

# The Love Letter

Volume 54

June 2015

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## Worship Schedule\*

Sun. 9 a.m.      Worship Service

*\*Through Labor Day Weekend*

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

## A Look Ahead

What appears to be the summer lull has come upon us. But many are busy behind the scenes preparing for EVEREST Vacation Bible School this month! **May 31** is your very last chance to register for VBS, which begins **June 8**.

Others are also busy working on the current stage of the call process. See page 8 for the latest update.

Dads, your day is almost here! The Lord of Love Women of the ELCA invite you and your families to a breakfast after worship on **June 21**. Fathers eat free and others are asked to give a free-will offering.

Have a Happy Father's Day and hope everyone is having a fun and safe summer!



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## GREETINGS FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR'S DESK

One of the constants in my ministry has been change. In my forty-plus-year career as a pastor, I have served as a parish pastor, a chaplain, and now as an intentional interim pastor. Some of the changes have been of my own doing. Most have not.

However, no matter the source of the change, I have experienced two other constants in the midst of the changes, transitions, and transformations of my ministry -- the working of the Spirit in ways that I could not have imagined and the presence of Christ's love among the people I was called to serve.

During my ministry with you as we negotiate the call process together, you will experience changes—the changes that come with the letting

go of a dearly loved pastor, and those involved in preparing yourselves for new pastoral leadership.

My work among you is not to create these changes, but rather to walk with you as those changes make themselves known to you personally and as a community. I am here to point out how Christ's Spirit and God's love are at work in the changes that will happen during this transition.

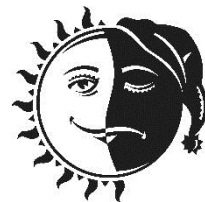
I look forward to walking with you in that Spirit and that love. Be prepared to be surprised by how they will make themselves known to you on this journey we are taking together.

The Peace of Our Risen Christ Be with You,

*Pastor Glenn*

*It is not hard for the LORD to turn night into day. He that sends the clouds can as easily clear the skies. Let us be of good cheer. It is better farther on. Let us sing hallelujah by anticipation.*

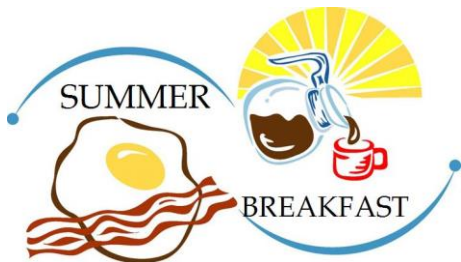
*-Charles H. Spurgeon*



## WORSHIP

### Summer Worship and Breakfast

Cooks are needed to provide breakfast following our 9 a.m. summer services. To volunteer, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board.



### Summer Musicians Needed

We at Lord of Love get spoiled most of the year with all the wonderful brass, choir, and bell choir music. Consider sharing your musical talents with us over the summer months as these groups take a break. Sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex.



## Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28
<b>Greeter(s)</b>				
9 a.m.	Jesse & Pat Brewer	Harry Naasz/Gary Ramsay	Dave & Susan Lueders	Woody & Mardi Fiske
<b>Liturgist</b>				
9 a.m.	Dave Rieff	David Hild	Doug Aden	Ashley Vandeventer
<b>Communion Servers</b>				
9 a.m.	Rieff family	<b>Volunteers please</b>	Cathy Aden & Pat Brewer	Egr family
<b>Altar Care</b>				
9 a.m.	Doug & Rose Roberts	Karen Armitage & Gwen Edwards	Brewers	Brenda Mac & Rosie Avalos
<b>Ushers</b>				
9 a.m.	Dave Lueders, Adam Lueders & volunteers	Joe & Jackie Combes, Josh Combes & Dale Finck	Dave Lueders, Adam Lueders & volunteers	Joe & Jackie Combes, Josh Combes & Dale Finck
<b>Nursery</b>				
9 a.m.			Lisa Rieff	Ashley Meier
<b>CD Recording</b>				
9 a.m.	Pat Brewer	Paul Christenson	Dave Lueders	Paul Murphy



# MONTHLY CALENDAR

June 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 6:00pm Gather Bible Study 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	<b>2</b> 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Vision & Coordination Mtg.	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>5</b> 6:00pm Kistler/Lueders Rehearsal Dinner 7:30pm AA Meeting	<b>6</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
<b>7</b> 9:00am Worship & Communion 10:00am Summer Breakfast	<b>8</b> 5:30pm Vacation Bible School Dinner 6:00pm VBS 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	<b>9</b> 5:30pm Vacation Bible School Dinner 6:00pm VBS	<b>10</b> 5:30pm Vacation Bible School Dinner 6:00pm VBS 6:00pm Women's Ministry Team	<b>11</b> 5:30pm Vacation Bible School Dinner 6:00pm VBS 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>12</b> 8:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 5:30pm VBS Dinner 6:00pm VBS 7:30pm AA Meeting	<b>13</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
<b>14</b> 9:00am Worship & Communion 10:00am Summer Breakfast	<b>15</b> 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	<b>16</b> 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Church Council Mtg.	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Pr. Glenn vacation 12:00pm "Aged to Perfection" Lunch 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>19</b> Pr. Glenn vacation 6:30pm Novak Recital 7:30pm AA Meeting	<b>20</b> Pr. Glenn vacation 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 8:30am Novak Recital
<b>21</b> Pr. Glenn vacation 9:00am Worship & Communion 10:00am Summer Breakfast	<b>22</b> Pr. Glenn vacation 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	<b>23</b> Pr. Glenn vacation	<b>24</b> Pr. Glenn vacation	<b>25</b> 7:00pm Swingtones 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>26</b> 8:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 7:30pm AA Meeting	<b>27</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
<b>28</b> 9:00am Worship & Communion 10:00am Summer Breakfast 1:00pm District 18 AA PIng Mtg.	<b>29</b> 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	<b>30</b>				

## Update from Preschool Director Michelle Petersen

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Another successful year of learning has come to an end. This time was bittersweet for me, as this will be my final year at Lord of Love Preschool. I recently submitted my resignation as director and teacher. This decision was not an easy one and involved thoughtful consideration and prayer. I have accepted a position at Children's Hospital and Medical Center and I am confident that the change will help me fulfill my career goals.



Thank you so much for the opportunity to hold this position for the last 7 years. I have enjoyed the opportunities I have had to develop the program and teach the children in our community, and I have learned so much that I will take with me throughout my career. Thank you to the congregation for your support and encouraging words over the years. I wish Lord of Love Preschool continued success.

*Michelle Petersen*

## Vacation Bible School

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From **June 8-12** we will embark on an “icy” mountain adventure—right in our church! Kids will join Climbing Crews to “trek” through **Everest VBS**, discovering God’s power and promises all along the way.

Family-friendly dinner is at 5:30 p.m., with VBS from 6-8 p.m. Registration forms are available in the Narthex and are due **March 31**.

VBS Crew Leaders are still needed. If you'd like to volunteer please contact Heather Christensen at [402.206.9205](tel:402.206.9205) or [heather@lord-of-love.org](mailto:heather@lord-of-love.org).

**Props Needed:** If you can let us borrow any of the following items for our theme, please label them and deliver them to the church office or place in the youth corner of the narthex.

- Backpacks
- Pup Tent
- Hiking Boots
- Sleeping Bag
- Batting for snow
- Small 2 - 4 foot evergreen trees assembled.



## NURTURE

### “Aged to Perfection” Monthly Luncheon

Starting on **Thursday, June 18**, lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall for any persons retired, seniors, golden-agers, or whatever you would prefer to call yourselves. 😊

Susan Lueders and Jackie Combes will be cooking on the third Thursday of each month. We are hoping to create an opportunity to gather and enjoy one another’s company and fellowship. There are no planned activities, but you are welcome to come up with ideas and put them in motion.

Lunch will be served at noon, but come as early as you like and stay as late as you like. A free-will offering will be taken to cover the cost of the meals, with any proceeds going to the Deacon’s Fund. Please sign up in the narthex (next to the flower chart) so we know how many to expect.

Upcoming luncheon dates:

- June 18
- July 16
- August 20
- September 17
- October 15
- November 19
- December 17



## YOUTH

### Summer Outing at Fun Plex



**Sunday, June 14**, join your fellow youth for an afternoon of summer fun at Fun Plex from 4–8 p.m.

Meet at Fun Plex or carpool from church.

## OUTREACH

### Project Hope Food Pantry Needs

Project Hope continues to need cans and boxes of food, especially:

- hot and cold cereal
- grain products
- canned tuna
- canned fruit

Cash donations are also welcome.



## MISSION

### Mission Possible Update

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Proceeds from this year's summer breakfasts will go to **prison ministries** through the Nebraska Synod. The Nebraska ELCA does ministry work at various prisons throughout Nebraska in programs such as Followers of Christ, Bridges to Hope, and Crossroads Connection. We plan to bring Pastor Bob Bryan, Director of Prison Ministry for the NE Synod, to Lord of Love this summer to learn more.



Thank you for your generosity in special Lenten and Easter offerings and proceeds from the Lenten soup suppers. Nearly \$4000 will be divided to assist the nine Lord of Love Youth attending this summer's Youth Gathering in Detroit and provide a substantial offering that the group will take there for the **ELCA Walk for Water** ministry in Africa.

### Lord of Love Community Garden

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The long, wet, cool spring has slowed down growth, but plants have been emerging in the garden. As we get into full growing season, in June, regular garden days will be **Monday and Thursday mornings at 9 a.m.**

Please contact one of the regular gardeners, if you are interested in helping to weed, then, later in the summer, harvest: Doug Aden, Dawn Burton, Dale Finck, Deb Lund, Jeri Morgan, Gary Ramsay, and Doug Roberts.



### Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton on World Malaria Day

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Dear friend,

Grace and peace to you! Over the past four years, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has given special attention to **World Malaria Day on April 25**. This year, on World Malaria Day, a massive earthquake struck Nepal.

As a church, you responded to this crisis immediately. I am grateful for the generosity of congregations and individuals who quickly offered assistance through Lutheran Disaster Response. Together, we have raised \$400,000 to support recovery efforts. It is in these moments that I am heartened to see the profound way our long history of mission has put us exactly where God would have us to bring help and hope. Our prayers continue for the people of Nepal, especially for those who serve neighbors through our partners and companions. *(continued on next page)*

## MISSION

### *Letter from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, continued*

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At the same time, opportunities to give continue for World Malaria Day – a time that traditionally raises a great deal of funds and awareness to help our sisters and brothers in Africa put an end to this preventable, treatable disease.

[Our companions and partners are still counting on your support, and we could use your help now.](#)

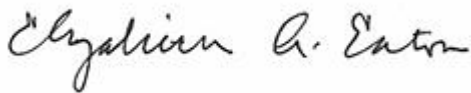
Five years ago the ELCA joined worldwide efforts to fight malaria by launching the ELCA Malaria Campaign. Our goal: \$15 million by 2015 to support the malaria programs of our Lutheran companions and partners. Today, we're 94 percent of the way there.

Together, our work has stretched into 13 countries throughout Africa. We have fully funded our commitments to 10 country programs with positive results underway, but communities in **three countries still are depending on your support.**

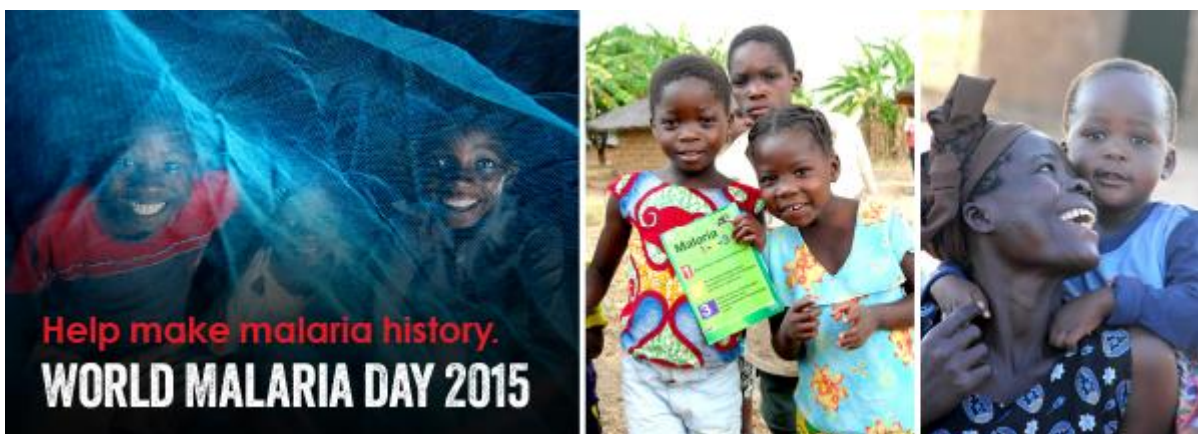
I give thanks for your past support and hope that you will prayerfully consider [one more gift.](#)

As we continue to celebrate new life in Christ, let us join together and ensure all of God's children live whole, healthy lives.

God's blessings,



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



### 2015 Lord of Love Church Council

**Vision and Coordination:** Brian Walther, President; Dave Hild, Vice-President; Judy Messerschmidt, Secretary; Jackie Combes, Treasurer

**Nurture:** Susan Lueders and Lisa Willard

**Outreach:** Mardi Fiske and Scott Reinhardt

**Resources:** Craig Pennell and Bill Quackenbush

**Worship:** Heather Hansen and Joan Witt



### Call Process Update, from Dave Hild (as of May 20)

I would like to provide a short update regarding the process for calling a new pastor.

The ELCA has a handbook to help guide congregations through this process. We have a summary poster now in the Narthex, and it provides a pictorial outline of the process that is described in the handbook.



#### Where are we?

Our current phase of the process is to assemble what is known as the **Ministry Site Profile**. This congregational profile serves several purposes:

- it helps us come to a consensus regarding the kind of pastor needed for the next chapter our ministry.
- it is a means to communicate the congregation's hopes and dreams to the Synod.
- it helps the Synod Staff Liaison identify appropriate candidates for the Call Committee.
- It provides candidates with a picture of the congregation's needs and opportunities.

#### Who is working on it?

A committee, the **Ministry Site Profile Committee**, has been formed to lead the activities needed to gather the information from our membership to assemble this profile. This group met to plan our process of putting together Lord of Love's Site Profile. Those coming together for this ministry are:

- Don Rowen
- Allison Vandeventer
- Ann Kroll
- Myself (Dave Hild)

#### What can I do?

We won't do this process alone – we will be soliciting information from the congregation in various ways, including group discussion and an online survey, to gather this important information.

We look forward to everyone's input, assistance, and prayers as we prepare for this next phase of our ministry together at Lord of Love.

## RESOURCES

### Giving Status

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#### General Fund financial information for April 2015:

Actual Income - \$23,417.00  
Actual Expense - \$20,133.11

#### Financial Information Year-To-Date as of the end of April:

Actual Income - \$98,056.00  
Actual Expense - \$106,804.25



### Giving Update

As of the end of April, the available cash deficit is (10,899.79). Weekly offerings of \$6,799 are needed to meet budgeted expenses. The weekly offering average through the end of April was \$5,639. Thank you for keeping your pledges current.

### Deacon's Fund

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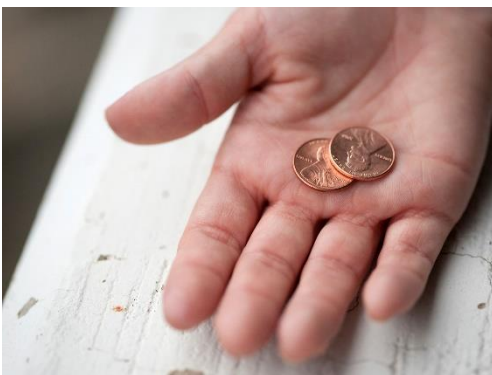
This is the fund that is used at the discretion and screening of the pastor to help individuals who are in need of financial assistance. The needs vary from assistance with utility bills or groceries, etc. Cash is not given to individuals. Pastor or Mary Lou make arrangements for payments depending on the situation.



If you wish to donate to the Deacon's Fund, please use the **green envelopes** on the prayer request table in the narthex and place them in the offering plate. The loose offering from the first Sunday of the month is no longer used for the Deacon's Fund. Your generosity is appreciated.

### Stewardship Reflection: The Widow's Gift, by Rex Quadhamer

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*He looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on." (Mark 12:41-44)*

I think I've observed over the years that poor people often are more generous than people who have a lot of money. You would think it would be the opposite, but they aren't as attached to their possessions because they don't have much.

When I was picking up food on May 9 while delivering mail (did you set out food for your carrier to pick up?), the poorer areas I delivered to were as or more generous than the wealthy. *(continued...)*

## RESOURCES

### *The Widow's Gift, continued*

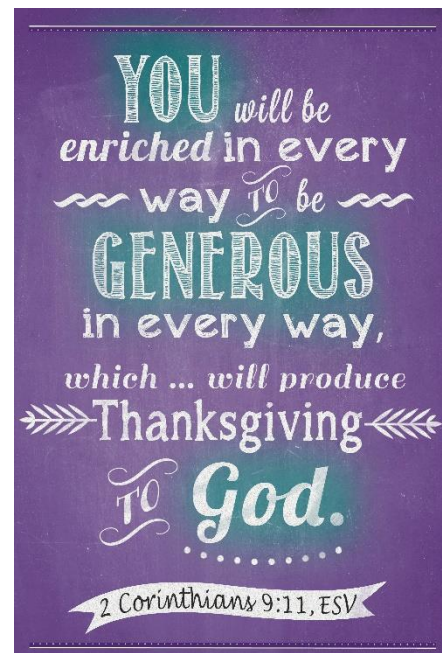
(By the way, we picked up an enormous amount of food for the food bank - I had to make 3 trips back to the office because my truck was getting filled up! Thanks to all who set out food.)

I notice in the Love Letter every month that we continue to have a big deficit at our church. While I was on council last year, I mentioned maybe we need to make more cuts in our budget but was told we were already at bare bones in spending. It seems that then we should be running a surplus and not a deficit.

While not yet tithing, our family has increased our giving significantly over the past year. It can be hard, but everything I've read in the Bible and heard at church asks us to live lives of faith. That is our calling.

When I was at Scottsbluff a year and a half ago for the Synod Mission Field Trip (we did work at the Lakota Lutheran church) I heard an interesting statement from a synod member. We were eating at a Chinese buffet and they were talking about sometimes having to spy on congregations who were having a lot of conflict. I mentioned to them that if they come to our church, I'll know who they are. But they told me and Fred (who goes to Bennington), "Don't worry. We won't be spying on *your* churches."

It's nice to know we're held in such high esteem because of who we are as a church! I'm proud to belong to such a generous congregation. God bless.



## MEN'S NEWS CORNER

### Softball Continues

You're invited to come and cheer on the men's softball team. 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 at 402.965.8977 or [drowen@unomaha.edu](mailto:drowen@unomaha.edu).



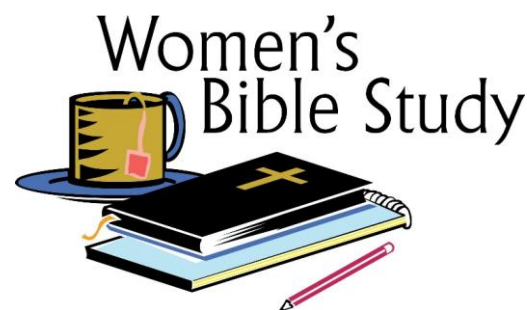
### Schedule

**June 1**, 6:30 p.m. at Kelley 5. Pizza following  
**June 8**, 6:30 p.m. at Kelley 5 - Pizza following  
**June 15** at 8:30 p.m. at Kelley 8  
**June 22** at 8:30 p.m. at Kelley 8  
**June 29** at 7:30 p.m. at Kelley 8  
**July 6** at 7:30 p.m. at Kelley 8  
**July 13** at 7:30 p.m. at Kelley 8  
**July 20** at 7:30 p.m. at Kelley 5

### *Gather* Bible Study Reunion

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A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away...well, it wasn't actually a galaxy...and it wasn't that far, far away, but it was a long time ago! Several years ago we had only one *Gather* Bible study. Originally the group met in a fast food pizza restaurant called "The Snappy Tomato." It closed and a Chinese restaurant filled the space, the Hong Hing, or as Karen Armitage called it, "The Snappy Snow Pea."



After the one group became two groups, we have had periodic reunions. Well, it's time to have another reunion!

All women are invited to meet at Hong Hing, at 90<sup>th</sup> and Fort in the Plaza North shopping center, **at 6 p.m. on Monday, June 1**. Information on the summer Bible study, including session 1 to be used at this session, can be found below.

### Summer *Gather* Bible Study: "No Catchy Slogans"

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Does the subject of giving—especially financial giving to the church—make you a bit uncomfortable? This summer's Bible study, "No Catchy Slogans," looks at Scripture passages about giving.

The author, former Women of the ELCA staff member Emma Crossen (at right), writes in her introduction: "Giving money is an important topic for Christians to consider. All congregations need money to pay pastors, care for buildings, and support ministries. All people need encouragement and guidance about their relationship to money. Few things affect our daily life more. It seems appropriate that the Bible gives so much attention to money and giving. Yet, it's too common to see Bible passages taken out of context, turned into catchy slogans, and enforced as rules that Christians should follow."

You can download all sessions at <http://www.womenoftheelca.org/2015-summer-study-pages-188.php>

**Session 1:** Give in Secret. Giving money is an important topic for Christians to consider, but taking Scripture out of context confuses the message.

All three summer sessions will be covered in a half-day retreat on **August 15** at the home of Deb Lund. If you have any questions, contact Rose Roberts.



## WOMEN OF LOVE

### Father's Day Breakfast

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Lord of Love Women of the ELCA will prepare the Father's Day breakfast to be served following worship on **June 21**. Dads eat free and all others are asked to give a free will offering.



### Women's Ministry Team

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You're invited to attend the women's ministry team meeting at **6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 3** in the Mary Room. Please note the change of date. All women are invited to attend.

### Crane Coffee Fellowship

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Coffee fellowship opportunities continue throughout the summer. It's the ideal time for teachers to attend!

All women are invited to join us at Crane Coffee, 77<sup>th</sup> and Cass on **June 12 and 26** (Fridays).



### Lutheran Women of Omaha

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Lutheran Women of Omaha will meet **Tuesday, June 9 at noon** at Rejoice Lutheran Church, 2556 S 138th St. The program will be the Shriner cantors.

Cost of the luncheon is \$6. Make your reservation with Ruth Manning at 402.451.0221 by June 7.

### Dates to Remember

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<b>June 1</b> , 6 p.m.	<i>Gather Bible Study Reunion, Hong Hing (5411 N. 90<sup>th</sup> St.)</i>
<b>June 2</b> , 9 a.m. – noon	<i>Quilters</i>
<b>June 3</b> , 6 p.m.	<i>Ministry Team, Mary Room</i>
<b>June 12</b> , 8 a.m.	<i>Crane Coffee Fellowship</i>
<b>June 16</b> , 9 a.m. – noon	<i>Quilters</i>
<b>June 21</b> , 10 a.m.	<i>Women serve Father's Day breakfast – men eat free!</i>
<b>June 26</b> , 8 a.m.	<i>Crane Coffee Fellowship</i>

### Looking Ahead

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<b>August 15</b> , 8:45 a.m.	<i>Gather Bible Study Retreat and Salad Luncheon at Deb Lund's</i>
<b>September 18-20</b>	<i>NSWO Convention, First Lutheran Church, Lincoln, NE</i>



## IN OUR PRAYERS

Antoinette Anania (cousin of Deb Lund)  
Karen Beck  
*Chris Beckman (friend of Jane Gehringer)*  
Connie Bennett (cousin of Karen Armitage)  
*Dick Bell*  
Syd Brinkman  
*Patricia Connolly (friend of the Thoms)*  
Vicky Hays (friend of Ann Kroll)  
*Mary Howard (friend of Carol Novak)*  
Charles Meyer (father of Pr. Brad)  
*Mark Miller*  
Matt Kreikimeier (friend of Brenda Mac)  
*Glenna Lee*  
Fran Lineweaver (mother of Gwen Edwards)  
*Lisa Lueders (sister-in-law of Dave Lueders)*  
Vi Neu (stepmother of Carol Novak)  
*Dan Manning*

*Cynthia Palmer (friend of Dave & Lisa Rieff)*  
Arlene Schultz (mother of Pat Brewer)  
*Brian Shinrock*  
Georgene Sones (mother of Dayla Miller)  
*Don St. Ours (brother-in-law of Lynda McGraw)*  
*Brenda Thom*  
Drew Van Winkle (friend of Gustafsons)  
*Betty Wallwey (aunt of Shari Garder)*  
Ted Whitfield (former co-worker of Brian Shinrock)  
*Caregivers and those who suffer with depression*

### Those Who Mourn

The friends and family of Jill Sheridan (sister-in-law of Rebecca Lund Sheridan)

### Those Who Are Deployed

Zach Gehrig, Steve Slone

If you would like to add a name to the In Our Prayers section, please contact the office at 402.493.2946, send an email to [marylou@lord-of-love.org](mailto: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

To all my dear friends at Lord of Love. I miss you all so much. But, at the same time, I am so happy to be here with my family. Life goes on! I want you to know that you have an open invitation to visit me if you are ever near Columbus, Ohio. Here is my new address:

6039 Perimeter Lakes Drive  
Dublin, OH 43017  
[402-214-4721](tel:402-214-4721)

Love and prayers,  
*Sandy Hall*

Hello!

**Return Service Requested**

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

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

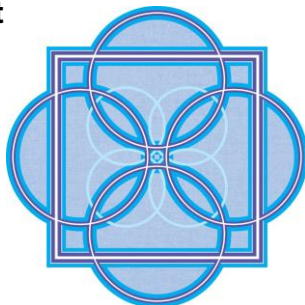
### This Month

**June 8 – 12 Vacation Bible School**

**June 18 Aged to Perfection Luncheon**

**June 21 Father's Day Breakfast**

*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](mailto:loveletter@lord-of-love.org).*



### Save the Date

**July 15-19 Youth National Gathering**

*That includes "fun" stuff too! Submit your favorite recipe, poem, or photos from a recent event. All content must be received by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.*