



The Love Letter

Volume 38

January 2010

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Summer 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: Created by God's gracious love, we are called, as a community of faith, to be witnesses and servants of Jesus to the world.

A Look Ahead

Happy New Year! The start of a new year tends to stir in us the excitement of new beginnings, potential, and possibility. At Lord of Love, this is no exception.

We have a **new council** and will be taking **new steps in the call process** (see pages 8-9, Council Report and Transition/Call Process Update). We are also seeing the results of **new improvements to our church building** (see page 7, Property). In addition, there are many new activities in which you can be involved.

On Sunday, January 3, everyone is invited listen to Bob Kasworm speak about his mission work in Tanzania, particularly **Houses for Health**, during both worship services and at breakfast between services (see page 6, Outreach).

On Sunday, January 10, women and girls are encouraged to participate in a potluck luncheon at 11:30 a.m. and to reveal their **secret angels** (see page 10, Women of Love). Then everyone is invited to attend the **ecumenical Baptism of Our Lord Service** at Northwest Hills Christian Church at 7:00 p.m. (see page 4, Worship).

On Sunday, January 17, the Youth Group will be going to a **Lancers hockey game**, and everyone is invited (see page 13, LOL Youth).

On Saturday, January 30, the women will be holding their monthly **craft day**. All women are invited to bring their current craft projects for work time and fellowship.

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The Epiphany of our Lord by Pastor Bob

Dear Friends in Christ,

January 6 marks the day that we in the Church call "The Epiphany of our Lord." This is the day that we remember how the Magi or Wise men came to Bethlehem to see the baby Jesus.



The story of the Wise men and the star has fascinated people for 2,000 years. There are some who believe it is just a myth, and there are others who believe that it happened just as the Bible says. There are also those who seek the truth by trying to discover a scientific explanation. For example, a number of years ago, Dr. Karlis Kaufmanis, a distinguished professor of Astronomy from the University of Minnesota, lectured on the topic "The Star of Bethlehem." His lecture was not only fascinating, but it was also inspiring.

Dr. Kaufmanis, who is himself a Lutheran, noted that in approximately 7 B.C., there was an amazing conjunction of planets that occurred. This conjunction was noted not only by ancient star-gazers in the Middle East, but also by Chinese and Babylonian astronomers. This conjunction was made up of the planets Jupiter, Saturn, and later, Mars, and would have created a bright, dazzling light in the sky.



At this time, Jupiter was called by the Jewish astrologers "the star of the king." Saturn was known as "the star of the Messiah." Not only did these two join, but they also appeared in that part of the sky known as "Pisces." To the Jewish astrologers, Pisces was the symbol of Palestine or Israel. So what occurred at that time, Kaufmanis noted, was a remarkable conjunction of the star of the king and the star of the Messiah in that part of the sky, which represented Israel.

When these three events occurred, the Jewish star-gazers of that time believed that the Messiah would be born. And this is exactly what happened in approximately 7 B.C. Later on, the planet Mars also entered the conjunction. According to the Jewish astrologers, Mars was the symbol of Rome, the mighty power that occupied Israel at the time that Jesus was born. Dr. Kaufmanis also stated that the "wise men" mentioned in the Bible were not kings, but rather were astrologers, possible Jewish astrologers who came from Babylonia, where years before, the Jews had been held as prisoners.

All in all, this does add to the wonder of the amazing events that occurred long ago in Bethlehem when our Savior was born. A Pastor friend of mine has a little cartoon that speaks a profound word for us during the season of Epiphany: it shows the wise men traveling across the desert on their animals, looking up at the bright star in the sky. The caption below reads, "Wise Men and Women Still Follow Him."

May your Holy Days be blessed!

Pastor Bob



MONTHLY CALENDAR

January 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Church Office Closed Happy New Year! 7:30pm AA	2 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
3 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Adult Forum w/Bob Kasworm 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 1:00pm Boy Scouts	4 6:00pm LWT Bible Study @ Old Country Buffet 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	5 9:00am Quilters 5:30pm YWCA Men's Group 6:45pm First Place	6 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm LWT Bible Study 6:00pm Luther Kids 7:15pm Chancel Choir	7 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	8 Church Council retreat 7:30pm AA	9 Church Council retreat 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
10 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 6:00pm Epiphany Supper	11 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	12 12:00pm NSWO Luncheon 5:30pm YWCA Men's Group 6:45pm First Place	13 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 7:15pm Chancel Choir	14 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	15 8:00am Coffee Fellowship @ Crane 7:30pm AA	16 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
17 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 4:30pm Youth Group to Lancers Hockey	18 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	19 9:00am Quilters 5:30pm YWCA Men's Group 6:45pm First Place	20 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 7:15pm Chancel Choir	21 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	22 7:30pm AA	23 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 9:00am Pinewood Derby
24 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion	25 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	26 5:30pm YWCA Men's Group 6:45pm First Place	27 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 7:15pm Chancel Choir	28 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	29 7:30pm AA	30 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 8:45am Craft Group 9:00am Suzuki Piano Assoc. event
31 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 12:00pm Youth Group Gym outing						

WORSHIP

Ecumenical Baptism of Our Lord Worship Service

Please come to the ecumenical Baptism of Our Lord Service at Northwest Hills Christian Church (9334 Fort Street) on Sunday, January 10, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. Anyone interested in singing in the combined choir should arrive at 6:00 p.m. for rehearsal prior to the service. The service is followed by fellowship and refreshments.



oneLORD, *one Faith*, **one**Baptism....
EPHESIANS 4:6

Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	January 3	January 10	January 17	January 24	January 31
Greeter(s)					
8:00 a.m.	Dan and Ruth Manning	Woody and Mardi Fiske	Paul and Sue Dieter	Doug and Cathy Aden	Lyle and Shirley Bardsley
10:30 a.m.	Brian and Connie Walther	Paul and Anne Kroll	Paula Foster and Kathy Christiansen	Dave and Susan Lueders	Doug and Rose Roberts
Liturgist					
8:00 a.m.	Shawn Lorenzen	Marilyn Thomsen	Ron Thom		
10:30 a.m.	Susan Lueders	Rex Quadhamer		Gary Krause	
Communion Servers					
8:00 a.m.					
10:30 a.m.	Lynnette Nore and Christopher Boarts, Lueders family	Quadhamer family			
Nursery Attendant(s)					
8:00 a.m.					
10:30 a.m.	Anne Yarger	Sarah Horan	Lisa Rieff	Pat Brewer	Karen Anderson
Altar Care					
8:00 a.m.	Doug and Rose Roberts	Deb Christenson	Ed and Marjorie Keiser	Cathy Aden, Sue Dieter	Connie Walther, Lisa Meyer
10:30 a.m.	Randi VenHuisen, Debra Gillespie	Brenda and Suzanne Mac	Rowen family	Brewer family	Rob and Karen Anderson
Ushers					
8:00 a.m.	Paul Dieter, Dennis Hindemith, John Florea, and Brian Walther				
10:30 a.m.	Dave and Adam Lueders, Lund family				

Preschool Update by Michelle Petersen

We had several days off due to the snow in December. We went over the letters K and L, experimented with the texture of shaving cream, learned the Lord's Prayer, and celebrated several birthdays in class. But the most important birthday, the birth of Jesus Christ, was the center of our learning this month. We read the story of Jesus' birth, sang lots of Christmas songs, made Christmas cards, and made several ornaments for our Christmas trees.

On the final days of the month before Christmas break, each class had a Christmas party. We sang Christmas songs and decorated cookies with our families. The highlight of the day was exchanging our Secret Santa gifts with each other! We are all looking forward to a break for the remainder of the month to spend time celebrating the season with our families. We will reconvene, ready to learn, in 2010!



Fall Festival Report

The financial tally for the Fall Festival is completed. Fifty percent of the profit plus \$125 from Thrivent Matching funds, for a total of \$1,068.71, was donated to Lutheran Family Services "Building Families Boutique." Twenty-five percent of the profit, or \$471.85, was deposited in each of the following accounts: the Women on a Mission account and the LOL Women's Operating account.



Weekly Education Opportunities at Lord of Love

Sunday

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

Monday

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

Tuesday

6:45 p.m. First Place Bible Study @ LOL Joseph Room

Wednesday

4:45 p.m. Confirmation (7th & 8th grades) @ LOL Abraham Room
6:00 p.m. Luther Kids (1st – 6th grades) @ LOL Preschool
6:00 p.m. *Lutheran Woman Today* Bible Study @ LOL Joseph Room (first Wednesday of month)

Thursday

9:30 a.m. Text Study @ Guthries

Saturday

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

NURTURE

Rebecca's Vicar (ad)Ventures Part IV by Rebecca Lund

Happy New Year! I have enjoyed my rest from Lutheran Campus Ministry activities as students have been home for winter break. We are planning a new format for our Washington University Bible study, and we are starting a series at St. Louis University called "Faith and Headlines," where we look at different current events and discuss how our faith intersects. Our students are actively fundraising for our service-learning trip to Guatemala through selling fair-trade crafts, writing letters to family and friends, and selling concessions at the SLU basketball stadium (we call it evangelism through popcorn and soda sales!). We have 11 students and 3 chaperones (including myself) for a grand total of 14 flying to Guatemala City in March for a week of building three houses for families. You can learn more by going to our website at www.lcmstl.org. We are excited to build deeper relationships with our students, many of whom have never traveled outside of the United States and many more of whom have never traveled to a developing country.

At Bethel, Advent and Christmas was a busy time. I preached four times in December, including once on Christmas day, which is a lot more than I had been preaching. I enjoy the regular discipline of studying the texts and discerning what God is saying to us through those texts. The study on Romans that I started in November is going strong, with about nine regular attendees. Our Green Team got off the ground, with a focus on recycling for January. We will be offering a tour of a local recycling center for congregation members, distributing a brochure on how to recycle more and use less at home, and redeveloping our recycling practices at the church, which had fallen by the wayside for a few years. My seminary, LSTC, has been distributing environmental stewardship resources for congregations as part of its "Green" Theme Year. I have been using these resources, available at www.webofcreation.org, and we are hoping as a Green Team to have Bethel become an official "Green Congregation" by our next annual meeting, in June.

Also in December, I was able to take my first week of vacation, starting after worship on Christmas Day. Rich, my fiancé, and I traveled to his home town of Parsippany, New Jersey, for a week spent with family and friends. We are probably on our way back as you read this!

In closing, I would like to thank everyone once again for their generosity in supporting Paula and me at our fundraiser in November. I wish I was able to make it to Lord of Love in person, but my thoughts and prayers are with you in spirit. Thank you for your ongoing support! The seminary journey can seem long at times, but I am really seeing on internship how much I am benefitting from my education. Blessings to all of you in 2010!

OUTREACH

Bob Kasworm and Houses for Health

Be sure to join us on Sunday, January 3, to hear our very own Bob Kasworm speak about his mission work in Tanzania during both services that morning. In addition, Bob will join us for breakfast and enjoy fellowship with his home congregation. It's not too late to give a gift for our special mission focus in Tanzania, Houses for Health, led by Bob, so you may bring a contribution for this program that morning, as well.



ELCA Good Gifts

Though Christmas 2009 is behind us now, it is never too early to plan ahead for giving this coming year. The ELCA puts out a catalog called "ELCA Good Gifts" that details various giving opportunities. One of the programs is "God's Global Barnyard." It's very similar to Heifer International in getting animals to folks throughout the world to use for food and vocation. Please consider these giving options when thinking about something to give to folks on your lists!

Property Committee Update

We had a very successful Cleanup Day on November 14 that included trimming bushes, cutting back bushes and flowers, raking and mulching leaves, and blowing off the sidewalks and parking lots. A late thank you to Paul Murphy, Paul Christensen, Brian Lund, Dave Lueders, Tom Olson, Doug Roberts, Josh Combes, Don Rowen, Brad VenHuizen, Roger Meyer, Gary Ramsey, Paul Barnett, Kenn Garder, and Craig Pennell for their great help to make this happen.



As the first Major Improvement Project approved at the November 8 Congregational meeting, the repairs to the south driveway were completed on November 12. The timing was perfect to take advantage of the warm weather that week.

As the second Major Improvement Project approved at the Congregational meeting, the light fixtures and dimmers for the sanctuary, the light wash fixtures for the sanctuary cross, and the replacement lights for the exterior cross on the north side of the building have also been installed.

Finally, as the third Major Improvement Project approved at the Congregational meeting, Salmen Organs has been given an informal go ahead for the repairs to the console, memory, and switching systems for our organ. This work will not begin until early in 2010.

Major Improvement Projects by Doug Aden

At the November Congregational Meeting, Lord of Love members approved three major improvement projects: repairing the south driveway, replacing the lights in the sanctuary, and rebuilding the organ console and controls. The members also approved the formation of a Fundraising Ministry Team, whose charge is to raise monies to help defray the cost of the projects and leave a considerable balance in the Major Improvement Fund for other projects and repairs as needed.

For progress on the Major Improvement Projects, see the Property Committee Update, above. The first two projects should be paid by the end of the year.

For the organ repair, the goal is to have the project completed by Easter Sunday. They will send us a contract, which should be signed by the first part of the January. The payment terms are 10 percent due at signing; 40 percent due when the project begins, which will be in February; and 40 percent when the project is completed, which will be the last of March or early April. The remaining 10 percent will be paid when we are satisfied with the installation, which will probably be in May.

By the time you read this, the Fundraising Ministry Team should be active in asking for contributions for these projects. If you have not been contacted, please give serious consideration to the amount you will contribute to this project. Without a fundraising effort, the balance in the Major Improvement Fund will be dangerously low, and major repairs could not be completed without asking for funds.



An example of major repairs that might be needed are the heating and air conditioning systems, which are over 25 years old. While they still work, with systems this old the odds of failure increase.

Our goal is to have the balance in the Major Improvement over \$20,000 when the three projects are completed and paid for, and contributions are collected.

COUNCIL REPORT & TRANSITION/CALL PROCESS UPDATE

December 2009 Council Report by Don Rowen, Council Vice-President

The council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 8 was cancelled due to the inclement weather, so not much business was done in December. The following is an update on ongoing activities:

- **Call Process** – We had planned to meet with Pastor Lee Greiss on December 8, 2009 to discuss the call process. The meeting will be rescheduled for January. Next year, the council will start working on the call process by forming a call committee and by preparing a congregation profile.
- **Major Improvements Projects** – The south driveway of the parking lot was repaired in November. The new light fixtures and dimmer controls were installed in December. A meeting was held with the organ repair person and plans were made for repairs to occur in March. We have begun to ask members to serve on the Funding Raising Team and am looking for fund-raising campaign to be completed by June, 2010. The goal of the campaign will be to raise \$20,000. We have already received pledges for several thousands dollars.
- **Training of the New Council** – A retreat for orientation of the new council members and planning for church activities is scheduled for Friday, January 8 and Saturday, January 9, 2010.

From the Council President – January 2009 by Brian Lund, Council President

As I write this article, it is Advent, a time for waiting, preparation, wonder, and excitement. As people, we impatiently wait for the coming of our Savior and His promised peace. We struggle to prepare for His coming amidst the busyness of our lives. We often wonder at God's undeserved love for us. We have excitement for this special time of gift giving and sharing and the opportunities that will be revealed to us in the coming year.

I certainly have all of these feelings right now. I am waiting to find the time to really think about what I have gotten myself into and how to effectively work with other members to lead our congregation. I struggle to begin the preparations for a new church year with new council members. I wonder at both the extraordinary love of God and how he talked me into taking on this responsibility. I am filled with excitement about the possibilities before us, especially the pending pastoral call activity.

As you read this, my time for waiting and preparation will be largely passed. I plan to have an agenda for our council orientation retreat on January 8 and 9, a basic theme for our congregation to use throughout this new year, and a clear concept on how your elected council can best lead.

Continued on the next page

2010 Lord of Love Church Council

Executive Committee: Brian Lund, President; Don Rowen, Vice-President; Brian Walther, Secretary; Lisa Meyer, Treasurer
Nurture: Heather Christensen, Angie Meyer
Outreach: Harry Naasz, Paul Christenson
Resources: Craig Pennell, Doug Armitage
Worship: Karen Mullen, Debra Gillespie



COUNCIL REPORT & TRANSITION/CALL PROCESS UPDATE

From the Council President – January 2009, continued

One theme that I am considering is **Building on Faith to Serve**. It builds on the focus of the past two years—**Faith Grows Here**. It grows out of our congregation's mission statement: "Created by God's gracious love, we are called, as a community of faith, to be witnesses and servants of Jesus to the world." It challenges us to grow in our understanding of God's will for us and to become Jesus to the world around us.



1 Peter 4:10 (NRSV) "*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.*"

We have a year of challenges and opportunities ahead. Every member will play an important role. I ask that you be open to the invitations you may receive to serve and respond to God's love in a variety of ways.

In this coming year, I encourage all of us to:

- Worship regularly – as often as possible
- Participate in Bible Study – at least one time per month
- Pray faithfully for all those in need – especially our congregation, our call committee, the Lutheran church, and the full body of Christ
- Invite others to share in our congregation
- Welcome visitors to our church – regularly greet someone you do not know
- Frequently thank those who serve on your behalf
- Share the marvelous gifts God has given to you
 - Financial
 - Give an offering regularly
 - Consider working toward a full tithe (10%)
 - Give second-mile gifts for our special projects and for others in need
 - Time and Talents
 - Consider how much time you spend serving others (FYI: A tithe of our time could be considered about 4 hours each week)
 - Assist with some aspect of Worship at least one time per year
 - Assist with fellowship at least one time per year
 - Assist with a ministry team at least one time per year (short-term commitment)
 - Assist with an outreach ministry at least one time per year
 - Assist with growing the faith of our youth at least one time per year
 - Find out who is responsible for a ministry you are interested in serving, and volunteer where you see a need, don't wait to be asked; if asked, prayerfully consider the invitation to serve



Working together, it will be a great year! With God's continued grace and through his many blessings we can build on our faith and grow in service toward others. Blessings to you all for 2010.

WOMEN OF LOVE

Blessings from Ruth Manning

To my Sisters in Christ,

After four years, I'm finally hanging up my gavel as president of LOL Women of Love. It would take a book to relate that has happened in those years. I think one of our best accomplishments was moving from the "officer" format of organization to the team ministry format. We've been sneaking into that for over a year, but official transition begins January 1st.

My absolute best year of the four was when Sandy Hall served as my co-president. It's a lot more fun working as a team! I have enjoyed serving as your president, and I thank all of you for your support. However, I'm not going anywhere. I will continue on the ministry team as your financial coordinator and special events coordinator.

May our Lord continue to bless all of our ministry at Lord of Love.

Blessings and love,
Ruth Manning

Fall Festival Review

We were snowed in and missed our Fall Festival review meeting in December, so we'll try again this month! Join us at the rear of the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 20, and share your thoughts about the Fall Festival. If you have ideas for next year (program, fundraisers, etc.), please share them with us. Can't attend? Give your comments to Ruth Manning.



Epiphany Potluck Luncheon



All women and girls are invited to participate in a potluck luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, January 10 in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a program following the luncheon.

It is also time to reveal our secret angels! Please bring a signed card for your secret angel. Sandy Hall and Randi VenHuizen will have the secret angel sign-up forms for 2010 available. Secret angel forms also will be at the Information Center through January 24. Secret angels will be assigned in time for Valentine's Day cards.



Coffee Fellowship

It's the new year! How about a New Year's resolution to join the Lord's Laughing Ladies? We meet at 8 a.m. for fellowship at Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass, on January 8 and 22.



Women of Love Ministry Team

The Women's Ministry Team will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 13, in the Mary Room.

Joys for the Soul

The registration fee of \$18.00 for the Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization (NSWO) Winter Retreat in Grand Island on January 16 is due January 6. Details of the retreat can be found on the registration forms at the Information Center.

Lutheran Woman Today Bible Study – To God’s Beloved: Paul’s Letter to the Romans

Session 5 – *Nothing Can Separate Us*

“Likewise the spirit helps us in our weakness. . . That very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.” (Romans 8:26)

You are invited to join one of these groups to participate in this study:

- Monday, January 4, Old Country Buffet, 145th and West Center Road at 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 6, Mary Room at 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, January 10 (Part 1) and January 17 (Part 2), Paul Conference Room, 9:15 a.m.



Notes from the Ministry Team Orientation and Planning Meeting

2010 LOL Women’s Ministry Team

Women’s Ministry Team Coordinator – Brenda Thom

Women’s Assistant Ministry Team Coordinator – Val Florea

Communications Coordinator – Rose Roberts, assisted by Kelly Duffy

Finance Coordinator – Ruth Manning

Mission and Outreach Coordinator – Pauline Shaffer

Nurture and Growth Coordinator – Janet Baker, assisted by Randi VenHuizen

Publicity Coordinator – Kelly Duffy, assisted by Rose Roberts

Special Events Coordinator – Ruth Manning

Planned Events

March 20 – General meeting

April 17 – Metro East Spring Gathering, Blair

April 23 & 24 – Retreat at St. Benedict’s, Schuyler

May 21-23 – Saved to Serve (NSWO) at Mosaic, Grand Island

July 30 – Aug 1 – Saved to Serve (NSWO) at Camp Carol Joy Holling

September 25 – Autumn Renewal, Wahoo (presentation by Bob Kasworm on Tanzania)

October 3 – Thankoffering Sunday

October 16 – General Meeting, Election and installation of 2011 Ministry Team

October 23 – Fall Festival

December 5 – Advent by Candlelight

December 11 – Prepare cookie tins for elderly and shut-ins

TBA – Women’s Day Retreat



There are still spots to fill out the committees working through the Ministry Team, and we encourage you to participate in some small way. Two of the major committees needing workers are the Women’s Retreat and Fall Festival committees. Please contact Ruth Manning, special events coordinator, if you can assist (455-7221 or cranecoffeekick@gmail.com).

Project Hope



Please continue to bring in items for Project Hope and place them in the containers under the Information Center. The needs for January are soups and macaroni and cheese. Canned vegetables and fruit, peanut butter, bathroom tissue, and other personal care items are also needed. Thank you for your generosity.

Notes of Thanks

Thanks for all the wonderful cookies and other goodies provided for the Christmas containers for our elderly and shut-ins, as well as for those who helped pack them up. Also thanks to the carolers who delivered several of them for us.

Thanks to Amy Kragnes for serving the annual women's soup luncheon on the December 17. We had a great time and good food!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Lord of Love's prayer shawl ministry was one of several churches featured in the article "Knitting Together" in the January/February issue of *Lutheran Woman Today*. Ruth Manning responded to a request for information on knitting/crocheting ministries on *Lutheran Woman Today's* Facebook page earlier last fall. Audrey Novak Riley, associate editor of the magazine, subsequently contacted her for additional information and photos.

None of our pictures were included, but the following was printed: "Ruth Manning reports that Lord of Love in Omaha, Neb., has had a prayer shawl ministry for over two years. Ten women have crafted prayer shawls for high school graduates, babies being baptized, those who are ill, those grieving a loss, outgoing church council members, and sometimes, 'just because.'"



Calendar of Events

January

4	6:00 p.m.	LWT Bible Study, Old Country Buffet, 145th and West Center Road
5	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
6	6:00 p.m.	LWT Bible Study, Mary Room
8	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass
10	9:15 a.m.	LWT Bible Study, Part 1, Conference Room
10	11:30 a.m.	Epiphany Potluck Luncheon & revealing of secret angels
13	6:00 p.m.	Women's Ministry Team meeting, Mary Room
16		Winter Retreat, St. Paul's Lutheran, Grand Island, NE
17	9:15 a.m.	LWT Bible Study, Part 2, Conference Room
19	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
20	6:30 p.m.	Fall Festival review meeting, Fellowship Hall
22	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass



January

Coming Soon

April 17, 2010	Metro East Spring Gathering, First Lutheran, Blair, NE
April 23-24, 2010	Women's Retreat at St. Benedict's Retreat Center, Schuyler, NE
September 25, 2010	Autumn Renewal, Bethlehem Lutheran, Wahoo, NE
July 12-14, 2011	W/ELCA Triennial Convention, Spokane, WA
July 14-17, 2011	W/ELCA Triennial Gathering, Spokane, WA

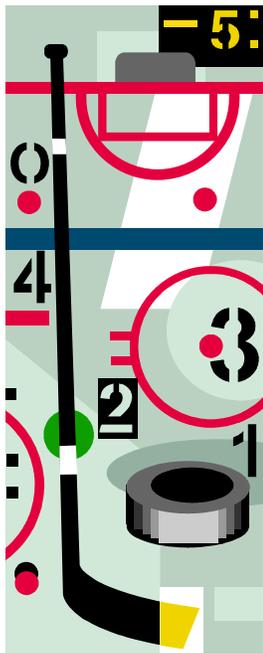


New Youth Group Logo!

Check out the new logo for Lord of Love Youth Group! It was designed by Adam Lueders' cousin, Ben Lueders, and is based on the old Christian fish symbol. Adam says that when early Christians were persecuted, it was used as a secret sign. "If the fish was on a door, it meant that this house was a safe place for Christians. Youth can see that symbol and know it's a safe place for them, where they can be with others like themselves—other Christians."



Lancers Hockey Game



The Youth Group will be going to a Lancers hockey game on Sunday, January 17, and they are urging everyone young and old to join them! The more people who go, the cheaper the tickets!

It's a 5:05 p.m. game, so plan on meeting at the church by 4:00 pm and leaving by 5:15 p.m.. Please sign up on the youth board by January 3 so Adam can get the tickets ahead of time. Cost be probably be \$10 for tickets, and you can bring extra for concessions if you like.

Youth Group v. Men's Ministry Group

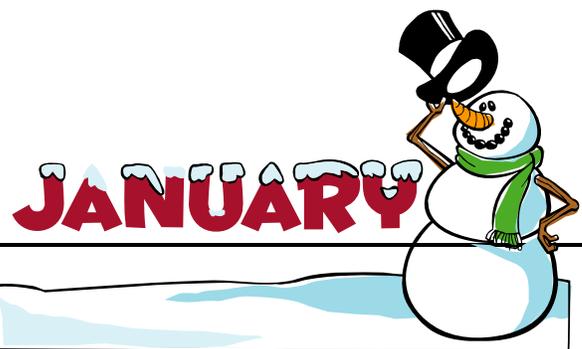
There is another fun event in the works for the dark, cold days of January, but plans aren't final yet. The Youth Group and the Men's Ministry Group will be going to a gym for some competitive fun. Look for specifics to follow.



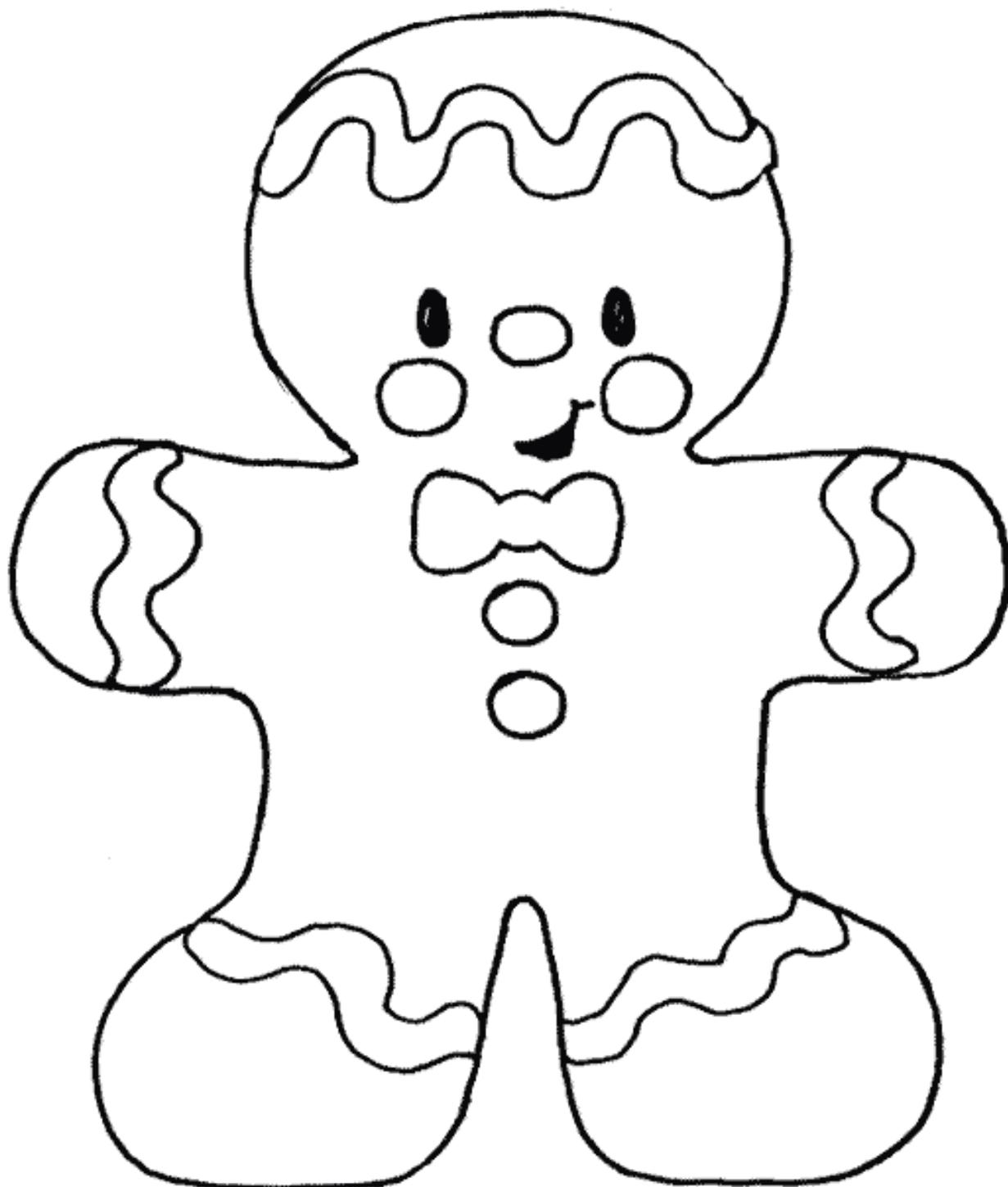
Calendar of Youth Events

January

17	Lancers Hockey Game
TBD	Youth v. Men gym competition

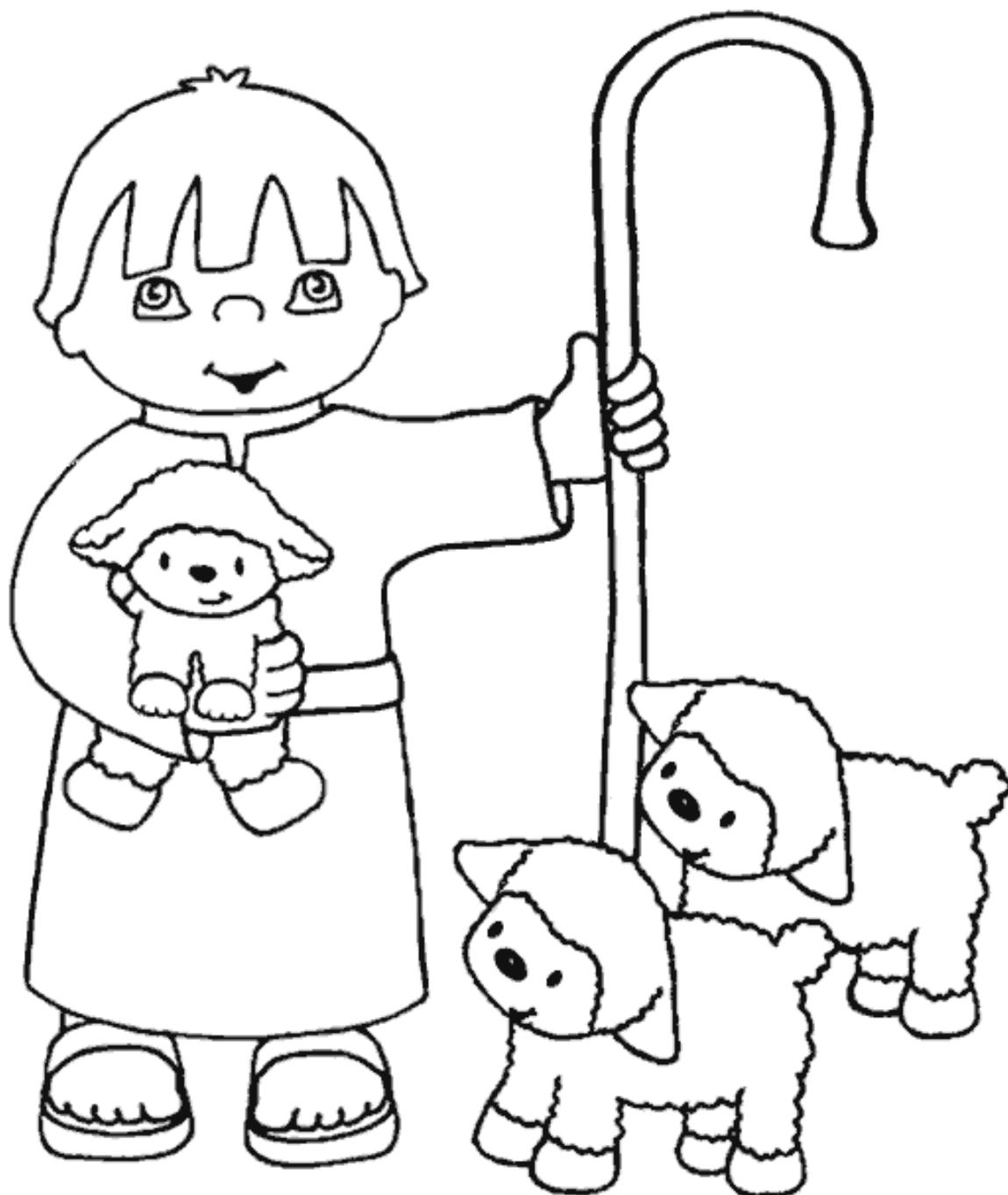


God didn't make me with a cookie cutter...
He made me special!

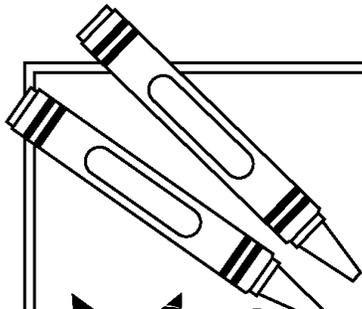


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David sang songs of praise to the Lord!



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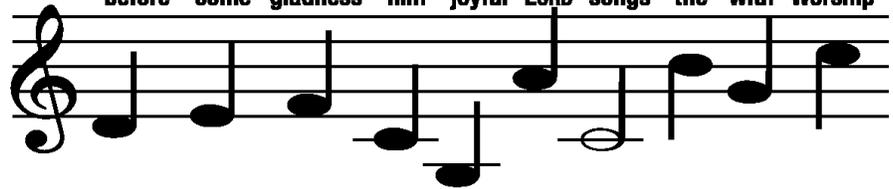
Just for **KIDS**

Make a joyful noise

people often gather with noisemakers to celebrate the promise of a new year. be thankful and joyful for the many blessings in your life.

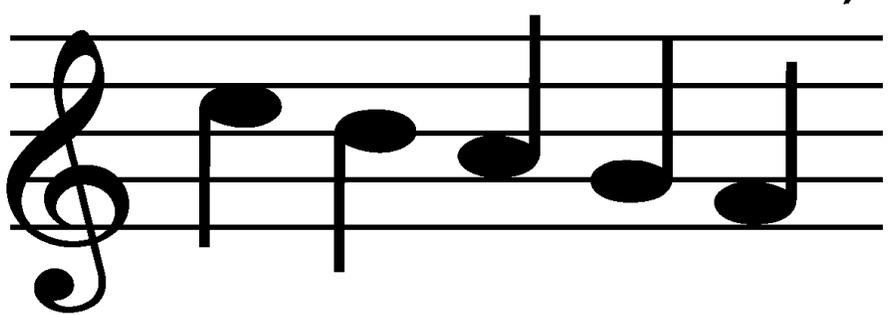
Using the musical note code, write the words of Psalm 100:2 (NIV) in the correct order below.

CODE: before come gladness him joyful LORD songs the with Worship

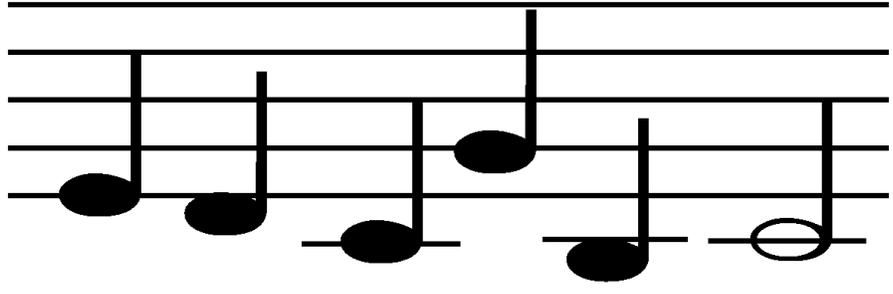


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_____ the _____ ;



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IN OUR PRAYERS & LOVE NOTES

In Our Prayers

Dr. Lori Arneson (niece of Ruth Cooley)
Dick and Jessie Bell
Ryan Bolen (nephew of Sandy Hall)
Katie Brink (friend of the VenHuizens)
Miranda Brown (friend of the Shinrocks)
Portia Bruning (cousin of Shirley Schuchard)
Ann Christiansen
Elmer Corey (friend of Tom and Beth Olson)
Jan Davis (aunt of Paula Foster)
Laura and Jeremy DeWitt
Colin Farbotka (nephew of Tom and Beth Olson)
DeWayne Greim (friend of Pastor Bob)
Machelle Gross (niece of Lynda McGraw)
Jim and Norma Gunter
Amber Hartin (granddaughter of the Shinrocks)
Matthew Hayek (nephew of Sandy Hall)
John Hoesing (friend of Judy Egr)
Marj Holbrook (mother of Judy Messerschmidt)
Cathy Johnson (friend of Marilyn Thomsen)
Bob Kasworm and his ministry in Tanzania
Ken Kellogg (father of Karen Armitage)
Paula Lawhead (at seminary)
Rose Lubbert (friend of the Rieffs)
Carl Lueders (uncle of Dave Lueders)
Irene Lund (aunt of Brian Lund)
Rebecca Lund (at seminary)
Abbie Mahler (niece of Jane Hawkins)

Pastor Elisante Maimu
Bob McKnight (grandfather of Ann Kroll)
Pastor Elibariki Mtui and all the saints of TPC Lutheran
Parish, Tanzania
Harry Naasz
Ried and Eunice Neve
Susan Oleson (sister-in-law of Pastor Bob)
Johanna Olson (niece of Tom and Beth Olson)
Joe Policky (grandfather of Tamra Johnston)
Bill and Bev Pugh (former members)
Berniece Reitan
Eloyse Rice
Don St. Ours (brother-in-law of Lynda McGraw)
Evelyn Sacridier
Nancy Thoman (stepmom of Ann Kroll)
Joey Thompson (friend of the Murphys)
Brody Vermilyea (grandson of Brian and Nancy
Shinrock)
Agnes Wilson
Julie Wolf

Men's servant ministry
Stephen Ministers and their care receivers
Those deployed around the world
Those seeking employment
Those who mourn

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

Love Notes

Thank you to all who have extended their condolences regarding my mom's death on December 8. I really appreciate all your kind words, prayers, cards, and hugs. The basket with a beautiful big poinsettia and green plant that were delivered to the mortuary from Lord of Love were lovely and much appreciated.

My mom lived a full life for 86 years and never complained although she had much reason to in the last few years as her vision and body began to fail. My family and I are left with many great memories and find comfort knowing that she is spending Christmas with Jesus this year.

Thanks again for all of your support,
Mary Lou Gustafson



