



The Love Letter

Volume 37

October 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

The 2009-2010 program year is under way at Lord of Love, so there are many activities for everyone to be involved in, particularly on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, such as worship services, Sunday school classes for all ages, Confirmation, Luther Kids, and Wednesday night suppers (see page 3, Monthly Calendar). In addition, there are several other activities taking place in October, as highlighted below.

If you are doing fall cleaning and have gently used items to donate to a worthy cause, drop them off at church for the **Preschool Garage Sale**, which will be held on Saturday, October 10, at 7:30 a.m. If those items are books, donate them to the **Book Drive for the Literacy Center** that is going on now (see page 12, Outreach).

If you would like to lead or participate in a new Bible study, read about the ELCA's **Book of Faith Initiative** (see page 7, Nurture). If you are a woman interested in service and fellowship activities, attend the **Women of Love general meeting** on Saturday, October 17 (see page 15, Women of Love). If you are in grades 7-12, attend the **Youth Group lock-in** on October 17 and 18 (see page 16, LOL Youth).

If you want to discuss Lord of Love's 2010 budget, attend a special **Budget Forum** on Sunday, October 11 between worship services (see page 14, Council Report & Transition/Call Process Update). If you are interested in learning about the **2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly** that was held in August, read articles from the viewpoints of both a voting member and a visitor (see pages 9-11, Nurture).

Finally, if you don't want to miss upcoming events such as the **Congregational Meeting** and **Fall Festival Dinner**, check the "Mark Your Calendar" section (see page 20).

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Welcome, Autumn by Pastor Bob

Dear Friends in Christ,

Autumn is upon us. I find myself looking for signs of it each day as I drive along the River Road to and from home. The corn stands straight and tall, the crickets and frogs sing the night away, and the cottonwoods are beginning to shed their leaves—signs of a drier, crisper time of year.

Every time October begins, I find myself reaching toward the "familiar" and the "freshness" of Autumn.

Old and well-worn memories tell me stories of blue skies and golden leaves, the first days of school, plaid wool skirts, picking apples, hay rides, sweatshirt weather, leaves flying in the wind, new Sunday school teachers, apple pie, and choir practice. These make me smile and thank God for all the wonderful Octobers I have known.

I also thank God for the new experiences that will write the story of Autumn 2009. This fresh new October will include baking and eating squash from the garden, admiring the color of fall, several stops at roadside produce stands, and being thankful for each new day. It will be full of fresh possibilities for confirmation, Sunday school, worship, all aspects of our life together as a Parish. It will be exciting to see more children and parents in worship again. I will enjoy getting to know our new confirmation students: Blaine, Laura, Leah, Katie, and Cody. I will continue to enjoy seeing some of my favorite "regulars" like Thomas, Andrew, Luke, and Cody. They continue to bless me with their weekly handshakes and warm smiles. Their life is unfolding before us!

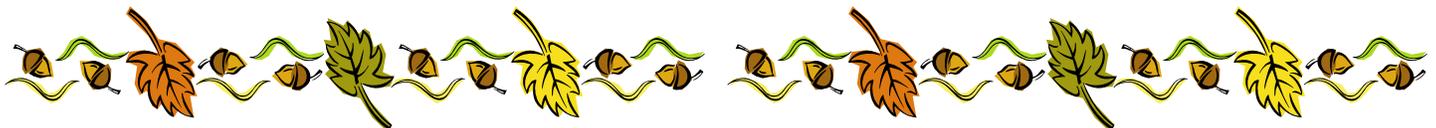
Children remind us how quickly the seasons pass!

So as the seasons go by, remember to "turn to the living God" along the way. Turn to God in your sorrows and in your joys. Turn to God with your needs and with your disappointments. Turn to God who is able to fill your seasons with love and laughter, with comfort and new life, and with deep and meaningful experiences as we fulfill Christ's mission.

What memories does October bring to you? What does this month hold for you? What are you looking forward to? What blessings and opportunities for mission is God giving to you at this stage of life? As you count your blessings and seek God's will, may you feel like the new person that Christ makes you each day!

God's Peace Be With You!

Pastor Bob

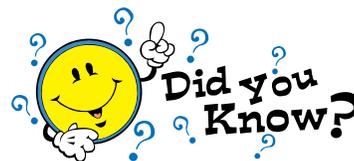


MONTHLY CALENDAR

October 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	2 8:00am Coffee Fellowship @ Crane 7:30pm AA	3 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 8:00am Worship Planning
4 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion	5 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	6 9:00am Quilters 5:30pm YWCA Men's Group 6:45pm First Place 7:00pm Vision & Coordination Mtg.	7 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 7:15pm Chancel Choir	8 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	9 7:30pm AA	10 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7:30am Preschool Garage Sale 2:30pm Novak Haar student Recital
11 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Budget Forum 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion	12 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	13 5:30pm YWCA Men's Group 6:45pm First Place	14 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 7:15pm Chancel Choir	15 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	16 8:00am Coffee Fellowship @ Crane 7:30pm AA	17 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 9:30am WELCA Mtg. & Elections 7:00pm Youth Lock-in
18 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 5:00pm Clergy Conference in Grand Island	19 Clergy Conference in Grand Island 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	20 Clergy Conference in Grand Island 9:00am Quilters 5:30pm YWCA Men's Group 6:45pm First Place 7:00pm Church Council Mtg.	21 Clergy Conference in Grand Island 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 7:15pm Chancel Choir	22 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	23 7:30pm AA	24 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 9:00am Susuki Piano Assoc.
25 Bishop deFreese Preaching 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 1:00pm AA District 18 Mtg.	26 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	27 5:30pm YWCA Men's Group 6:45pm First Place	28 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 7:15pm Chancel Choir	29 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	30 7:30pm AA	31 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study

Decisions, Decisions, Decisions! by Karen Mullen

It doesn't occur to most of us that some decisions about worship have been made that contribute to the whole experience! Should we use the hymnals or not? What banners should be displayed on that day? What are the best hymns for that service? Should we choose a liturgy that requires the liturgist to sing? Should we use glass communion cups or plastic?



Because we can sometimes be critical of these decisions, I thought I might explain a few. For the most part, the Worship Planning team has chosen to print the hymns into the bulletin in an effort to make the worship more seamless; juggling both a hymnal and a bulletin, especially if you have a child in one arm, can be difficult. You will see the hymnals on certain occasions. This year for Reformation service with the Bishop, we will be using the hymnals. Banners and hymns are chosen for their message and how well they align with the lessons or themes of the day. Our congregation is also blessed with a number of people who volunteer as liturgists who can sing well, and so we do sometimes choose a liturgical setting that does require that. We also feel that changing liturgy settings enhances our own experience, keeping it fresh. This summer, we chose to use plastic cups for communion to lighten the task for the altar care volunteers. This fall, you may see the plastic cups more frequently as the Altar Care team has expressed concern about the flu season and their own exposure. They also prefer to use them when the attendance is expected to be especially high. We know that some people dislike this decision as it contributes to excess waste. In all these decisions, we weigh the pros and cons. We know that we cannot please everyone, but we hope that everyone has the opportunity to enjoy a meaningful worship and celebrate our community.

Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25
Liturgist				
8:00 a.m.	Brian Lund	Karen Mullen		John Florea
10:30 a.m.	Ruth Manning	Rex Quadhamer	Ron Thom	Susan Lueders
Communion Servers				
8:00 a.m.	Brian and Deb Lund	Jesse and Pat Brewer, Doug and Cathy Aden		Florea family
10:30 a.m.	Dan and Ruth Manning	John, Gwen, and Aaron Edwards, Deb Quadhamer	Ron and Brenda Thom	Lueders family
Altar Care				
8:00 a.m.	Ed and Marjorie Keiser	Cathy Aden, Sue Dieter	Connie Walther, Lisa Meyer	Janet Guthrie, Nancy Shinrock
10:30 a.m.	Rowen family	Brewer family	Rob and Karen Anderson	Paul and Ann Kroll
Ushers				
8:00 a.m.	Joe and Jason Combes, Josh Combes, Ed Guthrie, Brian Shinrock			
10:30 a.m.	Dennis Morrissey, Tom Lauritsen, Nathan Olson			

Note to Communion Servers

Over the past year, it has been brought to our attention that servers have not always known what to say while administering either bread or wine. Most appropriate would be: "*This is Christ's body, given for you.*" and "*This is Christ's blood, shed for you.*"

We do so appreciate your willingness to give of your time in this manner. We thank you for your service to Lord of Love.



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

In the August issue of *The Love Letter*, Rachel and I brought you the childhood memories of Esther Welliver. We ended with her departure (hard as it was) from her father's home. We now continue with Esther's life as she journeyed into her adult life.

"When my Dad gave me permission to leave home, I did housework for a couple of families in Blair. Then I came to Omaha with Pastor and Mrs. Carlson. Mrs. Carlson helped me find house work in Omaha. The first job was for only a couple of weeks. Then I found work on the same block as a couple of my friends from home. It was perfect! We could spend Maid's Day Off (which was Thursday afternoon and evening) together. We also sometimes had Sunday off. Of course, pay was poor (\$4.00 a week) so we would go downtown, spend time at Brandeis, and possibly take in a cheap movie. In time, we started roller skating at a rink in Carter Lake, Iowa. We had a great time! That is when I met Floyd Welliver. He was a good skater and partner.

"After a few years, Floyd and I talked about marriage. I said 'no way.' He would be drafted. He said 'No, I'm not tall enough.' Being a short man, he could not serve or work for the government. But after we were married for a couple of years, things changed. I think our Uncle Sam had different ideas and was in need of warm bodies. So, he was drafted and served in Europe during World War II. He landed in Africa. He was in Italy and on Anzio, where he went with the first troops to Southern France. Some time later, his outfit was captured. He was shot through the left shoulder while a P.O.W. They were moved to make way for political prisoners. He said they were treated well but they were cold and hungry. He said he thanked God many times for short legs because when they were in box cars to be moved and so crowded, those long legged men suffered so much in cramped positions. When they had nothing else to do, they could pick lice from their clothing (What fun!).

"I had many missing-in-action cards in the mail. Then one day, my mailman called me at work saying I had a card in the mail and if I wanted I could pick it up. I walked to the post office from my job, and it said that Floyd was a prisoner of war. Then, when the war was over, he came home. We had our son Roger in 1942. Floyd worked as a house carpenter at Medical Arts for years. We did well, and that is the rest of the story. God has been good to us. From Esther"

There is really so much more to Esther's story. I have discovered that Esther pays more attention to others than she does to herself. She hasn't bothered to tell you that while Roger was growing up, she took in ironing to help with expenses. She hasn't bothered to tell you that when Roger grew up, she went to work for Western Electric and stayed there for 23 years. It was with money she saved that helped to buy their first house and the house in which she now lives. (I would like to add that her

Continued on the next page

WORSHIP

Tape Ministry: Getting to Know Esther Welliver, Part II, continued

present house is filled with momentos from her life and it is in spotless, perfect order). It was with the help of her money that their first car was paid for after they had been married for 8 years. Esther tells the story of that purchase. She went out and bought it herself, and when Floyd came home from work she said, "What do you think that I bought today?" "What?" said Floyd. "A car," replied Esther. To that Floyd said "Well, you had better not have paid very darn much for it!" It wasn't long before Floyd showed his appreciation to Esther by driving that car with great enjoyment.

Esther is not a person to speak up in public, but I will never forget the Sunday that she talked about tithing. We were going through difficult times at Lord of Love and had a meeting during one of the summer breakfasts to discuss what we could do to bring in more money. Esther stood up and gave a little speech about giving a tenth back to the Lord. She ended by quietly saying, "Just try it!" Her testimony made a difference in my life. Esther has also made a difference in the lives of many children both in the United States and abroad. For about 40 years, she sponsored children (one at a time) through the Christian Children's Fund. There is a chest in her basement full of letters from those who received her help. Closer to home, she became the best friend of a little girl named Laurie who lived across the street from Esther. The little girl lost her mother at a young age, and Esther became her playmate. They spent hours together riding bikes, making snow angels, and doing whatever would make Laurie happy. Needless to say, this also made Esther happy. Laurie has never forgotten Esther; she comes often to visit bringing her own little children.

Esther has many more stories to tell. Some of them will make you laugh and some of them will make you cry, but all of them will bless your life just as they have Rachel's and my life. Esther sits right up there in the front of the church, and if you have the opportunity to get to know her better, you too, will be blessed.

NURTURE

Weekly Education Opportunities at Lord of Love

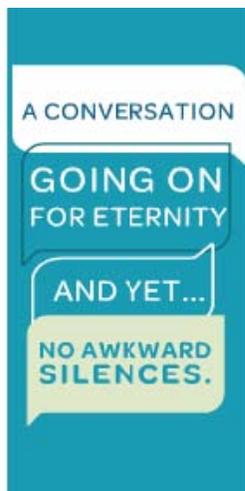
Sunday 9:15 a.m.	Sunday School (Preschool – High School) @ LOL Classrooms Adult Studies @ LOL Abraham, Mary, and Joseph Rooms	Wednesday 4:45 p.m.	Confirmation (7 th & 8 th grades) @ LOL Abraham Room
		6:00 p.m.	Luther Kids (1 st – 6 th grades) @ LOL Preschool
		6:00 p.m.	<i>Lutheran Woman Today</i> Bible Study @ LOL Joseph Room (first Wednesday of month)
Monday 6:00 p.m.	<i>Lutheran Woman Today</i> Bible Study @ Old Country Buffet (first Monday of month)	Thursday 9:30 a.m.	Text Study @ Guthries
Tuesday 6:45 p.m.	First Place Bible Study @ LOL Joseph Room	Saturday 7:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast and Bible Study @ LOL Fellowship Hall

Book of Faith Initiative

The Book of Faith Initiative was adopted at the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly as a 5-year collaborative effort by this church (the ELCA) to expand its engagement with the Bible for sake of God's mission in the world.

The Book of Faith Initiative is an invitation to do what we have always claimed we do: read, study, reflect, and mediate upon the Bible together. It is not about using a particular Bible study or technique. It is about opening the Bible and having discussion, hence the tagline: "Open Scripture. Join the Conversation."

Lord of Love will partake in the Book of Faith Initiative. We are seeking volunteers to lead Bible studies. You can choose a text of your own or use a Book of Faith material. The study can be a few weeks long or months long. A group would share, rotate leaders. If you are interested in leading a study, please contact Gwen Edwards. Stay tuned to future issues of *The Love Letter* for Lord of Love's involvement in the Book of Faith Initiative. For more information, visit the Book of Faith website at www.bookoffaith.org.




book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Book of Faith Resources
Increasing biblical literacy and fluency for the sake of the world. Many new studies for Lutherans with beginner to advanced biblical knowledge.

bookoffaith.org



Book of Faith is an initiative of the ELCA
Resources by Augsburg Fortress

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

AUGSBURG FORTRESS

PL1013271-0309

Open Scripture
Four Ways to Approach the Bible*

Devotional Reading

- ✿ What scares, confuses, or challenges me in this text?
- ✿ What delights me in this text?
- ✿ What stories or memories does this text stir in me?
- ✿ What is God up to in this text?

Historical Reading

- ✿ Who wrote this passage?
- ✿ Why was this text written?
- ✿ Where was this text written, and what do we know about that part of the ancient world?
- ✿ How is this text similar to other ancient stories?
- ✿ When was this text written and what do we know about that time in history?

Literary Reading

- ✿ What is the plot?
- ✿ Who are the characters?
- ✿ What is the theme of this passage?
- ✿ What is the setting for this passage?

Lutheran Theological Reading

- ✿ In what ways does this text point to or lead us to Christ?
- ✿ Can other passages in the Bible help us understand or interpret this passage?
- ✿ What is the plain meaning of this text?
- ✿ Is the interpretation we are commending accessible to everyone?

*Taken from *Opening the Book of Faith*, 2008, Augsburg Fortress.



Spiritual Gifts Ministry Workshop

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church in Omaha has come to better recognize the importance of a spiritual-gifts-based ministry over the past 6 years. This includes having members fill out a spiritual gifts inventory to identify the gifts God has given them. The Director of Lay Ministry meets with each member individually to encourage them to seek ways in which their gifts can be used in ministry in all areas of their lives.

As a result of the emphasis on Spiritual Gifts Ministry, St. Timothy's no longer asks for volunteers but has moved forward to calling people into ministry through their giftedness. What has resulted is a more vibrant ministry and a people who are excited about their serving.

Through the expertise of presenter Ed Kruse, Director for Stewardship for the ELCA, St. Timothy's is inviting congregations to participate in a workshop on Saturday, October 24, 2009, at 510 N. 93rd Street in Omaha. Sponsored by the Nebraska Synod of the ELCA, *Transform your Congregation with an Effective Spiritual Gifts Ministry* will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. and includes lunch.



The purpose of this training is to help churches “shred those time and talent sheets, stop begging for volunteers, and put those on the sidelines to work for the kingdom.” It’s all about empowering and inviting others into ministry.

Lord of Love is planning to send a team of five individuals to this training. If you are interested in attending (no charge to you), please contact Ruth Manning at 455-7221 or cranecoffeechick@gmail.com by Sunday, October 11. For additional information, the brochure is posted on the large bulletin board in the narthex.

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

Hello, Lord of Love! It's hard to believe that I'm ending my second month on internship already here in St. Louis! After a month of student recruiting, open houses, and activities fairs (who would've thought that baking dozens of cookies for hungry students was a legitimate pastoral activity), we are finally getting into the swing of things. I started a Bible study on Monday nights on the book of Revelation. As you may remember, I took a class with Dr. Barbara Rossing at LSTC on this mysterious last book of the Bible last year, and I'm really enjoying using my seminary education in a relevant way with students. We are having fun with it by bringing songs, movie clips, and other pop culture references into our study. I've also been put in charge of organizing a monthly service event for students. In September, we worked at a clothing “store” for families with foster children, and in October, we will be doing fall crafts with senior citizens at one of the Lutheran senior service centers in town. Through these activities and our Sunday night dinner and worship time, I feel like I'm beginning to form some great relationships with students.

At Bethel, I'm preparing to assist at a wedding and another memorial service in October. For both services, I have been able to sit in on the entire planning process. Pr. Yancey and I are joint teaching confirmation in September, but in October, I will take over, leading a study on Holy Communion. I'm also helping with an adult Bible study on forgiveness. The down side to this study is that it meets on Tuesday mornings at 7:00 a.m. My Monday night campus ministry study often goes until 10:30 p.m., so I'm adjusting to the quick turn-around!

Overall, my time here with Lutheran Campus Ministry and Bethel is going extremely well. I feel nurtured, stretched, and fulfilled. Every day is different, which is something I love about full-time ministry. I often think of you at Lord of Love and pray for its ministries, too. I thank you again for all of your support and encouragement.

Listen, God Is Calling...then Act Boldly by Gwen Edwards

Not that I'm counting or anything, however, it is only six days until I leave for Kearney and eight days until convention opening. By the time you read this, I would have already been to and returned from Kearney, attended the Nebraska Women of the ELCA Biennial Convention.

It is with a grateful heart I write this note to you, my Lord of Love family. These past 4 years, two 2-year terms, have been fantastic, a blessing, a learning and growing experience. Serving as the NSWV Vice President couldn't have been possible without you in my life—your words of encouragement, your prayers, your notes, your support, and your hugs. Thank You!!

You have inspired me in the time of need. Last fall, President Beth Meyer asked me to give closing devotions at Autumn Renewal. I did not want to read someone else's words. Your prayers enabled me to hear God's voice and write my own devotion. Thanks!

When I was in Salt Lake City last summer attending the Women of the ELCA Triennial Convention & Gathering, I received the phone call informing me my Mom was having emergency surgery ~ Lord of Love's prayer chain was only a phone call away even though I was 937 miles away. Thank You.

Jackie Combes, thank you for making my first Triennial in 2005 a fun, everlasting experience. I'm hooked. Spokane here we come. That's where it all started; I turned in my nominating form for Vice President. Thanks for supporting me and believing in me.

Thank you to John and Aaron for your help when I needed it: packing, tracking the mail, and not to mention the nights I was gone. Their love and support is what enabled me to serve as the Nebraska Women of the ELCA Vice President.

With all of you and your support, I have done my best **to mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.**



It is a bittersweet moment as it all comes to an end. Upon reflecting back, I know God has used me, tested me, pushed me; it is an opportunity I am glad I was able to experience. Thank you for being there for me. Many blessings to you.

Notes from the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly by Brian Lund

I wasn't real sure of what to expect when Pastor Donna asked me if she could nominate me to be a voting member at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly. But, with just a little hesitation, I said "sure." And wouldn't you know, I was elected by voting members to the 2008 Nebraska Synod Assembly.

My work preparing for the 2009 Churchwide Assembly began back in February. I started to receive some information from the ELCA at that time, and I tried to get as much information as possible on the matters that would come up at this bi-annual gathering. I soon had access to over 100 pages of reports, statements, and recommendations. And then, I began receiving mail from various groups stating their position and reasons I should vote for or against the "hot topic" issues of the Social Statement on Human Sexuality and the Ministry Policy for Roster Ministers. From my personal study and discussions with family members, members of Lord of Love, friends, and others, I sorted out my position on these weighty issues.

Continued on the next page

Notes from the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, continued

The assembly itself was a week filled with prayer, inspiring and uplifting worship, prayer, bible study, prayer, small group and full assembly discussion, prayer, reports from the serving arms of the ELCA and ministry partners, prayer, videos on how individual's and congregations are doing God's Work with Our Hands, and more prayer. The discussion on the Social Statement on Human Sexuality and the Ministry Policies took a lot of time and energy from the entire assembly. The arguments on both sides of these issues were passionate and sincere and mostly very well stated. Not to be lost in the emphasis on these issues are the other decisions by the assembly that strengthen the mission of the ELCA.

The Social Statement on Human Sexuality covers a broad range of our human identity as sexual beings. Its focus is NOT simply on homosexuality. It puts forth the concept of "bound conscience," which states that faithful people read and interpret the bible in different ways. By respecting each other's "bound conscience," we can continue to live together faithfully and concentrate on the things that matter; God's Work, Our Hands. This statement really must be read to realize the fullness of its content.

The Social Statement required a 2/3 vote to pass. It met that requirement exactly. One more no vote would have defeated it. Yet its passing showed approval by much more than a majority of voting members. Bishop Hansen provided wonderful pastoral leadership for the ELCA by his remarks about the passing of this statement. He stated his understanding that some grieve and hurt, some rejoice and feel healing, and others simply accept the decision of the assembly in this matter. As a church, we must recognize that we hold differences in our understanding of the bible and theological matters for many things. How we express and address those differences are what matter most.

The Ministry Policy consisted of four resolutions that were all voted on separately. Each required a majority vote, and each was adopted by the assembly. On the one hand, this policy formally recognizes what has been practiced in a number of synods already. On the other hand, it publicly states what many believe is a significant shift in theological thinking and biblical interpretation. Bishop Hansen again spoke as pastor to ELCA members who firmly stand on both sides of this issue calling for all to respect each other's "bound conscience" on this and other matters that would divide us. We must ask how these decisions affect our ability to do the work of Jesus Christ to minister to those in need in our congregations, communities, nationally, and internationally.

Some other very important actions were taken by the assembly:

- We affirmed a resolution to enter into common ministry with the United Methodist Church. Among other things, this agreement will provide smaller communities and congregations with ability to provide a shared ministry instead of simply closing doors.
- The ELCA entered into two exciting mission programs: Lutheran Aids/HIV Project to provide medical and educational services to areas where Aids/HIV are devastating families and whole communities; Lutheran Malaria Initiative with a goal to eliminate this deadly disease in Africa within 10 years.

There really was so much more to the assembly than can be expressed in this short article. I appreciated the opportunity to attend as a voting member. The decisions were difficult, but joining with God's faithful people in prayer, worship, and song was inspirational. As a church, I think it is now important that we move forward in our ministry to serve those in need and to spread the Word of a loving, forgiving God.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

A Visitor's Thoughts from the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly by Deb Lund

I had the privilege of attending the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly with Brian, a voting member, on August 17-23, 2009. It was a rewarding experience.

Because I was an official visitor, we were in a different section of the assembly hall from the voting members and official congregational observers and resource people. However, we could eat together for most of the meals, worship together, attend the various topical hearings together, and stay together in the same hotel.

Brian has wonderful insights as a voting member. Here are my highlights to share:

1. We are extremely blessed to have Rev. Bishop Mark Hanson as our leader. He is the perfect leader for our church today. He is gifted as a pastor, very intelligent, insightful, quick on his feet, has a sense of humor, and handles himself amazingly well in times of extreme pressure in front of thousands of people. He keeps us focused on God's grace and helps us keep the main thing the main thing.
2. My feeling from listening to speakers, from talking with other assembly attendees, and from reading written materials: we have fantastic leaders, lay and ordained, in all realms of the church—on the national, synodical, and parish levels.
3. Worship was the central focus each day of the assembly, and the services were inspiring. The Eucharist was celebrated in a huge hall each day but Saturday, which was a service of the Word at Central Lutheran, right next door to the Minneapolis Convention Center. The diversity of music, liturgy, languages spoken (by all of us at times), and outstanding preaching by people of all kinds was amazing. Brian and I both sang in the assembly choir, along with nearly 200 others.
4. The ELCA does awesome things. One example is the ELCA Malaria project, which will help end malaria in Africa the next 10 years. Much of this money will go towards buying mosquito nets. Along with education, these nets, at \$10 each, readily save lives. Lutheran Disaster Relief is often one of the first responders to disasters throughout the world—from Hurricane Katrina to tsunamis to earthquakes. We are very involved with other denominations to help people in all kinds of ways.
5. Three ELCA pastors traveled over 13,000 miles on a specially made bamboo bike for three, ending their mission trip to raise funds for Lutheran World Relief at the assembly.
6. Examples of ministry on the congregational level were demonstrated by the many videos from across the country that showed "God's Work. Our Hands."
7. We voted to accept full communion with the United Methodist Church. This is the sixth denomination with which we are in full communion.
8. We learned more about the Book of Faith Initiative and Evangelizing congregations at the hearings. It would be great to get Lord of Love more involved in both areas.
9. There was much to discuss and decide throughout the week, and the social statement on sexuality and ministry policies to implement the social statement were just a part of the plenary sessions. Throughout the entire assembly, the process was organized, business and debate were handled efficiently and respectfully, we focused on prayer and the Word, and the Spirit was very evident in all that took place.
10. Even a tornado hitting the convention center roof and nearby Central Lutheran couldn't stop us that Wednesday, August 19th! Luckily, the safest place in the whole building was the assembly hall, where the plenary sessions took place.

Both Brian and I were grateful for the opportunity and would go again. I would highly recommend that any of you attend a future session if possible.

OUTREACH

Book Drive for the Literacy Center

The book drive for the Literacy Center is under way. During October and into November, we will be collecting books for their various programs. Their greatest need is for new, non-religious books for children at a 4th grade or lower reading level. These books will be used for their Reach Out and Read Program, in which books are provided to families through doctor's offices. For this program, they require new books. We have a convenient way for you to purchase books to donate. The Lord of Love Preschool participates in the Scholastic Book Club. Books are available for as little as a dollar. The preschool gets points for every book purchased, which they can use to get new books for the preschool. You may pick out books and place an order directly, or you may donate money. Just make out a check to Lord of Love and designate it for the Literacy Center. We will place the order for you, the books will be donated to the Literacy Center, and the preschool will be able to order new books also.



We are also accepting used books in good condition. 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

As of this writing, 1,000 pounds of green beans, squash, cucumbers, tomatoes, potatoes, and sweet corn have been donated to the Lutheran Pantry at Project Hope! Thanks so much to Gary Ramsay, who has been faithful in harvesting the vegetables each week and getting them to the pantry. He has had lots of help throughout the whole process, and thanks to them as well: Doug Aden, Paul Christenson, John Florea, Paula Foster, Kenn Garder, Brian and Deb Lund, Karen Mullen, Tom Olson, Bill Pickens, Rex Quadhamer, Doug Roberts, Don Rowen, Brian Shinrock, Liz Smith, and anyone else who may have helped.

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.

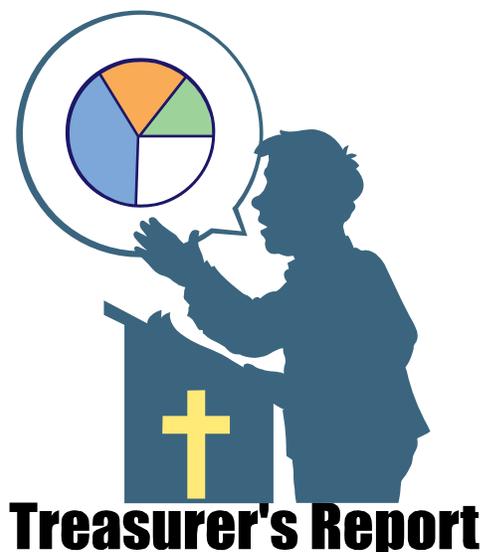
COUNCIL REPORT & TRANSITION/CALL PROCESS UPDATE

Financial Report by Lisa Meyer, Council Treasurer

The following comments are based on August month-end information. As you review the Available Cash statement below, you will notice that there is available cash as of 8/31/09 in the amount of \$2,292.99. Please note that this includes money owed to the church from the preschool in the amount of \$6,425.22. The preschool has a Certificate of Deposit maturing in September, which should take care of the amount they owe to the church.

GENERAL FUND

Bank Balance 8/31/09		\$9,567.68
Plus Receivables:		
Special Funds	647.46	
Preschool	6,425.22	
Habitat for Humanity	2,300.00	
Total Receivables		\$9,372.68
Less Payables:		
Special Funds	0.00	
Habitat for Humanity	0.00	
Withholding Taxes	1,147.97	
Endowment Fund	40.00	
Mission Funds	13,718.94	
Major Improvement	1,740.46	
Total Payables		16,647.37
 AVAILABLE CASH AS OF 8/31/09		 \$2,292.99



With regards to the financial information below, you will note that the church continues to operate at a net loss position year-to-date. This is due primarily to offerings through August being approximately \$18,700 less than what has been budgeted. The weekly offerings needed to meet the budget are \$5,231. Average weekly giving through August is \$4,686.

	Monthly Budget	Monthly Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
Total Income	23,333.34	20,775.14	186,666.72	167,923.29
Total Expenses	24,052.10	17,791.22	192,416.80	177,018.77
Income less Expenses	(\$718.76)	\$2,983.92	(\$5,750.08)	(\$9,095.48)

On Sunday, October 11, there will be a budget forum during the Sunday School hour to review and discuss the preliminary 2010 budget prepared by your church council. Please plan to attend.

COUNCIL REPORT & TRANSITION/CALL PROCESS UPDATE

Bits and Pieces by Doug Aden, Council President

I have two items to discuss this month: the 2010 budget and the Call Committee.

2010 Budget

In talking about the budget, I am covering the same ground that I talked about last month. In the 2010 budget, we have budgeted receipts of \$262,000 and expenses of \$289,566. This gives us a deficit of \$27,566. We decreased our budget receipts by \$18,000 and based this decrease on our last 2 years of receipts.

Our total budgeted expenses increased by \$940, which includes a \$7,500 increase in Pastoral Transition Expenses. The total budget for Pastoral Transition Expenses is \$10,000. The council considers this an important expense because we may have to bring candidates from a considerable distance to Lord of Love for an interview.



Copies of the proposed budget are in your mailbox. A Budget Forum will be held between services on October 11. Please read the budget, and if you have any questions or suggestions, you may ask them at the forum. The council will consider your suggestions and finalize the budget at its October meeting. The budget will be submitted for your approval at the November 8 Congregational Meeting.

Call Committee

We have been considering when to form a Call Committee. Without having a special meeting, the ideal time would be the November or February Congregational Meeting. If we formed the Call Committee in November, the committee probably would not meet until sometime in January or February 2010. If we formed the Call Committee in February, the committee could become active immediately. Our thought is to form the Call Committee at the February meeting.

Pastor Bob will be doing asset mapping between now and February. When this project is completed, he will use the material developed in the Appreciative Inquiry sessions and the Asset Mapping sessions and will give that information to the Call Committee. That will give the Call Committee a heads up on a lot of the work they need to do.



**PASTORAL
SEARCH COMMITTEE**

According to our Constitution the Call Committee may have from five to nine members. Five members are to be elected by the Congregation. The Church Council may appoint up to four additional members to assure adequate representation of all aspects of the congregational membership. It is not too early to think about who you would like to serve on the Call Committee.

WOMEN OF LOVE

Blessings from Ruth Manning, President, LOL Women of Love

To my Sisters in Christ,

Please plan to attend the Women of Love meeting on Saturday, October 17 at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This is the last of our two yearly general meetings.

Three exciting things are on the agenda: (1) the second reading of and voting on the revised constitution of Lord of Love Women of the ELCA, (2) election of the 2010 ministry team, and (3) "asset mapping" by Pr. Bob. (Asset mapping is another step towards preparing for the call of a pastor, and Pr. Bob will be leading this with a number of groups at LOL).

Take a break from your busy schedule; come and enjoy a light breakfast and support our women's ministry at Lord of Love.

Peace and love,
Ruth Manning, President



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 October 2, 16, and 30. You don't need to be a coffee drinker to enjoy the laughs.



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

Session 2 – The Obedience of Faith

"For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace." (Romans 4:16a)

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

- Monday, October 5, Old Country Buffet, 145th and West Center Road at 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 7, Joseph Room at 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, October 11 (Part 1) and October 18 (Part 2) in the Conference Room at 9:15 a.m.

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



WOMEN OF LOVE

Calendar of Events

October

2	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass
5	6:00 p.m.	LWT Bible Study, Old Country Buffet, 145th and West Center Road
6	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
7	6:00 p.m.	LWT Bible Study, Joseph Room
11	9:15 a.m.	LWT Bible Study (Part 1), Conference Room
14	6:00 p.m.	Ministry Team Meeting, Joseph Room
16	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass
17	9:30 a.m.	Program; election/installation of ministry team, "asset mapping" by Pr. Bob
18	9:15 a.m.	LWT Bible Study (Part 2), Conference Room
20	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
30	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass



Coming Soon

November 14	5:30 p.m.	Fall Festival Dinner
January 16, 2010		Winter Retreat, St. Paul's Lutheran, Grand Island, NE
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
September 25, 2010		Autumn Renewal, Bethlehem Lutheran, Wahoo, NE
July 12-14, 2011		W/ELCA Triennial Convention, Spokane, WA
July 14-17, 2011		W/ELCA Triennial Gathering, Spokane, WA

LOL YOUTH

Youth Group Lock-In

All youth grades 7 to 12 are invited to a lock-in October 17-18. Bring your friends, too! Meet at the church at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday night for an evening of fun. Bring sleeping bags and a pillow and snacks to share. You will attend church in the morning as a group. Details are still being finalized; watch for more information to come on the Facebook page and on the youth board.



Calendar of Youth Events

October

17-18 Youth Group Lock-in

Coming Soon

November 8 Bowling
November 14 Fall Festival



Thank you, God,
for yummy snacks!



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Just for KIDS

A harvest of...

Autumn brings many visible changes. God makes lots of foods and grains ready for harvest. He also tells us that if we sow in peace, we, too, can raise a harvest.

Find and circle the bold (dark) words from James 3:17-18, NIV.

“But the **WISDOM** that comes from **HEAVEN** is first of all **PURE**; then **PEACELOVING**, **CONSIDERATE**, **SUBMISSIVE**, full of **MERCY** and **GOOD FRUIT**, **IMPARTIAL** and **SINCERE**. **PEACEMAKERS** who **SOW** in **PEACE** raise a **HARVEST** of **RIGHTEOUSNESS**.”

C	S	P	E	A	C	E	L	O	V	I	N	G	F
O	U	E	U	X	W	C	E	Y	T	P	R	W	R
N	B	A	U	L	T	J	C	O	R	E	I	I	U
S	M	C	P	R	X	K	F	W	I	A	G	S	I
I	I	E	M	E	R	C	Y	I	I	C	H	D	T
D	S	T	C	E	R	U	D	M	Z	E	T	O	S
E	S	I	V	X	J	C	U	P	W	M	E	M	D
R	I	H	E	A	V	E	N	A	W	A	O	H	P
A	V	M	P	J	M	K	L	R	T	K	U	V	W
T	E	O	C	G	O	O	D	T	G	E	S	S	L
E	H	A	R	V	E	S	T	I	B	R	N	Y	O
X	H	D	D	R	Q	Q	E	A	Z	S	E	D	B
S	I	N	C	E	R	E	E	L	S	Y	S	O	W
G	I	P	U	R	E	S	O	Y	C	E	S	E	F

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)
DeWayne Greim (friend of Pastor Bob)
Machelle Gross (niece of Lynda McGraw)
Jim and Norma Gunter
Amber Hartin (granddaughter of the Shinrocks)
Matthew Hayek (nephew of Sandy Hall)
John 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)
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)
Robin Wapelhorst (relative 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

