

The Love Letter

Volume 47

September 2017

Lord of Love Office

Phone.....402.493.2946
Fax.....402.493.3087
Website...www.lord-of-love.org

Lord of Love Staff

Pastor

The Rev. Rebecca Sells
pastorbecky@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 Therapists

Kim Mueller
402.354.6891, Ext. 13
Robin Moeller
402.354.6891, Ext. 21

Missionary to Tanzania

Bob Kasworm

Web Steward

Del Gust
webmaster@lord-of-love.org

Love Letter Editor

Charise Adams
loveletter@lord-of-love.org

Senior Organist

Carol Novak

Associate Organist

Amy Kragnes

Chancel Choir Director and Bell Choir Director

Jon Novak

LOL Brass Director

Brian Lund

Worship Schedule

Sunday 9 a.m. (through Labor Day)

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

Looking Ahead

September 10: Kick-off Sunday with return to two services; God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

September 13: Aged to Perfection luncheon

September 28-30: NE Synodical Women's Convention

October 7: Fall Clean-up Day

October 29: Reformation Sunday

November 5: 2018 Budget Forum for members

November 12: Congregational Meeting



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Submit articles for The Love Letter in the Love Letter mailbox at church or by email at loveletter@lord-of-love.org.

Articles (recipes or favorite poems, quotes etc., are also welcome) must be received by the 20th of the month.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. –Hebrews 10:24-25

Our faith is a living, busy, active, mighty thing.” –Martin Luther



The start of fall activities is upon us, and it is time to get back to our regularly scheduled lives. As we do so, there are lots of upcoming events that I hope you will participate in. Below are some of these events. Being the church together helps us live out our faith in very intentional ways, drawing us closer to God, one another, and our neighbor. May we participate and live in the light and abundant life God offers us.

Peace and blessings to you all,
Pastor Becky Sells <><

Rally Day, Sunday School Kick-Off Sunday, Sept. 10

This is the day we will be going back to **two Sunday morning worship services at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.** It is also the first day when Sunday School kids will be gathering back in their classrooms. On this first day, every class will meet briefly in their classroom and meet one another before heading out and about to get involved in our “God’s Work, Our Hands.” projects.

In conjunction with the kick-off for Sunday School, there will be a potluck following the 2nd service that day. All are welcome to bring food and join in this fellowship event.

“God’s work. Our hands.” Day Sunday, Sept. 10 Between Services

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Since 2013, thousands of ELCA congregations have participated in this opportunity and dedicated one day to serve communities in ways that share the love of God with all people.

This year, we observe the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. The ELCA’s anniversary theme, “Freed and Renewed in Christ,” reminds us of the gospel’s promise that we are freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbors. This is work that you do every day – serving your community in ways that share the love of God with all of God’s people. Our service activities offer us an opportunity to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.

We will be doing our Lord of Love service projects during our education hour (9:15-10:15 a.m.). A Thrivent action card has been purchased to help supply the materials needed to do the following projects, and some free T-shirts will be available to those helping to be the hands of Christ to others.

Service Projects planned between services:

- Repack some bulk supplies for Project Hope to hand out
- Make fleece blankets for Project Linus
- Make table favors for a nursing home
- Write love notes to our homebound folks

PASTOR'S PAGE

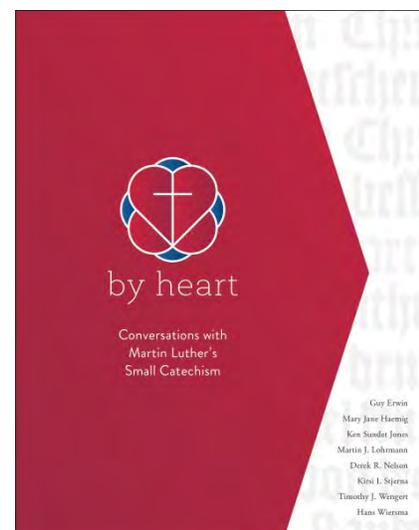
><> Come FISH with us on Wednesday Nights! <><
Starting Sept. 13

As Martin Luther often asked, "What does this mean?" It means we are going to gather inter-generationally to share our faith together in Fellowship, Inspiration, Story, Hope. Everyone is invited to come up to church for a great free-will meal on Wednesday nights from **5:30-6:15 p.m.** as we feed our bodies with food, followed by a time to feed our spiritual selves as we FISH from **6:15-7 p.m.**

During our fishing time, we will gather in intergenerational groups to share our highs and lows together. Then we will read a story or verse from scripture, and engage in conversation about how our life events connect to the word of God through a variety of creative interactions. We will pray together for one another's highs and lows at each table, and send everyone off with a blessing. This time together is meant to be a gift to people of all ages and stages of life. Please make plans to come and join together as Lord of Love to make an impact on each other's lives.

New 7-Week Adult Education Class: By Heart, Begins Sept. 17, 9:15-10:10 a.m.
On the left side of the sanctuary

This class is an adult education piece that leads up to our 500th Anniversary of the Reformation on Oct. 29, with a focus on Luther's Small Catechism. If you would like to participate in this class, please sign up in the narthex so we can make sure we have the books we need. Each book will cost us \$13, if you'd like to contribute for the cost.



MISSION

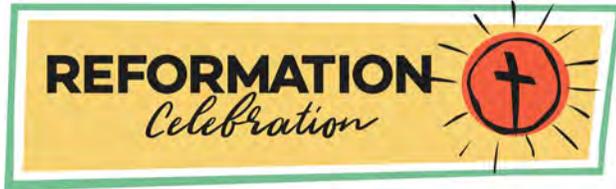
Community Garden Update



Though the raccoons had more than their fair share of sweetcorn, we still harvested many fine ears to take to the food pantries at Project Hope and First Lutheran Church. The corn stalks have been chopped and tilled into the ground.

Hundreds of pounds of beautiful potatoes have been given away each garden work day, and only two rows are left to harvest. Some summer squash is ready each week, but the winter squash will not be ready for a few weeks. Our tomatoes and peppers are very slow to ripen. Each session ends with coffee most Mondays and Thursdays. Garden work is slowing down, but all are welcome to do what they can to help!

2nd Joint Reformation Prayer Service Coming up



To commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in a spirit of mutual reconciliation, repentance and hope, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Omaha and the Nebraska Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are hosting two prayer services. The first was held at St. Cecilia's Cathedral on May 1. The second service will be held at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church on Monday, **Sept. 11 at 7 p.m.** Archbishop Lucas of the Archdiocese of Omaha will preach.

Both bishops will co-preside at each service, and all are welcome to attend. The services will use Common Prayer, a resource developed by a joint commission of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the Lutheran World Federation. The Common Prayer service is based on the joint ecumenical document, *From Conflict to Communion*, which calls on Roman Catholics and Lutherans worldwide to affirm their common faith.

The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation is a celebration of the fundamental aspects of faith that the two bodies share. The two sides are committed to discussing their remaining differences with honesty and humility. By participating in these two prayer services, Roman Catholics and Lutherans give public testimony to the shared virtues of repentance and reconciliation, thanksgiving and hope

through the merits of Jesus Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Soli Deo Gloria! (To God alone the Glory!).

For more information, please see the following links:

<https://www.lutheranworld.org/news/press-release-joint-catholic-lutheran-common-prayer-500-years-reformation>

<https://www.lutheranworld.org/content/joint-common-prayer-lutheran-catholic-common-commemoration-reformation-2017>

**The Common Prayer is a practical guide to a process of worship for a joint Roman Catholic-Lutheran commemoration of 500 years of the Reformation. It is structured around the themes of thanksgiving, repentance and commitment to common witness. The aim is to express the gifts of the Reformation and ask forgiveness for the division perpetuated by Christians from the two traditions. Common Prayer is the liturgy used last year by Pope Francis and Bishop Munib Younan, the President of the Lutheran World Federation, on the Pope's visit to Lund Cathedral in Sweden.*

Mission Possible Update: Summer Breakfast

Thanks to all of you who have supported our 2017 summer breakfasts by preparing and serving, eating, and giving generously! The proceeds for this year's summer breakfasts will go to the Siena/Francis House, a local homeless shelter. As of July 31, 2017, \$1,422.30 has been received. Thanks be to God for your kindness and generosity!

NURTURE

Sunday School: Preschool to Sr. High

Registration forms for Sunday School are in the narthex. Please fill one out so we can keep our information updated. Class will run from **9:15–10:15 a.m.**



The calendar of Sunday School dates for the 2017-2018 year include the following:

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017

Kick Off/Registration/Welcome and God's Work Our Hands Activities

Sunday, Sept. 17, 2017, Both Services

Presentation of Bibles – 3rd Graders
Bible 101 Class

Sunday, Nov. 26, 2017

No Sunday School (Thanksgiving Weekend)

Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017, 9 – 11 a.m.

Dress Rehearsal Christmas Program

Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017, 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, Dec. 24, 2017

No Sunday School (Christmas Eve)

Sunday, April 1, 2018

No Sunday School (Easter)

Sunday, May 13, 2018

Last Day of Sunday School (Mother's Day)

YOUTH

Church Garage Sale

Saturday, Oct. 21 – Proceeds to Youth Fund for National Gathering in June 2018, Houston, TX

Fall is almost upon us, and if you are doing some cleaning up and cleaning out, put those items to the side to bring to the church fellowship hall **the week of October 15** for the Fall Church Garage Sale. All donations will be sold with proceeds to the Youth Fund or will be passed on to another local donation organization. Thanks for all your lightly used items!

National Youth Gathering Meeting

Youth grades 7–12 and their parents, plan on a brief meeting **Sunday, Sept. 10** to talk about the National Youth Gathering in Houston, June 27–July 1, 2018. This tri-annual event is a must in a youth's faith formation journey. Registrations open Sept. 15, and I'd like to get a game plan in place as to who wants to go and if we are going to fly or take a bus, etc.

Please plan on meeting on the 10th just after the congregational potluck for a few minutes to discuss and to make an initial registration.

Youth Mission Trip: Reflections

The Youth Mission Trip 2017 took place July 15–22 in New Orleans, LA. Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church from downtown Omaha and Lord of Love partnered in a journey of providing service, through relationship, while seeking God's work in our lives. And God did work in our lives. The trip took us out of our comfort zones and put us in situations where we had to build new relationships and friendships, we had to trust, and we had to see the world differently. Forty-two people, eighty-four hands – one God's work. Lives transformed, Faith tested, Faith strengthened. Fourteen Lord of Love youth growing in God's love.



Thank you to the congregation for all your support of the youth of our congregation and for your prayers. You are truly appreciated!

Some of the youth shared about their experience at a presentation on Aug. 6. For those who missed it, here are some of their reflections from the trip.

[Having lunch] with the homeless opened my eyes and heart because a lot of them were so happy and loving even if they had little to no possessions. Their lives are much tougher than ours and yet their hearts are just as big, if not bigger, than ours. It amazes me that those who've had the world turn its back on them can still be kind.

–Emily Quackenbush, Freshman

During my week in New Orleans, I learned about myself. I discovered that I am a very judging person when it comes to people in need. During the week I saw God in many places and found I could use God's love to help people instead of judge them. Pastor Tom, our sponsor, showed me that you don't need a whole lot to help others and spread the word of God. [Kevin had a very impactful conversation with a homeless man on the pier during our make-a-lunch, take-a-lunch activity. After talking a bit about where they come from, etc. Kevin shared the Good News and God's love with the man.] This was a special moment I won't forget.

–Kevin Avalos, Senior

This mission trip has definitely been my favorite so far. I was put in positions that I was comfortable in and uncomfortable in. I've found that when I'm out of my comfort zone I tend to kind of shut down, which I need to work on. I made so many friends and so many great connections on this trip. I really liked helping at Magnolia (for special needs). We got to play basketball and exercise with the residents. A girl named Terry asked me to play with her and she was so grateful when I did. I learned it's alright to step out of my comfort zone because that's when the best things happen.

–Haley Martinez, Sophomore

Our mission trip to New Orleans was a very eye-opening experience. I was eager to be in the middle of the city and serve those around me in a new environment. (continued on next)



Youth Reflections, continued

(continued from previous)

The close and new friendships created between all of us is something special. My high of the week was the praying at the cross ceremony. It was a very emotional moment and during that time I have never felt more close to God than I did surrounded by friends and family in the candlelight. It is a piece of my life I will cherish forever and I am very blessed to have been a part of it. I am so blessed and happy to have been able to go on this mission trip and to have it be my final one. My relationships with those around me have grown into a stronger understanding of what they mean to me. I feel closer to God and closer to my faith, and it's all thanks to my church family and the new people I have met. I am blessed for the experiences, memories, and opportunities I have created throughout the years and on this mission trip.

—Britney Manuel, Senior



For our mission trip, I didn't know what to expect. I had no idea what we would be doing, where we would be staying, or who we would be working with. As my last mission trip as part of the youth group, my hopes were high and I put my trust in God. He did not disappoint me, and he even exceeded my expectations.

Joining with Kountze for the week was one of the most rewarding things. We all got along so well and built friendships with each other I know we will never forget. Every task we were given, we worked hand in hand with one another and I realize God put us all together for that reason. All 40-some of us stayed in a little church in the French Quarter through Kaleo missions. This little church had the cutest sanctuary—it was really small with light blue walls, a fancy tile floor, and light bulbs on black cords criss-crossing the ceiling. The rest of the church wasn't as nice, with small cramped bathrooms and a girls room with 8 triple bunk beds and an air conditioner that didn't work too well. Of course, the living conditions weren't desirable, but as we worked through the week, I realized the inside of the church isn't what mattered, but rather what the church takes outside. And we took a lot.

God took us to places that pushed us out our comfort zones, at least mine, and I gained the best experiences of my life. Day 1, I went to Covenant, a nursing home for those with dementia and Alzheimer's. I was scared because I don't really have experience with the elderly and didn't know how to interact with them in a way they would appreciate. We helped them exercise, play bowling, and get ready for lunch. That's where I met Beverly. She was the sweetest old woman I've ever met, with pale skin, short orange curly hair, and

Youth Reflections, continued

bright red shoes. She talked to me about how she missed her mom who didn't visit anymore—for reasons she didn't know—and how I reminded her of her daughter. The next day, I went to Magnolia, a place for those with disabilities. I didn't know what to expect either, but I loved it. I went with a small group to exercise class, where they walked laps around the cafeteria. I talked to people like Julie, Robbie and Brian about their favorite movies, colors and games. A woman came up to me while walking, grabbed my hand, put her head on my shoulder, and we kept walking. I asked her many questions, but she never spoke and stayed with me for about ten minutes.

My favorite experience was "make-a-lunch, take-a-lunch." My group made sack lunches and we went out to Jackson Square to invite homeless people to eat with us. I was terrified because it was something I'd never done before, let alone thought of doing. I let stereotypes of homeless people get to me and I judged before I even went in. I ate lunch with a 22-year-old woman named Carmella and her dog, Issa. Carmella had dreads in her hair, legs that hadn't been shaved in months, and clothing with dirt and holes all over. But sitting with her and talking to her face to face, I realized she was super pretty. She had tan skin, dark hair, brown eyes and one of the most beautiful smiles. She had amazing tattoos on her arms and hands, and I learned she did them all herself. She opened up to me about how she became homeless without me even asking. Carmella went to New Orleans last April for a trip that was only supposed to last a month so she could see her boyfriend. They fought, went to bed, and she woke up in his apartment with him gone. He took her wallet with all of her money, clothes, phone—everything. She couldn't call family back home due

to broken relationships, and so she was stuck homeless. She was one of the nicest people I had ever met and was very grateful to have a meal, someone to share it with, and someone to sit down and talk to her who would listen. It is a conversation that I will never forget, and I'm thankful that the Lord put me there to be her friend that day.

On our last day, we joined a Kountze tradition that was the most amazing experience of my life. We sat in the small sanctuary in chairs around the cross—made of boxes filled with sand and a large candle in the middle. With dim lights, the leaders read readings and we sang a few songs before we were invited to go to the cross and pray. As people went up to pray, others got up around them and showed support by touching them. After the prayer was over, they lit a smaller candle and placed it in the sand. When I went up to pray, I prayed that Beverly would stay with reality as long as she could, the people of Magnolia would live the best life they could, and that Carmella would find a job and a home. I also prayed that our friends the Andersens would stay strong with the death of their son, that my friends going through tough situations could keep it together, and that my little sisters would cling to each other as I leave for college. Nothing felt better than the support of multiple hands on my back as I cried over the cross praying. After every prayer, smaller candles lit up the cross with tiny flames representing the hope we all shared with each other in the room. God was definitely there holding all of us as we all held each other. It was the best ending to the best mission trip.

I will forever be thankful for my time in the lord of love youth and for the church for supporting us on our missions.

—Carly Rieff, Senior

CHURCH COUNCIL

2017 Lord of Love Church Council

Vision and Coordination: Brian Walther, President; Don Rowen, Vice-President; Kathy Christiansen, Secretary; Jackie Combes, Treasurer

Nurture: Chris Rich and Susan Lueders

Outreach: Paula Foster and Jesse Brewer

Resources: Craig Pennell and Paul Christenson

Worship: Doug Aden and Heather Hansen



Church Council Meeting Notes

- Brian introduced Susan Lueders to the council members. Susan has agreed to fill the open position for the Nurture ministry team.
- Worship ministry team made a motion to add an additional \$640 to their 2017 budget to provide a nursery attendant for Sundays. Motion passed unanimously.
- Heather C. provided preliminary information about the 2018 Youth Gathering, which will be held in Houston.
- Budget planning was initiated. Several teams will get some additional budget information for the September Council meeting, which will be Sept. 19 at 7 p.m.

Giving Status

General Fund financial information for July 2017:

Actual Income - \$26,964.00

Actual Expense - \$25,758.93

Financial Information Year-To-Date as of the end of July:

Actual Income - \$190,964.00

Actual Expense - \$180,983.00

As of the end of July, the available cash balance is \$10,712.65. Weekly offerings of \$7,223 are needed to meet budgeted expenses. The weekly offering average for the end of July was \$6,365. Thank you for your continued support.



An Interview with Heather Christensen

My name is Heather Christensen. I have been a member of Lord of Love for many, many years. I am the daughter / step-daughter of Tom & Beth Olson, oldest sister to Pastor. Paula Lawhead, and Nick & Nathan Olson. I have the extreme pleasure of serving at Lord of Love in the Christian Education & Youth Ministry role.

How have you seen God's love in your life?

I have seen God's love in both the highs and lows of my life. I've been blessed with a family of strong faith and had experiences from that have helped sustain that faith. When I was a young girl, my dad took us to Sky Ranch in Colorado several times. There was something magical about the beauty of the mountains and learning camp songs that would sustain my prayer and praise for a lifetime. I often still sing those songs. Other moments of God touching my life have come in times of discernment and answers in song, or in words of a wise church friend. God has shown himself to me the most through our congregation's children and youth. From the simple lesson in Sunday school of trusting in God to the wrangling with God in study or on mission trips, God has been there and has allowed me to walk with others in their faith.

What is your favorite bible verse? Why?

My favorite verses change from time to time. Currently, I've been reflecting on Hebrews 10:23, *"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful."* God has promised me grace, love and salvation. He hasn't let me down yet. I hold tight to those promises and try to share that good news with others.

What gifts has God given you? How do you use those gifts?

A love of life, laughter, patience, and the capacity to enjoy youth. I use these gifts in trying to remain positive and share a positive outlook with others. I am lucky to have two jobs that allow me to work with people, create



relationships and make a difference. Each day is a gift, and I don't take that for granted. I joyfully spend time with our youth and hope that through that they know full heartedly that God loves them now and forever. As they grow up, they may make all kinds of choices that will make them question many things, but they should never question God's love for them. I hope they can take that gift with them throughout their life.

Is there one thing about Lord of Love that really touches your heart?

The people! They are my 2nd family. Many have watched me grow up, have been at my wedding and the milestones of my children from baptism to graduation. Some are new friends and ministry partners. All of you fill my heart with love and support.

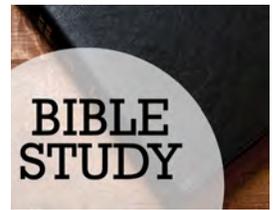
Give an example of how Lord of Love helps/supports our neighbors.

- We invite and welcome others to join us in worship.
- Our Youth are doing Peer Ministry by inviting their friends to youth activities and lock-ins and by creating close bonds to support each other through highs and lows in their lives.
- Each week our building is open to so many in our community. There are support meetings and music and counseling and scouting and family events and..... It is amazing to me that we can be a gathering place for so many things for our community and our neighbors.

MEN'S NEWS CORNER

Men's Breakfast

Men's breakfast group meets **every Saturday morning at 0700** in the fellowship hall. All men are welcome to attend for Christian study, fellowship and breakfast. Come and join us!



Men Sponsor Lord of Love Family Day

The men's group sponsored a family day at the Chalco Hills picnic shelter on Aug. 5. It went on as planned, even though the weather didn't cooperate! We had breakfast at 8 a.m. with bacon, eggs, pancakes and coffee. From there, we prepared the picnic lunch.

We grilled hamburgers, brats from Stoysich, had side dishes, and played games when we were done eating. Sure, it rained off and on and was a little cool, but we had the shelter and some coffee and fellowship to keep us warm. The young ones running around kept us entertained.

Next year, the shelter at Camp Carol Joy Holling should be completed, so look for our Family Day gathering to be out there. There's other new construction going on there that the men's group has helped with and will probably help some more. If you're interested in helping if we go out, just mention it to Tom Olson or Paul Christianson.



WOMEN OF LOVE

Half Day Retreat Thank you

Thanks to Deb Lund for hosting the Half Day Gather Retreat at her house on Aug. 12.

As usual, the rolls were delicious! Thanks, also, to the 12 participants who attended and brought items for the potluck luncheon. The salads were yummy and everyone enjoyed themselves.



Coffee and Quilting Dates

The next Crane Coffee dates will be **Sept. 8 and 22** at 9 a.m. Quilters will meet on **Sept. 5 and 19** at 9 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

Women's Team Meeting

The Women's Team will be meeting on **Wednesday, Sept. 13** at 6 p.m. at the church. Discussion will include NSWOW (NE Synodical Women's Organization) Fall Retreat at Camp Carol Joy Holling, which will be on Saturday, Sept. 30; the fellowship event with Nurture Committee Oct. 21; and finalizing the date for the Fall General Meeting & Planning Event on Saturday, Nov. 11.

All women of the congregation are welcome to attend the meeting. If you have any questions or would like to add items to the agenda, please contact Rose Roberts.

"Gather" Bible Studies

Women's Bible studies will begin once more in September. The Wednesday Group will meet on **Wednesday, Sept. 6** at the church at 6 p.m.

Normally, the Monday group begins their study on the second Monday of September because of Labor Day. This year, **the Monday group will join the Wednesday group on Wednesday, Sept. 6** because of a function at Kountze Church on the same evening. On Oc. 2, the Monday Group will resume their regular schedule and meet at the Village Inn 1 block north of 144th & L Street (3304 S. 143rd Plaza by Oakview Mall).

Lord of Love now receives a copy of *Gather Magazine*, which is placed on the round library table at church for your reading pleasure. If you would like to join either group, you're welcome to use the magazine.



Please talk to Ruth Manning (ruthypoo38@gmail.com) if you are interested in the Wednesday group or to Rose Roberts (dougroberts@cox.net) if you are interested in the Monday group.

Fall Retreat & Convention



Women, please check your mailboxes for the informational brochure for Fall Retreat at Camp Joy Holling on **Saturday, Sept. 30**. The back page of the brochure contains the application for the \$50 scholarships from women's ministry team to help cover the registration fee of \$75. Please return the applications to either Rose Roberts or Gwen Edwards **by Friday, Sept. 15**. The men's team sent 15 participants to their convention in Minneapolis this summer. Women—let's see if we can send that many participants to Camp Joy Holling, just down the road in Ashland!

Items being collected for the event to help restock the camp's craft supplies include: #10 embroidery floss in various colors (not yarn); sharpies (regular & colored); construction paper (not black); dry erase markers; and socks for kids with wet feet. A basket will be placed in the desk area for your donations. Thanks to Kelly Duffy for putting the retreat brochure together, to those who donated ribbon for the stole project to be done at camp, and to Ann Kroll for cutting the material strips for the quilt project. Hope to see you all at camp!



Triennial Gathering Reflections



From Jane Gehringer:

The tenth ELCA Women's Triennial was held in Minneapolis in July. Was it ever a gigantic, energizing event, with participants from all over the country!! I very much appreciate the scholarship in order to make it possible for me to attend.

For you, too, to access some highlights of the event...Go to [YouTube "ELCA tenth triennial"](#) to listen to some inspirational talks given by Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; Pastor Angela Khabeb, who preached Sunday a.m. worship; Kelly Fryer, who wrote and led the summer *Gather* Bible study; and a few other speakers.

The books I bought for the LOL library, written by a few presenters, are:

Peace at the Last: Visitation of the Dying
by Paul Palumbo
(short bedside liturgy for a small supportive group of friends and family)

Writing to Wake the Soul: Opening the Sacred Conversation Within
by Karen Hering
(guidance and idea prompts for contemplative writing)

Reclaiming the "L" Word: Renewing the Church from its Lutheran Core
by Kelly A. Fryer
(inspirational and challenging for increased engagement and growth)

The Practicing Life: Simple Acts. Simple Living
by Sally Howell Johnson
(insight and ideas for connecting mind, body and spirit to the Sacred of everyday life)

Outlaw Christian: Finding Authentic Faith by Breaking the "Rules"
by Jacqueline A. Bussie
(a presenter from the July Men's Convention)

A major message of the gathering was: "Hope is a verb," very timely during this difficult time in our country. To keep current on actions for you to consider taking, you can sign up to receive the "[ELCA Advocacy](#)" email messages.

I strongly encourage you to attend the next triennial in 2020. It will be held in Phoenix, giving us an opportunity to see Randi, Sandy, Brenda, Suzanne - all Arizona residents now!

From Gwen Edwards:

July 9-16, 2017, thousands of women attended the Women of the ELCA Tenth Triennial Convention and Gathering. Gwen Edwards, 2014-2017 Executive Board Member, traveled on July 9 to Minneapolis for the event. Her duties began Monday morning with a board/staff breakfast followed by the board's final meeting for the 2014-2017 triennium. (*continued on next*)

Triennial Gathering Reflections, continued

(continued from previous)

After the board meeting, which mostly consisted of logistics information for the convention and the board lunch, all board members headed over to the Minneapolis Convention Center to help set up the room for the plenary sessions.

Tuesday morning, the convention began with all the usual events, introduction of board and staff; appointment of business committees; voting member orientation; recitation of the statements of Mission and Purpose, etc., all followed by Service of Holy Communion. Tuesday morning through Thursday morning consisted of plenary sessions in which voting members approved the proposed 2018 budget of \$3.1 million, constitution changes, memorials, and resolutions. Memorials topics included tainted water in Flint, Michigan; condemning all forms of corporal punishment; domestic and violence and its prevention; and Bible Women ministry of India.

We also elected the twenty-one members of the 2017-2020 triennium board. Lisa Plorin of Western North Dakota Synod was elected president; Women of the ELCA uses a nominating ballot for both president and vice president. Nebraska is still represented as Kandy Pflaster of Cozad, 2011-2015 Nebraska Women of the ELCA President, was elected.

Thursday afternoon the Gathering began. Thursday to Sunday, our time was enriched listening to many keynote speakers, panel discussions, song, worship, and so forth. Our speakers included Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Leymah Gbowee, Kelly Fryer, Pastor Angela T. Khabeb, Pastor

Alexia Salvatierra, and Bishop Ann Svennungsen. Music was led by Kevin Anderson. Plus there were many learning opportunities (workshops) for us to attend if desired. During the Gathering's opening and closing worship, Gwen Edwards was the cross bearer.

More detailed information can be found at www.welcatg.org. Mark your calendars **July 16-19, 2020** for the Eleventh Triennial Gathering in Phoenix, Arizona; the Convention will be held earlier that week. In 2023, the women will be heading to Spokane, Washington. Gwen is going—she's already pre-registered—who will join her?



IN OUR PRAYERS

Dick Bell
Connie Bennett (cousin of Karen Armitage)
Candee Brandon (friend of Dave & Lisa Rieff)
Gail Conyers (wife of Kirk Conyers)
Ruth Cooley
Olivia Griffin (daughter of Scott and Dana Griffin)
Earl Hansen (Brandon's Dad)
Pr. Joe Hernandez – Missionary in the Middle East (cousin of David & Chris Boarts)
Jan Hughes (aunt of Paula Foster)
Julie (friend of Pat Brewer)
Izzy Lightle (relative of Kim Gust)
Ruth Manning
Marcy Miller (aunt of David Egr)
Lisa Lueders (sister-in-law of Dave Lueders)
Don St. Ours (brother-in-law of Lynda McGraw)

Becky Reinhardt
Paul Rumbaugh
LeRoy Schuchard
Peggy Seck (cousin of Ann Kroll)
Pauline Shaffer
Jason Shupp
Brian & Nancy Shinrock
Nancy Thoman (stepmother of Ann Kroll)
James Thompson (son-in-law of Lynda McGraw)
Pam Todd
Brenda Thom
Ted Whitfield (former co-worker of Brian Shinrock)
Steve Wiitala (friend of Karen Mullen)
Caregivers & those who suffer with depression.
Those seeking employment.

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, or fill out a prayer request note available in the narthex and place it in the basket.

Please also let the office know when a name can be removed from the list.

LOVE NOTES

"I think I picked a good place to be at this point in my life. My home is in walking distance of a Fareway and a cute little co-op grocery. There are hair salons, gyms, a post office, restaurants, banks and retail outlets also in walking distance. There is also excellent public transit.

I have been visiting churches within walking distance. Yesterday I walked further than I have been in order to worship at an ELCA church that is very involved in the community. I did not find them to be as welcoming as LOL at services. But, being Lutheran, they had a food-related event last night. So I made my side dish, walked over, and they were more friendly.

I told Pastor Becky and several members what I truly felt as I left. I knew I was leaving a special congregation.

Support one another. Welcome others as you welcomed me at a difficult time in my life. You have something special to give that many churches do not have. Cherish it!!"

-Donna Nelson



SUNDAY SERVANTS

Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	September 3 9 a.m. only	September 10	September 17	September 24
Greeter(s)				
8 a.m.	9 a.m. Roger & Angie Meyer	Kenn & Shari Garder	Ed & Marjorie Keiser	Doug & Karen Armitage
10:30 a.m.		Mike & Christie Klos	Gary Ramsay	Messerschmidt family
Liturgist				
8 a.m.	9 a.m. Shawn Lorenzen	Kenn Garder	Ron Thom	Karen Armitage
10:30 a.m.		Don Rowen	Ashley Vandeventer	Rett Messerschmidt
Communion Servers				
8 a.m.	9 a.m. Doug & Rose Roberts, Brandon Zalesky, Bill Baker	Shari Garder, Joan Witt, Joe & Jackie Combes	Hansen family	Lisa Willard, , Brian & Connie Walther, Doug Armitage
10:30 a.m.		Claudia Rowen, Dave & Susan Lueders, Beth Olson	Lori Vandeventer, John Edwards, Paul & Ann Kroll	Messerschmidt family & Charise Adams
Altar Care				
8 a.m.	9 a.m. Set-up: Joan Witt	Angie Meyer	Doug & Rose Roberts and Dale & Karen Finck	Pat & Jesse Brewer
10:30 a.m.	9 a.m. Clean-up: Deb Quadhamer, Judy Messerschmidt	Diana Haye & Marcia Roads	Karen Armitage & Gwen Edwards	Ann & Paul Kroll
Ushers				
8 a.m.	Paul Dieter, Matt Willard, Dennis Hindemith, Jesse Brewer			
10:30 a.m.	Brian & Deb Lund, Doug Armitage			
CD Recording				
10:30 a.m.	Pat Brewer	Paul Christenson	Dave Lueders	Paul Murphy

MONTHLY CALENDAR

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9:30am AI Anon Mtg. 7:30pm AA Mtg.	2 7:00am Meri's Breakfast Ministry
3 9:00am Worship & Communion	4 Church Office Closed for holiday 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	5 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Vision & Coordination Mtg	6 6:00pm Brass	7 7:00pm Boy Scouts	8 9:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 9:30am AI Anon Mtg. 7:30pm AA Mtg.	9 7:00am Meri's Breakfast Ministry
10 Kick-Off Sunday 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 11:45am Potluck Lunch 1:00pm District 18 AA Plng Mtg	11 6:00pm WELCA Bible study at Village Inn Oakview 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	12 7:00pm Resources Meeting	13 4:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm W/ELCA General Mtg. 6:00pm Brass 6:15pm FISH	14 7:00pm Boy Scouts	15 9:30am AI Anon Mtg. 7:30pm AA Mtg.	16 7:00am Meri's Breakfast Ministry
17 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion	18 7:00pm Church Council 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	19 9:00am Quilters 6:00pm Stewardship Mtg. 7:00pm Church Council Mtg.	20 4:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:15pm FISH	21 7:00pm Church Council 7:00pm Boy Scouts	22 9:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 9:30am AI Anon Mtg. 7:30pm AA Mtg.	23 7:00am Meri's Breakfast Ministry
24 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion	25 Mary Lou vacation 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	26 Mary Lou vacation	27 Mary Lou vacation 4:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:15pm FISH	28 Mary Lou vacation 7:00pm Boy Scouts	29 Mary Lou vacation 9:30am AI Anon Mtg. 7:30pm AA Mtg.	30 7:00am Meri's Breakfast Ministry 9:00am Sanctuary & Narthex Reserved for Novak