



The Love Letter

Volume 37

September 2009

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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

Now that school is back in session, it is time to kick off our 2009-2010 program year at Lord of Love! September 13 is **Kickoff Sunday**, when we return to our regular worship schedule and begin Sunday School (see page 4, Worship). Also on Kickoff Sunday, we will resume our traditional **donuts and coffee** between worship services and will have our **Congregational Picnic** following the 10:30 a.m. worship service (see page 8, Nurture). **Wednesday night activities**, including **Confirmation**, will begin on September 16 (see page 8, Nurture).

Coming up on September 20 is an **adult forum** on stewardship, **Confirmation Sunday** and the beginning of the Mission Ministry Team's **book drive** for the Literacy Center (see page 4, Worship, and page 10, Outreach, respectively). Also coming soon is Lord of Love's 2009-2010 **Stewardship Program**, which will focus on several different aspects of stewardship (see page 12, Finance).

In addition, there are many **fellowship activities for men, women, and teens** to be involved in. All men are encouraged to attend Saturday morning breakfasts and other upcoming opportunities (see page 15, Men's News Corner). Women are invited to attend coffee fellowship, Bible studies, and quilting (see pages 16-17, Women of Love). The Youth Group has planned its activities for the fall, and all 7th through 12th graders are welcome (see page 18, LOL Youth).

Finally, be sure to check the "Mark Your Calendar" section (see page 22) for the dates of upcoming activities, such as the **Budget Forum**, **Congregational Meeting**, and **Fall Festival Dinner**, that you won't want to miss!

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Looking Back, Looking Forward by Pastor Bob

Dear Friends in Christ,

Last month as I sat down to write the newsletter article, I was thinking about all those things I was planning to do this summer. Well, here we are in September. I can't believe the "lazy days of summer" (I'm not sure what was lazy about them!) are over and autumn is about to arrive.

This summer at Lord of Love surely has been filled to the brim with summer activities.

Vacation Bible School had a wonderful week of learning, praying, singing, giving, and growing on the Crocodile Dock. A special thanks to Amy, Gwen, Liz, counselors from Carol Joy Holling, and the rest of the gang who shared their time with the children from our congregation and community!



Thursday nights during the month of June, Lord of Love members gathered to talk about the past and what their church has meant to them. It was a great time to share the best of past and most important discovering what of the past we will we bring to the future.

Sunday mornings have been a wonderful time to get reacquainted with members we normally don't see during the year because they or we go to the other service. A special thanks to all who provided breakfast following services.

We also celebrated with the youth their trip to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Jesus, Justice, Jazz was the theme, and Lord of Love helped celebrate that theme with the Jazz service.

Rebecca Lund also shared with the congregation her trip to the Holy Land. We learned a great deal about how complicated that situation is.

And now we are in September already! Kids are off to school, and the normal things that bring Fall our way are beginning to be heard again.

For all of us, the excitement of getting back into the swing of the school year is often mixed with lots of other emotions—the pressures of school work and fast paced learning, the stress of packed schedules including sports and lessons and programs and community, the beginning of Sunday School and Confirmation classes, the startup of choir, the nostalgic feel of summer on warm days and on cool days the crisp air hints toward autumn! Lots of changes!

I hope that September will find you not just getting caught in a whirlpool of activities, but that you will also find yourself looking forward to another year of growing in your faith in Christ through Lord of Love. If you have not been to worship recently, now is a good time to get back into the habit! We miss you!! And we are going to have a great autumn together!

Love in Christ,
Pastor Bob



MONTHLY CALENDAR

September 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:00am Quilters 5:30pm YWCA Men's Group 6:45pm First Place	2 7:00pm Chancel Choir	3 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	4 8:00am Coffee Fellowship @ Crane 7:30pm AA	5 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
6 9:00am Worship & Communion	7 Office Closed for Labor Day 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	8 5:30pm YWCA Men's Group 6:45pm First Place	9 6:00am Luther Kids 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 7:00pm Chancel Choir	10 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Swingtones	11 7:30pm AA	12 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
13 Kick-Off Sunday 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 12:00pm Youth Group Outdoor Games	14 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	15 9:00am Quilters 5:30pm YWCA Men's Group 6:45pm First Place	16 6:00am Luther Kids 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 7:00pm Chancel Choir	17 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	18 8:00am Coffee Fellowship @ Crane 7:30pm AA	19 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 9:00am WELCA Installation of Officers
20 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Confirmaion Worship & Communion	21 7:00pm Israeli/Palestinian Presentation by the Bishop 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	22 5:30pm YWCA Men's Group 6:45pm First Place	23 6:00am Luther Kids 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 7:00pm Chancel Choir	24 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	25 7:30pm AA	26 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
27 Stewardship Sunday 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 1:00pm AA District 18 Mtg.	28 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	29 5:30pm YWCA Men's Group 6:45pm First Place	30 6:00am Luther Kids 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 7:00pm Chancel Choir			

Fall Worship Schedule, Kickoff Sunday, and Confirmation Sunday

Regular Worship Schedule



September 13 is Kickoff Sunday! This is the day we return to our fall worship schedule and

kick off our 2009-2010 program year. Worship services will be held at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. with Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.



On September 20, there will be an adult form on stewardship at 9:15 a.m. as well as Confirmation at the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

New All-Seasons Banner

A new All-Seasons banner was commissioned in August. Peg Pennell, renowned quilter and Lord of Love member, was commissioned by funds given in memory of Marv Badtke.

The banner features a center sunburst that represents the glorious rising of Jesus at Easter. The colors on the outside color wheel represent the seasons of the church year:

- Blue = Advent
- Green = Epiphany
- Purple = Lent
- Red = Pentecost

Please take some time to look closely at the intricate details of the banner. We are blessed to have such talents shared to enhance our worship.

Paul Christenson constructed the custom stand to display the All-Seasons banner.

Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	September 6 (9:00 a.m.)	September 13	September 20	September 27
Liturgist				
8:00 a.m.	Shawn Lorenzen	Marilyn Thomsen	Judy Egr	Karen Armitage
10:30 a.m.		Randi VenHuizen	Lori Vandeventer	Susan Lueders
Communion Servers				
8:00 a.m.			Egr family	
10:30 a.m.				
Altar Care				
8:00 a.m.	Diana Haye, Marcia Roads	Doug and Rose Roberts	Deb Christenson	Ed and Marjorie Keiser
10:30 a.m.		Randi VenHuizen, Debra Gillespie	Brenda and Suzanne Mac	Rowen family
Ushers				
8:00 a.m.	Paul Dieter, Dennis Hindemith, John Florea, Brian Walther (including 9:00 a.m. on September 6)			
10:30 a.m.	Dave and Adam Lueders, Lund family, Tony Brazier			

Tape Ministry: Getting to Know Esther Welliver by Karen Pickens and Rachel Novak

In the past few months, Rachel and I have gotten to know a lot more about Esther Welliver. I have known Esther most of my life, but not to the extent I now know her. I think that for Rachel, sitting and visiting with Esther is like reading a very good book. Esther has such a wonderful memory and so many stories to tell, which she does in very descriptive details. Today, the three of us had lunch and talked some more about Esther's rich life. Esther also shared with us her Hansen Family Genealogy.

Esther Sophie Hansen was born on August 25, 1918, at home in Orum, Nebraska, to Edward and Marie Hansen. She had four sisters—Emma Christine, Meta Marie, Edna Louise, Anna Margrethe—and two brothers—Jens Christian and Carl Edward. In the Hansen Family Genealogy, Esther wrote a couple of pages, and I am going to share them with you. The following, in Esther's own words, are some of her childhood memories.

My first memories were back in October 1921. My brother Carl was born. Mom was in the Blair Hospital. Pop took Anna and I to see her. There were two babies, and one was crying. Mom asked us in Dane, "Which one would we like to have." We chose the one not crying. She said in Dane, "that is the one you shall have." After all those many years, Anna and I were sure we had picked Carl out.

I don't know for sure, I may have slept with my folks. My earliest memory was sitting early in the morning with my Mom and Pop when I was three or four years old and getting to drink coffee with sugar and cream. I thought I was pretty special because the other kids weren't around or never drank coffee.

In 1922, when I was four years old, Mom died on Halloween Night. All I remember was, it was a stormy night. Jens and Axel went to get Aunt Louise. Uncle Pete and Aunt Hannah also came. I remember we five girls wore dark dresses for the funeral made by Aunts Louise and Hannah. In those days, the body stayed in the house until the funeral. I now know my Mother had been told there was a new breakthrough on how to treat diabetes, but my Mom's doctor told her to go home and eat whatever she wanted to because her kidneys weren't working anymore.

After Mom's funeral, baby Carl was taken to Fremont to live with Uncle Pete and Aunt Hannah with the understanding, only until things were settled at home. I guess things were never settled, as he never returned except to visit. (To this, I would like to add that having Carl out of the home caused great sadness, even to this day, to Esther...Karen.) We went to Fremont often. When Carl was still young, Uncle Pete and Aunt Hannah called Pop to come to Fremont because Carl was gravely ill and they were afraid he might die. I think he had an appendicitis operation.

Aunt Louise came each year when we butchered and helped put away the meat for the season. She baked bread. What a treat! We could smell it as we arrived home from school. Louise was so good to us. She said, "I never had any girls, you kids will be my girls." When we visited her and our visits were over, we would pile into the car and all leaned out the window to wave as she would stand and wave to us until we were over the hill and out of sight.

I remember Aunt Louise's husband Rudolph. He wasn't a very tall man. I can still see how straight he always walked. He could be a moody person but Rudolph was always good to us kids and even took Anna and I to town and bought us an ice cream cone. We got to sit up to the round parlor table in chairs that had fancy iron designs on their backs. That was special! The day Rudolph was killed by his bull, he was opening up the pasture gates to allow the cattle to get water since the creek had frozen over. Rudolph

Continued on the next page

Tape Ministry: Getting to Know Esther Welliver, continued

knew that bull was already mad and pawing at the ground, but Rudolph was the "boss" and wasn't going to give in to the bull. Rudolph thought he was in control. Rudolph turned his back on the bull and the bull came up behind him and threw Rudolph in the air and then gored him into the ground. Son Ted, picked him up while the dog went after the bull and took his Dad into the corn crib. He was taken to the hospital with severe injuries and died. Rudolph had been sick for several weeks before this; Louise had nursed him back to health and then this happened.

Then there were the housekeepers. There were three different ones; each lasted three months. I remember one young housekeeper; I thought she was the fanciest person in the world. She had pretty clothes and satin slippers. Also a green silk umbrella. Someday I was going to have one of my own. Years later when I was doing housework, I told the story to the lady I worked for. She said, "Didn't your Daddy buy you one?" I said, "heavens no, I didn't ask." He'd have said, "We couldn't buy something like that, if it is raining, stay inside or get wet." The next week when I came to clean her house she said, "I couldn't find a green one." "I hope this blue one is O.K." I had it for many years. She was a very kind lady. One housekeeper said that she could only understand a "little bit of English." So, I thought she could only understand a little at a time. I talked real fast to get a lot said in a little bit of time, but then she said, "You talk way too fast." Pop said, "I think we can manage on our own" and we did. Emma sewed and we all learned to help. Us girls shared housework, usually two for kitchen cleanup and two did the upstairs and dining room and one did the living room and Pop's room. Of course, I was the littlest so always had to be one of two. Once in a while, we got out the hymnal to sing and Meta played the piano, but if we heard Pop coming, we hurried back to our work.

One day Pop wanted just one strip cultivated in our garden north of the East driveway. He thought us girls, Edna, Anna, and I, could pull that little cultivator with several shovels. He hooked us up and he would say, "now go" and we went running as fast as we could go, but as soon as Pop put the cultivator in the ground, we all went flying backwards. We laughed and laughed but after several failures, Edna said, "We're not a horse." So Pop harnessed up the mule to get the job done.

I slept with Pop till eight or nine years old. Pop and the guys played cards into the night, and I got tired so told Pop, "when you go to bed, remember I'm behind the stove keeping warm." One night, I got tired and accidentally sat on Pete Nelson's lap instead of my Dad's, Axel was always good to me and took me off of Pete's lap onto his. Axel was at our house so much that the other kids at school asked me if he was my brother. I said, "no" but they had wondered because he had the same last name, Hansen. Then it got me to wondering. (Axel had a farm close by and married Esther's sister...Karen). One morning, Pop told me to get up and make some coffee for him. I had never made coffee before so read the directions on the can. I used one tablespoon to a cup. My Dad never had me make his coffee again because it was "just too strong." In those days, you put water in the pot and then spooned in the coffee grounds right into the water. Our old pot was all dented up with us hitting it on something to get out the old grounds. Pop always wore a stocking cap on his bald head to bed. In the winter, Edna sometimes slept on the other side and Pop in the middle. We would have a bed in the little room between the bedroom and dining room. Downstairs was warmer. Of course, things changed when Pop married Kisten.

Saturday was wash day. We had to heat the water for the wringer washmachine. I moved the handle to agitate the water and if I slowed down, one of my sisters would look at me and move her arm to tell me to go faster. We had to hand crank for a wringer, so used a round stick to lift the hot soapy clothes to the wringer to the rinse tubs. After in the rinse tub, we had to wring the clothes by hand and then a second

Continued on the next page

Tape Ministry: Getting to Know Esther Welliver, continued

rinse and wring it again. Blankets were real hard and one of us would get on each end and twist and twist all the water out and then hang it on the line outside even in the winter. (That's what you call freeze dry.) You know our Saturdays were shot down just getting the wash done.

Edna and I picked corn for our neighbor and got five cents a bushel. Edna picked two rows and I had one. She did most of the unloading but we divided the pay, Jens came and helped the last day. Then he said, "Would you like to go for a ride?" Edna said, "Not me." I said "I would." I chose the biplane with an open cockpit for my first airplane ride in my life. The pilot sat in back. When Jens and I were in the air, I said, "I had to pick twenty bushels of corn for this ride." Jens said, "Enjoy it, and I'll pay for both of us." What a day, and he even took us out to eat on the way home.

I remember in 1929, it was opening day for the Blair Bridge. We got to drive across the new bridge free, went over into Iowa onto a dusty road and came right back. I was so excited because that was the first time I got out of Nebraska and into another state. (Esther told me that no future travel, not even outside of America, was as exciting as that first trip into Iowa...Karen.)

When we were kids, Pop would sing some Danish songs and do some dances. He also told me how he walked a tight wire while using a board for balance. He learned it while working for a farmer who had a manure carrier. I said, "How come you never told that before?" He said, "When you come to this country, you were a green horn and didn't tell those things."

One day my Pop was talking to me about "raising the kids" and Pop questioned, "if he had done very well?" then added, "but I did the best I knew how."

I was the last one to leave home. I did the milking and helped my Pop. I wanted so bad to go to work. Finally my Pop said I could go. He said, "My Mother didn't want me to come to this country and I came knowing I would never see her again." I felt bad but finally got out on my own.

Yes, some times things were kind of rough but one thing, we learned to work and do without. What more could we ask?

My sisters and brothers have been gone for years. I miss them!

Till we meet again.

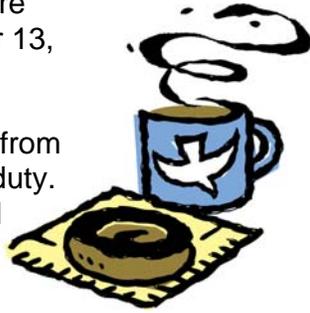
Edder (Esther)

Now you know some of Esther's childhood memories. In the next issue of *The Love Letter*, we will take a tour into Esther's adult life.



Sunday Morning Donuts

Sunday morning donuts are back! Starting September 13, coffee and donuts will be available. Volunteers are needed to pick up donuts from Hy-Vee and for clean-up duty. See sign up sheet located on the wall by the "Get Connected" sign or talk to Angie Meyer.



Congregational Picnic



The Congregational Picnic will be held on Kickoff Sunday, September 13, after the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Bring a dish to share!

We need volunteers to help with set up and clean up. Please call or email Angie Meyer at 493-4256 or roanmeyer@cox.net if you would like to help! Many hands make light work!

Wednesday Night Activities

Wednesday night activities for the 2009-2010 program year will begin on September 16. At 5:00 p.m., Confirmation will begin with a parent/student meeting. In addition, Wednesday night suppers and Luther Kids begin on this evening. Please join us on Wednesday nights for fellowship and fun!



Summer Breakfasts a Success!

What takes 35 to 40 Lord of Love family units, 14 Sundays, and about 1,200 breakfasts? Well, only the most successful summer breakfast program ever at Lord of Love! And besides the increased numbers in participants, almost every Sunday we noticed groups of people just enjoying the fellowship long after the dishes were washed!

Thanks to all of you...it was a wonderful experience, and we're looking forward to your help next summer.

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)
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

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

Fall Festival Dinner Update

The Fall Festival Dinner will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 14. This is a **mission fundraiser**, and this year's funds will be distributed as follows:

- 50% to Building Better Families Boutique (Lutheran Family Social Services)
- 25% to Lord of Love's "Women on a Mission" Trip
- 25% to Lord of Love's women's ministry



In addition to the dinner, there will be **better-than-ever silent auctions** and **entertainment by The Jrs.**, music from the 50s and 60s.

Mark your calendars now, and watch for additional details!



Internship in St. Louis by Rebecca Lund

Dear Lord of Love,

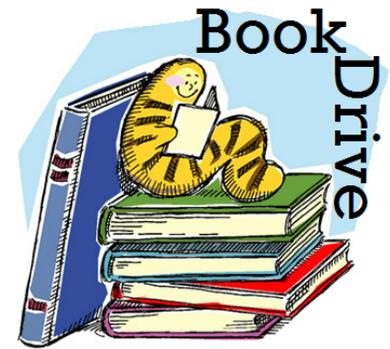
On August 2, I began my internship year at Bethel Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministries in St. Louis, Missouri. Aside from the hot and humid weather (which isn't really all that different from Omaha in the summertime!), I am enjoying the city. The congregation provides me with an apartment that is about 1 mile from the church/campus ministry house. School at Washington University and St. Louis University (the two campuses on which we focus our ministry) hasn't started yet, but I'm already getting involved in the planning of Bible studies for both campuses, and candlelight worship on Sunday nights will start the last week of August, with me preaching! My involvement at Bethel will primarily be the two worship services and educational hour on Sunday mornings, but I have already had the opportunity to sit in on a pre-marital counseling session and to serve as assisting minister at a memorial service. My two supervisors, Pr. Yancey and Pr. Rebecca, are great to work with and want to make sure that I feel prepared for all aspects of ministry. I look forward to the months ahead and will be sure to keep you updated!

Personally, as I'm sure many of you heard, Rich and I got engaged about 3 weeks ago, so I am looking forward to the many adventures married life will bring, also! We plan to be married in June or July of 2010 in Chicago. Thank you for your prayers of encouragement and support. If you'd like to send me some snail mail, my new address for the year is 7201 Tulane Ave. #1W, University City, MO 63130

Peace,
Rebecca Lund

Book Drive for the Literacy Center

On Sunday, September 20, the Lord of Love Mission Ministry Team will be starting a book drive for the Literacy Center (formerly known as the Literacy Center of the Midlands). We will be collecting good used or new non-religious books for readers of all ages and skill levels. The Literacy Center has programs for people of all ages but especially need books for children for their Reach Out and Read program. Under the Reach Out and Read program, participating physicians promote the importance of reading to parents and provide age-appropriate children's books to the families and to foster parents reading to their children. Currently, the Literacy Center has 16 clinics in Nebraska it partners with to deliver the program. They have reached over 8,000 families by distributing children's books to health clinics through the Reach Out and Read program.



Please consider supporting this worthy cause by gathering up books in good condition you may no longer have need of, or by purchasing some new books. We will be collecting books through October. Look for more details in coming bulletin announcements. If you would like more information on the Literacy Center, check out their website at www.midlandsliteracy.org.

The Community Garden by Gary Ramsay

I do not know for sure where the idea of a community garden originated, but it is another example of Lord of Love going outside the doors of the church to the community and becoming ambassadors of giving. By the time this article is printed, the garden will have provided over 600 pounds of produce, including beans, tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, summer squash, cucumbers, zucchini, sweet corn, and a few potatoes. Many more potatoes, pumpkins, and squash are yet to be harvested. When one thinks about it, isn't God's creation of the earth wonderful in that it continues to produce year after year after year after year. Thanks, Lord of Love, for continuing to be a giving place in God's kingdom here on earth.



Thanks so much to everyone who has assisted us in some way to provide wonderful fresh produce for the Lutheran Pantry through our Lord of Love Community Garden this summer: Doug Aden, John and Val Florea, Paula Foster, Kenn Garder, Brian and Deb Lund, Gary Ramsay, Doug Roberts, and Liz Smith. You have all helped touch lives with nutritious, fresh vegetables.

Habitat for Humanity

The ELF coalition home should be nearing completion as you read this. When we submitted this article in mid-August, the exterior was almost finished, and on the inside, the dry wall had all been installed. There will be cabinets to install and finish work to complete in September. If you would like to help in these final stages of construction, you can sign up at www.habitatomaha.org. Just click on "Volunteer!" create a user name if you don't have one, and then click on one of the work days under the ELF Coalition. If you would like to make a donation to Lord of Love's Habitat efforts, just make out a check to Lord of Love with Habitat on the subject line and place it in the offering.

We would like to give a big thanks to those who have helped in any way this year. Lord of Love sponsored the work on July 31 and August 1. Although it was tough work hanging drywall, we accomplished a great deal and had some fun at the same time.

Finally, we would like to introduce you to the Saw Soe and Naw Paw family. They have chosen to purchase the home that we are currently building. Helping families like these attain a better life is what it's all about.



Saw and Naw with brother, Htee Wah, and their three children: Paw (6), Humble (4), Emmanuel (1).

"Habitat homes are different from other homes because the owners are involved in construction. I have learned a lot about the process of building a house while doing 'sweat equity,' and I especially enjoy painting and hammering nails. I have met lots of new friends in this program, and they have made it a good experience for me.

We applied for Habitat because the house we rent is not our own. I like Habitat houses because they are nice and affordable. My children will make friends in the new neighborhood and we will attend our local church regularly. They are looking forward to painting their rooms in their favorite colors and bringing their best friends over to play with them. I like to think about making my favorite dinners with my family in the new kitchen, and new friends on my street. Thank you, God, for this blessing."

~ Saw K. Soe, 2009

OUTREACH

ELCA Global Formation Event

Consider attending the ELCA Global Formation Event on Friday, October 30 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and on Saturday, October 31 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This event will be held in Lincoln at Southwood Lutheran Church at 9300 South 40th Street.

What's Different About This Event?

The ELCA Global Formation Event brings together experts and resources on global and domestic ministry under one roof, for one weekend, in one convenient location so congregational leaders can build skills you need to be an effective part of God's mission no matter where you serve. Your input into this event will also help ELCA Global Mission serve more effectively.

Why Attend?

Mission takes place everywhere in the world—including North America, where it influences our ministry every day. By understanding how God's activity is changing the world around us, we can build and develop skills that help us engage, serve, support, learn, and travel more effectively, globally and domestically. These skills can help you be an effective part of God's mission.

Register for an upcoming event. For only \$35 and in only 1 1/2 days, you can:

- Enhance your connections with the worldwide Lutheran family.
- Gain practical skills for mission.
- Give, receive, and serve more effectively.
- Discover how changes in the world are transforming the way churches like the ELCA proclaim and serve.
- Lead inviting worship that includes global voices.
- Travel internationally in a way that is effective, sustainable, respectful, and cross-culturally sensitive.

If interested, check out the ELCA Global Mission Formation Events on the web, or talk to Deb Lund.

FINANCE

Stewardship – Led by the Spirit

By the time you read this, you may have heard something about Lord of Love's 2009-2010 Stewardship program. The Stewardship Committee and various members of your church council have been meeting off and on since last spring, discussing this year's stewardship season. All confirmed members of Lord of Love should receive four letters. Each letter addresses a different aspect of stewardship. We hope that you pray, talk, discuss, and listen to your heart as you are Led by the Spirit in making your individual commitment of monetary and other gifts of support for the coming year to your church.

As we prayerfully consider our individual contributions, we want to thank you for your continued support of Lord of Love in its many ministries.

Peace be to you,
The Stewardship Committee



COUNCIL REPORT & TRANSITION/CALL PROCESS UPDATE

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

The Strategic Planning Committee did not meet in July but instead meet on August 11, 2009. The Lord of Love council met on August 18, 2009. The Strategic Planning Committee will meet in September, and the Council will meet in October. Thereafter, each will usually meet every other month. The minutes of the August meetings are summarized as follows:

- **Strategic Planning Committee Meeting** – First, we discussed whether to make any changes to our meeting schedule and time. We decided to keep Strategic Planning at 6:00 p.m. and then have ministry committee meetings at 7:30 p.m. Then, each ministry head gave a report of their upcoming events. The Property committee said that the courtyard will be done soon, and they are working to finish a lighting proposal and to figure out options for the driveway by the dumpster and parking lot. Also, there is an occasional leak in library area. The Finance committee reported that they have a stewardship campaign ready to start in September and ending on Stewardship Sunday. Women of the ELCA is working on plans for the Fall Festival. The Worship committee reported that they will meet soon to plan worship for the first part of fall and that we will return to two services on Kickoff Sunday on September 13. The Nurture committee chair was not present, but the committee discussed plans for Kickoff Sunday and decided they would like to have a joint Sunday school opening and a congregational picnic/pot-luck after the 10:30 a.m. service. They also need a replacement for Sunday school superintendent. The Outreach committee reported that the garden was producing a lot of produce for the food pantry. The Outreach committee is looking to improve our website and reduce monies spent on phonebook ads. The Vision and Coordination committee reported they had formed a youth ministry team to consider what to do for a youth director to replace Josh Combes. The team also planned and helped run the first youth event on August 9, when the youth made plans for the next 6 months.
- **Council Meeting** – Instead of having a weekend budget retreat, the Council had a pot-luck dinner followed by a longer council meeting in the evening of August 18. Each ministry team submitted a proposed budget for their ministry before the meeting. At the meeting, the council members reviewed each ministry's budget and made a few changes. The council decided to review the budget again at a short meeting in September after the changes had been incorporated and then to submit the budget to the church congregation and host a budget forum on October 11, 2009. The council will then review the budget again at its October 20 meeting before the budget is discussed and approved at the November 8 Congregational Meeting. In addition, council members came up with a list of names to suggest to the Nominating Committee to consider for council positions that will be need to be filled and discussed whether to host a forum on Israel and the Palestine conflict proposed and moderated by Bishop deFreese. After some concerns that the forum could be too one-sided, we decided to agree to host the forum on September 21 and trust that the Bishop will present a balanced view.

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

Last month, I said that the Council would be working on the 2010 budget at the August meeting. They did, and a preliminary budget is completed. While we reduced expenses on several line items, the budget still has a deficit of \$20,000. There are two reasons for this. First, we reduced budgeted offering income from the 2009 budget of \$272,000 to \$254,000 for 2010. Second, we increased Transition Expenses by \$7,500 to \$10,000.

We have not spent any monies this year for Transition Expenses as of July 31 because Pastor Bob completed some of the projects that we thought would require an expenditure. An example is the Appreciative Inquiry meetings. The call process will become active in 2010, and that will require monies for interviews and other call expenses.

The budget will be revised according to the decisions made by the Council. In September, the Council will approve the revised budget, and then we will give it to the Congregation for their review. On October 11, we will seek Congregation input at a Budget Forum between services. Then the budget will be presented for approval at the November 8 Congregational Meeting.



In September, the Nominating Committee will begin meeting and will seek candidates for Council positions for 2010. The Council performs a very important function for the church. Make the job for the Nominating Committee easy, and if asked, please say "Yes" or better yet, volunteer for a position. Being on the Council does require some work, but there are many rewards.

The Church's financial records have been audited for the years 2007 and 2008. The audit found the financial records and procedures to be ok. One area of weakness was the preschool records, and as a result, we are in the process of moving the preschool financial records to Lord of Love's accounting system.

Josh Combes has resigned as Youth Director. We appointed a Youth Ministry Team whose charge was to determine the type of youth program that Lord of Love should have and to determine how the program should be staffed. They are in the process of doing this task, and they have worked with the youth in planning a program for the next 6 months. This serves as a transition program until a new Youth Director is in place.



A reminder—Lord of Love will return to two worship services—at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.—on September 13, which will be our rally day and the first day of Sunday School. At last report, the Sunday School had all the teachers in place but needed an individual to lead the program—another chance to volunteer.



In September, Lord of Love will have a Stewardship Program where you will be asked to commit your support to Lord of Love. This is a good church that does make a difference in the lives of its members and in the community. To continue to do this work, Lord of Love needs commitment from its members of time, talents, and treasures. With your support, many exciting things will happen in 2010.

Lord of Love Men's Ministry

I once had a friend who seldom, if ever, went to church, but did insist that his 12-year-old son go and also that his son attend all of the Confirmation and youth events. One day his son asked why it was so important for him to go all the time, but it was not important enough that his Dad should go. That question nagged at my friend for a month or more, and he finally decided he had no good answer for the question, so he began to fulfill his responsibilities as a leader for his family and attended regularly. It was transformational for the family, for my friend, and for his son.

Unfortunately, as you will see from the following information, far too many men either never address the question at all or come to a different answer than did my friend. Lord of Love is fortunate in having a significant number of men who are committed to the ministry of the church and are willing to be role models for their own and other children. Men's Ministry is trying to build on and expand that strength. Please assist by participating when the opportunity arises. There is an opportunity every Saturday morning at 7:00 for the Men's Breakfast. There will be other opportunities. Watch and participate!

Where are all the men?

You're not just imagining it: Christianity is short on men. Here are the facts:

- The typical U.S. congregation draws an adult crowd that is 61% female and 39% male. This gender gap shows up in all age categories.^[1]
- On any given Sunday, there are 13 million more adult women than men in America's churches.^[2]
- This Sunday, almost 25 percent of married, churchgoing women will worship without their husbands.^[3]
- Midweek activities often draw 70 to 80 percent female participants.^[4]
- The majority of church employees are women (except for ordained clergy, who are overwhelmingly male).^[5]
- Over 70 percent of the boys who are being raised in church will abandon it during their teens and twenties. Many of these boys will never return.^[6]
- More than 90 percent of American men believe in God, and five out of six call themselves Christians. But only two out of six attend church on a given Sunday. The average man accepts the reality of Jesus Christ, but fails to see any value in going to church.^[7]
- Churches overseas report gender gaps of up to 9 women for every adult man in attendance.^[8]
- Christian universities are becoming convents. The typical Christian college in the U.S. enrolls almost 2 women for every 1 man.^[9]
- Fewer than 10% of U.S. churches are able to establish or maintain a vibrant men's ministry.^[10]

Church is good for men...

- Churchgoers are more likely to be married and express a higher level of satisfaction with life. Church involvement is the most important predictor of marital stability and happiness.^[11]
- Church involvement moves people out of poverty. It's also correlated with less depression, more self-esteem, and greater family and marital happiness.^[12]
- Religious participation leads men to become more engaged husbands and fathers.^[13]
- Teens with religious fathers are more likely to say they enjoy spending time with dad and that they admire him.^[14]

And men are good for the church...

- A study from Hartford Seminary found that the presence of involved men was statistically correlated with church growth, health, and harmony. Meanwhile, a lack of male participation is strongly associated with congregational decline.^[15]

(If you come to Men's Breakfast, we will provide the footnotes!!)

WOMEN OF LOVE

Blessings from Ruth Manning, President, LOL Women of Love

To my Sisters in Christ,

Do you have a “heart” for women’s ministry in the church, and particularly at Lord of Love? Are you anxious to help shape the future of our ministry through our newly developing team concept? Do you want to help mobilize women of all ages “to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ”? Then you’ve come to the right place.

Our current ministry team will be actively seeking women to join our ministry team for the 2010 year. Women will be elected at our general meeting on Saturday, October 17 at a 9:30 a.m. breakfast meeting. Within the month, the team will meet and work out the details of its organization...who will be doing what, etc., with the help of the newly adopted standing rules of order. Subsequently, there will be a meeting of the team to plan the 2010 calendar of activities, ministries, etc.

So prayerfully consider your part in women’s ministry at Lord of Love, and don’t wait to be asked. Talk to me, and I’ll be happy to get you lined up!

Peace and love,
Ruth Manning, President

School and Health Kit Supplies Needed

One of the activities taking place at the Nebraska Synodical Women’s Organization convention will be the assembly of school and health kits for Lutheran World Relief. Will you help us gather supplies to take out to Kearney? There is a basket at the Information Center in the narthex for your donations. Please bring only the items listed: toothbrushes, full-size bars of soap in their original wrappers, towels, wash cloths, large-tooth combs, fingernail clippers, pad or notebook of 8-1/2x11 ruled paper (150-200 sheets), construction paper (assorted colors), blunt safety scissors, rulers, pencil sharpeners, 2-1/2 inch erasers, and boxes of 8 or 16 crayons (suggestion: check out your local dollar store). Thank you.

NSWO Convention

The Nebraska Synodical Women’s Organization convention will be held September 25-27 in Kearney. A late registration fee of \$100 is due September 11, and registration forms are available at the Information Center in the narthex. There is no on-site registration.

To date, those attending from Lord of Love are Gwen Edwards, Kelly Duffy (delegate), Pauline Shaffer, and Ruth Manning. Please keep these ladies and the workings of the convention in your prayers.

Coffee Fellowship

All women are invited to join the Lord’s Laughing Ladies for 8:00 a.m. coffee fellowship at Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass, on September 4 and 18. You don’t need to be a coffee drinker to enjoy the laughs.



Coffee Fellowship

Fall Festival Dinner

Information on the fall festival dinner will no longer be featured in the women’s section of *The Love Letter*. This is a congregational event, and although coordinated by Lord of Love’s women’s ministry, articles about it will be located elsewhere in *The Love Letter* for all to read.

WOMEN OF LOVE

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

Session 1 – *So That We Might be Mutually Encouraged by Each Other’s Faith*

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” (Romans 1:16)

There are three opportunities for you to participate in this study:

- Wednesday, September 2, Joseph Room at 6:00 p.m.
- Monday, September 14, Old Country Buffet, 145th and West Center Road at 6:00 p.m. (change of date because of Labor Day)
- Sunday, September 13 (Part 1) and September 20 (Part 2) in the Conference Room at 9:15 a.m.

All women are invited to participate in one of these groups.

Lord of Love Quilters

Just a reminder that there is always room for more helpers to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. The ladies meet in the fellowship hall the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 9:00 a.m. until about 1:00 p.m. (no lunch, but a morning coffee break).

This is not “fancy” quilting, so you don’t even need to be a “real” quilter to help. Women are needed who can pin, measure, tie, or operate a sewing machine.

If you have fabric, old blankets, sheets, drapes, etc., that can be converted into a quilt, place your donations behind the folding door at the west end of the fellowship hall.



Calendar of Events

September

1	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
2	6:00 p.m.	LWT Bible Study, Joseph Room
4	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass
9	6:00 p.m.	Ministry Team Meeting, Joseph Room
13	9:15 a.m.	Pt. 1, LWT Bible Study, Conference Room
14	6:00 p.m.	LWT Bible Study, Old Country Buffet, 145th and West Center Road
15	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
18	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass
20	9:15 a.m.	Pt. 2, LWT Bible Study, Conference Room
25-27		Nebraska Synodical Women’s Organization Convention, Kearney, NE

SEPTEMBER

Women of the ELCA

Coming Soon

October 17	9:30 a.m.	Election of LOL Women’s Ministry Team; program
November 14	5:30 p.m.	Fall Festival Dinner
April 10, 2010		Metro East Spring Gathering, First Lutheran, Blair, NE
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		W/ELCA Triennial Gathering, Spokane, WA

Youth Group Kicks Off New Program Year!

Youth group is kicking off a new year and met August 9 to set up plans for the fall. Events planned through February are as follows:

- September 13 – Outdoor Game Day at noon
- October 23 and 24 – Haunted House, Lock-In, and Canned Food Drive
- November 8 – Bowling
- November 14 – Fall Festival (Serve dinner? Youth Auction)
- December 11 or 18 – Peder Eide (we will add to calendar later)
- December 12 or 13 – Ice Skating at Mahoney
- January 10 – Basketball or Hockey event
- February 14 – Babysitting Fundraiser from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m.



Remember, everyone in grades 7 through 12 is welcome at all youth group activities. Your friends from other churches (or those who don't have a church) are always welcome at youth group activities, too. The Youth Ministry team meets again on September 2 at 6:00 p.m.

New Orleans Wrap-Up

The New Orleans Youth Gathering, the city's largest convention since Hurricane Katrina, brought together some 37,000 teenagers from around the country July 22-26. They were welcomed by Mayor C. Ray Nagin, who thanked everyone for the overwhelming volunteer efforts of the group, which fanned out across the area to nearly 200 community service sites during the convention. Our Lord of Love youth worked on cleaning up a city park, one of the largest parks in the U.S. With city workers stretched so thin over the last 4 years, park cleanup has been a low priority and the parks have suffered. This park had 300 employees before Katrina; now it has 80. Mayor Nagin told the youth, "I can tell you so many stories about how this city has overcome so many different challenges. When the devil was the most busy, God stepped in and did miracle after miracle. Today I'm looking at another miracle." Youth and adults contributed more than 200,000 service hours. They worked with 13 churches, 11 organizations building homes, 7 public parks, 21 community service centers, 5 reading fairs, and 2 major public events. In addition to their volunteer labor, the teens collected an offering of \$154,488 to support relief efforts in the city.

Those who went talked about the amazing experience of worshipping with such a large crowd of people. You can see highlights of music, speakers, and even the "Little Luther" cartoon on the ELCA.org website on the youth page. There were activity areas to show what it was like to live in different parts of the world or to show ways to promote justice. There was a daily devotion given to groups to take back to the hotels and use to close the day.

Our youth went three days early to New Orleans to take in some sights. They went on two plantation tours, went on a Haunted History tour, saw people working on the Mardi Gras parade floats, and tried lots of new foods, including alligator pasta, frog legs, crawfish, turtle stew, and crab cheesecake.



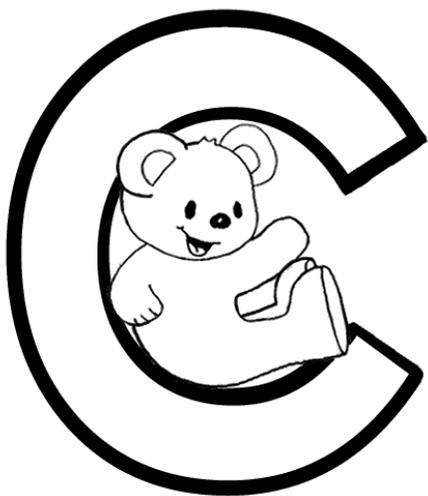
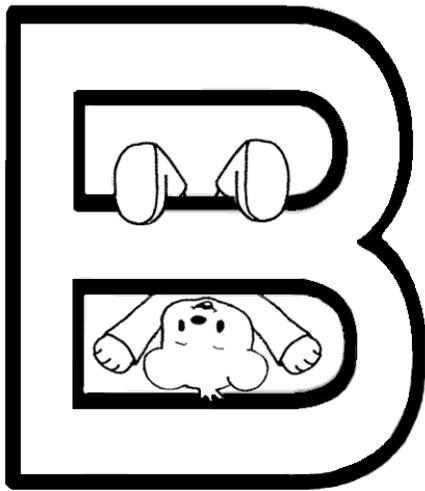
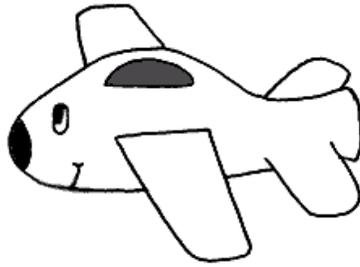
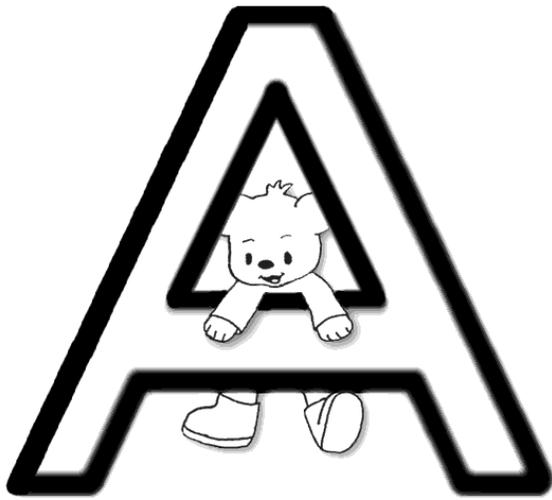
The location for the 2012 Youth Gathering is yet to be determined, but remember that if you are in 7th through 10th grades right now, you'll be eligible to go!

Calendar of Youth Events

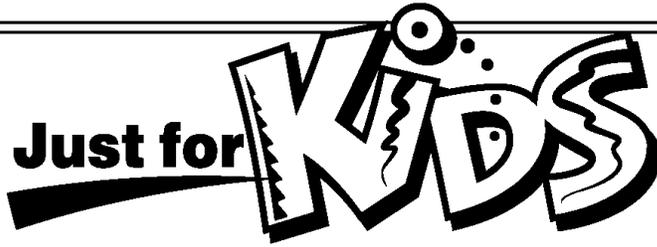
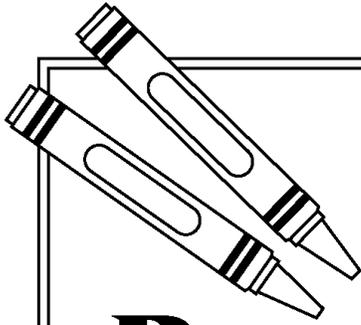
September

13 Outdoor Game Day at noon





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Be transformed

It's the beginning of a new school year, and you'll be growing and changing every day. Below is an important lesson that God wants you to remember.

Color in the letter boxes that have an asterisk (*).
Then write the letters that are left on the lines below to finish Romans 12:2.

c	h*	o	n	d*	f	t*	q*	o	s*	r	a*	b*	r*	m
x*	p	j*	e*	a	t	m*	t	o*	c*	p*	e	r	k*	n
w	d*	o	s*	r*	j*	r	g*	l	b*	l*	i*	n*	d	y*
t	r	i*	a	t*	n	s	r*	f	o	r	v*	m	e	d
r	d*	e	n	h*	s*	o*	e	r*	w	i	t*	n	m*	g
c*	a*	m	b*	u*	i	p*	z*	n	j*	r*	d	y*	o*	u*
a*	r*	s*	t	e	o*	w*	s	k*	v*	f*	l*	t	e*	a*
a	p	e*	r*	p	i*	r	g*	o	n*	v	h*	j*	p*	e
n*	o*	G	b*	i*	o	s*	d	a*	l*	l*	s	e*	t*	h*
s*	p	l	m*	e	y*	a	s	o*	r*	i	n	c*	g	n*
p	e	t*	i*	r	f	w*	t*	e	m*	l*	c	d*	a*	t

“Do not _____ any longer to the _____
of this _____, but be _____
by the _____ of your _____. Then you will be able
to _____ and _____ what _____ will is — his good,
_____ and _____ will.” *Romans 12:2, NIV*

IN OUR PRAYERS & LOVE NOTES

In Our Prayers

Dick and Jessie Bell
Ryan Bolen (nephew of Sandy Hall)
Miranda Brown (friend of the Shinrocks)
Portia Bruning (cousin of Shirley Schuchard)
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)
Paul Grable (nephew of Ron Thom)
Machelle Gross (niece of Lynda McGraw)
Norma Gunter
Cindy Harper (friend of Lynda McGraw)
Amber Hartin (granddaughter of the Shinrocks)
Matthew Hayek (nephew of Sandy Hall)
John Hoelsing (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)
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)
Johanna Olson (niece of Tom and Beth Olson)
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)
Doris True (friend of Marilyn Thomsen)
Brody Vermilyea (grandson of Brian and Nancy
Shinrock)
Glenn Wapelhorst (brother of Brenda Mac)
Agnes Wilson
Gerry Zeman (mother of Debra Gillespie)

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

July 23, 2009

A few weeks ago, Liz Smith approached me, asking if my grandchildren were coming to Day Camp? "It is going to be wonderful," she said, "and we would love to have them. If money is a problem, don't worry about it, we just want them to come." Later, at worship, Liz gave me communion. I looked into the eyes of Christ.

On Sunday, my daughter's former foster child and her little sister are going to be baptized. On Tuesday of this week, I decided I wanted them to have baptismal prayer shawls. I went

out to church to get a pattern and talked to Marilyn Thomsen. She was happy to give me the pattern but she also invited me to take two of the shawls that have already been knitted. She told me that I could replace in my leisure time. I looked into the eyes of Christ.

"Lord, when was it that we saw you."
Matthew 35:37

Karen Pickens





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

- September 6 Last day of summer worship schedule
- September 13 Kickoff Sunday and Congregational Picnic
Youth Group Outdoor Game Day
- September 16 Wednesday night activities (Confirmation, suppers, and Luther Kids) begin
- September 20 Confirmation Sunday
Book drive for the Literacy Center begins

Upcoming Events

- October 11 Budget Forum between worship services
- October 23-24 Youth Group Haunted House, Lock-In, and Canned Food Drive
- October 30-31 ELCA Global Formation Event in Lincoln
- November 8 Congregational Meeting
- 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.