



# The Love Letter

Volume 40

April 2012

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### Bell Choir Director

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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: Celebrating and sharing God's love in a welcoming community of faith, while serving others.

## A Look Ahead

Happy Easter! Christ is risen! Spring and Easter symbolize new life, and to me, it feels as though new life has been breathed into Lord of Love with the increase of celebrations and activities beginning this month and continuing into the summer.

The first week of April is **Holy Week**, followed by **Easter Sunday** on April 8. Join us for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship services, the Easter Prayer Vigil, and one of three worship services on Easter Sunday (see page 4, Worship). In addition, **Easter breakfast** will be served by our Youth Group (see page 7, Nurture).

Another sign of spring is spring cleaning! As you clean and reorganize at home, donate your gently used items for the **Preschool Garage Sale** to be held on Saturday, April 14 (see page 9, Nurture). Then join fellow members at Lord of Love for **Spring Cleanup Day** at the church on Saturday, April 28 (see page 12, Resources).

Finally, there are many **volunteer opportunities** this spring and summer. If you're interested in working with youth, you can help with **Easter breakfast** or the **Youth Group lock-in**, or you can offer financial support to youth attending the **ELCA National Youth Gathering** (see page 16, LOL Youth). If you prefer working outdoors, you can help with **Lord of Love's community garden** or our **Habitat for Humanity** house (see pages 10 and 11, Outreach). Volunteers are also needed to help with the **Nebraska Synod Assembly** on May 31-June 2 and **Lord of Love's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration** on June 9 and 10 (see page 8, Nurture).



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### Easter Blessings by Pastor Brad

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As I write this, it feels like summer, yet spring doesn't begin until tomorrow!

Walking into the church last week, I noticed a single blooming crocus amidst the dry, brownish-gray, weathered mulch. The brilliant purple flower stood out in stark contrast to the barren flower bed that surrounded it. But its beauty didn't go unnoticed as I stopped and enjoyed it. This little flower announced the coming of spring.



The barren ground from which it bloomed reminded me of the season of Lent. The dryness and stillness of the Lenten season makes the anticipation of what is to come at Easter even more vivid.

Throughout Lent, we examined our hearts and lives to see where and how God is active, where we have fallen short, where we need to grow in faith, and how we might be more like Christ. We spent time in reflection as to how the characteristics of Jesus might be seen in us in our daily lives and how we might be the presence of Christ in the world.

Too often, the world that surrounds us is perceived to be like the barren flower bed. Yet Easter allows us to view the world with different eyes. Just as the crocus broke through the dry ground, Easter bursts forth with color and excitement as we share the Good News of Christ's resurrection! The period of stillness is over, and the Alleluia of Easter is proclaimed.

Easter allows us to live with the viewpoint of the risen and reigning Christ, refusing to be dragged down by the world. Believing in the risen Christ, we live joyfully as forgiven and loved children of God.

May God's Easter Blessings be celebrated each day of your life!

Peace,  
Pastor Brad



# MONTHLY CALENDAR

April 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir	<b>2</b> 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	<b>3</b> 9:00am Quilters 6:00pm Property Committee 7:00pm Vision & Coordination	<b>4</b> 6:00pm "Gather" Bible Study 6:00pm Brass 7:15pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship	<b>6</b> 7:00pm Good Friday Service 7:30pm AA 8:00pm Easter Prayer Vigil	<b>7</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 12:00pm Easter Prayer Vigil ends
<b>8</b> 6:30am Sunrise Service 8:00am Festival Worship & Communion 9:00am Easter Breakfast 9-10:30 a.m. 10:30am Festival Worship & Communion	<b>9</b> 6:00pm "Gather" Bible Study @ Old Country Buffet 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:00pm W/ELCA Ministry Team Mtg. 6:00pm Brass	<b>12</b> 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>13</b> 8:00am Crane Coffee 7:30pm AA	<b>14</b> Novak Piano Recital 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 8:00am Preschool Garage Sale 12:15pm Fellowship Hall reserved for Garder
<b>15</b> 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 11:30am Nat'l Youth Gathering Mtg. 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir	<b>16</b> 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	<b>17</b> 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Church Council	<b>18</b> 5:00pm 7th & 8th grade Confirmation Class 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 7:15pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b> 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship	<b>20</b> 7:30pm AA	<b>21</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
<b>22</b> 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 11:30am Youth Group event 12:15pm Freeman Piano Recital 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir	<b>23</b> 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 5:00pm 7th & 8th grade Confirmation Class 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 7:15pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b> 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>27</b> Women's Retreat in Schuyler 8:00am Crane Coffee 7:00pm Piano Recital 7:30pm AA	<b>28</b> Women's Retreat in Schuyler Youth Lock-in 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 8:00am Spring Clean-up
<b>29</b> 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir	<b>30</b> 8:00pm AA & Al Anon					

# WORSHIP

## Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Our schedule for Holy Week and Easter Sunday is as follows:

- Wednesday, April 4 No worship service
- Thursday, April 5 Maundy Thursday worship service at 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 6 Good Friday worship service at 7:00 p.m.  
Easter Prayer Vigil begins at 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, April 7 Easter Prayer Vigil ends at 12:00 p.m.
- Sunday, April 8 Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m.  
Easter Festival Worship at 8:00 a.m.  
Easter Breakfast served from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.  
Easter Festival Worship at 10:30 a.m.



### Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	April 1	April 8	April 15	April 22	April 29
<b>Greeter(s)</b>					
8:00 a.m.	Doug and Rose Roberts	Doug and Cathy Aden	Dave and Judy Egr	Josh and Carissa Combes	Doug and Karen Armitage
10:30 a.m.	Keith and Debra Gillespie	Dave and Susan Lueders	Kathy Christiansen; Lynda McGraw	Rett and Judy Messerschmidt	Brian and Nancy Shinrock
<b>Liturgist</b>					
8:00 a.m.		Karen Mullen			
10:30 a.m.	Ruth Manning			Don Rowen	Stephanie Baird
<b>Communion Servers</b>					
8:00 a.m.	Doug and Rose Roberts	Karen Mullen; Armitage family		Judy Egr	
10:30 a.m.	Dan and Ruth Manning	Stephanie Baird		Rowen family	
<b>Nursery Attendant(s)</b>					
10:30 a.m.	Anne Yarger	Sarah Horan	Lisa Rieff	Ashley Meier	Pat Brewer
<b>Altar Care</b>					
8:00 a.m.	Doug and Rose Roberts	Vandeventer girls	Ed and Marjorie Keiser	Cathy Aden; Sue Dieter	Connie Walther; Lisa Meyer
10:30 a.m.	Debra Gillespie; Karen Armitage	Brenda and Suzanne Mac	Rowen family	Brewer family	Karen Anderson; Mardi Fiske
<b>Ushers</b>					
8:00 a.m.	Kenn Garder, Matt Garder, Paul and Deb Christenson, Craig Pennell				
10:30 a.m.	Rett Messerschmidt, Rob Anderson, Paul Barnett				

### Pieces of Ruin Came Together in “Ragged-Looking” Cross by Cindy Gonzalez and Jim Burnett

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*The following article was originally published in the news section of the Omaha World-Herald on June 28, 1986. The cross is a particularly moving symbol for Christians during Holy Week, and we are reprinting the article here to remind us of this story from Lord of Love’s past.*

The pastor of Lord of Love Lutheran Church says the cross has taken on new meaning for his congregation since he spent \$500 on a “ragged-looking” cross made of melted silver and a burned piece of wood.

The cross might have been a bit overpriced, said Frank Reisinger, pastor of the 550-member American Lutheran Church. But he said it was for a worthwhile cause and has an interesting background.

Reisinger sat back in his office at Lord of Love Church, 10405 Fort St., and chuckled as the story of the ragged cross unraveled: In April, the central district of the American Lutheran Church held its annual conference. Each church in the region (Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Missouri) was asked to bring something broken, burned or disheveled so a guest artist could form the pieces into one unusual masterpiece.

The finished product would symbolize that “God makes us whole even if we are broken,” Reisinger said.

The artist, Reinhold Marxhausen, a professor at Seward’s Concordia College, also created 15 smaller pieces from the rubble. Six were auctioned off at the conference banquet, said Reisinger.

“Well, it so happened that the delegate from Lord of Love and the associate pastor had to leave before the banquet” for personal reasons, Reisinger said.

Nobody, not even the parish council, knew that he was planning to bid for one of the art pieces. They also did not know he would take the money from the congregation’s funds, Reisinger said.

All of the proceeds went to a worthy cause, Reisinger said. The money was forwarded to the conference’s mission fund to start new churches.

Nearly all of the pieces were sold when Reisinger made his move for the cross, he said, and “I started getting real nervous at \$400.

Well, really I started getting nervous at \$250.” An ALC pastor from a small church on the outskirts of Kansas City, Mo., was bidding against Reisinger. When the bid reached \$400, Reisinger decided to bow out.

It wasn’t that easy. Bishop Wayne Weissenbuehler of Denver “asked the church in Kansas City, ‘450 bucks?’ and they said, ‘Yeah.’ He came back to me and said, ‘\$500?’ I did not shake my head.

*Continued on the next page*

### Pieces of Ruin Came Together in “Ragged-Looking” Cross, continued

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He looked at me and said, ‘Reisinger, shake your head.’ I did and he said: ‘Sold! To Lord of Love Lutheran Church in Omaha!’” Reisinger said he stood up and protested, but it was useless. The bishop told the two contestants he cut off bidding because time was running short. Reisinger said the more likely reason was that Lord of Love could afford to pay the price more than the other church could.

That night, the pastor returned to Omaha with a \$500 cross made of a Communion chalice that had melted into a flat, jagged piece of silver during a church fire. It served as the horizontal cross piece.

A 4-foot piece of charred plywood, formerly a piece of a Colorado church’s fence, served as its base.

Reisinger hid the cross in the back office. “When I came back we were in the middle of a fund-raising project to raise about a quarter of a million dollars. I didn’t want to tell the parish just yet.” The story surfaced just recently, he said.

A parishioner’s brother who had attended the annual conference visited the congregation and asked where the cross was.

“I had forgotten about it. It was at that time, I decided to fit the story into a sermon,” Reisinger said.

“I told my parishioners: We make most crosses real pretty. We bronze them, make them silver and wear them around our neck, put them on our lapel and put them on the wall—we make them real pretty.

“But, when you think of what a cross is meant to do—to kill a person—it’s not very pretty. So maybe this cross will remind us of what the real meaning of a cross is.

Reisinger said he did not get “one bit of flak. As a matter of fact, it was probably one of my more effective sermons.” The moral of the cross and the story: “Something good can always come out of a crisis,” Reisinger said.

The silver chalice, for example, was a remnant of a fire that destroyed Zion American Lutheran Church near Franklin, Neb., in 1984.

Dozens of other congregations pitched in to rebuild the rural church.

Its pastor approached Reisinger after the auction with tears in his eyes, said Reisinger. “Frankly, I’m surprised he gave it up. It obviously had great deal of sentimental value.” The “ragged cross” will soon be encased and temporarily sent to Zion and the other church that donated the burned piece of fence.

After that, Reisinger said, it will become a sort of “traveling trophy” for churches that are involved in some sort of crisis and need some encouragement.

“Something like this you can’t hoard. You need to use it as a reminder of our calling and of the meaning of the cross.”

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## Easter Breakfast

The Youth Group will be serving Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 8 from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. This has been a tradition at Lord of Love and well received by all. Remember that the youth can use some “adult guidance,” so don’t be shy about stepping up to help the Youth Group learn that Service is one of the ways we can show Jesus’ love for others.



## Sunday Morning Donuts

The donut pick-up is going great! The smiles on people’s faces between Sunday services are only hidden by mouths full of donuts! Thank you to all who have volunteered to pick the donuts up and to clean up the coffee cups after Sunday school. We will not have donuts on Easter Sunday because the Youth Group will be serving breakfast that morning. The donut fund is going strong too, so thank you for your contribution to the coffee can!

## Lenten Soup Suppers a Success

Thank you for all who provided Lenten Soup Suppers (Council, Choir, Anne Yarger and Sherri Trout, Lisa and Dave Rieff, Heather VanArsdale, Jane Gehringer and Shawn Lorenzen, Ruth and Dan Manning, and Sandy and Claude Hall). You provided nourishment for our body before we had our soul nourished by Pastor Brad’s Lenten services. You have all shown Jesus’ love, compassion, and service to the members of Lord of Love.



## Men’s Softball

All men (16 and older) are invited to participate on the Lord of Love Men’s softball team. We will play on Monday nights from April 16 to early August. If you are interested in playing, contact Don Rowen (402-965-8977 or [drowen@unomaha.edu](mailto:drowen@unomaha.edu)). We will probably practice on Sunday, April 15.



## New Members to Join on April 22

We welcome eleven new members to Lord of Love. They will be received into membership on Sunday, April 22. Help them feel welcome, and invite them to participate in the life of the congregation! Our new members are:

- Dawn Burton
- Paul, Traci, Cole, and Paul Cadwallader
- Justin Drakulich and Chelsie Lange
- Jesse Kulp and Kylie Talacko & son, Easton Kulp
- John, Caroline, Mariah, and Hunter Tessin

## Weekly Education Opportunities at Lord of Love

<b>Sunday</b> 9:15 a.m.	Sunday School (Preschool – High School) @ LOL Classrooms Adult Studies @ LOL Abraham, Mary, and Joseph Rooms	<b>Wednesday</b> 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.	<i>Gather</i> Bible Study @ LOL Mary Room (first Wednesday of month)
<b>Monday</b> 6:00 p.m.	<i>Gather</i> Bible Study @ Old Country Buffet (first Monday of month)	<b>Thursday</b> 9:30 a.m.	Text Study @ Guthrie’s
		<b>Saturday</b> 7:00 a.m.	Men’s Breakfast and Bible Study @ LOL Fellowship Hall

## Volunteers for Nebraska Synod Assembly

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Volunteer opportunities are available during the 2012 Nebraska Synod Assembly, May 31-June 2 in Elkhorn, Nebraska!

Come share in the excitement of the 2012 Nebraska Synod Assembly by volunteering your time serving as a greeter or host/hostess, assisting with registration, or helping set up or tear down before or after the assembly. If you are available for a half day or full day at the assembly, please contact Pastor Brad Meyer at [pastorbrad@lord-of-love.org](mailto:pastorbrad@lord-of-love.org) or 402-493-2946 for more information.



## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

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The celebration of Lord of Love's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is coming on June 9 and 10, 2012. There will be opportunities to provide service by helping with meal planning, food preparation, and cleaning up after we have eaten on Saturday, June 9, and breakfast on Sunday, June 10. Please prayerfully consider volunteering your time and culinary skills for this weekend celebration. See Paula Foster or Lori Vandeventer if you are moved by the spirit to participate in the celebration by serving in this area.



## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cookbook

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Thanks to all who submitted recipes for our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary cookbook, "Taste and See that the Lord is Good." It is the biggest and best of the five cookbooks we've produced. There was a slight panic just days before the deadline for recipe submission—we only had 176 recipes! A brief reminder at both worship services brought in a total of 660+ one week later.

Many of you took advantage of entering your own recipes electronically (very much appreciated, by the way). Thanks to the committee members who entered the rest of the recipes. I heard there was a lot of "drooling" on keyboards at the time, a fine testimonial to the recipes submitted.

As of this writing, the committee is checking the proof copy and making corrections and organizing the recipes in subcategories. On March 31, we will set the price, along with a pre-publication discount. Watch the bulletin for that information.

Proceeds from the cookbook sales will go to a designated 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary project and to "Women on a Mission."



## Preschool News by Michelle Petersen

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The Lord of Love Preschool has several exciting events coming up in April...

Have you been spring cleaning? The preschool garage sale is scheduled for Saturday, April 14 from 7:30 to 11:00 a.m. If you have any items that you would like to donate to be sold at the sale, please bring them to church any time after Easter! All proceeds benefit the preschool! Mark your calendars to shop the sale on Saturday, April 14 if you are searching for some hidden treasures!



Our classroom is in the process of sprucing up a bit! A new kitchen set and some new toys have been added. New shelves and learning materials have been ordered and are on their way. You are always welcome to come check out our classroom!

April 23-26 is The Week of the Young Child, sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), to promote the needs of young children, their families, and the early childhood programs that support them. To celebrate, we will have special activities all week. We are planning to take a field trip to Gymboree, Sunny Slope Park, and the fire station. We will also have a visit from a police officer and have pajama day!

I am still accepting registrations for the 2012-2013 school year, but I am filling up quickly. If you or anyone you know is still needing to sign up, please send them my way!

## NLOM Partners with Kids Against Hunger

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This summer, campers at Carol Joy Holling Camp and Sullivan Hills Camp will grow in faith as they participate in the packaging of at least 101,000 Kids Against Hunger meals. In addition to the fact that nutrition will be provided to thousands in need internationally, regionally, and locally, campers will learn more about their brothers and sisters in need. We pray they will be moved by the realization that they are serving as God's hands in the world.

Every six seconds, a child dies from a hunger-related disease. Help feed a hungry child for only 25 cents per meal. How many children can YOU help?



Give through your congregation or send your gift directly to:

NLOM  
27416 Ranch Road  
Ashland, NE 68003

Please make your check payable to NLOM with Kids Against Hunger in the memo line.

### Lord of Love Community Garden Update

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Thanks to Boy Scout Troop 565 for their assistance in spreading the OmaGro compost over the garden areas. Plans are to till the garden soon to be ready for potato and early vegetable planting. We again invite any and all who are interested to help with any of the gardening tasks: planting, weeding, watering, harvesting, and taking the produce to the pantries. Please talk to Jeri Morgan or Deb Lund for more information.



### Mission Possible Update

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Thanks so much to everyone who brought diapers or gave gifts to buy diapers for the 8-congregation “**Diaper Derby**” for Lutheran Family Services’ Center for Healthy Families. Lord of Love contributed the equivalent of 15,541 diapers! In addition, \$3,761 from the Advent and Christmas offerings was given to Lutheran Family Services for general support.

The Lenten offerings, monies earned from the soup suppers, and the Easter offering will go to the **Pastor Anna’s Roof Fund in Tanzania**. Be sure to note the marvelous Tanzanian items and photos displayed in the Narthex—a taste of life in Africa and glimpse of Pastor Anna. Her school needs repairs and a new roof, which cost \$8,000. A reminder to everyone: There are special Easter offering envelopes to use on Easter Sunday. Those of you doing Simply Giving may just give a check noting that the gift is for Pastor Anna’s Roof.

Looking ahead to upcoming summer breakfasts, the Mission Possible Team designated proceeds from this summer’s breakfasts to the **Lord of Love Youth Fund**.

### Celebrating Our Mission and Ministry Together in the Nebraska Synod, ELCA

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For the past 12 years, Bishop David deFreese has provided the Nebraska Synod with a wonderful example of missional leadership. He has taught us about our calling as Christ’s followers to stand with and among our neighbors and to “do mission.”

As a means of recognizing Bishop deFreese’s ministry and commitment to mission, the Nebraska Synod Council has authorized the creation of a We Do Mission Scholarship Fund. This fund will be used to help provide scholarships to individuals who might not otherwise be able to participate in ministries such as the Youth Mission Trip, the Gulf Coast Mission Trip, the Field Trip, and Tanzania Vision Trips.

Mission and vision opportunities such as those offered through the Nebraska Synod give all of us a chance to connect with our neighbors in new ways, develop relationships that deepen our own spiritual and faith experiences, and most importantly, live out the mission and ministry to which Christ has called us.

Your financial support of the We Do Mission Scholarship Fund will help make the opportunity to “do mission” available to many others around the Nebraska Synod. This year’s Synod Assembly offering will go to the We Do Mission Scholarship Fund. Donations may also be made through the Nebraska Synod office at:

Nebraska Synod, ELCA  
4980 S. 118th St., Suite D  
Omaha, NE 68118



### Habitat for Humanity: A Story about Sol by Jeri Morgan

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We had our first Habitat for Humanity Ecumenical Labor Force (ELF) coalition meeting in early March. During the meeting, several homeowners of Habitat houses came and shared their stories. The homeowner from the house we rehabbed 3 years ago was one of the speakers. Sol is a refugee from Burma. Just being a refugee and purchasing a Habitat house would be an impressive story. Purchasing a Habitat house was just the beginning for Sol. Since moving into the Habitat house, Sol has welcomed many refugees from Burma into his home. He has not only opened his home to refugees, but he also helps them find jobs and housing. He is able to speak and read the English language. Using these skills, he helps other refugees fill out the numerous forms for immigration, jobs, getting health care when needed, and enrolling children in public schools. We have all had the experience of filling out lengthy forms. Think what it would be like if it was in a foreign language!

It takes only a few hours during a weekend to make a significant difference in other people's lives. When we worked on Sol's house, I was working full time and did not feel like I could find the time to work on Habitat. I had to talk to my supervisor several times to get the time off. It was a hassle at the time, but looking back, it was worth the hassle.

On June 9, 2012, we will be working on our Habitat house at 4331 Emmet Street as part of Lord of Love's 40th anniversary celebration. There is always something to do at the build site no matter what your skill level and abilities. Just being willing to work and learn new skills is the only requirement to be involved in Habitat for Humanity. Please consider volunteering this year.

### ELCA Remains Engaged in Japan One Year Later

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When one of the strongest earthquakes on record struck off the coast of Japan a year ago, the 4.2 million members of the ELCA took immediate action, contributing \$2.9 million to ELCA Disaster Response. These funds have provided food and clean water, care, and counseling to help sustain earthquake survivors and support for programs that address disaster preparedness, sustainability, and the redevelopment of communities and livelihoods.

The ELCA continues to work closely with the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church, The Lutheran World Federation, and Church World Service to provide direct assistance to survivors. The next phase of work will be to help rebuild communities both physically and spiritually.

The ELCA and the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church are members of The Lutheran World Federation—a global communion representing more than 70 million Christians. The ELCA is the only Lutheran church member to The Lutheran World Federation from the United States.

The ELCA has worked with the people of Japan for more than 100 years through missionaries and through its partnerships with The Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service. These relationships "enabled (for) a quick and well-coordinated response that provided for the basic needs of survivors," said the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, ELCA executive for global mission. "Now that the cameras are gone, our church continues to walk with the Japanese church to help individuals and communities rebuild their shattered lives, (thanks to) the generous support of ELCA members. I give thanks to God for the relationships that enable this faithful response to human need."

## RESOURCES

### Resources Committee Update

As part of the Capitol Campaign Project started last year, the south driveway has been replaced, the parking lot has been sealed, the roof has been replaced, and the kitchen and the Fellowship Hall project has been completed. Thank you to all the volunteers for your help on these projects!



**Spring Cleanup Day** is scheduled for April 28, 2012, at 8:00 a.m. Please mark this on your calendar!

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

The stewardship word for April is "Privilege."

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—." Ephesians 2:8

Having received God's gift of grace is a privilege and nothing we, as human beings, have had to work to earn. It is only because God chooses to bestow this gift on us as His children. Therefore, it should be a privilege for those who believe in God and accept His gift of grace to respond accordingly. It should be viewed as an opportunity to fulfill our obligation as children of God to build His church and reach out to the world. God doesn't need our money, but we need God. And we need the opportunity to worship and serve Him with our time, talent, and treasure. And perhaps, even consider it a privilege.

## COUNCIL REPORT

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



General Fund financial information for February 2012 is as follows:

- Income: \$22,626.05
- Expenses: \$22,273.21

General Fund financial information for the year to date (through February 2012) is as follows:

- Income: \$52,462.36
- Expenses: \$49,753.92

Thank you for your continued support of Lord of Love and our ministry.

### 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 – April 2012 by Brian Lund, Council President

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Proverbs 13:10 (NIV) *Where there is strife, there is pride, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.*

In early March, we asked members to complete a brief survey. We wanted to find out what you value the most about Lord of Love and what ministries and programs have a good base of support.



The 15 members who chose to respond provided some good insight. Our members are drawn to Lord of Love because of our style of worship and music, the friendliness of fellow members, the pastor and his preaching, and our sense of mission and service. You value faith formation and Christian education opportunities as well as support of worship and fellowship events. You recognize the need for a strong youth program and would like to know more about where it is heading. And our lives are busy with family activities, employment, hobbies, and travel.

The council is reviewing the feedback provided and using that to evaluate and consider ways we may need to adapt our ministries. I cannot promise any significant changes will come from the feedback provided. We have already used this information in discussion. Member input is valuable, and we need to continue to seek that input in a variety of ways.

Psalm 118:24 (ESV) *This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

Council members are excited about our upcoming 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. I expect that you should be hearing more about the anniversary weekend (June 9 and 10) soon, maybe even in this April issue of *The Love Letter*. I encourage each member to consider participating in the festivities in some way: in service, in worship, in community fellowship. Of course, there will be a need for members to help with planning the overall event and with “behind the scenes” work the actual days of the celebration. Please consider how you can help. Join with fellow members to show our thanks for 40 years of ministry as Lord of Love.



Please pray for the many needs of our world, country, community, and congregation. Lift up prayers of thanksgiving for our pastor and the members you have elected to serve on our congregation council. Pray that the Holy Spirit will work through us in a strong ministry of faith and in service to those in need.

Blessings in faith and service,  
Brian Lund

# WOMEN OF LOVE

## Women's Retreat

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"Loving Well" is the theme for the annual women's spring retreat at St. Benedict's Retreat Center in Schuyler. If you've never been there, you are in for a treat. Those of us who have been there know that it is a beautiful place to spend a few hours away from our hectic lives. The retreat will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 27, and will end on Saturday afternoon.



Watch for the registration form, and plan now to attend. The registration fee is \$75 and will cover all meals and lodging. Full or partial scholarships are available if this just doesn't fit your budget; just make a note of that on your registration form. **Registrations are due April 11.**

This also is a wonderful opportunity to invite a special friend, your mom, mother-in-law, daughter, or daughter-in-law to share this opportunity with you.

## Gather Bible Studies

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Session 8 of the study of Matthew focuses on "A Wholly Different Week." The theme verse is Mark 14:28, "But after I am raised up I will go before you to Galilee."

The Wednesday group will meet on April 4 in the Mary Room at 6:00 p.m. The Monday group will meet on April 9 at the Old Country Buffet, 145th & West Center Road, at 6:00 p.m. All women are invited to attend.

## Metro East Spring Gathering

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Although registration for the Metro East Spring Gathering closed on April 1, we can still help by providing tangible offerings. There is a basket under the Women's bulletin board in the narthex. Please have your donations there by Easter Sunday. Items needed are travel-sized bottles of 2-in-1 shampoo/conditioner, deodorant, pull-ups for toddlers, Onesies for up to size 18 months, new diaper bags, new backpacks, gift cards from area fast food restaurants, and \$5 gift cards for Target/Walmart. Thanks for your help!

## Quilters Needed

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QUILTING GROUP

"Quilters" are needed to help make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. This is not "fancy" quilting but putting together fabrics to make durable quilts that are used in the obvious way, but also as tents in other countries. People are needed to cut the fabric, pin the sections together, and tie the finished product. The group meets at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Oh, by the way, there's always coffee and goodies! Contact Nancy Shinrock or Marilyn Thomsen if you have any questions.

## Lord's Laughing Ladies

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All women are invited to join us on April 13 and 27 at 8:00 a.m. at Crane Coffee at 77th and Cass Streets.



## LOL Women's Ministry Team

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The women's ministry team will meet on Wednesday, April 11 at 6:00 p.m. in the Mary Room. All women are welcome to attend.

## Gather Summer Bible Study: Along the Way



“In this study, we’ll meet some biblical travelers, enter in conversation with them, and explore our own journeys of faith. We’ll walk with Jacob, who after wrestling a stranger throughout the night, discovers God. We’ll wander in the wilderness with people who complain to Moses about their aching feet and ask: ‘Are we there yet?’ We’ll spend time with Jesus’ companions and reflect on our faith.” The writer, the Rev. Julie A. Kanarr, an ELCA pastor from Port Townsend, Washington, is a pilgrim-student of the Bible who has journeyed extensively by car, bicycle, kayak, foot, boat, and airplane.

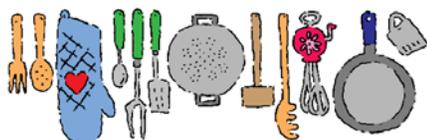
The Monday night group will continue to meet on their regular schedule during the summer. In August (date TBA), Deb Lund will host a ½-day retreat with three study leaders from the Wednesday group. All women are invited to attend.

Additional *Gather* Bible studies are the following:

- September 2012-May 2013 – Gathered by God
- Summer 2013 – All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly



## Kitchen Cleaning



Thanks to all who helped with the kitchen cleaning on March 24. We hope you see the difference. How can we keep it this way? By putting things away, not leaving items in draining rack in the sink, placing any extra plastic and paper sacks in the Project Hope

basket in the narthex, and taking the dishtowels home to wash after you’ve used them. Thanks to Deb Lund for arranging to get the green recycling bins from the city. Please put all recyclables in them except for pop cans. There is a can in the rear of the Fellowship Hall for them. Thanks for your help!

## Dates to Remember

### April

3	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
4	6:00 p.m.	<i>Gather</i> Bible Study, Mary Room
9	6:00 p.m.	<i>Gather</i> Bible Study, Old Country Buffet, 145 <sup>th</sup> and West Center
11		Deadline for Women’s Retreat Registration
11	6:00 p.m.	Women’s Ministry Team, Mary Room
13	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77 <sup>th</sup> and Cass
14	9:00 a.m.	Metro East Spring Gathering, Bethany Lutheran, Elkhorn
17	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
27	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77 <sup>th</sup> and Cass
27-28		Retreat at St. Benedict’s Retreat Center, Schuyler

### Coming Soon

September 15 Autumn Renewal, Lord of Love





## IN OUR PRAYERS & LOVE NOTES

### In Our Prayers

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Adrienne (staff member/friend of Rose Roberts)  
Dick Bell  
Marty Beutler (son of Gary and Connie Beutler)  
Ruth Cooley  
Jill Coster  
Janet Duckworth (friend of Marilyn Thomsen)  
Claire Foral (friend of Dave and Lisa Rieff)  
Nick Gehrig (grandson of the Schuchards)  
Patty George (friend of Dave and Lisa Rieff)  
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)  
Marj Mahler (mother of Jane Hawkins)  
Debbie Michalak (co-worker of Jackie Combes)

John Patrick Nicholson (friend of the Novaks)  
Warren Olson (grandson of Anna Jensen & son of Josephine Olson)  
Charlotte Peters (sister of Karen Mullen)  
Leona Piehl (mother of Deb Lund)  
David and Rich Pippin (nephews of Lynda McGraw)  
Luana Salerno (friend of Sandy Hall)  
Isaac Schroeder (infant son of Clay and Kelly)  
Phyllis Strasser  
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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March 9, 2012

Dear friends at Lord of Love,

Thanks to all who have remembered me with cards and notes. I have appreciated all of them. It's so good to hear.

I am now living in the Assisted Living unit of Living Community of St. Joseph. I was placed here after my return from the hospital. Juel and Jim live not too far away, and I see them regularly. Granddaughter Sarah is also close. Pat, who lives in K.C., also comes quite often. I was sorry to miss Lisa's wedding in Fremont. I had planned to come before I got sick. Susan brought pictures taken at the wedding so I can look at them. I also didn't get to see my newest great-granddaughter. She will be 1 year old this month.

I am recovering slowly, still taking some therapy. I use a walker to get around, but it works great. Thankfully there are such aids.

My love to all of you. I miss you. You were my church home for many years. I hear wonderful things about Pastor Brad. Lisa knew him from Carol Joy Holling. I had hoped to visit with him at the wedding. Please greet him for me.

Love, Eunice Neve

