



The Love Letter

Volume 39

August 2011

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Summer Worship Schedule

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

Mission Statement: Created by God's gracious love, we are called, as a community of faith, to be witnesses and servants of Jesus to the world.

A Look Ahead

Summer has been flying by, and the start of the 2011-2012 program year is just around the corner. In August, we at Lord of Love are busy wrapping up some activities as new ones are beginning.

Our **Community Garden** has been a great success again this summer, and volunteers are still needed to harvest and take the produce to the pantry at Project Hope (see page 9, Outreach).

On Sunday, August 14, we will have our annual **Blessing of the Backpacks**. All students and teachers are invited to bring their backpacks or other bags to church and receive a special blessing as they head back to school (see page 4, Worship).

A new study titled **Living Your Strengths** will begin on Thursday, August 18. Join this journey with Pastor Brad to discover your talents and gifts (see page 7, Nurture).

Sunday, September 11, is **Kickoff Sunday!** We will return to our regular worship schedule and begin Sunday School classes and other activities for the 2011-2012 program year (see page 4, Worship).

Finally, work is underway behind the scenes to get our **Property projects**, including roof replacement and driveway/parking lot repairs, scheduled and completed (see page 10, Resources).



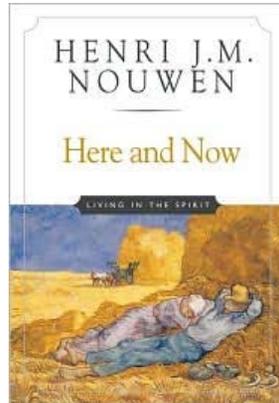
In This Issue

Pastor's Page	2	Men's News Corner	12
Monthly Calendar	3	Women of Love	12
Worship	4	Just for Kids	15
Nurture.....	7	In Our Prayers	17
Outreach.....	9	Love Notes	17
Resources	10	Mark Your Calendar	18
Council Report.....	10		

Live in the Present by Pastor Brad

I've noticed a heightened sense of worry among people in general lately. The economy, personal health, and national security all seem to weigh on us in one way or another. We worry about our past, and we worry about the future.

I recently read something by Henri Nouwen in his book *Here and Now* that is a good reminder about "worry" and where our life should really focus. I share this with you:



"It is hard to live in the present. The past and the future keep harassing us. The past with guilt, the future with worries. So many things have happened in our lives about which we feel uneasy, regretful, angry, confused, or, at least ambivalent. And all these feelings are often colored by guilt. Guilt that says: 'You ought to have done something other than what you did; you ought to have said something other than what you said.' These "oughts" keep us feeling guilty about the past and prevent us from being fully present to the moment.

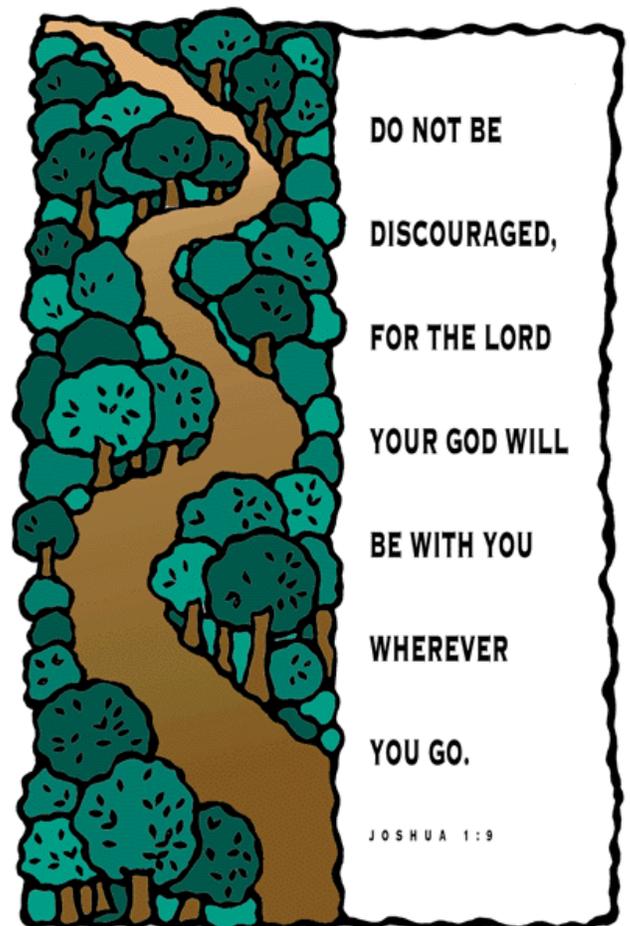
"Worse, however, than our guilt are our worries. Our worries fill our lives with 'What ifs'; 'What if I lose my job, what if my father dies, what if there is not enough money, what if the economy goes down, what if a war breaks out?' These many 'ifs' can so fill our mind that we become blind to the flowers in the garden and the smiling children on the streets, or deaf to the grateful voice of a friend.

"The real enemies of our life are the 'oughts' and the 'ifs.' They pull us backward into the unalterable past and forward into the unpredictable future. But real life takes place in the here and now. God is a God of the present. God is always in the moment, be that moment

hard or easy, joyful or painful. When Jesus spoke about God, he always spoke about God as being where and when we are. 'When you see me, you see God. When you hear me you hear God.' God is not someone who was or will be, but the One who is, and who is for me in the present moment. That's why Jesus came to wipe away the burden of the past and the worries for the future. He wants us to discover God right where we are here and now."

Live in the present! Live in the knowledge that God is with you!

Peace,
Pastor Brad



MONTHLY CALENDAR

August 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:00pm LWT Bible Study 8:00pm AA & AI Anon 9:30pm Men's Softball	2 9:00am Quilters	3	4 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	5 8:00am LoL Laughing Ladies @ Crane Coffee 7:30pm AA	6 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 6:00pm Hosting Wood Lake MN youth group
7 9:00am Summer Worship & Communion 10:00am Breakfast	8 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	9 6:00pm Mission Possible Meeting 7:00pm SunnySlope Neighborhood Assoc.	10 6:00pm Women's Ministry Team 6:30pm Stewardship Meeting	11 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	12 7:30pm AA	13 Fellowship Hall reserved for Ron Thom 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
14 9:00am Blessing of the Backpacks 9:00am Summer Worship & Communion 10:00am Breakfast	15 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	16 9:00am Quilters 6:00pm Strategic Planning Meeting 7:00pm Ministry Comte Mtgs.	17	18 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	19 8:00am LoL Laughing Ladies @ Crane Coffee 7:30pm AA	20 Fellowship Hall reserved for Garder's Love Letter Deadline 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
21 9:00am Summer Worship & Communion 10:00am Breakfast	22 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	23	24	25 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	26 7:30pm AA	27 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
28 9:00am Summer Worship & Communion 10:00am Breakfast 1:00pm District 18 AA Mtg.	29 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	30 7:00pm Roanoke Neighborhood Assoc.	31			

WORSHIP

Blessing of the Backpacks

Back to school time! Teachers and students, bring your backpacks, lunchboxes, or tote bags to the Blessing of the Backpacks on August 14! It's a reminder that we need to take Jesus with us wherever we go.



Communion Bread

A big thank you to Deb Lund, Lisa Rieff, Marilyn Thomsen, and Ruth Manning for providing the communion bread for us this summer. If there is interest to continue this practice, we need a few more volunteers to bake bread. If you are interested, please contact Randi VenHuizen (402-932-3435 or randiv@cox.net) so a schedule can be set up. Thank you very much.



Regular Worship Schedule Resumes in September



Regular Worship
RETURNS

Our summer worship schedule—with worship at 9:00 a.m. and breakfast and fellowship at approximately 10:00 a.m.—will continue through Labor Day weekend.

Our regular worship schedule will resume on Sunday, September 11. Worship services will be at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m., and Sunday School will be at 9:15 a.m. September 11 is Kickoff Sunday, which is the official start to our fall programs.

Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	August 7	August 14	August 21	August 28
Greeter(s)				
9:00 a.m.	Brad and Randi VenHuizen	Tom and Beth Olson	Brian and Lori Vandeventer	Claude and Sandy Hall
Liturgist				
9:00 a.m.	Judy Egr	Shawn Lorenzen	Karen Mullen	Don Rowen
Communion Servers				
9:00 a.m.	Egr family			Rowen family
Nursery Attendant(s)				
9:00 a.m.	Leah Klos	Hayley Yarger	Leah Klos	
Altar Care				
9:00 a.m.	Doug and Rose Roberts	Debra Gillespie, Karen Armitage	Vandeventer girls	Ed and Marjorie Keiser
Ushers				
9:00 a.m.	Kenn Garder, Matt Garder, Paul and Deb Christenson, Craig Pennell			

Tape Ministry: The Faith Journey of Ruth Manning

In a sense, my faith story began before my birth. My mother grew up in eastern Montana, and there were no nearby churches. Her father was from a Lutheran family and her mother from a Methodist family, but there was no talk of spiritual things in her home.

Mom moved to Minnesota after she graduated from high school, joining her family who had moved there 3 months earlier. Dad lived on the neighboring farm. He and his family were people of faith, and he led Mom to the Lord. She was baptized about a week before I was born and tells of how hard it was to bend over the baptismal font.

My earliest recollection of praying was kneeling in front of her as she taught me “Now I lay me down to sleep.” She taught us about Jesus, and when I was 5, I got to go to Sunday School. My class was in the furnace room, and we had a table surrounded by little red chairs, and my teacher’s name was Milton. I still remember what the front of our Sunday School lessons looked like. We had a new lesson sheet every week, and the fronts were pictures in monochrome... blue, green, beige, etc. Inside was the story with a picture to color. I vividly remember when I learned “God loves me” and I colored a red heart.

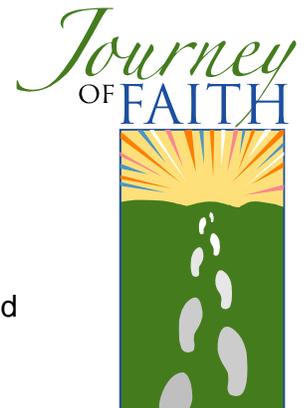
Mom was adamant that we should have our Sunday School Bible verses memorized by Wednesday. This also carried through confirmation classes, and I am positive we were the only four kids in our classes who went through that “ordeal.” But it was important to her that we learned the basics of our faith.

Mom was only 25 when she had her 4th child. As the oldest, I often felt alone. Mom was always busy with the littler kids and helped with the chores and in the field, and I became a caretaker at an early age. Many times I crossed a small pasture with some huge boulders. One was flat on top, and I always sat there and I “talked” to Jesus. I knew he heard me.

When I started the first grade in country school, my teacher was a devout Christian. I had her for 4 years, and she would teach us Bible verses. I also memorized “chunks” of Scripture, such as Psalm 1 (which I think I can still recite in the King James version) and also Psalm 23. Christmas programs focused on the Christmas story, so I was always surrounded by Christian teaching.

When I was 15, I started teaching Sunday School as there weren’t enough teachers. My first class was 3 little boys, Stanley, Charles and Duane, and they were in first grade. How I loved being a Sunday School teacher, although I did miss the Senior High Bible class. I went to LDR, Lutheran Daughters of the Reformation, which included girls from our co-parish.

I was always encouraged in my faith walk by the “old” ladies at church (probably 20 years younger than I am now!). They thought I should go to LBI (Lutheran Bible Institute) in Minneapolis. I would have loved to have gone, but of course there was no money for me to go, or to get any further education. I wanted to be a teacher but couldn’t even afford the 9-month teacher training class that would have certified me to teach in a country school. If I recall, that cost \$35.



Continued on the next page

Tape Ministry: The Faith Journey of Ruth Manning, continued

From the time I started high school, Dad told me I needed to get a job after I graduated. I took every class that would prepare me to be a secretary. As a senior, I prayed about getting a job. I was at a disadvantage as I graduated at 16, but got a job for the public school system. I knew it was an answer to prayer as I had such love for education. I worked there for 6 years and got the “itch” to spread my wings. I applied at three colleges and was hired at the University of North Dakota. Again, my prayers had been answered. I loved it there, and was blessed to work in the College of Education.

After two years, I met an engineering student through my roommate and another friend. He was 6 years older than I was, but had served 4 years in the Air Force. He was such a nice man, and he loved kids. He was Catholic but a man of faith, but at that time, Lutherans didn't date Catholics. In fact, Mom said to me the first time she met him, “You, of all my children, are the last one that I thought would date a Catholic.” Dan won her over, and I always used to joke that she liked him better than she liked me!

Marriage, moving to Omaha, and finally I had what I always wanted—a home, a husband and children. We were always active in church. Dan had taken “instruction” and joined the Lutheran church about 7 months after we were married. Prior to that time, he worshipped in both the Catholic and Lutheran churches each Sunday.

Life had its ups and downs, but I always sensed God's presence. When David and Jody were about 6 and 7, I was feeling very overwhelmed with two very active children. I had little self worth as I was buying into Satan's lie, telling me I wasn't worth much being “only” a wife and mother. Within a few months, I'd hit the wall as far as my faith was concerned. It was in March, warm enough to be raining, and I stood at my kitchen sink and sobbed. “God, if this is all there to the Christian life, I don't want it and I don't want you.” A phone call from an acquaintance within a half hour led to a set circumstance that brought an ongoing renewal to my faith. All my life I knew that Jesus loved me, but “me in a crowd of all believers.” I finally came to the realization that Jesus loved ME! How wonderful was that?

A few months later, I started having panic attacks that went on for months. I didn't know at the time what it was, and there was an element of agoraphobia with it. I could only go to church (with my forced smile) and the grocery store. But God answered my prayers, and for the most part I got back to “normal.” But for years after that, I walked around with this sense of foreboding and sadness. One day, I picked up a book at a Christian bookstore on depression and said, “That's me!” Now I could put a name on it, but for me it carried a stigma. Christians don't get depressed...they have Jesus (another of Satan's lies). Finally about 15 years ago, I followed my pastor's referral to get professional help. She referred me to a psychotherapist who also referred me to a psychologist, and I was placed on an anti-depressant. Within a week, it was “working,” and I continued to “get better” through medication and therapy.

And life goes on, and I obviously haven't “arrived.” As I am in my senior years, I struggle with what the future holds (not eternally but in my remaining years on earth). My body is betraying me, telling me I'm not as young as I feel. With my mother's death in November, I am now officially the matriarch of my family, and that feels old. I have so many things I want to do in my church (and in my house!) and become frustrated when my energy doesn't always hold out. But I know that whatever happens, Jesus walks with me, and I am supported by my loving family as well as my family at Lord of Love.

NURTURE

Living Your Strengths by Pastor Brad

I invite you to come on a journey with me to discover your God-given talents! Living Your Strengths is a wonderful adventure to identify and affirm your innate gifts and how they can enrich your faith community.

Join me on five consecutive Thursday evenings—August 18, 25, and September 1, 8, and 15—from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. The cost of the book is \$15.00, which includes an ID code that gives you access to StrengthsFinder.com, a personality assessment that reveals your top five talents. We will spend time together learning about our unique talents and how they are revealed throughout our lives.

Space is limited to 8 participants! Talk with Pastor Brad to sign up or to ask him any questions.

Welcome our New Members!

We welcome into membership Clay and Kelly Schroder and their children: Alexis, Reese, and Ethan. Clay is a physician through Methodist Health Systems, and Kelly is an emergency room physician at Methodist Hospital. We welcome them to the Lord of Love family!



Piano Lessons



Interested in music and the piano? I've taught piano lessons for over 10 years to both children and adults. I live close to Lord of Love. If interested, call Jane Hawkins at 402-343-1680.



You're Invited!



This is your invitation reminder for the "6 and Oh" birthday party for Ronald (Ron) and Roslynn (Roz) Thom to be held on August 13 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Lord of Love's Fellowship Hall. It's a "bring a card only" party. We will be serving coffee, punch, and cake at the reception. We hope you are able to stop by and share in the celebration.



Weekly Education Opportunities at Lord of Love

Sunday

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

Monday

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

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. *Lutheran Woman Today* Bible Study @ LOL Joseph Room (first Wednesday of month)

Thursday

9:30 a.m. Text Study @ Guthries

Saturday

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast and Bible Study @ LOL Fellowship Hall

Act Boldly by Gwen Edwards

“To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ;” that is the Women of the ELCA mission statement. That is what all of you, my Lord of Love family, have done for me.... You have encouraged, inspired, and supported me to act boldly in my faith—all of you: men, women, youth, and children. You all have touched my heart and left your fingerprints. It was your part in my life and my spiritual walk that has enabled me to listen to God’s voice and then Act Boldly.



The first time I truly “acted boldly” was in January 2007 when I told our Ministry in Education committee “yes” I will serve as VBS Director this year. After spending 3 years prior assisting with VBS, I felt God calling me to serve in this position. It was bold; I hadn’t even served on the planning side of the event. I was the snack lady for 2 years and then the teacher for the 1st and 2nd graders; what did I know about putting on VBS? I served God and you as the VBS Director for 3 years. It was a blessing to me, and I am grateful to have had that opportunity.... Thank you!



We are told in Isaiah 28:23, *“Listen and hear my voice; pay attention and hear what I say.”* Wow, what a powerful statement. He is our Heavenly Father and doesn’t that sound like a father speaking to his children. Jesus says in John 10:27, *“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”*

Listening to God is not easy, and sometimes we want to turn off our ears and not hear him. I had a plan; we know it’s our plan that matters. It was my intention to run for Churchwide Women of the ELCA board in 2014, not this year—God had another plan for me. Being part of a supportive, caring family, the Lord of Love family, enabled me to tell them “yes,” to again act boldly when I received that phone call in March from Chicago.

Thank you for all of your prayers and thoughts, hugs, and encouragement these past 6 years as I served on the Nebraska Women of the ELCA board (two 2-year terms as Vice President and one 2-year term as president). My term as president officially came to an end on July 14 at 10:30 a.m. Pacific time when the new CWO Board was installed by the Presiding Bishop. I know that you will once again keep me in your thoughts and prayers for the next 3 years as I take on my new role. I couldn’t do it without my Lord of Love family.



Act boldly.



I just want to say thank you to all of you and especially to John and Aaron for their love and support and allowing me to serve the Women of the ELCA and for their encouragement to tell Chicago “yes.” I have listened when God was calling, and then I acted boldly. May I continue to listen and Act Boldly. It is also my hope that many of you will come with me to “Open the Door of Your Heart—Ask...Seek...Knock” next month. Thank you for being my brothers and sisters in Christ.

God’s Blessings to you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gwen".

OUTREACH

Fair Trade Products

Fair Trade coffee, tea, and chocolates will be sold following the worship service on Sunday, August 14.



Lord of Love Community Garden



At the time of this writing, the garden is simply glorious! Much work has been done to till and weed, and the rains and sunshine have been plentiful in allowing the plants to grow very well. The beans are blossoming now, which means that we should be picking beans very soon. The zucchini has fruit, and signs of other vegetables to come are prevalent. Thanks so much to everyone who has contributed time and energy to make the community garden such a vital part of our outreach. Volunteers to harvest and take the produce to the pantry at Project Hope are still needed, so again, please contact Jeri Morgan or Deb Lund if you'd be willing to assist.

Mission Possible Update

Thanks for the great support in giving generously to the ELCA Disaster Response for our summer breakfasts. Some examples of our dollars at work through this fund include assisting with flood and storm relief in the US, helping victims of violence in Sudan, providing assistance for refugees from Libya, and aiding those affected by the earthquake and tsunami in Japan.



The Mission Possible Team meets again in August, and an important issue on the agenda is discussing plans for the 2011-2012 mission funds. Please feel free to suggest organizations and areas to support by contacting anyone on the Mission Possible Team: John Florea, Dave Hild, Brenda Mac, Carol Novak, Beth Olson, Paula Foster, and Deb Lund.

ELCA Disaster Response: Urgent Help Needed Along the Missouri River

Due to controlled flooding along the Missouri River, urgent help is needed to assist those who are being evacuated from their homes. Evacuations have started, some of them mandatory. In many cases, residents will not be able to return home for weeks or months.

Help is needed in moving and storing personal property. Temporary housing is needed for people as well. If you can assist in any way, please be in contact with the following churches:

- First Lutheran Church, South Sioux City (402-494-5461 or office@firstlutheranssc.org)
- Salem Lutheran Church, Dakota City (office - 402-987-3582, cell - 641-529-2479, or office@salemdakotacity.org)
- First Lutheran Church, Nebraska City (402-873-5424 or FelcOffice@windstream.net)
- First Lutheran Church, Blair (402-426-4073 or FLC@firstlutheranblair.org)

To provide financial help for disaster response here in Nebraska, you may send a check to the Nebraska Synod, 4980 S. 118th St., Omaha, NE 68137. Please note "Disaster Response" in the memo line. You can help those affected by the many storms around the country through ELCA Disaster Response.

RESOURCES

Property Projects Update

While no actual contractors are on site yet, many things are going on behind the scenes.

The underwriting process for the loan has been completed, additional documents needed for the loan have been forwarded to Thrivent, and closing procedures should be completed the last week in July.

Bids have been requested and received from several contractors for the roof replacement, the south driveway, and parking lot repairs.

A contract has been signed with Ciaccio Roofing to replace the roof. Work is expected to begin the first week in September.

Daedalus Construction will be contracted to replace the south driveway with reinforced concrete. The timeline of this project is yet to be determined.

Specifications and bids for the parking lot repairs are currently being reviewed.

As of this writing, the Capital Campaign is getting close to reaching the goal set by the congregation.

The Property and Capital Campaign committees want to thank you for your ongoing prayers, trust, and financial support. None of these projects could move forward without this support.



COUNCIL REPORT

Our Giving Status by Barb Haskins, Council Treasurer

Our financial picture for the month of June 2011 is as follows:

- Income: \$23,431.00
- Expenses: \$20,216.00



2011 Lord of Love Church Council

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

Nurture: Lori Vandeventer, Paula Foster

Outreach: Paul Christenson, Jeri Morgan

Resources: Doug Armitage, Josh Combes

Worship: Karen Mullen, Randi VenHuizen



COUNCIL REPORT

From the Council President – August 2011 by Brian Lund, Council President

Galatians 6:9 (NIV) *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*

Summer seemed so long in getting here. Cooler, wetter weather hung on for a long time. The really hot weather of a typical summer seems to just have arrived (I'm writing this in early July). But already there is evidence of a bountiful harvest.



Our church garden will soon be yielding zucchini and beans of all kinds. What we harvest will be taken to Project Hope for the benefit of many. At our home, we have begun picking raspberries in addition to the earlier crops of lettuce and peas. Roadside stands and farmers markets provide opportunities to purchase locally grown tomatoes, corn, and other vegetables. What a wonderful time of the year to enjoy fresh produce and to marvel at the bounty that God continues to provide for us.

Our family has been blessed with so much. It often bothers me that so many in our city, state, nation, and world suffer daily from inadequate food, clothing, and shelter. I take comfort in knowing that I am part of a congregation that has a passion for outreach and mission. We participate in Habitat for Humanity to provide shelter for a deserving family. We belong to a larger church body that actively works to provide relief for those in need. Our financial support of the Nebraska Synod and the ELCA does make a difference.

James 2:14-17 (NIV) *What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*

Another reality is that summer vacation time is quickly coming to a close. Planning of fall events is beginning at Lord of Love. Kickoff Sunday is September 11. This is the official start to our fall programs. As usual, member involvement as teachers, leaders, and participants is needed. Please look into the opportunities that are available, and follow your passion for ministry and mission.



I am thankful for all our members. Thank you for continuing to support the ministries and mission of Lord of Love.

Please continue to pray for Lord of Love, Pastor Brad, our ministry together, and for all those in need.

Blessings in faith and service,
Brian Lund

MEN'S NEWS CORNER

Lutheran Men in Mission National Convention

Some members of the Saturday morning Lord of Love Men's Breakfast group attended the Triennial Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM) national convention held in Denver, Colorado, from Friday, July 22 to Sunday, July 24. Two of Lord of Love's members were national delegates/alternates: Ron Thom and Brad VenHuizen. Others attending the convention from Lord of Love were Pastor Brad Meyer, Tom Olson, Paul Christenson, Paul Barnett, Gary Ramsay, and Don Rowen. The convention promised to be great. If you have a chance, please ask them about the convention and their trip and experiences.



WOMEN OF LOVE

Gwen Edwards on Churchwide Women's Organization Board

Gwen Edwards was elected to the executive board of the Churchwide Women's Organization at the Triennial convention in Spokane last month. When one of the nominees from our Region 4 had to drop out, Gwen was asked by the Executive Board to have her name placed on the ballot. After much prayer and consulting with Pr. Brad and Bishop deFreese, she consented. Half of the 14-member board received enough votes to be elected on the first ballot, and Gwen had the third highest number of votes.

Gwen's term as president of the Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization (NSWO) was to end with the Synodical convention this fall, but the executive board position begins immediately with the end of the Triennial. The Vice President of the NSWO board will serve as "president" until the election of a new president in September.

Also, at the June gathering of the Nebraska Synod ELCA in Fremont, Gwen was appointed to the Lutheran Family Services board of directors.

Congratulations, Gwen! Our prayers go with you as you fulfill these tasks.

Half-Day Retreat

It's almost here! You are invited to attend the women's mini-retreat to go over the three summer Bible studies in the *Lutheran Women Today* on Saturday, August 6 from 8:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Bring a salad to share for lunch, but come hungry to enjoy freshly baked cinnamon rolls and beverages to get us started! Deb Lund is hosting us at her home, 4720 N. 136th Street.



Coffee Fellowship

All women are invited to join the Lord's Laughing Ladies! We meet at 8:00 a.m. for fellowship at Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass, on August 5 and 19.



Women's Ministry Team

After taking a break in July, the Women's Ministry Team resumes monthly meetings on Wednesday, August 10. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. in the Mary Room. All women are invited.

WOMEN OF LOVE

Personal Care Kits for LWR

In July, we completed 22 personal care kits to be shipped to Lutheran World Relief later this fall, along with the quilts made by Lord of Love women. We'd like to complete a few more by early October. Watch for bargains on bath-size towels (preferably dark colors), toothbrushes, nail clippers, sturdy combs, and 4-oz bars of soap. Thanks for helping us out!



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Prayer Shawls

The prayer shawl team has completed about 435 prayer shawls since March 2008. To date, we have given away about 370! Our goal is to see that every adult in the congregation has a prayer shawl (Children receive their prayer shawls at baptism, and teenagers receive one for high school graduation.). Also, if you have a friend or family member who has a special need, please let us know and we will provide prayer shawls for them as well.

We sent two to the Triennial Women of the ELCA last month that will be given to the host synod, Eastern Washington-Idaho, to use in their ministries.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

LWT Magazine Becomes *Gather*

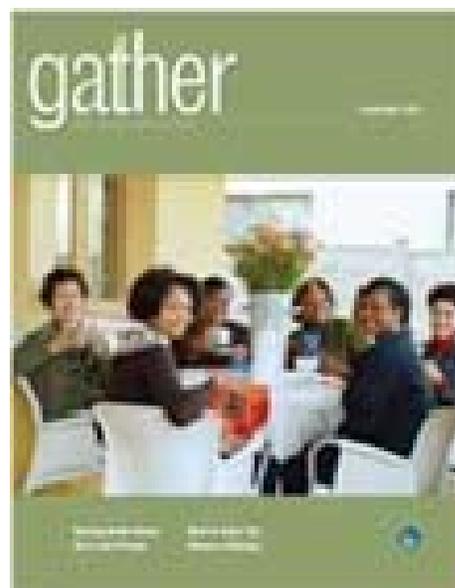
With the September issue, *Lutheran Woman Today* magazine becomes *Gather*. The new magazine will still have the award-winning Bible study, the same great articles, and the columns that inform, challenge, comfort, and encourage. Order this resource at www.elca.org/resources:

- 1 year/10 issues \$12
- 2 years/20 issues \$22
- 3 years/30 issues \$33

Order the magazine and join one of the groups using the Bible study from the magazine:

- First Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at Old Country Buffet, 145th & West Center Road
- First Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Mary Room at Lord of Love

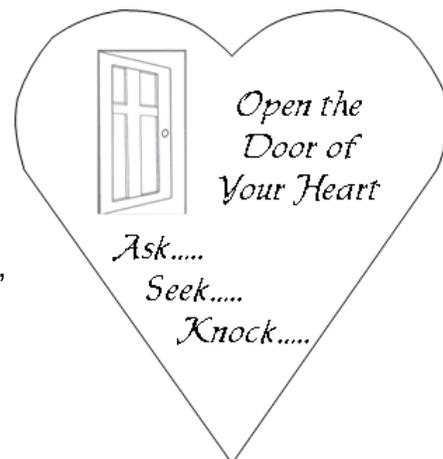
The Wednesday group resumes on September 7.



WOMEN OF LOVE

2011 Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization Convention (Sept. 23-25)

The theme of this year's Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization Convention, to be held September 23-25 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Kearney, is "Open the Door of Your Heart – Ask... Seek... Knock."



Speakers will include: Lori Randall, a former Mrs. Oklahoma and Mrs. Christian World; Syd Brinkman, W/ELCA Executive Board member; Nebraska Synod Bishop David deFreese; Pastor Linda Walz, Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Beatrice; Elizabeth McBride, director for intergenerational programs and editor of *Café*, Women of the ELCA.

Early registrations (\$90) must be postmarked by August 19, and later registrations (\$105) must be postmarked by September 9. A one-day registration fee is being offered on a trial basis this year, with a cost of \$65/\$80 for early/late registrations.

The deadline to receive the hotel's convention rate of \$72.00 + tax is August 24, and reservations must be made directly with the Holiday Inn at 1-800-248-4460. Ask for the Women of the ELCA convention rate.

For more information or to download a registration form, go to the Nebraska Synod Women of the ELCA website at <http://welca.nebraskasynod.org/events/2011-biennial-convention/>.



Dates to Remember

August

1	6:00 p.m.	LWT Bible Study, Old Country Buffet, 145th and West Center Road
2	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
5	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass
6	8:45 a.m.	LWT Bible Study Half-day Retreat, Deb Lund's home
10	6:00 p.m.	Women's Ministry Team, Mary Room
16	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
19	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass
19		Early registration deadline for NSWO Convention
24		Deadline for convention rate at Holiday Inn for NSWO Convention



Coming Soon

September 23-25, 2011 NSWO Tenth Biennial Convention, Kearney





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action★packed faith★

The greatest “super men” who ever lived put their faith into action.

Directions: Match each Bible character to the correct description.

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Noah | 1. This disciple wrote a gospel, recounting many events in Jesus’ life. |
| Stephen | 2. This man responded to God’s commands, including the order to move. God made many promises to this man and his descendants. |
| Abraham | 3. This man was eager to rebuild Jerusalem. He helped the people protect their city, reminding them that God was on their side. |
| Luke | 4. This man, who became king of Judah at a young age, obeyed God’s laws and helped people repent. |
| Nehemiah | 5. God saved this honest, hard-working man from destruction by having him build a place of safety for his family and every kind of creature. |
| Josiah | 6. This man stood by God’s Word, showing strength of character even when faced with persecution and death. |

On the lines below, write your name and describe how you’re a “hero” for God. What are some ways you put your faith into action?

Name: _____

HERO Sandwich

To celebrate the Bible’s many heroes, make this sandwich for a picnic.

What you need:

- An adult to help
- Shredded lettuce
- Olive oil and vinegar
- Seasonings (salt, pepper, oregano)
- Italian crusty bread (six inches per person)
- Mayonnaise
- Sliced meat
- Sliced cheese
- Sliced tomato
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Toothpicks
- Tape



What you do:

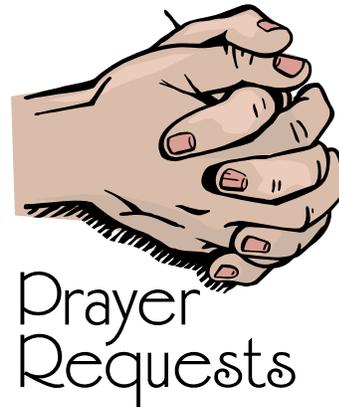
1. Drizzle shredded lettuce with oil and vinegar; sprinkle with seasonings.
2. Cut bread in half length-wise and spread mayo on both halves.
3. On bottom half, layer meats, cheese, tomato and lettuce.
4. Top with other half of bread. Cut in half.
5. Cut paper into small triangles. Write your favorite Bible heroes’ names on them.
6. Tape the triangles to toothpicks to make pennants. Stick in sandwich halves. Enjoy!

IN OUR PRAYERS & LOVE NOTES

In Our Prayers

Karen
Layla Diane (infant born at 25 weeks to friend of Lisa Rieff)
Dick Bell
Marty Beutler (son of Gary and Connie Beutler)
Ruth Cooley
Claire Foral (friend of Dave and Lisa Rieff)
Patty George (friend of Dave and Lisa Rieff)
Cory Heumann (friend of Cathy Petrick)
Dennis Hindemith
Cheryl Jones (friend of Nancy Shinrock)
Gene Jordan (uncle of Paula Foster)
Jim Mahler (brother of Jane Hawkins)
Marj Mahler (mother of Jane Hawkins)
Debbie Michalak (co-worker of Jackie Combes)
Bill Morris
Luana Salerno (friend of Sandy Hall)
Roslynn Thom (sister of Ron Thom)
Marilyn Thomsen
Esther Welliver
Agnes Wilson

Those affected by the flooding
Children waiting to be adopted & those seeking to adopt
Men's servant ministry
Stephen Ministers and their care receivers
Those deployed around the world
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



Last Blast of Summer

