



The Love Letter

Volume 41

May 2013

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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

With the cool weather we've had this spring, it's hard to believe that summer could be near. This May, our 2012-2013 program year comes to a close, and preparation for summer activities at Lord of Love is underway.

As we end our program year this spring, please note the following dates:

- May 1 – last Wednesday night supper
- May 5 – Confirmation Sunday
- May 19 – last day of Sunday school

With summer around the corner, planning for **Vacation Bible School** has begun. A planning meeting for all volunteers will be held on Wednesday, May 1 (see page 6, Nurture).

Our **summer worship schedule**—one worship service at 9:00 a.m.—will begin on May 26. Those interested in being **liturgists or communion servers this summer** or providing **special music** can sign up in the Narthex (see page 4, Worship).

Accompanying our summer worship services are our weekly **summer breakfasts** (see page 5, Nurture). The proceeds from this year's summer breakfasts will go to the **ELCA Malaria Campaign** (see page 8, Outreach).

Finally, plans are underway for Lord of Love's participation in the ELF Coalition for **Habitat for Humanity** and for planting and tending our **Lord of Love community garden** (see page 8, Outreach).

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Servanthood!?! by Pastor Brad

I recently read the following from *The Volunteer Revolution* by Bill Hybels, which gave me a moment of pause:

Most of us want to live lives of purpose. We want to give ourselves to a worthy cause. But years of bombardment by the messages of a self-serving culture have confused us. *Indulge yourself. Fulfill your desires. Sate your appetites. Pursue pleasure. It's all about you.*

Given such messages, it's easy to understand our fear that investing time and energy into serving God and others will diminish our lives. What will really happen, we wonder, if we leave the comfort of the spectator stands and get dirty on the playing fields of servanthood? Won't we be busier than ever and have to work even harder...without a compensating increase in our bank accounts? And if so, does that make sense?

If I commit myself to serving, we ask, will I end up enjoying it or dreading it? Will life really be more fulfilling? Or just more draining? Will it help me grow spiritually or might the extra demands actually weaken my spiritual life? Why should I sign up for this? Will it really be worth it?

This way of thinking or attitude has been around forever. It is human nature for us to think of ourselves first. "What will benefit me?" But Jesus turned things upside down! He challenged the self-serving values of the religious and political authorities of his day by calling people to serve others before themselves. Jesus put forth a radical call to serve God and others.

Jesus said in Mark 8:34-35, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it." It is

quite a challenge to constantly think of putting the needs of others before our own. This mind set certainly goes against the norm of our society, but yet it is what Jesus calls us to do.

So, take on the challenge of our faith. Be the one who opens the door for others. Choose the back seat of the car so your friend can sit in the front. Take out the garbage even though it's not usually your job. Volunteer to stack the chairs after a meeting,...the list goes on. Help turn the world upside down!

I started writing this article on Monday, April 15, prior to the bombs going off at the Boston Marathon. My heart sank as news traveled about those injured and killed in the blast. Yet, in the moments after the blast, I noticed the numerous people who ran toward those who were injured to give assistance. In the midst of chaos, there was compassion.

Today, this quote was shown to me by Mary Lou:

Fred Rogers often told this story about when he was a boy and would see scary things on the news: "My mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.' To this day, especially in times of disaster, I remember my mother's words, and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers – so many caring people in this world."

Even as "society" tells us to look out for ourselves, we absolutely saw the good in people in the midst of the bad.

Jesus calls us to be the caring people in the world—not only during a tragedy, but each day and in all circumstances. That is servanthood—putting the needs of others ahead of our own.

Peace,
Pastor Brad

MONTHLY CALENDAR

May 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:30pm Luther Kids 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm "Gather" Bible Study 6:00pm Brass 7:00pm Junior Choir 7:15pm Chancel Choir	2 9:30am Text Study at Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	3 7:30pm AA Meeting	4 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 4:00pm Allisaon Vandeventer Graduation
5 8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Confirmation 10:30am Worship 3:00pm Heldridge Sr. Recital 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir	6 Office open 9-noon, staff vacations 6:00pm "Gather" Bible Study @ Old Country Buffet 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	7 Office open 9-noon, staff vacations 9:00am Quilters 6:30pm Preschool end of year program 7:00pm Vision & Coordination Mtg.	8 Office open 9-noon, staff vacations 6:00pm W/ELCA Ministry Team Mtg. 6:00pm Brass 7:00pm Junior Choir 7:15pm Chancel Choir	9 Office open 9-noon, staff vacations 9:30am Text Study at Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	10 Office open 9-noon, staff vacations 8:00am Crane Coffee 7:30pm AA Meeting	11 Office open 9-noon, staff vacations 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
12 Office open 9-noon, staff vacations 8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	13 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	14 6:30pm Boy Scout First Aid Training	15 6:00pm Brass 7:00pm Junior Choir	16 9:30am Text Study at Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	17 6:30pm Crosby Recital 7:30pm AA Meeting	18 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
19 8:00am Worship 9:15am Final Sunday School class of the spring 10:30am Worship 1:00pm District 18 AA Mtg.	20 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	21 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Church Council	22 6:00pm Brass	23 9:30am Text Study at Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	24 8:00am Crane Coffee 7:30pm AA Meeting	25 Concanon Graduation Party 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
26 Summer Worship Schedule begins 9:00am Worship	27 Church office closed for Memorial Day 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	28	29 6:00pm Brass	30 9:30am Text Study at Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	31 Synod Assembly 7:30pm AA Meeting	

WORSHIP

Summer Worship Schedule and Music

Our summer worship schedule begins on Memorial Day weekend (Sunday, May 26) and runs through Labor Day weekend (September 1). **During the summer, we will have one worship service on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.**



The sign-up sheet for summer music is in the Narthex. Please share your music talents with us for worship during the summer months.

Summer Worship Servants

Liturgists and communion servers are asked to check the summer sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board. Because there is only one service and it is difficult to know when you take vacations, please sign up for a Sunday that you can commit to. The sign-up sheet will be there only until May 15. After that, you may be assigned a Sunday, and an email with the schedule will be sent out. If you have preferences, please contact Karen Mullen.



Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26
Greeters				
8:00 a.m.	Doug and Cathy Aden	Josh and Carissa Combes	Paul and Peg Murphy	9:00 a.m. Jesse and Kylie Kulp
10:30 a.m.	John and Gwen Edwards	Claude and Sandy Hall	Rett and Judy Messerschmidt	
Liturgist				
8:00 a.m.	David Hild	Judy Egr	Brad VenHuizen	9:00 a.m. Claudia Rowen
10:30 a.m.	Heather Christensen	TBD	Ruth Manning	
Communion Servers				
8:00 a.m.	Val Florea, Tessin family	Egr family	Brad and Randi VenHuizen	9:00 a.m. Rowen family
10:30 a.m.	Bill and Nicole Quackenbush	Paul and Ann Kroll, Jane Hawkins	Dan and Ruth Manning, Karen Mullen	
Altar Care				
8:00 a.m.	Doug and Rose Roberts	Cathy Aden, Sue Dieter	Connie Walther, Lisa Meyer	9:00 a.m. TBD
10:30 a.m.	Rowen family	Brewer family	Karen Anderson, Mardi Fiske	
Ushers				
8:00 a.m.	Paul Dieter, John Florea, Dennis Hindemith, Brian Walther			
10:30 a.m.	Brian and Deb Lund, John Edwards			
Nursery Attendant(s)				
10:30 a.m.	Anne Yarger	Sarah Horan	Lisa Rieff	Ashley Meier
CD Recorder				
8:00 or 10:30	Pat Brewer	Paul Christenson	Karen Pickens	Brian Fanders

Summer Breakfasts

The Summer Breakfast tradition continues! Each Sunday morning from June 2 through August 25, breakfast is served in the Fellowship Hall after our 9:00 a.m. worship service. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit with our Lord of Love family!



To make Summer Breakfasts possible, we need your help! The Summer Breakfast sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Please sign up to prepare and serve breakfast on one Sunday morning this summer! Team up with a few people as many hands make light work. Anything you want to prepare will be welcome. This is a short and simple way to donate your time and culinary talents.

For planning purposes, there were about 50 people at each breakfast last year. Because membership has increased, you may want to plan for more than 50 people.

As in the past, those who volunteer to prepare breakfast will take the cost of the food from the free-will donations received that morning. This year, the donations will be given to the ELCA Malaria Fund.

New Staff Person at Lord of Love!



Beginning May 1, Heather Christensen will take on the position of Director of Christian Education/Youth Ministry at Lord of Love. Heather has been involved with our Youth and Christian education programs as a volunteer for a number of years and will now be using her gifts on a part-time basis here at Lord of Love. We celebrate having Heather join the staff and ask for your prayers of support as she begins this new ministry.

Junior Choir

Junior Choir practices in May will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, May 1, 8, and 15. On Sunday, May 19, we will sing at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Then on Wednesday, May 22, we will have PIZZA! If you have questions, please contact Jane Hawkins at 402-343-1680.



Weekly Education Opportunities at Lord of Love

Sunday

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

Monday

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

Wednesday

5:00 p.m. Confirmation (7th & 8th grades) @ LOL Abraham Room
6:00 p.m. Luther Kids (1st – 6th grades) @ LOL Preschool
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

SonWest Roundup Vacation Bible School

Spring is officially here, and that means VBS is just around the corner! It's time to head out to SonWest Roundup VBS, where buckaroos learn to trust Jesus!

Ride the trail through the Old Testament stories of Moses to help kids discover Jesus' unchangeable love. Kids will enjoy heart racin' activities like games, crafts, music, skits, Bible stories, and more!



Volunteers Needed

Preparation for VBS has begun! There will be a meeting on Wednesday, May 1 at 6:00 p.m. for volunteers and interested volunteer recruits to discuss this year's theme, Bible story focus, decorations, set-up, and more. Join us to learn more about this year's program, "SonWest Round Up, A Rip-Roaring Good Time with Jesus!"

We are looking for your western wear donations: old cowboy hats, bandanas, cowboy boots, and a horse on a stick....

Contact Heather Christensen at 402-415-4571 or rn94@yahoo.com with any questions.

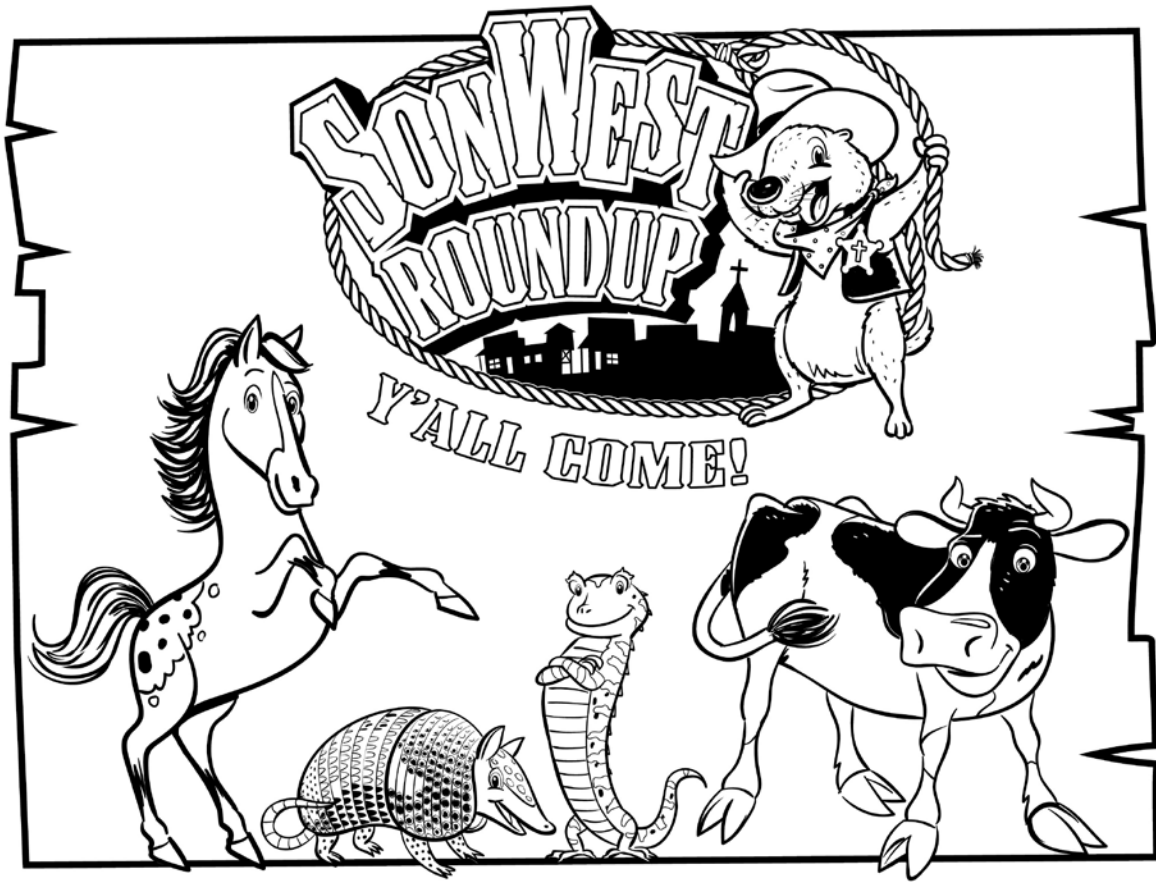
Register Now

Children age 4 through those entering 6th grade are invited to attend VBS! Registration forms will be available at the church beginning May 5.

VBS will run from Monday, June 10, through Friday, June 14, with a family dinner available from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. and VBS from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Get in the mood for VBS by coloring the pictures on the following page of this issue of *The Love Letter*! See y'all soon!!





Volunteer on Our Habitat for Humanity Rehab House!

Lord of Love will be a member of the ELF coalition with Habitat for Humanity again this year. Our rehab house is located at 3724 N 52nd Street. Our host weekend will be June 1. Please mark your calendar, and plan to donate some time to the build. We will need people to do construction work and provide a noon meal. If you cannot work the host weekend, you are always welcome to show up on other weekends to help. The house is easy to access from Lord of Love this year. Get involved and volunteer!



Mission Possible Update

Lenten and Special Easter Offerings

Thanks to all of you for enabling us to touch lives in such profound ways! Because of your generosity and kindness in our Lenten and special Easter offerings, \$3,614 was given to Table Grace Café to assist in their ministry of feeding the hungry—body and soul.

Diaper Derby

Also thanks to your generosity, nearly \$800 in cash, plus many diapers, were given in February to Lutheran Family Services for their Centers for Healthy Families.

Habitat for Humanity

We will give \$2,500 to our local Habitat for Humanity ELF coalition for this year's rehab home. Jeri Morgan is heading up our commitment for food and workers the first weekend of June, as noted in the article above.

Summer Breakfast Donations

The proceeds from this year's summer breakfasts will go to the ELCA Malaria Campaign, in recognition of our 25th anniversary as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

A child dies from malaria every 60 seconds. Working through Lutheran churches in Africa, the ELCA Malaria Campaign is uniquely positioned to provide mosquito nets, insecticides, medication, health care, education, and more to help eliminate deaths from this disease—for good.

Be sure to join us for wonderful food and fellowship this summer. Please give generously to help us better the lives of our brothers and sisters in Africa.

Lord of Love Community Garden

Remember that another wonderful ministry we do is using our Lord of Love Garden to provide freshly grown produce for the hungry in Omaha. Two loads of OmaGro were put onto the soil and worked in. Seventeen rows of potatoes have been planted. We hope to get the remaining vegetables planted soon—when the weather allows. Everyone is welcome to join the garden gurus in any aspect of the garden project. Contact Jeri Morgan or Deb Lund if interested.

Mission-Outreach Surveys

Thanks to all of you who completed the mission-outreach surveys in February. The team is meeting again in August to determine organizations for support the remainder of this calendar year.

RESOURCES

Stewardship: Ways We Give Of Our Time by Rex Quadhamer

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 *Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*

Well, that pretty much sums it up! We are all children of God, but He has given each of us individually different gifts, talents, and interests. When we let God lead us, we are able to use all of these in service to Him. They can be big commitments, such as leading a bell choir or brass group, taking a trip to Tanzania, going on a mission trip to rebuild after hurricane Katrina, or taking a bunch of teenagers to New Orleans for a youth rally. Or it could be as simple as a kind word or compliment; how many times has someone said something kind to you when you really needed it!

We're fortunate to have a congregation where people are so willing to give of their time. Take time to look around when you're at church and see all the giving that is taking place. Maybe even say thank you or a kind word, or give someone a hug or a smile!



How Can I Get More Involved at Church and in the Community? by Pastor Brad

A lot of people "Do Church." To "Do Church" means to come to worship and then go home. But to "Be Church" is to have what takes place during worship and while among the faith community affect the rest of your week and, in actuality, your entire life. To "Be Church" is to feel cared for by and connected to the community of people that you worship with, serve with, and journey through life with.

Statistics through the Gallup organization show that people who are engaged in the life of the congregation are more satisfied with their life. It doesn't mean that they do not have problems or issues to deal with, but rather they know that they are not journeying through life alone and that their faith is a central focus of their life.

So then, why not get involved at church? If greater satisfaction with your life and a deeper faith life is gained, you have nothing to lose! You benefit as well as the community.

Gallup also states that: "The median number of hours (per week) served by those who were engaged in their congregation was 2½, indicating that the spiritual health of a congregation is a significant factor in the serving capacity of its members."

How to get involved? Find something that you enjoy or have a passion for in the congregation and volunteer. Invite others to join you in the task. Bring your talents and gifts to the life of the congregation, and say "yes" when asked to participate.

We are all encouraged to reach out in concern and service to the world, and to help and assist others in their communities and beyond. In response to the Gospel, we are called to be engaged in proclaiming Christ in all we do and in every aspect of our life.

Respond to the call! Be engaged! Proclaim Christ!



CHURCH COUNCIL

From the Council President – May 2013 by Brian Lund, Council President

1 Corinthians 1:9 (NRSV) *God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

As we go through life, we play many different roles: son/daughter, brother/sister, husband/wife, father/mother, student/teacher, friend/foe, colleague/manager. Each role plays out differently in our relationships and expectations with and by others. Some roles establish very strong bonds with other people that last a lifetime. Other roles demand more action or work from us but fail to result in lasting relationships.

Our faith life has some similarities. We start as students, learning about God's word, his plan for his faithful people, and his undeserved love for us. As faith grows, we have opportunities to begin to live out that faith in service and love to others. We start by helping those who may ask for it. Maybe we get involved in a service group that regularly helps others by performing odd jobs, rebuilding homes for Habitat, preparing meals for others, assisting with office work, etc. Eventually we begin to engage others in faith-driven activities within the church or community. Even as we continue to be students, learning more about God and his love for us, we become teachers as well, telling and showing others of the good news of Christ died for us.

What roles do you play in your life of faith? Are you willing to share your blessings with others and to live out Christ's mission? Do you follow his new commandment and show love to others?

Hebrews 10:23 (NRSV) *Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful.*

Let us give thanks and praise to God for His blessings and grace for all his people.

Thank you for continuing to support our ministry together at Lord of Love. Our ministries serve special needs of our members, our community, and others throughout our country and world. All members are welcome to join any of our ministry teams. Ask a church council member about how you can get more involved in the various ministry programs of our congregation. If asked to serve, please prayerfully consider giving of your time and skills.

Please continue to pray for the ELCA, Bishop Hansen, our Nebraska Synod, Bishop Brian Maas and his staff, Pastor Brad, our congregation, and our ministry together.

Blessings in faith and service,
Brian Lund

2013 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: Mike Klos, Karen Anderson

Resources: Rex Quadhamer, Paul Concannon

Worship: Randi VenHuizen, Pat Brewer



Men's Breakfast Ministry: What's That All About?

Every Saturday morning, various men of Lord of Love meet at 7:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast, fellowship, and discussion. All men are welcome to show up and get involved. For those who may be interested in attending in the future, here's a bit of information on what we do at the meetings.



What's for breakfast?

Each week, one of the men volunteers to arrive early and prepare or provide breakfast for the group. The meal generally consists of biscuits and gravy or pancakes or egg bake or some other manly fare along with coffee, juice, sausage, toast, fruit, and the like.

How many men show up?

In the recent past, we've had 10 to 15 men attend, with an average of 12. But we have the resources and capabilities to serve dozens, and we are actively encouraging new people (of the male gender) to attend.

Are reservations required?

No. Just show up any Saturday morning at 7:00 a.m.

What occurs at a typical breakfast?

Here is the general guideline we follow (all times are approximate):

- 7:00 a.m. The men arrive to find that the week's volunteer has breakfast ready and waiting (sort of). A blessing is said or a song is sung as we gather around the table. Breakfast is served. Informative and witty banter prevails.
- 7:10 a.m. We greet Tom Olsen upon his arrival.
- 7:20 a.m. We take up a free-will contribution for the meal. All contributions are voluntary—all men are always welcome to attend and eat for free. The contributions are used for various benevolences and activities throughout the year. The average contribution is probably \$2 or \$3 per person.
- 7:30 a.m. The meal is finished and we begin the ministry portion of the meeting. This generally includes reading from a selected book, or from the Bible, or from the next day's worship service readings. If we are reading from a book, we generally pass the book around the table so that all who want to can take a turn reading, but one is always free to pass the book along without reading.
- 7:45 a.m. We engage in a lively and illuminating discussion of said reading.
- 8:00 a.m. We close with prayer, do the dishes, clean up, and put everything away.

What are you reading now?

On Saturday, April 20, we began a new book, *Not a Fan* by Kyle Idleman. The author distinguishes between being a fan of Jesus (who cheers for the team from a safe distance) and a follower (who is actively involved), and maintains that Jesus is not interested in having fans and admirers but desires teammates. It promises to be an interesting and provocative book on what it means to be a true disciple of Christ and should occupy us well into the summer. Our thanks to Paul Murphy for suggesting and providing the book. (Thanks, Paul!)

Continued on the next page

Men's Breakfast Ministry: What's That All About?, continued

What other events are you involved in?

Men are involved in a variety of activities at Lord of Love, but there are a couple of upcoming events in particular to be aware of. There is plenty of time to get information and make arrangements to attend. Ron Thom would be a good person to contact for further information on either of the following events:



July 19-20, 2013 Promise Keepers, Cedar Falls, IA
July 2014 Lutheran Men in Mission National Men's Conference, Nashville, TN

Anything else?

The annual all-night (sort of) Prayer Vigil was held at the church on Good Friday along with the accompanying fund raiser—at which poker may or may not have been played (I'm not sure what everyone told their wives). The fund raiser was once again held at the home of Paul and Deb Christenson (Thanks, Paul and Deb!) where \$350 was raised for the Lutheran Men in Mission Scholarship/Grant Fund. If anyone would like to contribute to this worthy cause, it's not too late; just talk to Tom Olsen. Thanks to everyone who participated in the Prayer Vigil and fund raiser for making the night so successful and fun. Praise God that we were able to raise \$350 for the LMM Scholarship/Grant Fund.

So come on men, get involved. There are things to be learned and fun to be had with your fellow brothers in Christ.

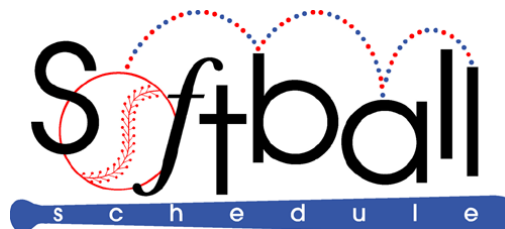
For more information, feel free to talk to any of the regular attendees on Sunday mornings before or after worship. We're easy to find. We're the ones that look well-fed and full of wisdom.



Men's Softball

The men of Lord of Love are playing softball on Monday nights at Kelley Softball Complex (124th and Fort Streets) on Field 4. Field 4 is one of the four fields at the end of the drive. All are welcome to come and cheer! Each game is approximately 1 hour long, and the start times for the first part of the season are listed below:

April 29 8:30 p.m.
May 6 6:30 p.m.
May 13 7:30 p.m.
May 20 8:30 p.m.
June 3 6:30 p.m.



WOMEN OF LOVE

Gather Bible Study

We're ending the 9-month *Gather* Bible study, *Gathered by God*. By virtue of baptism, we are claimed, gathered, and sent for the sake of the Word. The theme for Session 9, "Gathered to Be Sent," focuses on Acts 1:6, *So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"*



All women are invited to attend one of two study groups. The Wednesday evening group will meet on May 1 at 6:00 p.m. in the Mary Room, and the Monday evening group will meet on May 6 at 6:00 p.m. at the Old Country Buffet, 145th and West Center Road.

Future *Gather* Bible Studies

Summer 2013

"All Who Hunger Gather Gladly" is a 3-session Bible study on Jesus and hunger written by Audrey Novak Riley, who works at the ELCA World Hunger Program and Appeal. We all know the story: A crowd of people follows Jesus out to the countryside, and by the time evening rolls around, they're hungry. The disciples tell Jesus to send the people away so they can go get supper in town, and he answers. All four gospels give us this story. Three of them give us the command from Jesus in exactly the same words: "You give them something to eat" (Matthew 14:16; Mark 6:37; Luke 9:13).



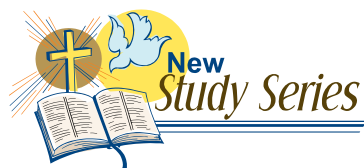
When the hungry crowd gathered, Jesus told his friends to give the people something to eat – and then he made sure they could. He helped his friends help the people when they needed it. We modern-day friends of Jesus can still count on his help. The good news is that these three lessons will be on the *Gather* website. You'll just need to print off your copy!



The Monday evening Bible study group will continue its regular study schedule in June, July, and August. However, the Wednesday evening group will host a half-day retreat at the home of Deb Lund (date TBA) in lieu of its regular meetings this summer. Watch for additional information, and plan on attending this great gathering.

September 2013-May 2014

Sneak Peak – "In Good Company: Stories of Biblical Women." More to come!



Ladies Coffee Fellowship

Ladies, you're invited to join coffee fellowship at Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass Streets, on Fridays, May 10 and 24 at 8:00 a.m. We invite our teachers who are off for the summer to join us!



Women's Ministry Team

The Women's Ministry Team will meet on Wednesday, May 8, at 6:00 p.m. in the Mary Room. All women are invited to attend.



WOMEN OF LOVE

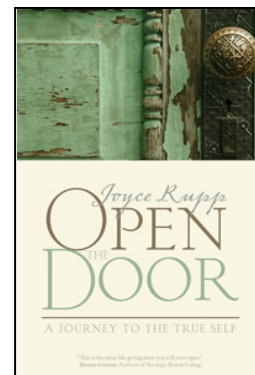
Women's Retreat

Just a note of thanks to Judy Messerschmidt, Heidi Meyer, Heather Christensen, Gwen Edwards, and Amy Kragnes for planning and presenting the program at our annual women's retreat. St. Benedict's Center in Schuyler is such a beautiful site for reflection, meditation, worship, and learning. This was true once again on April 6, 2012.

The theme for the retreat was "Open the Door to my Heart, Lord" based on the book *Open the Door* by Joyce Rupp. Using scripture, prayer, music, and art, four aspects of the theme were shared:

1. Identifying the Door of My Heart
2. Christ is the Key to Unlocking the Door
3. Opening the Door
4. Walking through the Door

One of the most intriguing things we did was learning to pray in color using markers, colored pencils, and paper to illustrate our prayers.



A follow-up on the retreat will be an opportunity to participate in a small group study this fall using Rupp's book. Watch for details later this summer.

Recommended Resources

There are many resources for keeping up-to-date on the ministry of Women of the ELCA:

- Churchwide Women of the ELCA – <http://www.womenoftheelca.org/>
- Daily Grace, a daily faith reflection – free app available on I-Tunes for Apple products
- Café, a magazine for young adult women who want to build their faith – <http://www.boldcafe.org/>
- Bold Connections, a newsletter distributed by e-mail monthly – <http://www.womenoftheelca.org/bold-connections-pages-51.php>
- Interchange, Women of the ELCA newsletter – download from <http://www.womenoftheelca.org/interchange-pages-52.php>
- Facebook – search and "like" Women of the ELCA and Nebraska Women of the ELCA

Dates to Remember

May

1	6:00 p.m.	Gather Bible Study, Mary Room
6	6:00 p.m.	Gather Bible Study, Old Country Buffet, 145 th and West Center Road
7	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
8	6:00 p.m.	Ministry Team Meeting, Mary Room
10	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77 th and Cass
21	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
24	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77 th and Cass



Looking Ahead

September 20-22, 2013	NSWO Convention, Holiday Inn, Kearney
October 20, 2013	Fall Festival Dinner and Program
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



IN OUR PRAYERS & LOVE NOTES

In Our Prayers

Diana Baker (friend of the Thoms)
Chris Beckman (friend of Jane Gehringer)
Dick Bell
Ann Christiansen
Jan Davis-Hughes (aunt of Paula Foster)
Claire Foral (friend of Dave and Lisa Rieff)
Nick Gehrig (grandson of the Schuchards)
Mike Gillotte (neighbor of Bill and Karen Pickens)
Wyatt Nathaniel Hansen (infant grandson of Delina Wiater)
Cathy Johnson (friend of Marilyn Thomsen)
Cheryl Jones (friend of Nancy Shinrock)
Jude Konvalina
Donna Lueders (mother of Dave Lueders)
Lisa Lueders (sister-in-law of Dave Lueders)
Brenda Mac
Jim Mahler (brother of Jane Hawkins)
Marj Mahler (mother of Jane Hawkins)
Debbie Michalak (co-worker of Jackie Combes)
Brenda Nobles (friend of Gwen Edwards)
Karen Pickens
David Pippin (nephew of Lynda McGraw)
Judy Quest (friend of Jane Gehringer)
Isaac Schroeder (infant son of Clay and Kelly)
Jill Sheridan (sister-in-law of Rebecca Lund Sheridan)

Ron and Brenda Thom
Roslynn Thom (sister of Ron Tom)
Bill Wallway (uncle of Kenn Garder)
Ted Whitfield (former co-worker of Brian Shinrock)
Jeff Wise (friend of the Thoms)

Those deployed around the world:
Kelvin
Veronica Barnes and her fiancé Jake Harmon
Jesse Kinney
Nash Oltman

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 LOL Church Family,

Your kind expressions of sympathy and caring in recent weeks since Keith went to Heaven fills our hearts with gratitude for being members of this church. Thank you for the lovely cards, flowers, generous memorial gifts to the Alzheimer's Association, food brought to our home, hugs, expression of concern, and all the other ways you've shown support to us during this sad time. We truly felt your love.

God's blessings always,
Debra & Katie Gillespie & family

Thank you for all those who participated in the Easter breakfast—from purchasing the food to preparing the food to setting up the Fellowship Hall. We had a tremendous turnout! Enough to run out of food and coffee! The proceeds will be sent to Table Grace Café along with the Lent and special Easter offerings.

The Nurture Committee





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

May 1	VBS planning meeting
May 5	Confirmation Sunday
May 19	Final Sunday School classes of the 2012-2013 program year
May 26	Summer Worship Schedule begins
May 27	Memorial Day – Church office closed
May 31	2013 Nebraska Synod Assembly in Kearney

Upcoming Events

June 1-2	2013 Nebraska Synod Assembly in Kearney
June 1	LOL host weekend for ELF Coalition Habitat for Humanity build
June 2	Summer Breakfasts begin
June 10-14	SonWest Roundup Vacation Bible School
October 20	Fall Festival

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.