



The Love Letter

Volume 36

November 2008

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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

It's hard to believe that the holiday season is approaching already! This issue of *The Love Letter* is full of Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas happenings at Lord of Love.

On Saturday, November 8, the Women of Love will host the annual **Fall Festival**. The craft fair and bake sale will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and the dinner will be at 5:30 p.m. that evening (see page 15, Women of Love).

Our **congregational meeting** will be held on Sunday, November 9, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service (see page 4, Worship & Witness). Please plan to attend!

On Sunday, November 23, we will have our annual **Thanksgiving Worship and Pie Fest** (see page 4, Worship & Witness). Join us for worship, food, and fellowship as we give thanks for all that God has given us. Please bring a pie to share!

Other special worship events in November and December, such as **Youth Sunday, Advent worship services**, and the **Sunday School Christmas Program**, are listed on the Worship & Witness page (see page 4).

Finally, have you seen "Gary's Barrel" in the narthex? Updates on our ongoing **mission projects**, including Project Hope, are provided (see page 9, Mission & Outreach).

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Love, Listen, Learn, and Lead by Pastor Bob

Dear Friends in Christ,

I have been reading a book by Kennon L. Callahan entitled *Small, Strong Congregations*. As some of you might know, Kennon L. Callahan is one of today's most noted church consultants. In his book, Kennon L. Callahan affirms the growing trend toward deliberately small, strong congregations and offers practical advice for church leaders and members who wish to strengthen their congregation.

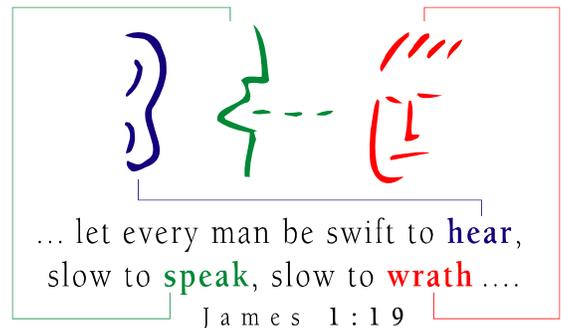
The reason I mention this book is because one of the qualities of a small, strong congregation is its capacity to love, listen, learn, and then lead.

I would think that most of you would agree that regardless of the size of one's congregation—small, midsize, or large—the foundation of any healthy congregation is always about loving, listening, learning, and then leading.

One of the first things I look for when I enter into a congregation is whether the members have a genuine loving and caring relationship with each other. You know how it works—the more loving, the less bickering and the less loving, the more bickering. Sometimes pastors and leaders and congregational members get so busy that they neglect to genuinely love and care for each other.



Second, we need to listen. People who love one another listen to one another. As you listen, you show your love for, respect for, and interest in the person. We are the family of Christ, and healthy families listen to one another. In my mind, there is no excuse for not listening. For when we listen to what is said, listen between the lines; and listen to what is not said, we learn a whole lot.



And that brings me to point number three. We learn when we listen. We cannot learn when we are talking, scolding, rebuking, admonishing, or threatening. If we do not learn ourselves, we in turn create a congregation that does not learn.

Finally, through loving, listening, and learning we can lead. So let us lead this church by example and not by bossing, manufacturing rules and regulations, polices or stipulations.

Let us love, listen, learn and by so doing lead Lord of Lord into the future.

Peace,

Pastor Bob

MONTHLY CALENDAR

November 2008						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Pr. Bob vacation 11-1 through 11-15 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 8:15am Prayer Ministry
2 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion	3 6:00pm LWT Study @ Old Country Buffet 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	4 Election Day! 9:00am Quilters 6:45pm First Place 7:00pm Vision & Coordination Mtg.	5 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm LWT Study 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 7:15pm Chancel Choir	6 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	7 7:30pm AA	8 Fall Festival and Dinner 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 8:15am Prayer Ministry
9 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion	10 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	11 6:45pm First Place	12 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm WELCA Board 7:15pm Chancel Choir	13 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	14 8:00am Lord's Laughing Ladies 7:30pm AA	15 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 8:15am Prayer Ministry 2:00pm Church reserved for Karen Mullen
16 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion	17 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	18 9:00am Quilters 6:45pm First Place 7:00pm Church Council	19 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 7:15pm Chancel Choir	20 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 11:45am Lord of Love Ladies Lunch 7:00pm Boy Scouts	21 7:30pm AA	22 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 8:15am Prayer Ministry 8:30am Crafting Day
23 Thankoffering Sunday 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 12:00pm Paula Lawhead Luncheon Fundraiser 7:00pm Worship and Pie Fest	24 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	25 6:45pm First Place	26 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 7:15pm Chancel Choir	27 Happy Thanksgiving!	28 Church Office Closed 8:00am Lord's Laughing Ladies 7:30pm AA	29 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 8:15am Prayer Ministry 3:00pm Fellowship Hall reserved for Vandeventer
30 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 1:00pm AA District 18 Meeting						

Congregational Meeting

Lord of Love's Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 9, 2008, at 11:30 a.m. The Business Meeting will be in the church sanctuary. The main items on the agenda are the election of church council members for 2009, the approval of the budget for 2009, a presentation of renovation possibilities, and a discussion of the transition process. Please plan to attend!



Upcoming Worship Events

Mark your calendars for the following worship events in November and December:

- **Youth Sunday** – The LOL Youth Group has been planning the worship for both services on Sunday, **November 16**. The group is planning many activities this year, and your support of their effort will be appreciated!
- **Thanksgiving Worship and Pie Fest** – An evening worship service on Sunday, **November 23** will be our Thanksgiving gathering and fellowship. Worship will be at 7:00 p.m., followed by a gourmet's delight of various pies. Bring your favorite pie to share! If you aren't a pie-maker, come anyway, as we also need pie-eaters!
- **Advent Worship** – Wednesday night worship services during Advent will take place on **December 3, 10, and 17**, always at 7:00 p.m. This time of preparation is important to share with your family, so come and join us!
- **Christmas Decorating and Caroling** – As always, we rely on volunteers to help with "decking the halls" in our sanctuary following the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, **December 7**. Then continue sharing the holiday spirit by caroling!
- **Sunday School Program** – The Sunday School children will have their Christmas program on Sunday, **December 14** at the 10:30 a.m. worship service.
- **Christmas Worship** – Special worship services will be held Wednesday night, **Christmas Eve**, at 4:30 and 11:00 p.m. The 4:30 p.m. service will be especially family-friendly, and the 11:00 p.m. service will be a candlelight service. On Thursday, **Christmas Day**, we will worship together at 10:30 a.m.

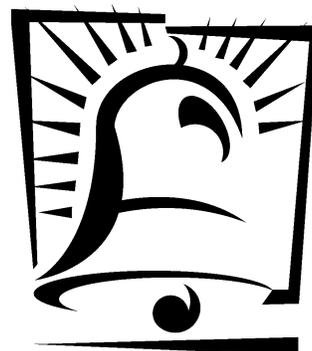


Bell Ringers

Being a bell ringer for worship service is an important job and one that the kids of our congregation take seriously. It's a wonderful way to mark the beginning and end of corporate worship, the holy time we set aside each week.

We've found that sign-up sheets don't work well for this position. If anyone wants to be the bell ringer, we ask that they come up to the organist before the service and ask. The organist looks for bell ringers during the announcements if no one has volunteered before that time.

We'd like bell ringers to be first graders or older, and they need to be trained. There will be a training session soon during Sunday school hour, but you can be trained any time by asking the organist.



WORSHIP & WITNESS

Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	November 2	November 9	November 16	November 23	November 30
Greeter(s)					
8:00 a.m.					
10:30 a.m.					
Liturgist					
8:00 a.m.	Shawn Lorenzen	David Hild	Kenn Garder	Judy Egr	
10:30 a.m.		Tom Lauritsen	Youth Service	Ruth Manning	
Communion Servers					
8:00 a.m.			Garder family	Egr family	
10:30 a.m.	Barb Haskins and Julia Ritonya	Lynn Johnson, Tre & Jovon, and Brenda Mac	Youth Service	Dan and Ruth Manning	
Altar Care					
8:00 a.m.	Ed and Marjorie Keiser	Cathy Aden, Sue Dieter	Connie Walther, Lisa Meyer	Janet Guthrie, Nancy Shinrock	Mike and Christie Klos
10:30 a.m.	Rowen family	Brewer family	Rob and Karen Anderson	Sharlene Morrissey, LaVerna Morrissey	Concannon family
Ushers					
8:00 a.m.	David Hild, Paul Murphy, Claude Hall, and Bob Christensen				
10:30 a.m.	Dan Manning, Rex Quadhamer, Gary Ramsay, and John Edwards				

EDUCATION

Weekly Education Opportunities at Lord of Love

Sunday		Wednesday	
9:15 a.m.	Sunday School (Preschool – High School) @ LOL Classrooms Adult Studies @ LOL Abraham, Mary, and Joseph Rooms	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		Thursday	
6:00 p.m.	<i>Lutheran Woman Today</i> Bible Study @ Old Country Buffet (first Monday of month)	9:30 a.m.	Text Study @ Guthries
7:00 p.m.	<i>No Experience Necessary</i> Bible Study @ Vandeventers (every other Monday)	Saturday	
Tuesday		7:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast and Bible Study @ LOL Fellowship Hall
6:45 p.m.	First Place Bible Study @ LOL Preschool Room		

EDUCATION

In the Middle by Rebecca Lund

Dear Lord of Love Family,

The last time I wrote an article for *The Love Letter*, I spoke about beginnings and ends. Currently, I want to write about being in the middle! As I write, I find myself coming out of mid-term break; in the middle of paper writing, sermon preparations, and exams; and in the midst of my Middler (second) year of seminary at LSTC. It can be easy around this time of year to feel “stuck” in the middle, wondering when we will ever get out of the crazy bustle of commitments and projects. I think of Lord of Love often and pray for you as you are in the middle of transitioning from one pastor team to another. Yet, I remind myself that Christmas is just around the bend and with it not only the promise of a break from the stresses of life but also the promise of God in Christ Jesus coming to us to be IN OUR MIDST!

So, what does being in the middle look for me right now? I am taking a pretty heavy course load, and part of the challenge is loving every single class and wanting to spend time giving my best to all four classes. This can be a joy and somewhat of a problem, when there are only 24 hours in a day. This semester, I am taking Biblical Hebrew, Preaching, Systematic Theology I (where we talk about things like creation, the trinity, evil, the Holy Spirit, etc.), and the Book of Revelation, an “advanced exegesis” class where we look at one book of the Bible in detail. I am blessed to have phenomenal professors who care deeply about forming excellent pastors for the church and have a passion for teaching as well.

This year, I have an added joy and challenge of worshipping and serving in a Black Lutheran congregation on the south side of Chicago about 7 hours a week. Every Middler is assigned a “ministry in context” congregation where he or she serves, and we have a class once a month that helps us process our experience. I also meet with the pastor of my congregation weekly for guidance and supervision. My congregation, Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, has been a wonderful learning experience for me thus far. I am helping with adult Sunday school, and I have served as assisting minister in worship. I will be preaching there next month. Being at Bethany has taken me out of my comfort zone of worshipping with people just like me and has helped me see commonalities, as well. You can learn more about Bethany by going to their website at www.bethanychicago.org.

I know this summary of the last few months is short and insufficient, but I hope this somewhat answers some of your questions about what I am doing this year. Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

Peace,
Rebecca



Seminary Update by Paula Lawhead

Hello Lord of Love!

It has been a beautiful fall here in Minnesota, and right now, we are at the peak of colors for the turning leaves. I will admit that having the bright colors all around me has made me thankful for my 25-minute commute each day. ☺

October has been a fun month for me. I officiated my first wedding the first weekend. My supervisor assisted in the service, and she signed the marriage license, of course. It was such a fun experience. One of the best parts? Having the best view in the church of the bride as she walked down the aisle! Ha ha!

I also had the opportunity to attend a theological conference for rostered clergy from the Twin Cities area. I was one of only two interns present (we were the only two bold enough to ask if we could attend even though we are not rostered yet). It was a great experience for me, and I learned a ton from the experienced pastors that I had the privilege to sit next to during our meals and discussion times. Most notably, I mentioned to one pastor that one of my challenges at the church was the 8th and 9th grade Sunday school class. Nothing but blank stares or rolled eyes for two weeks. She said, "As the new person in the group, why should they trust you?" The next week, I scrapped the lesson and opened the hour up as an interview game where they got to ask me anything they wanted. It started slow but ended up being really fun, and the questions went from 'what's your favorite color?' to 'why did you decide to become a pastor?' Since then, they have been more receptive to me and more willing to participate in the lessons. A good lesson for me about relationship that I'm sure I will remember in future ministry.

Personally, David and I are doing well. We have finally found a little 3-4 par golf course near our home with a minimal green fee. We have been trying to get out onto the golf course a little more often, and the weather has been so accommodating. We love walking the course and spending our time together this way. Also, my mom was up recently to visit, so we got out to see some of the local culture; namely, the *Church Basement Ladies*. What a fun show that brought up great memories of LoL when I was growing up!

Since you will be reading this in the November issue of *The Love Letter*, I will end with a little thought about Thanksgiving...

Psalm 118:28-29

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God, I will praise you.

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.



On Thanksgiving Day, when our nation pauses to give God thanks, I will add my gratitude to the chorus. Indeed, I thank God for all the blessings he has showered upon me: my family and friends, this church, my home and all my possessions, my health, and my calling to serve Him. I thank God for the men and women who envisioned a country such as this, and for those who have fought and given their lives for this vision. Yet, even more than the great blessings I see around me each day, I thank God for making himself known to me in Christ Jesus, through His Word and Sacraments. I am thankful that God has reached out for me, and all of us, and drawn us to Himself. As I pray, it is wonderful to be able to say with the psalmist, not only that 'You are God', but that 'You are *my* God.' Indeed, God is good; good beyond all reckoning. So, all praise be to You, gracious, loving, excellent God! Amen!

Peace,
Paula

ORGANIZATIONS & ACTIVITIES

Advent by Candlelight by Kelly Duffy

Each year during Advent, women at my mom's church light candles on tables they set for guests. The room seems to be transformed by the flicker of candlelight during this time set aside from the rush and the bright lights advertising great buys for Christmas. It is a time to slow down. It is a time to breathe deeply.

For several years, I would visit my parents during the weekend that this event was held. Because the event was on a Sunday evening in the winter, and I had to be at work in Omaha on Monday morning, I would stay to look at the beautiful tables and then drive home during daylight hours. Then I got the idea to take Monday off for driving back home and stayed for the program. I took the time to slow down and breathe deeply.

Taking the time meant a lot to my mom, too. She used her wonderful imagination and creativity to prepare a table for guests. I was honored to sit at her tables.

Last year, I decided I could set a table too. I used some items of my own, made some things, purchased other items, borrowed from my sisters, and used my mom's dishes. It was work, but mostly it was a fun chance to use my creativity in a different way. I surprised myself in the end and was happy to welcome guests at my table.

This year, we decided to light candles here at tables we will set to welcome guests. If you would like to set a table, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. More information about the tables is available there, too.



Advent by Candlelight

On December 7th at 5:00 p.m., come, sit down, slow down, and breathe deeply.

Wednesday Night Suppers in November

Wednesday night suppers are served in the Fellowship Hall from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. each week for a free-will offering. Please join us for great food and fellowship! The menu for November is as follows:

- November 5: Hot ham and cheese
- November 12: Baked potato bar
- November 19: Spaghetti
- November 26: No supper – Thanksgiving
- December 3: Breakfast meal



Fundraiser for Paula Lawhead

Tom & Beth Olson and Heather Christensen invite the congregation to a fundraiser lunch for Paula Lawhead on Sunday, November 23, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Paula, who grew up at Lord of Love, is now in her third year at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The funds raised will be matched by Sheridan Lutheran Church and Hi-Mark/Yankee Hill Golf Courses in Lincoln, NE. All funds to will go towards seminary tuition. We hope you will support this important effort!

Craft Day

Join us for Craft Day! This is a wonderful opportunity to work on handmade holiday gifts or other projects while enjoying the company of others. Join us for some fellowship and craft time on Saturday, November 22, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall!

Our next Craft Day will be December 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

MISSION & OUTREACH

Lord of Love Missions Committee Update

Our emphasis for the rest of this program year is hunger. The Missions Committee recommended to the church council that we give our special offerings for Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas to Project Hope/Lutheran Pantry and the Omaha Food Bank. We also recommended that the remainder of our special missions' budget for 2008, 3 percent of our income, go to Project Hope/Lutheran Pantry and the Omaha Food Bank. The Church Council approved this recommendation at their meeting on October 21.

A goal is to make people more aware of the need for the hungry right here in Omaha and to get more of us involved in serving the hungry in as many ways as possible. The Missions Committee will soon have a display in the narthex. The display will feature information about both Lutheran Pantry at Project Hope and the Omaha Food Bank. Included are volunteer activities in which one can participate at each organization. There will be tear-off tabs for a person to take as a reminder of the area in which he or she may wish to become involved.

In 2008, Lord of Love's Women of Love have been emphasizing needs and encouraging us to bring certain supplies to meet those needs for Project Hope each month. There will be an even greater emphasis on bringing items for Project Hope/Lutheran Pantry. A wheelbarrow, "Gary's Barrel," will join the barrel near the Food Bank and Lutheran Pantry display. Please bring food staples and sundry items such as paper products and health items as often as you can. Let's fill Gary's Barrel each week!

Project Hope

November monthly needs – Trimmings for turkey dinner (stuffing, gravy mix, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, canned corn, sweet potatoes, etc.)
Current urgent needs – canned fruit, canned meat, soup, bathroom tissue, bar soap, canned beans, macaroni & cheese, plastic & paper bags



In honor of national homeless and hunger month, Project Hope will have an open house celebrating their 25th year of service to the community. Hours are 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 2 at 4205 Boyd Street. Please come and take a tour of the facility, meet the staff, and have some treats.

Mission Grants from the Endowment Fund

Lord of Love's Endowment Fund was created to enhance the mission outreach of our church apart from the general operation of the congregation. Once the value of the fund exceeded \$50,000 several years ago, we were able to begin distributing a small percentage of the value of the fund to support global, national, and local missions. Although the stock market has been particularly tough this year and the available funds will be less than last year, there will be some grant money to distribute to individuals or organizations that are doing mission work. Our hope is to leverage the monies in this fund to the greatest extent possible so that the money will have an impact greater than the amount given. For example, our church has been paying for the secondary education of two students in Tanzania. Last year, we also provided grants to our two seminarians, Rebecca Lund and Paula Lawhead. We also supported the development of a library studies program in Vanuatu in conjunction with the John Roberts Memorial Fund and gave a grant to a college student from our congregation who worked at Camp Carol Joy Holling.

The Endowment Committee is taking applications for mission grants to be paid out in 2009. We are asking for your input! **Applications can be found at the Information Center in the narthex and will be accepted through November 30.** Please put completed applications in Beth and Tom Olson's mailbox. If you have questions, please contact Beth Olson for more information at 578-6730.

COUNCIL REPORT & TRANSITION/CALL PROCESS UPDATE

October 2008 Council Report by Don Rowen, Council Vice-President

The October meeting of the Lord of Love council was held on Tuesday, October 21. The minutes of the meeting are summarized as follows:

- Pastors' Report – Pastor Bob is currently looking to review how committees and ministry teams are organized under each council ministry. He is looking for ways to improve communication between the committees and ministry teams and the council.
- Treasurer's Report – Giving is still larger than expenses although both are less than projected.
- Highlights from Ministry Reports
 - Vision and Coordination – See Motions, below.
 - Daily Life – The November fellowship event will be the Pie Fest following Thanksgiving worship on Sunday, November 23.
 - Education – The Sunday School Christmas program will be on Sunday, December 14 during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. The committee also discussed ideas for Vacation Bible School next summer.
 - Worship and Witness – There are many upcoming worship events in November and December.
 - Resources – No report was given.
- Motions
 - The council moved some members to the inactive Responsibility List.
 - The council approved a recommendation from the Missions Committee that monies collected for the special offerings from Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas and the monies designated to the Mission Fund from congregational giving (3 percent of the total) be given to the Omaha Food Bank, Project Hope, and Lutheran Pantry.
 - The council approved that monies leftover in the breakfast and supper funds be given to the youth fund principally to help pay for cost of adult chaperones for the youth traveling to New Orleans for the youth gathering in 2009.
- Review of draft budget for 2009 – The council made one change to the budget to increase the projected expense for Vacation Bible School.
- Other business/reports
 - Bridgebuilders Team – The Bridgebuilders team met with Pastor Bob. Members are thinking about how to tackle some of the other issues previously identified in the initial report (issues about leadership, competing visions, turmoil from the past, and a disconnect between pastors and the congregation).
 - Opening and Closing Responsibilities – The Vision and Coordination committee has prepared a list of tasks that need to be done to prepare for worship, such as turning on lights and unlocking doors, and who should be responsible for making sure they get done. Pastor Donna used to do many of these things, but with an interim or substitute pastor, we need to have members take on these duties. The ushers will be asked to do many of the tasks.
 - Renovation Committee Report – The Renovation Committee has prepared a report; a shortened version listing some options for how the church can proceed will be given to the congregation at the November congregational meeting so they can start thinking about it.
 - Nominating Committee – The Nominating Committee is still seeking individuals for Education and Worship and Witness.

2008 Lord of Love Church Council

President
Doug Aden

Vice-President
Don Rowen

Secretary
Brian Walther

Treasurer
Brian Lund

Worship and Witness
Kathy Christiansen
Karen Mullen

Education
Brian Vandeventer
Joyce Madsen

Daily Life
Kim Gust
Liz Smith

Resources
Doug Roberts
Brad VenHuizen

COUNCIL REPORT & TRANSITION/CALL PROCESS UPDATE

Bits and Pieces by Doug Aden, Council President

Pastor Bob is now in his third month at Lord of Love, and the transition process is beginning. I know that he has met with many of you either individually or in a committee setting and discussed what is happening at Lord of Love. Based on these conversations, two actions are beginning to take place.

First, Pastor Bob and the Bridgebuilder team met and had an in-depth discussion about the function of Bridgebuilders and the results of the Bridgebuilders' actions and recommendations. Based on that meeting, the Bridgebuilders team is going to revisit the four issues that were identified in the initial report:

- Issues surrounding leadership
- Issues around competing visions
- Turmoil of the past has not been dealt with appropriately
- A disconnect between pastors and congregation

The committee's assignment is to reflect about ways to deal with these issues. At the next meeting the committee will prepare suggestion for addressing these issues and send those suggestions to the council.

Second, the council is beginning to discuss the organization of the council and the various committees and organizations of Lord of Love. We will be exploring different ways to organize our church. Some of the goals of this process are to improve the functioning of the various committees, improve communication, encourage new ideas, and increase the spirit of congregational unity.

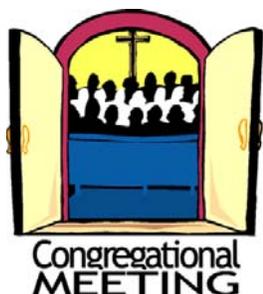
One of the end results of these two discussions will be helping to define the type of pastor we want to call. The council will keep you informed of the progress on both of these actions.

There were no changes made to the budget at the Budget Forum on October 12, but as a result of the forum, the Council did approve a recommendation regarding Vacation Bible School. The VBS committee is exploring the possibility of having Camp Carol Joy Holling conduct Bible School this year. Lord of Love did this several years ago, and the program was a success. As a result of the recommendation, the council approved a net addition of \$600 to the budget.

As of this writing, 65 pledge cards have been received with pledges in the amount of \$187,500. Two cards were received by individuals that give but do not pledge, which is ok. At the Congregational Meeting, we will have updated totals for our budget discussion.



The council has approved an expenditure of \$2,550 from Memorial Funds to purchase a shredder, a new television, a projector, a DVD player, and a replacement microphone and equipment for the sound system. The shredder was purchased and is in place. The microphones should be here by the Congregational Meeting. The rest of the equipment should be in place some time during November.



Here is the final tally for the garden; **260 pounds of produce** were harvested and taken to Lutheran Pantry.

The fall Congregational Meeting will be held on November 9 following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. The main items on the agenda are the election of church council members for 2009, the approval of the budget for 2009, a presentation of renovation possibilities, and a discussion of the transition process. Please plan to attend.

MEN'S NEWS CORNER

Men's Breakfast Invitational a Success

Thanks to all men who supported the Men's Ministry Breakfast Invitational held at Lord of Love. Men from Trinity and Rejoice Lutheran churches were present along with men from LOL. This was the first of several men's fellowship events that will be taking place involving men from our community.



December Men's Breakfast Invitational

Men of Lord of Love are invited to meet at Rejoice Lutheran for breakfast and fellowship on Saturday, December 20 at 7:30 a.m. This will take the place of the regular Men's Ministry meeting normally held at LOL on that Saturday. Car pooling from LOL at 7:00 a.m. will be available. Come and join in the fellowship!



Calendar of Events*

November

1	7:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast Ministry
8	7:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast Ministry
8	9:00 a.m.	Harvest of Hope Fall Festival
9	11:30 a.m.	Congregational Meeting
15	7:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast Ministry
15	8:30 a.m.	Baptismal Box Build @ Garders
22	7:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast Ministry
29	7:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast Ministry



Coming Up

Dec. 20 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study and Pancakes @ Rejoice Lutheran

*Remember, all men are invited to these events. Hopefully you are only a stranger here but once. Join us for good Christian service, fun, and fellowship!

Upcoming Churchwide Events

Do not forget the Fall Festival on Saturday, November 8, or the invitation to attend the congregational meeting on Sunday, November 9.



Baptismal Box Build

There is a men's service opportunity on Saturday, November 15 starting at 8:30 a.m. at the home of Kenn and Sheri Garder for the Baptismal Box Build. All men are invited.

WOMEN OF LOVE

Blessings from Ruth Manning, President, LOL Women of Love

To my Sisters in Christ,

You are invited to be a part of the planning for LOL Women of Love. Starting with coffee and a snack in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 15, we'll move on to listing some program ideas for the year and taking a look to see if those ideas are compatible with the Mission and Purpose Statements of the Women of the ELCA.

As we plan this year, we will begin to move into a different leadership style for LOL Women of Love. The Board model that we have used for the many years we've been at LOL just doesn't "fit" anymore. At the general meeting in September, the women approved the Board's recommendation that we begin moving towards the Team Model of leadership. A committee has been appointed to work out the details of that model and rewrite the bylaws. These will be presented at the general meeting in March or April and will have a final reading and a vote to accept or not accept at the September meeting.

At our September meeting, the group voted to set aside the current bylaws and have Ruth Manning and Jessie Bell serve a 4th term as president and treasurer. (Kelly Duffy still had 1 year left to serve as secretary.) We did not elect the mission secretaries of action, community, and growth, but instead elected a team. The team members are Fatima Abogunloko, Heather Christensen, Debra Gillespie, Sandy Hall, Beth Olson, Rose Roberts, Brenda Thom, and Randi VenHuizen.

As we make our plans for program, ministry, and mission for 2009, team members will be asked to prayerfully choose an area in which they feel called to serve and where they can best use their spiritual gifts and passions.

But we're all in this together—we have some ideas from the September meeting, and we're soliciting additional ideas from all of our women, confirmation age and above. If you can't attend the meeting on November 15, please leave your ideas, suggestions, and comments in the W/ELCA mailbox on the west wall of mailboxes or in my mailbox.

Lutheran Woman Today Bible Study

The final look at the Old Testament book of Ruth, Chapter 4, will be discussed at the November meetings of the women's *Lutheran Woman Today* Bible study groups. Choose from two groups—6:30 p.m. on Monday, November 3, at the Old Country Buffet at 145th and West Center Road, or 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 5, in the Joseph Room at church—as we look at *Ruth: A Place in Community*.



Women of Love Team Leaders

The Women of Love Team Leaders' (former Board) meeting will be held in the Joseph Room at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 12. All women are invited to attend.

Funeral Lunches

Thanks to all who have supported me by providing food and helping serve funeral luncheons over the past several years. This has been a wonderful ministry that we're able to provide families of loved ones following a funeral or memorial service.

And thanks to Nancy Shinrock and Marilyn Thomsen who are now co-coordinators of funeral luncheons. I know you'll continue to say "yes" when called on. However, don't wait to be called, but feel free to offer your services when you hear of a funeral at Lord of Love. Contact them at shinan@cox.net or npinthomsen@cox.net.

Thankoffering Service

Women are asked to bring special Thankofferings to either of the worship services on Sunday, November 23. For many years, we have participated in this special offering for Churchwide Women of the ELCA on the Sunday closest to Thanksgiving.

Several of our women have been using the thankoffering boxes that we provide yearly, but if you don't have one, place your offering in an envelope and mark it "Thankoffering." A special basket will be available at the altar for your offerings.



Thankofferings: Gratitude for Blessings Received by Linda Post Bushkofky and Emily Hanson

A Thankoffering is an offering given as an expression of thanks. Thankofferings did not originate with the women's organization. Among early Christians, when a bountiful harvest was completed or a son returned home safely from war, they would gather in worship to thank God for these great blessings and collect offerings for the particular blessing received. Our own tradition is not all that different. Early in the 1900s, small Thankoffering boxes were given to women, who placed them in a special location in their home to be a visible reminder of blessings received. Coins were added to those boxes almost daily as a particular blessing was noted. Then the women of the congregation would come together once a year to make a public collection of their Thankofferings.

So what is our current understanding of Thankofferings, and how are Thankoffering dollars used?

There are moments in each day when we should be thankful to God. It can be something as significant as a child's first step, recovery from illness, or landing a new job. It can be something as ordinary as seeing your child off to school complete with lunch and homework, making it home safely after rush hour on the expressway, or listening to birds while walking through your back yard. When any of these significant or ordinary moments happen, we can say thank you to God....

Thankofferings are sent directly to the Churchwide organization to support the ministry of the entire organization. The Churchwide annual budget, supported by your Thankofferings and regular offerings, enables the Churchwide expression of Women of the ELCA to do many things in support of you and your ministry.

Our new Women of the ELCA video, *Created in the Image of God: A Community of Women*, was funded by the annual budget. The budget supports international efforts, including the annual training seminar for new global education advocates. The extensive website of the organization (www.womenoftheelca.org) is funded through the budget. Many support networks that nourish and sustain Synodical leaders are made possible by the budget. Anti-racism and cross-cultural programming are sustained by the annual budget. Cooperative efforts with other units of the ELCA and ecumenical partners are made possible by the budget.

The regular meetings of the Churchwide executive board, the attendance of board members at Synodical conventions, annual training for Synodical treasurers and the annual conference of Synodical presidents are all funded through the annual budget. Our 2008 triennial convention was funded entirely by the Churchwide budget. Insurance premiums, office equipment and expenses, and the cost of the annual audit are among the operational costs that are part of the budget. And of course, none of these things would happen without staff, and so the annual budget covers the salary and benefits of staff members. As you gather Thankofferings this year, know that the Churchwide expression of women of the ELCA is deeply grateful for your offerings and constantly mindful of being good stewards of your gifts. As together we live out our purpose and mission, we are all strengthened and supported by our partnership with one another, and we are all strengthened and supported by Churchwide staff....

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WOMEN OF LOVE

Fall Festival Update

We've got a good start on selling tickets for our Fall Festival dinner on Saturday, November 8. Sunday, November 2, is the last day for ticket sales as we need to give our caterer a "count" on Monday. You will need your ticket at the dinner to register for door prizes, and we also ask that you bring a non-perishable food item for Project Hope.

Thanks to Leigh Trumble, executive director for Project Hope, for a great presentation at worship services and Sunday School on October 19. I think we all have a better idea of the scope of that ministry and that it takes all of us to help.

Call, invite, and bring your friends and family to the craft fair/bake sale portion of our Fall Festival (9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on November 8). Bring some goodies for the bake sale. Each little bit that we do will combine to make a wonderful offering for Project Hope. Thrivent will be providing some matching funds as well.

Coffee and Lunch Fellowship

The Lord's Laughing Ladies have a new name! We've been dubbed "Christ's Chuckling Chicks" by the husband of one of our coffee drinkers! Whether you want to join LLL or CCC, all women are invited for laughter and fellowship on November 14 and 28 at 8:00 a.m. at Crane Coffee at 77th and Cass. November 28 is the day after Thanksgiving, so those of you with the day off have a special invitation to join us!

Because of the holidays, Lord of Love Ladies Lunch moves to the 3rd Thursday (rather than 4th Thursday) in November and December. All ladies are invited to lunch at 11:45 a.m. on Thursday, November 20, at Famous Dave's at 72nd and Ames (November is a great month for barbecue). Amy Kragnes will be hosting us at her home on Thursday, December 18, at our 3rd annual soup luncheon. Mark your calendars!



Calendar of Events

November

3	6:30 p.m.	LWT Bible Study, Old Country Buffet 145th and Center
4	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
5	6:30 p.m.	LWT Bible Study, Joseph Room
8	9:00 a.m.	Harvest of Hope Fall Festival Craft Fair and Bake Sale
8	5:30 p.m.	Harvest of Hope Fall Festival Dinner
12	6:00 p.m.	Women of Love Team Meeting, Joseph Room
14	8:00 a.m.	Lord's Laughing Ladies, Crane Coffee, 78th and Cass
15	9:00 a.m.	Program Planning for 2009
18	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
20	11:45 a.m.	LOL Ladies Lunch, Famous Dave's, 72nd and Ames
23	8 & 10:30	Thankoffering Service
28	8:00 a.m.	Lord's Laughing Ladies, Crane Coffee, 78th and Cass

Coming Up

December 7

Advent by Candlelight



Youth Fast Pledges

Did you pledge money to the Youth Fast? If you were so generous that you can't even remember how many kids you signed for, don't worry—you'll get a "bill" for your total donation soon, if you haven't received it already. You can give cash or a check (made out to Lord of Love, with "Youth Group" in the memo line) to Josh Combes or you can drop it in the offering plate any time. Thank you for your support. News reports lately have shown that the local need for food assistance is increasing, so instead of donating to Lutheran World Relief, funds will be given to Siena-Francis House. The rest of the funds raised will go the Youth Group fund for the New Orleans trip next summer.



Fall Festival Silent Auction



As part of the Fall Festival silent auction on November 8, you will be able to bid on the services of several Youth Group members. See the silent auction sheets for an up-to-date list, but here's a sample of some of the jobs that the youth are willing and able to do: babysitting, raking leaves, shoveling snow, pet sitting, house sitting, cooking, baking, cleaning house, shredding papers, Christmas decorating or undecorating, moving, outdoor work, and entertaining. Youth Group members will be helping in various ways on the day of Fall Festival, including serving the dinner.

2009 ELCA Youth Gathering

The kids are now registered for their trip to New Orleans. *Jesus Justice Jazz*, the 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering, held from July 22-26, 2009, will be a chance for youth and their chaperones to be immersed in worship, music, Bible study, service, learning, play, prayer, and new friendships. Check out the website for more information on the gathering: <http://www.elca.org/youth/gathering.html>.

<i>Who's going to New Orleans next summer?</i>	
<u>Youth</u>	<u>Chaperones</u>
Laura Armitage	Josh Combes
Jason Combes	Carissa Christenson
Casey Florea	Jeri Morgan
Lauren Florea	Jim Morgan
Matt Garder	
Sara Gehringer	
Alex Harris	
Kevin Krause	
Kim Lueders	
Kira Luxon	
Nadine Rowen	
Sarah Vandeventer	

Calendar of Youth Events

November

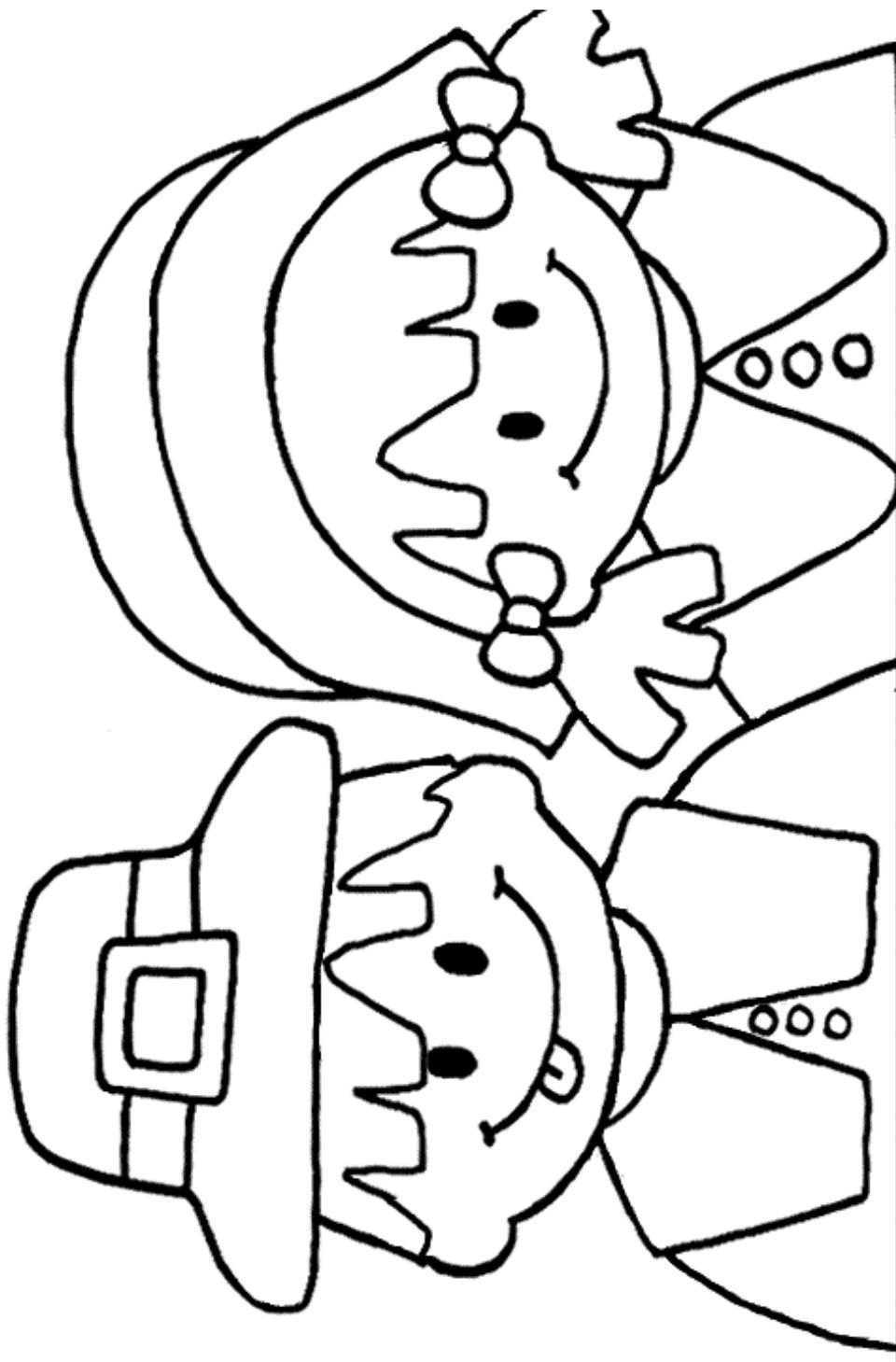
- 8 Fall Festival dinner and youth auction
- 16 Worship services planned by Youth Group

Coming Up

July 22-26, 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans



Thank you, God, for giving us everything we need...and more!



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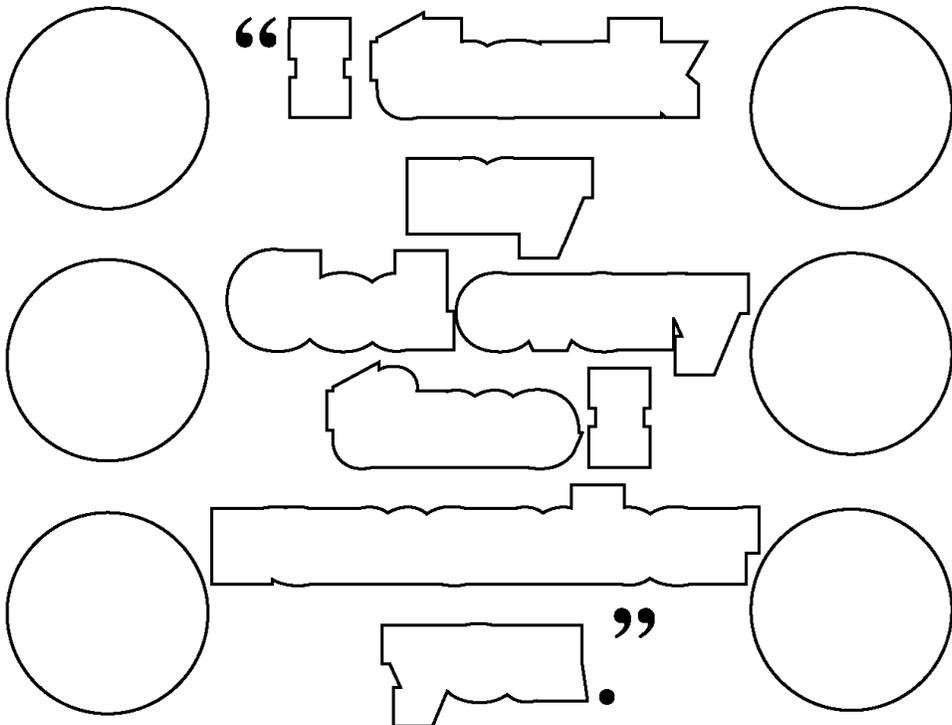


Thanksgiving and Prayer

When Paul sent a letter to the church at Philippi, he told his friends how he felt about them. Finish this puzzle to read what Paul wrote in Philippians 1:3.

Match words in the list below to the correct word shape. Then write the letters inside each shape. In the circles, draw the faces of people you're thankful for in your life.

WORD LIST: remember time you I God
I my thank every



IN OUR PRAYERS & LOVE NOTES

In Our Prayers

Chris Baker (brother-in-law of Ron Thom)
Dick Bell
Ryan Bolen (nephew of Sandy Hall)
Leah Crosbie (friend of Juanita Jarmin)
Jan Davis (aunt of Paula Foster)
Beth Feldhaus (sister-in-law of Judy Egr)
Pearl Garnaas
Norma Gunter
Matthew Hayek (nephew of Sandy Hall)
Rachael Hueftle (student of Linda Christensen)
Cathy Johnson (friend of Marilyn Thomsen)
Gene Jordan (uncle of Paula Foster)
Bob Kasworm and his ministry in Tanzania
Hannah Knudson (neighbor of the VenHuizens)
Mike Koesters (friend of David Boarts)
Paula Lawhead (at seminary)
Carl Lueders (uncle of Dave Lueders)
Irene Lund (aunt of Brian Lund)
Rebecca Lund (at seminary)
Pastor Elisante Maimu
Chris Miller (nephew of Judy Egr)
Pastor Elibariki Mtui and all the saints of TPC Lutheran
Parish, Tanzania

Harry Naasz
Tom Parker (friend of the Lueders)
Dianna Poledna (sister of Jan Miller)
Joe Policky (grandfather of Tamra Johnston)
Reisinger family
Berniece Reitan
Joey Thompson (friend of the Murphys)
Zeffin Thurow (cousin of Deb Lund)
Phyllis Turansky
Brody Vermilyea (grandson of Brian and Nancy
Shinrock)
Harlan Walther (father of Brian Walther)
Kevin Wapelhorst (brother of Brenda Mac)
Agnes Wilson
Bernie Wolff (friend of Marilyn Thomsen)
Rob Zalk (cousin of Mary Lou Gustafson)

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

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

Love Notes

Thank you. Your many kind expressions of sympathy—cards, caring words, prayer shawl, etc.—all have been very much appreciated during this time of grieving the death of my Mother. Your loving concern helps to ease the sadness at the loss of my Mother. God's love expressed through you comforts me.

Sincerely,
Barb Haskins



