



The Love Letter

Volume 38

March 2010

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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 Lenten season is often a time for reflecting. This Lent, we are reflecting through the five senses with the theme, **Making Sense of Lent** (see page 2, Pastor's Page, and page 5, Worship), and our special **Lenten offering** will support our mission theme of shelter (see page 8, Outreach). Also this Lent, supper is served in the Fellowship Hall each Wednesday night beginning at 5:30 p.m., and our **midweek Lenten worship service** follows at 7:00 p.m.

This month, we are also reflecting on who we are as a congregation and what we are looking for in a pastor as we prepare our **Congregation Profile** and move forward in the **call process** (see page 4, Worship, and pages 11 and 12, Council Report and Transition/Call Process Update).

During this time of reflection, we also make time for fellowship with one another and outreach in our community. A **potluck lunch** and the **Lord of Love Talent Show** will be held on Sunday, March 14, and an **ACF (Adult Christian Fellowship) Game Night** will take place on Friday, March 26 (see page 7, Nurture). In addition, our work with the ELF coalition for **Habitat for Humanity** will begin in April (see page 8, Outreach).

Finally, there are additional opportunities for fellowship and service through our **men's, women's, and youth ministries** (see page 13, Men's News Corner; pages 14-16, Women of Love; and page 16, LOL Youth).

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Take in the Five Senses this Lent by Brian Lund, Council President

Dear Friends in Christ,

We've entered into the journey of Lent, and I'm curious about the topic for our Wednesday Lenten services, "Making Sense of Lent." I understand that it will focus on how the five senses help us learn more about God.

I was interested enough about this topic to ask my old pal Google for some Bible references related to the five senses: sight, hearing, taste, smell, touch. I think I've hit on some verses that you probably won't hear about this Lent. However, these may still have some value in defining our relationships with God and each other.

Sight – God wants us to be blind to the differences in race, gender, and economic stature of the people around us: Galatians 3:28 *"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."*

Hearing – We often wonder what God's plan is for us. Through prayer and study, we listen to God's call to serve and be Christ to others. Romans 10:17 *"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."*

Taste – Often coupled with smell, taste is usually associated with food. But we often have such strong feelings about things that "we can almost taste them". Here are a couple of verses with similar advice regarding a right relationship with God and others. Proverbs 20:17 *"Food gained by fraud tastes sweet to a man, but he ends up with a mouth full of gravel."* 1 Peter 2:1-3 *"Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good."*

Smell – I recall that one of our friends from college could not smell things. The loss of this sense could be helpful at times, but I'd consider it a very significant handicap. From Paul's letter to the church in Corinth, we learn of the sweet smell of the knowledge of Christ. 2 Corinthians 2:14-15 *"But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing."*

Touch – When considering this final sense, I was reminded of the tune "Don't Touch That." As parents, we were constantly telling our very young kids this same thing. The books of Leviticus and Numbers are full of examples of "don't touch that" wording. But when it comes to Jesus in the Gospels, people were begging to touch and be touched by Him. Mark 6:56 *"And wherever he went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed."*

I encourage you to take in the five senses this Lent through participation in Wednesday and Sunday worship services as well as the special services of Holy Week. Come and be fed by the meat and potato lessons of the season. Don't skip the main course and show up only for the dessert of Easter.

By the way, there are some great Lenten meditations available through the Lutheran School of Theology, Luther Seminary, and the ELCA websites. Dig in and feast on these additional opportunities for reflection.

Brian Lund



MONTHLY CALENDAR

March 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:00pm LWT Bible Study @ Old Country Buffet 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	2 9:00am Quilters 5:30pm YWCA Men's Group 6:45pm First Place 7:00pm Vision & Coordination 7:30pm YWCA Men's Group	3 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm LWT Bible Study 6:00pm Brass 6:30pm Confirmation 7:45pm Chancel Choir	4 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	5 8:00am LoL Ladies @ Crane Coffee 7:30pm AA	6 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 8:00am Omaha Suzuki
7 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion	8 Organ repair through March 17 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	9 5:30pm YWCA Men's Group 6:45pm First Place 7:30pm YWCA Men's Group	10 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:30pm Confirmation 7:45pm Chancel Choir	11 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	12 7:30pm AA	13 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
14 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 11:30am Youth Talent Show & Lunch	15 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	16 5:30pm YWCA Men's Group 6:45pm First Place 7:00pm Church Council Mtg. 7:30pm YWCA Men's Group	17 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:30pm Confirmation 7:45pm Chancel Choir	18 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	19 8:00am LoL Ladies @ Crane Coffee 7:30pm AA	20 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 9:30am W/ELCA General Mtg.
21 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 2:00pm Granada Townhomes Assoc. Mtg.	22 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	23 5:30pm YWCA Men's Group 6:45pm First Place 7:30pm YWCA Men's Group	24 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Preschool Board 6:00pm Brass 6:30pm Confirmation 7:45pm Chancel Choir	25 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	26 7:30pm AA	27 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 12:00pm Morris Shower
28 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 1:00pm AA District 18 Mtg.	29 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	30 5:30pm YWCA Men's Group 6:45pm First Place 7:30pm YWCA Men's Group	31 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:30pm Confirmation 7:45pm Chancel Choir			

What is Lord of Love Looking for in a Pastor?

At the Congregational Meeting on February 7, 2010, 41 members of the congregation filled out a survey to indicate our priorities in choosing the type of Pastor we would like to see at Lord of Love. The following list was compiled based on these surveys and is the list that will be printed in our Congregation Profile materials, which will be distributed to prospective candidates. If anyone has opinions or additions to these characteristics, please contact a council member.

The Pastor we seek is someone who...

- Can help individuals develop and deepen their spiritual life.
- Can share leadership and work in a team.
- Can communicate effectively.
- Can work easily and creatively with children and youth.
- Brings joy and good humor to relationships.
- Enjoys the teaching aspects of ministry.
- Builds a sense of community among the congregation.
- Can deal effectively with conflict issues.
- Helps others develop their leadership abilities and skills for ministry.
- Provides care and nurture.

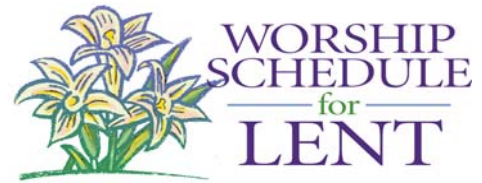


Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	March 7	March 14	March 21	March 28
Liturgist				
8:00 a.m.	Shawn Lorenzen	Deb Lund	Tom Olson	Paul Christenson
10:30 a.m.	Gary Krause	Randi VenHuizen	Karen Mullen	
Communion Servers				
8:00 a.m.			Tom and Beth Olson, Heather and Kyle Christensen	
10:30 a.m.	John, Gwen, and Aaron Edwards	Brad and Randi VenHuizen		
Altar Care				
8:00 a.m.	Deb Christenson	Ed and Marjorie Keiser	Cathy Aden, Sue Dieter	Connie Walther, Lisa Meyer
10:30 a.m.	Brenda and Suzanne Mac	Rowen family	Brewer family	
Ushers				
8:00 a.m.	David Hild, Paul Murphy, Claude Hall, Bob Christensen			
10:30 a.m.	Dan Manning, Rex Quadhamer, Gary Ramsay, John Edwards			

Worship During the Season of Lent

The season of Lent began on February 17, Ash Wednesday, and continues until April 4, Easter Sunday. Lent is 40 days long to remember the amount of time Jesus spent in the wilderness being tempted by the devil at the beginning of his ministry. If you've ever gotten out a calendar and counted the days, you'll discover that from Ash Wednesday to Easter, there are actually 46 days. This is because Sundays are not technically counted as part of Lent; they are "mini Easters" to be celebrated all through the year.



Our worship on Sundays this Lent will use the same theme as our congregation's theme for the year: "Building on Faith to Serve." We will continue looking at ways to discover God's calling to act on our faith in order to serve others.

The Sunday before Easter is called either Sunday of the Passion or Palm Sunday. Sometimes people wonder why we recount the entire Passion story when we're just going to cover the same territory again on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. As I was listening to the story last year, I was struck by how many stories get left out if we jump straight from Palm Sunday to texts for Thursday and Friday. Peter's denial of Jesus, for example, is one story we would miss altogether. Christians have been marking the Sunday before Easter with a procession of palms followed by the full passion narrative since the seventh century. In this month's *Lutheran Women Today*, Jennifer Ollikainen writes, "The two shouts of the crowds in the gospel accounts proclaimed on Passion Sunday, 'Hosanna!' and 'Crucify!' exemplify the paradox that is central to our Christian faith, the paschal mystery. Jesus Christ brings victory through suffering, greatness through humility, life through death."

For our Wednesday evening worship services, "Making Sense of Lent," we will explore ways to deepen our relationship with God using all of our senses.

- March 3 – Journey into Touching. We share and show love by touching.
- March 10 – Journey into Tasting. Taste and see that the Lord is good!
- March 17 – Journey into Seeing. Look around you and see if you can see the evidence of God at work in the world.
- March 24 – Journey into Smelling. Scents evoke memories and emotions more than any other sense.
- April 1 – Maundy Thursday. We remember the Last Supper.
- April 2 – Good Friday. We contemplate Jesus' suffering and death and what it means for us.

Lenten Devotions

If you need a source for Lenten devotions, check out the link to A Song of Grateful Hearts, a collection of Lenten Devotions offered by the Covenant Cluster of ELCA Seminaries: <http://www.lstc.edu/chapel/lent/index.php>. Seminaries of the Covenant Cluster of the ELCA include the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago in Chicago, Illinois; Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio; and Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. Devotions can be viewed online daily or the complete series can be downloaded as a PDF.



Tape Ministry: Updates on Our Members by Karen Pickens and Rachel Novak

We had planned on telling you all about Bernice Reitan this month but have decided that we need a little more time to write her story. At this point, we will only tell you that she is looking as lovely as ever in her home at Fontenelle Village. We hope to bring you the whole story next month, and soon after that, we would like to give you Ed Guthrie's life story (so far). The *Omaha World Herald* did a story on Ed, a Pearl Harbor survivor, on December 7, 2009. We will tell you the rest of his story.

In the meantime, here is a little update on some of our somewhat homebound family members....

Esther Welliver has had a few rough weeks with various health issues and has been unable to get to church but as of Friday, when Rachel and I visited her, she was full of her usual spunk! She served us coffee and cookies in her immaculate little kitchen, and we all had a wonderful time. Although we haven't seen her at church, she has managed to ride along with Rachel and I to see her dear friend, **Agnes Wilson**. We so look forward to visiting Agnes...more coffee and cookies...served by our gracious hostess Linda. Oh, the stories we hear when we sit awhile with these two! (Check the "Getting to Know You" bulletin board in the narthex to see a picture of Agnes and Esther completely absorbed in their memories).

Anna Jensen celebrated her 102nd birthday in November 2009 with a worship service (featuring the Lord of Love choir) and birthday party at Crowell Home in Blair. Anna was very thoughtful that day and thankful to have her family and friends surrounding her. On one recent visit in January, she told me to come back "before her chariot comes for her." Rachel and I have visited her again since January!

Pearl Garnaas spends a lot of her time sitting in her little niche. She has a window that looks out over the world, a T.V. right up close that entertains her and keeps her informed as to what is happening in the world, a telephone that keeps her connected to all of her daughters, and many mementos given to her by family and friends. Of course, her friend **Ellen Nore** lives on one side of her and Audrey on the other: three Lutheran women all taking care of each other! Ellen is the one who brings in the news from the outside as she comes to church whenever possible with Lynnette as her chauffeur. We are so glad that Ellen is still able to come to church and join in our activities.

I am thankful for Brad and Randi VenHuizen, who ministered to **Leo Phillips** with worship tapes, communion, and their loving presence. None of us will forget the stirring story that Brad and Randi wrote about Leo, and I am thinking we are all relieved that Leo is now with his wife Wanda and his loving Father. Many of our church members have been recalling the good times they had with both Wanda and Leo.



We try to connect with anyone who cannot attend worship but if we are missing you or someone you know, please let us know and we will get right to you. And if you would like to be part of this ministry, please contact us. We always need volunteers!



Lord of Love Talent Show

The Lord of Love Talent Show will be held on Sunday, March 14! Everyone is welcome to share their talents in the show or to be a part of the audience. A potluck lunch will be held after the 10:30 a.m. worship service, and the talent show will follow in the sanctuary.

If you are interested in participating, please sign up on the Youth Board in the narthex. A free-will donation will be accepted for admission to the Talent Show.



Youth Fast Pledges

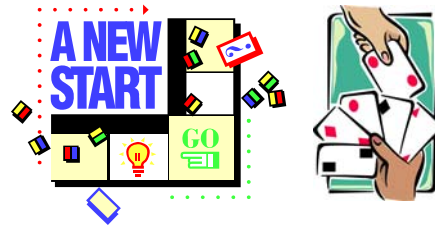


The Youth Fast was held February 26-28. If you sponsored a Youth Group member in the fast, you can turn in your pledge by placing it the collection plate or in the Youth Group mailbox. Checks

can be made out to Lord of Love, with "Youth Group" in the memo line. Thank you for your contributions!

ACF Game Night

Join us for ACF (Adult Christian Fellowship) Game Night! Let's have some fun and forget about the long, cold winter! All adults are invited to play a favorite board or card game at the Lund home, 4720 N 136 Street, on Friday, March 26, from 7:00 to 10:30 pm. Bring your favorite game to play and a drink or snack to share. Hope to see you there! Questions? Contact Brian or Deb Lund at 493-3721.



New Website Coming Soon!

A new Lord of Love website will be released soon, and everyone is invited to come check out our new look! We welcome your feedback. Some content will still be under development when the new site goes live. Your suggestions and input would be greatly appreciated. Please share your ideas with Brian Lund, Del Gust, or Kim Gust.



Weekly Education Opportunities at Lord of Love

Sunday

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

Monday

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

4:45 p.m. Confirmation (7th & 8th grades) @ LOL Abraham Room
6:00 p.m. Luther Kids (1st – 6th grades) @ LOL Preschool
6:00 p.m. *Lutheran Woman Today* Bible Study @ LOL Joseph Room (first Wednesday of month)

Thursday

9:30 a.m. Text Study @ Guthries

Saturday

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

OUTREACH

Lenten Offerings

Our Lenten offering this year will go toward our mission theme of “shelter.” These offerings from our midweek services will go toward our goal of sponsoring the build of two Houses for Health in Tanzania. The Missions Possible Team would like to thank everyone who helped with and participated in the January 3 breakfast when Lord of Love member Bob Kasworm returned to visit with the congregation. To learn more about the Tanzanian Houses for Health program, please visit the website at <http://www.housesforhealth.org/>.



ELCA Good Gifts

This past Christmas, thousands of ELCA members took the guesswork out of shopping by choosing to give a gift that would make a difference in the world. ELCA Good Gifts made memorable gifts for loved ones and went on to change lives. The image on the following page is just a glimpse into the wide-reaching impact of this year's gifts.



Source: ELCA's *LifeLines* Newsletter
(www.elca.org/hunger/newsletter)

Habitat for Humanity

For the past several years, Lord of Love has partnered with other churches in the ELF coalition, the community, and Habitat family partners to build or rehab a house. Lord of Love will be participating in the ELF coalition again this year. We will be doing a rehab house again this year, which is located at 3227 North 40th Avenue. We will start working on the house beginning the weekend of April 10. We will work all day on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Lord of Love will be responsible for providing a meal on a Saturday, volunteers to donate their time and skills, and financial support. The ELF coalition needs to raise \$80,000.00 to rehab this year's house. To finance the house, the ELF coalition will get grant money, but the largest amount of the money comes from the congregations in the ELF coalition. Thrivent Financial is a major contributor to Habitat for Humanity. The more Lutherans and the more Thrivent Financial members that volunteer their time and skills, the more Thrivent Financial contributes financially. Everyone at Lord of Love has the ability to contribute to Habitat for Humanity. If you do not feel you have a useful skill to volunteer, a financial contribution of any amount is beneficial. If you are willing to volunteer, there is always some skill that can be useful. Habitat for Humanity is also a great place to learn new skills and to meet other people in our community of Christ. In the next couple of months, we will be asking for volunteers and financial support for this local ministry.



ELCA Good Gifts at Work

This past Christmas, thousands of ELCA members took the guesswork out of shopping by choosing to give a gift that would make a difference in the world. ELCA Good Gifts made memorable gifts for loved ones and went on to change lives. Below is just a glimpse into the wide-reaching impact of this year's gifts.

UNITED STATES
Backpack Filled with Food
• \$25
In Alameda County, California, 1,500 children go to school with a backpack full of food. Thanks to a local backpack program, before the weekend, students go home with a bag of nutritionally balanced foods to sustain them on days when they do not benefit from subsidized school meal programs.

MEXICO
Chicks
• \$10
Families in Mexico are using eggs from their chickens to prepare protein-rich meals for their families. Extra eggs are sold at the market for an additional source of income, which is often used to send children to school.

COLOMBIA
Community Vegetable Garden
• \$200
Your gift is supplying a community vegetable garden and sustaining life in Colombia. Because new gardens are slowly started, they quickly reduce hunger for people who have been forced to flee their land because of conflict and violence.

BOLIVIA
Sheep
• \$125
Warm wool and nutritious milk make gifts of sheep especially valuable for farmers in Bolivia. Wool can be used to make clothing and bedding, and any extra wool a family doesn't need can be sold to pay for other necessities.

WEST BANK
Toys
• \$100
Toys are serving as therapeutic and educational tools for Palestinian children who live in war-torn areas of the West Bank.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
Survival Kit
• \$75
Survival kits are assisting refugees displaced by war and conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These kits include a tarp, water jug, clothes, and cooking supplies.

CHINA
Shoes
• \$10
Pairs of shoes are proving especially valuable for children in the mountains of the Sichuan province of China, where they must walk a mile or more in rocky terrain in order to get to school. Until getting new shoes, many children had old, worn bowties and often had blisters along the journey.

BANGLADESH
Cow
• \$500
Milk, meat, and fertilizer from cows are helping families in Bangladesh. Women sell milk from the cows at the local market. Income from the market can be invested in the farm or used to pay for school and health care expenses.

SHOP THE ONLINE CATALOG AT www.elca.org/goodgifts

This year, we have the opportunity to do more to support the life-changing ministries of ELCA World Hunger and ELCA Disaster Response through ELCA Good Gifts. Consider upcoming birthdays and other special occasions, and plan ways to make your next gift a good gift. Making a difference in the world has never been easier!

4 | www.elca.org/hunger

www.elca.org/hunger | 5

RESOURCES

Read the Instructions!

“Some assembly required.” These are three of the most dreaded words that a guy can read. Have you ever assembled something after reading the directions and made mistakes because you didn’t read them carefully enough? Or have you ever wished that you thought about the instructions and the implied instructions before starting? I have been assembling a piece of furniture and have had to disassemble it several times because I did not take the time to think about the things that were not spelled out for me directly but were rather implied.

Our faith walk with Christ requires us not only to read the directions, but also to think about the meaning and order of our lives. What or who are we putting first? If I make this hasty decision now, what will be the effects on the futures of others and myself? What good will I undo by not doing the right thing? And a truly Lutheran thought: Why didn’t I do it the right way the first time? It would have been so much easier!

In this season of Lent, let us open our hearts to not only think of what God wants us to do, but why. We have an opportunity as a community of faith to positively affect the community around us as well as people around the world. It all starts with reading the “instructions,” God’s word, and thinking about what God is calling us to do and why.



Lights!!! Music!!! Worship!!!



God has blessed our campaign! We have reached our goal!

Thanks to all of you who have given gifts or made pledges to the Capital Campaign! We have reached—and exceeded—our goal of \$20,000. Forty-seven pledges/gifts have totaled \$22,695 as of February 15. These funds have already been used to repair the south drive and replace the sanctuary lights. Soon, the repairs, rewiring, and upgrades to the organ electronics will begin. All extra funds not designated for specific projects will go to the Major Improvement Fund. If you would still like to donate to this campaign, it’s not too late. You may return a pledge card and/or a gift in the offering plate at any time. We would like to have all pledged funds collected by June 30, if possible.

Again, thanks for all of your generous contributions!!!!



COUNCIL REPORT & TRANSITION/CALL PROCESS UPDATE

February 2010 Council Report by Don Rowen, Council Vice-President

A Congregational Meeting was held on February 7, 2010, and the items of business were as follows:

- Reviewed reports from each ministry of the church as published in the annual report.
- Reviewed year-end financial status. We had a deficit of almost \$6,000 for the year but still had money in the bank account.
- Elected 2 members (Josh and Carissa Combes) to attend the Nebraska Synod meeting in June.
- Elected 3 members to the Nominating Committee.
- Elected two members to the Endowment Committee.
- Reviewed the current council organization and work.
- Showed the goals of the council this year.
- Discussed the status of the call process. The Council has started to prepare the Congregation Profile, which we hope to complete by mid-April. The Council will bring forward a slate of candidates for the Call Committee to be elected at a special congregation meeting in mid-April.
- Had a light lunch and had members give their responses to five questions for the Congregation Profile:
 1. What are the top gifts the new pastor should have?
 2. What are the top five ministry tasks on which the new pastor should focus?
 3. What are three ways the Omaha community has been challenged in the last 3 to 5 years?
 4. What are three changes that have occurred within Lord of Love in the last 3 to 5 years?
 5. What are the members of Lord of Love excited about right now?

The Strategic Planning Committee met on February 16, 2010. The Strategic Planning Committee consists of the council members, the pastor, the youth director, and representatives of Women of Love and the Men's ministry group. The minutes of the meeting are summarized as follows:

- Brian Lund reviewed the different functions and activities that will occur at the Strategic Planning meetings versus the Council meetings. The Strategic Planning meetings will focus on longer range planning (3 to 12 months) and discussion of concerns, problems, and goals and how we might address concerns and attain our goals.
- We decided to have one topic as a major focus of each Strategic Planning meeting and decided that the topic of the next meeting in April will be the Education ministry.
- We discussed a long-range planning calendar that Brian Lund developed and asked each ministry to work on adding its upcoming activities to the calendar.
- Don Rowen gave an update on the progress on the Congregation Profile. A list of all the questions and information needed has been developed, and council members or committees have been assigned to supply answers or information. The council reviewed the responses to the five questions that the congregation members answered at the Congregational meeting. The council also answered another series of questions to attempt to describe the characteristic of the congregation and were asked to supply additional information by March 1. We will also prepare a booklet that describes Lord of Love along with answering the questions in the Congregation Profile.

2010 Lord of Love Church Council

Executive Committee: Brian Lund, President; Don Rowen, Vice-President; Brian Walther, Secretary; Lisa Meyer, Treasurer
Nurture: Heather Christensen, Angie Meyer
Outreach: Harry Naasz, Paul Christenson
Resources: Craig Pennell, Doug Armitage
Worship: Karen Mullen, Debra Gillespie



COUNCIL REPORT & TRANSITION/CALL PROCESS UPDATE

From the Council President – March 2010 by Brian Lund, Council President

Romans 12:12 (NRSV) *“Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.”*

This is a time of hope and excitement for Lord of Love. We are anxious for the call process to begin and be completed. Patience and prayer are needed as we enter this important activity for our congregation.

The council is hard at work on the Congregation Profile. The profile describes our congregation to candidate pastors. It documents who we are and what type of ministry we want to have at Lord of Love. Input from last month's annual meeting and summaries from Pastor Bob's appreciative inquiry sessions are being included in the profile. As we get nearer to completion, we will ask for your review and feedback. Once we complete the profile, then we will submit it to the Nebraska Synod and form our call committee.

The council will be the nominating committee for the call committee. We plan to have a committee of six people, three men and three women, two each from the following age groups: under 30, 30 to 50, and over 50. The council will identify potential call committee members. A job description that defines expectations, time commitment, and other basics of being a call committee member will be drafted. Each candidate will be asked to prayerfully consider serving on the call committee. The slate of candidates will be presented to the congregation at a special meeting, most likely in April.

Your prayers and encouragement to the council during this busy time of planning, discerning, writing, and general preparation for the call process are greatly needed and appreciated.



Building on Faith to Serve

“Created by God's gracious love, we are called, as a community of faith, to be witnesses and servants of Jesus to the world.” – Mission statement of Lord of Love

The council is continuing to address the ministry needs and strategic planning of our congregation also. This year, we are continuing to have a “split personality.” The council meets each month, but we meet with two different purposes. Every odd numbered month, we meet to undertake the official business of the congregation and address current ministry activities and issues. In the even numbered months, we meet as a Strategic Planning Committee and have decided to focus our discussion those months on one or two specific topics and/or ministry areas. In February, our focus was the Congregation Profile. In April, we will discuss our Christian Education program and touch on our goal of worship review and renewal. It is hoped that intentional discussion on a topic will help us create a better vision for Lord of Love and our ministries.

We have also started a council planning calendar of events and significant activities for our congregation. This calendar is intended to help with the communication of upcoming activities and increase the potential for our council committees to collaborate in carrying out the ongoing ministries of our congregation.

I am thankful for the great people that are serving with me on the church council. We are blessed to have these capable people leading our congregation in this time of transition. Please thank them for their service and lift them up in your prayers.

In faith and service,
Brian Lund

Men's Ministries Events Planned for 2010

Wow! Anticipating new adventures in 2010 and beyond with Men's Ministry at Lord of Love is limitless. It is amazing to see your ideas mixed with participation and to watch as an idea comes to fruition. The dates may change, but future activities under discussion and planning include the following:

- Planning and serving a Wednesday night Lenten meal – March
- Supporting the Good Friday 24-hour Prayer Vigil – April 2
- Participating in the Men's Softball Summer League – starts in late April
- Attending the NHRA Summer Nationals Drag Race – May 21-23
- Helping with the LOL garden project – spring/summer /fall
- Helping with/supporting Omaha area Prison Ministries – currently under discussion
- Supporting men wanting to attend the Lutheran Men in Mission National Convention scheduled for 2011 in Denver, Colorado

Is there anything you would like to attend or support? Or do you have an idea that you would like to have considered for a Men's Ministry project or activity? Please contact any council member or participant of the Men's Breakfast Ministry group. And as always, may the Peace of the Lord be with you.



Nebraska Synod Lutheran Men in Mission Annual Meeting

Don Rowen, Brad VenHuizen, and Gary Ramsey attended the annual meeting of the Nebraska Synod Lutheran Men in Mission in Lincoln on February 13, 2010. We attended a business meeting where new officers were elected. We were encouraged to start planning to attend the national meeting to be held in Colorado in 2011. We heard presentations about the Nebraska Synod-supported prison ministry and prison after care ministry and campus ministry. We also heard a presentation from a national Lutheran Men in Mission leader who talked about how to reach out to men at current times.



Men's Softball

All men are invited to play on the Lord of Love Men's softball team. Play will begin in late April and continue into August. We will probably play on Monday night. We are looking for additional players, so feel free invite coworkers or neighbors. If interested in playing, talk with Don Rowen (965-8977).

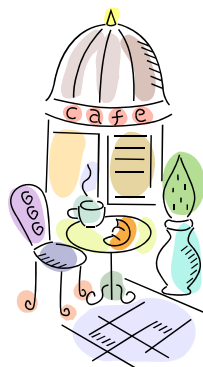


WOMEN OF LOVE

Join us at the Cup of Joy Café!

Ladies and Girls! Overcome the daily grind at the CUP OF JOY CAFÉ (formerly known as the Fellowship Hall) at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 20, 2010. Enjoy a program along with your favorite coffees, teas, hot chocolate, and tasty quick breads. Take time to shop for Fair Trade coffees and chocolates as well as beverage mixes from Kitchen Konnection.

We guarantee a whole *latte* laughter as we become more *grounded* in Christ.



Paths to Wholeness: Annual Women's Retreat

Mark your calendars for the annual Women's Retreat, which will be held on Friday and Saturday, April 23 and 24 at St. Benedict's Retreat Center in



*Women's
Retreat*

Schuyler. The theme is Paths to Wholeness, and we'll take a journey into spirituality and experience different paths toward God. Watch for additional information that will be coming soon!

Project Hope and "Meet the Challenge"

Thank you for your generosity to Project Hope. Please continue to place items in the containers under the Information Center in the Narthex. The needs for March are canned meat as well as treats for Easter baskets. In addition, the following personal care items are always welcome: bar soap, bathroom tissue, can openers, conditioner, deodorant, diapers, dish soap, feminine hygiene products, hair products (combs, brushes), Kleenex, laundry soap, mouthwash (without alcohol), razors, shaving cream, toothbrushes, and toothpaste.

Make your donations to Project Hope go farther with the Feinstein Challenge! Alan Shawn Feinstein will divide \$1 million among agencies nationwide who agree to "Meet the Challenge." Any of your donations received from March 1 through April 30 are counted towards the Feinstein challenge. These donations can include cash, checks, and food items (valued at \$1.00 per item or pound) or pledges. Keep an eye on the Project Hope website (projecthopeomaha.org) to watch the total grow. The goal is to collect \$60,000 in cash or in-kind donations.



Coffee Fellowship

All women are invited to join the Lord's Laughing Ladies! We meet at 8:00 a.m. for fellowship at Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass, on March 5 and 19.



Coffee Fellowship

Because You Loved Me

Lord, I love you
more than I can
relate

Not from
understanding

Not from
knowledge or fear

Not for desiring
heaven

Nor for protection
nor wanting things

But because you
loved me first and
forever.

Sr. Pat Mokler,
Chaplain,
Alegent Health
Immanuel Medical
Center

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

Session 7 – *The Renewing of Our Minds*

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:1-2)



You are invited to join one of these groups to participate in this study:

- Monday, March 1, Old Country Buffet, 145th and West Center Road at 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 3, Mary Room at 6:00 p.m.

God's Calling! by Gwen Edwards

"Follow me," he told him... Matthew 9:8b

How do you know when you are called by God? When He says "follow me," do you follow? You are called by God when your heart, mind, and soul are excited to do what God has asked you to do, when you are filled with so much love and the desire to share God's love, when you have a sense of fulfilling that task and you just beam—no, it's not that "it's done" feeling.

Does God only call you to do large tasks? No! He might call you to help make phone calls, to pray for a church member, to count offering, etc. We each have a ministry in us, and what that ministry is and how we fulfill it will vary as much as we differ from each other.

Do you know when it is time for you to switch your ministry and take a new one? Yes, God will tell you that, also.

Does it come easy to hear Him? Sometimes we hear Him and chose to ignore Him; however, we need to remember that when He wants us to do something, He will continue to call us.

I am in Chicago as I write this, and I am so inspired to be a member of Lord of Love Lutheran Church. We opened our weekend with the Holden Evening Prayer service. I enjoy that service; however, it was not the same as doing it at Lord of Love. As we were doing it; I was experiencing all of you with me; including the men and children. God brought some of you directly to my mind; I was seeing you and thanking God for what you have done for me. Maybe you think you haven't done anything for me. Yes, you have sung in the choir and that touches me; you have encouraged my son and that touches me. I was called to be a member of Lord of Love, and I have learned from you how to listen to God.

God's Blessings to you all of you, my brothers and sisters in Christ.



WOMEN OF LOVE

Calendar of Events

March

1	6:00 p.m.	LWT Bible Study, Old Country Buffet, 145th and West Center Road
2	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
3	6:00 p.m.	LWT Bible Study, Mary Room
5	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass
10	6:00 p.m.	Women's Ministry Team meeting, Mary Room
16	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
19	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass
20	9:30 a.m.	Program and General Meeting, Fellowship Hall



Coming Soon

April 17, 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 Fast Pledges Being Collected

If you agreed to sponsor someone for the Youth Fast, held February 26-28, you can get your pledges turned in by dropping them in the collection plate (marked "Youth Fast") or in the Youth Group mailbox. Checks can be made out to Lord of Love, with "Youth Group" in the memo line.



Talent Show

Yes, it's time once again to find out just how much talent we have at Lord of Love. Join the Youth Group on Sunday, March 14 for the Lord of Love Talent Show. Who knows what amazing talents we'll discover among our members? Anyone of any age is welcome to enter. Please sign up on the Youth Board so we can figure out an order for the acts. A free-will donation will be accepted for admission to the Talent Show. Join us for a potluck lunch right after second service is over, before the show gets started. Lemonade and coffee will be provided for the lunch.

Calendar of Youth Events

March

14	Lord of Love Talent Show
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A Bible Kids' Fun Zone coloring page!

Bible Kids Fun Zone grants permission to photocopy this page for local church and preschool use. © Copyright Bible Kids Fun Zone 2006.



<http://sunday-school-fun-zone.com>

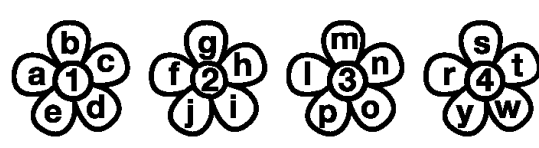


God's teaching is like....

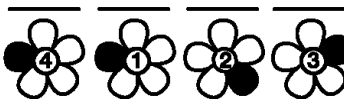
In Deuteronomy, Moses' words to the children of Israel remind us of spring, which brings growth and new life.

Use the flower code below to fill in the blanks, revealing Deuteronomy 32:2, NIV.


CODE



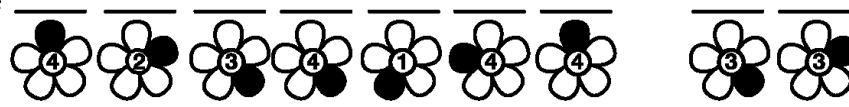
“Let my teaching fall like




and my words descend like

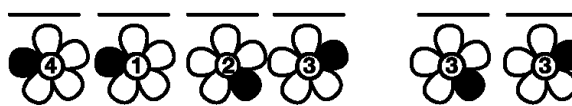


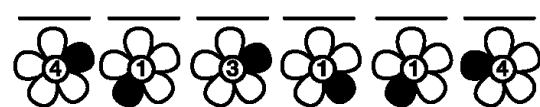
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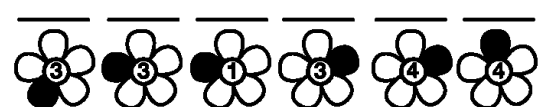




like abundant







IN OUR PRAYERS & LOVE NOTES

In Our Prayers

Catherine
Dr. Lori Arneson (niece of Ruth Cooley)
Dick Bell
Ryan Bolen (nephew of Sandy Hall)
Katie Brink (friend of the VenHuizens)
Miranda Brown (friend of the Shinrocks)
Portia Bruning (cousin of Shirley Schuchard)
Ann Christiansen
Elmer Corey (friend of Tom and Beth Olson)
Jan Davis (aunt of Paula Foster)
Heidi DeMarsh (cousin of Brian Lund)
Laura and Jeremy DeWitt
Colin Farbotka (nephew of Tom and Beth Olson)
Patty George (friend of the Rieffs)
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)
Marj Holbrook (mother of Judy Messerschmidt)
Cathy Johnson (friend of Marilyn Thomsen)
Tamra Johnston
Bob Kasworm and his ministry in Tanzania
Ken Kellogg (father of Karen Armitage)
Paula Lawhead (at seminary)
Carl Lueders (uncle of Dave Lueders)
Irene Lund (aunt of Brian Lund)
Rebecca Lund (at seminary)
Brenda Mac

Abbie Mahler (niece of Jane Hawkins)
Bob McKnight (grandfather of Ann Kroll)
Pastor Elibariki Mtui and all the saints of TPC Lutheran
Parish, Tanzania
Harry Naasz
Clarence (Swede) Nelson (brother of Pauline Shaffer)
Ried and Eunice Neve
Michael O'Toole (nephew of Mary Lou Gustafson)
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 Sacridier
Nancy Thoman (stepmom of Ann Kroll)
Joey Thompson (friend of the Murphys)
Brody Vermilyea (grandson of Brian and Nancy
Shinrock)
Rachel Wapelhorst (niece of Brenda Mac)
Agnes Wilson
Julie Wolf

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

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

Love Notes





The Love Letter
Lord of Love Lutheran Church
10405 Fort Street
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Mission Statement: Created by God's gracious love, we are called, as a community of faith, to be witnesses and servants of Jesus to the world.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

This Month

March 3 & 10	Midweek Lenten Worship
March 14	Daylight Saving Time begins Potluck Lunch and Lord of Love Talent Show
March 17	Midweek Lenten Worship
March 20	Women of Love program and general meeting
March 24	Midweek Lenten Worship
March 26	ACF Game Night
March 28	Palm Sunday

Upcoming Events

April 1	Maundy Thursday
April 2	Good Friday
April 4	Easter
April 23-24	Women's Retreat at St. Benedict's Retreat Center



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