



The Love Letter

Volume 40

July 2012

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Heidi Meyer

Summer Worship Schedule

Sun. 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
Sun. 10:00 a.m. Breakfast and
Fellowship

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

A Look Ahead

Summer has gotten off to a busy start at Lord of Love, but July and August appear to be a bit slower. This issue of *The Love Letter* contains reports of some of our June events as well as looks ahead to events in July and August.

From May 31 through June 2, Randi VenHuizen and Ruth Manning attended the **Nebraska Synod Assembly** (see page 8, Nurture). Then Lord of Love's **40th Anniversary** was celebrated with a day of service, festival worship, and program on June 9 (see page 4, Worship; page 7, Nurture; and page 13, Outreach & Resources). In addition, **Vacation Bible School** was held in the evenings on June 11-15 (see page 6, Nurture).

In July, several of our youth will be traveling to New Orleans for the **ELCA Youth Gathering** from July 16-23 (see page 18, LOL Youth). Then on July 28, **Carol Joy Holling Camp** will host its 24th annual **quilt auction** (see page 6, Nurture).

In August, we begin preparing for the 2012-2013 program year. Anyone interested in playing bells is invited to try them out on August 12 at **Bell Choir Try Night** (page 4, Worship). In addition, **Sunday School teachers are needed**; there are several openings for the fall (see page 6, Nurture).

Finally, throughout the summer, proceeds from our Sunday **summer breakfasts** will go to the Youth Group, and volunteer opportunities continue in our **community garden** (see page 11, Outreach).

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All for One, and One for All by Pastor Brad

The other evening, my family and I popped in our latest Blockbuster rental, "The Three Musketeers." We enjoyed the humor and the amazing cinematography, but what stuck with me is that familiar Three Musketeers' phrase, "All for one, and one for all!"



The phrase proclaims the Three Musketeers' dedication to "the cause" and their commitment to one another. No one will be left behind. We've got each other's back.

As we translate this credo into our Christian faith, it becomes "All for One, and One for all."

It means that all we do, say, and live is for "One" (God). As Christians, our hope is that all that we do is for God. In the interactions that we have with one another, God is seen. In the words that we choose to say, God is heard. In the way that we live out our daily life, God is experienced.

All of us, together, support and encourage each other as we walk this journey called life. For me, knowing that I'm surrounded by people who care for me and one another makes life so much easier and so joyful. And knowing that we share a common faith makes life even richer.

And "One" for all. God is for all! God is the One whose presence surrounds us in every aspect of our lives. God is not selective about who receives love, but rather the gift of love is given to all. The gift of love does not come with any strings attached, but rather is freely given even when we do not desire it. For all that, we are grateful!



I know that we have a statement of faith, our creed, but "All for One, and One for all" doesn't seem like a bad credo to live by either!

Enjoy God's presence this summer as you rest, relax, and find time to be rejuvenated.

Peace,
Pastor Brad



MONTHLY CALENDAR

July 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00am Worship & Communion	2 6:00pm "Gather" Bible Study @ Old Country Buffet 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	3 9:00am Quilters	4 Church Office Closed	5 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	6 7:30pm AA	7 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
8 9:00am Worship & Communion 10:00am Summer Breakfast	9 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	10	11	12 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	13 8:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 7:30pm AA	14 Youth from Faith Lutheran/West Fargo overnight here 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
15 9:00am Worship & Communion 10:00am Summer Breakfast	16 Youth at National Youth Gathering 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	17 Youth at National Youth Gathering 9:00am Quilters	18 Youth at National Youth Gathering	19 Youth at National Youth Gathering 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	20 Youth at National Youth Gathering 7:30pm AA	21 Youth at National Youth Gathering 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
22 Youth at National Youth Gathering 9:00am Worship & Communion 10:00am Summer Breakfast	23 Youth at National Youth Gathering 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	24	25	26 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	27 8:00am Crane coffee Fellowship 4:00pm Wedding rehearsal 7:30pm AA	28 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 3:00pm Wedding
29 District 18 AA Mtg. 9:00am Worship & Communion 10:00am Summer Breakfast	30 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	31				

Bell Choir Try Night

Do you enjoy hearing the bells play? Do you ever wonder if you could do that too? If so, please consider joining us on Sunday, August 12, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary for a Bell Choir Try Night. We'll show you what's involved and let you "try out" the bells with no obligation. Ultimately, we are looking to fill a minimum of three more positions for the 7:00-8:00 p.m. choir. If you have questions, please direct them to Heidi Meyer.



Lord of Love's 40th Anniversary: Passing It On by Karen Pickens

Lord of Love celebrated its 40th Anniversary on June 9, 2012, with a worship service and a potluck dinner. I knew that I would not be attending, but I was looking forward to worshipping the following Sunday thinking that our choir would be singing "Cathedral of Praise," a piece we had been practicing for weeks and one that I love. I arrived at 8:30 a.m. to practice with the choir only to find out that we had sung at the worship service on Saturday night. I was, of course, disappointed, mostly at myself for misunderstanding when we would sing. After hearing comments from those who were there on Saturday, I was truly sorry I missed what sounds like an unforgettable and heartfelt evening.

Continued on the next page

Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	July 1	July 8	July 15	July 22	July 29
Greeter(s)					
9:00 a.m.	Claude and Sandy Hall	Paul and Ann Kroll	Tom and Beth Olson	John and Caroline Tessin	Jesse and Pat Brewer
Liturgist					
9:00 a.m.	Judy Egr	Ruth Manning	David Hild	Paul Christenson	Shawn Lorenzen
Communion Servers					
9:00 a.m.	Egr family	Jeri Morgan		Brian and Connie Walther	
Nursery Attendant(s)					
9:00 a.m.	Anne Yarger	Sarah Horan	Lisa Rieff	Ashley Meier	Pat Brewer
Altar Care					
9:00 a.m.	Cathy Aden, Sue Dieter	Brewer family	Connie Walther, Lisa Meyer	Karen Anderson, Mardi Fiske	Janet Guthrie, Nancy Shinrock
Ushers					
9:00 a.m.	TBA				

Lord of Love's 40th Anniversary: Passing It On, continued

I heard from the first few people I asked how impressed they were with the three young pastors who grew up in our church and who preached on Saturday evening. I heard that it was all wonderful. I heard that there was so much love felt throughout the afternoon and evening. Then I asked for something I could pass on to those of us who were not there, including those who are homebound. Deb Lund summarized the entire evening in a very thoughtful way, and I am thankful to her for being able to “pass it on” to you. We are all so blessed to be part of the family of Lord of Love. I know that there were many thanks given to all who planned and put together the entire anniversary weekend, but I want to take this opportunity to thank you again. You did a magnificent job!

Here is Deb’s memory of our 40th Anniversary:

We are most blessed to have such wonderful “kids” of the congregation! All three are most gifted, and each spoke so eloquently of their time at Lord of Love and how it relates to their calling and to worship, service, and community. The whole day and weekend focused on the theme of worship, service, and community. It was great how everything fit together so nicely—even Pastor Brad’s message on Sunday included us being a family and being mission centers rather than “congregations.” We had over 40 members going out to do service at Project Hope, Table Grace, and the ELF Coalition Habitat for Humanity re-hab house. Close to 200 folks worshiped together. The singing was awesome. The bells, brass, organ, piano, and choir were all just wonderful. As Pastor Rebecca said, “we do worship well,” and Saturday’s service was a great example of that. Singing the third verse of “Beautiful Savior” a cappella was a highlight.



There was plenty of food for the throng of folks who stayed to enjoy the fantastic meal, and the noise level was great, as people so enjoyed seeing each other again and getting caught up on their lives—and sharing memories, as well. The program was brief. After thanking all those who enabled us to have such a wonderful day, Harry provided some great memories of our pastors. We sang together again. I believe that I was not alone in being somewhat emotional when singing “Pass it On,” the origin of our congregation’s name. And we all appreciated hearing again the story of how the Luther League at Our Savior’s came up with the name.



Carol Joy Holling Quilt Auction



Join the fun at Carol Joy Holling Camp on Saturday, July 28 for the 24th Annual Quilt Auction. The day promises good food, great fun, and lots of beautiful quilts donated by friends of Carol Joy

Holling Camp. The auction and barbecue lunch will be held rain or shine. Bus tours and hayrack rides will be available, and the Camp Store will be open all day.

Quilts will be on display by 9:00 a.m., and the auction begins at 10:00 a.m. In the past, quilts have auctioned for \$25 to \$20,000. You won't want to miss the barbecue turkey lunch with dessert and beverage served from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Camp tours will be available throughout the day, and the swimming pool will be open at 12:30 p.m. with a certified lifeguard on duty.

All of the quilts will be shown online again this year at nlom.org. If you can't be at the auction, volunteer bidders can submit your bids for you. Just find the quilt you want online and follow the directions for submitting a bid.

Sunday School Teachers Needed

If you are interested in helping our children learn about God's love for us, please consider volunteering as a Sunday School teacher. We have several openings for this fall. Team teaching spots are available. Contact Claudia Rowen or Lori Vandeventer for more details.



SonRise National Park VBS a Success



Thank you to everyone who helped make our SonRise National Park Vacation Bible School a success! During the second week of June, 31 children learned about the True Riches provided by

God's love for us. We had stories, games, crafts, and songs to reinforce the daily message. We concluded the week with a Family Night that included a Bible story, shared dinner, and outdoor games. It was a lot of fun, and we hope to see everyone again next year!



Weekly Education Opportunities at Lord of Love

Sunday

9:00 a.m. Worship service

Monday

6:00 p.m. *Gather Bible Study @ Old Country Buffet* (first Monday of month)

Wednesday

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

Thank You for Making Lord of Love's 40th Anniversary Celebration a Success

A big thank you goes out to all members who helped make the 40th Anniversary such a success. A special thank you goes to the planning committee for preparing such a wonderful celebration, to Connie Walther and Susan Lueders for beautifully decorating the fellowship hall, and to the Men's Group for setting up, cleaning up, and providing breakfast on June 10. Their service to others is very much appreciated.



Lord of Love's 40th Anniversary Celebration: Sharing our Memories

There were so many memories of Lord of Love submitted to the 40th Anniversary planning committee prior to the anniversary celebration! The committee wasn't able to share them all during the celebration, so a few memories will be shared in *The Love Letter* each month. Enjoy!

Thursday Morning Bible Study by Janet Guthrie

The Thursday morning Bible study began several years ago. Active members now include Lynda McGraw, Evelyn Sacrider, Mary Boyd, Janet Guthrie, Marjorie Keiser, Ann Christensen, and Ruth Cooley.

Ed and Shirley Davenport were among the original members before moving back to Iowa. Next, meetings continued at Alvin and Ann Christensen's home with Pastor Linda leading the study. After Alvin's illness worsened, the group moved to Ruth Christensen's home. Ruth's eyesight prevented her from driving. Pastor Don conducted the study. When Ruth moved to California to be close to her daughter, the study group moved across the street. Pastor Don and Pastor Donna continued to alternate teaching. Pastor Miamu also taught during his time at Lord of Love.

Ruth Christensen, Eloyse Johnson, and Bernice Reitan have now gone to the Lord.

The study group helps members to keep in touch with Lord of Love although most are no longer able to participate actively.

Yellow School Bus by Valerie Florea

Who else remembers the yellow school bus that sat in the parking lot? I don't remember how many years we had it, but it was a fun way to go to camp or Worlds of Fun trips with the youth.

Prayer Shawl Ministry by Ruth Manning

In March of 2008, LOL started a prayer shawl ministry. As of today, 506 prayer shawls have been completed by 11 women. While making the prayer shawls, the women pray for those who will receive the prayer shawls, although they don't know who will receive them.

Most of the yarn has been donated—from garage sales to one's personal yarn stash and by women who have witnessed the Lord's Laughing Ladies praying over them at Crane Coffee.

The shawls have been given to high school graduates, babies being baptized, those who are ill, those who have suffered the loss of a loved one, and many have been given "just because."

2012 Nebraska Synod Assembly Report by Randi VenHuizen and Ruth Manning

LIVE CHRIST! LOVE CHRIST! SHARE CHRIST! BE CHRIST!

2012 NEBRASKA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

May 31st - June 2nd, 2012 • Bethany Lutheran Church, Elkhorn, NE



A variety of emotions were evident as we arrived Thursday afternoon and registered for the Synod Assembly, two of the 739 registered voters. There was a feeling of camaraderie as we greeted the convention volunteers, those from Lord of Love as well as many of our friends from Nebraska Women of the ELCA, and as we greeted our last interim pastor, Bob Oleson, with his trusty camera equipment around his neck. The hugs and “how are you?” continued as we ran into friends who were delegates to the convention. There was excitement at having Bishop Mark Hanson of the ELCA with us for the entire assembly.

There was a sense of loss as this was the last convention Bishop David deFreese would be chairing. He had chosen not to stand for re-election after serving us for 12 years. It was going to be hard to say goodbye to this much-loved bishop whom we knew as a wonderful Bible study leader, teacher, pastor, and shepherd. But a sense of anticipation surfaced as the candidates for Bishop were introduced on Thursday evening. We were encouraged to continue to pray for discernment and calling of the Bishop of the Nebraska Synod. Bishop Hansen read scripture and prayed before each ballot.

There was music—joyful and beautiful music from the praise bands from various Nebraska Lutheran churches, from the attendees as we worshiped and praised God in music, and by Celia Whittler, our “singer, songwriter, author, speaker, wife, and Mom.” Celia is no stranger to the Nebraska Synod as she has participated in a number of events, including with the Nebraska Youth.

Bethany’s Lutheran Men in Ministry hosted the Thursday evening barbeque before we convened in the sanctuary. After the candidates standing for Bishop gave brief statements, there was a wonderful recognition of Bishop deFreese and his family. The evening consisted of video tributes and testimonies from some who had been touched by his ministry. One of the speakers was Pastor Rebecca (Lund) Sheridan, who spoke on Operation Idea, the innovative program helping young people consider a possible call to the ministry. Capitalizing on the Bishop’s often heard “we do mission,” the We Do Mission Scholarship Fund to help people participate in Synod mission/vision projects was established to honor the deFreeses’ ministry. A preliminary goal of \$30,000 was placed before the assembly; however, the Synod Assembly offering and initial pledges to the fund now total more than \$45,000.

Friday began with worship at 8:00 a.m. followed by the first business meeting and the first ballot for Bishop. Our keynote speaker was Rev. John Nunes, president of Lutheran World Relief (LWR). He shared that our tangible gifts to LWR give a witness to the love of God. He stressed how much the quilts are appreciated by all who receive them. These quilts are often used for coverings for dirt floors for babies to lie on, or as satchels for refugee families to transport all their belongings. Many are used as blankets for HIV/AIDS victims. Nunes also spoke of the LWR program to combat malaria, a disease killing more than one million people yearly. Ruth Henrichs, President/CEO of Lutheran Family Services, spoke briefly about that organization, which will be celebrating 125 years of service on September 16, 2012.

Continued on the next page

2012 Nebraska Synod Assembly Report, continued

The results of the first ballot were given, and there was no election. Then the stage filled up with dozens of young people dressed in brilliant tie-dyed shirts. This was the summer staff of Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, who were then commissioned by the Bishop.

After a delicious boxed lunch, assembly attendees had a choice of participating in 9 workshops or field trips. Since LOL has a history with Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, the Hispanic Lutheran church in South Omaha, both of us chose to go and hear Pastor Liz Connor speak of the church's history and current ministry. We were privileged to hear a man and a woman from that congregation, who only spoke Spanish and whose stories were translated by Pr. Liz, tell of the difference the congregation has made in their lives.

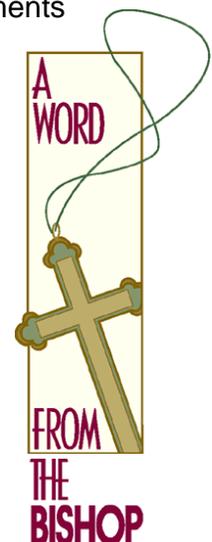
Returning to Bethany Lutheran, we heard an excellent presentation by our keynote speaker. Energetic 78-year-old Phyllis Tickle, religious scholar and author of *The Great Emergence*, stated that we exist in a time of great upheaval. She said the world experiences a transitional cycle every 500 years. It affects the world socially, culturally, and economically as well as affecting religion. The Reformation was part of the last cycle. She said two things happen at the end of each upheaval. First, there is a new emerging church. Second, the old form of religion will not go away, but will "clean up its act."

Following her presentation, the second business meeting was held, and the second ballot for Bishop was cast. We then adjourned for the banquet that was held at Camp Carol Joy Holling. We enjoyed great food served family style—a good way to feed 700+ people. The program was a remembrance of those pastors who have gone to be with the Lord since the last assembly and recognition of the various years of service by our pastors. Lloyd Neve, former member of the LOL brass, was honored for 65 years of ministry.

Saturday began with music and prayer. We held the third business meeting and received the results of the second ballot. Again, no bishop was elected. We then had the general elections for Synod Council and delegates for the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Among those elected were our friends, Pastor Rebecca Sheridan and Pastor Linda Walz, former pastor of our congregation.

After the morning break, Bishop deFreese gave his report focusing on twelve statements he has reiterated over the years. He elaborated on these statements:

- Sin is real and it is us.
- Christianity is not a religion of rules but a relationship of response.
- So what?
- Of course, we are to grow spiritually.
- The Bible is not a weapon to be used to hurt people.
- Conflict is inevitable; combat is optional.
- Too many congregations are just country clubs with crosses on top.
- God doesn't call us to be comfortable, but to serve.
- Little moments become big movements with our God.
- We do mission!
- I love the church!
- Together, we live love with the grace and courage of Jesus!



Continued on the next page

2012 Nebraska Synod Assembly Report, continued

He also emphasized that we need to identify ourselves as MISSION CENTERS rather than congregations because we truly are about mission.

Throughout the business meetings, several resolutions were brought before the Assembly. All were routine, and elicited no discussion before passing. The 2013 budget also was approved.

We welcomed Living Grace Lutheran Church as the newest Mission Center in Nebraska. After lunch, because we still did not have a bishop, a third ballot was cast. Once the results were in, the top three vote getters spoke to the Assembly. On the fourth ballot, Pastor Brian Maas from First Lutheran in Lincoln was elected Bishop. He then spoke to the Assembly, summarizing his comments with: "Everything I have, I will give...the rest God will provide." Pastor Maas will begin his term on September 1 and will be formally installed on September 22 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Grand Island.

Bishop Mark Hanson spoke next, and he is a powerful speaker. He emphasized expectations and unity in Christ in his presentation. He jokingly said that for some, ELCA stood for "Expectations Low, Climbing Anxiety." He challenged us to be "a church of high expectations, a church rooted in Pentecost." The Assembly closed with a service of Holy Communion, music by a children's choir, and the praise band from Living Grace Lutheran Church.

Some side notes:

Pastor Brad was co-chair of the Assembly, and as you know, he has a great sense of humor. At one point, Bishop Hanson turned to the two of us and said, "Is he always like this?" We affirmed that he was. Later he reported that he had received calls from 42 synods wanting the deFreese/Meyer comedy team at their assemblies.

Gwen Edwards was on the planning team, and we want to acknowledge all of the hard work she gave to this Assembly. We had numerous volunteers from LOL, and we're afraid if we try to name all of them, we would certainly miss someone, so instead, we give a Big THANK YOU to all of you. And last but not least, Aaron Edwards was the crucifer at the closing worship service, sitting between both bishops. We were very proud of him.

And one final thank you to the mission center of Lord of Love, who elected us to be voting members to the Assembly. It was very humbling to be part of the historic occasion of voting for our next Bishop.

I, Ruth, a veteran of several assemblies as a guest or voting member, have never heard so much laughter, nor felt such a spirit of joy at any of the assemblies. God be praised for this blessing.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Manning and Randi VenHuizen

Randi purchased the DVDs of the entire convention, which are expected to arrive in mid-July for congregational use.

Lord of Love Community Garden

Thanks to willing workers for keeping the beautiful garden planted, watered, and weeded so far this season! The recent rains have been a blessing, too. We look forward to harvesting green beans, summer squash, peppers, and tomatoes in the near future. The plan is to harvest once or twice a week to get the fresh produce to Project Hope. Weeding and watering are ongoing. Let Deb Lund or Jeri Morgan know if you have some time to help.



Summer Breakfasts Support Youth

Funds beyond the costs of summer breakfasts will go to the Lord of Love Youth Fund. Thanks so much to everyone who has provided the delicious breakfasts so far this season, and to all who have so generously supported our youth ministry in this way.



VBS during Project Embrace at Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey

Project Embrace, which started in the 1960s, is a summer day-camp program for grade school children at various churches. Most funding is from each individual parish's resources, though some comes from the Nebraska Synod's Metropolitan Ministries. First Lutheran, Augustana Lutheran, and Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey are the three remaining Mission Centers that continue with an abbreviated program each summer.

A part of Project Embrace at Cristo Rey is Vacation Bible School, led by volunteers from other Mission Centers. Leah Klos was one of the young people helping with VBS at Cristo Rey, and here is her description of our time there.

In the second week of June, for three days, Deb Lund, Carly Rieff, and I got to volunteer at Cristo Rey for vacation bible school. We helped to teach the kids to love each other and their neighbors. One of the stories we read to them was the Good Samaritan. We did some crafts like making love glasses, sang songs, and played games outside that required the kids to work together.

It was a great experience to help teach the kids about God's word and ways to love each other and their neighbors. It was great to get to know each of them and learn some of their stories and just have fun together.

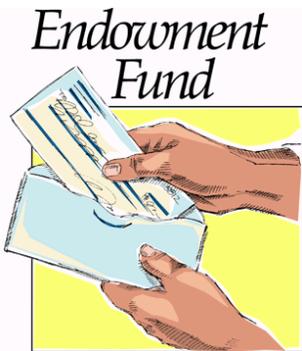


Endowment Committee is Looking at Need Again

The Endowment Committee will be looking at special needs and missions that need funding. The Endowment Committee does not help with the general operating budget items of the church, but with special missions, projects, or one-time awards.

In the past year, the Endowment Committee has awarded \$1,140 for three scholarships to the Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, \$500 to replace the roof on the Educations wing of the Vocational School at Pastor Anna’s Church, and \$1,000 to the ELCA Malaria Campaign. An update on the ELCA Malaria Campaign is provided below.

If you know of a special mission or project that needs funding, obtain an application from the church office, complete the application, and return it to the Endowment Committee before 11:59 p.m. on September 30, 2012.



Although the Endowment Committee invests the fund to enable it to grow, the Endowment Committee needs additional funding so that more can be done. Remembering the Lord of Love Endowment Fund in your estate plan is an easy way to supplement the fund and ensure that your fruits on earth are extended beyond your lifetime. Lord of Love will take contributions to the Endowment Fund at any time. You can put a check in the collection plate stipulating that the amount goes to the Endowment Fund (Please make it a check solely for the Endowment Fund). In addition, if the Lord should bless you with a winning lottery ticket, remember the Endowment Fund as a recipient of your first fruits.

ELCA Malaria Campaign Update

One of the recipients of the 2011 proceeds from the Lord of Love Endowment Fund was the ELCA Malaria Campaign. The ELCA Malaria Campaign works with church companions in 11 countries in Africa that are in need of help to prevent and cure the deadly disease.

A child dies from Malaria every 45 seconds, a statistic that has been lowered from every 30 seconds. It costs just \$10 each for mosquito nets, the simplest and easiest way to prevent the disease. Gifts may be given directly to the ELCA Malaria Campaign on their website:
<http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Responding-to-the-World/ELCA-Malaria-Campaign/Donate.aspx>.



ELCA Malaria Campaign
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

OUTREACH & RESOURCES

40th Anniversary Day of Service and Special Offering

Day of Service

Over 40 people participated in service projects on June 9! Thank you to all of the volunteers who made this day of service a success:

- **Habitat for Humanity** – The crew at our ELF Habitat for Humanity Re-hab house served in many ways: framing, rebuilding the porch, repairing the floor, and cleaning up debris. Others prepared and served lunch to the workers at the site.
- **Project Hope** – These workers removed a shelf, painted a hallway, sorted clothing, and organized food products. Project Hope is always in need of canned food, especially canned fruits and vegetables.
- **Table Grace Cafe** – We distributed Table Grace flyers at the Omaha Summer Arts Festival, the Old Market, and the Farmer's Market to foster support. Another crew worked in the kitchen to prepare, serve, and clean up after the Saturday lunch. Table Grace serves noon lunches of gourmet pizza, soup, and salad to anyone, regardless of ability to pay. They offer job training in the food service industry and ask those who cannot pay to work for their meals. People who can pay are encouraged to have lunch there to support their ministry of serving the homeless.



Our year of service has officially begun, with a goal for each of us to volunteer at least 20 hours outside the walls of Lord of Love.

Special Offering

We are truly blessed with a generous church community! The proceeds from the special offering will allow us to donate \$1,000 to each of our mission projects: Habitat for Humanity, Project Hope, and Table Grace. The remaining amount goes into our Capital Campaign Fund.

Table Grace says Thank You to Lord of Love

Dear Lord of Love Members,



Table Grace Cafe would like to sincerely thank all those who participated in volunteer/service in conjunction with the Lord of Love 40th anniversary celebration on June 9. What a generous way to celebrate! Your service is much appreciated. Support like yours allows Table Grace to continue its mission of Nourishing Hungry Bodies and Souls in downtown Omaha and beyond. At Table Grace Café, we strive to bring the church to the community and serve our neighbors as Christ would have us serve. Not only that, but TGC facilitates the service and community of all who participate in its daily operations, giving every patron the chance to love their neighbor. Thank you again for your support!

Simone and Matt Weber
Table Grace Ministries

RESOURCES

Stewardship All Year Long: Giving by Rex Quadhammer

The stewardship word for this month is “giving.”



As I was looking through Ephesians and 2 Corinthians, a few verses stood out on giving. Ephesians 2 says we do good works not to earn God’s favor, but says “For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.”

2 Corinthians 9 states, “the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” Also, “You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity.”

As a congregation, we just gave several hours of service to three separate service projects. Approximately 40 people volunteered 150 to 200 hours to help celebrate our church’s 40th anniversary. Project Hope, Habitat for Humanity, and Table of Grace all benefited from our service.

We will provide more service opportunities over the coming year to help reach our goal of 40 hours of service per person. Please remember that we are not only enriching the lives of others, but we are also being enriched by our service to others.

COUNCIL REPORT

Our Giving Status by Barb Haskins, Council Treasurer

General Fund financial information for May 2012 is as follows:

- Income: \$20,860.15
- Expenses: \$19,872.10

General Fund financial information for the year to date (through May 31, 2012) is as follows:

- Income: \$125,253.43
- Expenses: \$116,474.70



Praise God for your faithfulness!

2012 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: Jeri Morgan, Mike Klos

Resources: Doug Roberts, Rex Quadhamer

Worship: Randi VenHuizen, Pat Brewer



COUNCIL REPORT

From the Council President – July 2012 by Brian Lund, Council President

Psalm 19:1-2 (NIV) *The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.*

At our June council meeting, we reviewed how our methods of communication are perceived by our members and related topics. Thank you to all who completed the communications survey prepared by our Outreach ministry team. I came away from our discussion with these key thoughts:



- We do a fair job of communicating most things much of the time. In fact, over 85% of respondents rated our communication as effective.
- Communication is everyone's responsibility. Those who prepare and administer our various methods of communication can only "report" what is provided to them. We need to identify the information to send out, who should receive it, what method to use, and when it is needed.
- Communication takes advanced planning. Effective communication requires a plan of what is happening. We can't communicate things we haven't really figured out yet.
- The church office is a great place to start. Ensure that any meeting or event gets on the church calendar and doesn't conflict with other planned activity. Mary Lou is a great resource for all things church related.
- We need multiple methods of communication. One size doesn't fit all. Some of us are technology savvy, and others may rely on more traditional means.
- We need to look at ways to improve what and how we communicate. This includes increasing awareness of what methods exist, who to contact, information deadlines, and looking for better ways to reach all of our members.

Psalm 106:1 (ESV) *Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!*



Thank You to everyone who celebrated our 40th Anniversary on June 9-10. We went out into the community and served those in need. We came together as a community of faithful believers to praise God through a wonderful worship service. Our "children of the congregation," Rebecca Sheridan, Chris Meier, and Paula Lawhead, shared inspiring messages of how Lord of Love helped form and strengthen their faith. We gathered to eat and share memories of this community of believers called Lord of Love. Special thanks to Tom and Beth Olson for their vision and planning of our anniversary celebration.

Summer is here. Travel and family activities may keep us away from Lord of Love on Sundays. Please make an effort to worship each week wherever you may be. And remember that the financial and service needs of our congregation continue all year round.

Please continue to pray for our congregation and the community we serve. Give thanks for all that we receive through Christ Jesus. Pray for safety for those who travel, healing for those in need, and wisdom for our pastor and other leaders of Lord of Love.

Blessings in faith and service,
Brian Lund

WOMEN OF LOVE

Women's Half-Day Retreat

The smell of freshly baked cinnamon rolls! Fresh brewed coffee! Laughter and camaraderie! Studying the word of God! Delicious salads for lunch! This can be yours on Saturday, August 4 if you come to the home of Deb Lund, 4720 N 136th Street. This is the annual ½-day retreat to study the three lessons featured in the summer issues of the W/ELCA *Gather* magazine.

All women are invited to come around 8:30 a.m. for rolls and coffee. At 9:00 a.m., our three study leaders will begin sharing, and our study will conclude about noon. Please bring a salad for the potluck salad luncheon following the study. The retreat will end about 1:00 p.m.

Details of the study are provided below.



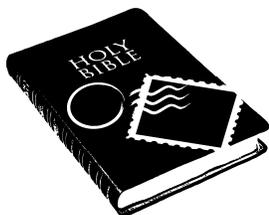
Lord's Laughing Ladies

Join us for coffee fellowship at Crane Coffee at 77th and Cass Streets at 8:00 a.m. on Fridays, July 6 and 20. Promising you a great time!



Along the Way

The Rev. Julie A. Kanarr, an ELCA pastor from Port Townsend, Washington, authored the *Gather* summer study, "Along the Way." Pr. Kanarr is a pilgrim-student of the Bible who has journeyed extensively by car, bicycle, kayak, foot, boat, and airplane.



She will introduce us to some biblical travelers and will help us enter in conversation with them and explore our own journeys of faith. We'll walk with Jacob, who after wrestling a stranger throughout the night discovers God. We'll wander through the wilderness with people who complain to Moses about their aching feet and ask, "Are we there yet?" We'll also spend time with Jesus' companions and reflect on our faith.

Session 1: Travels with Jacob (Genesis 28 and 32)

Theme verse: "Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." (Genesis 28:15)

Session 2: Food for the journey (Exodus 16; I Kings 19)

Theme verse: "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you." (I Kings 19:7b)

Session 3: Encounters with Christ (John 4; Luke 24)

Theme verse: "Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of bread." (Luke 24:35)

Now the good news—you don't have to subscribe to *Gather* magazine to get the Bible studies. (However, we do recommend you do subscribe—it's an excellent magazine!) The lessons are available online at <http://www.womenoftheelca.org/summer-studies-pages-68.php>.

See you on August 4th!

WOMEN OF LOVE

Fall Bible Study

Details on the September 2012-May 2013 Bible study in *Gather* magazine, "Gathered by God," will be included in the August issue of *The Love Letter*.



Saved to Serve



The second "Saved to Serve" event for the Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization will be held at the Lutheran Service Corps in Omaha from August 3-5. The women will help spruce up the building and grounds of this facility that houses eight volunteer workers working in our community. Pack some old clothes and bring your favorite paintbrush and some blue

masking tape, or a pair of garden gloves and some garden tools. The weekend will include Bible study, time for some fun activities, and Sunday worship in nearby Trinity Lutheran Church.

The registration fee is \$39, which includes off-site lodging and most meals. Registration deadline is July 10, and forms are available at the Information Center in the narthex.



Dates to Remember

July

2	6:00 p.m.	<i>Gather</i> Bible Study, Old Country Buffet, 145 th and West Center
3	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
6	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77 th and Cass
17	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
18		No Ministry Team Meeting
20	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77 th and Cass



Coming Soon

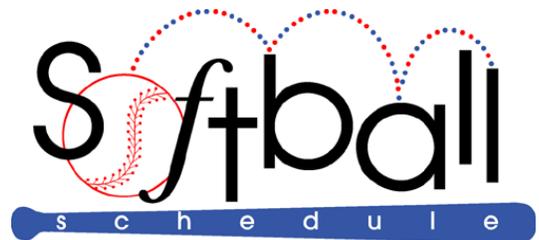
August 4	8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Women's Half-Day Retreat
September 15	8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization (NSWO) Metro East Autumn Renewal, Lord of Love
October 6		Women of Love Fall Day Retreat
November 2-3		Road Trip to First Lutheran Church Bazaar, Sioux Falls, SD (Karen Mullen, coordinator)

MEN'S NEWS CORNER

Men's Softball 2012

The Lord of Love men's softball team is doing well and has a 4-3 record at the halfway point of the season. Game times for the second half of the season are listed below. You are welcome to come and watch us play! We play on Monday nights at Kelley Softball Complex (124th and Fort) on Field 8 (the field closest to Fort Street). We normally go out for pizza after 6:30 p.m. games, so you are also welcome to join us for pizza after the games on July 9 and 30. If you have questions, please contact Don Rowen at 402-965-8977.

July 2	8:30 p.m.
July 9	6:30 p.m. – Join us for pizza after the game!
July 16	7:30 p.m.
July 23	8:30 p.m.
July 30	6:30 p.m. – Join us for pizza after the game!
August 6	Rainout makeup



LOL YOUTH

ELCA Youth Gathering

Seven youth and two adults leave Monday, July 16 for the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA. Please lift them in prayer for safe travels and for God's presence to surround them during their week of service, learning, and fun. Pray for all of them as they serve the New Orleans community and learn more about their faith in God.



T-Shirts

In support of the youth and adults attending the ELCA Youth Gathering from July 16-23, t-shirts celebrating Lord of Love's 40th Anniversary may be purchased in the narthex for \$15.00. The youth will proudly wear their shirts while attending the ELCA Youth Gathering! Get your shirt today!

Casey Florea's Mission Trip

Thank you to everyone for the support and prayers as I spend 10 weeks this summer on a mission trip in San Diego. If you want to see updates consisting of photos, videos, and just what I am up to, then you can check out my blog: casey-sandiego.blogspot.com.



Just thought I would share this. To me, this is what evangelizing and being a disciple of Jesus is all about. We have to lead by example. It's so much more than just sharing the gospel to someone. It's how we live every day, how we approach both the joy in our life and the obstacles. Who or what do we turn to when we need encouraging or help? How do we treat others and what do we put out in the world? Yes, I am going to San Diego to share God, but that's something that I should strive to do every day no matter where I am.

IN OUR PRAYERS & LOVE NOTES

In Our Prayers

Rob Anderson
Karen Armitage
Diana Baker (friend of the Thoms)
Dick Bell
Sandy Brazier
Ruth Cooley
Janet Duckworth (friend of Marilyn Thomsen)
Randy Durham
Claire Foral (friend of Dave and Lisa Rieff)
Paula Foster
Nick Gehrig (grandson of the Schuchards)
Kaye Haar (friend of the Novaks)
Jane Hawkins' brothers and nieces
Marilyn Haworth (friend of Brenda Mac)
John and Connie Holbrook (brother and sister-in-law of
Judy Messerschmidt)
Bud Ivey (father of Pamela Todd)
Cathy Johnson (friend of Marilyn Thomsen)
Cheryl Jones (friend of Nancy Shinrock)
Dolores Jordan (aunt of Paula Foster)
Jude Konvalina
Jane Loquist (sister-in-law of Kristi Omar)
Donna Lueders (mother of Dave Lueders)
Lisa Lueders (sister-in-law of Dave Lueders)
Marj Mahler (mother of Jane Hawkins)
Linda McIntyre (friend of Lisa Rieff)

Debbie Michalak (co-worker of Jackie Combes)
Ardis Mickelson (mother of Shawn Lorenzen and
Heather VanArsdale)
Eunice Neve
John Patrick Nicholson (friend of the Novaks)
Leona Piehl (mother of Deb Lund)
David and Rich Pippin (nephews of Lynda McGraw)
Isaac Schroeder (infant son of Clay and Kelly)
Phyllis Strasser
Brenda Thom
Marilyn Thomsen
Audrey Wapelhorst (niece of Brenda Mac)
Ted Whitfield (former co-worker of Brian Shinrock)
Jeff Wise (friend of the Thoms)

Those deployed around the world:

Kelvin
Jesse Kinney
Sean Rooney

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

Dear Lord of Love congregation,

Thank you for the card and recognition of my high school graduation as well as the many years of spiritual support. I will keep everyone in my heart while at USF. Thanks again!

Eric Klos



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Day

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

This Month

- July 4 Church office closed
- July 16-23 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans
- July 28 Carol Joy Holling Quilt Auction



Upcoming Events

- August 4 Women of Love *Gather* half-day retreat
- August 12 Bell Choir Try Night
- September 15 Nebraska Synodical Women’s Organization Metro East Autumn Renewal at Lord of Love
- September 30 Endowment Fund application deadline
- October 6 Women of Love Fall Day Retreat

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.