



The Love Letter

Volume 40

August 2012

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Summer Worship Schedule

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

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

A Look Ahead

Can summer really be coming to an end already? This month, our summer activities are winding down, and we begin preparing for the 2012-2013 program year. This is the perfect time to get involved! Find out how in this issue of *The Love Letter*.

Do you enjoy listening to the Lord of Love bell choirs and wish you could be part of one of these groups? Attend **Bell Choir Try Night** on Sunday, August 12, and see if the bells are for you (see page 4, Worship).

Do you like working with children and sharing your faith? Consider being a Sunday School teacher! A **Sunday School teachers' meeting** will be held on Wednesday, August 15 for all teachers—returning and new (see page 5, Nurture).

Are you heading off to school (preschool through college) as a student or a teacher? Bring your backpack or tote bag to church on Sunday, August 19 for our annual **Blessing of the Backpacks** (see page 4, Worship).

As you prepare for the transition from summer to the 2012-2013 program year, please note the following dates. Our **final summer breakfast** will be held on August 26, and our **summer worship schedule ends** on Sunday, September 2. **Kickoff Sunday** will be on September 9, and we'll return to worship services at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. with Sunday School at 9:15 a.m. (see page 4, Worship). We will also resume our traditional **Sunday morning donuts** and will have our annual **Kickoff Sunday Potluck Luncheon** (see page 5, Nurture).

Also in this issue, learn about our ongoing **outreach** efforts (see pages 7-8, Outreach), and read reports from some of our **Resources subcommittees** (see page 9, Resources).

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Reflection on the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering by Pastor Brad

A powerful message was heard this week as 38,000 ELCA youth and adults gathered in New Orleans, LA! The overall message that I heard was "You can make a difference!"

From keynote speakers, musicians, and Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson, the youth were reminded that as baptized children of God, they are called to proclaim the gospel through their words and actions.

Each day of the Gathering focused on themes of Peacemaking, Discipleship, and Justice. Through recreation, displays, and hands-on activities, we learned about concerns of the world that call Christians to respond with love. Ask the youth about our experience of carrying heavy containers of water through a simulated walk for those who must carry water every day to survive in their community. Our walk was nothing compared to the real walk that some must take, but it did open our eyes to the need to be the change in the world and to make a difference.

We were sent off into the world to continue our promise as Christians to do justice, to be peacemakers, and to be disciples of Christ. We were called upon to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, those being bullied, those in places of war, and those who live in fear.

I am proud of our Lord of Love youth who fully participated in the Gathering and who represented their church well. It was a pleasure to accompany these youth and exciting to see growth in their relationship with God, growth in their faith, and growth in their relationship with one another.

Peace,
Pastor Brad



2012 ELCA Youth Gathering
citizens with the saints
Ephesians 2:14-20



MONTHLY CALENDAR

August 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	3 7:30pm AA	4 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 8:45am Mini Retreat/Bible Study @ Lund's 10:00am Novak Recital
5 9:00am Worship & Communion 10:00am Summer Breakfast 2:00pm Chelsea Lange Shower	6 Pr. Brad out of office all week. 6:00pm "Gather" Bible Study @ Old Country Buffet 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	7 9:00am Quilters 6:00pm Resources Mtg. 7:00pm Vision & Coordination	8 6:00pm Ministry Team Mtg.	9 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	10 8:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 7:30pm AA	11 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
12 9:00am Worship & Communion 10:00am Summer Breakfast 7:00pm Bell Choir Try Night	13 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	14 7:00pm Sunnyslope Neighborhood Assoc.	15 7:00pm Sunday School teachers meeting	16 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	17 7:30pm AA	18 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 8:00am Sunday School Office Cleaning
19 9:00am Worship & Communion 10:00am Summer Breakfast	20 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	21 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Church Council Mtg.	22	23 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	24 8:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 7:30pm AA	25 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
26 9:00am Worship & Communion 10:00am Summer Breakfast 1:00pm District 18 AA mtg.	27 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	28	29	30 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	31 7:30pm AA	

WORSHIP

Bell Choir Try Night

Do you enjoy hearing the bells play? Do you ever wonder if you could do that too? If so, please consider joining us on Sunday, August 12, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary for a Bell Choir Try Night. We'll show you what's involved and let you "try out" the bells with no obligation. Ultimately, we are looking to fill a minimum of three more positions for the 7:00-8:00 p.m. choir. If you have questions, please direct them to Heidi Meyer.

Blessing of the Backpacks

It's back to school time! Teachers and students, bring your backpacks, lunchboxes, or tote bags to the Blessing of the Backpacks on August 19! It's a reminder that we need to take Jesus with us wherever we go.



Regular Worship Schedule Resumes in September



Our summer worship schedule—with worship at 9:00 a.m.—will continue through Labor Day weekend. Summer breakfasts end on August 26; no breakfast will be served on September 2 (Labor Day weekend).

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

Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	August 5	August 12	August 19	August 26
Greeter(s)				
9:00 a.m.	Keith and Debra Gillespie	Dave and Lisa Rieff	Rett and Judy Messerschmidt	Paul and Sue Dieter
Liturgist				
9:00 a.m.	Brad VenHuizen	Rex Quadhammer	Karen Mullen	John Florea
Communion Servers				
9:00 a.m.	Brewer family	Edwards family	Brad and Randi VenHuizen	Jane Hawkins
Nursery Attendant(s)				
9:00 a.m.	Anne Yarger	Sarah Horan	Lisa Rieff	Ashley Meier
Altar Care				
9:00 a.m.	Paul and Ann Kroll	Mike and Christie Klos	Pauline Shaffer, Randi VenHuizen	Cathy Aden, Dayla Miller, Deb Quadhammer
Ushers				
9:00 a.m.	TBA			

Kickoff Sunday Potluck

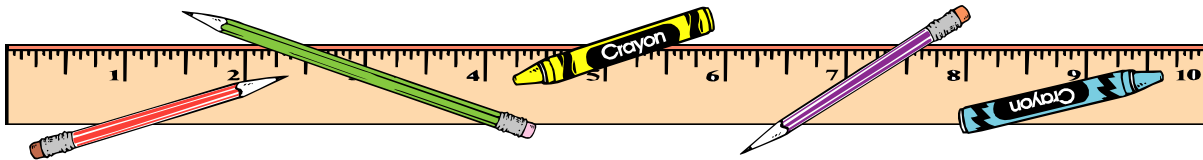
As I was looking at the newspaper, I saw several "Back to School Sale" ads! It is hard to believe how fast our summer has gone by. September 9 is Kickoff Sunday, when Sunday school starts and we go back to two worship services.



Traditionally, we have a Pot Luck Luncheon to celebrate. Please bring main dishes, side dishes, salads, and deserts to share with your Lord of Love family. Coffee, water, and lemonade will be provided!

Sunday Donuts Coming Soon

Kickoff Sunday is when we resume picking up donuts from HyVee at 108th and Fort Streets before Sunday School starts, and washing the coffee cups and coffee pot after Sunday school ends! Sign-up sheets are at the "donut table." If you need a lesson on how to run the dishwasher, please ask Paula Foster, Lori Vandeventer, or many others, and we will teach you all we know!



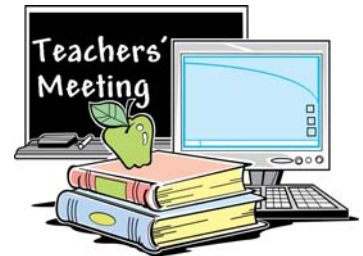
Sunday School Teachers Needed



We are in need of volunteers to teach Sunday School for the senior high class and lower grades, too. If you have an interest, please attend the Sunday School teachers' meeting on Wednesday, August 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday School Teachers' Meeting

Attention all Sunday School teachers: there will be a meeting on Wednesday, August 15 at 7:00 p.m. to review the Sunday School curriculum and schedule. If you have not attended a "Safeguarding God's Children" class in the last 2 years, please let Paula Foster or Lori Vandeventer know so we can tell the instructor how many people to plan to teach (date to be determined).



Weekly Education Opportunities at Lord of Love

Sunday
9:00 a.m. Worship service

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

Wednesday
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

LOL Cookbook Available

Taste and See That the Lord is Good, our 40th Anniversary Cookbook, is available in the narthex each Sunday or from Mary Lou in the church office for \$18. It contains over 650 tried and true recipes from our members and is a wonderful book to add to your collection or to use for gifts.



Preschool Update by Michelle Petersen

Summer vacation is coming to an end, and it is almost time to start preschool again! I am so excited to get started! I am happy to report that I am completely full for this school year!

Preschool will operate Monday through Friday from 9:15-11:45 a.m. Feel free to stop in and check out our classroom!



Advent Devotional Booklet

Lord of Love is planning on preparing an Advent Devotional Booklet this year, and a couple of volunteers are needed. If you would like to work on this project, please contact Doug Aden or Pastor Brad. Some of the duties are picking scriptures, working on the layout, editing, working with individuals or groups that are contributing to the devotional booklet, and helping with the mailing.



Lord of Love's 40th Anniversary Celebration: Sharing our Memories

There were so many memories of Lord of Love submitted to the 40th Anniversary planning committee prior to the anniversary celebration! The committee wasn't able to share them all during the celebration, so a few memories will be shared in *The Love Letter* each month. Enjoy!

God is Always With Me, by Gwen Edwards

I often remember this one when I re-read my journal. A quote from a then five-year-old on 9/11/01... "I'm not scared because God is always with me." Out of the mouths of babes.

Memory submitted by Deb Lund

We moved to Omaha on June 2, 1979, to an apartment at August Moon Apts. - 99th & Fort. We saw that Lord of Love was an ALC church, so we went that first Sunday, June 3, 1979. It was Confirmation, and though a very long service, we loved it. The music and Pastor Frank and the people were all awesome. We came that first Sunday and by fall were members, youth sponsors, in the choir and brass group, and happy Christians!

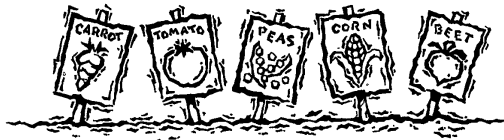
Playing Football in the Sanctuary, shared by many people

In the days prior to having a fellowship hall and narthex, many people recounted moving the chairs and having lock-ins and playing football games in the sanctuary.... Only at Lord of Love!

Lord of Love Community Garden



At this writing, weekly harvests have taken place on Wednesday mornings. The summer squash has been bountiful. Onions, carrots, potatoes, and sweet corn have also been taken to the Project Hope pantry. The bean harvest will not match the abundance we've had, as there's been severe damage from ravenous rascally rabbits. We've welcomed a couple of new gardeners this summer. Thanks to all involved for their faithful commitment to help feed the hungry.



ELCA Youth Gathering 100 Wells Challenge

We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work. This year, ELCA youth joined together to do just that through the 100 Wells Challenge.

The goal is to raise \$250,000 in 2012 to support the water projects of ELCA World Hunger where they are needed most. \$250,000 could mean 100 wells—each one with the potential of bringing clean water to 500 families at a time.

Donations were collected during the Youth Gathering. Other donations may be made on the ELCA website at <https://community.elca.org/page.aspx?pid=713>.

We Do Mission: Rukwa Villagers Now Have Access to Clean Water

Villagers in the Rukwa towns Vikonge and Bulamata now have access to clean water thanks to two new boreholes fixed with hand pumps.

The new pumps were made possible by donors who understand the need for clean water in areas such as Rukwa. The Nebraska Synod, through its companion synod relationship with the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, takes vision trips to Tanzania where people learn first-hand of the needs our brothers and sisters in Christ there face every day.



From Abraham Kombe: "The major problem which affects the livelihood of our people in rural areas is the availability of clean and safe water. Hence the boreholes you provided to us have big meaning to our society. God bless you."

Mission Possible Update

Thanks, again, for the generous in giving for summer breakfasts as proceeds go to the Lord of Love Youth Fund. The Mission Possible Team meets in mid-August to discuss plans for designated mission monies and special offerings the remainder of the year. Any and all input is most appreciated—contact John Florea or Dave Hild.

MISSION: POSSIBLE+

40 Hours of Service

How are those volunteer hours stacking up? Kudos to those of you giving some of your time to serve others. The Stewardship Team plans to organize a service event this fall, so more information is to come soon.

Communication Survey Results

And the Survey said.... In the July issue of *The Love Letter*, Brian Lund referred to the communication survey that was conducted in May. Several people have asked how the survey came out. Here are the highlights of the survey. The majority of the congregation relies on the announcements on Sunday morning and *The Love Letter* to get information regarding activities at Lord of Love. A much smaller number of people read the church bulletin, check their mailboxes, and read the bulletin boards.



Communication requires a sender of a message and a receiver of the message. For effective communication, it is important that information is sent in an accurate, concise, and timely manner. It is also important that members of the congregation take the time to receive information.

Take the church bulletin home and read it. (We do appreciate you not reading it during the sermon). While you are standing in the donut line, look at the bulletin board. Check your mailboxes, read your e-mails, and check for the constant contact sent from Brain and Deb Lund. If you have an e-mail address and we do not have it at church, share it with us so we can send the constant contact to you.



Finally, if you have suggestions to improve our communication, communicate your ideas to us. Let Mike Klos or Jeri Morgan know about your ideas.

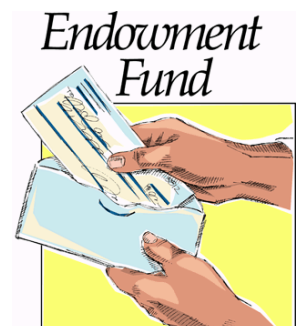
Endowment Committee is Looking at Needs Again

The Endowment Committee is again looking for special needs and missions that need funding. The Endowment Committee helps fund special missions and projects, and gives one-time awards for good causes. It does not help with the general operating budget items of the church.

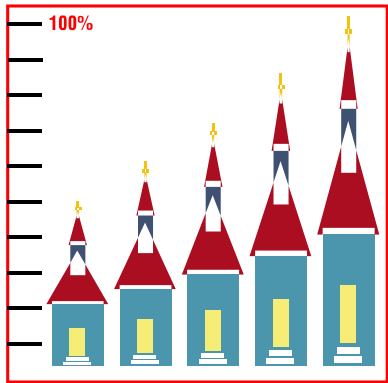
In the past year, the Endowment Committee has awarded \$1,140 for three scholarships to the Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, \$500 to replace the roof on the Education wing of the Vocational School at Pastor Anna's Church, and \$1,000 to the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

To support these special missions, apply for funds by completing an application obtained from the church office and then returning it to the Endowment Committee before 11:59 p.m. on September 30, 2012.

In addition, the Endowment Committee needs additional funding so that more can be done. Remembering the Lord of Love Endowment Fund in your estate plan is an easy way to supplement the fund and assure that your fruits on earth are extended beyond your lifetime. Lord of Love will take contributions to the Endowment Fund at any time. Simply put a check in the collection plate stipulating that the amount goes to the Endowment Fund (Please make it a check solely for the Endowment Fund). Also, if you come across a windfall, please consider contributing to the Endowment Fund.



Capital Campaign Report



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

As of July 8, 2012, the Capital Campaign has received \$60,506. \$10,716 of pledges are still outstanding; if all are given, the total receipts will be \$71,222.

Just a reminder that all pledges are due December 31, 2012. I tell you now because time moves quickly, and we will probably be at the end of the year before we know it. I am not planning on sending reminders on unpaid pledges. The dollars that you have contributed appear on your Statement of Giving. If you have a question about the amount given or the remaining amount on your pledge, please contact Doug Aden.

The Capital Campaign Committee thanks all of you for your support of this project.

Memorial Committee

During the past year, the Memorial Committee has been working on procedures for the operation of the Committee and has been making recommendations to the council for purchases of items using Memorial funds. Memorial funds were used to:

- Help pay for bells for the Bell Choir
- Purchase chimes for the Bell Choir
- Purchase the four round tables that are in the Narthex



The Committee is seeking suggestions and ideas for using Memorial funds. If you have a suggestion, please contact a member of the Memorial Committee. Members are Jackie Combes, Karen Armitage, Rett Messerschmidt, Todd Meyer, and Doug Aden.

Stewardship All Year Long: Helping by Rex Quadhammer

A few months ago as I was delivering mail, I drove by where an elderly woman had tipped over in her motorized wheelchair on the sidewalk. Two young girls had stopped to help her, and I also pulled over to assist them. We were able to get her sitting upright and noticed that she had a big bump on her head and had been bleeding. We comforted her the best we could until a policeman arrived and then an ambulance. When I delivered mail to her house an hour later, I saw that her sister had pulled in the driveway, and I was able to tell her about Verlyn's accident.



A week later, I had heard she called the talk show on KFAB and complained that a lot of people just drove by and didn't stop to help. It reminded me of the story of the Good Samaritan. I'm just glad I was able to help her, along with the two young girls and a woman and her daughter who stopped by later.

Continued on the next page

RESOURCES

Stewardship All Year Long: Helping, continued

One thing I notice when I'm at church is how helpful everyone is! If something needs to be done, someone always steps up to do it. Many times without anyone even asking! Why do we do this? Why don't we just sit back and complain when things don't get done? Why don't we just let someone else do it? We seem to have an attitude at our church that we want to be helpful. Where does this come from?



I think I know: God's love. Why else would we not only be helpful in the little things, but also make big commitments to teach Sunday school, serve on church council, usher, do altar care, be a liturgist. The list goes on and on.

THANKS
FOR YOUR HELP!

Hebrews 13:16 "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." Thank you all for living out your faith and being so helpful.

COUNCIL REPORT

Our Giving Status by Barb Haskins, Council Treasurer

General Fund financial information for June 2012 is as follows:

- Income: \$20,651.89
- Expenses: \$28,747.66

General Fund financial information for the year to date (through June 30, 2012) is as follows:

- Income: \$145,905.32
- Expenses: \$145,222.36

We are tracking right on target thus far. Thank you for your faithfulness!!



2012 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: Jeri Morgan, Mike Klos

Resources: Doug Roberts, Rex Quadhamer

Worship: Randi VenHuizen, Pat Brewer



COUNCIL REPORT

From the Council President – August 2012 by Brian Lund, Council President

Romans 12:13-17 (NIV) *Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.*

We updated our mission statement this year to **“Celebrating and sharing God’s love in a welcoming community of faith, while serving others.”**

This summer, we have been living out this mission as a sharing, caring, community of faith.



During the third week of July, we opened our church building to celebrate the lives of a parent of a member and a former member. We came together to support grieving families through worship, proclaiming the love of God who promises us new life in Him, and by providing an opportunity for a meal and fellowship time to share personal stories about the departed. Thank you to our members who contributed their time and talents for these services.

Throughout the summer, a dedicated crew has been tending to our community garden. Harvesting of produce began in late June. Onions, carrots, beans, summer squash, and sweet corn have been distributed to area food banks. What a great ministry of support for those who wonder where their next meal may come from. Thank you to our members who work each week tending the garden and harvesting its produce.

We opened our church building to a youth group traveling to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans from Fargo, ND. They helped us worship by leading us in two songs. They joined us in fellowship for breakfast served by the Men’s group. We helped them a little, and they proved to be a real blessing to us.

I’m confident that these are just some examples of how our members live out their faith daily in support and service to others. Thank you to all of our members who have served and continue to serve others in this 40th Anniversary year of Lord of Love. Working together as a faithful community, we can make a difference in our community.



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.*

Thank you for your ongoing support of Lord of Love and its ministry programs. Your financial support and sharing of your time and talents is so important to our ministries throughout the entire year. Summer travel and other activities may keep us away from Lord of Love on Sundays. Please make time to worship each week wherever you may be.

Please continue to pray our congregation and our service to others. Give thanks for the many blessings we have received through Christ Jesus. Pray for healing for those in need, safety for all who travel and work on behalf of others, and wisdom for our pastor and other leaders of Lord of Love.

Blessings in faith and service,
Brian Lund

WOMEN OF LOVE

Women's Half-Day Retreat

Please join us at the home of Deb Lund, 4720 N. 136th Street, on Saturday, August 4 for the *Gather* Bible study retreat. (The lessons are available online at <http://www.womenoftheelca.org/summer-studies-pages-68.php>.) Rolls and coffee will be served at 8:45 a.m., and the study begins at 9:00 a.m. Please bring a salad for the noon luncheon. The retreat will end about 1:00 p.m.



Women of Love Ministry Team

An important meeting of the Women's Ministry Team will be held in the Mary Room at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 15. After a 2-month hiatus, the team has an extended agenda that includes the Autumn Renewal, the Fall Festival, the road trip to First Lutheran's bazaar in Sioux Falls, and other upcoming events on our calendar. All women are invited to attend and bring input to these discussions.



Lord's Laughing Ladies

Join us for coffee fellowship at Crane Coffee at 77th and Cass Streets at 8:00 a.m. on Fridays, August 3, 17, and 31. (Please note that the dates in the Women of Love program brochure are incorrect. They are off by one week. Sorry for the confusion.)



Autumn Renewal

Lord of Love Women of Love is hosting the eastern Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization (NSWO) Autumn Renewal on Saturday, September 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Approximately 135 women are expected to attend.



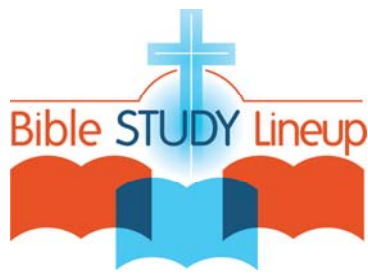
We need volunteers from LOL to assist with this event. Greeters, hostesses, food servers, and others to perform "other duties as assigned" are needed. If you can help, please contact Val Florea, Women's Ministry Team Coordinator, at 402-3997-6382 or at JVFlorea@aol.com.

Also, please plan to register to be a part of this day. We will view and discuss the video *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*, which tells the amazing story of a small band of Liberian women who came together in the midst of a bloody civil war and led the way to win a long-awaited peace for their shattered country. We will also view and listen to a moving speech by one of the leaders of this movement, African Activist Leymah Ghowee, winner of numerous awards including the Nobel Peace Prize. The speech we will hear is the one Ms. Gbowee delivered to the Women of the ELCA triennial convention in Spokane in July 2011.



Registration is \$18. Registration forms are available at the Information Center in the narthex and are due by September 5.

September 2012–May 2013 *Gather* Bible Study



“Gathered by God” is a word study on “gather” and will cover session topics such as gather to learn, gather for fellowship, gather for support, gather to be empowered, and gather to be sent. The study will look at all the ways God calls us to gather and will support the magazine’s name as well as the purpose statement of Women of the ELCA. The writer, Audrey West, is author of the award-winning 2004 (*Lutheran Woman Today*, now *Gather*) Bible study, “Everyday Surprises: The Parables of Jesus.” She lives in Bethlehem, PA, and served most recently as visiting associate professor of Lutheran studies at Yale Divinity School. Although the first session of the Bible study will be online at womenoftheelca.org in late August, you will need a subscription to the magazine to receive the remaining 8 sessions. Subscribe to *Gather* online for \$15 a year.

You are invited to join one of two study groups. The first group meets on the first Monday of each month at Old Country Buffet at 145th and West Center Road at 6:00 p.m., and the second group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Lord of Love in the Mary Room at 6:00 p.m.



Created, Called, and Empowered: Celebrating 25 years of Ministry

By Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director of Church-Wide Women of the ELCA

For three days in June of 1987, Lutheran women gathered in Milwaukee, Wis. to form Women of the ELCA. As we celebrate 25 years of this organization, we’re celebrating a tradition that extends back an additional 150 years. American Lutheran women have been coming together in community for service and study since 1837 when the first women’s missionary society was formed in New York. The first national Lutheran women’s organization, the Woman’s Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the General Synod, was founded 42 years later in 1879. That’s quite a legacy!



The women who founded Women of the ELCA had incredible vision, creating governing documents that are both inspirational and flexible. Our churchwide constitution calls us to commit ourselves to full discipleship and oneness in Christ. We are to affirm the worth of each woman in the life and work of the organization while proclaiming and practicing inclusive unity. All entities within the ELCA and all expressions of Women of the ELCA are to function interdependently and share responsibility for fulfilling the common purpose. Leaders are to provide a form of leadership that supports and empowers others within the community. Our community of women is to work toward wholeness of the church. We have claimed and are practicing an anti-racist identity. These incredible images of one community are set forth in Article III of the churchwide organization’s constitution.

Continued on the next page

Created, Called and Empowered: Celebrating 25 years of Ministry, continued

Individually and collectively we have lived into many of these images and yet have fallen short of some of these aspirations. So it goes with those who are both saints and sinners. We thank God for God's grace that gives us new opportunities each day to live into the loving community the women who founded this organization imagined.

We'll be celebrating the past 25 years of mission and ministry in the coming months while looking forward to the next 25 years. Each congregational unit is encouraged to find one or more ways to celebrate the 25th anniversary including making a gift to our 25th Anniversary Offering. Find more details at womenoftheelca.org.



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25TH ANNIVERSARY



Dates to Remember

August

3	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77 th and Cass
4	8:45 a.m.	Gather Bible study half-day retreat, Deb Lund's home
6	6:00 p.m.	Gather Bible Study, Old Country Buffet, 145 th and West Center
7	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
15	6:00 p.m.	Ministry Team Meeting
17	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77 th and Cass
21	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
31	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77 th and Cass



Women of the ELCA

Coming Soon

September 15	8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization (NSWO)
October 6		Metro East Autumn Renewal, Lord of Love
November 2-3		Women of Love Fall Day Retreat
		Road Trip to First Lutheran Church Bazaar, Sioux Falls, SD (Karen Mullen, coordinator)

IN OUR PRAYERS & LOVE NOTES

In Our Prayers

Rob Anderson
Diana Baker (friend of the Thoms)
Betty Barnes
Dick Bell
James Cantrell (uncle of Gwen Edwards)
Ruth Cooley
Claire Foral (friend of Dave and Lisa Rieff)
Paula Foster
Nick Gehrig (grandson of the Schuchards)
Jane Hawkins' brothers and nieces
Marilyn Haworth (friend of Brenda Mac)
John and Connie Holbrook (brother and sister-in-law of
Judy Messerschmidt)
Cathy Johnson (friend of Marilyn Thomsen)
Cheryl Jones (friend of Nancy Shinrock)
Dolores Jordan (aunt of Paula Foster)
Jude Konvalina
Jane Loquist (sister-in-law of Kristi Omar)
Donna Lueders (mother of Dave Lueders)
Lisa Lueders (sister-in-law of Dave Lueders)
Alice Mainwaring (sister of Pauline Shaffer)
Marj Mahler (mother of Jane Hawkins)
Debbie Michalak (co-worker of Jackie Combes)
Ardis Mickelson (mother of Shawn Lorenzen and
Heather VanArsdale)

Eunice Neve
John Patrick Nicholson (friend of the Novaks)
David and Rich Pippin (nephews of Lynda McGraw)
Isaac Schroeder (infant son of Clay and Kelly)
Phyllis Strasser
Brenda Thom
Marilyn Thomsen
Audrey Wapelhorst (niece of Brenda Mac)
Ted Whitfield (former co-worker of Brian Shinrock)
Jeff Wise (friend of the Thoms)

Those deployed around the world:

Kelvin
Andrew Briggs
Terry Duke
Sean Rooney

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



PRAY
for our
Students



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Return Service Requested

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

This Month

- August 4 Women of Love *Gather* half-day retreat
- August 12 Bell Choir Try Night
- August 15 Sunday School teachers' meeting
- August 19 Blessing of the Backpacks

Upcoming Events

- September 9 Kickoff Sunday
- September 15 Nebraska Synodical Women’s Organization Metro East Autumn Renewal at Lord of Love
- September 30 Endowment Fund application deadline
- October 6 Women of Love Fall Day Retreat



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.