

The Love Letter

Volume 46

June 2016

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Worship Schedule

Sunday, 9 a.m. (through
Labor Day)

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

A Look Ahead

June 5: VBS Registration Due

June 9, 10 and 11: Vacation Bible School—see page 5

June 12-17: Senior High Mission Event—Volunteers needed!

June 16: Root Beer Float Night—see page 5

June 19: Father's Day Breakfast—Dads eat free!

July 30: SAVE THE DATE for **Family Fun Day** at Mahoney State Park - see page 10!



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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 (recipes or favorite poems, etc., are welcome) must be received by the 20th of the month.

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends at Lord of Love,

At the Vision and Coordination Committee meeting in May, after we had been informed that the Call Committee was releasing all four candidates they had interviewed and would be asking the Synod for additional candidates, the V&C Committee inquired about the effect this development would have on my retirement plans. I assured them that it was my intention to fulfill my contract to serve Lord of Love until a new pastor was called. Their gracious response was to offer me the opportunity to cut back on my hours now.

My grateful response is, "Yes." So, beginning July 1, I will be three-quarters time. This will mean that I will be in the office three days a week instead of four, and I will preach and preside at worship three Sundays a month (four in five-Sunday months). I will continue to be available for all weddings, funerals and emergency situations.

Pastor Joyce Miller, senior chaplain at Nebraska Medicine, has agreed to preach and preside the one Sunday per month I will be absent.

As I write this article, the call process has again kicked into full gear with the Call Committee interviewing two new candidates. Consequently, the length of time that I will be serving you three-quarters time may be shorter than originally thought.

However, I want to express my gratitude to the V&C Committee, the council and the entire congregation for all of your support for my ministry among you and for the opportunity to make this change in that ministry.

Peace,
Pastor Glenn

JUST FOR FUN

The Origin of Father's Day, from newsletternewsletter.com

One Sunday in 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd listened to a sermon honoring mothers. Her mother had died years before, so her father had raised her by himself. Dodd wondered why there wasn't a day to honor fathers, so she arranged a tribute to her father at a church in Spokane, Washington. The date was June 19, 1910. Many people believe this was the beginning of Father's Day.

Another account holds that a West Virginia church held a tribute service for fathers in 1908, following a mine explosion that killed 360 men.

Regardless of which story is correct, Calvin Coolidge was the first president to designate a day to honor fathers. In 1924, he proclaimed the third Sunday in June as Father's Day.



SUMMER SUNDAY SERVANTS

Lord of Love's Worship Servants

| | June 5 | June 12 | June 19 | June 26 |
|--------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Greeter(s) | | | | |
| 9:00 a.m. | Ed & Marjorie Keiser | Tom & Beth Olson | Kenn & Shari Garder | Dan & Ruth Manning |
| Liturgist | | | | |
| 9:00 am | Judy Egr | Heather Hansen | Matt Garder | Dave Hild |
| Communion Servers | | | | |
| 9:00 am | Dave Egr, Joan Witt, Paul & Ann Kroll | Hansen family , Mike Klos | Kenn & Shari Garder, Bill Baker, Sarah Eagen | Connie & Brian Walther, Charise Adams, Kathy Christiansen |
| Altar Care | | | | |
| 9:00 am | Mardi Fiske | Paul & Ann Kroll | Joan Witt & Sarah Eagen | Deb Quadhamer & Judy Messerschmidt |
| Nursery | | | Lisa Rieff | Ashley Meier |
| Ushers | | | | |
| 9:00 am | Josh Combes, Brian Walther, Brandon Zalesky, Dale Finck | Josh Combes, Brian Walther, Brandon Zalesky, Dale Finck | Dave Lueders, Adam Lueders, & volunteers | Dave Lueders, Adam Lueders, & volunteers |
| CD Recording | | | | |
| 9:00 am | Pat Brewer | Paul Christenson | Dave Lueders | Paul Murphy |



MONTHLY CALENDAR

June 2016

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| | | | 1 | 2 7:00pm Boy Scouts | 3 7:30pm AA Meeting | 4 Fellowship Hall Reserved for a shower 7:00am Merl's Breakfast Ministry |
| 5 9:00am Worship & Communion 10:00am Summer Breakfast | 6 8:00pm AA & Alanon | 7 Quilters 7:00pm Vision & Coordination Mtg | 8 | 9 5:30pm VBS 7:00pm Boy Scouts | 10 5:30pm VBS 7:30pm AA Meeting | 11 7:00am Merl's Breakfast Ministry 9:00am - 1:00 p.m. VBS |
| 12 9:00am Worship & Communion 10:00am Summer Breakfast 1:00pm Belter Bridal Shower | 13 Youth Mission Project 8:00pm AA & Alanon | 14 Youth Mission Project | 15 Youth Mission Project | 16 Youth Mission Project 12:00pm Aged to Perfection Lunch 6:30pm Root Beer Float Night 7:00pm Boy Scouts | 17 Youth Mission Project 7:30pm AA Meeting | 18 7:00am Merl's Breakfast Ministry |
| 19 9:00am Worship & Communion 10:00am Summer Breakfast | 20 8:00am Fiddle Camp 8:00pm AA & Alanon | 21 8:00am Fiddle Camp 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Church Council Mtg. | 22 8:00am Fiddle Camp | 23 8:00am Fiddle Camp 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Swingtones | 24 7:30pm AA Meeting | 25 7:00am Merl's Breakfast Ministry |
| 26 9:00am Worship & Communion 10:00am Summer Breakfast | 27 8:00pm AA & Alanon | 28 | 29 | 30 7:00pm Boy Scouts | | |

NURTURE

Fun Fellowship Event

Root Beer Float Night is planned for **Thursday, June 16, at 6:30 p.m.** at Lord of Love.

Bring a lawnchair for sitting outside. We will visit and hear how the youth are doing during their mission trip here in Omaha. A free-will donation will be collected.



Summer Breakfast

Summer Breakfasts begin **June 5**. Please consider signing up to make breakfast. The signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Even if you don't plan to cook, stay for breakfast after the 9 a.m. summer services.

Aged to Perfection Luncheon

The next Aged to Perfection luncheon is **Thursday, June 16 at noon** in the fellowship hall. All retirees are welcome.

Register Now for Vacation Bible School



Registration forms for VBS are now available in the narthex. Forms will be accepted through **Sunday, June 5**.

VBS will be **Thursday and Friday, June 9 & 10, 6 to 8 p.m.** with dinner at **5:30 p.m.** and **Saturday, June 11 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.** with lunch served. This year's theme is "superheroes of the Bible." Join us to learn about David, Daniel and Elijah!

MISSION

Community Garden Update

Like so many homes of our members, Lord of Love's garden was hit hard by the May 10 hailstorm. The tomato and pepper plants disappeared and needed to be replanted. The potatoes were beautiful and should come back. The rabbit fence was rebuilt and restaked.

Weeding will require time and energy throughout June. Regular gathering times for the gardeners are **Mondays and Thursdays at 9 a.m.**, but weeding can be done at any time. There will be little to harvest until July.

Mission Possible Update

Remember, our summer breakfast proceeds will go to our ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response, particularly to victims of spring and summer storms.



Read about the work of ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response in Japan below.

MISSION

Japan Earthquake Response, from elca.org



The Situation

On April 14, a 6.5-magnitude earthquake hit Kumamoto, which has a strong Lutheran presence. Several strong aftershocks and another 7.3-magnitude earthquake later, many homes have been destroyed, the death toll has reached 41 and thousands have been injured. The earthquakes and aftershocks have caused 98,000 to evacuate their homes, and water and power have been cut off in many places.

The Response

Lutheran missionaries and our companions have been reported safe. Working with our trusted partners and the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lutheran Disaster Response will help those affected by the earthquake. The earthquakes were the strongest that have hit Japan in the last five years. While the Japanese government is responding, the Lutheran churches and schools are gathering points for people in their communities, and their members are providing assistance.

What Can You Do

Pray:

Continue to pray for the people affected by the earthquakes; may God's healing presence comfort them in their time of need.

Give:

Gifts to [Japan Earthquake](#) will be used to assist those impacted by the earthquake until the response is complete.

Connect:

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

- Sign up to receive Lutheran Disaster Response [alerts](#).
- Check the Lutheran Disaster Response [blog](#).
- Like Lutheran Disaster Response on [Facebook](#) and follow @ELCALDR on [Twitter](#).

Rise Up Omaha – Called to Serve

Our Youth Mission trip this year is taking place right here in our community of Omaha. The youth will be staying at the church for the entire week, showering at Sunny Slope pool, and giving of their time and service to various organizations here in Omaha.



We will start each morning with 200 other children and youth from around the community at Kountze Memorial Lutheran in downtown Omaha. Song, devotion and a focus on scripture each morning from the Bishop and other pastors will inspire our daily service. With more than 40 service sites and organizations participating, there will be a lot of “God’s Work with Our Hands” going on!

The Lord of Love youth will be spending their afternoons learning about a few additional organizations and about their community. We will be touring the Durham Museum to learn about the history of Omaha and then will compare that to what we see today.

On Monday, we will tour the Open Door Mission. Then we go back on Thursday to make sack lunches, share in the lunch meal with their participants, and then go into downtown Omaha to assist in handing out the sack lunches to the homeless. On Tuesday, we will eat lunch at Table Grace Café and then stay for their Bible study and music. Matt Weber will then talk with the youth about his and Simone’s mission and vision for Table Grace. Wednesday we will have a tour of the Lutheran Family Services North Omaha site and learn what they are doing in that facility. Thursday we will prepare to share a little at the Root Beer Float Night about what we’ve experienced so far.

Add in some Tour of Omaha experiences, devotion and worship, and we have a packed week.

The biggest support the Congregation can provide is prayers: Prayers that the Holy Spirit guides our week, touches the hearts of our youth and shows how great God’s love is for each one them.

It’s scary to go out on my own and prepare a week like this for our youth and not have another organization doing the programming. I’m stepping out in faith that God is guiding this experience and he will keep us safe and in his loving arms, providing the opportunity to experience his love at work in our lives, and opportunity to draw closer as brothers and sisters in Christ in this family of Lord of Love and in our community.

--Heather Christensen

Youth Group Outing at Mahoney

Save the Date: Saturday, July 30

The Men’s breakfast group will be hosting a picnic shelter and meal that day. We will go out early as a youth group and spend the day taking in many of the activities offered at Mahoney State Park. Climbing the tower, hiking, maybe some horses or swimming... We’ll carpool out and spend the day!



CHURCH COUNCIL AND RESOURCES

2016 Lord of Love Church Council

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

Nurture: Laurie Heavey and Susan Lueders

Outreach: Paula Foster and Scott Reinhardt

Resources: Craig Pennell and Bill Quackenbush

Worship: Doug Aden and Heather Hansen



May Council Meeting Minutes

The Lord of Love Church Council met on May 17, 2016. Some of the highlights of the meeting include:

- Review of the Treasurer's Report, which showed a decrease in offerings this past month. Budget deficit has increased once again.
- Discussions continue about ways to reduce the budget deficit. Please watch your church mailbox for more information.
- Resource Ministry reported that they will have someone out to check the roof for storm damage. They had placed "No Parking" signs on the West Drive, but they signs had been knocked down in the storm on May 10.
- Pastor Glenn reported that he had asked the Vision and Coordination team about reducing his full-time status to three-fourths time and his request was approved. He will remain available for emergency items and funerals and will adjust his office days accordingly. He will begin the part-time status on July 1, 2016.
- Heather Hansen reported that the meeting with the Nebraska Synod representative had gone well and that the Call Committee will be interviewing two new candidates in the next week and a half.
- Final discussions and paperwork are taking place with the insurance company and DHHS for the reinstatement of the preschool and should be finished soon. As soon as they are complete, enrollment can begin.
- Next Church Council meeting will be June 21, 2016 at 7 p.m.

Giving Status

General Fund financial information for April 2016:

Actual Income - \$24,847.16
Actual Expense - \$26,088.72

Year-To-Date as of the end of April:

Actual Income - \$108,046.85
Actual Expense - \$108,859.24

As of the end of March, the **available cash deficit has increased**. It is (13,635.53). Weekly offerings of \$7,217 are needed to meet budgeted expenses. The weekly offering average through the end of April was \$6,245. The monthly offering average was \$26,539.25 at the end of April down from \$27,357 at the end of March. Please remember that we will have additional expenses this year associated with calling a new pastor. Thank you for your continued prayers and contributions as we move forward.

STEWARDSHIP

Giving Status: How You Can Help

At year end, we gave a few examples of how to eliminate the deficit. Those examples were by family unit. And we know all family units do not have the same giving capacity.

But what if we supposed there were 13 months in 2016? What if each family unit gave one additional months offering? As an example, a family unit contributes \$100 a month for 12 months for a total of \$1,200 for the year. If that same unit would contribute an additional \$100 in 2016, they would contribute \$1,300 for the year or an average of \$108.33 each month. Based on the monthly average of \$26,539.25 shown above, if each family were able to do this, we would eliminate the deficit and your church would have additional money to work with. At the same time, you could be anticipating your stewardship pledge for next year. Just a little something for all of us to think about.



“One Thing You Lack,” by Rex Quadhamer

“One thing you lack,” Jesus said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”
Mark 10:21

What is it that we like to hold on to? The things we can't give to Jesus because they're ours? When it comes to investing our gifts from God (our time, our talents, or our possessions), we often think of our comfort level and not our faith level! However, Jesus talks about a different kind of investing: that of investing your life.

This passage in Mark 10 tells about a rich young man who wanted to know how to how to get eternal life. Jesus' answer shocked those listening. What? Sell everything he had? And give to who? Why would Jesus ask him to do that? Because Jesus knew that the man loved his earthly treasure more than his heavenly treasure.

In verses 28-31, Jesus says that those who give up something to follow him will receive a hundred times what they gave up. That is a great return on your investment. In comparison, if you invest your money and get a 10-12 % return, you're doing pretty well. Jesus tells us to give up everything in order to receive a hundred times that much in return. Investing your life in Jesus is a sure thing.

This is not a “prosperity gospel” promising that God will make you rich. This verse tells us of blessings in the form of “treasures in heaven” (God's love). Many times, our blessings come from *giving* rather than getting. Whether it is money, time, or possessions that we give God, we cannot out-give Him. He will always bless you with more than you give.



***“Store up for yourselves treasures
in heaven, where moth & rust do
not destroy, & where thieves do not
break in and steal.”***

Matthew 6:20

MEN'S NEWS CORNER

Family Fun Day

Mark Saturday, July 30 on your calendars!

The Men's Group has reserved a picnic shelter at Mahoney State Park for July 30. We are sponsoring a day for families to come out and enjoy all the activities at Mahoney. We will have a meal in the late afternoon or evening at the picnic shelter. More information will come your way soon!



Men's Softball Team

As of May 16, the softball team has one win, one loss and three rainouts. So rain is winning. When it stops raining on Monday evenings, watch us play at Kelley Softball complex (124th and Fort) on Field 5 (last one along the entrance road) or Field 8 (the field closest to Fort Street). We go out for pizza after 6:30 p.m. games and anyone is welcome to join us.

If you are interested in playing on the team or have questions, contact Don Rowen at 402.965.8977 or drowen@unomaha.edu.

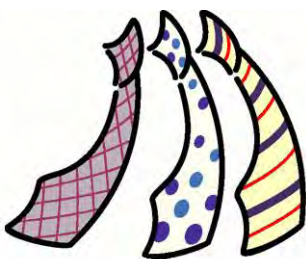
Remaining Schedule for Softball

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| June 13 | 7:30 p.m. at Kelley 5 |
| June 20 | 6:30 p.m. at Kelley 5—Pizza |
| June 27 | 9:30 p.m. at Kelley 5 |
| July 11 | 6:30 p.m. at Kelley 5—Pizza |
| July 18 | 8:30 p.m. at Kelley 5 |
| July 25 | Makeup of Rainout |
| August 1 | Makeup of Rainout |

WOMEN OF LOVE

Father's Day Breakfast

The Women's Team will prepare and serve breakfast for Father's Day on **Sunday, June 19** after the 9 a.m. service. **All fathers eat free!**



Join us for a fun time by dusting off and wearing your favorite tie/bow tie. Prizes will be awarded for the most colorful, unique, oldest, etc., ties worn. Men: If you choose not to wear a tie, please slip one in your pocket to share with friends at your table during breakfast. Thanks!

Bible Study Reunion Reminder

Years ago, we had only one "Gather" Bible study. Originally, the group met in a fast food pizza restaurant called "The Snappy Tomato." It closed and a Chinese restaurant filled the space, the Hong Hing, or as Karen Armitage called it, "The Snappy Snow Pea."

After the one group became two groups, we have had periodic reunions. Well, it's time to have another reunion!

All women are invited to meet at Hong Hing, 90th and Fort in the Plaza North shopping center, at **6 p.m. on Monday, June 6.**

WOMEN OF LOVE

Half-Day "Gather" Bible Study Retreat

The date for the half-day "Gather" Bible retreat at Deb Lund's house on **Saturday, August 13, 2016** has been finalized. The start time will be 8:45 a.m., with rolls served first. The study will begin at 9 a.m. At noon, we will have a potluck salad luncheon.



Save the Date: Night out by Candlelight

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 5**. The Nurture Committee and the Women's Team will be coordinating an Adult Fellowship function, entitled "Night Out by Candlelight", in lieu of the traditional Fall Festival event.

If you are willing to help, please contact Rose Roberts at dougroberts@cox.net. More details will follow in September.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Antoinette Anania (cousin of Deb Lund)
Dick Bell
Connie Bennett (cousin of Karen Armitage)
Syd Brinkman
Patricia Connolly (friend of the Thoms')
Elizabeth (student of Carol Novak)
Sgt. Dean & Erin Hansen (Delina Wiater's son & his wife)
Jan Hughes (aunt of Paula Foster)
Kristen Kuhn (friend of Todd & Lisa Meyer)
Izzy Lightle (relative of Kim Gust)
Lisa Lueders (sister-in-law of Dave Lueders);
Vi Neu (stepmother of Carol Novak)
Don St. Ours (brother-in-law of Lynda McGraw)
Cynthia Palmer (friend of Dave & Lisa Rieff)
Dave Piehl & Dan Piehl (brothers of Deb Lund)
Pauline Shaffer

Nancy Shinrock
Georgene Sones (mother of Dayla Miller)
Brenda Thom
Nancy Thoman (stepmother of Ann Kroll)
Pam Todd
Steve Wiitala, (friend of Karen Mullen)
Ted Whitfield (former co-worker of Brian Shinrock)
Caregivers and those who suffer with depression.
Those seeking employment

Those Who Mourn

The family of friends of Charles Meyer, father of Pastor Brad Meyer

Those Who Are Deployed

Steve Slone

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.

LOVE NOTES

We wish to express our deepest thanks and appreciation for the many prayers, cards, memorials, and expressions of sympathy shown to us at the death of Charles Meyer; our husband and father. We are truly grateful for your support and care.

Peace,
Myrna, Kim and Pastor Brad Meyer

