



# The Love Letter

Volume 40

February 2012

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### Kid's Choir Director

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### LOL Brass Director

Brian Lund

### Bell Choir Director

Heidi Meyer

## 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

With Valentine's Day coming soon, reminders of love are everywhere. We are encouraged to show our love for our significant others, our families, and our friends. At Lord of Love, we can show our love for our church family by getting involved in the life of the church, including the following activities during the month of February.

On Wednesday, February 1, a **Vacation Bible School planning meeting** will be held for anyone interested in helping to lead VBS this summer (see page 8, Nurture).

On Saturday, February 11, in the morning, there will be an orientation session for preparing a **new Lord of Love cookbook** for our church's 40th anniversary (see page 8, Nurture). Then in the evening, everyone is invited to attend **movie night** at church to see the movie *Courageous* (see page 7, Nurture).

**Lenten soup suppers and worship services** begin on Ash Wednesday, February 22 and continue every Wednesday until Holy Week (see page 4, Worship, and page 7, Nurture).

On Sunday, February 26, we will hold a **Red Cross Blood Drive** at Lord of Love from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (see page 9, Outreach).

Finally, throughout February, we can participate in the **Diaper Derby**, donating diapers to Lutheran Family Services (see page 9, Outreach).



## In This Issue

Pastor's Page .....	2	Council Report .....	11
Monthly Calendar .....	3	Women of Love .....	13
Worship .....	4	LOL Youth .....	14
Nurture.....	6	In Our Prayers .....	15
Outreach.....	9	Love Notes .....	15
Resources .....	11	Mark Your Calendar .....	16

### Let His Light Shine by Pastor Brad

One Monday morning, I was backing out of the garage and heading to church when on the radio I heard a contemporary song start out with these lyrics:

“It's been a really, really messed up week  
Seven days of torture, seven days of bitter...”

Wow—what a way to start a Monday morning with negativity! Not the way that I was hoping to start my week at all. The realization is that we are surrounded by a lot of negativity. The challenge is not to be influenced by it or have it overwhelm you, but rather be a vessel of light!

Paul sees God at work in harsh circumstances to use him as a vessel for the light of the Gospel of Christ. God helped Paul through difficult circumstances so that he was able to say he was “afflicted in every way but not crushed; perplexed but not driven to despair; persecuted but not forsaken; struck down but not destroyed.” (2 Corinthians 4:8-9)



God moved Paul beyond circumstances that might have crushed him or made him feel like “it’s been a really, really messed up week” to let the suffering and dying Christ shine through him.

Paul was then able to say: “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

In what practical way might God shine through your circumstances today with the light of Christ? How might you be a light to someone who is having a “really, really messed up week” and allow them to experience the loving presence of God?



I propose to change the lyrics to the song to:

“It’s going to be a really, really great week  
Seven days of praise, seven day of laughter...”

May you be a light shining for others as they see Christ in you.

Peace,  
Pastor Brad

# MONTHLY CALENDAR

February 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 5:00pm 7th & 8th grade Confirmation Class 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm "Gather" Bible Study 6:00pm Brass 7:15pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>2</b> 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>3</b> 7:30pm AA	<b>4</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
<b>5</b> Boy Scout Sunday 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b> 6:00pm "Gather" Bible Study @ Old Country Buffet 6:30pm Mutual Ministry Mtg. 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	<b>7</b> 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Sunnyslope Neighborhood 7:00pm Vision & Coordination	<b>8</b> 5:00pm 7th & 8th grade Confirmation Class 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 7:15pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b> 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>10</b> 7:30pm AA	<b>11</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
<b>12</b> 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 11:30am Congregational Meeting 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b> 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 5:00pm 7th & 8th grade Confirmation Class 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 7:15pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b> 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>17</b> 7:30pm AA	<b>18</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
<b>19</b> 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 1:00pm Eagle Scout Ceremony 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b> 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	<b>21</b> 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Church Council	<b>22</b> 5:00pm 7th & 8th grade Confirmation Class 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 7:15pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b> 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>24</b> 7:30pm AA	<b>25</b> Scrapbooking 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 9:30am Novak in Sanctuary 12:00pm Blue & Gold Activities & Banquet
<b>26</b> 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 1:00pm District 18 AA Mtg. 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b> 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 5:00pm 7th & 8th grade Confirmation Class 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 7:15pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal			

# WORSHIP

## Worship Services for Lent

Please join us for Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m. on February 22 as we begin our Lenten journey.

Wednesday Lenten worship services begin on February 29 at 7:00 p.m. and will focus on The Character of Christ: Forgiving, Peaceful, Obedient, Humble, and Loving. A simple supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. each Wednesday.



### Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26
<b>Greeter(s)</b>				
8:00 a.m.				
10:30 a.m.				
<b>Liturgist</b>				
8:00 a.m.	Deb Lund	Kenn Garder	Dave Hild	
10:30 a.m.		Ruth Manning		Paul Christenson
<b>Communion Servers</b>				
8:00 a.m.	Lund family	Garder family		
10:30 a.m.		Dan and Ruth Manning, Anne Yarger		
<b>Nursery Attendant(s)</b>				
8:00 a.m.				
10:30 a.m.				
<b>Altar Care</b>				
8:00 a.m.	Doug and Rose Roberts	Vandevanter girls	Ed and Marjorie Keiser	Cathy Aden, Sue Dieter
10:30 a.m.	Debra Gillespie, Karen Armitage	Brenda and Suzanne Mac	Rown family	Brewer family
<b>Ushers</b>				
8:00 a.m.	Joe Combes, Jason Combes, Josh Combes			
10:30 a.m.	Dave Lueders, Adam Lueders, Brad VenHuizen, Lynnette Nore, Christopher Boarts			

### Sharing Our Faith by Karen Pickens

In 2011, we lost two of our long-time members who were also long-time best friends. Esther Welliver died on September 9, and Agnes Wilson died on December 28. Both were also members of Our Savior's Lutheran Church. At a very young age, both lost their mothers and because of that shared a lot in common. At Christmas, I talked to Evelyn Weston, who also was a member of Love of Love before she moved to Colorado. Evelyn became a good friend of Agnes, visiting her and taking her shopping and to lunch. We have a picture of all four of us—Evelyn, Agnes, Esther, and me—at lunch one Sunday after church. As I recall, our waitress enjoyed our luncheon as much as we did because most of the time was spent laughing. There was nothing more entertaining than sitting down with Agnes and Esther...oh, the stories they could tell and the way in which they told them...straight out of Hollywood! Rachel Novak and I have our own memories of spending time with Agnes and Esther. One was sitting with them at Agnes's son and daughter-in-law's home listening to their stories and enjoying the love felt around the table that day. We miss them already, as do their family and friends, but they leave an everlasting mark on all those who knew them.



Getting to know and write about members of Lord of Love has been such a joy for me. I wasn't sure whose story I would be writing next until the Epiphany luncheon. I don't work ahead much. I am a "now" person as I have learned in *Living Our Strengths*, Adaptability being one of my strong themes: "taking things as they come and discovering the future one day at a time." At the luncheon, I got to sit with my friend Katie Gillespie and her mom, Deb. Before the luncheon was over, plans were made to write Keith Gillespie's story, which will be featured in next month's issue of *The Love Letter*. I am thankful for Deb and Keith's willingness to share Keith's story with us.



## WORSHIP

### A Visit With Dick Bell by Karen Mullen

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Early in January, I made it a point to visit Dick Bell at Immanuel Village to share with him the success of the Bell Choirs at Lord of Love. I wondered how he was doing since my last visit during our drive to raise the monies for purchasing the bells and equipment. I had heard his name recently in the Prayers and was concerned about him. On the phone, Dick sounded very upbeat, and so I was less apprehensive.

During my previous visit, I had spoken with Dick regarding the memorial funds from his wife's funeral. Dick was most gracious in supporting the efforts to start the Bell Choir ministry. I joked with him a bit about it being a "Bell" Choir—it seemed a natural fit. At Immanuel, there is also a bell choir for residents. Dick has often attended their rehearsals and concerts, so he feels that connection as well. A good friend of mine, Erna Clanton, has been the backbone of that group.

During our visit, I played a CD of the Bell Choir's first performance at Lord of Love in October. He was quite impressed and happy to hear that the development had gone so smoothly. I brought him a few holiday baked goods and inquired about his Christmas. His family had come to spend Christmas Eve with him at Immanuel, where there are some private rooms that a family can use for their gathering. These days, Dick's mobility is limited, so he doesn't get out much. We don't see him at Lord of Love because Immanuel has an excellent program, pastor, and Sunday services for the residents. But I think Dick still feels the connection with Lord of Love and would probably welcome any other visits members might want to make.

## NURTURE

### Welcome Our New Members!

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Lord of Love welcomed the following people into membership on Sunday, January 15:

- Ruth Christensen – Ruth is a nurse at the Nebraska Medical Center and is married to Chad (son of Paula Foster).
- Amber Huggenberger – Amber is a teacher with OPS and is married to Jason Bougger. They have a son, Henry.
- Julie Concannon – Julie is a stay-at-home mom and is married to Paul. They have three children: Daniel, Laurel, and Noah.

Please greet them and welcome them to Lord of Love!



## Secret Angels



Women and girls, sign up for secret angels by February 1! Sign-up sheets are available in the Narthex. Fill out the form with information about yourself, and put it in Shawn Lorenzen's mailbox.

## Lenten Soup Suppers

February 22, 2012, is Ash Wednesday, which will be our first opportunity to volunteer to share our favorite soup with others at Lord of Love. If you would like to prepare one of our Lenten soup suppers, please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex.



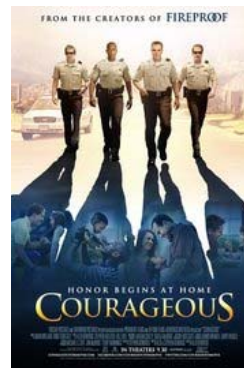
For the Ash Wednesday supper, plan on 65 to 70 hungry people, or two roasters full of soup. Traditionally, a desert is also part of the meal.

A free will donation is collected. You take out the cost of the food from the donations, and then any money left is given as part of the Lenten Offering.

## Courageous Living Bible Study

Do you want to be a better spouse and/or parent? Who doesn't? Come to the Courageous Living Bible Study, to be held each Sunday in February at 9:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary, to see how living more courageously for the sake of your family might improve your family relationships. This 4-week study will use clips from the recently released movie "Courageous," real life examples, and Bible passage to stimulate discussion about what living courageously might entail.

## Movie Night on Saturday, February 11



All are invited to watch the movie *Courageous* on Saturday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m. at Lord of Love. This movie was produced by a Christian group and received great reviews from members who saw it in the theatres in October. The movie is PG-13 and is appropriate for all youth and adults.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase, and the funds raised will go to the Men's Ministry Scholarship Fund for attending the next national convention.

## Weekly Education Opportunities at Lord of Love

### Sunday

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

### Monday

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

### Wednesday

5:00 p.m. Confirmation (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades) @ LOL Abraham Room  
6:00 p.m. Luther Kids (1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grades) @ LOL Preschool  
6:00 p.m. *Gather* Bible Study @ LOL Mary Room (first Wednesday of month)

### Thursday

9:30 a.m. Text Study @ Guthrie's

### Saturday

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

## Cookbook

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Calling all cooks! We're going to roll out the newest edition of Lord of Love's cookbook in time for Lord of Love's 40th anniversary in June. Our last cookbook was printed for the 30th anniversary, so after 10 years, we're anticipating a good response to participating in and purchasing the cookbook.



But...we need a committee! Please contact Ruth Manning at [cranecoffeechick@gmail.com](mailto:cranecoffeechick@gmail.com) or at 402-451-0221 as soon as possible to volunteer. There will be an orientation session at church at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 11. We will view the introductory video from Morris Press in Kearney and begin discussions on the format of the cookbook.

In the meantime, be thinking of recipes for sections like Kids Cook, Men in the Kitchen, International Favorites, and the usual cookbook categories.

## Vacation Bible School Planning

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Cold weather may be coming, but planning for VBS will surely warm you up! Just think SUMMER!



We are planning for our 2012 VBS and are looking for volunteers. This year's theme will be Sonrise National Park, where kids will enjoy learning to depend on the promises of Jesus—promises each of us can cling to. They will discover the true treasure described in Philippians 4:19, "My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ, Jesus." The daily themes will encompass Bible stories and activities focused on True Peace, True Riches, True Power, True Love, and True Hope. We hope that children will leave VBS knowing that no matter what extreme challenge may come their way in life, they will have the indescribable, all-powerful, unchangeable, unwavering Jesus to guide their way.

Mark your calendar! VBS 2012 will be held in the evenings from Monday, June 11 through Friday, June 15.

The first planning meeting was held on Wednesday, January 25, and the second planning meeting will be on Wednesday, February 1 at 6:00 p.m. These meetings will be the start to planning the week of VBS. We will look at materials, determine program set-up and needs, listen to music and videos, and discuss thoughts and ideas. We invite anyone interested in assisting with the planning of VBS to attend.

There will be many more volunteer opportunities to use your gifts and talents. Be watching for more information or just let Heather Christensen know how you'd like to help.

Questions? Contact Heather Christensen at 402-415-4571 or Pastor Brad.



## OUTREACH

### Red Cross Blood Drive on February 26

Lord of Love is hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Sunday, February 26, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. To schedule your donation time, please see Gary Ramsay or Paul Christenson or sign up online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org). If you would like to help with this event, please contact Paul or Gary ASAP.



### Diaper Derby 2012

Lutheran Family Services (LFS) has invited eight Omaha ELCA congregations to participate in a Diaper Derby with the goal of collecting 100,000 diapers! Lord of Love is excited to join in this challenge.

Throughout the month of February, you may give a monetary donation or bring disposable diapers to church to help us reach our goal of 8,000 diapers. Sizes 3, 4, and 5 are the most desired if you purchase the diapers on your own.

Your monetary gift will be held by Lutheran Family Services to purchase diapers throughout the year as needed. (Monetary gifts are preferred due to issues of storage of 100,000 diapers.) Each year, LFS spends over \$60,000 dollars to supply diapers for their programs in Omaha and Council Bluffs, which is a drain on other financial resources at LFS. The Diaper Derby will assist LFS to provide even greater services in our area.

The diapers are distributed through the LFS Center for Healthy Families. The center's "Young Families Incentive Program" encourages healthy behaviors among client families by providing needed child-care essentials, such as diapers, car seats, and Pack N Plays. Parents "purchase" these items at the "Boutique Store" with points earned by completing healthy parenting activities within the program.

Purchasing power through monetary gifts to LFS will enable them to buy diapers at the basic unit price of .20 per diaper.

Dollars	Diapers
\$1.00	5
\$5.00	25
\$10.00	50
\$15.00	75
\$20.00	100
\$40.00	200
\$60.00	300
\$80.00	400
\$100.00	500

(based on averages of size, brand)

## Diaper Derby



Let's meet the challenge of 8,000 diapers for LFS!

### Nebraska ELCA – We Do Mission!

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A recent letter from Bishop David deFreese sadly announced a 5 percent reduction in funding for the 2012 Synod Budget due to reduced monies from mission centers and churchwide partnerships. Here are some points to ponder from Bishop deFreese:

“From support for world hunger relief and malaria eradication efforts abroad to ministries serving our brothers and sisters in need in our Nebraska neighborhoods and communities, mission share makes ministry possible. More than 80 percent of the money received by the Nebraska Synod through mission share goes on to do ministry ‘outside the walls.’ The remaining dollars are used to resource our local mission centers to help them do their own mission and ministry effectively.

“There is a troubling trend toward designated giving that makes it more difficult to carry out the ministries that we have collectively agreed to do. All too often, designated gifts result in lower mission share offerings, meaning there are fewer dollars available to fund our shared ministries.

“Now more than ever is the time for us to ask ourselves once again, ‘What does it mean to be the church?’ What does it mean that we are those who in Jesus’ words are called to ‘be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all of Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth?’ (Acts 1:8 NRSV)

“I pray that all of us will reflect on these questions and seek ways in which we can do more together. I applaud the faithful efforts and sacrifice that many of our mission centers make to partner with the Nebraska Synod through mission share and ask that we seek ways to fund and resource the essential ministries we do together in Jesus’ name.”

Lord of Love has been blessed to be able to provide our annual Synod Mission share each year. In addition, we as a congregation do mission with our special offerings (Lent, Easter, Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas), our commitment to Feed the Roots, and our budgeted 2.5 percent of our income to go toward special mission projects.

Here’s an example of the Nebraska ELCA being the church:



Farmers from the Nebraska Synod contributed 21 loads of hay to our neighbors in Texas to help replace the hay crops that were lost due to drought and fires earlier this year.



## RESOURCES

### Stewardship All Year Long: Volunteering by Kathy Christiansen

The stewardship word for this month is “Volunteering.”

“For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people.” 2 Corinthians 8:3-4

Stewardship is much more than finances; it is also about our actions. Our service to others, our time, our concern and love for our fellow humans and our world; those are also our offerings. These actions show how we are willing to love and serve our God, which is our purpose as Christians.



Paul reminds us in the above words that volunteering of our time and talents for God’s work is an honor. Even the humble Christians that he writes about gave out of what little they had, trusting in God to provide for them. Paul reminds us that we are all God’s servants, using His gifts and spending our lives making every effort to love God and others. May we become better stewards of His gifts this month and always.



## COUNCIL REPORT

### Our Giving Status by Barb Haskins, Council Treasurer

Our financial picture for the month of December 2011 is as follows:

- Income: \$25,029.59
- Expenses: \$22,626.03

Thank you for your generous support of Lord of Love.



### 2012 Lord of Love Church Council

Executive Committee: Brian Lund, President; Kenn Garder, Vice-President; Judy Messerschmidt, Secretary; Barb Haskins, Treasurer

Nurture: Paula Foster, Lori Vandeventer

Outreach: Jeri Morgan, Mike Klos

Resources: Doug Roberts, Rex Quadhamer

Worship: Randi VenHuizen, Pat Brewer



## COUNCIL REPORT

### From the Council President – February 2012 by Brian Lund, Council President

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John 13:34-35 (NIV) *A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*

February—the month of love. Many people make a special effort on one day, Valentine’s Day, to show love to the special person or people in their lives.

Now, you can ask Deb, but I have not ever been that great a fan of Valentine’s Day. Sometimes our schedules just don’t allow us to take time on that particular day to do anything special. And that is OK with me. I recall that one year we “celebrated” with a night out sometime in June or July. I hope she will also tell you that this doesn’t mean that I don’t show my love for her on other days and in various ways.

Pastor Brad has been great in his proclamation of the good news of Christ, God’s love and gracious gift to us, Jesus born and died for us. Pastor Brad doesn’t suggest that we simply receive that good gift. He stresses the “so what” of the Gospel, that we should respond to God’s love for us and reflect that love in our daily lives and the relationships we have with others.

I see our members doing wonderful things—embracing each other and supporting fellow members. When members are sick, suffering from loss, or having other cares and worries, our Lord of Love family shows concern and comes together to provide care and support. And this happens any day of the week, whenever it is needed.

Our care and support often extend beyond our members to friends, co-workers, and others in need. Our prayer ministry identifies the needs of many who need to be uplifted in prayer. We have an active mission program that allows us to support local, regional, national, and international causes. We open our building to those needing support and nurturing in their lives through individual counseling, AA, and other support group meetings.

I encourage all of our members to participate in the caring ministries that Lord of Love supports. Grow in faith. Participate in prayer. Offer compassion in support of others. Not just on Sunday, but every day.

Mark 12:29-31 (NIV) *“The most important commandment,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”*

I give thanks for all of our members and their faithful support of Lord of Love. When you are asked to help in service to our congregation and others, please consider the invitation. If you are not asked but would like to help, please contact me, Pastor Brad, or any of our council members.

Please continue to pray for our congregation, Pastor Brad, our congregation council, for all of God’s children with special needs, and for our ministry together.

Blessings in faith and service,  
Brian Lund

## WOMEN OF LOVE

### Secret Angel Deadline

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Please get your name in to Shawn Lorenzen by Wednesday, February 1 if you wish to be part of the 2012 Secret Angel program. This is open to all girls and women of Lord of Love.

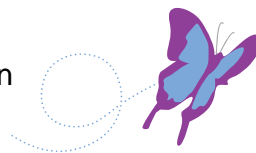
The purpose is to pray for your secret angel and drop her notes and cards of encouragement throughout the year—all in secret, of course! Names will be distributed in time so you can greet your angel on Valentine's Day.

### Metro East Spring Gathering

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The Metro East Spring Gathering, "Christ Makes Life Exciting," is scheduled for April 14 at Bethany Lutheran Church in Elkhorn. Featured speaker Diane Gubbels of Coleridge, NE, will share the stories of how she was inspired to create many of the quilts she has made in a lifetime of quilting. Mitch McCartney, Assistant to the Bishop of the Nebraska Synod, will lead the Bible study. Speaking on Project Harmony will be Amy Chisholm, Develop Specialist, and Nola Jeanpierre will inspire us with her beautiful music.

The March issue of *The Love Letter* will include information on registration and tangible and monetary offerings.



### Gather Bible Studies

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We're coming up on session 6 of the nine-part series on the study of Matthew, which focuses on "Tough Questions." The theme verse is Mark 10:49, "Take heart, get up, for he is calling you."

The Wednesday group will meet on February 1 in the Mary Room at 6:00 p.m. The Monday group will meet on February 6 at the Old Country Buffet, 145th & West Center Road, at 6:00 p.m. All women are invited to attend either of these groups.

### Autumn Renewal

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Lord of Love will host the Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization Autumn Renewal for Eastern Nebraska on September 15. Please mark your calendar now, as we will be looking for volunteers to help plan as well as to help out that day.

The theme is "Pray the Devil Back to Hell." We will hear the story of a small band of Liberian women who came together in the midst of a bloody civil war and led the way to win a long-awaited peace for their shattered country in 2003.

Watch *The Love Letter* for further information.

### Lord's Laughing Ladies

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The coffee group will meet on February 3 and 17 at 8:00 a.m. at Crane Coffee at 76th and Cass. All women are welcome, so please come and join the fun!



### LOL Women's Ministry Team

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The women's ministry team will meet on Wednesday, February 8 at 6:00 p.m. in the Mary Room.



# WOMEN OF LOVE

## Saved to Serve Opportunities

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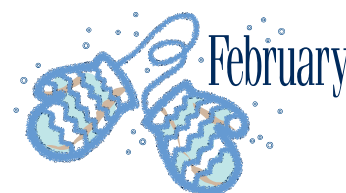
Recently announced by NSWO are two opportunities to participate in the annual Service Retreats. The first is June 8-10 with Tabitha Home Health Care in Crete. The Lutheran Service Corp in Omaha will host the group August 3-5. Watch for additional details.

## Dates to Remember

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### February

1	6:00 p.m.	Gather Bible Study, Mary Room
3	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 76th and Cass
6	6:00 p.m.	Gather Bible Study, Old Country Buffet, 145th and West Center Road
7	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
8	6:00 p.m.	Women's Ministry Team, Mary Room
11	10:00 a.m.	Cookbook Committee, Lord of Love
17	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 76th and Cass
21	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall



### Coming Soon

April 14	Metro East Spring Gathering, Bethany Lutheran, Elkhorn
April 27-28	Retreat at St. Benedict Center, Schuyler
September 15	Autumn Renewal, Lord of Love



# LOL YOUTH

## Youth Group Meetings

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Things are in full swing for the Youth Group! The high school youth started meeting on January 15 and will continue to do so for the coming months.

Middle School youth, be sure to look at the calendar for upcoming meetings and events!

## Note to Parents

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If any of you would like to help with any of these events, please let Lynette Kistler know. I will definitely need volunteers for the Easter Breakfast on April 8. Thank you so much in advance for all of your help! My email is kistlerlf@gmail.com. See you all soon!

## Calendar of Youth Events

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### February

February 5	Both Jr. and Sr. High Youth Meeting
February 12	Middle School Youth Meeting – during the annual meeting High School Youth – please attend the annual meeting!

### Coming Soon

March 4	Bowling for Jesus Event – The youth can bowl as a team for this!
March 11	Both Jr. and Sr. High Youth Meeting
April 8	Easter Breakfast



## IN OUR PRAYERS & LOVE NOTES

### In Our Prayers

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Adrienne (staff member/friend of Rose Roberts)  
Karen  
Dick Bell  
Marty Beutler (son of Gary and Connie Beutler)  
Ruth Cooley  
Treyson Cooper (student of Susan Lueders in  
burn unit)  
Jill Coster  
Janet Duckworth (friend of Marilyn Thomsen)  
Claire Foral (friend of Dave and Lisa Rieff)  
Patty George (friend of Dave and Lisa Rieff)  
Keith Gillespie  
Kaye Haar (friend of the Novaks)  
Marilyn Haworth (friend of Brenda Mac)  
Cathy Johnson (friend of Marilyn Thomsen)  
Cheryl Jones (friend of Nancy Shinrock)  
Gene and Dolores Jordan (uncle and aunt of  
Paula Foster)  
Jude Konvalina  
Lisa Lueders (sister-in-law of Dave Lueders)  
Jim Mahler (brother of Jane Hawkins)  
Marj Mahler (mother of Jane Hawkins)

Ruby Mathis and Jada (aunt and cousin of Lynnette  
Nore)  
Debbie Michalak (co-worker of Jackie Combes)  
John Patrick Nicholson (friends of the Novaks)  
Charlotte Peters (sister of Karen Mullen)  
Luana Salerno (friend of Sandy Hall)  
Isaac Schroeder (infant son of Clay and Kelly)  
Phyllis Strasser  
Karen Swanson (sister of Marilyn Thomsen)  
Brenda Thom  
Marilyn Thomsen  
Ted Whitfield (former co-worker of Brian Shinrock)

Children waiting to be adopted & those seeking to adopt  
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](mailto: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!

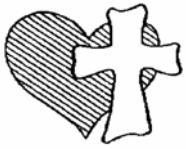
### Love Notes

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Thank you to my Lord of Love family for making my 90th birthday so special! I especially want to thank everyone who came to my "party" and/or sent a card (I got 97 cards!). You all really made my day!

Ann Christiansen





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

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**Return Service Requested**

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

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**This Month**

- February 1-29 Diaper Derby
- February 1 Vacation Bible School planning
- February 11 Cookbook orientation session  
Movie Night – *Courageous*
- February 22 Ash Wednesday soup supper and worship
- February 26 Red Cross Blood Drive
- February 29 Lenten soup supper and worship

**Upcoming Events**

- March 4 Bowling for Jesus
- April 8 Easter Worship  
Easter Breakfast served by the Youth Group
- June 11-15 Sonrise National Park –  
Vacation Bible School



*Articles for The Love Letter can be submitted to the editor, Kim Gust, in the Love Letter mailbox at church or by email at [loveletter@lord-of-love.org](mailto:loveletter@lord-of-love.org). Articles must be received by the Love Letter editor by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.*