



# The Love Letter

Volume 42

March 2014

## Lord of Love Office

Phone ..... 402.493.2946  
Fax ..... 402.493.3087  
Website ..... www.lord-of-love.org

## Lord of Love Staff

Pastor  
Brad Meyer  
*pastorbrad@lord-of-love.org*

Director of Christian  
Education/Youth Ministry  
Heather Christensen  
*heather@lord-of-love.org*

Office Administrator, Prayer  
Chain, and Financial Secretary  
Mary Lou Gustafson  
*marylou@lord-of-love.org*

Community Therapists  
Kim Mueller  
*402.354.6891, Ext. 13*

Becky Herber  
*402.354.6891, Ext. 21*

Missionary to Tanzania  
Bob Kasworm

Web Steward  
Del Gust  
*webmaster@lord-of-love.org*

Love Letter Editor  
Kim Gust  
*loveletter@lord-of-love.org*

Senior Organist  
Carol Novak

Associate Organist  
Amy Kragnes

Chancel Choir Director  
Jon Novak

LOL Brass Director  
Brian Lund

Bell Choir Director  
Heidi Meyer

## 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

The season of Lent is upon us, and Easter (and spring!) are just around the corner. Below are a few of the upcoming events at Lord of Love!

**Lenten soup suppers and worship services** will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 5, and continue through Wednesday, April 9 (see page 5, Worship and Nurture). This year, our **Lenten and Easter offerings** will go to Food Bank for the Heartland and Table Grace Café (see page 10, Outreach). In addition, the Outreach committee is planning a **group outing to Table Grace Café** for lunch during Lent (see page 10, Outreach). Watch the Sunday bulletins for more details!

On Sunday, March 9, enjoy fellowship with our church family and support the LOL Women on a Mission fund by going **Bowling for Jesus** (see page 6, Nurture). The Youth Group will be there to challenge the other participants (see page 8, LOL Youth)!

The **annual Lord of Love Garage Sale** will be held on Saturday, April 5, and will support our Youth ministries. Donations will be accepted March 30-April 4 in the fellowship hall (see page 6, Nurture). Youth group members and their parents are encouraged to help set up for the sale the night before or to work the morning of the sale (see page 8, LOL Youth).

There are many more activities coming up in March and April, such as a **women's spring cleaning day** on March 22, a **youth girls' lock-in** March 29-30, the start of the **men's softball** season on April 14, and our upcoming **Easter worship and breakfast** on April 20. Read about all of these in this issue of *The Love Letter!*

## In This Issue

Pastor's Page .....	2	Church Council .....	13
Monthly Calendar .....	3	Men's News Corner .....	14
Worship .....	4	Women of Love .....	15
Nurture.....	5	In Our Prayers .....	17
LOL Youth .....	7	Love Notes .....	17
Outreach.....	9	Mark Your Calendar .....	18
Resources .....	13		

### All We Want by Pastor Brad Meyer

I ran across these words of scripture the other day: *You already have all you want!* (1 Corinthians 4:8). After reading these words, I experienced a rather human response, "NO I Don't!" I want all kinds of things that I don't have!

I don't have the latest and greatest cell phone! I don't have more money than I could possibly know what to do with! I don't have six pack abs! (Oh wait, that's my fault!) I can hear us all at one time or another saying, I don't have, I don't have, I don't have....

In reality, I have a lot. I am thankful that I have a wonderful family and church. I am grateful for our home where it is warm and safe. I am blessed to have enough food to eat while many go without.



Actually, Paul isn't even talking about our "physical" wants but rather our "Spiritual" wants.

Paul was explaining to the church at Corinth that everything they have "Spiritually" they have received as a gift.

So it is true, I have all that I want, and WE have all that we want. We have forgiveness and grace showered upon us by God. God's loving grace surrounds us each day, and for that we are eternally grateful.



amazing  
GRACE

As the Lenten season approaches, it is a time for us to reflect on the gift that Jesus gave to us as he was led to the cross. He gave everything that he had, even his own life, so that we might live!

Ultimately, we have all that we could ever desire—the unconditional love of God.

Peace,  
Pr. Brad



# MONTHLY CALENDAR

March 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
<b>2</b> 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 6:00pm Bell Rehearsal	<b>3</b> 5:30pm Outreach Committee Mtg. 6:00pm "Gather" Bible Study @ Village Inn Oakview 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	<b>4</b> 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Vision & Coordination Mtg.	<b>5</b> 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:00pm High School Bible Study 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 6:35pm Jr. Choir 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship 7:45pm Sr. Choir	<b>6</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>7</b> 7:30pm AA Meeting	<b>8</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
<b>9</b> 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 12:00pm Bowling for Jesus 12:00pm Youth Event 6:00pm Bell Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 6:30pm Cub Scout Leaders 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm High School Bible Study 6:00pm Ministry Team Mtg. 6:35pm Jr. Choir 7:00pm Lenten Worship 7:45pm Sr. Choir	<b>13</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>14</b> 8:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 7:30pm AA Meeting	<b>15</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
<b>16</b> 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 6:00pm Bell Rehearsal	<b>17</b> 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	<b>18</b> 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Church Council Mtg.	<b>19</b> 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm High School Bible Study 6:35pm Jr. Choir 7:00pm Lenten Worship 7:45pm Sr. Choir	<b>20</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>21</b> 7:30pm AA Meeting	<b>22</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 9:00am W/ELCA clean-up
<b>23</b> 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 6:00pm Bell Rehearsal	<b>24</b> 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm High School Bible Study 6:00pm Brass 6:35pm Jr. Choir 7:00pm Lenten Worship 7:45pm Sr. Choir	<b>27</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>28</b> 8:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 7:30pm AA Meeting	<b>29</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 8:00am Fellowship Hall reserved for Keiser event 5:30pm Girl's Lock-in
<b>30</b> 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 6:00pm Bell Rehearsal	<b>31</b> 8:00pm AA & AI Anon					

## Nursery Volunteers

Volunteers staff the nursery each Sunday for the 10:30 a.m. worship service. A great big thank you to Anne Yarger, Kylie Kulp, Lisa Rieff, Ashley Meier, Traci Cadwallader, and Pat Brewer for their service in the nursery! Because some volunteers have resigned as nursery attendants, the worship committee is looking for additional volunteers. This is an excellent opportunity to spend a little time with young children! Maybe you miss your kids or grandchildren, you just like playing with the little ones, or you want to allow parents to worship. There are a variety of reasons for you to consider volunteering in the nursery. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Kathy Christiansen at 402-493-0385 or sharonkc@cox.net, or contact Joan Witt at 402-699-9054 or jwellensiek@cox.net.



### Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	March 2	March 9	March 16	March 23	March 30
<b>Greeters</b>					
8:00 a.m.	Harry Naasz, Gary Ramsay	Woody and Mardi Fiske	Ed and Marjorie Keiser	Roger and Angie Meyer	Jesse and Kylie Kulp
10:30 a.m.	Kathy Christiansen, Paula Foster	Debra Gillespie, Lynda McGraw	Brian and Nancy Shinrock	Tom and Beth Olson	Dave and Lisa Rieff
<b>Liturgist</b>					
8:00 a.m.	Kenn Garder	Heather Christensen	Ron Thom	Heather Hansen	Paul Christenson
10:30 a.m.	Stephanie Baird	Tom Olson	Ruth Manning	Dave Rieff	Don Rowen
<b>Communion Servers</b>					
8:00 a.m.	Garder family	Christensen family, Pat Brewer	Doug and Rose Roberts, Cathy Aden	Jim and Jeri Morgan	Brian and Connie Walther
10:30 a.m.	Vandeventer family	Olson family	Edwards family	Rieff family	Lynnette Nore and Chris Boarts
<b>Altar Care</b>					
8:00 a.m.	Wayne and Joan Witt	Deb Christenson, Angie Meyer	Doug and Rose Roberts, Caroline Tessin	Brewer family	Ed and Marjorie Keiser
10:30 a.m.	Deb Quadhamer, Judy Messerschmidt	Diana Hays, Marcia Roads	Debra Gillespie, Karen Armitage	Brenda & Suzanne Mac, Rosie Avalos	Rowen family
<b>Ushers</b>					
8:00 a.m.	Dave Hild, Paul Murphy, Mike Klos, Bob Christensen				
10:30 a.m.	John Edwards, Dan Manning, Rex Quadhamer, Gary Ramsay, John Ramsay				
<b>Nursery Attendant</b>					
10:30 a.m.	Kylie Kulp	Anne Yarger	Lisa Rieff	Ashley Meier	Traci Cadwallader
<b>CD Recorder</b>					
8:00 or 10:30	Pat Brewer	Paul Christenson	Dave Lueders	Paul Murphy	Jesse Brewer

## WORSHIP

### Lenten Worship Services

**Live, Love, Share, Be Christ!** This theme will be the focus of our Lenten worship. As we reflect on Christ's journey toward the cross, we realize what it means for us to take on the life of Christ in our daily lives. How can we be Christ's presence in our community and in the world?

Lenten worship will begin with Ash Wednesday on March 5, followed by Lenten worship on March 12, 19, and 26, and on April 2 and 9, at 7:00 p.m.



## NURTURE

### Lenten Soup Suppers

The first 3 weeks of March have been claimed to provide Lenten Soup Suppers on Wednesday nights. The last 3 weeks of Lent—March 26, April 2, and April 9—are still open! Plan to serve about 60 people. The “guests” put in a freewill offering, you take the amount of money you spent on food, and the rest will go to Food Bank for the Heartland and Table Grace Café. Plan to have food available by 5:30 p.m. The meal ends when Lenten worship services begin at 7:00 p.m. Talk with your family and friends, and provide a meal together! It's also a great way for youth to add service hours and for you to add volunteer time for Lord of Love! The sign-up sheet is by the “donut table” in the narthex.



### Weekly Education Opportunities at Lord of Love

<b>Sunday</b> 9:15 a.m. Sunday School (Preschool – High School) @ LOL Classrooms Adult Forum and Other Studies @ LOL Sanctuary, Abraham, Mary, and Joseph Rooms	<b>Wednesday, cont.</b> 6:00 p.m. Luther Kids (1 <sup>st</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> grades) @ LOL Preschool 6:00 p.m. Senior High Wednesday Night Study @ LOL Paul Room 6:00 p.m. <i>Gather</i> Bible Study @ LOL Mary Room (first Wednesday of month)
<b>Monday</b> 6:00 p.m. <i>Gather</i> Bible Study @ Village Inn near Oak View Mall (first Monday of month)	<b>Thursday</b> 9:30 a.m. Text Study @ Guthrie's
<b>Wednesday</b> 5:00 p.m. Confirmation (7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> grades) @ LOL Abraham Room	<b>Saturday</b> 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast and Bible Study @ LOL Fellowship Hall

## Bowling for Jesus!

---

It's time for that favorite annual family event—Bowling for Jesus! Guys and gals of all ages are invited to attend this event at Maplewood Lanes, 3030 N 101<sup>st</sup> Street, on Sunday, March 9 after the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Cost per person is \$10 and includes shoe rental and two games.



What do you do to participate?

- Sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex as soon as possible!
- Pay Beth Olson for the event, preferably in advance. If you want to pay by check, make it payable to "Women of Love."
- Show up on March 9 by 12:00 p.m., and check in with Beth at the door.
- Get your shoes, grab a ball, and have fun!

The maximum number is 55 people, so sign up today!

Profits will go to LoL's "Women on a Mission" fund for two partial scholarships for the Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization vision trip to Tanzania in February 2015. One scholarship has been awarded to Jackie Combes, and information on applying for the second one will be available soon. If you have any questions, contact Gwen Edwards, who is coordinating the scholarship applications.

## Lord of Love Garage Sale

---

The Annual Lord of Love Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, April 5, and will benefit our Youth Ministry Programs.



Ready to do some Spring Cleaning? Have some good stuff that others could use? We would be happy to accept your donations for our garage sale. Unsold items will not be returned but donated on.

Donations will be accepted Sunday, March 30 through Friday, April 4 in the fellowship hall under the sign "Donations here."

This is a win-win event, and we appreciate your participation!! Volunteers are needed if you love working garage sales! ☺ Contact Heather Christensen.

## Junior Choir

---

The Junior Choir will practice on Wednesdays, **March 19 and 26 from 6:40 to 7:00 p.m.** The practices are earlier than usual because of the Lenten Services. (Practice will not be held on Wednesdays, March 5 and 12, because of the Ash Wednesday service and Spring Break for some school districts.)



We are still going to sing another time in church—probably in April—so please come to practices on March 19 and 26 to praise the Lord. If you have questions, please call Jane Hawkins at 402-343-1680.

## Preschool Registration

---

Lord of Love Preschool is accepting registrations for the 2014-2015 school year! Registrations forms are available on the Lord of Love website or by contacting Michelle Petersen.



## NURTURE

### Vacation Bible School – SonTreasure Island!

Mark your calendars for VBS—**Monday, July 21 through Friday, July 25**—and sign up early to volunteer!



We will again offer Vacation Bible School this summer in the evenings with a kid-friendly meal and lots of fun learning about God's love. This year's theme is "SonTreasure Island," a tropical get-away with a throw back to Gilligan's Island. It's sure to be tons of fun!

Volunteers will be needed for registration, music, bible story, skits, games, dinner, small group leaders and assistants, decorations, audio visual, and more!! Please let Heather Christensen know if you are interested in volunteering or leaning more.

## LOL YOUTH

### Movie with Meaning Not to be Missed: GOD'S NOT DEAD

The movie GOD'S NOT DEAD opens on March 21 in theaters around the country. Read the description of the film below, and watch for dates and times when this movie will be shown at the following Omaha and Bellevue theaters: Aksarben Cinema 10, Village Pointe Cinema 16, and Twin Creek 16.

The Youth will be invited to attend as a group with discussion following. Watch for dates and times in the bulletin!

*How far would you go...to defend your belief in God?*



Present-day college freshman and devout Christian, Josh Wheaton (Shane Harper), finds his faith challenged on his first day of Philosophy class by the dogmatic and argumentative Professor Radisson (Kevin Sorbo). Radisson begins class by informing students that they will need to disavow, in writing, the existence of God on that first day, or face a failing grade. As other students in the class begin scribbling the words "God Is Dead" on pieces of paper as instructed, Josh find himself at a crossroads, having to choose between his faith and his future. Josh offers a nervous refusal, provoking an irate reaction from his smug professor. Radisson assigns him a daunting task: if Josh will not admit that "God Is Dead," he must prove God's existence by presenting well-researched, intellectual arguments and evidence over the course of the semester, and engage Radisson in a head-to-head debate in front of the class. If Josh fails to convince his classmates of God's existence, he will fail the course and hinder his lofty academic goals. With almost no one in his corner, Josh wonders if he can really fight for what he believes. Can he actually prove the existence of God? Wouldn't it just be easier just to write "God Is Dead" and put the whole incident behind him? GOD'S NOT DEAD weaves together multiple stories of faith, doubt and disbelief, culminating in a dramatic call to action. The film will educate, entertain, and inspire moviegoers to explore what they really believe about God, igniting important conversations and life-changing decisions.

GOD'S NOT DEAD features a talented cast of actors including Kevin Sorbo (SOUL SURFER, HERCULES, ANDROMEDA), Shane Harper (GOOD LUCK CHARLIE, HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 2), David A.R. White (BROTHER WHITE, REVELATION ROAD and JERUSALEM COUNTDOWN), and Dean Cain (LOIS & CLARK: THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN), with special appearances by Christian super-band Newsboys and "Duck Dynasty's" Willie and Korie Robertson.

## Youth Invited To Go “Bowling for Jesus”

Youth Group members (grades 7-12) are invited to participate in “Bowling for Jesus” on Sunday, March 9.



How many youth can we get to join us and challenge other participants to a few friendly rounds of bowling? Get your game on & join us!

Register with Beth Olson or Heather Christensen. Cost is \$10 for two games and shoes. Food is available for an additional cost. Carpool or transportation arrangements can be made. Contact Heather Christensen if you need transportation.

## “It’s a Girl Thing” Lock-in

All Youth Girls in grades 7-12 are invited to attend the “It’s a Girl Thing” lock-in Saturday, March 29 to Sunday, March 30. We will meet Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m. for fun, food, games, movies, devotion, breakfast, and worship at 8:00 a.m. Last year we had a BLAST and anticipate the same for this year’s event. (Yes, we will have the Wii and Just Dance games. Also we will be watching and discussing the movie *Unconditional*.)



Plan on joining us! Questions? Contact Heather Christensen or Judy Messerschmidt.

## April Events – Youth and Parent Assistance Needed

Youth and Parents, your assistance is needed! Please mark the following dates and plan to participate.



### Lord of Love Garage Sale: Friday, April 4 and/or Saturday, April 5

Volunteers are needed to organize and set up for the garage sale on Friday, April 4 at 6:00 p.m., and to assist with the garage sale on Saturday, April 5, at 7:30 a.m. or after. Because the Youth Group fund receives the proceeds from this event, we encourage you to help in some way.

### Annual Easter Breakfast: Sunday, April 20

Breakfast...Yummm! Proceeds to youth group, even better! This is an annual event enjoyed by the youth, their parents, and the church and visitors. Volunteers are need for preparation on Saturday, April 19 from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. and to serve and clean up on Sunday, April 20 from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. Craft helpers are needed from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. during Sunday School, too. Please sign up on the youth bulletin board in the Narthex. If you have questions, contact Heather Christensen.

## February Youth Event Recap: Winter Lock-In, Minute to Win It, and Nerf Wars

On February 8, the church was filled with laughter and youth. Our gracious young people were being kind to Miss Heather and appeasing her excitement for the “Minute to Win It” competition that would ensue at the lock-in Saturday night. Based on the smiles, laughter, and competitive spirits...I’d say they had a good time in spite of themselves. Using common household items, each challenge presented had to be completed within a minute. Everyone received a participation award, a.k.a. glow sticks, which were perfect for lighting the way for the Nerf war.

We have a GREAT group of youth who are inviting their friends to participate in our events and are spending time with each other in fellowship and worship. Check out the pics from our lock-in on the next page and plan on joining us for our next event!!



## LOL YOUTH

### February Youth Event Recap: Winter Lock-In, Minute to Win It, and Nerf Wars, continued



## OUTREACH

### Seeking a New Love Letter Editor

Our Outreach ministries at Lord of Love include communicating with members of our own congregation through *The Love Letter*. Kim Gust, who has been the Love Letter editor for the past 7 years, is ready to step down and pursue other opportunities to serve at Lord of Love. Please consider volunteering your time and talents by putting together *The Love Letter* each month!

If you have questions about what being the Love Letter editor entails, please contact Kim. Kim is willing to “train” the next editor as necessary to ease the transition. If you are interested in being the next Love Letter editor, please contact Pastor Brad or Brian Walther.



### Habitat for Humanity

It's not too late for “second-mile” gifts to support our local ELF Coalition for Habitat for Humanity. We have again made an annual commitment for financial support as well as laborers and providers of food for the workers. Contributions above and beyond your regular Lord of Love offerings should be clearly marked in an envelope or on the memo of a check “ELF Coalition, Habitat for Humanity” and placed in an offering plate or put in Mary Lou's mailbox. Thank you for your generosity!



### Lenten and Easter Offering

---

Jesus tells us in Luke 3:11, *The man who has two shirts must share with the man who has none, and the man who has food must do the same.*

We have an opportunity to fulfill the second part of what Jesus is asking! Our Lenten and Easter offering will be divided between Food Bank for the Heartland and Table Grace Café in response to the Mission Possible congregational survey to help support organizations who feed our neighbors who do not have enough to eat.



### Table Grace Café

---

The congregation recently indicated a strong desire to support hunger through a survey provided by the Mission Possible Team. In response to the survey, a portion of our Lenten and Easter offerings are being donated to Table Grace Café. They provide meals at the price the patron can afford to pay, which may be free, as well as teach job skills for those who need help entering the workforce.

The Stewardship Committee is organizing an opportunity for members of the congregation to actually go to Table Grace Café and have lunch during Lent. Table Grace needs paying customers, too, so let's show our support and use this opportunity for good fellowship and good food!

We will have a sign-up sheet for those interested in joining so we can carpool. Watch for a date and more details in the bulletin.

### Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA

---

Approved by the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Pittsburgh, this 5-year, nearly \$200 million campaign will:

- Increase this church's capacity to support congregational renewal and the planting of new congregations.
- Form and support new lay, ordained, and global leaders for mission.
- Encourage and form lay youth and young adult leaders.
- Support this church's disability ministry.
- Bolster our commitment to walk with global companion churches in shared witness.
- Expand our efforts to address poverty and hunger.



While the campaign was approved in the 25th anniversary year of the forming of the ELCA, this also is our moment to look toward the next 25 years and boldly respond to the needs of God's creation with a living, daring confidence in God's grace. *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*—the first of its size and scope in the history of this church—gives each of us the opportunity to make a transformational impact on the ministries of our church. Together, as 4 million members of the ELCA in nearly 10,000 congregations and 65 synods, we are one church with a call to do God's work throughout the world.

Through this campaign, we can expand our mission capacity and achieve things on a scale and scope that we could never do alone. Through this campaign, we can do more. Together, we are called to do more, and in responding to this call, we will continue to live out God's promise of always being made new, and to use our hands—and all that we have been given—to do God's work.

*Continued on the next page*

## Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA, continued

---

### Campaign Goals

This campaign—which runs from Feb. 1, 2014, through Jan. 31, 2018—seeks to raise \$198 million in support of new and expanded churchwide ministries above and beyond those supported by your regular weekly offerings.

### Congregations

*Accompany and equip 1,000 congregations in their renewal efforts through ELCA synods*

**Goal for Renewing Congregations—\$8 million**

*Spread the good news far and wide by planting more congregations in the United States and the Caribbean.*

**Goal for ELCA New Congregations—\$4 million**

*Expand ministries with people living with disabilities.*

**Goal for Disability Ministries—\$4 million**

### Leadership

*Grow the permanent endowment fund so that, for generations to come, hundreds more of the most promising leaders can respond to the call to serve our congregations.*

**Goal for ELCA Fund for Leaders—\$15 million**

*Engage young people in the life of this church through expanded ministries to youth and young adults.*

**Goal for Youth and Young Adults—\$4 million**

### Hunger and Poverty

*Support our comprehensive approach in nearly 60 countries and expand support to communities in at least 10 countries, including the United States, as they work to solve challenges that perpetuate hunger and poverty.*

**Goal for ELCA World Hunger—\$115 million**

*Meet and exceed our 2011 goal of \$15 million by 2015 to help overcome malaria in 13 countries in Africa.*

**Goal for the ELCA Malaria Campaign—\$15 million (over \$10 million already raised)**

### Global Church

*Initiate new evangelism projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America.*

**Goal for Global Ministries—\$7 million**

*Equip more than 200 additional women leaders from our global companion churches through increased scholarships and educational opportunities.*

**Goal for International Leaders-Women—\$4 million**

*Support our missionaries and give 200 additional young adults the opportunity to participate in a year of global service.*

**Goal for Missionaries and Young Adults in Global Mission—\$22 million**

### Total campaign goal: \$198 million

See more at <http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Campaign-for-the-ELCA#sthash.JqLTHnCd.dpuf>.

## ELCA Global: South Sudan Conflict

### The Situation:

Heavy armed fighting broke out in the capital city of South Sudan in December 2013. Persistent violence has killed thousands and caused more than 800,000 people to flee their homes. While neighboring countries have opened their borders to receive refugees from South Sudan, resources are running thin.



### Our Response:

Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to walking with our brothers and sisters affected by the crisis in South Sudan by responding within the country as well as across borders into Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, and Chad.

We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work. Operating through our local partners, we will respond in:

- South Sudan by providing non-food item assistance to the more than 20,000 displaced persons and the more than 90,000 refugees across five camps
- Ethiopia by assisting Sudanese refugees with drinking water and improving sanitation and hygiene services
- Uganda by increasing water availability, sanitation and hygiene programs, management and distribution of non-food items in refugee camps
- Kenya by providing immediate needs, such as protection, for newly arrived Sudanese refugees to Kakuma refugee camp
- Chad by working with the World Food Programme to distribute food to the more than 175,000 Sudanese refugees across seven camps

Thanks to your undesignated gifts, Lutheran Disaster Response is responding now and supporting people who have been impacted by the South Sudan crisis. Working with The Lutheran World Federation and the Episcopal Church of Sudan, gifts have been used to provide protection and life-saving essentials.

### What Can You Do?

#### Pray:

Pray for those affected by violence, that they may be granted peace and healing.

#### Give:

Your gifts designated for the South Sudan Conflict Response will be used in full (100 percent) to assist those directly impacted. Gifts from people like you allow us to continue our response.

#### Connect:

To learn more about the situation and the ELCA's response:

- Sign up to receive Lutheran Disaster Response [alerts](#).
- Check the Lutheran Disaster Response [blog](#).

See more at <http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/Our-Impact/South-Sudan-Conflict#sthash.MNi6C2tg.dpuf>.

## RESOURCES

### Our True Treasures by Kathy Christiansen

*Jesus said, "Store up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where moths and rust do not destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Matthew 6:20-21*

"So, what was your favorite thing?"

Have you ever asked or been asked that question after a specific event or a special time? For most of us, the answer will come quickly and without hesitation. But how often is your answer really about "things?" I would be willing to guess that most of our answers would have something to do with our loved ones or our relationship with others, not material things. Because even though our culture encourages us to admire and acquire all manner of materialistic things, as Christians we know that our true "treasures" will not be found here on earth.



God blesses us with everything—our time, our talents, and our treasures. In exchange, He asks that we live our lives in a manner that reflects our love for Him and our neighbors. In all aspects of our lives, we need to remember that we are stewards of God's gifts, we are blessed to be a blessing, and we have received in order to give. And that our true treasures will await us in heaven.

## CHURCH COUNCIL

### Our Giving Status by Lisa Meyer

General fund financial information for January 2014 and the year to date is as follows:

- Income: \$24,418.50
- Expenses: \$28,441.21



We are very grateful for your continued support of our mission here at Lord of Love.

#### 2014 Lord of Love Church Council

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

Nurture: Paula Foster, Lisa Willard

Outreach: Karen Anderson, Mardi Fiske

Resources: Paul Concannon, Rex Quadhamer

Worship: Kathy Christiansen, Joan Witt



## Men's Ministry Events

Men's Breakfast Ministry meets every Saturday morning in Lord of Love's kitchen and fellowship hall. Men gather for breakfast and spiritual study every Saturday morning at 7:00. Meetings generally last one hour. All men are welcome and are invited to share their faith and grow with support of their fellow men.

### February

At the time of this report, approximately 6 men from Lord of Love planned to attend the February 22, 2014, **Nebraska Lutheran Men in Mission annual gathering** held at Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church in Lincoln, NE. A brief summary of newsworthy events from this state meeting will be available at a later date.

### March



The **baptismal box build** is moving along. The box lids are currently being "engraved" with our church logo, and assembly of the boxes will be forthcoming. Plan to take part in this fellowship event when the assembly date is confirmed.

### April

April 14 – All men (16 and older) are invited to participate on the Lord of Love **Men's softball team**. We will play on Monday nights from April 14 to early August. If you are interested in playing, contact Don Rowen at 402-965-8977 or at [drowen@unomaha.edu](mailto:drowen@unomaha.edu).



April 18 – The annual **24-hour prayer vigil event and Men's Ministry fundraiser** will begin after the Good Friday evening church service and will continue until Saturday morning. This gathering is held at Paul and Deb Christenson's home and concludes when the last person completes their 30 minute prayer slot in the overnight prayer vigil at the church. Plan to join us in this fundraising and fellowship event. Watch for the prayer sign-up sheet, and write in the time slot you want to fill. Remember, the first to sign up has more choices....

April 25-26 – A **Men in the Outdoors retreat** will be held at Carol Joy Holling Camp. As a gathering of Christian men for a rustic adventure, this retreat will gather men for time to worship, serve, and learn. Take part in a variety of camp activities, like archery, boating, fishing, and fly fishing lessons. Pastor Jeremy Fuerst from St. Timothy's Lutheran in Omaha will be leading devotions/Bible study.



The cost is \$88 per person and includes lodging, meals, a Bible study book, and all activities. Register online at [www.caroljoyholling.com](http://www.caroljoyholling.com). For more information, contact Kelsey Rabel at 402-944-2544.

### July

July 18-20 – **Guys, Guts, and God's Glory, the Lutheran Men in Mission 2014 National Triennial Gathering**, will be held in Nashville, TN, at Loews Vanderbilt Hotel. Lord of Love is planning on having attendees at the Nashville 2014 gathering. Please plan to attend and experience men's fellowship at this spiritual event. Plans are being made for travel and hotel reservations.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS / SAVE THE DATE



Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.  
1 Corinthians 16:13 (NRSV)

[www.lutheranmeninmission.org](http://www.lutheranmeninmission.org) - (800) 638-3522 ext. 2566

Contact any member of the Men's Breakfast Ministry for more local information. Plenty of choices for travel and traveling companions are still available. Let's hear from you so we can have your input in deciding how to travel. Log in to [www.lutheranmeninmission.org](http://www.lutheranmeninmission.org) for additional national updates and reservation information.

## WOMEN OF LOVE

### Spring Cleaning

---

Spring is the traditional time for cleaning and reorganization, and we're asking our women to come and help us with those tasks at Lord of Love on Saturday, March 22. Come for coffee and a bite to eat at 9:00 a.m., and we'll tackle the Joseph Room, our storage in the tornado shelter, and the kitchen. Thanks for your help!



### Ladies Coffee Fellowship

---

Ladies, you're invited to join the coffee fellowship at Crane Coffee, 77<sup>th</sup> and Cass Streets, on Fridays, March 14 and 28 at 8:00 a.m.

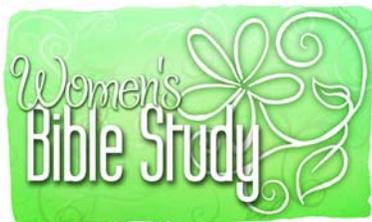


### Gather Bible Study

---

Who was the Daughter, an honest virgin? The March study is based on the theme verse Judges 11: 30-31, "Jephthah made a vow to the Lord, and said, 'If you will give the Ammonites into my hand, then whoever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me when I return victorious from the Ammonites, shall be the Lord's, to be offered up by me as a burnt offering.'"

The Monday evening group will meet on March 3 at 6:00 p.m. at Village Inn, 3304 S 143<sup>rd</sup> Plaza, near Oak View Mall. The Wednesday evening group will meet on March 5 at 6:00 p.m. in the Mary Room. All women are invited to attend. If you have any questions, contact Gwen Edwards for the Monday group and Ruth Manning for the Wednesday group.



### Women's Ministry Team

---

The women's ministry team will meet on Wednesday, March 12, at 6:00 p.m. in the Mary Room. All women are invited to participate.



### Lutheran Women of Omaha

---

Lutheran Women of Omaha will meet at noon on Tuesday, March 11, at Rejoice Lutheran Church, 2550 S. 138<sup>th</sup> Street. The program is the Fort Crook House. The monetary project is The Stephen Center, which partners with the community, families, and individuals to overcome homelessness, addiction, and poverty. Please make your reservations with Ruth Manning (402-451-0221) by Friday evening, March 7. Membership in Lutheran Women of Omaha is \$3.00 a year; luncheons are \$6.00.

### Cookbook Sale

---

Lord of Love's cookbook, *Taste and See that it is Good*, is being sold at the bargain price (drum roll please!) of \$12 each or 2 for \$20, 3 for \$30, etc.



Be sure to stock up on these! Loaded with nearly 670 delicious recipes, they make a wonderful gift for any occasion, but the season for weddings, showers, and graduations will soon be upon us. The cookbooks are located at the Information Center. Place your checks made out to LOL W/ELCA in the basket marked "cookbooks."

## Triennial Gathering: In-Kind Gifts

An important part of the Triennial Gathering are the “In-Kind Gifts.” In-kind giving is about relationships and partnerships and are a way for all women to participate in the triennial gathering, whether attending the event or not. We give these tangible items to meet immediate needs and to stand in solidarity with the recipients.



Will 2011 giving be exceeded? At that gathering, participants collected \$10,420 in gift cards, 11,160 minutes of phone cards, 600 health kits, hundreds of school supplies, 58 clothing support kits, and nearly 800 bags of socks, all given to Spokane, Wash.-area agencies and ministries. In addition, participants made 80 quilts on site that were given to Lutheran World Relief.

In-Kind items for 2014 include Quilt kits (2 options), gift cards, pre-paid phone cards, hygiene items, and clothing:

- **Quilt Kit Option 1** – Fill a gallon-size ziplock plastic bag with one each of the following: twelve 21-inch squares of cotton fabric, one spool of Coats & Clark Dual Duty thread to match fabric, and one piece of cotton fabric for backing, 2½ yards of 60-inch- wide fabric or 5 yards of 35- to 45-inch-wide fabric.
- **Quilt Kit Option 2** – Fill a gallon-size ziplock plastic bag with one each of the following: 2 pieces of fabric (2½ yards of 60-inch-wide fabric or 5 yards of 35- to 45-inch-wide fabric) and one spool of Coats & Clark Dual Duty thread to match fabric.
- **Gift cards** in any amount with a minimum of \$10 from Walmart, Target, and K-Mart. Visa cash cards also are welcome.
- **Pre-paid phone cards** in any amount, which can be purchased at national retail stores and grocery stores.
- **Personal hygiene items** for women, teen girls and teen boys: deodorant or antiperspirant (no aerosol cans), body wash and body puffs, shampoo and conditioner, hair gels, moisturizers, toothbrushes (in original packaging), toothpaste, dental floss, disposable razors, feminine hygiene products, wide-toothed hair combs and brushes.
- **Socks and underwear** in any size and color for women, teen girls, and teen boys; **bras** in any size.

## Dates to Remember

### March

1	8:30–3:00	Metro East Spring Gathering, St. Michael’s Lutheran Church, Omaha
3	6:00 p.m.	<i>Gather</i> Bible Study, Village Inn near Oak View Mall
4	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
5	6:00 p.m.	<i>Gather</i> Bible Study, Mary Room
9	Noon–2:00	Bowling for Jesus, Maplewood Lanes, Omaha
12	6:00 p.m.	Ministry Team Meeting, Mary Room
14	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77 <sup>th</sup> and Cass
18	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
28	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77 <sup>th</sup> and Cass



### Looking Ahead

April 27, 2014	God’s Daughters Luncheon
May 9-10, 2014	Annual Women’s Retreat, St. Benedict’s Retreat Center, Schuyler, NE
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
September 13, 2014	Autumn Renewal, St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church, Lincoln, NE
October 3-4, 2014	Women of Faith Conference, Lincoln, NE



## IN OUR PRAYERS & LOVE NOTES

### In Our Prayers

Sue, Terry, and Keith (friends of Jane Hawkins)  
Antoinette Anania (cousin of Deb Lund)  
Chris Beckman (friend of Jane Gehringer)  
Dick Bell  
Patricia Connolly (friend of the Thoms)  
Jan Davis-Hughes (aunt of Paula Foster)  
Claire Foral (friend of Dave and Lisa Rieff)  
Mike Gillotte (neighbor of Bill and Karen Pickens)  
Ken Gustafson (husband of Mary Lou Gustafson)  
Barb Haskins  
Marilyn Haworth (friend of Brenda Mac)  
Cheryl Jones (friend of Nancy Shinrock)  
Bill Jorgensen (husband of Carolyn Jorgensen)  
Margret Kragnes (mother of Amy Kragnes)  
Matt Kreikimeier (friend of Brenda Mac)  
Glenna Lee  
Lisa Lueders (sister-in-law of Dave Lueders)  
Jim Mahler (brother of Jane Hawkins)  
Marj Mahler (mother of Jane Hawkins)  
Dan Manning  
Debbie Michalak (former co-worker of Jackie Combes)  
Dawn Neumann  
Brenda Nobles (friend of Gwen Edwards)  
Karen Pickens  
David Pippin (nephew of Lynda McGraw)

Chuck Santori (friend of the Egrs)  
Jo Schafer (friend of Brenda Mac)  
Isaac Schroeder  
Jill Sheridan (sister-in-law of Rebecca Lund Sheridan)  
Don St. Ours (brother-in-law of Lynda McGraw)  
Jeanna Steppuhn (niece of the Shinrocks)  
Diane Sullivan (friend of the Egrs)  
Scott Swigert (nephew of the Shinrocks)  
Brenda Thom  
Roslynn Thom (sister of Ron Thom)  
Alice VanHoosen (friend of Judy Egr)  
Bill Wallway (uncle of Kenn Garder)  
Al Weibusch (friend of the Egrs)  
Ted Whitfield (former co-worker of Brian Shinrock)

Those deployed around the world:  
Veronica Barnes and her fiancé Jake Harmon

Those who suffer with depression  
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](mailto: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

Thank you seems so small to me for all the cards, flowers, and so many other greetings that I've had these past five months. You have been so kind, generous, prayerful, and so helpful to me for what my recovery has become! You are a wonderful group of people! I have received so much from your loving care and support. God's Blessings I share with you!!

Sincerely,  
Barb Haskins



The family of Claude Hall wishes to say "Thank you!" When Kristi and I think back on the many days we knew our church family was supporting us with prayers, we are so filled with gratitude. The simple words 'Thank you' seem inadequate for how grateful we are for your prayers, hugs, and love. Just writing this is bringing tears of love for all of you. And your awesome support when I returned home was so welcomed. We thank you for seeing us through to the celebration of Claude's life with the cards, food, hugs, and many acts of kindness.

Love and prayers to each one of you, our dear Lord of Love family.

Sandy, Kristi, Chris, Charlie and Lucy



**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 1	Women’s NSW Metro East Spring Gathering
March 5	Ash Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers begin
March 9	Bowling for Jesus
Mar. 12, 19, 26	Lenten Soup Supper & Worship
March 22	Women’s Spring Cleaning Day
March 29-30	Youth Girls’ Lock-in
March 30	Garage sale donations accepted

**Upcoming Events**

April 1-4	Garage sale donations accepted
April 2, 9	Lenten Soup Supper & Worship
April 5	Lord of Love Garage Sale
April 14	Men’s Softball begins
April 18-19	Good Friday prayer vigil and Men’s Ministry fundraiser
April 19	Youth Easter Breakfast Prep
April 20	Easter Worship and Breakfast
April 25-26	Men in the Outdoors retreat at CJH

*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](mailto:loveletter@lord-of-love.org). Articles must be received by the Love Letter editor by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.*