



The Love Letter

Volume 37

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Summer Worship Schedule

Sun. 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
Sun. 10:00 a.m. Breakfast and Fellowship

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

With summer in full swing, many of us are taking vacations and participating in other seasonal activities. As you're planning how to spend your time this summer, consider all of the education, fellowship, and service opportunities at Lord of Love in July!

There are education opportunities for girls and boys of all ages, including **Vacation Bible School and Day Camp**, a **summer book study** on *The Shack*, a **women's Bible study** and potluck salad luncheon (see page 14, Women of Love), and the **men's Saturday morning breakfast and Bible study** (see page 12, Men's News Corner). You can also learn about the recent 2009 Nebraska Synod Assembly and the upcoming 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in this issue of *The Love Letter* (see pages 7-8 and 5, Nurture, respectively).

There are fellowship activities for everyone, as well. **Summer breakfasts** are served each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. (see page 5, Nurture). In particular, you won't want to miss breakfast on August 2, when the youth who go to New Orleans this month share their experiences with the congregation (see page 16, LOL Youth). In addition, there are other **fellowship events for men and women** (see page 12, Men's News Corner, and pages 13-16, Women of Love).

Finally, there are many service opportunities this summer. These include applying to become a **Stephen Minister** (see page 6, Nurture); supporting our **Mission Ministry Team**, helping in our **Community Garden**, and working on the **Habitat for Humanity** house (see page 9, Outreach); and requesting a **prayer shawl** to bestow upon a fellow member of Lord of Love or a friend (see page 15, Women of Love).

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Making Disciples by Pastor Bob

Dear Friends in Christ,

"My Father is glorified by this: that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

John 15:8

On July 19th, youth from Lord of Love will be leaving Omaha for the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. During their stay in New Orleans, they will be leaning and experiencing what it means to be a disciple of Christ.

Learning to be a disciple of Jesus Christ is a process that continues throughout our lives. Whether we are young or old, recently confirmed or life-time members of Lord of Love, Jesus calls us to continue learning and growing in what it means to be one of his followers. As Jesus says in John 8:31, "If you continue in my word, then you are truly my disciples."

I like the story told by Dr. William Willimon, campus pastor at Duke University: One day, he received a phone call from an angry father of one of his students. The man's daughter had decided not to go to Graduate School. Instead, she was planning to do mission work with the Presbyterian Church in Haiti.

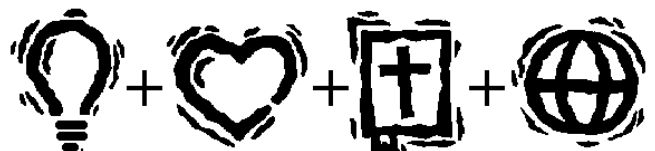
The father said, "This is absurd. My daughter has a Bachelors Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Duke University and now she's going to throw it all away and go and dig ditches in Haiti." The father paused and said, "And I hold you personally responsible, Dr. Willimon." "Me?" said Willimon, "What have I done?" The father said, "You with all your fancy preaching filled her head with all that religious stuff. That's why she's doing this foolishness."

Willimon struggled to keep his composure and said, "Now look, Buster, weren't you the one who had her baptized?" "Why, yes," said the father. "And didn't you read her Bible stories and take her to Sunday School and let her go on youth trips?" "Well, yes, but..." "Don't but me," Willimon said, "It's your fault that she believed all that stuff and that she's gone and "thrown it all away" on Jesus. You're the one who introduced her to Jesus, not me." "But all we ever wanted," said the father, "was for her to be just a Presbyterian." "Sorry," said Dr. Willimon, "you've messed up and made a disciple."

I love that last line: "Sorry, you've messed up and made a disciple." That kind of thing happens if you're not careful. Jesus is dangerous. He isn't content with us being "just a Lutheran" or "just a church member with our name on the list." Instead, Jesus wants disciples—men, women, and children with a living faith who follow him wherever he calls and who use their God-given gifts and talents to put love and compassion in action.

This summer, whether here at home, at work, or on the road, ponder anew what it means to "bear much fruit and become one of Christ's disciples." Above all, pray that God will put the power of His Spirit to work in you!

Peace,
Pastor Bob



MAKING DISCIPLES

MONTHLY CALENDAR

July 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30pm "The Shack" book study	2 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	3 Church office closed for holiday 8:00am Coffee Fellowship @ Crane 7:30pm AA	4 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
5 9:00am Worship & Communion 10:00am Breakfast	6 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	7 9:00am Quilters 5:30pm YWCA Men's Group 6:45pm First Place	8	9 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	10 7:30pm AA	11 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
12 9:00am Worship & Communion 10:00am Breakfast	13 9:00am VBS & Daycamp 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	14 9:00am VBS & Daycamp 5:30pm YWCA Men's Group 6:45pm First Place	15 9:00am VBS & Daycamp 6:30pm "The Shack" book study	16 9:00am VBS & Daycamp 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	17 8:00am Coffee Fellowship @ Crane 9:00am VBS & Daycamp 7:30pm AA	18 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
19 Youth Gathering in New Orleans 9:00am Worship & Communion 10:00am Breakfast	20 Youth Gathering in New Orleans 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	21 Youth Gathering in New Orleans 9:00am Quilters 5:30pm YWCA Men's Group 6:45pm First Place	22 Youth Gathering in New Orleans	23 Youth Gathering in New Orleans 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	24 Youth Gathering in New Orleans 7:30pm AA	25 Youth Gathering in New Orleans 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
26 Youth return from Gathering in New Orleans 9:00am Worship & Communion 10:00am Breakfast 1:00pm AA District 18 Mtg.	27 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	28 5:30pm YWCA Men's Group 6:45pm First Place	29 6:30pm "The Shack" book study	30 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	31 7:30pm AA	

Tape Ministry: Those Who Make it Possible by Karen Pickens and Rachel Novak

It has been another one of those months...not enough time for Rachel and me to collect and write a life story of one of Lord of Love's members. It usually requires two or three visits; visits that turn out to be one of our most memorable times. Hopefully, you will get to read another inspiring story next month. This month, I would like to acknowledge one of our younger Lord of Lovers who is learning to be a tape minister.

For some time now, on Sunday mornings, Julia Ritonya has met me in the music room where I make copies of the worship service. In the beginning, she stood by my side, watched the procedure, and then passed out the tapes to each person who delivers them. She learned quickly, and in these past few weeks, she has taken over the entire process. Last Sunday, I was absent from church, and Julia competently did the whole thing. Without the help of Paul Christenson (who taped the worship service for me) and Julia, our people would have missed worshipping with us this week. Paul is always willing to step in for me to tape the service, and now I have Julia to complete the task. Both Paul and Julia cheerfully accept this responsibility, and I am so thankful for their participation. In the future, I will be teaching Julia how to tape the service. Julia is just eight years old, and I am so impressed with her ability and her desire to bring Lord of Love to our people at home or in assisted living residences.

You might not know who delivers the tapes and visits with our homebound members. Tom Olson sees Jim and Norma Gunter and also brings them communion. Brad Venhuizen, along with Tom, considers communion the most important part of his visits with LeRoy Phillips. Both Anna Jensen and Bernice Reitan are visited by Deb and Paul Christenson. Barb Haskins has known Agnes Wilson for years and now not only brings her the worship tape but helps her out with whatever need she might have on that particular day. Rachel and I love to visit with Pearl Garnaas as well as the people we interview for life stories. All of us enjoy the opportunity of getting to know these very special people in a more personal way. This is a blessing for both them and for us. We do have a need for more people to be involved in tape ministry, so if you have a little extra time and want to make a very big difference in your life and someone else's, please talk to Rachel or me.

Rachel and I hope to be on more of a normal schedule now. Next month, our plan is to "let you know" Ellen Nore, who lives next door to Pearl Garnaas. Pearl says that Ellen is Pearl's eyes, and she is so thankful to have her close by.

Check out the poster on the bulletin board as you enter church to see some of the pictures we have taken during our visits.

Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
Liturgist				
9:00 a.m.	Paul Christenson	Liz Smith	Randi VenHuizen	Shawn Lorenzen
Communion Servers				
9:00 a.m.	Edwards family		Brad and Randi VenHuizen	
Altar Care				
9:00 a.m.	Cathy Aden, Sue Dieter	Brewer family	Connie Walther, Lisa Meyer	Rob & Karen Anderson
Ushers				
9:00 a.m.	David Hild, Paul Murphy, Claude Hall, Bob Christensen		Dan Manning, Rex Quadhamer, Gary Ramsay, John Edwards	

2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly and the Presiding Bishop's Call to Prayer

The 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will be held in Minneapolis on August 17-23. Brian Lund is a voting member for the Churchwide Assembly.

For the 50 days leading up to the assembly on August 17, Lord of Love Lutheran Church is invited to pray intentionally for the ELCA, for those who will gather in Minneapolis, for decisions to be made, and for faithfulness in discerning those directions to which God is calling this evangelizing church in mission and service for the sake of the world. The "50 Days of Prayer" began on June 29, the Festival of Peter and Paul, Apostles.

Prayer is a constant and central faith practice for the ELCA. Journeying toward the assembly, congregations, groups, and individuals are encouraged to study Scripture and pray daily for the work of the Churchwide Assembly. Prayer resources, Scripture with reflection questions, and song drawn from the assembly's daily worship may be found at <http://www.elca.org/50days>. Consider making these resources part of your own preparation for the assembly in August. For more information, check the "Churchwide Assembly" page of the ELCA website.

Preschool Applications for Fall

The Lord of Love Preschool is now accepting applications for the 2009-2010 school year. Preschool classes are available for 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds. Please contact the church office for more information.



Summer Breakfasts

Summer breakfasts will be served every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall now through August 30. Please join us for wonderful food and fellowship!



If you would like to provide breakfast on one of the Sundays, the sign-up poster is on the bulletin board in the narthex in the coffee pot area. Contact Ruth Manning at 455-7221 if you have any questions.

Weekly Education Opportunities at Lord of Love

Sunday

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

Monday

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

7:00 p.m. *No Experience Necessary* Bible Study @ Vandeventers (every other Monday)

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Stephen Ministry is Back!

Although Stephen Ministry never went away, we're really back in business again.

What is Stephen Ministry? It is a confidential one-to-one ministry of emotional and spiritual care provided by lay members to a person who is hurting. (A newly revised Stephen Ministry brochure is included with this issue of *The Love Letter*.)



Stephen Ministry does not replace pastoral ministry but supplements it. With an interim pastor in place and possibly several months before calling a pastor, it is an important time to resume training of new Stephen Ministers. It is a strategic way to enhance our congregation's focus as a caring "family."

Stephen Ministry was introduced at Lord of Love after Ruth Manning completed training as a Stephen Leader during the summer of 2000. Beginning in September 2001, Ruth trained seven Stephen Ministers over the next 3 years. Two of those subsequently moved from Lord of Love, but we gained a trained Stephen Minister by transfer from another congregation. The Stephen Ministers who are still at Lord of Love have long since served their 2-year commitment—and more—to the program. Dan Manning holds the record of long-term caregiver at Lord of Love when his care receiver, a non-Lord of Love member, recently died after about 5 years of caregiving.

What slowed up the ministry? Lord of Love was unable to fund Stephen Ministry through the budget for several years, but last November, we were blessed to be included in the 2009 budget. We now have the opportunity to breathe new life into this important ministry. Please see the article below regarding the upcoming 50-hour training and prayerfully consider if you could be part of our Stephen Ministry.

We also are re-establishing the Stephen Ministry Board. This group will assist with reviewing applications and interviewing candidates.

Stephen Ministry Training

Stephen Ministry training sessions are broken into 20 modules, each taking 2 ½ hours. Most sessions will be held on Thursday evenings from 6:15 to 8:45 p.m. However, the first 3 modules will be covered in a "retreat" setting on Friday, September 11 from 6:15 to 8:45 p.m. and on Saturday, September 12 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Also, on Saturday, October 10 and Saturday, November 14, 2 modules will be presented from 8:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The Thursday sessions will run from September 17 through December 10, with the exception of Thanksgiving evening. The final training session will be January 7, 2010. Stephen Ministers will be commissioned on Sunday, January 10, 2010.

Application forms are available at the Stephen Ministry display at the rear of the narthex or from Ruth Manning. The printed schedule also is available there. Application forms are due by Sunday, August 2. Spiritual gift inventories will be given to those applicants who have not completed them at any other time at Lord of Love. Applicants then will be scheduled for individual interviews. If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Manning at 455-7221 or cranecoffeechick@gmail.com.

2009 Nebraska Synod Assembly Report by Brian and Deb Lund

The theme of the 2009 Nebraska Synod Assembly was *Compelled by the Love of Christ*, II Corinthians 5:14.

Worship/Bible Studies

The opening worship was led by former SD Bishop, Rev. Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl. She also led a Bible study and reflections on Saturday and Sunday mornings. God's word is seed, and God comes to us in water and bread. We are "bathed in relief, showered in love, soaked in forgiveness, and walking wet." The bread helps us move forward in the journey. Pastor Greg Bouvier and others from Sheridan Lutheran in Lincoln led the worship music.



Keynotes

Two keynotes were given by Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale, founder and senior pastor at Ray of Hope Church, (Disciples of Christ) Decatur, GA. She first talked about us being the salt of the earth and that we are all one in the spirit (using the words of the song, "We are One in the Spirit.") The second keynote was "It's Not Complicated." She stressed that we are compelled by the love of Christ to be the church.

Rev. Mike Housholder, Senior Pastor at Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines gave two keynote addresses. He was an awesome preacher who had messages of keeping the primary center the love of Christ, rather than secondary issues. Highlights of his messages are as follows:

- We are clay jars; what are we doing with the treasure that is in our clay jars? Most often the only God that people can see is you and me.
- What you believe dictates how you behave.
- We are called to live a worthy life with equal weight and in balance.
- Don't mistake secondary issues as foundations.
- The spirit is willing, but the flesh is Lutheran, but there is always a pilot light on.
- We need to look deeper and closer.
- The challenges are real, but hope is real, too.
- It's not what we do on Sunday, but what we do the rest of the week.
- 61% of US think that church is about organized religion rather than loving people. 44% think Christians get on their nerves. Atheists and those with no church connections have grown from 7% to 15% from 1990 to the present. 89% have a close friend who is Christian.

Bishop deFreese

Bishop David deFreese shared seven key points on what makes us different:

1. Do we understand what Jesus has done for us—is the cross of Christ real in my life?
2. God uses the ordinary to share beauty in the world. He showed the video of Susan Boyle at her performance on "Britain's Got Talent."
3. Is this real? God uses people to touch people.

Continued on the next page

2009 Nebraska Synod Assembly Report, continued

4. What is our purpose? We were created by love, for love, to love; called to serve to, for, and with others. Too many of us are focusing on surviving, but we as individuals and as a church need to find a need and meet it with the love of Christ. Bishop deFreese gave us an assignment to send him a paragraph on what our congregation is doing to help the poor. (This has been done.)
5. Do we care about our efforts to share?
6. What is our focus—lost, last, least, lonely? What about the poor? There are 2000+ verses about the poor in the Bible.
7. Why do we feel alone? Together we are not alone. We are the body of Christ together. Bishop deFreese's message was a call for unity through diversity and a call to be the church by living out Christ's love. You are the church—the cloud of witnesses always there.

Workshops

There were two times for workshops, and we attended different sessions regarding welcoming and hospitality, turn-around churches, ministry to young suburbans, and outreach. We gleaned some ideas that could be used at Lord of Love.

Reports/Miscellaneous

Throughout the assembly, each of the synod's serving arms had a video presentation. Leaders from these serving arms' organizations were also recognized and thanked. Ms. Kristi Bangert, Executive Director of Communications for the ELCA, gave greetings from the Churchwide offices.

Several times during the Friday and Saturday sessions, we were interrupted and entertained by the Looney Lutherans, a comedy trio from Minnesota. They presented a very entertaining program on Friday evening, as well.

Various reports were presented and adopted. After approving a motion to meet as a Quasi-Committee of the Whole, the assembly divided into groups of four to discuss three questions regarding the proposed ELCA statement on human sexuality:

1. What does it mean to you to stay with and serve with those with whom you disagree in the church?
2. As you look over the Sense Survey, what thoughts do you have on Questions 1 or 2?
3. List any questions raised for you by the Social Statement on Human Sexuality and Rostering Recommendations.

We then completed the sense surveys, and findings were announced later. Roughly 3/5 of the assembly disapproves of the ELCA approving same-gender relationships and believes that we should not roster persons involved in same-gender relationships. Roughly 2/5 feel the opposite—that we should approve of same-gender relationships and should definitely roster persons involved in same-gender relationships. (Details may be found in the June 18, 2009, Synod Email News—check the Nebraska Synod website.)

There was a concert with adult contemporary singer-songwriter Fernando Ortega on Saturday evening after the banquet or family dinner.

Following the concluding worship on Sunday, there was a meeting and lunch for church-wide voting members and their guests.

LOL Mission Ministry Team Update

The Lord of Love Mission Ministry Team met in June to evaluate the results of the May survey and to determine the most popular area for our special missions' monies and volunteer efforts. The mission emphasis for 2009-2010 will be education and shelter. At our July meeting, the Mission Ministry Team will examine information about various organizations that focus on education and shelter and will chose specific ministries to support (both for monetary gifts and gifts of time) for the coming program year.

Thanks so much to Gary Ramsay for serving on this ministry team and also for taking so many loads of food and sundry items to Project Hope this past program year. We welcome Paula Foster to the team and would still like to include others. Please consider sharing your time and talents by serving on the Mission Ministry Team for the coming program year.

Habitat for Humanity

It is summertime and time for Habitat for Humanity! We are working with the ELF coalition again this year. Our project is a Rehab House. We are scheduled to work on July 31 and August 1, which is a Friday and Saturday. Since it is a Rehab House and the weather is not as much of a factor, we hope to stay on schedule. If we stay on schedule, we will be putting in cabinets and working on a porch that weekend. People of all skill levels are welcome to come help. We are also responsible for food and refreshments on those days. If you would like to volunteer on a different day, you can also sign up online. For more information, contact Jeri Morgan by phone at 492-8909 or by e-mail at jmorgan@thevnares.org.



Garden Update

Things are truly growing in the garden, and that includes weeds! If you have any time at all to weed for any length of time, those efforts would be most appreciated. Thanks to Paula Foster for watering faithfully, to Doug Roberts for tilling as much as he can in between the rows, and to Doug Aden for weeding.



Tour de Revs 2009

What is the Tour de Revs? It's 3 Guys, 1 Bike, 100 Days, 13,000 miles, 65 cities – A Mission to Fight World Hunger.

Three Lutheran pastors from the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod of the ELCA are riding a custom-made bamboo, 3-person bike over 13,000 miles to raise awareness (and donations) to help eliminate world hunger. They are making stops in each of 65 cities, the 2009 Youth Gathering, and the Churchwide Assembly. Their goal is to encourage contributions to support ELCA World Hunger activities. They are seeking funds from individuals, congregations, and Synods to support the ELCA in meeting the \$25 Million annual goal set in 1999. Along the way, the team will also encourage folks to set personal health and wellness goals.

The Tour de Revs is coming to Omaha August 1-3! Read upcoming Sunday announcement bulletins to see how Lord of Love will participate, and check out the website <http://www.tourderevs.org/tdr/Welcome.html> for more information.



Thoughts on Stewardship II by Deb Lund

The 2009 Nebraska Synod Assembly theme was *Compelled by the Love of Christ*. When addressing the assembly, Bishop deFreese asked “Will **we** be different?” The question leads me to ask, “How do we as God’s graced people and as individuals live our daily lives doing all that we can to be righteous stewards as God would want?”

Many folks at Lord of Love model faithful stewardship and truly live godly lives. Others of us have a ways to go in being the best stewards that we can be. Here are some questions to ponder.

Do we take time for God? Do we think about God’s will for us daily?
Do we pray, read scripture, reflect on God’s word, and listen to Him?

Do we take care of ourselves as we ought? Do we exercise daily, eat healthy foods, relax, rest, and sleep as we should?

Do we make time for others? Do we listen to each other, discern each other’s needs, and respond in a loving way? Do we put others’ needs before our own?

Do we do our part to take care of the earth as we best we can? Are we reducing or limiting the use of items that cause harm in some way? Do we walk, take a bus, or carpool when we can? Are we re-using or recycling everything that we can?



Remember that God calls us to be faith-filled people and honorable stewards of God’s creation 24/7, not just on Sundays. Let’s work together and help each other to be the best stewards we can be.

COUNCIL REPORT & TRANSITION/CALL PROCESS UPDATE

2009 Lord of Love Church Council and Strategic Planning Committee

Executive Committee: Doug Aden, President; Don Rowen, Vice-President; Brian Walther, Secretary; Lisa Meyer, Treasurer

Finance: Brad VenHuizen*, Paul Barnett, and Jackie Combes

Nurture: Heather Christensen*, Angie Meyer, and Liz Smith

Outreach: Deb Lund*, Brian Vandeventer, and John Florea

Property: Craig Pennell*, Doug Roberts, and Joe Combes

Worship: Karen Mullen*, Debra Gillespie, and one other to be announced

Committee chairpersons are denoted with an asterisk; council members are underlined.

The Executive Committee is not part of the Strategic Planning Committee.

COUNCIL REPORT & TRANSITION/CALL PROCESS UPDATE

Bits and Pieces by Doug Aden, Council President

I was at the church on the Saturday morning of Carissa and Josh's wedding and happened to look at the program for the wedding and saw that the choir was going to sing "In This Very Room." I mentioned to Carol that this song is becoming Lord of Love's theme song. The Choir has sung this song for funerals of both the young and the old, for weddings, and for our worship services many times. The song has been sung from the side of the sanctuary, the front of the sanctuary, and with the choir standing in a large circle around the edge of the sanctuary. When completed, there is always quiet as worshippers contemplate the words and the meaning. It seems that the song gives us focus and lets us think about all the times that we celebrated, grieved, and worshiped together.

By the time *The Love Letter* is published this month, we will have completed the Appreciative Inquiry sessions, which have also helped us think about the past and the positive happenings at Lord of Love and who we are. I have learned a lot from these sessions as we talked about history and the many positive things that have happened at Lord of Love. Already we have some insights as to the type of Pastor that we want to call, and as we use the information from these sessions in the next group of visioning meetings, we should have a better idea of what we want Lord of Love to be.



Dinner and Discussion



On behalf of the congregation, I say a big thank you to Peg Pennell for the banner that she completed for Lord of Love. I have heard many positive comments, and the banner adds beauty to the sanctuary.

The council continues to work on the organizational structure. We are making some modifications to the structure that was presented at the Annual Meeting, and our goal is to have a plan finalized in July.



At the last council meeting, a preliminary plan for the courtyard was presented. Our goal is to have a finalized proposal in July. The lighting project was discussed, and our goal is to have a presentation this autumn.



We have received a preliminary report from the auditor, and based on the information that he provided, the financial records of Lord of Love are in good order.

A reminder: the budget process for 2010 will begin in August. If you have any ideas or suggestions about programs or items you would like to see in the budget please present them to a council member.

Finally, thank you to all of you and the work you do for Lord of Love. The transition process is going well, and that is due to your work and cooperation.



Men's Fellowship Opportunities

"What?" "I couldn't hear you." "Could you repeat that?" Those phrases and ones like them were frequently heard during the May 30 men's fellowship day trip to the National Hot Rod Association's (NHRA) Summer Nationals Drag Races. Two 8,000 horse powered cars traveling past you, side by side, creates a 2 Richter scale tremor and a noise volume equaling 120 decibels. What an unique experience! Eight men left at 6:00 a.m. from Lord of Love, traveled to Topeka, KS, and returned to Omaha by 8:30 p.m. The event was appreciated by all who went, though some revelers were more appreciative than others.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

This fellowship event is one of many opportunities that Men's Ministries is sponsoring this summer, fall, and coming new year. Saturday morning men's breakfast fellowship and Bible study is sponsored weekly at Lord of Love. Other events on the tentative schedule include a Toolz Boyz 'N Toyz Volunteer Event, Men's and Kidz event, a canoe trip, and a trip to the 2011(?) national Lutheran Men in Mission conference to be held in Denver, CO.

Guys, do you have a fellowship event idea or need a way to become more involved in your church? This is your invitation to join and make a difference in your life and the lives of others through your church. Peace to you.



WOMEN OF LOVE

Blessings from Ruth Manning, President, LOL Women of Love

To my Sisters in Christ,

Women's ministry is not only alive and well at Lord of Love, but it is a strong, vital ministry. Besides focusing on our love of Christ as we serve others, we remain viable by involving new participants of all ages.

We are planning to vote on a new leadership style (team ministry, rather than officer-led ministry) as we present the revised constitution and bylaws of Lord of Love Women of the ELCA at our general meeting on October 10. Along with that, a team will be working this summer on standing rules of order that will help simplify management of the tasks of women's ministry.

Also at this meeting, we will elect members to the women's ministry team. The newly elected team will meet in November for planning the programming for 2010 as well as for selecting the various areas of interest they will be working on. This is an exciting concept as it spreads the work out among all the team members.

Will you help us with nominations for the new ministry team? I am looking for women who are willing to contact other women at Lord of Love about their potential for service, and I am also looking for those who will volunteer to be on the team. Please pray about your involvement.

Peace in Jesus,
Ruth Manning, President

Fall Festival Dinner

Ruth Manning has an answering machine, so she knows that volunteers to help plan the Fall Festival dinner and silent auction were not exactly ringing her phone of the hook. **Hint! Hint!**

The dinner will be held on Saturday, November 14 at 5:30 p.m. This is our only opportunity to raise money for our LOL's women's ministry as well as to support a local ministry outreach. We've already received one suggestion for our outreach effort but are soliciting additional ideas. The LOL Women's Ministry Team will be voting on the recipient at their meeting on August 12.

Will you help with the planning team? I can guarantee you there will be lot less work this year since we won't be having the craft fair. Contact Ruth Manning at 455-7221 or cranecoffeekick@gmail.com.



Crane Coffee

All women are invited to join the Lord's Laughing Ladies for 8:00 a.m. coffee at Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass, on July 10 and 24. Are you a teacher? Come and enjoy coffee over your summer vacation!



Coffee Fellowship

Project Hope

Please continue to remember Project Hope over the summer months. The collection baskets are in front of the west entrance, and additional containers are located under the Information Center counter.

Especially needed are non-perishable food of all kinds, personal care items, laundry soap, baby food, diapers, feminine hygiene products, and paper products. Thank you for your help!

Lutheran Woman Today Bible Study and Potluck Salad Luncheon

All women are invited to take part in a Bible study ½ day retreat at the home of Deb Lund on Saturday, July 25 at 4720 N. 136th Street. The study will be *Mary: A Woman for all Seasons*. Those of you who subscribe to *Lutheran Woman Today* magazine will find the lessons in the June and July/August issues. The study guide also is available online at <http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Women-of-the-ELCA/Lutheran-Woman-Today/Bible-study/Summer-studies.aspx>.

If you plan to attend, it would be helpful if you would sign up at the Information Center in the Narthex so Deb knows how many chairs to set up. Deb will serve coffee and goodies at 8:45 a.m. Please bring a salad to share at the luncheon.



Mary, the mother of Jesus, is one of the few female characters of the Bible whom we see not just once or twice, but over decades in the Scriptures. This study looks at three seasons of her life: (1) *The Annunciation*, led by Ruth Manning; (2) *Kinships, Friendships, and Holy Encounters*, led by Lynda McGraw, and (3) *Mary Among the Disciples*, led by Shawn Lorenzen.

Here is a sneak peek at the study:

Annunciation. What is it like to be on the brink of womanhood, visited by a messenger of God Almighty? What is youthful spirituality all about, that season of surprises, and hopefulness, and a certain naïve courage to take on big “God-sized” projects?

Kinships, Friendships, and Holy Encounters. We will look at two instances of intergenerational friendships and blessings, the time when the teen-aged Mary takes off running to visit her menopausal cousin Elizabeth, and the moment after the birth of Jesus, when Mary and her family are blessed by elderly folks in the temple.

Mary Among the Disciples. Mary may well have been a widowed single woman when she is called to a new role as a mature leader in the early church. We will look at the poignant moment when Jesus entrusts his beloved disciple into Mary’s care, along with a final glimpse of Mary joining the disciples in visioning and prayer.

NSWO Convention

The Nebraska Synodical Women’s Organization convention will be held September 25-27 in Kearney. *Be Still and Feel Christ’s Heart Within You* is the theme, which is based on Luke 10:27a, NKJV, *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.*

Presenters at the convention include:

- Patty Morrison, a professional motivational speaker from Loveland, CO. With enthusiasm, humor, and passion, Patty brings a theatrical background and her collection of hats to the podium. The name of her company is P.A.T.T.Y. – Powerfully Animated Timely Topics for You.
- Beth Wrenn, president of the Women of the ELCA since July 2008. Beth has a variety of interests besides her husband and children. She loves to read, dance, and cook and enjoys aerobics. She brings a message to women of all ages to act boldly on their faith by engaging in ministry and action that makes a difference in the church, community, and the world.

Continued on the next page

NSWO Convention, continued

- Rev. Dr. David L. deFreese, Bishop of the Nebraska Synod of the ELCA since June of 2000. Several of us at Lord of Love have had the privilege of hearing him speak at past events and appreciate the way he brings new life to the Scriptures.
- Pr. Connie Raess was ordained in October 2008 and serves Tri-Saints Lutheran Parish, Byron and Hardy, Nebraska. She heard God's call to ministry in the church over 20 years ago while serving as a church secretary, and she reached her goal after graduating from the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries Program at Pacific Lutheran Seminary in 2008.

In next month's issue of *The Love Letter*, we take a look at the variety of workshops being offered Friday and Saturday.

Early registration of \$85 is due August 22, and registration forms are available at the Information Center in the Narthex.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Take our prayer shawl ministry quiz using the following numbers: 10, 27, 45, 63,136, 246 (answers at end of article).

As of June 15, 2009:

1. Number of months since prayer shawl ministry was announced_____
2. Number of women who have made prayer shawls_____
3. Total number of prayer shawls made_____
4. Number of prayer shawls made by Juanita Jarmin_____
5. Number of prayer shawls made by Marilyn Thomsen_____
6. Number of prayer shawls not yet distributed_____



This adds up to hours and hours of prayers by those who have made the prayer shawls, the Lord's Laughing Ladies who pray over the shawls as they are completed, and the prayers as the prayer shawls are presented. What a blessing!

We have presented prayer shawls for weddings/showers, baptisms, high school graduates, illness, death in family, completion of church council or committee chair terms, and "just because."

Right now the extras are stacked on the hide-a-bed in Ruth Manning's office, and she's getting company in August and September and needs to use it. So it's a good time to remind you that prayer shawls are not just for Lord of Love members but also for friends. Not only do we want to reduce our inventory, but also we want others to be blessed by the receiving of a prayer shawl. Contact Ruth Manning (455-7221) or Marilyn Thomsen (453-7430) to request one.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry, talk to Ruth or Marilyn or pick up a prayer shawl brochure at the Information Center in the narthex. If you have any extra yarn you won't be using, you may give it to us, and it will be given to our knitters/crocheters. We don't need whole skeins. Some of the prettiest of our shawls were made from leftover yarn.

Thanks for your prayers and support of this ministry.

Answers: (1) 27; (2) 10; (3) 246; (4) 60; (5) 136; (6) 45

WOMEN OF LOVE

Calendar of Events

July

7	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
8	6:00 p.m.	No LOL Women's Ministry Team Meeting
10	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass
21	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
24	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass
25	8:45 a.m.	LWT ½ day retreat and potluck salad luncheon, Deb Lund's home



Coming Soon

September 25-27	Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization Convention, Kearney, NE
October 10	9:30 a.m. Election of LOL Women's Ministry Team; program
November 14	5:30 p.m. Fall Festival Dinner
April 23-24, 2010	Women's Retreat at St. Benedict's Retreat Center, Schuyler, NE
July 12-14, 2011	W/ELCA Triennial Convention, Spokane, WA
July 14-17, 2011	Triennial Gathering

LOL YOUTH

Youth Gathering

The long-awaited ELCA Youth Gathering will be this month. Our kids will leave July 19 and return July 26. If you want to hear all about their experiences, please come to the breakfast after church on Sunday, August 2. They will be serving breakfast that day as well as showing pictures and telling stories.



Who's going to New Orleans this month?

Youth

Laura Armitage
 Jason Combes
 Casey Florea
 Lauren Florea
 Matt Garder
 Alex Harris
 Kevin Krause
 Kimi Lueders
 Kira Luxon
 Nadine Rowen
 Sarah Vandeventer

Chaperones

Josh Combes
 Carissa Combes
 Jeri Morgan
 Jim Morgan

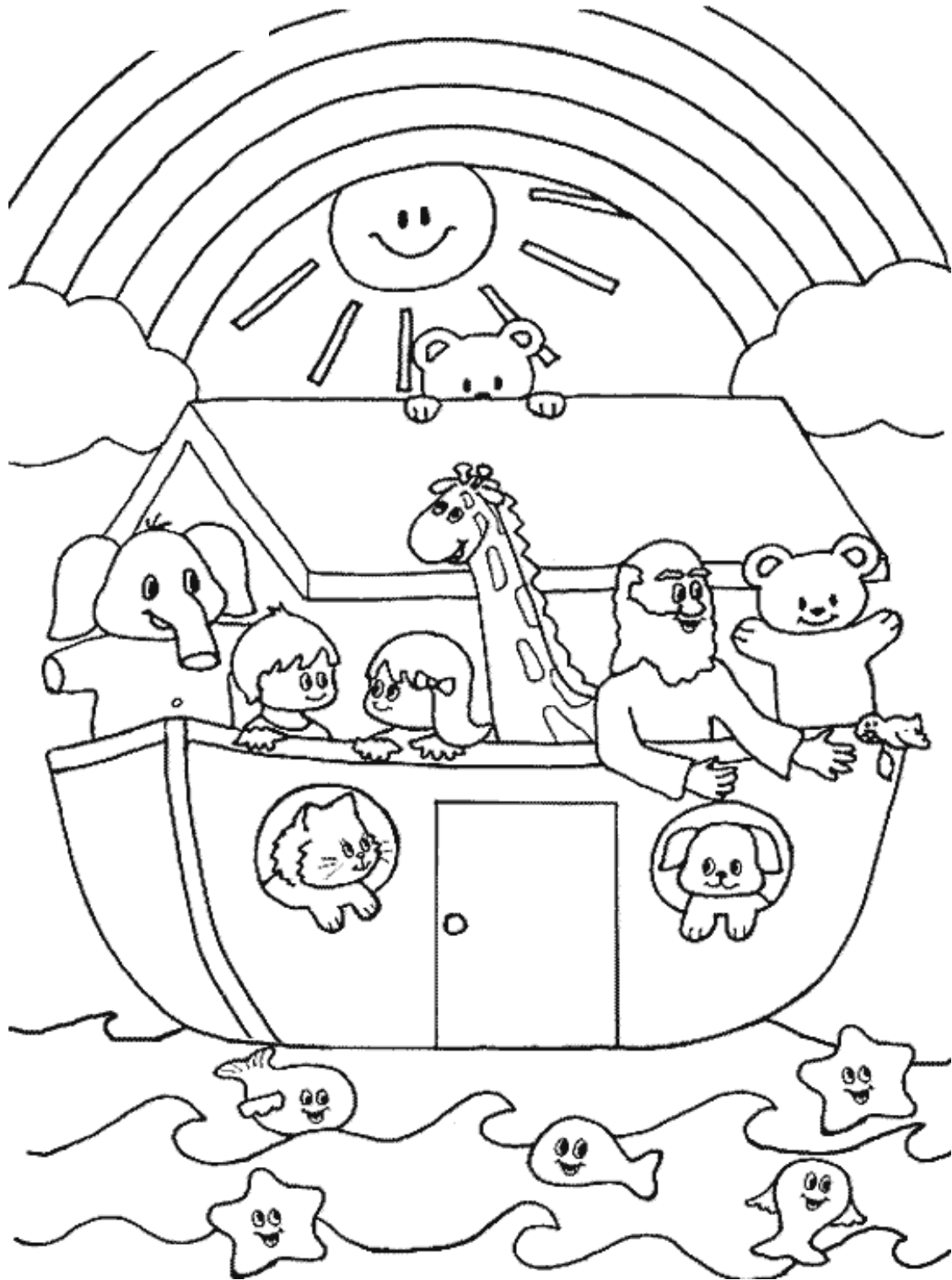
Calendar of Youth Events

July

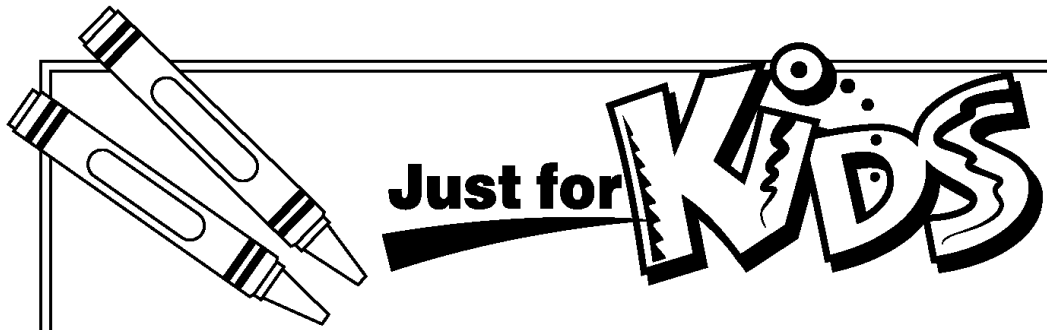
19-26	ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans
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Coming Soon

August 2	Youth serve breakfast and share experiences from New Orleans
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TRAVEL BY DAY OR NIGHT

The way people travel has changed over time, but one thing has not changed — God was with people in biblical times just as He is with you and your family as you travel during your summer vacations.

Count the number of letters for each name, and then write the name in the spaces next to the verse that matches. (Hint: Besides counting the number of letters in the name, also pay attention to whether the person is from the Old Testament or New Testament.)

NAMES

Paul Moses Joseph The Israelites Abram crowds
Samaritan Jesus Naaman Angel of God

VERSES

“The _____ ... had been traveling in front of Israel’s army” Exodus 14:19

“And _____ went out from Pharaoh’s presence and traveled throughout Egypt.” Genesis 41:46

“Go in peace,” said Elisha. After _____ had traveled some distance” 2 Kings 5:19

“_____ traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem.” Genesis 12:6

_____ “traveled through that area, speaking many words of encouragement to the people, and finally arrived in Greece.” Acts 20:2

“_____ traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God.” Luke 8:1

“Large _____ were traveling with Jesus.” Luke 14:25

“_____ traveled to the plains of Moab and camped along the Jordan across from Jericho.” Numbers 22:1

“_____ led Israel from the Red Sea For three days they traveled in the desert” Exodus 15:22

“ But a _____, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.” Luke 10:33

IN OUR PRAYERS & LOVE NOTES

In Our Prayers

Dick and Jessie Bell
Ryan Bolen (nephew of Sandy Hall)
Miranda Brown (future in-law of the Shinrocks)
Portia Bruning (cousin of Shirley Schuchard)
Jan Davis (aunt of Paula Foster)
Norma Gunter
Cindy Harper (friend of Lynda McGraw)
Matthew Hayek (nephew of Sandy Hall)
John Hoelsing (friend of Judy Egr)
Harold and Marj Holbrook (parents of Judy Messerschmidt)
Cathy Johnson (friend of Marilyn Thomsen)
Bob Kasworm and his ministry in Tanzania
Ken Kellogg (father of Karen Armitage)
Hannah Knudson (neighbor of the VenHuizens)
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)
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)
Rich Pippin (nephew of Lynda McGraw)
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 Sacrider
Nancy Thoman (stepmom of Ann Kroll)
Joey Thompson (friend of the Murphys)
Brody Vermilyea (grandson of Brian and Nancy Shinrock)
Glenn Wapelhorst (brother of Brenda Mac)
Agnes Wilson

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





The Love Letter
 Lord of Love Lutheran Church
 10405 Fort Street
 Omaha, NE 68134-1298

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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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

This Month

July 3 Church office closed for holiday

July 13-17 VBS and Day Camp

July 19-26 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans

July 25 Women of Love Bible Study Potluck Salad Luncheon

July 31 Work on Habitat for Humanity ELF Coalition rehab house

Upcoming Events

August 1 Work on Habitat for Humanity ELF Coalition rehab house

August 2 Youth serve breakfast and share experiences from New Orleans

September 6 Last day of summer worship schedule

September 13 Kickoff Sunday

November 14 Fall Festival dinner and silent auction

Articles for The Love Letter can be submitted to the editor, Kim Gust, in the Love Letter mailbox at church or by email at loveletter@lord-of-love.org. Articles must be received by the Love Letter editor by the 20th of the month.