



The Love Letter

Volume 41

October 2013

Lord of Love Office

Phone 402.493.2946

Fax 402.493.3087

Website www.lord-of-love.org

Lord of Love Staff

Pastor

Brad Meyer

pastorbrad@lord-of-love.org

Director of Christian Education/Youth Ministry

Heather Christensen

heather@lord-of-love.org

Office Administrator, Prayer Chain, and Financial Secretary

Mary Lou Gustafson

marylou@lord-of-love.org

Community Therapist

Kim Mueller

402.354.6891, Ext. 13

Missionary to Tanzania

Bob Kasworm

Web Steward

Del Gust

webmaster@lord-of-love.org

Love Letter Editor

Kim Gust

loveletter@lord-of-love.org

Senior Organist

Carol Novak

Associate Organist

Amy Kragnes

Chancel Choir Director

Jon Novak

LOL Brass Director

Brian Lund

Bell Choir Director

Heidi Meyer

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

Happy fall! Our 2013-2014 programming is underway, and there are so many ways you can be involved at Lord of Love. This issue of *The Love Letter* identifies several opportunities for worship, education, fellowship, and service. The following are a few highlights for October.

Sunday, October 6 is **Celebration of Faith Sunday**. Everyone is encouraged to return their financial commitment cards during worship, and then all are invited to share in food and fellowship with a catered lunch following the 10:30 a.m. worship service (see page 10, Resources).

On Saturday, October 12, many hands will make light work at our **Fall Cleanup Day**. Any amount of time you can give to this effort will be greatly appreciated (see page 10, Resources).

Sunday, October 13 will be a busy day! It is **Thankoffering Sunday**, when many women will be presenting their thankofferings to God during worship (see page 4, Worship, and page 13, Women of Love). In addition, our annual **budget meeting** will be held during adult forum to discuss the proposed 2014 budget (see page 11, Church Council). Finally, the youth will have a **"Football Fun" event** in the afternoon (see page 8, LOL Youth).

On Sunday, October 20, join us for our annual **Fall Festival!** The Fall Festival silent auction and musical program will begin at 4:30 p.m., and dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale through October 13. Don't miss out!

Finally, in case you missed it last month, 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.

In This Issue

Pastor's Page	2	Church Council	10
Monthly Calendar	3	Men's News Corner	12
Worship	4	Women of Love	13
Nurture	5	In Our Prayers	15
LOL Youth	8	Love Notes	15
Outreach	9	Mark Your Calendar	16
Resources	10		

Concentrated Time with God by Pastor Brad

Psalm 138 sings: *I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything. On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.*

These reassuring verses of Psalm 138 express an individual thanksgiving to God for hearing us and for giving strength to our souls.

It is so easy to become overwhelmed in the midst of life as we come up against numerous struggles with health issues, employment problems, family circumstances, or sometimes just handling the everyday issue of never having enough time to get everything done. We can find ourselves spending more time worrying about the smaller issues of life and less time focusing on the blessings that God has given us or how closely God is walking with us through life.

I recently asked a group that has embarked on a spiritual journey together, "How much concentrated time do you spend each day with God?" The answers varied widely between thirty minutes to not much at all. The question wasn't to impose guilt, but to draw attention to the fact that building a relationship with God takes effort.

Compare our relationship with God to those of our friends. Our relationship with others grows deeper as we learn more about each other, spend time together, and experience life together. The relationship becomes closer and increasingly significant when we discover more and more about one another. The same is in our relationship with God. Our relationship gains depth when we spend focused time with God through personal devotion, worship, and prayer.

With this depth of relationship, we are in tune with God's presence and readily find opportunities to give thanks through prayer, worship, and service. Corporately, we gather each week to praise and thank God for his faithfulness and to hear how God is alive and active in our daily lives. We then take that corporate time into our week to remind us to stay focused on God's presence to find strength for our souls.

I encourage you to make concentrated time to nurture your relationship with God, to daily sing God's praises for his faithfulness in your life, and to feel your soul being nourished.

- Find a place to "be still" and listen for God's presence.
- Read a passage of Scripture and see how it speaks to you.
- Write down ways in which you have seen God's presence around you.

Enjoy being in God's presence, and let the smaller things in life take care of themselves.

Peace to your journey,
Pastor Brad



MONTHLY CALENDAR

October 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Vision & Coordination Mtg.	2 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm "Gather" Bible Study 6:00pm High School Bible Study 6:00pm Brass 6:50pm Jr. Choir 7:15pm Sr. Choir	3 9:30am Text Study at Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	4 8:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 7:30pm AA Meeting	5 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 9:00am W/ELCA Retreat at the VenHuizen's
6 Stewardship Sunday 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 11:30am Lunch 6:00pm Bell Rehearsal	7 6:00pm "Gather" Bible Study at Old Country Buffet 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	8 7:00pm Sunnyslope Neighborhood Assoc.	9 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm High School Bible Study 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Ministry Team Mtg. 6:50pm Jr. Choir 7:15pm Sr. Choir	10 9:30am Text Study at Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	11 7:30pm AA Meeting	12 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 8:00am Fall Clean-Up 8:00am Worship Planning 9:00am Project Hope Youth Service Project 12:00pm District 188 AA Workshop 2:00pm Novak-Haar Recital
13 Thankoffering Sunday 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 11:00am Youth "Football Fun" 6:00pm Bell Rehearsal	14 6:30pm Cub Scout Leaders 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	15 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Church Council	16 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm High School Bible Study 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 6:50pm Jr. Choir 7:15pm Sr. Choir	17 9:30am Text Study at Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	18 8:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 7:30pm AA Meeting	19 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
20 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 4:30pm Fall Festival 6:00pm Bell Rehearsal	21 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	22	23 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm High School Bible Study 6:50pm Jr. Choir 7:15pm Sr. Choir	24 9:30am Text Study at Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	25 7:30pm AA Meeting	26 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 9:00am Novak Recital
27 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 1:00pm District 18 AA Mtg. 6:00pm Bell Rehearsal	28 Church Administrative Retreat at CJH 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	29 Church Administrative Retreat at CJH	30 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm High School Bible Study 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:50pm Jr. Choir 7:15pm Sr. Choir	31 9:30am Text Study at Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts		

Special Worship Services in October

October 6 is Celebration of Faith Sunday, when we will return our financial commitment cards during worship as our continued response to God's gift of grace. We will also celebrate together after the 10:30 a.m. worship service with a catered meal in the Fellowship Hall. See page 10, Resources, for details.



October 13 is Thankoffering Sunday, when women will bring their Thankofferings to God in gratitude for blessings. These thankofferings support all the ministries of Women of the ELCA. See page 13, Women of Love, for additional information.

Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	October 6	October 13	October 20	October 27
Greeters				
8:00 a.m.	Doug and Rose Roberts	Paul and Ann Kroll	Paul and Sue Dieter	Jim and Jeri Morgan
10:30 a.m.	Rett and Judy Messerschmidt	Claude and Sandy Hall	John and Gwen Edwards	Debra Gillespie, Paula Foster
Liturgist				
8:00 a.m.	Paul Murphy	Shawn Lorenzen	Heather Hansen	Matthew Willard
10:30 a.m.	Don Rowen	Rex Quadhamer	Karen Armitage	Susan Lueders
Communion Servers				
8:00 a.m.	Peg Murphy, Vandeventer family	VanArsdale family	Combes family	Lisa Willard, Wayne and Joan Witt
10:30 a.m.	Rowen family	Lynnette Nore and Christopher Boarts	Armitage family	Lueders family
Altar Care				
8:00 a.m.	Pauline Shaffer, Randi VenHuizen	Ed and Marjorie Keiser	Cathy Aden, Sue Dieter	Connie Walther, Lisa Meyer
10:30 a.m.	Brenda and Suzanne Mac	Rowen family	Brewer family	Karen Anderson, Mardi Fiske
Ushers				
8:00 a.m.	Joe Combes, Jason Combes, Josh Combes			
10:30 a.m.	Dave Lueders, Adam Lueders, Brad VenHuizen, Lynnette Nore, Christopher Boarts			
Nursery Attendant				
10:30 a.m.	Anne Yarger	Sarah Horan	Lisa Rieff	Ashley Meier
CD Recorder				
8:00 or 10:30	Pat Brewer	Paul Christenson	Dave Lueders	Paul Murphy

Sunday Morning Donuts and Coffee

All of the Sundays through December have been "claimed" by volunteers who will either pick up the donuts or clean up the donuts and coffee. For those who have an email address published in the directory, a reminder note will be sent the week before you have volunteered. Thank you to all who said YES! During the month of December, you may be asked to serve again, as there are some more slots open for the remainder of the program year!

Sunday School

Sunday School registration forms should be completed for all children and youth to help us collect demographic information. If you haven't already, please be sure to pick up a registration form and return to your Sunday School teacher or the Youth mailbox 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.



Children's
Christmas
Program

Speaking of holidays, Christmas is just around the corner! Please note the following dates:
Sunday School Christmas Program 2013: Sunday, December 15 at 10:30 a.m.
Dress Rehearsal: Saturday, December 14 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

We are looking for volunteers to assist with the Christmas program. It will be full of fun characters and joy in the telling of a story as only children can share. We need assistance assigning parts, practicing lines, staging, etc. This commitment would be short-term, from October through December. If interested, contact Heather Christensen at 402-415-4571 or heather@lord-of-love.org.

Junior Choir

Junior Choir practices will be held from 6:50 to 7:20 p.m. on Wednesdays, October 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30. We will sing on October 20 at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. If you have questions, please call Jane Hawkins at 402-343-1680. Praise the Lord!



Choir Rehearsals

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

Fall Festival



Looking for an opportunity to help feed the hungry and homeless? One that offers you the chance to enjoy a good meal plus musical talent from some of our Lord of Love members? Join us at the 2013 Fall Festival on Sunday, October 20, and support Table Grace Café, which will receive 50% of the day's profits.

Lord of Love has been a strong advocate for Table Grace Café, but the need for assistance continues to grow. Their goal is that regardless of economic status, everyone deserves to eat wonderful food while being treated with respect and dignity. Each day, you will see people in business attire interacting with people who have no other place to go. We encourage you to go down and eat a great meal and drop enough in the offering box to cover your own meal as well as meals for others.

The remaining profits will be divided evenly between LOL Women of the ELCA and Women on a Mission (assisting two women with financial support for the Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization (NSWO) vision trip to Tanzania next July).

Tickets: \$17.50 each, sold through Sunday, October 13.

Fall Festival schedule on October 20:

4:30 p.m.	Bid on silent auction items; musical program
5:30 p.m.	Dinner served
Following dinner	Awarding of silent auction items

Any questions? Contact Ruth Manning at 402-451-0221.



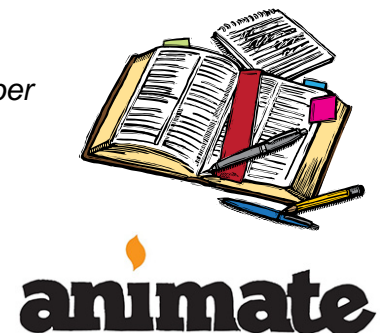
Adult Education Forum

The Adult Education Forum is held on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Drop in any time. We'd love to see you!

A team of facilitators including Pastor Brad, Harry Naasz, and Ruth Manning will lead the 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>
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!



Blown Away! The Spirit Moves through Lord of Love!

The 2013-2014 program year has started, and it has been amazing. Can you feel it? Have you seen it? The Spirit is here and moving through You!

Kickoff Sunday and "God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday on September 8 was a HUGE success. Many thanks go out to many, many people for a wonderful day of worship, music, service, education, and fellowship! We are blessed. Thank you.

And the amazement continues.... Our service project to help nourish our community through giving food items to Project Hope and other local pantries exceeded our goal! Lord of Love, our friends, and our families stepped up to meet a need in our community. The planning committee thought that our lofty goal of 2,500 items in honor of the 25th Anniversary of the ELCA was going to be a challenge. It was...but was met with such enthusiasm that we surpassed the goal! AND there was so much involvement: from bagging rice into individual bags, to emails and response to the need, to offering a symbol of our donations (thanks Nathaniel and Ethan), to delivering and sorting the items at Project Hope.

Thank you to all who participated in our kickoff events. Thank you to the many who volunteered and provided service to our community in a myriad of ways. You are all a blessing. Thank you!



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

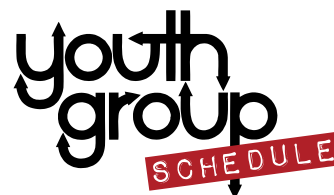


Upcoming Events for All Youth

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events for all youth grades 7-12.

All Things Football – Sunday, October 13, 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Football Fun!! Games, munchies, movies, and more...all focused around this favorite fall sport. Wear your favorite football fan gear, bring a munchie to share, and come ready for fun!



Fall Festival Service Opportunity – Sunday, October 20, 4:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Help provide a fun event for the congregation. Youth will be able to help serve meals, clean in the kitchen, or provide babysitting for children. (Not everyone gets to babysit though....) In exchange, we will have the opportunity to raise funds for the Youth fund that helps with events, trips, etc.

Fall Lock-In – Saturday, November 9 – Sunday, November 10

Hunger Awareness & "Chopped" Competition.

LYON Assembly in Kearney, NE – Friday, November 22 – Sunday, November 24

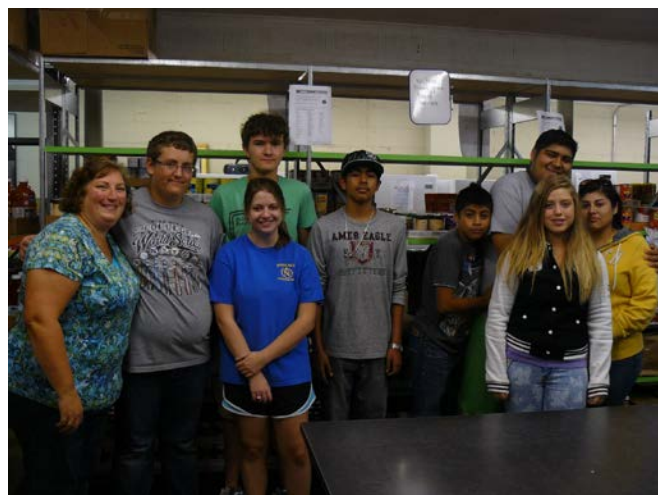
Road trip to the Lutheran Youth of Nebraska (LYON) Assembly.

September Youth Event Recap

On the morning of Saturday, September 14, a group of youth met at the church for delivery of our food drive items to the Project Hope food pantry. It is amazing to me that so early in the morning, they 1) made it to the church on time, 2) had energy to load the truck, and 3) still found time and energy to fool around.

We had a carpool of drivers and helpers (special thanks to Gary, Rolie, Tom, and Rosie). After a short jam session with the radio, we arrived at Project Hope, and everyone enthusiastically jumped in to help. We soon had a system down for unloading, sorting, and stocking. Lori Lindberg, Executive Director, was on hand to direct us and educate us on the food insecurities in our community and how the pantry helps to address needs. She also provided information to assist us in our November lock-in with a Hunger Awareness theme.

Service can be both fun and meaningful. Thanks to all who helped. ~Miss Heather



Mission Possible Update

Thanks so much to everyone for the generous support of the **ELCA Malaria Campaign** this summer through your generous gifts for our summer breakfasts. Special thanks to everyone who prepared, served, and cleaned up, too. Over \$2,000 will be given to this worthy cause.

Lord of Love's garden produced a bountiful harvest this season. Thanks to everyone who tilled, planted, weeded, watered, and gleaned the nutritious vegetables. Thanks, too, to Gary Ramsay and Doug Roberts for the faithful delivery of the produce to the Lutheran pantries at Project Hope, First Lutheran, and Table Grace Café.

Thanks to everyone who participated in some way in the special **food drive for Project Hope** on Sunday, September 8. As you may know, we surpassed our goal of 2,500 nonperishable food items, plus we bagged and gave away 199 4-cup-sized bags of rice. What an awesome example of God's Work. Our Hands!

The Mission Possible team has designated gifts for the remainder of 2013:

- **Pastor Anna's School in Tanzania** will receive \$1,000 from Congregational Mission Project funds towards the \$1,600 estimated cost of electrical work.
- **ELCA Disaster Response** will receive \$500 from Congregational Mission Project funds for a specific need this fall. (Perhaps the flooding in Colorado?)
- The proceeds from special offerings for Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas, along with \$500 from Congregational Mission Project funds, will go to the **Sienna Francis House**.
- \$250 from Congregational Mission Project funds will go to ELCA for programs dealing with **human trafficking**.
- The remaining two-thirds of Congregational Mission Project funds, estimated at \$3,500 to \$4,000, will go to our Nebraska ELCA **Lutheran Family Services** for programs dealing with domestic violence and abuse.

Endowment Committee is Looking at Needs Again by Paul Kroll, Endowment Committee Chair

The Endowment Committee is again looking for special needs and missions that need funding. Applications will be taken until the stroke of midnight on December 1. 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. To receive support for a special need or mission, apply for funds by completing an application obtained from the church office or in the narthex, and return it to the Endowment Committee via the church office.



In the past year, the Endowment Committee has awarded \$1,500 for Martha Mkombo's education at a teacher's college in Tanzania, \$500 for Camp Carol Joy Holling, \$675 for A Place at the Table Food Backpack Program, \$675 for the Lutheran Family Services Boutique Store, \$675 for the NLOM Western Town, and \$455 to the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

Furthermore, 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 life time. Lord of Love will take contributions to the Endowment Fund at any time. Simply put a check in the offering plate stipulating that the amount goes to the Endowment Fund; please make it a check solely for the Endowment Fund.

RESOURCES

“God’s Work. Our Hands.” A Celebration of Faith

We have much to celebrate at Lord of Love as we end another calendar year. Beyond giving to the ongoing ministry at Lord of Love, we have demonstrated our response to God’s gift of grace in many ways: locally, nationally, and internationally. Sunday, October 6 has been designated as our Celebration of Faith Sunday. On that Sunday, we will return our financial commitment cards as our continued response to God’s gift of grace.



We will also celebrate together after the 10:30 a.m. worship service that Sunday with a catered meal in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex so we can be sure to have a head count to give Mangia Italiana.

The Handrail Is In

A new handrail has been installed to assist our members in getting from the main floor up to the altar area. The Property Committee wishes to thank the efforts of Paul Christenson, Kenn Garder, John Edwards, and anyone else involved with this project for getting the handrail fabricated and installed.



Fall Cleanup Day

Mark your calendars: Saturday, October 12, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. is Fall Cleanup Day at the church. Rakes, saws, hammers, and paint brushes are just some of the tools we will need for you to bring with you as we prepare the church building and grounds for the upcoming winter. Please come and help, whether for an hour or for the whole time, as your participation will be greatly appreciated.



CHURCH COUNCIL

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



CHURCH COUNCIL

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

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

This past month, the congregation council has been working on our 2014 budget. I would like to share a little insight into how that process works and one key budget change for the coming year.

We look at the budgeting process as not just an exercise in balancing projected income to planned expense, but as a reflection of the values and priorities of our congregation. We discuss many ideas, hopes, and concerns throughout the process, but we are continually drawn back to our mission and purpose as the church.



We forecast next year's income by reviewing prior year giving trends, attendance numbers, and changes in membership. Each committee reviews its portion of the expense budget in relationship to prior year and current year spending and the ministry program plans for the coming year. At our September council meeting, we jointly review the consolidated budgeted expenses against projected income. Finally, we make additional budget adjustments to arrive at the budget we propose to the congregation.

This year, we took a harder look at our support of mission through general fund income and the response of our members to our special mission. Recent years have seen a significant increase in giving to seasonal offerings (Lent, Easter, Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, and summer breakfast) when they are associated with specific missions. Member response to mission has been outstanding! For these reasons, we are choosing to remove congregation mission projects as a portion of our general fund expense. Our mission support continues through the Nebraska Synod share of 10% of general fund income. Lord of Love's strong sense of mission also continues through our seasonal offerings and one or two special appeals each year.



Budget Forum

This year's budget forum will be held between worship services on Sunday, October 13. The proposed budget will be available to our members on that day. I encourage members to attend to review and discuss the 2014 budget. The congregation council appreciates your input as part of the budgeting process.

Philippians 4:4-7 (NRSV) *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

We are blessed in many ways. Reflect on your many blessings and your response to Him who makes all things possible.

Thank you for sharing your gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Your faithful stewardship continues to bless to our congregation, community, and beyond.

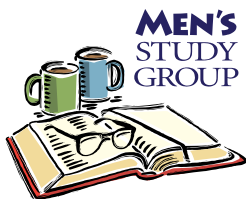
Please continue to pray for the ELCA, Bishop Hanson, Bishop-elect Elizabeth Eaton, our Nebraska Synod, Bishop Brian Maas, Pastor Brad, our staff, our members, our ministry together, and all who are in need.

Blessings in faith and service,
Brian Lund

Men's Ministry Breakfast

The Lord of Love Men's News Corner has bid farewell to our greatest wordsmith to date, Brian Fanders. Brian quipped and wrote idioms about Lord of Love's men from May 2013 through September 2013. Brian's clever repartee will be (and already is) greatly missed. Although no one knew who would be mentioned or referred to in the next column, it was always done with a clever reference in a newsworthy and informative manner. Goodbye and Godspeed, Brian, wherever your Christian journey takes you—Wyoming being your current stop.

It's not that the men who attend the Saturday Morning Men's Ministry Breakfast are slow, but they sometimes move slowly with steady rhythm. As mentioned in previous issues of *The Love Letter*, the men's group is reading and now finishing up its study and discussion of the book *Not a Fan* by Kyle Idleman. This book has led participants to individual examination of their personal relationship with God, challenging them not to be fans (those who cheer from a safe distance), but rather to be followers (those who are actively involved) in their relationship with Jesus. (Note: at the conclusion of this study, the book will be available from Lord of Love's library.)



There is always an empty seat for any man at our Saturday morning breakfast table. You are invited to come hungry and leave with nourishment for your body as well as your soul. The breakfast group of "Usual Suspects" meets formally every Saturday morning in Lord of Love's Fellowship Hall at 7:00 a.m. (or thereabouts), and cleanup starts at the conclusion at 8:00 a.m. (or thereabouts). Hope to see you soon! Come and share your faith, and let your spirit inspire others, remembering "where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them" (Matthew 18:20 [NIV]).



You, too, can become a "Usual Suspect." Membership is free, and the rewards are great. As seeds sown on fertile soil, may your faith flourish by, through, and with the help of other Christians in their fellowship and support (and good night Brian *Calabash*, wherever you are...).

Lutheran Men in Mission's Triennial Gathering

Mark your calendars and save the date for your summer trip to take part in Lutheran Men in Mission's Triennial Gathering to be held July 18, 19, and 20, 2014, in Nashville, TN. Lord of Love's men acted as part of Omaha's host team in 2008 and had a strong attendance (including two national representatives) for the Denver conference in 2011. The gathering of Christian men is fun, educational, and inspirational. I encourage all men to consider going and to make plans to attend this conference. Partial and fully paid scholarships will be made available on a first come first serve commitment basis. Keep watching for any updates and further details that will be made when available.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS / SAVE THE DATE



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

WOMEN OF LOVE

Thankoffering Service



The annual Thankoffering Service will be held at both worship services on Sunday, October 13. This tradition of bringing in Thankofferings goes back over 100 years in the lives of women of the church. Thankofferings are gifts from individuals in gratitude for blessings. Women of the ELCA are encouraged to make Thankofferings a daily practice by placing coins or small offerings into a jar or small box. They support all the ministries of Women of the ELCA—from advocacy and education to discipleship and outreach.

Lutheran Women of Omaha

The monthly meeting of Lutheran Women of Omaha will be held on Tuesday, October 8, 2013, at noon at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, 6099 Western. The program is HETRA (Heartland Equine Therapeutic Riding Academy) and the project is the same.



Please make reservations with Ruth Manning, 402-451-0221, by Thursday, October 3.

Ninth Triennial Gathering

Join the conversation as we explore the triennial gathering theme **of many generations**. Listen to inspiring speakers; participate in worship and praise; learn by attending workshops, viewing films, and engaging in servant events. Visit the exhibit hall where you can gather, shop, and connect. And don't forget our special events where women in their 20s and 30s can eat chocolate and join others to run it off later. And where's it all happening? The Charlotte Convention Center.

Please check <http://www.welcatg.org/eventinformation> for complete information. Registration opened September 16, with early registration ending January 5. Beginning January 6, registration rates go up by \$25.

While this is an official event of Women of the ELCA, all women in the church are invited to attend. One need not be a participant in Women of the ELCA. In fact, we invite all our ecumenical partners to attend as well, so share this invitation.

A registration brochure is posted on the Women of Love bulletin board in the narthex.

Ladies Coffee Fellowship

Ladies, you're invited to join the coffee fellowship at Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass Streets, on Fridays, October 11 and 25 at 8:00 a.m.



Women's Ministry Team

The women's ministry team will meet on Wednesday, October 9, at 6:00 p.m. in the Mary Room. All women are invited to participate in this work session.



WOMEN OF LOVE

Women of ELCA 2014

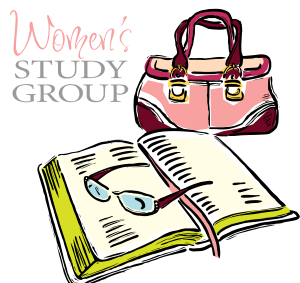
Would you like to learn more about women's ministry at Lord of Love, the Nebraska Synodical Women Organization (NSWO), and the Churchwide Women's Organization (CWO)? We need women to serve on our Women's Ministry Team in 2014, which is an ideal place to learn about the total organization. Serving as a member-at-large is an opportunity to ease into LOL women's ministry. We also have specific positions: coordinator of women's ministry, assistant coordinator of women's ministry, communications coordinator, finance coordinator, and publicity coordinator.

Election of the women's ministry team will be held on Saturday, November 23 as part of the general meeting for all women of LOL. Following that, we all will take part in the planning of the program/activities for 2014.



Gather Bible Study

In October, we'll look at the life of Deborah, a determined leader. "At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim and the Israelites came up to her for judgment." Judges 4:4-5



All women are invited to attend one of two groups. The Wednesday evening group will meet on October 2 at 6:00 p.m. in the Mary Room. The Monday evening group will meet on October 7 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.

Dates to Remember

October

1	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
2	6:00 p.m.	Gather Bible Study, Mary Room
7	6:00 p.m.	Gather Bible Study, Old Country Buffet, 145 th and West Center Road
9	6:00 p.m.	Ministry Team Meeting, Mary Room
11	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77 th and Cass
13	8 & 10:30	Thankoffering Sunday
15	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
20	4:30 p.m.	Fall Festival Dinner and Program
25	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77 th and Cass



Women of the ELCA

Looking Ahead

May 9-10, 2014

July 22-24, 2014

July 24-27, 2014

Annual Women's Retreat, St. Benedict's Retreat Center, Schuyler, NE
Ninth Triennial Convention of the Women of the ELCA, Charlotte, NC
Ninth Triennial Gathering of the Women of the ELCA, Charlotte, NC

IN OUR PRAYERS & LOVE NOTES

In Our Prayers

Antoinette Anania (cousin of Deb Lund)
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)
Barb Haskins
Cheryl Jones (friend of Nancy Shinrock)
Jude Konvalina
Donna Lueders (mother of Dave Lueders)
Lisa Lueders (sister-in-law of Dave Lueders)
Jim Mahler (mother of Jane Hawkins)
Marj Mahler (mother of Jane Hawkins)
Elsie Meyer (grandmother of Todd Meyer)
Debbie Michalak (co-worker of Jackie Combes)
Brenda Nobles (friend of Gwen Edwards)
Karen Pickens
David Pippin (nephew of Lynda McGraw)
Judy Quest (friend of Jane Gehringer)
Isaac Schroeder
Charles Schultz (father of Pat Brewer)
Jill Sheridan (sister-in-law of Rebecca Lund Sheridan)

Don St. Ours (brother-in-law of Lynda McGraw)
Ron and Brenda Thom
Roslynn Thom (sister of Ron Thom)
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
Jeffrey London
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



IN NEED OF PRAYER

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

The Larry Czapla family would like to express with deep appreciation the many prayers and expressions of kindness and support shown to them during the loss of Connie Czapla, wife and mother. May God Bless You!



The Kickoff Sunday Potluck Luncheon was a SUCCESS! Thank you to all who brought food, the Men's Breakfast Group and others for setting up, and those who helped to clean up. It is very much appreciated!





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

October 1	Lord of Love W/ELCA scholarship form due for Tanzania Vision Trip in 2014
October 6	Celebration of Faith Sunday with catered lunch
October 12	Fall Cleanup Day
October 13	Thankoffering Sunday Budget meeting during adult forum Youth "Football Fun" event
October 20	Fall Festival program and dinner

Upcoming Events

November 9	Youth Group Fall Lock-in
November 22-24	Youth LYON Assembly
November 23	Women of Love general meeting and program planning
December 1	Endowment Fund application deadline
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.