



The Love Letter

Volume 42

May 2014

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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

This May is full of milestones and celebrations. Confirmation, graduation, and course Mother's Day are all coming up. Of course, we continue to celebrate Easter as well. He is risen indeed - alleluia!

It's **softball** season! The men's softball team plays on Mondays throughout the summer and their next game is on **May 5**.

Don't miss the **Mother's Day breakfast** at 9 a.m. on Sunday, **May 11**. The men's ministry group will cook a delicious breakfast for all the mothers of the congregation and their families.

With the warmer weather comes the perfect time to work with Habitat for Humanity on Saturday, **May 17**. Sign up today!

Sunday School ends on **May 18**, while Lord of Love will continue to have two regular services throughout the summer. **Vacation Bible School** may not start until **July 21**, but now is the time to consider volunteering. Contact Heather Christensen if you can help.

With summer around the corner comes time to think about the **Lutheran Men's Triennial Gathering** and the **Women of the ELCA's Triennial Gathering** coming up in July. See pages 15 and 17 for details.



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Confirmation Sunday by Pastor Brad Meyer

On Sunday, May 4th we will celebrate with four young people of the congregation as we participate in the service of Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation).

I remember the excitement of my own Confirmation Sunday. I wore my red, white and blue polyester suit (yes – polyester!) and as my fellow confirmands, also dressed in their best, joined in affirming our faith we felt the presence of the congregation who had supported us and raised us to be people of faith. It was the next step in our journey of faith.

Our young people have been nurtured as well by the people of Lord of Love as they have grown in years. And they have not just completed a two-year study of stories from the Old and New Testament, our Lutheran understanding of the Lord's Supper, Holy Baptism, and the 10 Commandments, but have also asked you and I questions about faith and how it affects their daily life.

Throughout the past two years they have heard how being an active part of a worshipping church community is what sustains us as we journey through life. A church community is not only a group that gathers for worship, but also walks with you during trying times and during celebrations in your life.

On May 4, these young people will “affirm” what was done for them at the time of their baptism. They will say “yes” to the promise of forgiveness of sins that was given to them as the waters of baptism were splashed upon their heads. They will say “yes” to living as a Christian in society and that through their words and actions they will speak about the love of Christ.

With hands placed on their heads they will hear words similar to words used at many of our confirmation services:

“Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in _____ the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm *her/his* faith, guide *her/his* life, empower *her/his* in *her/his* serving, give *her/his* patience in suffering, and bring *her/him* to everlasting life. Amen.”

These words are a blessing and a prayer for the confirmand, and all of us, for the Spirit of God to dwell in us and to sustain us in life.

The service of Affirmation of Baptism is a time to examine our own faith journey and affirm our baptism. As these young people make public profession of their faith, we too can recommit ourselves to living as Christian people in the world.

My prayer is that each of us will have the power of the Holy Spirit stir in us and that our faith is renewed as these young people commit themselves to a continuing journey of faith.

Peace,

Pastor Brad



MONTHLY CALENDAR

May 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Pr. Brad on retreat 7:00pm Boy Scouts	2 Pr. Brad on retreat 7:30pm AA Meeting	3 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 8:00am Worship Planning
4 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Confirmation Worship & Communion 1:30pm Mission Trip Mtg 2:00pm Trip Participant Retreat 6:00pm Bell Rehearsal	5 6:00pm "Gather" Bible Study @ Oakview Village Inn 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	6 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Vision & Coordination Mtg. 7:00pm Sunnyslope Neighborhood Mtg.	7 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm "Gather" Bible Study 6:00pm Brass 7:15pm Sr. Choir	8 7:00pm Boy Scouts	9 8:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 7:30pm AA Meeting	10 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 10:00am Cosby Recital 12:00pm Gust Party
11 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:00am Mother's Day Breakfast 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion	12 6:30pm Cub Scout Leaders 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	13 8:00am Election Day Polling Place	14 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Ministry Team Mtg. 7:15pm Sr. Choir	15 7:00pm Boy Scouts	16 7:30pm AA Meeting	17 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 11:00am Harold Peterson Memorial Service
18 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 1:00pm Freeman Recital	19 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	20 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Church Council Mtg.	21	22 7:00pm Boy Scouts	23 8:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 7:30pm AA Meeting	24 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
25 8:00am Worship & Communion 10:30am Worship & Communion 1:00pm District 18 AA	26 Church Office Closed 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	27	28	29 NE Synod Assembly 7:00pm Boy Scouts	30 NE Synod Assembly 7:30pm AA Meeting	31 NE Synod Assembly 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry

Reminder: Two Worship Services all Summer



Worship Schedule for the Summer

For the past several years, Lord of Love has had only one worship service during the summer months. This summer, we will stay with our regular schedule of an 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship, with breakfast between services.

Times for the breakfast have not been decided yet. We are staying with this schedule to provide easily accessible seating in the sanctuary for members, visitors, and guests.

Altar Care

Thank you to **Ann Kroll, Pat Brewer and the many volunteers** who help with Altar Care before, during and after each service, every week. There are many things that all of you do behind the scenes to help facilitate the worship services and make them meaningful and special for all of us. Your service and dedication is so appreciated.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Liturgists Needed by Joan Witt and Kathy Christiansen

Worship is at the center of our expression of faith. Central to our worship is the presence of God through word and the sacraments. We would like to express our gratitude to Dayla Miller who took over the organization of the Liturgists for the Sunday Services in 2014.

If you have ever been interested in being a liturgist, please consider it! (Training is available!) Dayla is looking for a few more volunteers to add to her list, especially for the 10:30 a.m service. Please think about using your time and talents as part of our worship services. Contact Dayla if you are interested and available.

Liturgists



Confirmation

The following will be confirmed on Sunday, May 4 at the 10:30 service:

- Emily Rodriguez
- Ellie Messerschmidt
- Courtney Martinez
- Abel Avalos



Celebrating Their Confirmation

Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25
Greeters				
8:00 a.m.	Kenn and Shari Garder	Paul and Sue Dieter	Doug & Rose Roberts	Wayne & Joan Witt
10:30 a.m.	Paul and Traci Cadwallader	Bill and Nicole Quackenbush	Lynda McGraw/ E.J. Shaner	Kathy Christiansen/ Paula Foster
Liturgist				
8:00 a.m.	Kenn Garder	Judy Egr	Jesse Brewer	Paul Christenson
10:30 a.m.	Doug Aden	Tom Olson	Ruth Manning	Rex Quadhamer
Communion Servers				
8:00 a.m.	Garder family	Egr family	Pat Brewer and Edwards family	Brian and Connie Walther
10:30 a.m.	Cathy Aden/Jane Hawkins	Olson family	Lynnette Nore and Christopher Boarts	Deb Quadhamer Paul and Ann Kroll
Altar Care				
8:00 a.m.	Deb Christenson and Angie Meyer	Doug and Rose Roberts Caroline Tessin	Brewer family	Ed and Marjorie Keiser
10:30 a.m.	Diana Haye and Marcia Roads	Debra Gillespie and Karen Armitage	Brenda & Suzanne Mac Rosie Avalos	Rowen family
Ushers				
8:00 a.m.	Paul Dieter, Dennis Hindemith, Brain Walther			
10:30 a.m.	Brian and Deb Lund, Wayne and Joan Witt			
Nursery Attendant				
10:30 a.m.	Anne Yarger		Lisa Rieff	Ashley Meier
CD Recorder				
8:00 or 10:30	Pat Brewer	Paul Christenson	Dave Lueders	Paul Murphy



Coffee: Pour Justice to the Brim!

The coffee we drink every Sunday is very special. The congregation uses "Fellowship" coffee from The Lutheran World Relief Fair Trade Coffee Project.

Through the LWR Coffee Project, a partnership between Lutheran World Relief and Equal Exchange, we enjoy delicious fairly traded products while supporting small-scale farmers across the world. Farmers earn a fair price for their crops, have access to affordable credit, and can invest in education, health care and sustainable agriculture, building a better future for their families.

For all fairly traded coffee, tea, cocoa, sugar, and snacks purchased through the LWR Coffee Project, Equal Exchange gives \$.20 per pound back to Lutheran World Relief for projects supporting small-scale coffee farmers.



So when you have your cup of coffee on Sunday, or at any fellowship event, remember that this coffee is helping our brothers and sisters across the world. Fair trade coffee is more expensive than what you might pay for store brand, but it is good to know we are supporting small scale farmers to have a living wage. Please give generously when having your cup of Joe!

Summer Breakfasts

Summer Breakfasts will be served by our congregational chefs between the 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services this summer.



The sign-up sheets will be in the Narthex and the Fellowship Hall. The Mission Possible Team

has designated proceeds from Summer Breakfasts to go to Lutheran Family Services Children's program for play therapy. Play therapy is a therapeutic method to help young children share feelings and communicate in a non-threatening manner.

However, the entity that covers mental health care in Nebraska often does not pay for mental health therapy for children under the age of 5. LFS needs funds to help the children work through difficult periods in their lives.

Junior Choir

Thank you for all your hard work this year! Watch the Sunday bulletins for an announcement about when we will have our pizza supper.



Vacation Bible School – SonTreasure Island!

Mark your calendars for VBS from **Monday, July 21 through Friday, July 25!**

We will again offer Vacation Bible School this summer in the evenings with a kid-friendly meal and lots of fun learning about God's love. This year's theme is "SonTreasure Island," a tropical get-away with a throw back to Gilligan's Island. It's sure to be tons of fun!

We still needed many volunteers to create a wonderful VBS session for our children and community. Please consider volunteering in one of the following capacities:

- Cooks (the Mannings will be out of town this year so cooks are needed!)
- Large group leaders
- Small group leaders
- Games
- Registration
- Skits

If you can help all week or just one night, we can find a way to use your talents and time. Contact Heather Christensen to volunteer.



Sunday School through May 18



School's almost out! We will have Sunday School each Sunday through **May 18**, the last day of Sunday School for this year.

Children are invited to attend Sunday School on Mother's Day as we will be doing a craft day.

Lock-ins for All Youth!

“It’s a Girl Thing” second annual girl’s lock-in drew a small but mighty crowd. Miss Judy and Miss Heather were excited to host six chatty girls on a Saturday in March. There were plenty of snacks and games and a movie was on the agenda too. The evening unfolded with much chit chat and giggles from the girls. We watched the movie “Unconditional” based on a true story. The film was moving and we had a great discussion afterwards about how life can be tough and about recognizing and accepting being loved unconditionally by others and by God.

After a short break, the girls decided to watch “Frozen”. So we snuggled in and bonded over music and characters, and funny lines. I don’t know if I watched more of the movie or the girls in their own rendition of the move, and I think everyone decided that I’m better off listening than singing “Let it Go”. Many thanks to Judy Messerschmidt for being my partner in this event and for her support and friendship.

“It’s a GUY Thing:” So the boys hear that the girls get to have a lock in and they soon demanded a boys-only lock in. I said, “OK!” (I think they were a little surprised.) All they wanted was to bring their video games and hang out.

There was friendly competition and lots of cheering, jeering and laughter. There was a ping pong championship, a case of Mountain Dew and lots of pizza. And chatter - I think the boys can or maybe did talk more than the girls did.

What was wonderful was to see these guys create an opportunity for fellowship. The bonding that has taken place will set these young men up for strong friendships as they venture off to high school and college and out into the world. We have three boys graduating this spring. We pray that you will maintain your Christian roots and find strength in fellowship and friendship.



The guys gear up for a night of video game competition



Mission Work Trip: Supplies Needed

Twelve youth and three adults will head out to Hamilton, Ohio (just outside of Cincinnati) **June 14-21**. We will work on homes of those in need. More importantly, we will worship together and discover how God helps us not only to repair another's home, but to repair our lives by living in God's forgiveness and unconditional love.

If you have any supplies that you'd like to donate to the cause, we'll take them and use them. Add them to the box in the youth corner in the Narthex.

- ☐ Paint rollers, Paint roller extension handle, paint brushes, paint tray, painters tape, drop clothes and other painting supplies
- ☐ Hammers, screw drivers
- ☐ Safety goggles, Work gloves, N-95 disposable mask
- ☐ Tool pouch, bag or bucket
- ☐ Spray bottle
- ☐ Tape measure, Utility knife, Chalk line and chalk
- ☐ Chisel, Caulking gun
- ☐ Level, Square
- ☐ Extension cord, Ground fault interrupter
- ☐ Spade shovel, Post hole digger
- ☐ 1 box of rags
- ☐ At least 1 wrench/socket set
- ☐ 16-ft or longer extension ladder
- ☐ 8-ft stepladder
- ☐ Electric drill and bits
- ☐ First-aid kit (1 per vehicle)*



High School Graduation

Three seniors will be graduating in May:

- **Luke Armitage:** Omaha North High School
- **Cody Griffith:** Burke High School
- **Christopher Meyer:** Burke High School



Garage Sale Success!

I don't know a lot of people who love to have a garage sale. When given an opportunity to utilize the annual church rummage sale as a platform for fundraising for the youth ministry and mission trip, I wasn't excited at first, but I certainly wouldn't turn down the opportunity to raise a few dollars for our youth.

Who knew we'd get such support? Many wonderful donations from the congregation and friends poured in. Many shoppers came that morning to find treasures and goodies and gifts. Many hands came to set up and clean up. Many blessings were given.



Your generous contributions of time, items to sell, items purchased, support and prayers helped us raise **\$1062.45!!** Thank you! Who knew? HE knew!

Movie Sunday: God's Not Dead

Twenty-four youth, parents, and friends went to the movies on April 13. In comfy reclining chairs, we watched several story lines unfold as friendships were tested and beliefs in God were tested or discovered. Several moments stirred emotions and caused one to think and ponder. If challenged, would we go against the grain to stand up for what we believe in? Great discussion followed the movie and we recommend that you catch "God's Not Dead" and ponder it's message for you.



Generous Offerings at Easter Breakfast

The annual Easter breakfast hosted by the youth group was once again a success. Many hands helped prep for the big day and many more helped create a successful breakfast. We served more than 140 people and created an opportunity to celebrate Easter and enjoy each other's company.

Our basket runneth over. Thank you to all for your generous donations to the free will offering basket supporting our youth ministries. Once again the generosity of our Lord of Love family is astounding.



A special shout out to the men's ministry as their Friday night vigil raised \$300 dollars for the youth! You support our youth at baptism with the beautiful memory boxes, you share your time and talents and support as we teach these children God's love, and you support them as they grow into youth and into opportunities to discover firsthand the power of God's love. Thank you for your support and guidance of our youth ministry!



Mission Possible

Thanks to all of you for the wonderful generosity in giving to Table Grace Café and Food Bank of the Heartland during the special Lenten service, soup supper, and Easter offerings. Proceeds from the summer breakfasts have been designated to our Nebraska Lutheran Family Services, particularly targeted to programs that involve play therapy for children.



In addition, remember that abundant ministry is done through our regular offerings to Lord of Love. Your faithful, ongoing financial support is needed to sustain all that we do.

Community Garden

The ground has been tilled, and potatoes and onions are planted in the community garden. We plan to plant sweet corn and squash on **May 9** at 9 a.m. Show up with willing hands if you can help plant. Volunteers are needed for weeding and watering to ensure growth of the plants and a bountiful harvest later this summer. Talk to any of the regular gardeners—Doug Aden, Dawn Burton, Dale Finck, Deb Lund, Jeri Morgan, Gary Ramsay or Doug Roberts for details.

Reflections on the Parable of the Sower, by Deb Lund

It is the season for readying the soil and planting here in the central plains, and more attention and care are needed this year after the long, dry, bitterly cold winter.

Most seeds and plants cannot grow without proper soil. This involves preparation, amending the soil for acid to alkaline balance, ensuring live nutrients, sufficient moisture and fertilizer. Likewise, our faith cannot grow without such care and nourishment. One needs sustenance to sustain one's faith.

What are you doing to nurture your faith? Do you take time for God? Do you remember to pray and prioritize your schedule to foster a healthy relationship with God? Do you attend worship and education opportunities regularly? How are you modeling your faith in your daily life?

Remember that all that we have and are belong to God. We are called to share our gifts with others as best we can. It has been said that it is better to give than to receive. There is no doubt that we get much more than we give of our time, talent and treasures, which helps strengthen our faith. God's blessings and peace to each of you as enjoy this season of growing.

Habitat for Humanity

Lord of Love is again participating with Habitat for Humanity. Our host weekend is **May 17**. Our rehab house is located at 3910 North 18th St. We already have a family partner so we will be working side by side with the future homeowners.

There are a variety of tasks, especially this early in the build season. All skill levels are welcome. It is a great opportunity to learn new skills also. We will work 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come for the day or a few hours.

Please contact Jeri Morgan at jerrymorgan@ymail.com or call or text to 402-415-4976. We need to know a number so we can plan the noon meal.



RESOURCES

Will our Children be Generous? by Rex Quadhamer

Today, tomorrow, and every day, children will be exposed to over 5,000 messages geared to get them to spend money on themselves. These messages try to convince children they are worth what they possess. Who will send them the messages about the benefits of being generous people who share and save their money as well as spend it? Who will teach them that they are valued by God just the way they are, regardless of what they own or what they wear?

Over the next several months, we will provide suggestions, such as:

1. Model the behavior you want. Let your children see you giving donations to charitable causes and doing random acts of kindness for others. Talk about why you support the organizations you do and why you help others. Talk about why you try to conserve natural resources and why you care about how the food and products you purchase were made.
2. Teach and model the 10-10-80 concepts: Share a tenth, save a tenth, spend the rest wisely. Provide your children a method to set aside a tenth for charity, a tenth for savings and a way to track how they spend the rest. Use envelopes or jars to separate their allowance, gifts and earned income. Give them a notebook in which to record what they do with the money that passes through their hands.



The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries

A social statement addressing issues in the criminal justice system was mandated by the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly; subsequently the ELCA Task Force on Criminal Justice issued the proposed statement, "The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries." The statement's text and its 11 implementing resolutions were reviewed by the Conference of Bishops in March 2013, the ELCA Church Council in April 2013, and adopted by the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

The statement presents a comprehensive perspective on matters related to the U.S. criminal justice system and the many communities affected by this system. It affirms the principles of the U.S. criminal justice system, but also reveals the desperate cries that reflect the system's serious deficiencies. Drawing from the biblical witness to God's rich forms of love and justice for all humanity, the ELCA is compelled to address the need for a change in public attitude and posture, and to call for dramatic reforms in policies and practices in the criminal justice system.

More information at: <http://www.elca.org/en/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Criminal-Justice>

CHURCH COUNCIL

Our Giving Status by Lisa Meyer

General Fund financial information for March 2014:

- Actual Income - \$29,392.75
- Actual Expenses – \$25,974.95

General Fund financial information for the year to date through March 2014:

- Actual Income – \$78,801.75
- Actual Expenses – \$82,194.86



Through the end of the first quarter, there is currently a shortfall of approximately \$6,600 of offerings and other income needed to meet our budgeted expenses. As you may recall, the budget was approved at the November annual meeting with a deficit of \$18,500. Mission funds of approximately \$4,000 from 2013 have not yet been disbursed due to our financial condition.

We are running behind YTD on envelope giving. As a congregation we are very generous for specific mission or other causes, but for general giving we seem to lag. As of April 20, \$4028.00 has not been paid out for the 2013 Mission Project to Lutheran Family Services because of insufficient funds.

→ PLEASE consider adding extra or increasing your weekly giving.

2014 Lord of Love Church Council

Executive Committee: Brian Walther, President; Kenn Garder, Vice-President; Judy Messerschmidt, Secretary; Lisa Meyer, Treasurer

Nurture: Paula Foster, Lisa Willard

Outreach: Karen Anderson, Mardi Fiske

Resources: Paul Concannon, Rex Quadhamer

Worship: Kathy Christiansen, Joan Witt



MEN'S NEWS CORNER

Good Friday Vigil

Many thanks to all who participated in physical and financial support of the Men's event that took place on Good Friday eve. Thank you to Paul and Deb Christenson for housing the fund raiser in their home.

The event raised **\$300**, which was donated to the youth for their summer work trip.



Men's Ministry Events

Saturday Morning Men's Meeting

All men are invited to gather to break bread for the body and nurture the spirit through biblical study with the support of fellow men every Saturday morning in Lord of Love's fellowship hall and kitchen. Breakfast is served at 7 a.m. (until we run out) and biblical study follows, with closing prayer around 8 a.m. There is always an open seat for you.

Mother's Day Meal

Let the Men of Lord of Love help with celebrating Mother's Day for you! The Men will serve a free breakfast on **Sunday, May 11** between services. The menu is still open, but whatever is served will nourish the body and bring joy to the spirit as we celebrate. Men: a free will offering will be accepted.



Softball

All are invited to come and cheer on the Men's softball team. We will be playing on Mondays at Kelley Softball complex (124th and Fort) on Field 8 (the field closest to Fort St.). During the summer, we also go out for pizza after 6:30 p.m. games and anyone is welcome to join us.

If interested in playing on the team, contact Don Rowen, [402-965-8977](tel:402-965-8977) or drowen@unomaha.edu.



Softball Schedule

May 5	8:30 p.m.
May 12	8:30 p.m.
May 19	6:30 p.m.
June 2*	6:30 p.m.
June 9	8:30 p.m.
June 16	7:30 p.m.
June 23	7:30 p.m.
June 30*	6:30 p.m.
July 7	7:30 p.m.
July 14	8:30 p.m.
July 21*	6:30 p.m.

**pizza following the game*

Baptismal Box Build

No, you haven't missed it. Yes, it is still coming. And yes, we still will need your help. This build is a great time for fellowship as the men come together to assemble the baptismal boxes given to all in celebration of their baptisms. Time and place are yet to be determined and posted.



MEN'S NEWS CORNER

2014 LMM Gathering

July 18-20 – Attention all men- this is your opportunity to become a better son, husband, brother, fiancé, boyfriend, and all-around Christian man. Several Men from Lord of Love and the surrounding area are traveling to Nashville, TN, for the national Lutheran Men's Gathering to be held Friday through Sunday morning, July 18- 20. Held every three years, the event offers men an opportunity to share their faith and have their spirituality grow in an environment of Christian fellowship.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS / SAVE THE DATE



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

The 2014 LMM gathering is titled **Guys, Guts, and God's Glory**, and will be held in Nashville, TN, at Loews Vanderbilt Hotel. Make plans to attend and experience men's fellowship at this spiritual event. Travel schedules and hotel reservations are being made

Men from Lord of Love, your registration fee will be paid by LOL's Men's Breakfast Ministry. Contact any member of LOL's Men's Breakfast Ministry for more local information. Let's hear from you so we can have your input in deciding how/when to travel. Log on to lutheranmeninmission.org for additional national updates and reservation information.

WOMEN OF LOVE

Lutheran Women of Omaha

May 13 is the next meeting of Lutheran Women of Omaha. The group will meet at Lutheran Church of the Master, 2617 S. 114th St. at noon. Both the program and monetary project is Project Hope. Please contact Ruth Manning by Friday, May 9 at [402-451-7221](tel:402-451-7221), or cranecoffeekick@gmail.com

Crane Coffee Fellowship

All women are invited to coffee fellowship at Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass Streets. We meet on Fridays, **May 8** and **May 22** at 8 a.m.



Prayer Shawls



LOL prayer shawl ministry has distributed almost 600 prayer shawls over the years, but the "cupboard is bare" of **adult** prayer shawls. If you knit or crochet, we can use your talents. Completed prayer shawls should be given to Ruth Manning as the LOL coffee fellowship prays over them before they are distributed. For further information, please pick up a prayer shawl brochure at the Information Center. We also need donations of yarn; each prayer shawl takes about 3 skeins (think "garage sale" and "thrift shops"). Thank you!

WOMEN OF LOVE

Secret Angels Ministry

Because there are a lot of items at the Information Center, the Secret Angel cards and notes will now be placed at the table in the alcove immediately to the left of the doughnut table in the narthex.

Also, please remember to pray for your secret angel and send her notes of encouragement.

Gather Bible Study

We've had a very interesting study this year on "Women of the Bible." Our final session features Rahab, "a faithful businesswoman."

Joshua 2:12-13 gives us glimpse into her life: "Now then, since I have dealt kindly with you, swear to me by the Lord that you in turn will deal kindly with my family. Give me a sign of good faith that you will spare my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death."

Join us at one of our two Bible study sessions: the Monday evening group will meet **May 5** at 6 p.m. at the Village Inn, 3304 S.143rd Pl., and the Wednesday evening group meets on **May 7** at 6 p.m. in the Mary Room.

Fall Gather Bible Study

Beginning in September, the theme of our Gather Bible study is "Transforming Life and Faith." The author is Carol Schersten LaHurd. Details will be in the June *Love Letter*.

Women's Ministry Team

All women are invited to participate in the Women's Ministry team meetings as we firm up plans for the upcoming meetings and events. Join us at 6 p.m. in the Mary Room on **May 13**.



Summer Gather Bible Study

"Of Many Generations," is a three-session Bible study that looks at biblical women from several generations, including Hannah, Mary and Elizabeth. This study will be presented at Women of the ELCA Ninth Triennial Gathering in Charlotte, NC in July by the author Dr. Diane Jacobson, professor emeritus of Old Testament in St. Paul.

As in the past, Deb Lund has graciously offered to host the Gather Bible study half-day retreat and potluck salad luncheon. It will be held at her home on Saturday, **August 9**. Freshly baked rolls and beverages will be served at 8:45 a.m., with the three-part study beginning at 9 a.m.

Deb is looking for three leaders, one for each session. If you can help, please contact her at 402-493-3721.

A women's chorus will sing at worship the next day. There will be a rehearsal following the luncheon. If you cannot attend the study and luncheon, you are invited to join the rehearsal at 1 p.m.



WOMEN OF LOVE

Women of Faith Conference

October 3-4, 2014, Lincoln

Over the years several women from Lord of Love have attended the Women of Faith Conference. This year the regional conference will be in Lincoln, Nebraska, at the Pinnacle Center starting at 7 p.m. Oct. 3 and 9-5 on Oct. 4. Tickets range from \$49-\$129. A flyer is on the W/ELCA bulletin board between the Sunday school office and the nursery. Further information, including the speakers, can be found on womenoffaith.com. If you are interested in attending, contact Ruth Manning at 451-0221. Tickets are discounted by \$10 if 10 or more attend. Tickets are selling rapidly, so the earlier they are purchased, the better seating we will have.

Transform your soul, awaken your spirit, and revive your faith at the 2014 event: *From Survival to Revival*. At this all-new event, you'll receive powerful Bible teaching, be inspired by uplifting music, enter into authentic worship, and more. Experience the renewal that comes from spending time in the presence of God. Discover new joy and a fresh sense of purpose. It's time to plan for *From Survival to Revival*!



"Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?" Psalm 85:6 NKJV

News from Triennial Gathering Planners

It's not too late to register for the Ninth Triennial Gathering of the Women of the ELCA, July 24-27! Information is available at <http://www.womenoftheelca.org/>. The following letter shares the experience of Linda Post Bushkofsy, Executive Director, Women of the ELCA, after attending her first triennial.



I distinctly remember a moment at the 1990 gathering as the experience rolled over me and I thought, "if this is what the women's organization is all about, I want to be part of it!" After attending that event, I was asked to serve on my synodical women's organization board. That led to serving as a triennial convention delegate in 1993. I began writing for Lutheran Woman Today (now Gather), led workshops at the 1999 gathering, and in 2002 became executive director of the organization. The potential exists that the life of all women who attend a triennial gathering will be changed, just as mine has.

Are you ready for transformation? What will the Ninth Triennial Gathering bring about for you? You might get fired up about a social issue, going home to seek changes. You might hear God's call, finding yourself considering a missionary assignment or looking at seminary admission brochures. You might learn a new skill in a workshop. One thing is for sure. By attending the Ninth Triennial Gathering, you will join in community with other women, creating sustaining bonds of Christian love and experiencing the Holy Spirit in new and remarkable ways. And your life will be forever changed. Won't you join me in Charlotte?

Vision Trip to Tanzania Rescheduled for February 2–17, 2015

The June 2014 Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization Women of the ELCA Vision Trip to Tanzania was canceled and rescheduled. Due to the low number who expressed interest in the Vision Trip, this trip will be rescheduled to coincide with the February 2015 Nebraska Synod Vision Trip. There were several factors that went into the cancellation decision including the February date is approximately \$400 cheaper. The Nebraska Synod Vision trip will be February 2- 17, 2015.

The Lord of Love Women of the ELCA will offer one scholarship for this trip, valued at least \$1,700. They 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. We would like to help assist another woman to attend with Jackie Combes, recipient of the scholarship awarded last fall. There is a scholarship form (attached to the end of this issue of the Love Letter) to be completed and returned to Gwen Edwards **by June 1, 2014**.

The approximate cost of this trip is \$4,500 per person (estimated). This cost covers airfare, visa, ground transportation, all lodging and meals. You will be responsible for securing your passport (if necessary) and inoculations which, depending on what you have had, will be approximately \$250-\$700, and oral anti-malarial medication taken during the trip. For tipping, figure about \$3 per day. A non-refundable deposit of \$300 is due now to reserve your spot.

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

More trip information can be obtained at <http://www.nebraskasynod.org/tanzania/vision-trips-tanzania/or> by contacting Sandy Terry at sterry9415@yahoo.com; Sandy Olson at sandyoly@neb.rr.com; or Kandy Pflaster at tkpflaster@gmail.com.

May Dates to Remember

May 5	6 p.m.	<i>Gather</i> Bible Study, Village Inn, 3304 S.143rd Pl.
May 6	9 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
May 7	6 p.m.	<i>Gather</i> Bible Study, Mary Room
May 9	8 a.m.	Crane Coffee Fellowship
May 9-10		Women's Retreat, St. Benedict's Center, Schuyler, NE
May 14	6 p.m.	Ministry Team, Mary Room
May 20	9 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
May 23	8 a.m.	Crane Coffee Fellowship

Looking Ahead

July 24-27: 9th Triennial Gathering of the Women of the ELCA, Charlotte, NC

Sept. 13: NSWOW Autumn Renewal, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Lincoln.

October 3-4: Women of Faith Conference, Lincoln, NE

TBA: Annual LOL Fall Festival



IN OUR PRAYERS & LOVE NOTES

In Our Prayers

Antoinette Anania (cousin of Deb Lund)
Chris Beckman (friend of Jane Gehringer)
Connie Bennett (cousin of Karen Armitage)
Dick Bell
Patricia Connolly (friend of the Thoms)
Jan Davis-Hughes (aunt of Paula Foster)
Claire Foral (friend of Dave and Lisa Rieff)
Ed Gehringer
Mike Gillotte (neighbor of the Pickens)
Ken Gustafson (husband of Mary Lou)
Cheryl Jones (friend of Nancy Shinrock)
Margret Kragnes (mother of Amy Kragnes)
Matt Kreikimeier (friend of Brenda Mac)
Ken Lineweaver (Aaron Edward's Papa)
Glenna Lee
Lisa Lueders (sister-in-law of Dave Lueders)
Marj & Jim Mahler and Sue, Terry & Keith
(mother, brother and friends of Jane Hawkins)
Jennifer and John Mather (friends of the Lueders)
Charles Meyer (father of Pr. Brad)
Debbie Michalak (former co-worker of Jackie
Combes)
Dawn Neumann

Brenda Nobles (friend of Gwen Edwards)
Karen Pickens
David Pippin (nephew of Lynda McGraw)
Chuck Santori
Jo Schafer (friend of Brenda Mac)
Isaac Schroeder
Jill Sheridan (sister-in-law of Rebecca Lund
Sheridan)
Don St. Ours (brother-in-law of Lynda McGraw)
Diane Sullivan & Alice VanHoosen (friends of the
Egr's)
Scott Swigert & Jeanna Steppuhn (nephew &
niece of the Shinrocks)
Brenda Thom
Roslynn Thom (sister of Ron Thom)
Bill Wallway (uncle of Kenn Garder)
Al Weibusch
Ted Whitfield (former co-worker of Brian Shinrock)

Those deployed around the world:
Matt Lueders
Veronica Barnes and her fiancé Jake Harmon

Caregivers and those who suffer with depression

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

This issue has been one of transition for the *Love Letter*. Kim Gust is stepping down after seven faithful years of service as the newsletter editor.



Kim's diligent work on the newsletter has been greatly appreciated and she has done a truly amazing job. Thank you, Kim! Her shoes will be tough to fill, but she is handing over the newsletter to me, Charise Adams, a new member. Thank you in advance to the congregation for your support during this transition. I look forward to meeting more of you!



Return Service Requested

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

This Month

May 4	Confirmation
May 5	<i>Gather</i> Bible Study
May 7	Luther Kids <i>Gather</i> Bible Study
May 9	Crane Coffee Fellowship
May 11	Mother's Day Breakfast
May 17	Habitat for Humanity
May 20	Church Council Meeting
May 26	Memorial Day (Office Closed)

Save the Date

June 14-21	Youth Mission Work Trip
July 18-20	Lutheran Men's Triennial Gathering
July 21- 25	Vacation Bible School
July 24-27	Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering
August 9	Gather Bible study half-day retreat and potluck luncheon
October 3-4	Women of Faith conference

Articles for The Love Letter can be submitted to the editor 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.








**LORD OF LOVE WOMEN OF THE ELCA
2015 VISION TRIP TO TANZANIA SCHOLARSHIP FORM**

February 2 - 17, 2015

Value of Scholarship is at least \$1,500.00

One Scholarship 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 June 1, 2014 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.? _____

