



The Love Letter

Volume 42

April 2014

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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

Happy Easter! Christ is risen! April looks to be a busy month at Lord of Love. A few of the upcoming events are highlighted below. Check out the "Mark Your Calendar" section on the last page for a complete list, and read about all of these in this issue of *The Love Letter*!

Lenten soup suppers and worship services continue on Wednesdays, April 2 and 9 (see page 4, Worship, and page 6, Nurture). Then **Holy week worship services** will be held on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday (see page 4, Worship). On Easter Sunday, we will have two **Easter worship services and breakfast** served by the Youth Group (see page 4, Worship; page 6, Nurture; and page 9, LOL Youth). This year, our **Lenten and Easter offerings** will go to Food Bank for the Heartland and Table Grace Café (see page 10, Outreach).

The **annual Lord of Love Garage Sale** will be held on Saturday, April 5, and will support our Youth ministries. Donations for the sale will be accepted through April 4 (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 9, LOL Youth).

The **Youth Group** has two lock-ins planned in April: one for guys only and one for all youth. The youth will also have a movie Sunday to see *God's Not Dead* on April 13 (see page 9, LOL Youth).

Men's softball begins with a practice on Sunday, April 13, and their first game on Monday, April 14 (see page 13, Men's News Corner).

Our annual **spring cleanup day** will be held on Saturday, April 26. Everyone is encouraged to pitch in and help clean up our church grounds (see page 11, Resources).

Finally, the women will have a **God's Daughters Luncheon** on Sunday, April 27 (see page 14, Women of Love).

In This Issue

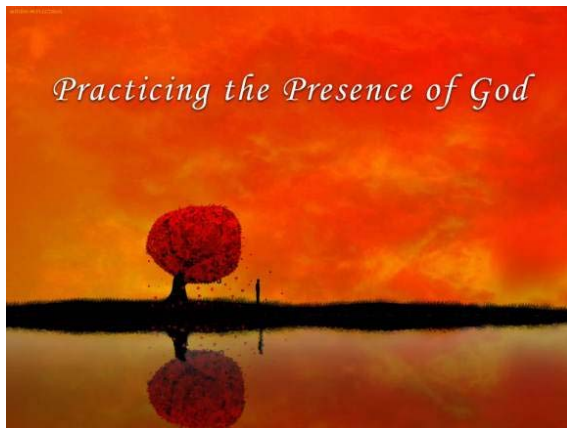
Pastor's Page	2	Church Council	12
Monthly Calendar	3	Men's News Corner	12
Worship	4	Women of Love	14
Nurture	6	In Our Prayers	17
LOL Youth	9	Love Notes	17
Outreach	9	Mark Your Calendar	18
Resources	11		

God's Presence by Pastor Brad Meyer

As we journey through the final days of Lent toward the celebration of Easter, we continue to spend time with God in prayer. We use Lent as a time for God's presence to be revealed to us throughout our day and to discern how we might be more mindful of it.

An Ignatian spiritual practice that is helpful in drawing out where God's presence was felt during our day is called "Examen." The Ignatian practice of Examen means to "find God in all things." We do that by examining our life. Examen simply means "examination."

This is a prayer practice designed to infuse the day with awareness of where you felt close to God and where you felt distant from God. This practice can be done at the end or beginning of your day to see where God's presence was that day or the day before. This practice can also be used at the end of the day as a nighttime prayer.



I invite you to use this practice for the days before Easter. Allow it to open your heart and mind to the awareness of God's presence around you.

The Exercise:

- Make yourself comfortable and set aside some quiet time for prayer.
- Rest in silence for a few moments.

- Ask God's Spirit to lead you through your day.
- Review your day by asking one of the sets of questions from below – or others that may come to your mind.

For what today are you most grateful?

For what today are you least grateful?

Or

When did you feel closest to God today?

When did you feel the most distant from God today?

- Make a note of these two moments in your day.
- End by giving thanks to God for all the ways God has been with you—through the joy and pain.

(Adapted from *50 Ways to Pray* by Teresa A. Blythe)

As the celebration of Easter approaches, I pray that you experience God's presence in mighty and powerful ways.

Easter blessings!

Peace,
Pastor Brad



MONTHLY CALENDAR

April 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Vision & Coordination Mtg.	2 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:00pm "Gather" Bible Study 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 6:40pm Jr. Choir 7:00pm Lenten Worship 7:45pm Sr. Choir	3 7:00pm Boy Scouts	4 7:30pm AA Meeting	5 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 8:00am Youth Group Garage Sale
6 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 4:00pm Sunnyslope Pool Assoc. 6:00pm Bell Rehearsal	7 6:00pm "Gather" Bible study at Village Inn Oakview 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	8	9 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:00pm Ministry Team Mtg. 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 6:40pm Jr. Choir 7:00pm Lenten Worship 7:45pm Sr. Choir	10 7:00pm Boy Scouts	11 8:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 7:30pm AA Meeting	12 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 10:00am Cosby Recital
13 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 6:00pm Bell Rehearsal	14 6:30pm Cub Scout Leaders 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	15 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Church Council Mtg.	16 6:00pm Brass	17 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship	18 7:00pm Good Friday Worship 7:30pm Prayer Vigil 7:30pm AA Meeting	19 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 12:00pm Prayer Vigil Ends
20 8:00am Worship & Communion 8:30am Easter Breakfast 10:30am Worship & Communion	21 Church Office Closed 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	22 5:00pm Hy-Vee Graduates Banquet	23 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 6:50pm Junior Choir 7:15pm Sr. Choir	24 7:00pm Boy Scouts	25 8:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 7:30pm AA Meeting	26 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 8:00am Spring Clean-Up 9:00am Novak Recital 4:00pm Novak-Haar Recital 7:00pm Spring Lock-In
27 Pr. Brad on retreat 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 11:30am God's Daughter Lunch 1:00pm Messerschmidt Recital 6:00pm Bell Rehearsal	28 Pr. Brad on retreat 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	29 Pr. Brad on retreat	30 Pr. Brad on retreat 6:00pm High School Bible Study 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 7:15pm Sr. Choir			

Holy Week and Easter Worship

Live, Love, Share, Be Christ!

Mid-week Lenten worship services continue on Wednesdays April 2 and 9, at 7:00 p.m.



During Holy Week, we will have worship services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Both services will begin at 7:00 p.m.

On Easter Sunday, we will have worship services at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m., with Easter breakfast served by the Youth Group between services. This year, we will not have a Sunrise service.



Two Worship Services All Summer!

For the past several years, Lord of Love has had only one worship service during the summer months. This summer, we will stay with our regular schedule of an 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship, with breakfast between services. Times for the breakfast have not been decided yet. We are staying with this schedule to provide easily accessible seating in the sanctuary for members, visitors, and guests.



**Worship
Schedule
for the
Summer**

Palm Fronds on Palm Sunday by Pastor Brad Meyer

On Palm Sunday, April 13, we will celebrate Jesus' triumphal entrance into Jerusalem. Just as people celebrated his arrival by waving palm fronds and laid down garments for Jesus to walk on as he passed by, we will wave our palms with joy. Using palms on Palm Sunday is a reminder that we must not only rejoice at Jesus' coming but also regret the fact that our sins made it necessary for him to die for us.

A tradition that many follow is to take the Palm frond home from the service and place it in their home or in a place of reverence. (Mine is placed behind a picture frame on my office wall.) Palms and olive branches are kept in the home as a witness to faith in Jesus Christ, the Messiah, and to remind us of Jesus' victory over death.

Then, just before Ash Wednesday, the palm fronds are gathered and burned. The ashes from the fronds are then used to make the sign of the cross on our foreheads at the Ash Wednesday worship service.

You are invited to take your palm frond home with you this year as a reminder of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and of the sacrifice made for all of us by Christ.



**"Blessed is the one
who comes in the
name of the Lord!"**

Mark 11:9



WORSHIP

Liturgists Needed by Joan Witt and Kathy Christiansen

Worship is at the center of our expression of faith. Central to our worship is the presence of God through word and the sacraments. We would like to express our gratitude to Dayla Miller, who took over the organization of the liturgists for the Sunday worship services in 2014. If you have ever been interested in being a liturgist, please consider it! (Training is available!) Dayla is looking for a few more volunteers to add to her list, especially for the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Please think about using your time and talents as part of our worship services. Contact Dayla if you are interested and available.



Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	April 6	April 13	April 20	April 27
Greeters				
8:00 a.m.	Paul and Peg Murphy	Jim and Jeri Morgan	Doug and Cathy Aden	Josh and Carissa Combes
10:30 a.m.	Paul and Traci Cadwallader	Rett and Judy Messerschmidt	Dan and Ruth Manning	John and Gwen Edwards
Liturgist				
8:00 a.m.	Karen Armitage	Shawn Lorenzen	Paul Murphy	Matt Willard
10:30 a.m.	Rex Quadhamer	Deb Lund	Lori Vandeventer	Susan Lueders
Communion Servers				
8:00 a.m.	Armitage family	VanArsdale family	Peg Murphy, Joe and Jackie Combes	Lisa Willard, Wayne and Joan Witt
10:30 a.m.	Paul and Ann Kroll	Quackenbush family	Vandeventer family	Lueders family
Altar Care				
8:00 a.m.	Cathy Aden, Sue Dieter	Connie Walther, Lisa Meyer	Janet Guthrie, Nancy Shinrock	Wayne and Joan Witt
10:30 a.m.	Nicole Quackenbush, E.J. Shaner	Karen Anderson, Mardi Fiske	Paul and Ann Kroll	Deb Quadhamer, Judy Messerschmidt
Ushers				
8:00 a.m.	Kenn Garder, Matt Garder, Paul and Deb Christenson, Craig Pennell			
10:30 a.m.	Rett Messerschmidt, Rob Anderson, Paul Barnett			
Nursery Attendant				
10:30 a.m.	Anne Yarger		Lisa Rieff	Ashley Meier
CD Recorder				
8:00 or 10:30	Pat Brewer	Paul Christenson	Dave Lueders	Paul Murphy



Lenten Soup Suppers – Volunteers Needed



Volunteers are needed to provide our last Wednesday night soup supper on April 9.

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.

Please consider signing up for this last Wednesday night soup supper!

Easter Breakfast

Our annual Easter Breakfast will be provided by the Lord of Love Youth Group again this year. You are invited to breakfast on Easter morning between worship services. Proceeds will go to the youth fund.



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.

Donations for our garage sale will be accepted Sunday, March 30 through Friday, April 4 in the fellowship hall under the sign “Donations here.” Unsold items will not be returned but donated on.

Everyone is invited to shop at the garage sale on April 5! A freewill offering will be accepted for items. Proceeds will go to the Youth Ministry Program & Mission Trip.



Junior Choir

The Junior Choir schedule for April is as follows:

- Wed., April 2 – Practice 6:40 to 7:00 p.m.
- Wed., April 9 – Practice 6:40 to 7:00 p.m.
- Wed., April 16 – No practice
- Wed., April 23 – Practice 6:50 to 7:15 p.m.
- Sun., April 27 – Sing at 10:30 a.m. service

In May, we will have a pizza supper. If you have questions, please call Jane Hawkins at 402-343-1680.

Weekly Education Opportunities at Lord of Love

Sunday

9:15 a.m. Sunday School (Preschool – High School) @ LOL Classrooms
Adult Forum and Other Studies @ LOL Sanctuary, Abraham, Mary, and Joseph Rooms

Monday

6:00 p.m. *Gather* Bible Study @ Village Inn near Oak View Mall (first Monday of month)

Wednesday

5:00 p.m. Confirmation (7th & 8th grades) @ LOL Abraham Room

Wednesday, cont.

6:00 p.m. Luther Kids (1st – 6th grades) @ LOL Preschool
6:00 p.m. Senior High Wednesday Night Study @ LOL Paul Room
6:00 p.m. *Gather* Bible Study @ LOL Mary Room (first Wednesday of month)

Thursday

9:30 a.m. Text Study @ Guthrie's

Saturday

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast and Bible Study @ LOL Fellowship Hall

Confirmation Sunday is May 4

We will celebrate confirmation on Sunday, May 4, at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Our confirmands will be:

- Abel Avalos
- Courtney Martinez
- Ellie Messerschmidt
- Emily Rodriguez



Donuts

We have all off the slots filled for picking up and cleaning up after donuts for this “donut season.” THANK YOU for all who have volunteered to serve Lord of Love. With so many helping, it makes the load lighter for others!



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.



Bowling for Jesus

Thanks to all who helped make “Bowling for Jesus” such a success, especially Beth Olson, who arranges this annual event for us. There were 49 bowlers of all ages, and everyone had a blast. We had a profit of \$203 to add to our Women on a Mission fund, to help support two women on the Nebraska Synodical Women’s vision trip to Tanzania next February.



Funeral Luncheon Ministry by Ruth Manning, Chair of the funeral luncheon team

Thank you so much to all of you who continue to support the funeral luncheon ministry at Lord of Love. Normally, there is a very short time span to put together a group of volunteers to provide food, serve, wash dishes, and clean up the kitchen, but you always respond. The last two luncheons were only 4 weeks apart, so that meant double duty for many of the volunteers. One thing I’ve always been able to count on is the welcoming atmosphere you provide to those attending the luncheon. We always receive many comments on the food, but also on how well you have served the attendees.

It’s been several years since we’ve updated our funeral luncheon volunteer list. Some who have helped for years might like to take a break. Others have not had the opportunity to serve in this ministry. About the time *The Love Letter* comes out, sign-up forms will be available in the church mailboxes. I would like to have those returned to my church mailbox by April 20.

Also, 2014 will be my last year of chairing this team. I have been so blessed in doing this for many years, but I need to share the blessing! I would like to have someone in place well before the end of the year so I can train him/her in what needs to be done. I personally would like to have two people serve as co-chairs. If you are interested in co-chairing the team, I’ll be happy to talk to you about it.



Sunday School for 2014–2015

A small group has met to help develop goals for our youth Sunday School program. Those goals will be used to drive curriculum for the 2014-2015 Sunday School year. If you have an interest in teaching next year, please let Heather Christensen, Lisa Willard, or Paula Foster know. You may teach solo, team teach, or substitute!



Vacation Bible School – SonTreasure Island!

Mark your calendars for VBS from **Monday, July 21 through Friday, July 25!**

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!

Many volunteers are needed to create a wonderful VBS session for our children and community. Please consider volunteering in one of the following capacities:

- Cooks (the Mannings will be out of town this year so cooks are needed!)
- Large group leaders
- Small group leaders
- Games
- Registration
- Skits

If you can help all week or just 1 night, we can find a way to use your talents and time. Contact Heather Christensen to volunteer.



LOL YOUTH

Lock-ins for All Youth!

Lock-ins for all! Tons of fun, food, and fellowship. Bring a friend. Adult chaperones/volunteers are needed. Contact Heather Christensen at 402-206-9205.

It's a Girl Thing: March 29 @ 7:00 p.m.—March 30 @ 9:00 a.m.

It's a Guy Thing: April 5 @ 7:00 p.m.—April 6 @ 9:00 a.m.

Spring Lock-In: April 26 @ 7:00 p.m.—April 27 @ 9:00 a.m.



Movie Sunday: God's Not Dead



We will attend the movie *God's Not Dead* as a group on Sunday, April 13, at the Village Point Movie Theater. At the time of this writing, times were still not published at the movie theater. Look for more details to come soon!

Youth Service Events

Participation from Youth and Parents is **STRONGLY** encouraged as the Youth Ministry programs will benefit from these events. If you are attending the WorkTrip Mission trip in June, you will especially want to participate to assist in your fundraising efforts because a portion of funds raised will go to the mission trip.

Lord of Love Garage Sale

Garage Sale Set-up: Friday, April 4 between 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Garage Sale Sales & Clean-up: Saturday, April 5 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Easter Breakfast and Sunday School Crafts

Easter Breakfast Preparation: Saturday, April 19 9:00–10:00 a.m.

Easter Breakfast Serving & Clean-up: Sunday, April 20 8:30–11:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday School Crafts: Sunday, April 20 9:00–10:00 a.m. in preschool room



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.

Mission Possible

Remember that our Wednesday evening Lenten offerings, proceeds from the Lenten Soup Suppers, and the special 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 are hungry. Thanks so much for your generosity! Also in response to the survey, we will donate Summer Breakfast monies to Lutheran Family Services for their Centers for Healthy Families, in particular for their play therapy programs.



Shop Winter Clothing Clearance for a Good Cause by Rex Quadhamer

When I delivered the winter clothing items and toiletries to Siena/Francis House after Christmas, the attendant saw some heavy-weight socks and told me that was a really big need.



I just wanted to say that we will probably do something similar to this again next year and now could be a good time to buy medium- to heavy-weight socks as they go on sale. I just bought some and will store them until next winter when we collect them for those in need.

Lutherans, Anglicans, Episcopalians Call for Peace, Prayer in Ukraine

CHICAGO (ELCA) -- The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and Anglican, Episcopal and Lutheran leaders have issued a call to peace and prayer for Ukraine in a March 5 statement.

"We have watched with dismay, along with the rest of the world, as tensions rise and peace is jeopardized in Ukraine. Recent dangerous developments in the Crimean region of the country put the lives of many innocent people at risk, and threaten peace and security far beyond that region of the world," said the statement signed by Eaton; the Most Rev. Fred Hiltz, primate, Anglican Church of Canada; the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, presiding bishop and primate, The Episcopal Church; and the Rev. Susan Johnson, national bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

"As Christians in the western tradition, Anglicans/Episcopalians and Lutherans today enter the season of Lent, a time of repentance. In the Ash Wednesday liturgy we repent of 'our blindness to human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty.' We cannot remain indifferent in the face of the injustice befalling the people of Ukraine, nor toward the potential suffering and cruelty further military intervention might bring.

"In the name of the churches we serve, we join our voices in solidarity with those of the All-Ukrainian Council of Churches in pleading for an end to military aggression in that land. We call on all of those involved—whether governments, movements or individuals—to repent of aggression and violence, and turn instead to the way of peace through dialogue."

In their statement, the leaders also asked for members of the denominations to pray throughout the season of Lent "for wisdom, peace and justice to prevail in Ukraine."

See more at <http://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/7648>.

OUTREACH

World Malaria Day 2014

Globally, World Malaria Day is celebrated on April 25 each year. This year, ELCA congregations are encouraged to celebrate World Malaria Sunday on April 27—one week after Easter. Our World Malaria Day offerings and gifts this year will support the malaria program implemented by our companions in Namibia. See more at <http://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/blogs/ELCAMalariaCampaign/192>.

ELCA Presiding Bishop Offers Four Emphases in Understanding Church

ITASCA, Ill. (ELCA) -- The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), introduced four emphases that she has invited leaders to consider in their work as an understanding of this church.

During her Feb. 28 report to the ELCA Conference of Bishops, an advisory body of the church that includes 65 synod bishops, the presiding bishop and secretary, Eaton defined these understandings: **“We are church, we are Lutheran, we are church together, and we are church for the sake of the world.”**

As she expounded on each of the four emphases, Eaton said that at the center “of our life together is worship, and at the center of our worship is the crucified and risen Christ. We are in the faith formation business; not to get more members, not to get more market share, but to know Christ and Christ crucified.”

See more at <http://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/7649>.

RESOURCES

Spring Cleanup Day on April 26

Spring Cleanup Day will be held on April 26 from 8:00 a.m. until 12 Noon. Please put it on your calendar and plan on coming up to church to help. Whether it is for one hour or the whole time, your help will be greatly appreciated. Plan on bringing your rake, gloves, and any other yard tools you might have as we spend a little time cleaning up the outside of our church after a long winter. See you there!



A Humble and Thankful Heart by Rex Quadhamer

In the hymn “We Plow the Fields and Scatter,” we sing about how we sow the seed, but God does the watering and provides sunshine and warm breezes to grow and ripen the grain. We also sing that everything we have is from Him and all our needs are provided by Him. I remember a conversation with my brother-in-law about faith where maybe my only good proclamation was “all I know is that there is nothing in this world that I created!”



So what can we give God in return? Because everything in this world, including ourselves, is created by Him, all we can give back is what he created in the first place, right? I do think God wants us to share our time, talents, and treasures to be sure, but what is it that God would really treasure from us? Humble and thankful hearts! Lent is a good time to reflect on all the blessings we receive from Him, and as the skit our youth put on mentioned, we should be grateful for what we receive and tell Him thanks. Have a joyous Easter!

CHURCH COUNCIL

Our Giving Status by Lisa Meyer

General Fund financial information for February 2014 is as follows:

- Income: \$24,990.50
- Expenses: \$27,866.18

General Fund financial information for the year to date (through February 28, 2014) is as follows:

- Income: \$49,409.00
- Expenses: \$56,219.91



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 NEWS CORNER

Men's Ministry Events

"I" refers to many things. "I," the ninth letter of the English alphabet, or defined as personal ownership or of self, would like to show that it points to one of my favorite words—Invitation. In the Men's News Corner, we like to use the act of invitation to involve as many men as possible in various Christian activities through fellowship at Lord of Love. The following notes are mostly up and coming events that include men at Lord of Love. Please know that these are also invitations to participate in various forms of men's fellowship.



A few of the "Usual Suspects" at Saturday morning breakfast

Saturdays (ongoing...) – There is a weekly gathering of men (the usual suspects) on Saturday mornings at 7:00 at Lord of Love's kitchen and fellowship hall. We gather not only for breakfast, which nourishes the physical body, but also for devotions and biblical study, which nourish the spiritual body. This group now averages 12+ in attendance every Saturday. (There is always room for one more....)

Continued on the next page

Men's Ministry Events, continued

February 22 – Briefly recapping the **Nebraska State Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM) meeting** that was held in Lincoln on Saturday, February 22.... Seven men from Lord of Love were in attendance. Nominations and delegates were chosen to represent Nebraska at the National triennial LMM conference in July 2014. Delegates Gary Ramsay, Ron Thom, and alternate Paul Barnett of Lord of Love were three of eight chosen. Nick Olson of Love of Love was elected as LMM Nebraska State Treasurer. Congratulations Nick! Those attending also shared a message from Bishop Brian Maas and heard from Doug Haugen, LMM National Executive Director.

April 13 & 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 beginning April 14. We will hold a practice on Sunday, April 13, in the afternoon. If you are interested in playing, contact Don Rowen at 402-965-8977 or at drowen@unomaha.edu.



April 18 – The annual **Good Friday prayer vigil** begins at Lord of Love at the conclusion of the Good Friday evening church service and continues until Saturday morning. Keeping each other awake during the night is an overnight fundraising event held at Paul and Deb Christenson's home (5011 No. 113th St.). This event concludes when the last person completes their 30 minute prayer slot in the prayer vigil at the church. Plan to join us in this men's 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. Men also are invited to 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. For more information, contact Kelsey Rabel at 402-944-2544.

July 18-20 – ATTENTION, Ladies—mothers, wives, sisters, fiancés, girlfriends—here is an opportunity to enhance the man in your life to help him become a better son, husband, brother, fiancé, boyfriend, and all around Christian man. Several men from Lord of Love and the surrounding area are traveling to Nashville, TN, for the national LMM triennial gathering/conference to be held Friday through Sunday morning, July 18-20. Held every 3 years, the LMM triennial offers men an opportunity to share their faith and have their spirituality grow in an environment of Christian fellowship. For men from Lord of Love, the early registration fee of \$99.00 will be paid by LOL's Men's Breakfast Ministry. Simply talk to one of Saturday morning's "usual suspects," and we'll happy to further advise and convince him of the great time he will experience.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS / SAVE THE DATE



www.lutheranmeninmission.org - (800) 638-3522 ext. 2566

The 2014 LMM gathering is titled **Guys, Guts, and God's Glory**, and will be held in Nashville, TN, at Loews Vanderbilt Hotel. Make plans to attend and experience men's fellowship at this spiritual event. Travel schedules and hotel reservations are being made. Contact any member of LOL's 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/when to travel. Log in to Lutheranmeninmission.org for additional national updates and reservation information.

WOMEN OF LOVE

What's your PURSEsonality?

Is your bag heavy or light? How much baggage do you carry? Grab your purse and plan to attend the God's Daughters' potluck salad and dessert luncheon on April 27 following the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Please bring a gently used purse with or without some purse-sized items such as Kleenex, comb, lotion, chapstick, note pad, pen, hand sanitizer, or make-up. These items will be donated to the Siena/Francis House. And don't forget to bring a salad or dessert to share!

"Daughters" of all ages are invited to attend, and your friends also are welcome. A sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex in April. If you have any questions, please contact Deb Christenson (402-493-9187), Joan Witt (402-699-9054), or Brenda Mac (402-496-1836).



Ladies Coffee Fellowship

All women are invited to the coffee fellowship at Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass Streets, on Fridays, April 11 and 25 at 8:00 a.m.



Recipe for Renewal



It's coming! Rest, relaxation, refreshment, spiritual growth, conversation, prayer, singing, and renewal! Please register for the annual Women's Retreat to be held at St. Benedict Center in Schuyler, Nebraska, from Friday evening until Saturday afternoon May 9-10. 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. This year's presenter is Susan Humprey from Tulsa, Oklahoma. Susan has lived and served in five different Synodical regions over the past 20 years. Currently, she is a member of Joy Lutheran Church in Tulsa, where she serves as a Sunday school teacher, a Parish Life member, and a Women's Bible Study Leader, and sings in the choir.

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!

Women's Ministry Team

All women are invited to participate in the Women's Ministry team meetings as we firm up plans for the upcoming meetings and events. Join us on Wednesday, April 9, at 6:00 p.m. in the Mary Room.

LOL Quilters

Our quilter group has dwindled to five lovely ladies working on the first and third Tuesdays each month at 9:00 a.m. The quilts they create are sent overseas through Lutheran World Relief to areas in need of these quilts. Three types of work are done with the quilts: cutting out the pieces, sewing them together, and tying them. Any of the work can be learned, and the ladies are very willing to train. If the current schedule doesn't work for you, but you would like to participate, please send Jackie Combes (jacombes55@gmail.com) your ideas for different times. She will work with the quilters to see what we can come up with. This is a great opportunity to work together and provide a ministry that is so needed in the world.



WOMEN OF LOVE

NSWO Vision Trip to Tanzania

Women of the Nebraska Synod will be traveling to Tanzania on a vision trip February 2–17, 2015. LOL Women of Love have been raising funds for several years to partially fund two women to attend from Lord of Love. Jackie Combes was awarded the first scholarship last year, and



application forms will soon be available for other women interested in attending. Gwen Edwards is our contact person. Some information also is posted on the W/ELCA bulletin board next to the nursery.

Gather Bible Study

In our “Stories of Biblical Women” this year, we’ve met some very interesting women. I have to admit I have no idea who is our “star of the month.” Rizpah is described as a vigilant mourner. We meet her in 2 Samuel 21:10, “Then Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it on a rock for herself, from the beginning of harvest until rain fell on them from the heavens; she did not allow the birds of the air to come on the bodies by day, or the wild animals by night.”

Join us at one of our two Bible study sessions and learn along with the rest of us. The Wednesday evening group will meet on April 2 at 6:00 p.m. in the Mary Room, and the Monday evening group will meet on April 7 at 6:00 p.m. at Village Inn, 3304 S 143rd Plaza.

Thankoffering

Although it’s about 6 months until our Thankoffering worship service, we encourage you to continue to save your coins in thanksgiving to God for his daily blessings. Two or three years ago, the Church-wide Women of the ELCA discontinued production of the Thankoffering boxes in a cost-cutting move. They encouraged us to create our own Thankoffering container—a jar, can, mug, or some other container to collect our coins. They can be as simple as having a label or some other decoration to set it apart and remind us to save our coins. Deb Christenson has created a few containers of different sizes for your use. They are available at the Information Center in the narthex, so just help yourself!



Project Linus Update

Earlier this year, one of our “blanketeers,” who will not be named, issued a challenge to those of us who participated last year. Rather than make these blankets only in December, why don’t we make them all year long? Four of us met on March 1 and completed eight blankets. Four more have been completed since then. If you would like to participate in the challenge, please contact Jackie Combes. We have an offsite place to store the blankets as they are completed. In December, we will determine if we have enough to donate to local shelters as well as Project Linus. The next blanket-making event will be Saturday, April 26 in the Fellowship Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Come join in the fun.



Lutheran Women of Omaha

Those attending the April 8 meeting of Lutheran Women of Omaha are in for a great treat. The local “Dancing Grannies” will be putting on the program, and they are great. Meet at Calvary Lutheran Church, 2941 North 80th Street, for lunch that will be served at noon for \$6. The monetary project is the Lutheran Service Corps. Membership is \$3 per year. Please contact Ruth Manning, LOL’s contact woman, with your reservations by Friday, April 4, at 402-451-7221 or cranecoffeechick@gmail.com.

Metro East Spring Gathering



Lynette Nore, Anne Yarger, and Ruth Manning attended the Metro East Spring Gathering on March 1 at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Omaha. Our attendance was hampered by the cold and a forecast for heavy snow (which, by the way, did not materialize), but 85 were in attendance for the delicious luncheon served by the Calvary Women. Music, prayer, devotions and Bible study led by Pastor Tom Miller from the Nebraska Synod Office, and six thought-provoking workshops filled the day, with everything revolving around the theme “We are All One in Christ.” Katie Von Bora Luther (Joyce Olson) told of her life and then discussed “dressing chickens” with Ruth Manning (you had to see it to believe it).

A brief business meeting was held along with election of the 2015 Metro East Spring Gathering planning team. Ruth Manning was elected as the Conference Coordinator.

News from Triennial Gathering Planers

Last month, we told you about the tangible offering being requested by the Triennial planners. In addition, there will be a prayer shawl collection. In 2011, 2,225 prayer shawls were collected. Can we exceed that number in 2014? Because Lord of Love has a lot of prayer shawl in reserve, we will select a few and either find space in attendees' luggage or ship them ahead of the Gathering.



Loving God, may the prayers for healing, peace, and comfort that have been worked into each stitch of these prayer shawls rise to you, and blessings a hundred-fold descend to the shawl's recipient. May all the shawls made by women of the church be visible signs of renovation and restoration. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Dates to Remember

April

1	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
2	6:00 p.m.	Gather Bible Study, Mary Room
7	6:00 p.m.	Gather Bible Study, Village Inn, 3304 S. 143 rd Plaza
9	6:00 p.m.	Ministry Team, Mary Room
11	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77 th and Cass
15	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
25	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77 th and Cass
27	11:30 a.m.	God's Daughters Potluck Salad/Dessert Luncheon



Women of the ELCA

Looking Ahead

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	NSWO 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)
Ed Gehringer
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)
Jennifer and John Mather (friends of the Lueders)
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
Pauline Shaffer
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:
Matt Lueders
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, 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



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

April 1-4	Garage sale donations accepted
April 2, 9	Lenten Soup Supper & Worship
April 5	Lord of Love Garage Sale
April 5-6	Youth "It's a Guy Thing" Lock-in
April 13	Youth Movie Sunday Men's Softball practice
April 14	Men's Softball first game
April 17	Maundy Thursday worship
April 18	Good Friday worship

This Month, continued

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 21	Church office closed
April 25-26	Men in the Outdoors retreat at CJH
April 26	Spring Cleanup Day Youth Spring Lock-in
April 27	God's Daughters Luncheon

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.