

The Love Letter

Volume 43

September 2015

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Worship Schedule

Sun.: 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

9:15 a.m. Sunday School*

*Starting Sept. 13

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

A Look Ahead

With back to school, it's also time to return to many of our regular activities at Lord of Love. **September 13**, Kick-Off Sunday, we resume Sunday School and two worship services on Sunday mornings. There are already several weeks of adult forums planned as well, starting **September 27**.

The Youth continue to ride their post-Gathering momentum and have a full schedule of activities this fall. See page 8 for a preview.

Women of Love are also busy this fall. They invite all members of the congregation and friends to a "European Autumn Tour" on **November 7**. See page 5 for the latest details.

You may notice what I hope are minor improvements to the newsletter layout and style over the next month or two. Please feel free to send any feedback to loveletter@lord-of-love.org. And as always, you are welcome to send your favorite recipes to be included in the Love Letter!



Table of Contents

From the Interim Pastor.....	2	Youth.....	8
Nurture.....	2,5	Church Council/Resources.....	9
Worship Servants.....	3	Men's Corner.....	10
Monthly Calendar.....	4	Women of Love.....	10
Outreach.....	5	In Our Prayers.....	12
Mission.....	6	Mark Your Calendar.....	13

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR'S DESK

Several persons have spoken to me about what was being planned for Adult Forum for the coming year. The Stewardship committee has asked to do Bible studies related to the role of stewardship in our lives as followers of Christ.

Those forums have been scheduled for the following Sundays: September 27, October 4 and 11. The budget forum has been scheduled for Sunday, October 18. It has also been suggested that we focus on Martin Luther on Reformation Sunday, October 25.

On Sundays September 13 and 20, I would like to have a conversation about topics we might like to discuss in greater depth. My suggestions are the ELCA's ongoing study of the means of grace, an article

from the Christian Century regarding the conversation between science and religion, and how we respond to the issues raised by Pope Francis in his encyclical on climate change. I am interested in listening to your suggestions.

Finally, a reminder that the prayer team which is lifting up all who are involved in the call process here at Lord of Love will meet again on Monday, September 14 at 6 p.m. All are welcome to join us. If you are unable to meet on Monday evenings, please contact me so we can make other arrangements for your involvement on the prayer team.

God's Peace Be with You,

Pastor Glenn



NURTURE

Confirmation Beginning

Confirmation for 7th and 8th grade students begins on **Wednesday, September 9 at 6 p.m.** A letter has gone out with important dates and information regarding this year's program.

A parent's meeting will be held on **Sunday, September 20 at 9:15 a.m.** in the north overflow of the sanctuary. We encourage all parents of confirmation participants to attend this important meeting.

Please contact Heather Christensen, Shawn Lorenzen, or Pastor Glenn with questions.



WORSHIP

Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	Sept. 6	Sept. 13	Sept. 20	Sept. 27
Greeter(s)				
8:00 a.m.	9 a.m. Kenn & Shari Garder	Paul & Sue Dieter	Doug & Rose Roberts	Jim & Jeri Morgan
10:30 a.m.		Bill & Nicole Quackenbush	Tom & Beth Olson	John & Gwen Edwards
Liturgist				
8:00 a.m.	9 a.m. - Tom Olson	Shawn Lorenzen	Karen Mullen	Kenn Garder
10:30 a.m.		Paul Christenson	Rett Messerschmidt	Amy Kragnes
Communion Servers				
8:00 a.m.	9 a.m. Beth Olson, Heather Christensen	Brandon & Heather Hansen	Armitage family	Garder family
10:30 a.m.		Amy Kragnes & Susan Lueders	Messerschmidt family	Vandeventer family
Altar Care				
8:00 a.m.	9 a.m. Deb Quadhamer, Judy Messerschmidt	Angie Meyer	Doug & Rose Roberts/Dale & Karen Finck	Brewer family
10:30 a.m.		Diana Haye & Marcia Roads	Karen Armitage & Gwen Edwards	Brenda Mac & Rosie Avalos
Ushers				
8:00 a.m.	Paul Dieter, Matt Willard, Dennis Hindemith, Jesse Brewer			
10:30 a.m.	Brian & Deb Lund & volunteers			
Nursery				
10:30 a.m.			Lisa Rieff	Ashley Meier
CD Recording				
10:30 a.m.	9 a.m. Pat Brewer	Paul Christenson	Dave Lueders	Paul Murphy



MONTHLY CALENDAR

September 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Vision & Coordination Mtg.	2 7:15pm Sr. Choir Rehearsal	3 7:00pm Boy Scouts	4 8:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 7:30pm AA Meeting	5 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
6 9:00am Worship & Communion	7 Office Closed for Labor Day 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	8	9 6:00pm Women's Ministry Team Mtg. 6:00pm Confirmation 7:15pm Sr. Choir Rehearsal	10 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Swingtones Rehearsal	11 7:30pm AA Meeting	12 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
13 Kick Off Sunday! 8:00am & 10:30 a.m. Worship/Comm 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Adult Forum 11:30am Kick-Off Potluck lunch 3:00pm District 18 Workshop 6:00pm Bell Choir	14 6:00pm "Gather" Bible Study @ Oak View Village Inn 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	15 9:00am Quilters 10:00am Synod Deacon Mtg. 7:00pm Church Council Mtg.	16 6:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 7:00pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:15pm Sr. Choir Rehearsal	17 12:00pm Aged to Perfection Lunch 7:00pm Boy Scouts	18 8:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 7:30pm AA Meeting	19 Lord of Love to host Habitat for Humanity 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
20 8:00am & 10:30 a.m. Worship/Comm 9:15am Adult Forum 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Confirmation Parent Mtg. 12:00pm Hall reserved for Lueders 6:00pm Bell Choir	21 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	22	23 6:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 7:00pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:15pm Sr. Choir Rehearsal	24 7:00pm Boy Scouts	25 7:30pm AA Meeting	26 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
27 8:00am & 10:30 a.m. Worship/Comm 9:15am Adult Forum 9:15am Sunday School 1:00pm District 18 AA Plng Mtg. 6:00pm Bell Choir	28 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	29	30 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Luther Kids 7:00pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:15pm Sr. Choir Rehearsal			

NURTURE

Autumn European Tour

Members of the congregation and friends are invited to join us for an Autumn European Tour (Fall Festival). Mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 7**, with dinner served at 5 p.m. in the church.



We are pleased that our own **Lisa and Dave Rieff** are returning as caterers! **Jesse Brewer** will be our emcee. See the lights of the cities, and enjoy food from different areas of Europe, a program and an auction. This is a fundraiser for LOL Women's scholarship fund and operating budget. The local charity recipient will be announced soon.

Adult Forums

Various leaders will guide us through the recent summer WELCA Gather Bible studies on stewardship, "No Catchy Slogans," on **September 27, October 4, and October 11** during the Sunday School hour, 9:15-10:15 a.m., in the sanctuary. These studies are on the Gather website and you may download them for free:

<http://www.womenoftheelca.org/gather-magazine-pages-49.php>

We also plan to have an adult forum on Martin Luther on Reformation Sunday, October 25. Hope to see you there!

Sunday School Kick-Off

Sunday School for all grades pre-school to Senior High begins on **Sunday, September 13 at 9:15 a.m.** We are lucky to have so many wonderful volunteers who are committed to teaching children and guiding them in their faith journey. We hope that you and your children will make the commitment to attend Sunday School this year from 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.

On September 13, students will meet in their classrooms and then will be invited to participate in a few challenges for Kick Off Sunday.



Luther Kids Is Back

We invite children in Kindergarten through 6th grade to join Luther Kids, a mid-week ministry on Wednesdays from **6 – 7 p.m., starting Wednesday, September 16.**

Laurie Heavey will again coordinate our Luther Kids program, which will utilize materials from our Sunday school program - Whirl Lectionary Curriculum. We will have teachings, activities, crafts, and music in a multi-age environment that fosters learning and relationship-building.

Questions? Contact Heather Christensen at heather@lord-of-love.org.

OUTREACH

Habitat for Humanity Reminder

Lord of Love will host the Habitat for Humanity build again on **Saturday, September 19**. We will need volunteers to serve a meal at noon, in addition to workers. Workers will be doing cleaning, trim work and painting.

Show up any time after 8:30 a.m. to volunteer. The address is 4105 North 23rd Street. For any questions, please contact Jeri Morgan at 402.415.4976 or email jerrymorgan@ymail.com.

Lord of Love Garden

The gardeners continue to harvest potatoes, carrots and tomatoes. Many pounds of delicious sweetcorn were taken to Project Hope, Catholic Charities South Omaha Pantry, and Table Grace Café. Winter squash will soon be ready. Cleanup of the sweetcorn area is taking place, too.

Thanks to all who have given their time to provide nourishing vegetables for so many: **Doug Aden, Dawn Burton, Joe Combes, Dale Finck, Jeri Morgan, Gary Ramsay, and Doug Roberts.**



MISSION

Mission Possible Update

Thanks so much to everyone who has prepared the delicious breakfasts and given generously to not only enjoy such breakfasts, but to help prison ministries through the Nebraska Synod. As of this writing, over \$1300 in proceeds has been collected to be given to our synodical prison ministries.

Keep in mind that there are volunteer opportunities in Nebraska Synod prison ministries for individuals and groups. One can worship with the Followers of Christ congregation in Lincoln. There are opportunities for service with the Crossroads Connection in Omaha and Bridges to Hope, as well.

Contact Pastor Bob Bryan
www.nebraskasynod.org/followersofchrist/
bob.bryan@nebraskasynod.org
or
Rhonda Mattingly, Bridges to Hope
bridgestohopene.org



MISSION

Lutheran Disaster Response at the ELCA Youth Gathering

By Megan Brandsrud, from ELCA.org

During July 14 – 19, the Lutheran Disaster Response team and several dedicated volunteers were in Detroit for the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering. Lutheran Disaster Response had an activity space in the Interactive Center as part of the Proclaim Community Youth Gathering event.

Lutheran Disaster Response's activity space was titled "Hope for the Refugee," and the interactive activity gave participants a chance to have a simulation experience of the journey that refugees face. Participants were grouped into "family" units and assigned family roles that they portrayed throughout the activity. Stations included discussing what materials families might need with them to make the journey to a refugee camp, learning about challenges encountered along the journey and how to adapt, and learning about the hope found at refugee camps and what Lutheran Disaster Response does to support refugees around the world.

Approximately 1,200 youth participants and adult leaders visited the "Hope for the Refugee" activity space and learned more about the work of Lutheran Disaster Response.

Lutheran Disaster Response also worked with Campus Ministries and Habitat for Humanity at the Youth Gathering to build



A message written by a 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering Participant on a house frame built for a Habitat for Humanity home in Detroit. More photos can be found on the [Lutheran Disaster Response Facebook page](#).

house frames for Habitat for Humanity homes in Detroit. See more at [ELCA.org](#)

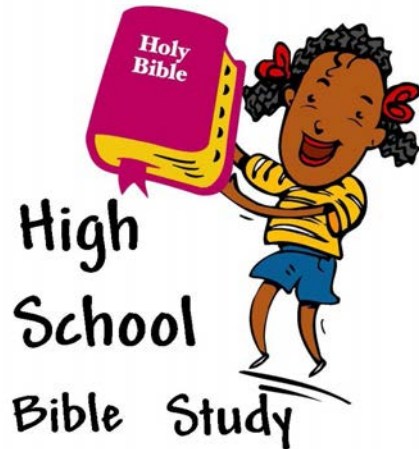
Looking forward, the Mission Possible Team has selected the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response to receive our special Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas offerings this year, designated specifically for victims of wildfires in the western U.S.



YOUTH

High School Bible Study

Bible Study will be available for our high school youth grades 9-12 on **Wednesday evenings from 7-8:15 p.m.** Beginning, Sept. 16, this will be a time of study and devotion covering various topics and diving into the Bible.



In September, we will spend some time sharing and studying what we learned at the National Youth Gathering and considering how that story moves us, as a Youth group, forward in our faith and making a difference. We will then explore some Bible studies (David Olshine's *Studies on the Go*) on the letters written by Paul in the Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians that explore joy and happiness, how to make a difference, avoiding false teachings, and reaching out to others.

This is a time to dig deeper, to take risks, to trust; to build friends up and not tear them down. Leave judgement and cell phones at the door. You bring friendship and love and I'll bring a snack to share. See you there!
~Heather

Youth Calendar of Events

A youth calendar is on its way. All youth grades 7-12 are invited to participate in the events. The youth calendar will include dates for fellowship events, service opportunities, road trips, and lock-ins. Be on the look-out for the calendar of events.

In the meantime, save these dates: **Sunday, September 20, 12 - 2 p.m** in the Fellowship Hall: Youth Group Kick-Off/Welcome Back

Saturday, October 17 - Sunday, October 18: Camp-Out at the Cross and S'More Bible Study (tent camping in the backyard of church, campfire, smores, and songs)



Saturday, November 7: Service opportunity for Fall Festival

Sunday, November 15: Youth Group Fellowship Event

November 20-22: Road Trip! - Lutheran Youth of NE in Hastings (this is the Middle School Gathering for High Schoolers - meet or see youth we met from the NE Synod)

CHURCH COUNCIL/STEWARDSHIP

2015 Lord of Love Church Council

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

Nurture: Susan Lueders and Lisa Willard

Outreach: Mardi Fiske and Scott Reinhardt

Resources: Craig Pennell and Bill Quackenbush

Worship: Heather Hansen and Joan Witt



Giving Status

General Fund financial information for July 2015:

Actual Income - \$22,303.00

Actual Expense - \$25,498.19

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

Actual Income - \$167,779.81

Actual Expense - \$182,151.99



As of the end of July, the available cash deficit has increased again. It is (17,886.51). Weekly offerings of \$6,799 are needed to meet budgeted expenses. The weekly offering average through the end of July was \$5,482. The response to the letter sent out with your giving statements has been encouraging. Thank you for your response and for keeping your pledges current.

Stewardship, by Heather Hansen

Have you thought about what it means to be a good steward? Stewardship is more than financial giving: it is a sense of thanksgiving for all that God has given us including care giving for the world around us. As Christians we are called to protect God's creation.

References to the Earth and all living and non-living parts of it are present throughout scriptures. So why is that so many resist taking care of the Earth, which is a gift from God that protects and sustains us? Being a good Steward over God's creation is not something new, but instead a responsibility we must all undertake. We should rejoice in what we have and keep it healthy for the generations to come.

"In the just reward of labor, God's will is done; In the hope we give our neighbor, God's will is done; In our worldwide take of caring; For the Hunger and despairing; In the harvest men are sharing, God's will is done."

STEWARDSHIP

Celebration of Faith Sunday

Sunday, October 4 is our Celebration of Faith Sunday. On that Sunday, we will return our intention of giving cards as our continued response to God's gift of grace. We will also celebrate together between services with a special treat. Look for more information to come in your home mailboxes!



MEN'S CORNER

Men's Softball

Though the men's softball team had a rough start to the year, they managed to finish the year with 6 wins and 8 losses in league play by winning 5 out of their last 6 games. The rough start was due to a combination of work preventing several previous starters from playing and the schedule having us play several of the better teams in the league at the beginning of the season!

We ended up recruiting 4 new players to team and they helped us to the strong finish for the year. Church members that played included **Don and Doug Rowen, Tom and Nick Olson, Dave Hild, Scott Reinhardt, Bill Baker, Sayler Boylan, Eric Quadhammer, Devon Liston and Brandon Hansen.**



WOMEN OF LOVE

Thankoffering Sunday



Our annual Thankoffering service will be held during both **8 and 10:30 worship on Sunday, October 11.** For more than 100 years, Lutheran women have carried out the tradition of collecting Thankofferings at home to give thanks for blessings in the ordinary and extraordinary moments of life. Thankofferings are sent to Church-wide Women of the ELCA for ongoing ministries.

WOMEN OF LOVE

"Gather" Bible Studies

This fall, Liv Larson Andrews, pastor of Salem Lutheran Church in the West Central neighborhood of Spokane, WA, brings us a three-session study on speed and slowness. We will examine how the Kingdom of God moves slowly, yet we are asked to move with ever greater speed. Liv lives with her spouse and young son and dreams of hosting the first ever lectionary based cooking show.



The September lesson is "Sabbath Keeping" based on Exodus 20:8: *"Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy."* The Wednesday evening group will meet in the Mary Room on at **6 p.m. September 2** (before Labor Day). The Monday evening group meets on **Sept. 14** (due to Labor Day) at the Oak View Village Inn.

Women's Ministry Team

The women's ministry team will meet at **6 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9** in the Mary Room. All women are invited.



Fall General Meeting

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, October 17 at 9 a.m.** for the Women of Love general meeting. We will elect members of 2016 Ministry Team members, and plan for the 2016 Women's Ministry program.

If you are interested in serving on the ministry team, contact Rose Roberts, 402.392.1559 or Ruth Manning, 402.451.0221.

Coffee Makes the World Go Round

Ladies Coffee Fellowship will meet at 8 a.m. on **Friday, September 4 and 18**, at Crane Coffee at 77th and Cass. Bring a friend!



Lutheran Women of Omaha

Summer break is over and Lutheran Women of Omaha resumes its regular schedule on **Tuesday, September 8 at noon** at Trinity Lutheran Church, 6340 N. 30th St. Pastor Davis will speak about the programs at Trinity. The monetary project is the book fund at Trinity.

Please make your reservations with Ruth Manning, 402.451.0221 by Sunday, September 6.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Antoinette Anania (cousin of Deb Lund)

Karen Beck

Chris Beckman (friend of Jane Gehringer)

Dick Bell

Syd Brinkman

Carl (friend of Saylor Boylan)

Connie Bennett (cousin of Karen Armitage)

Jim Christiansen (brother of Kathy Christiansen)

Patricia Connolly (friend of the Thoms)

Sgt. Dean and Erin Hansen (Delina Wiater's son and his wife)

Vicky Hays (friend of Ann Kroll)

Marjorie Holbrook (mother of Judy Messerschmidt)

Mary Howard (friend of Carol Novak)

Janet Jensen (mother of Dawn Burton)

Margret Kragnes (mother of Amy Kragnes)

Matt Kreikimeier (friend of Brenda Mac)

Glenna Lee

Lisa Lueders (sister-in-law of Dave Lueders)

Charles Meyer (father of Pr. Brad)

Vi Neu (stepmother of Carol Novak)

Don St. Ours (brother-in-law of Lynda McGraw)

Cynthia Palmer (friend of Dave and Lisa Rieff)

Nancy Shinrock

Georgene Sones (mother of Dayla Miller)

Brenda Thom

Betty Wallwey (aunt of Shari Garder)

Drew Van Winkle (friend of Gustafsons)

Ted Whitfield (former co-worker of Brian Shinrock)

Wayne Witt

Caregivers and those who suffer with depression.

Those Who Are Deployed

Steve Slone

Those who Mourn

Family and friends of Arlene Schultz, mother of Pat Brewer

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

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

Thanks!



Peace is Christ's distinctive gift — not money, not worldly ease, not temporal prosperity. These are at best very questionable possessions. They often do more harm than good to the soul. They act as clogs and weights to our spiritual life.

Inward peace of conscience, arising from a sense of pardoned sin and reconciliation with God, is a far greater blessing. This peace is the property of all believers.
—J.C. Ryle



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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

September 13 Kickoff Sunday
September 19 Habitat build
September 18-20 NSWOC Convention

Save the Date

October 4 Celebration of Faith Sunday
November 7 Fall Festival
December 6 Advent by Candlelight
December 13 Sunday School Christmas Program

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