



The Love Letter

Volume 41

September 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

Let the 2013-2014 program year begin! Now that school is back in session, it is time to kick off our fall programming. September is a very busy month, and this issue of *The Love Letter* has everything you need to know about Kickoff Sunday and the start of all of our program ministries and educational opportunities.

But first, one housekeeping item.... The LOL Youth section of *The Love Letter* has moved! Because our youth group is a part of Christian education, which falls under the umbrella of the Nurture committee of our church council, the LOL Youth page now follows the Nurture section of the newsletter.

Sunday, September 8 is **Kickoff Sunday** and **God's Work, Our Hands Sunday** in celebration of the ELCA's 25th anniversary, and you're invited! **See page 6 for your invitation and the schedule for that fun-filled morning**, which will include the following:

- Worship (see page 4, Worship)
- Education (see page 7, Nurture)
- Service opportunities (see page 7, Nurture, and page 12, Outreach)
- Kickoff Sunday Potluck Luncheon (see page 5, Nurture)

In addition, as part of our 2013-2014 program year, the following activities are beginning:

- 9/4 – Confirmation (see page 5, Nurture)
- 9/11 – Wednesday Night Suppers (see page 8, Nurture)
- 9/11 – Luther Kids (see page 8, Nurture)
- 9/11 – Junior Choir (see page 8, Nurture)
- 9/15 – Adult Forum (see page 9, Nurture)
- 9/18 – Senior High Wednesday Night Study (see page 10, LOL Youth)
- 9/22 – One-day Bible 101 class for grades 3-6 (see page 8, Nurture)

Finally, fall will soon be in the air, which means that our Fall Festival is just around the corner. Make plans now to join us on Sunday, October 20 for the program, dinner, and silent auction (see page 9, Nurture).

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God's Work, Our Hands by Pastor Brad

Sunday, September 8, 2013, has been set aside to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). On this Sunday, all 4 million members are called upon to serve in our communities.



Even though we are called on a daily basis to proclaim Christ through acts of kindness and service, this one day is a tremendous expression of Christians' love for the world.



The ELCA could have set this day as an occasion to raise money or to look at ourselves, but instead chose to look outward to love our neighbors and make our community better through hands-on service.

As a church, we are deeply rooted in scripture and firmly believe in the priesthood of all believers. The Bible teaches us, time and time again, to look beyond our own needs to the needs of others. Each of us is called by God to live out our faith in our daily lives. September 8 is just one of 364 other days that we are given opportunities to serve the God who loves us.

The theme passage for this anniversary is from 2 Corinthians 5:17. "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see everything has become new!"

For us to live in Christ is to be made new each day as we open ourselves to others. We share new experiences of Christ's presence in our lives as we walk with others on this journey of faith. We are made new or changed as we experience what it is to see how someone less fortunate than ourselves struggles in daily life. We are made new as the Holy Spirit enters our hearts as we respond to other's needs.



We will celebrate on September 8, but the celebration does not stop there. We are called to celebrate the gift of love and forgiveness given to us by God through Jesus Christ each day. As we serve others on September 8, let us been open to how the Holy Spirit is calling us to God's Work, through the use of Our Hands.

Peace,
Pastor Brad



MONTHLY CALENDAR

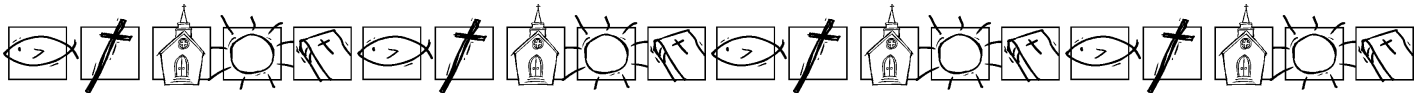
September 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00am Worship & Communion 6:00pm & 7:00 Bell Rehearsal	2 6:00pm Gather Bible Study @ Old Country Buffet 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	3 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Vision & Coordination Mtg.	4 5:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm "Gather" Bible Study 6:00pm Brass 7:15pm Sr. Choir	5 9:30am Text Study at Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	6 12:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 7:30pm AA Meeting	7 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
8 Kick Off Sunday 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 11:30am Potluck Lunch 6:00pm & 7:00 Bell Rehearsal	9 6:30pm Cub Scout Leaders 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	10	11 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Sr. High Mission Trip Mtg. 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Ministry Team Mtg. 6:50pm Jr. Choir 7:15pm Sr. Choir	12 9:30am Text Study at Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	13 7:30pm AA Meeting	14 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
15 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 6:00pm & 7:00 Bell Rehearsal	16 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	17 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Church Council	18 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm High School Bible Study 6:50pm Jr. Choir 7:15pm Sr. Choir	19 9:30am Text Study at Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	20 7:30pm AA Meeting	21 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
22 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 12:00pm Bible 101 Gr. 3-6 w/parents 6:00pm & 7:00 Bell Rehearsal	23 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	24	25 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm High School Bible Study 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:50pm Jr. Choir 7:15pm Sr. Choir	26 9:30am Text Study at Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	27 8:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 7:30pm AA Meeting	28 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
29 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 1:00pm District 18 AA Mtg. 6:00pm & 7:00 Bell Rehearsal	30 8:00pm AA & Al Anon					

WORSHIP

Regular Worship Schedule Resumes

On Kickoff Sunday, September 8, we resume our regular worship schedule, with worship services at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages will be held at 9:15 a.m., and coffee and donuts will be available between worship services for a freewill offering. Please join us for worship, education, and fellowship on Sunday mornings!

Regular Worship Schedule



Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	September 1	September 8	September 15	September 22	September 29
Greeters					
8:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m. Doug and Cathy Aden, John and Gwen Edwards	Josh and Carissa Combes	Ed and Marjorie Keiser	Jim and Jerry Morgan	Jesse and Kylie Kulp
10:30 a.m.		Roger and Angie Meyer	Rett and Judy Messerschmidt	Dave and Lisa Rieff	Brian and Nancy Shinrock
Liturgist					
8:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m.	Deb Lund	Kenn Garder	Doug Aden	Paul Christenson
10:30 a.m.	Shawn Lorenzen	Dave Rieff	Tom Olson	Stephanie Baird	Heather Christensen
Communion Servers					
8:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m. VanArsdale family	Brewer family	Garder family	Doug and Rose Roberts, Cathy Aden	Jim and Jeri Morgan
10:30 a.m.		Vandeventer and Rieff families	Olson family	Barb Haskins and Julia Ritonya	Christensen and Yarger families
Altar Care					
8:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m. Rowen family	Janet Guthrie, Nancy Shinrock	Wayne and Joan Witt	Deb Christenson	Doug and Rose Roberts, Caroline Tessin
10:30 a.m.		Paul and Ann Kroll	Deb Quadnamer, Judy Messerschmidt	Diana Haye, Marcia Roads	Debra Gillespie, Karen Armitage
Ushers					
8:00 a.m.	Paul Dieter, Dennis Hindemith, Brian Walther				
10:30 a.m.	Brian and Deb Lund, John Edwards				
Nursery Attendant					
10:30 a.m.	Anne Yarger	Sarah Horan	Lisa Rieff	Ashley Meier	Traci Cadwallader
CD Recorder					
8:00 or 10:30	Pat Brewer	Paul Christenson	Pat Brewer		

Sunday Morning Donuts and Coffee

If you like to eat donuts and drink coffee, please be prepared to volunteer for 2 to 3 Sundays during the "donut season" to either pick up the donuts or clean up the donuts and coffee. This year, members will be asked to help with keeping the donuts coming. Please say, "Here am I. Send me, send me!"



Kickoff Sunday Potluck Luncheon



Our annual Kickoff Sunday Potluck Luncheon will be held on Sunday, **September 8!** Please bring a main dish and either a side dish, salad, or dessert to share.

Confirmation Class Begins September 4

Confirmation class for 7th and 8th graders begins on Wednesday, **September 4** from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Class will be held from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., and the students will share a meal from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. Please contact Pastor Brad if you have any questions.



Kountze Memorial Hosts Discussion with Former ELCA Secretary on Sept. 7

As part of its celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the ELCA, Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church in Omaha is sponsoring a presentation and discussion with The Rev. Dr. Lowell G. Almen, the founding Secretary of the ELCA, on Saturday, September 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



Dr. Almen will discuss the formation of the ELCA from three predecessor bodies, the early gifts and challenges faced during its first quarter century, and the gifts and challenges of the future. Participants will have the opportunity to interact with Dr. Almen throughout the morning and at an open Q&A session.

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet and discuss the history and the future of our church with a leader of the ELCA. All are welcome, and the event is free of charge. Additional information can be found online at http://www.kmlchurch.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=228&Itemid=307 or by calling 402-341-7761.

Weekly Education Opportunities at Lord of Love

Sunday

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

Monday

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

Wednesday

5:00 p.m. Confirmation (7th & 8th grades) @ LOL Abraham Room

Wednesday, cont.

6:00 p.m. Luther Kids (1st – 6th grades) @ LOL Preschool
6:00 p.m. Senior High Wednesday Night Study @ LOL Paul Room
6:00 p.m. *Gather Bible Study @ LOL Mary Room* (first Wednesday of month)

Thursday

9:30 a.m. Text Study @ Guthrie's

Saturday

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



*You're Invited to
Kickoff Sunday &
God's Work,
Our Hands Sunday
A day of service and celebration!*



What: Worship, education, service, and fellowship

When: Sunday, September 8

Where: Lord of Love Lutheran Church

Bring: Non-perishable food items for our food drive

Extra produce from your garden to donate

A main dish and side, salad, or dessert for our potluck

Why: To celebrate the kickoff of our 2013-2014 program year and the 25th Anniversary of the ELCA!

Kickoff Sunday at a Glance

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 8:00 a.m. | Worship and Communion |
| 9:15 a.m. | Sunday school for preschool through senior high |
| | Service project for adults – Package bulk rice for Project Hope |
| 10:30 a.m. | Worship and Communion |
| 11:30 a.m. | Kickoff Sunday Potluck Luncheon |
| | Service project for adults – Package bulk rice for Project Hope |
| All Day | Drop off non-perishable food items (our goal is 2500 items!)
and extra produce from your garden |

Sunday School begins September 8



Sunday School begins on Kickoff Sunday, September 8, for all classes: preschool through senior high. There will be registration forms for all children and youth to help us collect demographic information. Please be sure to pick up a registration form on September 8 and return it as soon as possible.

The Sunday School schedule will be easy to remember this year for preschool through senior high.

If there is church, then there is Sunday School from September 8 through May 18! On holiday weekends, we will still have Sunday School lessons and activities for children to participate in, though they may be in larger groups and have special activities. There are no confusing schedules leaving you wondering if we are or aren't having class, because the answer will always be...we are!

In addition, we're already planning for Christmas! The Sunday School Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 15 at 10:30 a.m. Dress rehearsal will be Saturday, December 14 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. We are looking for a volunteer to facilitate/spearhead the Christmas Program! We need assistance in finding a program, assigning parts, staging, etc. The commitment would be short-term, from September or October through December. If interested, contact Heather Christensen.

Always Being Made New: Celebrating 25 Years of the ELCA!

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2013 under the theme "Always Being Made New." What God is doing through us here at home and around the world is worth celebrating.

We are a church that is deeply rooted—and always being made new. Our roots are in Scripture, tradition, and the Lutheran Confessions, as well as in the vibrant communities and rich histories of our congregations. These roots are an ongoing source of nourishment, enabling us to be a church that is resilient, always reforming and guided by the Holy Spirit.



To celebrate the 25th anniversary and our church's commitment to sharing God's love with our neighbors, we are called to take part in **a day of service known as "God's work. Our hands."** We will come together as a congregation and serve our community.

Learn about:

- Christian Education opportunities at Lord of Love.
- Outreach Ministries that Lord of Love participates in. You can join us!

Serve at Lord of Love:

- Food drive of non-perishable food items. **Goal: collect 2500 items! (25 years = 2500 items)** to be shared with local pantries and ministries such as Project Hope and Table Grace Café. Collection can begin today in the Narthex.
- Cards for the sick. Make a card to be sent to someone who needs hope, encouragement, and support. A great activity for both adults & children!
- Package bulk rice into individual servings for the Project Hope pantry.
- Bring extra produce from your garden to be given to pantries, a special treat for recipients.

We are a Church Community. We are Family. We are Lord of Love! See you on Kick-Off Sunday!

Wednesday Night Suppers

Wednesday night suppers will begin on September 11! The family-friendly suppers are held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The cost of the meal is a freewill offering. Please join us for this wonderful opportunity for food and fellowship!



Wanted: Bookshelf or Storage Unit



The Senior High Sunday School room is in need of a used bookshelf or storage unit to store learning materials. If you have a shelf to donate, please let us know. We can even pick it up from you!

Luther Kids

Luther Kids will begin on Wednesday, September 11! Luther Kids is a Wednesday night program of fun, learning, crafts, music, and more for children in elementary grades. Luther Kids meets in the preschool room from 6:00 to 6:50 p.m.

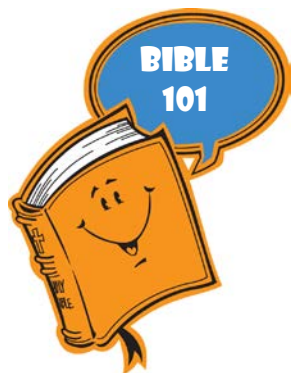


Junior Choir

The first Junior Choir practice of the season will be on Wednesday, September 11. Come and praise the Lord! Children in grades one and higher are invited to sing with our Junior Choir! The Junior Choir will practice from 6:50 to 7:20 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. September practices will be held on September 11, 18, and 25. If you have questions, please call Jane Hawkins at 402-343-1680. See you at practice!

Bible 101 Class for 3rd–6th Graders

Traditionally, Lord of Love has gifted our 3rd graders with their very own copy of the Bible each fall. This year, we have decided to enhance that program. We invite all 3rd through 6th grade children and a parent or mentor to join us for an afternoon of Bible 101! **Bible 101 will be held on September 22 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.**



What is Bible 101, you say?? It's an opportunity to learn about and understand the importance of the Bible. What is it? Why should I read it? How do I use it? We will spend the afternoon learning, snacking, and having a great time!! Our hope is that this program will enhance the meaning of and use of the Bible for each child who participates.

Parents or mentors will be encouraged to take their child's Bible home for personalization from friends, family, Godparents, etc., before it is presented to the child. If you have already received a Bible from Lord of Love (4th through 6th graders), please bring it with you to this session.

Volunteers are encouraged to help with snacks and facilitate activities, including crafts, games, and learning sessions. Contact Heather Christensen or Pastor Brad to volunteer.

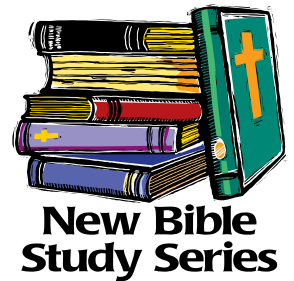
Register now! Contact Heather Christensen at heather@lord-of-love.org or 402-415-4571 to save your spot!

Fall 2013 Adult Forum Sessions

The Adult Education Forum for fall 2013 will be held between worship services at 9:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary. A team of facilitators including Pastor Brad, Harry Naasz, and Ruth Manning will lead a 7-week series titled “Animate: Bible,” which is newly released from Augsburg SparkHouse.

“Animate: Bible” is a refreshing new take on what the Bible is, how it came to be, and how we should read it. Each topic is written or outlined by a respected theologian to help you explore your knowledge, understanding, thoughts, and feelings. Calendar topics include the following:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
9/15/13	Canon Mining for the Word – <i>written by Eric Elnes</i>
9/22/13	History Parchment to Pixel – <i>written by Phyllis Tickle</i>
9/29/13	Testaments One Story, Two Parts – <i>written by Rachel Held Evans</i>
10/6/13	Gospels Unexpected Good News – <i>written by Nadia Bolz-Weber</i>
10/13/13	Budget Forum Meeting discussing 2014 Budget
10/20/13	Genre Rhythm of the Text – <i>written by Jose Morales</i>
10/27/13	Interpretation Scripture Reads Us – <i>written by Will Willimon</i>
11/3/13	Grace Love Is the Bottom Line – <i>written by Jay Bakker</i>



Join us for this exciting exploration of the Bible!

Fall Festival Update

Sunday, October 20 is just around the corner. The planning committees are at work behind the scenes, but now it's time to really get going on this fun event. The program will begin at 4:30 p.m., with dinner at 5:30 p.m. Once again, our fabulous youth group will be serving us.

We are so excited to support Table Grace Café with 50% of our proceeds. The mission of the café is to foster a healthy community by offering great food prepared and served in a graceful manner to anyone who walks through the door. Their goal is that everyone regardless of economic status deserves the chance to eat wonderful food while being treated with respect and dignity. Their Restaurant Internship Program allows individuals to complete a 2-week training course in restaurant work and then get job placement assistance by the staff and volunteers. The remaining money will be divided equally between the LOL W/ELCA operating fund and “Women on a Mission” by providing partial support to two LOL Women who will be going on the NSWOW vision trip to Tanzania next June.



You can help us by purchasing tickets for the program and dinner, donating items for the silent auction, soliciting donations from local businesses (Jackie Combes has copies of the letter to hand out to the businesses), and sharing your musical talent in the program (contact Amy Kragnes).

Tickets are \$17.50 for a delicious meal served by our own Lisa and Dave Rieff.

One more thing: you are invited to join us on Sunday, September 15, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service and offer your suggestions to help make this the best Fall Festival ever!

Youth to Volunteer at Project Hope on Saturday, September 14

Our next Youth Group event for ALL youth grades 7-12 will be on Saturday, September 14, from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. We will meet at the church at 8:30 a.m. and load all the items from the Kickoff Sunday food drive and head down to Project Hope to deliver the items. We will also help Miss Lori with any of her needs at the pantry.



Extra drivers may be needed to get participants to the event. Please let Miss Heather know if you are available to drive.

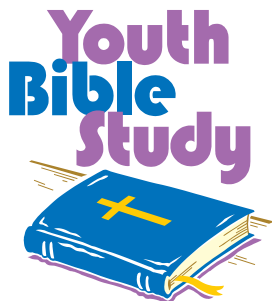
August Youth Event Recap

Sunday, August 11, was a day full of service and fun. The youth gathered Sunday morning to flip some pancakes and host breakfast after church. We hope everyone was full...we sure did flip a lot of cakes. A special shout-out goes to Tom Olson. If he hadn't stopped by to check in and show us the ropes, we might have tripped a few more circuits and not have had enough pancakes.

After breakfast was picked up and the kitchen was clean, it was time for the Youth Group Wacky Water Day! We had a blast! There were water balloons and water games, watermelon and dousing with water. Everyone was having a great time and there was a lot of laughter and friendship. We were lucky to have some adult volunteers who made lunch for us to give us lots of energy for the afternoon. (Many thanks to Dawn, Lynette, Anne, and Heidi!) Our other adult volunteer was disguised as a big kid at heart: Adam Lueders did an amazing job keeping everyone having a great time.

Senior High Wednesday Night Bible Study

The Senior High Youth will have a new opportunity for Wednesday night study! Explore your faith through education, conversation, and reflection.



We will begin our study using the "Animate: Faith" series. Sessions explore the following faith topics: God, Religion, Jesus, Salvation, the Cross, the Bible, and Church.

We encourage all 9-12 graders to join us Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. beginning September 18!



Senior High Mission Trip in 2014

In the summer of 2014, we are taking the senior high youth group on a Workcamp Mission Trip to Hamilton, Ohio! The trip will take place June 15-21, 2014, but to participate, we need to register our group by September 30, 2013. The cost will be approximately \$500 per person. Fundraising opportunities will be supported.

We need to know who is interested in attending! Youth who will be incoming freshman or outgoing seniors in June 2014 and their parent or mentor are invited to attend an informational meeting to learn more and register.

Plan on attending on Wednesday, September 11, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., to learn about this faith-building and exciting opportunity.



OUTREACH

Blood Drive Results

On August 11, 2013, Lord of Love donated 24 units of blood. From the 24 units, there is a potential to help 72 people. Thank you to all who participated! Our next blood drive is tentatively scheduled for February 9, 2014.



Lord of Love Community Garden

The sweet corn has been harvested, and our neighbor raccoons got to enjoy some, too! We're digging potatoes and picking summer squash, peppers, and tomatoes twice weekly. Harvesting will continue as the summer days grow shorter. Thanks to all those who have tended the garden with great care this summer and delivered the fresh veggies to metro Lutheran pantries so faithfully.



Mission Possible Update: Tanzania

The following update comes from Bob Kasworm, our missionary in Tanzania.

The first ever graduation of the Machame Lutheran Hospital School of nursing took place on Saturday. In addition to the 37 graduates in the first class, the second class of 35 has finished their studies and also graduated on Saturday (and begin their national licensing exam today!).

17 of these graduates were sponsored through the Nebraska Synod or by Alegent Creighton Health staff.

And of course, among them was our very own Aimbora. She already is working at Machame hospital. I have attached her picture from Saturday, and I hope everyone involved at Lord of Love feels like proud parents. We have done a good good thing.



* * * * *

Some of our congregation Mission money will be used for installing electricity at the Mshiri Training school near Marangu, Tanzania. This is the school we have supported in the past with funds for roof repairs. We will use the same concept of challenge funds and will ask the school to come up with additional money to complete the project. This is one of the final touches and should put the school on its way to becoming self-sufficient as enrollment increases and teacher payrolls can be afforded.

OUTREACH

Wanted: Extra Produce

On Sunday, September 8, **please bring in any extra produce from your garden** that you would be willing to donate. This will go to the Lutheran food pantries at Project Hope and/or First Lutheran. Unused produce from the pantry at First Lutheran is used by Table Grace Café for making gourmet soup, salad, and pizza for anyone who walks through their door.



Lend a Hand for Project Hope on September 8

Lord of Love will be doing a service project on Sunday, September 8, to help support Project Hope. **Please help us as we bag rice after the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. worship services** for Project Hope to distribute to people who come to them for help.

Project Hope is a food pantry located at 4205 Boyd Street. Lord of Love supports Project Hope through regular donations of food and clothing and occasional donations of money.

Last year, Project Hope was able to help 17,300 individuals and 7,670 families. Individuals receive a large bag of nonperishable food while families receive two or more bags to help them get through the month. They also get fresh produce along with bread and other items.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, “God’s Work. Our Hands.,” Celebrates 25 Years

Have you thought much about all that we do to share the Good News around the globe by being a part of the ELCA? Through our mission share dollars and special gifts, we support meaningful ministries that affect people’s lives in a concrete way. Here are some examples.

Lutheran Disaster Response is right there in the midst of turmoil and chaos around the world, including the US, to assist with basic needs when disaster strikes. Quilts made by Lord of Love women with materials given by Lord of Love folks provide shelter and comfort through **Lutheran World Relief**.

To date, over \$1,500 has been raised to give to the **ELCA Malaria Campaign** for mosquito nets, medication, health care, and education to people in Africa to help eliminate malaria. (*Thanks to all who have served the breakfasts and to those who have given generously to eat the breakfasts!*) Our gifts have helped build houses in northern Tanzania through **Houses for Health**. We have assisted with expenses for building a new roof and remodeling a **school in Tanzania** and sponsored a **nursing student** there—great illustrations of how our gifts touch people’s lives in a profound way.

Lord of Love supports **Lutheran Family Services**, which has a plethora of social programs for people in Nebraska and the world: adoption and refugee services, At Ease for veterans and their families, counseling services, and education programs for parents. (Remember all those diapers we’ve supplied for their Center for Healthy Families programs?) Fresh garden produce, non-perishable food, and clothing are given to **Project Hope** and other metro pantries to nourish the hungry right here in Omaha. Monies have gone to **Table Grace Café**, where anyone can get a nourishing lunch, and those who need assistance may participate in a training program for restaurant work.

God’s Work. Our Hands.
Thanks be to God! Let’s celebrate!

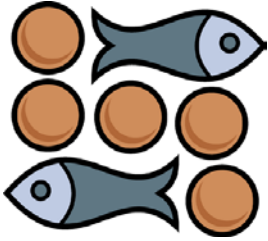


Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God’s work. Our hands.

RESOURCES

Found Faithful in Little by Rex Quadhamer

John 6:9 *There is a boy here who has five loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?*



With the miracle of the loaves and fishes, God took very little and multiplied it to meet the needs of all the people.

Jesus prayed for and miraculously multiplied the small gift of a young boy's generosity. Not only were the people following him satisfied, but there were twelve baskets of surplus. Jesus took what little they had and made sure it was enough for everybody.

In what "little" way is God asking us as individuals and as a faith community to help reveal grace to others? What has been placed in our care to pass on to others, small as it might be? Remember, "little" is always much in the hands of Christ.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Our Giving Status by Barb Haskins, Council Treasurer

General Fund financial information for July 2013 (our latest complete month at this writing) is as follows:

- Income: \$22,401.00
- Expenses: \$26,633.85



General Fund financial information for the year to date (through July 31, 2013) is as follows:

- Income: \$167,009.20
- Expenses: \$181,792.18

We know summer is a time when people take vacations, get ready for school, etc. There are many places for God's gifts to us to go. We encourage you to keep Lord of Love and our mission in your plans. Thank you for your generous support to date.

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



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

1 John 5:20 (NRSV) *And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.*

For our summer vacation, Deb and I traveled to see five different National Parks: Mesa Verde in Southern Colorado and Zion, Bryce Canyon, Capital Reef, and Arches in Utah. The scenery in these locations was majestic and awe inspiring. We were amazed to see how natural forces lifted up massive landmasses and then wore away the softer stone to create wondrous structures and vistas.

People are also products of their environment. Our priorities, interests, passions, and attitude about life, and how we relate to others grow out of our life experiences. As we mature, many of these things may change because of exposure to ideas, significant personal events, and the people who come in and out of our lives. These experiences often lift us up and sometimes tear us down.

Our spiritual lives develop and mature in a similar process. We learn by reading, questioning, and discussing issues of faith with others. We engage in individual and corporate prayer to ask God's help and to discern His purpose for our lives. At weekly worship, we hear God's word and learn about how it applies in today's world through the insight of our pastor and others. Each of us develops to have similar yet different understandings of the Gospel. Yet we are all still members of the body of Christ.

I encourage our members to continue their faith journey by engaging in worship, study, and prayer. Lord of Love provides a number of opportunities for adult Christian education on Sundays and other days of the week. Remember, God is not done with you yet.



Philippians 1:6 (NRSV) *I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.*

In what ways has your life been shaped by God and your involvement in the church? Take some time to reflect on your many blessings and then to thank Him who makes all things possible. Like the hymn says: Praise God from whom all blessings flow!



Thank you for your faithful support of the ministry programs of Lord of Love by sharing your gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Your faithful stewardship of God's blessings to you results in continued blessings to our congregation, community, and beyond.

Please continue to pray for the ELCA, Bishop Hanson, Bishop-elect Elizabeth Eaton, our Nebraska Synod, Bishop Brian Maas, Pastor Brad, our staff, our members, our ministry together, and all of those who are in need.

Blessings in faith and service,
Brian Lund

On Sojourning by Brian Fanders

Perhaps more than most, I have been a sojourner in an unknown land. I have lived in at least 25 different residences spanning six states, three countries, and two continents, and I write this article from my new home in Powell, Wyoming. As I once again begin a new season in my life, it occurs to me that whether one is a stranger in a foreign land or living in the house one was born in, in truth we are all sojourners. We are not of this world—our citizenship is in heaven.



For those who have heard the details of how I came to be offered a job and how I found the perfect house to rent in the country a few miles outside this town of 6,300 souls, it is evident that the hand of God was at work giving me favor and preparing my way. Though it was hard to leave my favorite church and my favorite pastor, I am confident that God is with me, that He is leading me, and that I am in His will. I have friends here—some I have known for over 20 years. I have a good and friendly church. I am in a small town surrounded by mountains not far from Yellowstone National Park. It is a blessing and an answer to prayer.

But you have probably not seen the last of me. My parents, my brother, and my sister live in Omaha, so I will be back from time to time. And when I am, I know that at Lord of Love I can always find my true brothers and sisters and mothers—those who hear the word of God and do it. I thank you all for giving me such a warm and inviting welcome into your congregation and for the many treasured memories I have from worshipping with you the past 2 years. I will always be a part of Lord of Love.

I also know that when I show up out of the blue on a Saturday morning at 7:00 I will be welcomed and fed by a group of the closest friends I have ever had. So one last time, I invite all men to take advantage of one of the best things happening at Lord of Love: Saturday Morning Men's Ministry Breakfast. It has been one of the most rewarding things I have ever been involved in. (I already miss it.) I encourage men of all ages who have never attended—or who used to attend but have gotten out of the habit—to pick a Saturday and just show up at 7:00 a.m. You will be welcomed and fed as you enjoy true Christian fellowship, spiritual growth, encouragement, and fun in a relaxed setting. Yes, you too can be one of the Usual Suspects: well-fed and full of wisdom.



God bless you all,
Brian

An Exciting Opportunity

Men's Ministry has an immediate opening for a wordsmith to keep the congregation apprised of the many and various activities of the Men of Lord of Love. The obligation is minimal while the reward is immeasurable, to wit:

- Obligation—A monthly article for the Love Letter.
- Reward—Treasure in heaven.

Volunteers, please form an orderly queue; no pushing and shoving.
Thank you.



MEN'S NEWS CORNER

Men's Softball Season Recap

The Lord of Love Men's Softball team played better toward the end of the regular season after struggling some during the first half of the season. We finished with a 6-8 record for the regular season and ended up in fourth place in the eight team league. We won our first game of the end-of-the-season tournament to move on to the semifinals, which were played on August 26 (after the writing of this article).



Members of the church that played on team include Don Rowen, Doug Rowen, David Hild, Bill Baker, Scott Reinhardt, Nick Olson, Tom Olson, Roger Meyer, Eric Quadhammer, Devin Lister, Brandon Hansen, Jesse Brewer, and Sayler Boylan.

WOMEN OF LOVE

Women's Ministry Team – Notes from August Meeting

The Ministry Team accepted with regret the resignation of Val Florea as Women's Ministry Coordinator. Val and John are moving to Lenexa, Kansas, early this month. Many thanks, Val, for your great work and support of women's ministry at Lord of Love. You will be greatly missed!

Ruth Manning will fill out Val's term until the end of December. Election of ministry team members for 2014 will be held in November. Also, thanks to Joan Witt who has accepted a member-at-large position on the Ministry Team. We are looking forward to your contributions in helping promote women's ministry at Lord of Love.

The half-day retreat scheduled for October 5 has been cancelled. With the NSWO convention on September 20-22 and the Fall Festival on October 20, we felt it would be difficult to take another day from our women this fall.

The women's ministry team will meet on Wednesday, September 11, at 6:00 p.m. in the Mary Room. All women are invited to participate in this work session.

Ladies Coffee Fellowship

Ladies, you're invited to join the coffee fellowship at Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass Streets, on Fridays, September 13 and 27 at 8:00 a.m.



Gather Bible Study Retreat

Sixteen women attended the Bible study retreat at the home of Deb Lund on Saturday, August 10. Thanks to Deb for the delicious rolls; Kathy Christiansen, Paula Foster, and Beth Olson for leading the Bible studies; and to everyone for their participation as well as the delicious salads for lunch. It was a wonderful day!

Nebraska Synodical Women's Convention



It's not too late to register for the NSWO Convention in Kearney on September 20-22. Although the early registration date has passed, you can still register for \$105.00. If you have any questions, talk to Ruth Manning or Gwen Edwards.

Tanzania Vision Trip – June 2014

The Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization (NSWO) Women of the ELCA has announced a Vision Trip to the Nebraska Companion Synod in Tanzania. The trip will be June 9 to June 24, 2014. They are in the beginning phases of planning, with more details developing quickly. This trip is open to men, women, and youth, with a trip itinerary that will interest everyone traveling. The Nebraska Synod ELCA website, www.nebrasasynod.org, has a link on Tanzania travel for more general details of Tanzania.

The Lord of Love Women of the ELCA will be offering two scholarships for this trip, valued at a minimum of \$1,500 each. The Lord of Love women have been holding events and raising monies the last couple of years to send two women on a mission/vision trip, and the opportunity has arrived. This is a trip of a lifetime, and we would like to help two women to attend! A scholarship application form, included in this issue of *The Love Letter*, is to be completed and returned to Gwen Edwards by October 1, 2013.



The cost of this trip is approximately \$4,200 per person. This cost covers airfare, visa, ground transportation, and all lodging and meals. You will be responsible for securing your passport (if necessary), inoculations (which, depending on what you have had, will be approximately \$250 to \$700), and oral anti-malarial medication taken during the trip. You are, of course, responsible for souvenirs. Tipping is done very modestly, so figure about \$3 per day. The trip payment schedule is as follows:

- \$300 – due now to reserve your spot on the trip (deposit is non-refundable)
- \$950 – due Monday, November 11, 2013
- \$2,000 – due Friday, February 28, 2014 (this payment covers your plane ticket and is non-refundable)
- \$950 – due Friday, May 30, 2014

All trip costs are based on best current information and are subject to change. Trip participants are responsible for any increase in airline taxes, fuel surcharges imposed by the airline, or change in Tanzania hotel and ground transportation.

More trip information, including environment, transportation, registration, can be found at <http://www.nebrasasynod.org/events/june-2014-tanzania-vision-trip-june-9-24-2014/>.

The coordinators for this event are the Nebraska Women of the ELCA board appointees: Sandy Olson (Global Missions) and Sandy Terry (Companion Synod Coordinator). They are working closely with Bill Davis, Nebraska Synod Tanzania Ministries Coordinator, in all planning phases.

More information regarding the trip can be obtained by going to the NSWO website, www.nebrasasynod.org/elca; going to the Nebraska Synod website, www.nebrasasynod.org; or contacting Sandy Olson at sandyoly@neb.rr.com, Sandy Terry at sterry9415@yahoo.com, or Kandy Pflaster at tkpflaster@gmail.com.

If you are interested in participating in this vision trip, don't forget to complete and return the Lord of Love Women of the ELCA Scholarship application form, which is included in this issue of *The Love Letter*, to Gwen Edwards by October 1, 2013.

Gather Bible Study

Excitement is building for the new Bible study in the *Gather* magazine that begins this fall. *In Good Company: Stories of Biblical Women* is the theme of the 2013-2014 Bible study series. In September we'll look at the life of Hannah, a promise keeper. "For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord. She left him there for the Lord." I Samuel 1:27-28.



All women are invited to attend one of two groups. The Wednesday evening group meets on September 4 at 6:00 p.m. in the Mary Room. Bring a sack lunch as no meals are served at church that evening. Because of Labor Day, the Monday evening group will meet on the second Monday, September 9, at 6:00 p.m. at the Old Country Buffet at 145th and West Center Road.

If you have any questions, contact Gwen Edwards for the Monday group and Ruth Manning for the Wednesday group.

Gather, the magazine of Women of the ELCA, offers a mix of articles, theological reflections, devotions, and stories of comfort and challenge that help readers grow in faith and engage in ministry and action. Gather is published 10 times a year with combined issues in January/February and July/August. Only \$15 a year - See more at: <http://www.womenoftheelca.org/gather-magazine-pages-49.php#sthash.0kvNc12t.dpuf>.

Women's Spring Retreat



We're pleased to announce that the dates for the annual spring retreat will be May 9-10 at St. Benedict's Retreat Center in Schuyler, Nebraska. Susan Humphrey, a former member of the W/ELCA church-wide board, will be our retreat leader. The theme of the retreat is Recipe for Renewal. Please mark your calendars, and plan to be renewed!

Dates to Remember

September

3	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
4	6:00 p.m.	<i>Gather</i> Bible Study, Mary Room
9	6:00 p.m.	<i>Gather</i> Bible Study, Old Country Buffet, 145 th and West Center Road
11	6:00 p.m.	Ministry Team Meeting, Mary Room
13	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77 th and Cass
17	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
20-22		NSWO Convention, Holiday Inn, Kearney, NE
27	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77 th and Cass



Looking Ahead

October 13, 2013	Thankoffering Sunday, both worship services
October 20, 2013	Fall Festival Dinner and Program
May 9-10, 2014	Annual Women's Retreat, St. Benedict's Retreat Center, Schuyler, NE
July 22-24, 2014	Ninth Triennial Convention of the Women of the ELCA, Charlotte, NC
July 24-27, 2014	Ninth Triennial Gathering of the Women of the ELCA, Charlotte, NC










**LORD OF LOVE WOMEN OF THE ELCA
2014 VISION TRIP TO TANZANIA SCHOLARSHIP FORM**

June 9 – 24, 2014

Value of Scholarship is at least \$1,500.00

Two Scholarships Available

Applicants must meet these requirements to be eligible to apply for the scholarship.

-  Must be a female.
-  Applicant must be an ACTIVE member of Lord of Love Lutheran Church.
-  Applicant must be able to pay for the rest of the trip, including getting her passport and all required immunizations, etc.
-  Will be required to share a presentation with the Women of Lord of Love.
-  Applicant must fill out the application form.

Information regarding the Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization's Vision Trip can be found on the NSWOW website, www.nebraskasynod.org/welca or by contacting Sandy Olson, sandyoly@neb.rr.com; Sandy Terry, sterry9415@yahoo.com; or Kandy Pflaster, tkpflaster@gmail.com.

Please complete all requested information before returning this scholarship application.

PLEASE PRINT:

Name _____
Mailing Address _____

Home Phone () _____ **Work Phone:** () _____
E-mail Address _____

Age Range ☐ 20 – 29 years ☐ 30 – 39 years ☐ 40 – 55 years ☐ 56+ years

Please complete both sides and return by October 1, 2013 to:

Gwendolynn Edwards
3402 Castile Drive
Bellevue, Nebraska 68123-1327

OR

Edwards Lord of Love Mailbox

For more information, call Gwen at 402.291.1087 or e-mail at gfedwards@gmail.com

[over]

EXPERIENCE & CHURCH SERVICE: (Positions held in office and service work done.) Begin with the most recent and significant experience in each over the **LAST FIVE YEARS.**

In the Church: _____

Community Service: _____

Special Gifts or Talents: _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Why do you want to go on this trip? _____

What will it mean to you? _____

What are you going to do when you return to share your experience, knowledge, etc.? _____

IN OUR PRAYERS & LOVE NOTES

In Our Prayers

Diana Baker (friend of the Thoms)
Chris Beckman (friend of Jane Gehringer)
Dick Bell
Jan Davis-Hughes (aunt of Paula Foster)
Claire Foral (friend of Dave and Lisa Rieff)
Mike Gillotte (neighbor of Bill and Karen Pickens)
Ken Gustafson (husband of Mary Lou)
Wyatt Nathaniel Hansen (infant grandson of Delina Wiater)
Cheryl Jones (friend of Nancy Shinrock)
Jude Konvalina
Donna Lueders (mother of Dave Lueders)
Lisa Lueders (sister-in-law of Dave Lueders)
Marj Mahler and family (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)
Kelly Schroeder and her son Isaac Schroeder
Jill Sheridan (sister-in-law of Rebecca Lund Sheridan)
Nancy Smith (friend of Marilyn Thomsen)
Don St. Ours (brother-in-law of Lynda McGraw)
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
Jeff Teton

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



If you would like to add a name to the In Our Prayers section of *The Love Letter*, please contact the office at 402.493.2946, send an email to marylou@lord-of-love.org, or fill out a prayer request note available in the narthex and place it in the basket. **Please help keep this list current by informing us when a name can be removed.** Thanks!

Love Notes

Jenny Michael, Women of the ELCA President 2011-2014, texted:

Wanted to say thank you for the card from Lord of Love! So sweet & came on a day when I felt so pushed. It was a real "pick-me-up." Thanks! It truly was a BUSY week last week, so when I got it, it was like a little beam of grace to remind me I am loved. Really a gift! ;)

The Card Ministry is something our women at Lord of Love do, and Jenny was thanking us for the card they sent her.





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

September 4	Confirmation begins
September 8	Kickoff Sunday and God's Work, Our Hands Sunday
September 11	Wednesday night suppers, Luther Kids, and Junior Choir begin; Senior high mission trip meeting
September 14	Youth Group service activity
September 15	Adult forum begins
September 18	Senior High Bible Study begins
September 22	Bible 101 class for 3-6 graders

Upcoming Events

October 1	Lord of Love W/ELCA scholarship form due for Tanzania Vision Trip in 2014
October 13	Budget meeting during adult forum
October 20	Fall Festival
December 14	Dress Rehearsal for Sunday School Christmas Program
December 15	Sunday School Christmas Program at 10:30 a.m.

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.