



The Love Letter

Volume 42

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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

Can it be February already? Didn't 2014 just begin? As we look ahead to the second month of the year, consider the opportunities to be involved in worship, education, fellowship, and outreach at Lord of Love!

On Sunday, February 9, Lord of Love will host a **blood drive for the American Red Cross**. There is still time to sign up to donate (see page 9, Outreach)! Also on February 9, we will have our **Semi-annual Congregational Meeting** following the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

If your family is looking for something to do this month, consider attending **Family Game Night** at Carol Joy Holling Camp near Ashland on Friday, February 21 (see page 6, Nurture).

The Junior and Senior High youth will hold their **winter lock-in**, including a Minute to Win It competition, on Saturday, February 8 through Sunday, February 9. In addition, Junior and Senior High girls will meet on Wednesday, February 12, to plan their upcoming **"It's a Girl Thing" lock-in** (see page 7, LOL Youth).

The women of Lord of Love are invited to attend the **Lutheran Women of Omaha luncheon** at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church on Tuesday, February 11 (see page 13, Women of Love).

Finally, the men of Lord of Love have two events planned in February. The **Baptismal Box Build** will be held at a date and time to be announced. On Saturday, February 22, men are invited to attend the **Nebraska Lutheran Men in Mission annual gathering** in Lincoln (see page 12, Men's News Corner).

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Pray for Peace by Pastor Brad Meyer

In recent days, several news stories have tragically reported people being randomly shot or targeted by acts of violence in Omaha and other cities across the country. It troubles my heart to hear about a young child being killed by a stray bullet while innocently eating breakfast at the kitchen table or others being gunned down while simply shopping in a grocery store or waiting to start their school day.

I have a difficult time understanding how, in many situations, humanity has lost an ability to find peaceful solutions by talking through a situation rather than reverting to acts of violence. Some may struggle with emotional and mental issues that cause them to act in violent ways while others have been raised in unhealthy systems that include violence. No matter the situation, we pray for solutions.



I'm not writing this reflection trying to solve the problem for which there is no simple solution but rather to express that just as we are upset and saddened about this human condition that plagues us, so is God.

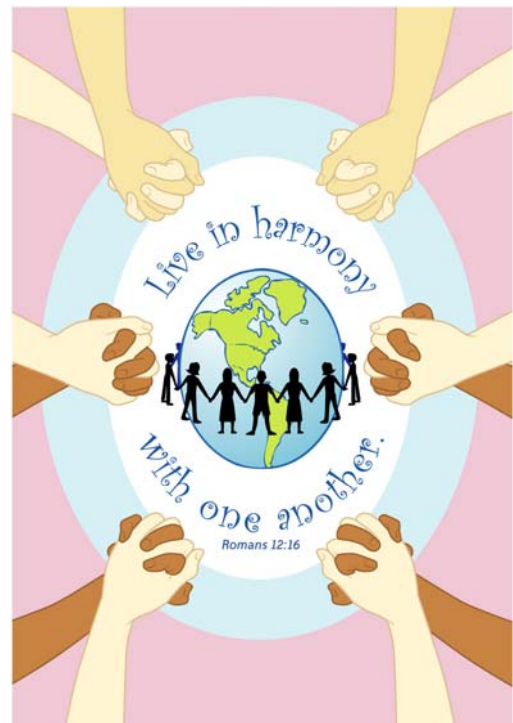
God's desire for us is to show compassion for one another. God's hope for us is that we not follow or get caught up in the things of this world, but rather do the things of God by showing love and forgiveness.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Colossians 3:12-13

We are in the midst of the season of Epiphany, when Jesus is revealed to us as the Son of God, the Light of the World, the Bringer of Peace. Jesus modeled for us compassion, love, and forgiveness, and Paul wrote about clothing ourselves with these attributes. This means that in all areas of life, we are to imitate the characteristics of Christ.

My prayer is that we don't miss the opportunity to share these attributes in all circumstances of our life and that we boldly proclaim the desire for peace.

May prayers of peace abound!
Pastor Brad



MONTHLY CALENDAR

February 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
2 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 6:00pm Bell Rehearsal	3 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	4 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Vision & Coordination Mtg.	5 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm "Gather" Bible Study 6:00pm High School Bible Study 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:50pm Jr. Choir 7:15pm Sr. Choir	6 9:30am Text Study at Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	7 7:30pm AA Meeting	8 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 7:00pm Youth Lock-in
9 Blood Drive 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 11:30am Annual Mtg 6:00pm Bell Rehearsal	10 6:30pm Cub Scout Leaders 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	11	12 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Ministry Team Mtg. 6:00pm High School Bible Study 6:50pm Jr. Choir 7:15pm Sr. Choir	13 9:30am Text Study at Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	14 7:30pm AA Meeting	15 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 12:00pm Matinee Music Club
16 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 6:00pm Bell Rehearsal	17 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	18 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Church Council Mtg.	19 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm High School Bible Study 6:50pm Jr. Choir 7:15pm Sr. Choir	20 9:30am Text Study at Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	21 7:30pm AA Meeting	22 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 9:00am Sanctuary reserved for Novak 12:00pm Blue & Gold Banquet
23 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 1:00pm Eagle Scout Ceremony 6:00pm Bell Rehearsal	24 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	25	26 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm High School Bible Study 6:00pm Brass 6:50pm Jr. Choir 7:15pm Sr. Choir	27 9:30am Text Study at Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	28 7:30pm AA Meeting	

WORSHIP

Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23
Greeters				
8:00 a.m.	Doug and Rose Roberts	Paul and Sue Dieter	Caroline Tessin	Jesse and Pat Brewer
10:30 a.m.	E.J. Shaner, Lynda McGraw	Dan and Ruth Manning	Paul and Ann Kroll	Paul and Traci Cadwallader
Liturgist				
8:00 a.m.	David Hild	Paul Christenson	Matthew Garder	Jesse Brewer
10:30 a.m.	Heather Christensen	Karen Mullen	Ruth Manning	Claudia Rowen
Communion Servers				
8:00 a.m.	Tessin family	Anne Yarger, Brandon and Heather Hansen	Garder family	Brian and Connie Walther
10:30 a.m.	Quackenbush family	Paul and Ann Kroll, Jane Hawkins	Ruth Manning, Karen Mullen	Rowen family
Altar Care				
8:00 a.m.	Ed and Marjorie Keiser	Cathy Aden, Sue Dieter	Connie Walther, Lisa Meyer	Janet Guthrie, Nancy Shinrock
10:30 a.m.	Rowen family	Nicole Quackenbush, E.J. Shaner	Karen Anderson, Mardi Fiske	Paul and Ann Kroll
Ushers				
8:00 a.m.	Joe, Jason, and Josh Combes			
10:30 a.m.	Dave Lueders, Adam Lueders, Lynnette Nore, and Chris Boarts			
Nursery Attendant				
10:30 a.m.	Kylie Kulp	Anne Yarger	Lisa Rieff	Ashley Meier
CD Recorder				
8:00 or 10:30	Pat Brewer	Paul Christenson	Dave Lueders	Paul Murphy



Donuts!

There are many openings to either pick up donuts on Sunday mornings between 7:30 and 9:00 a.m. or to clean up coffee cups and pots after Sunday School. Please sign up on the calendars on the donut table.



Lenten Soup Suppers Begin March 5



It's that time again to sign up to provide a delicious and nutritious soup supper during Lent. Lenten Soup

Suppers begin on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2014.

Gather your friends and family, and volunteer to set up, serve, and clean up before one of our Wednesday evening Lenten worship services. Please arrive by 5:00 p.m.; dinner starts at 5:30 p.m. Thank you for supporting Lord of Love fellowship!

A freewill offering will be collected to reimburse your expenses. This year, the proceeds from Lenten Soup Suppers will be designated along with other Lenten and Easter offerings to be divided equally for Food Bank for the Heartland and Table Grace Café.

Junior Choir

The Junior Choir will practice on Wednesdays, February 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 6:50 to 7:20 p.m. If you have questions, please call Jane Hawkins at 402-343-1680.

Cookbook Sale!

SALE! SALE! Now's the time to stock up on Lord of Love cookbooks for weddings, showers, graduations, etc. Loaded with nearly 670 delicious recipes, they make a wonderful gift for any occasion. Originally sold for \$18, they are now \$12 each or 2 for \$20, 3 for \$30, etc. Cookbooks are at the Information Center in the narthex. Please make your checks out to LOL W/ELCA and place them in the basket marked "Cookbooks."



Bowling for Jesus



It's coming! Watch for announcements for the annual "Bowling for Jesus" family event.

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

Family Game Night

You're invited to Family Game Night at Carol Joy Holling Camp! Family Game Night will be held on Friday, February 21, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Holling House.

Come out to camp and enjoy a night with family and friends. We'll have chili and cinnamon rolls for dinner, followed by some quality time with your family playing favorite board games. There will even be some fun activities led by a few members of the Summer Ministry Team.



The cost for this event is \$4 per person; kids 3 and under are free. Sign up as a church group or individual families. RSVP at www.caroljoyholling.org so we know how many are coming. We'll take payments at the door! If you have questions, contact Kelsey Rabel at krabel@nlom.org.

Carol Joy Holling Camp – Summer Camp Information Available Now!

Carol Joy Holling Summer Camp information is here! Look for brochures in the narthex or check out www.nlom.org.



We are so lucky to have a wonderful summer ministry camp just a short drive from Omaha! Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, a serving arm of the ELCA, has many opportunities for our youth and families this summer at Camp Carol Joy Holling in Ashland, NE.

Various camp sessions are available from June 1 through July 20. Students in grades 1 through 12 can choose from several camp sites and experiences. Campership Scholarships are available for our youth; speak to Pastor Brad for more information.

There are camp experiences for families, for students and a grandparent, and for K-2nd graders and a special adult.

New this year:

- Beneath the Stars Night Camp for 6th–8th graders, June 29-July 1
- Explore the Black Hills for 9th–12th graders, June 22-27

Are you a college-aged youth interested in serving on the Summer Ministry Team? Check out www.nlom.org for more information and an application. You can also talk to Pastor Brad or Adam Lueders about their experiences at camp.

2014 Theme: Rock On!

John 16:33 "I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!"



Winter Lock-in: Minute to Win It

Our Junior and Senior High Youth Winter Lock-In will be held from Saturday, February 8 at 7:00 p.m. to Sunday, February 9 at 9:00 a.m. We will have a Minute to Win It competition filled with nonsense competitive games. Bragging rights and a trophy are up for grabs!

Senior High is responsible for coordinating and providing the evening's devotion. Please bring your sleeping gear, a snack to share, and your Nerf accessories. Fresh-baked cinnamon rolls will be served for breakfast, and we'll attend church as a group at 8:00 a.m.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

- Minute to Win It Competition: Emcee, challenge coordinators, and judge
- Overnight Chaperone



"It's a Girl Thing" Lock-in

Save the date! Back by popular demand, our "It's a Girl Thing" Lock-In will be held Saturday, March 29 through Sunday, March 30! Junior and Senior High Girls are invited to join us for a night of bonding and fun.



Youth volunteers are needed for planning, and adult volunteers are needed for activities, devotions, and chaperones. A planning meeting will be held on Wednesday February 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the children's Sunday School area.

Contact Miss Heather with questions at 402-206-9205.



January Youth Event Recap by Heather Christensen



On January 12, we had 12 of our youth come and spend the afternoon at the church for Cocoa, Cookies, and Games. The sun peeked out for a bit and the temps were mild, so a game of Basketball and Snowballs was played by several. A few other games entertained us, but the highlight seemed to be a game called "Heads Up" that was an "App" on a cell phone. It was a hoot to see the kids describing or doing charades for everything from movies to state capitals. So now we have a game on the go and can be entertained at any time. Thanks for once again teaching me something I could do with my fancy phone, and thanks to all who participated and brought yummy cookies. We'll see you at our next event!

Nebraska Synod Middle School Gathering by Heather Christensen

Lord of Love sponsored and sent 12 middle school youth and 2 adults to the Nebraska Synod's Middle School Gathering on January 18 and 19. This was an amazing response and attendance from the youth in our congregation!

The theme of the weekend was from Micah 6:8 – Do. Love. Walk....Do Justice, Love with Kindness, and Walk Humbly with God. Our youth joined 230 other middle schoolers from across Nebraska at Bethany Lutheran in Elkhorn for a weekend of service, fun, and worship.

We had the opportunity to go to Sunridge Village Retirement Community and clean their parking garage as well as sanitize hand railings and door knobs throughout the facility. We visited with several residents and

Continued on the next page

Nebraska Synod Middle School Gathering, continued



made a new friend in resident Millie. The youth really enjoyed this opportunity. They saw how their efforts could positively impact others and how it made them feel good about how they spent their time.

Other activities included workshops focusing on the three parts of the theme. Do (Justice) workshops included guest speakers from Mosaic and Table Grace Café, and synod missionaries Erin and Josh Branchaud in Grand Bourg, Argentina, via Skype.

Love (Kindness) workshops challenged us to consider how we can love others and in turn ourselves by standing up for each other, by filling another's bucket, by being the friend to the new kid. A poignant example of a clementine was used: we each carefully observed a clementine, noticing all the things that made our own clementine different and identifiable, but when we peeled the clementine and put them all in a basket, they became more difficult to distinguish...because we are all very similar on the inside, and we are ALL children of God and loved by God regardless of our differences. We are all the same and are called to love one another.

Walk (humbly with God) activities showed us that we can't always do things by ourselves. We need others. And we don't do things for others to receive the glory or recognition. Walking humbly is doing the right thing because it is right and not because of what we receive.

We were able to worship at Resurrection Lutheran in Gretna. While it was interesting to experience a contemporary worship service, it was interesting to hear the youth's impressions. A few liked the band and the screens that displayed all of the music and prayers. Others missed seeing people they knew and being welcomed; they missed their church family!

We had fun, too! The YMCA hosted our group swimming, and we were showing our dance moves (or lack of) at the dance party. I think we will all remember the sing-along in the van, with all 14 of us in one vehicle singing our hearts out to the radio.



It was a joy and a blessing to be a part of this event with our middle schoolers. Thanks for entrusting them with us on this trip. Special thanks and shout out to Nick Olson for accompanying us. He was amazing with the kids and kept me laughing and smiling! ~Miss Heather



Attendees at the Middle School Gathering:

Abel Avalos, Haley Martinez, Emily Rodriguez, Cheyenne Rashad, Abby Rieff, Nick Olson, Angel Todd, Emily Quackenbush, Aaron Edwards, Kristen Maddox, Audra VanArsdale, Miss Heather, Owen VanArsdale, Jessica Yarger

OUTREACH

Blood Drive

Please join us at our upcoming blood drive at Lord of Love on Sunday, February 9, 2014, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. To schedule an appointment, visit www.redcrossblood.org and search sponsor code 0092657 or call 1-800-RED CROSS. You may also sign up at church. Your blood donation is needed and appreciated!



Fair Trade Coffee and Tea

CLOSE OUT SALE on Fair Trade Coffee and Tea! All bags of coffee are now \$5.00 and boxes of tea bags are \$3. Please place your checks made out to LOL W/ELCA in the basket on the Fair Trade cart.



Mission Possible Update

The Mission Possible Team reviewed recent survey results to designate Lenten soup supper offerings, Wednesday night Lenten offerings, and Easter offerings equally to two organizations that serve the hungry in Omaha: **Food Bank for the Heartland** and **Table Grace Café**. Throughout this winter season, the need for pantry items is constant, so thanks in advance for your generosity in helping those who need food. Table Grace Café continues to feed lunches to many people who are in need. They also provide a music ministry and train some who are interested in restaurant work. More full-paying customers are needed to provide funds to serve the majority who cannot pay what the lunches cost. So, in addition to giving generously, consider going out for a delicious lunch at Table Grace Café, 1611 ½ Farnam, which is open Monday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Another way we help the hungry is by routinely collecting food and clothing items for **Project Hope** (in the Information Center in the Narthex). Thanks to Gary Ramsay, who delivers the items regularly. In addition, thanks to those who work so very hard in our community garden. We provide many pounds of fresh vegetables to the pantries at Project Hope and First Lutheran Church and to Table Grace Café throughout the growing season. The pantry items and garden produce are visible signs of love for others.

Summer breakfast monies will go to **Lutheran Family Services' Centers for Healthy Families**, particularly for play therapy programs for young children.



ELCA Global Links

Central African Republic: ELCA increases aid

Through Lutheran Disaster Response, the ELCA has added \$50,000 to its commitment of \$250,000 to help those affected by the violence in the Central African Republic. See www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/7638.

Also see www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/7637 for a report on a letter sent from ELCA leaders to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry expressing concern for “the grave state of human insecurity in the Central African Republic.” And for a first-hand account of the violence, see the blog entry from ELCA missionaries June and Phillip Nelson at www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/blogs/HandInHand/403.



Tanzania: Water, precious water

In some places in the world, such as the semi-arid regions of Tanzania, life revolves around getting water. Fetching water can consume much of a day, and too often the water isn't clean. ELCA missionaries in Tanzania, Joe and Deborah Troester, are working to help change that. See www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/blogs/HandInHand/404.

The Holy Land: Life as a member of the 2 percent

Bethlehem at Christmas may seem like the perfect place to celebrate the birth of Christ. But Christians comprise less than 2 percent of the area's population, and “It is, at times, a lonely place to find oneself, particularly at Christmastime,” write ELCA missionaries Martin and Angela Zimmann. See www.ELCA.org/Living-Lutheran/Blogs/2013/12/123113-Life-as-a-member-of-the-2-percent.

China: ELCA walks hand in hand with Chinese Christians

The Protestant church in China is growing fast in both urban and rural areas. More Chinese are in church on a given Sunday than in all of Europe. For recent photos of how the ELCA accompanies the growing church in China, see www.ELCA.org/Living-Lutheran/Photos and scroll down to the December 16 post.

Expanding global ministries through relationships

The ELCA has long-standing relationships with Lutheran churches around the world. Every year, we respond to requests from our global companions for financial support to expand their ministries—to start new congregations, extend youth outreach, and train pastors and evangelists. Together, we achieve these things on a scale and scope we could never do alone. Read more at www.ELCA.org/globalministries.

Bangladesh: Ministries with the vulnerable

Quality health care and economic development for the most vulnerable plus clean water and disaster relief are priorities in this predominately Muslim country whose small Christian minority includes two Lutheran churches. See <http://search.ELCA.org/Pages/OurWork/Bangladesh.aspx>.

Mexico: Support and follow Young Adults in Global Mission!

Six young adults are serving for a year with children, youth, and migrants and in community development and environmental education. Learn more and make a gift to support them at <https://community.ELCA.org/mexico>. Or email globalchurch@elca.org to request a profile and list of their blogs.

Egypt: Support and connect with a new missionary!

The Rev. Michael Parker helps develop future leaders for the church in this Middle East country through his work at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo. Request a profile of him at globalchurch@elca.org or make an online gift and learn more about ELCA engagement in Egypt at <https://community.ELCA.org/Egypt>.

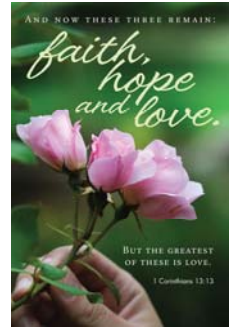
RESOURCES

Stewardship by Deb Lund

And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.
1 Corinthians 13:13

If the “greatest of these is love,” then we must do what we can to show that love to others. This love is care for our neighbor and ourselves.

Showing love for others is God’s desire for us to minister to each other and ourselves. Actions are stronger than words. Jesus said himself in Matthew 25.35, *For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.*



By giving what we can and should financially, we are able to support ministry that provides food, clothing, shelter, health care, and education to those in need. By giving of our time to Lord of Love and/or to organizations that assist folks in some way, we demonstrate God’s love to others. By eating well, exercising, taking time for rest and recreation, and spending time with God each day, we are caring for ourselves. Keeping our bodies, souls, and minds healthy and better able to do what we can to serve others is good stewardship and allows us to use our gifts to show love to others. We are to be models of Christ, striving to do the best that we can to share the gifts that we’ve been given.

Stewardship is  WORK

CHURCH COUNCIL

2014 Lord of Love Church Council

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

Nurture: Paula Foster, Lisa Willard

Outreach: Karen Anderson, Mardi Fiske

Resources: Paul Concannon, Rex Quadhamer

Worship: Kathy Christiansen, Joan Witt



Men's Ministry Events

Some are old and some are new, and the only thing they each need is YOU.

A WEEKLY ongoing event is our Men's Breakfast Ministry. Men gather for breakfast and spiritual study every Saturday morning at 7:00 in Lord of Love's kitchen and fellowship hall. All men are welcome and are invited to share their faith and grow with support of their fellow men.

February

TBD – **Baptismal Box Build event.** January saw the preliminary production of the Baptismal Box Build begin. The opportunity to share in this important project and in fellowship will be available in February. Watch for more information and sign-up sheets.



February 22 – The **Nebraska Lutheran Men in Mission annual gathering** will be held at Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church, 5801 NW 1st Street, Ste 2, Lincoln, NE 68521. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m., and the meeting concludes with a 3:30 p.m. sending service. Aside from the business meeting, the agenda includes the election of new state officers and nominees for Nebraska delegates to the National LMM 2014 conference. Contact any member of the Men's Breakfast Ministry for more information, including car pooling.

April

April 18 – The annual **24-hour prayer vigil event and Men's Ministry fundraiser** will begin after the Good Friday evening church service and will continue until Saturday morning. This gathering is traditionally held at Paul and Deb Christenson's home and concludes when the last person completes their 30 minute prayer slot in the overnight prayer vigil at the church. Plan to join us in this fundraising and fellowship event.

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. You will 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 once again this year. 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

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS / SAVE THE DATE



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

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

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

WOMEN OF LOVE

Secret Angels

Ladies, if you would like to participate in the Secret Angel program, please pick up the sign-up form at the Information Center in the Narthex. Descriptive information is on the first page of the form. Please fill out the second sheet (do not separate the sheets), and place it in the Secret Angel box by Sunday, February 2. Your secret angel information will be placed in your church mailbox by February 9. Any questions? Contact Ruth Manning at 402-451-0221.

Lutheran Women of Omaha

Who or what is Lutheran Women of Omaha? Lutheran Women of Omaha was established in 1948, with the first luncheon being held at the Elks Club. One hundred fifteen women representing 25 churches were present that day. Each church is asked to appoint a Key Lady, who publicizes the monthly meetings and takes meeting reservations for her church. Ruth Manning is Lord of Love's Key Lady, and she has been a member of the organization for a year.

Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month, except July and August, and are hosted at a local Lutheran church. The noon luncheon is preceded with devotions and followed by a program and a short business meeting. Lunch is served for \$6.00.

A variety of programs are presented, including speakers, missionaries, films, travelogues, music, etc. Each month, the Board selects an organization to receive a monetary donation and, at certain times, tangible donations. A table offering is collected to cover the expenses of office supplies, stamps, printing, etc., incurred by the Board.

I'd like to invite other Lord of Love women to join me at the next meeting. You can come as a visitor, and if you decide to join, membership is an affordable \$3 a year.

The February meeting is on Tuesday, February 11, at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church, 2650 Farnam. The speaker is Brian Bogdanoff, author of *Three Bodies Burning*, and the mission project is "Katie's Fund," an endowment fund of Church-wide Women of the ELCA. If you'd like to attend, please contact Ruth Manning at 402-451-0221 or cranecoffeechick@gmail.com.

Gather Bible Study

Who was the Woman of Endor? Our Bible study author identifies her as a seer and communicator. The February study is based on the theme verse, "Then Saul said to his servants, 'Seek out for me a woman who is a medium, so that I may go to her and inquire of her.' His servants said to him, 'There is a medium at Endor.'" I Samuel 28:7.

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

Ladies Coffee Fellowship

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



Women's Ministry Team

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



Epiphany Luncheon

Thanks to the Monday evening *Gather* Bible study group for hosting the Epiphany luncheon on January 5. The tables were beautiful, and as usual, our women brought delicious food for the potluck.



Cheryl Murray, Development Officer and Guild Liaison for Lutheran Family Services, enlightened us on the mission of the Center for Healthy Families. The ladies in attendance brought “birthday gifts for Jesus,” which were given to the Center for Healthy Families. We presented Cheryl with a Lord of Love cookbook in appreciation for her participation.

Shawn Lorenzen led the revealing of the 2013 Secret Angels, and Ruth Manning distributed the forms for 2014 secret angels.

Triennial Gathering: Staying in the Know

Are you getting excited about traveling to Charlotte, NC, in six months? Of course you are! Spend some time between now and then getting to know Charlotte better. Here are a few tips.

Visit *Today's Charlotte Woman* magazine on the web (where you can read the current issue) or on Facebook. Get to know some of the more interesting aspects of the city and its shops.



Visit *Charlotte Magazine* online, with restaurant reviews, news of the city and its residents, and much more.

Definitely check out the tourism site for Charlotte with its things to do section, maps, and deals.

And for some little known facts about Charlotte, hop on over to the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce site.

Dates to Remember

February

3	6:00 p.m.	<i>Gather</i> Bible Study, Village Inn near Oak View Mall
4	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
5	6:00 p.m.	<i>Gather</i> Bible Study, Mary Room
11	Noon	Lutheran Women of Omaha, Kountze Memorial, Omaha
12	6:00 p.m.	Ministry Team Meeting, Mary Room
14	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77 th and Cass
18	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
28	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77 th and Cass



Women of the ELCA

Looking Ahead

March 1, 2014	Metro East Spring Gathering, St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Omaha, NE
May 9-10, 2014	Annual Women's Retreat, St. Benedict's Retreat Center, Schuyler, NE
July 22-24, 2014	Ninth Triennial Convention of the Women of the ELCA, Charlotte, NC
July 24-27, 2014	Ninth Triennial Gathering of the Women of the ELCA, Charlotte, NC
September 13, 2014	Autumn Renewal, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Lincoln, NE



Come and Celebrate our oneness in Christ, Our Savior! Bring your mother, daughter, granddaughter, sister, cousin, aunt, or friend and join us for a day of fun and festivities: Be inspired by St Michael's Bell Choir, liturgical dance, and hear wonderful organ music. Enjoy a lovely luncheon. In the afternoon, exercise with dance, sing songs popular in many lands, be creative decorating Caring Kits for RSafe, a program for abused children. Hear how Rev. Dr. David Defreese started his ministry at Bethphage Mission. Find out about Raising Healthy Families, and learn where to volunteer in the Omaha Area!



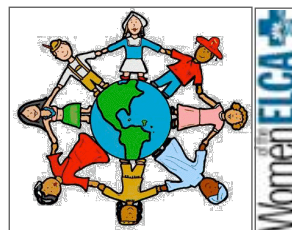
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NSWO Spring Gathering - Women of the ELCA

St. Michael Lutheran Church

13232 Blondo Street

Omaha, Nebraska 68164



YOU ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST



NSWO Metro East

Spring Gathering

MARCH 1, 2014

ST MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
13232 BLONDO OMAHA, NE 68164



YOU ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST

**MARCH 1st, 2014
NSWO METRO EAST
SPRING GATHERING**

**St Michael Lutheran Church
13232 Blondo St, Omaha, Nebr.**

8:30 COFFEE/VIEW DISPLAYS

8:45 GATHERING MUSIC

9:00 OPENING DEVOTION
BIBLE STUDY

10:00 BUSINESS MEETING

12:00 LUNCHEON

1:00 WORKSHOPS

2:00 WORKSHOPS

3:00 CLOSING DEVOTIONS

Galatians 3:28 For you are all one in Christ..

MARCH 1, METRO EAST SPRING GATHERING

YOU ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

One in Christ Learning to Care
Rev. Dr. David DeFreese

One in Christ Assembling RSafe Care Kits
Decorate Bags for LFS 's RSafe Program

One in Christ Through Music
Join in, Sing Music from Around the World!

One in Christ as We Care for Others
Community Alliance, Ideas for Volunteering

One in Christ as We Learn to Praise
Experience Christian music in movement/dance

One in Christ Raising up Healthy Families
Learn About a Great LFS Program

**PLEASE HELP US COLLECT
ITEMS for RSafe CARING KITS
LFS Program for Abused Children**

Monetary Donations
Packets of Tea, Hot Chocolate, Hot
Cider and Bottles of Water
Healthy Snack: Nuts, Dried Fruit, and
Crackers
Stress Ball, Bubbles, Sidewalk Chalk
Chapstick, Lotion, Bubble Bath
Cuddle Bubble Fleece to make 6 inch
square pillows

REGISTRATION FORM NSWO Metro East Spring Gathering YOU ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST MARCH 1, St Michael Lutheran

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____

STATE_____ZIP_____

CHURCH_____

DIETARY CONCERNS_____

CHILDCARE NEEDED_____



REGISTRATION FEE \$18 per person

DUE BY 24th FEBRUARY

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Send registration and check to:

JoAnn Rohrs NSWO Treasurer:

1409 10th St

Auburn, NE 68305

IN OUR PRAYERS & LOVE NOTES

In Our Prayers

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

Karen Pickens
David Pippin (nephew of Lynda McGraw)
Chuck Santori (friend of the Egrs)
Jo Schafer (friend of Brenda Mac)
Isaac Schroeder
Jill Sheridan (sister-in-law of Rebecca Lund Sheridan)
Don St. Ours (brother-in-law of Lynda McGraw)
Jeanna Steppuhn (niece of the Shinrocks)
Brenda Thom
Roslynn Thom (sister of Ron Thom)
Jean Trout (mother of Jeri Morgan)
Alice VanHoosen (friend of Judy Egr)
Bill Wallway (uncle of Kenn Garder)
Ted Whitfield (former co-worker of Brian Shinrock)

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

Those who suffer with depression
Children waiting to be adopted & those seeking
to adopt
Men's servant ministry
Stephen Ministers and their care receivers
Those seeking employment
Those who mourn

If you would like to add a name to the In Our Prayers section of *The Love Letter*, please contact the office at 402.493.2946, send an email to marylou@lord-of-love.org, 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

February 8-9	Youth Lock-in (Minute to Win It)
February 9	Blood Drive at Lord of Love Semi-annual Congregational Meeting
February 11	Lutheran Women of Omaha luncheon at Kountze Memorial
February 12	Planning meeting for Jr. & Sr. High Girls Lock-in
February 21	Family Game Night at CJH
February 22	Nebraska Lutheran Men in Mission annual gathering

Upcoming Events

March 1	Women's NSW Metro East Spring Gathering
March 5	Ash Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers begin
March 29-30	Jr. & Sr. High Girls Lock-in
April 18-19	Good Friday prayer vigil and Men's Ministry fundraiser
April 20	Easter Sunday
April 25-26	Men in the Outdoors retreat at CJH

Articles for The Love Letter can be submitted to the editor, Kim Gust, in the Love Letter mailbox at church or by email at loveletter@lord-of-love.org. Articles must be received by the Love Letter editor by the 20th of the month.