank you for your faithfulness!!



2013 Lord of Love Church Council

Executive Committee: Brian Lund, President; Kenn Garder, Vice-President; Judy Messerschmidt, Secretary; Barb Haskins, Treasurer

Nurture: Paula Foster, Lori Vandeventer

Outreach: Mike Klos, Karen Anderson

Resources: Rex Quadhamer, Paul Concannon

Worship: Randi VenHuizen, Pat Brewer



From the Council President – March 2013 by Brian Lund, Council President

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 (NRSV) *So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Deb and I have been teaching Junior High Sunday School for several years. We work with Pastor Brad to supplement confirmation instruction. This means reviewing the Old and New Testaments; looking more deeply at the Lord's Prayer, Apostle's Creed, and Ten Commandments; and discussing some additional topics about life issues. Both Deb and I have benefited in our faith journeys from the review and discussion of these topics. We trust that we help reveal God's Word in a way that provides a strong foundation to prepare our youth for the tough faith questions that are sure to come up in their lives.

In February, we wrapped up ten weeks of the Ten Commandments. God's laws are not just ways we must live, but they help define how we build and grow our relationship with God and with others. On the surface, the commandments seem to be simple rules. Luther, in his small catechism explanations, gives us his understanding that they call for much more. First, we must fear and love God, a reminder of the importance of having a good relationship with God. Next, Luther describes specific actions our faith calls us to undertake. It is not just avoidance of wrongdoing, but actively helping our neighbor to be healthy and happy, to strengthen relationships, and to keep possessions.



Lent is a time for us to pause, to reflect on our sinful nature, to repent, and to turn away from sin. During this time of reflection, I encourage you to try a quick internet search for "Luther ten commandments" and review Luther's insight into God's plan for us through His ten commandments.

1 Peter 1:3-5 (NRSV) *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

Let us give thanks and serve God by using His blessings and serving those who are in need.

Thank you for your support of the ministry programs of Lord of Love. Your support enables us to reach out to meet the special needs of our members, our community, and others throughout our country and world. Our ministry teams are open to all members. Ask a church council member about how you can get more involved in the ministry of our congregation. If asked to serve, please prayerfully consider giving of your time and skills.

Please continue to pray the ELCA, Bishop Hansen, our Nebraska Synod, Bishop Brian Maas and his staff, Pastor Brad, our congregation, and our ministry together.

Blessings in faith and service,
Brian Lund

WOMEN OF LOVE

Annual Women's Retreat

It's coming! Rest, relaxation, refreshment, spiritual growth, conversation, prayer, singing! Please register for the annual Women's Retreat to be held at St. Benedict Center in Schuyler, Nebraska, from Friday evening until Saturday afternoon April 5 and 6. If you've attended before, you know how great it is. If you're a first-timer, you will want to pre-register for next year! This is such a beautiful facility and you'll love walking the grounds, visiting the stations of the cross, etc.



The committee is hard at work planning the event, and registration brochures will soon be in your mailbox as well as at the Information Center in the narthex. We're looking forward to seeing you.



Spring Gathering

The annual NSW Metro East Spring Gathering will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:10 p.m. on Saturday, March 9. St. Paul Lutheran Church, 13271 Millard Avenue, will host the Gathering that will meet under the theme of "Lift up Your Hands in Praise and Prayer."



Praise & Prayer

A registration fee of \$15 covers meals and materials, and should be mailed by February 28. Registration forms are available at the Information Center in the narthex. The events include a business meeting, a Bishop's Bible study, and a Happy 25th Birthday luncheon with clowns and more. Workshops focusing on the theme include *Lifting Hands in Prayer*, *Give Us a Hand*, *Hands Creating LWR Quilts*, *Hands CAN Speak*, *Healing Hands Massage*, *Stretching Hands with Tai Chi*, and *Hand in Hand with Others*.

Tangible offerings will be gathered for Mosaic. They include art and craft supplies: water color paints, markers, paper; dishes: 4-piece place settings of Corelle; silverware and cooking utensils; bake ware: mixing bowls, casserole dishes, baking pans; and all sizes of towels. Gift cards are welcome, and cash donations will be used to purchase adaptive equipment for Mosaic clients.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this inspirational event.

Ladies Coffee Fellowship

Ladies, you're invited to join coffee fellowship at Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass Streets, on Fridays, March 1, 15, and 29 at 8:00 a.m.

Women's Ministry Team

The Women's Ministry Team meets on Wednesday, March 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the Mary Room. Most of the business for women's ministry is handled at these meetings. All women are invited to attend.

Just a Reminder!

Don't forget to use your Thankoffering boxes!



THANK
Offering

WOMEN OF LOVE

Prayer Shawls

The gift of the prayer shawl is to be able to wrap someone in prayer, to be comforted and held when in pain or sorrow, and to be safe and warm in God's presence. If you have not received one or would like one for a friend, they are available, along with prayer cards, from Marilyn Thomsen and Ruth Manning. Thanks to our wonderful women who have created about 550 prayer shawls!



Prayer Shawl Ministry

25th Anniversary Appeal



The Women of the ELCA is celebrating 25 years of mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ: creating a just world, supporting global sisters, and bringing about health and wholeness. At a meeting in July of the Region 4 presidents (Nebraska, Central States [Kansas and Missouri], Arkansas-Oklahoma, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana, Southwestern Texas Synod, and Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod), they called on every woman of the ELCA to each give \$25 towards Region 4's goal of \$25,000.

In February, the LOL women's ministry team voted to send \$250 from our unit towards the appeal. However, we encourage individuals to also donate \$25. Donations may be sent to NSWOTreasurer JoAnn Rohrs, 1409 10th Street, Auburn, NE 68305 so that your donation will be credited towards the Region 4 pledge of \$25,000. Monies collected will be divided evenly between the Women of the ELCA and the ELCA Malaria Campaign.



Gather Bible Study

The theme for Session 7 of the Bible study, "Gathered for Shelter: Beneath Her Wings," is based on Luke 13:34, *Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!*



You are invited to attend one of two study groups. The Monday evening group will meet at the Old Country Buffet, 145th and West Center Road, on March 4 at 6:00 p.m., and the Wednesday evening group will meet on March 6 at 6:00 p.m. in the Mary Room.

WOMEN OF LOVE

NSWO Convention

The Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization Convention, which occurs every other year, will be held at the Holiday Inn in Kearney from September 20-22. Registration remains at \$90 plus lodging. Anita Gutschick, an actress, retreat leader, and speaker who lives in Maryland, is the featured speaker.

Mark your calendar and start saving your pennies! We'll keep you posted as soon as we have additional information on the program.



Quilting Ministry



QUILTING GROUP

Do you have about 3 hours available on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday mornings of the month? The ladies who make quilts for Lutheran World Relief could use some more helping hands. Sewing ability is not required.... If you can pin a back and front of a quilt together and tie the finished quilt, you are welcome! If you have any questions, contact Nancy Shinrock.

2013 Women's Ministry Brochure

Did you get your copy of the 2013 Women's Ministry brochure? Extra copies are available at the Information Center in the narthex. The best way to put it to use is to go through it and mark the dates of events on your calendar. We'd love to have you participate!!

Dates to Remember

March

TBA		General Meeting
1	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77 th and Cass
4	6:00 p.m.	<i>Gather</i> Bible Study, Old Country Buffet, 145 th and West Center Road
5	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
6	6:00 p.m.	<i>Gather</i> Bible Study, Mary Room
9	8:30 a.m.	Metro East Spring Gathering, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Millard
13	6:00 p.m.	Ministry Team Meeting, Mary Room
15	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77 th and Cass
19	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
29	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77 th and Cass



Women of the ELCA 

Looking Forward

April 5-6, 2013	Annual Women's Retreat at St. Benedict's, Schuyler
September 20-22, 2013	NSWO Convention, Holiday Inn, Kearney
July 22-24, 2014	Ninth Triennial Convention of the Women of the ELCA, Charlotte, NC
July 24-27, 2014	Ninth Triennial Gathering of the Women of the ELCA, Charlotte, NC

IN OUR PRAYERS & LOVE NOTES

In Our Prayers

Diana Baker (friend of the Thoms)
Chris Beckman (friend of Jane Gehringer)
Dick Bell
James Cantrell (uncle of Gwen Edwards)
Ann Christiansen
Claire Foral (friend of Dave and Lisa Rieff)
Nick Gehrig (grandson of the Schuchards)
Keith Gillespie
Mike Gillotte (neighbor of Bill and Karen Pickens)
Joei Harris (friend of Gwen Edwards)
Cathy Johnson (friend of Marilyn Thomsen)
Cheryl Jones (friend of Nancy Shinrock)
Dolores Jordan (aunt of Paula Foster)
Jude Konvalina
Donna Lueders (mother of Dave Lueders)
Lisa Lueders (sister-in-law of Dave Lueders)
Brenda Mac
Jim Mahler (brother of Jane Hawkins)
Marj Mahler (mother of Jane Hawkins)
Debbie Michalak (co-worker of Jackie Combes)
Brenda Nobles (friend of Gwen Edwards)
Karen Pickens
David Pippin (nephew of Lynda McGraw)
Judy Quest (friend of Jane Gehringer)
Isaac Schroeder (infant son of Clay and Kelly)

Jill Sheridan (sister-in-law of Rebecca Lund Sheridan)
Ron Stoffers (friend of the Millers)
Karen Swanson (sister of Marilyn Thomsen)
Ron and Brenda Thom
Roslynn Thom (sister of Ron Tom)
Marilyn Thomsen
Ted Whitfield (former co-worker of Brian Shinrock)
Jeff Wise (friend of the Thoms)

Those deployed around the world:

Kelvin
Veronica Barnes and her fiancé Jake Harmon
Andrew Briggs
Terry Duke
Zach Gehrig
Jesse Kinney
Nash Oltman

Children waiting to be adopted & those seeking to adopt

Men's servant ministry
Stephen Ministers and their care receivers
Those seeking employment
Those who mourn

If you would like to add a name to the In Our Prayers section of *The Love Letter*, 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



HOLY WEEK



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

- March 9 Women’s NSWO Metro East Spring Gathering at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Millard
- March 10 Daylight Saving Time begins
- March 17 Liturgist and communion server training
- March 24 Palm Sunday
- March 30 Youth meet to prepare Easter breakfast
- March 31 Easter Sunday

Upcoming Events

- April 5-6 Annual Women’s Retreat at St. Benedict Center near Schuyler
- April 14 Legacy of Giving presentation
- May 31-June 2 2013 Nebraska Synod Assembly in Kearney



Articles for The Love Letter can be submitted to the editor, Kim Gust, in the Love Letter mailbox at church or by email at loveletter@lord-of-love.org. Articles must be received by the Love Letter editor by the 20th of the month.