



# The Love Letter

Volume 38

September 2010

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## Worship Schedule

Sun. 8:00 a.m.   Worship Service  
Sun. 9:15 a.m.   Sunday School  
Sun. 10:30 a.m.   Worship Service

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

## A Look Ahead

It's time to usher in the 2010-2011 program year at Lord of Love! As the school year begins, so too do our regular worship schedule, educational programs, fellowship activities, and new missions focus.

**Kickoff Sunday** is September 12! This is when we return to our **regular worship schedule** (see page 4, Worship), begin **Sunday School** (see page 7, Nurture), and hold our annual **Congregational Picnic** (see page 7, Nurture). This is also the week that Wednesday night activities, including **Wednesday night suppers** and **Luther Kids**, begin (see page 7, Nurture). Then, on September 18 and 19, there will be two special worship services: the **ordination of Paula Lawhead** and **confirmation** (see page 4, Worship).

With the new program year comes new volunteer opportunities. An immediate need is **Sunday school leaders for 5th and 6th grades** (see page 8, Nurture). Also comes a **new missions focus**, and this year, Lord of Love will support several different programs (see page 9, Outreach).

The **Women of Love** begin their new season as well, including new Bible studies, retreats, and service activities (see pages 13 through 16, Women of Love).

Finally, the **Stewardship Committee** shares information about its "every member visit" goal (see page 10, Resources), and the **Call Committee** provides an update on the call process (see page 13, Transition/Call Process Update).

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### Transformation by Pastor Bob

Dear Members of Lord of Love,

Why is transformation an important issue for congregations today? One answer, as Terry Forland puts it, is “transformation is important today because it just is.” I know that sounds pretty simple, but with the many issues that face congregations today—like the loss of numbers sufficient to carry out any mission, struggle with finances, and an overwhelming feeling of despair and weariness—transformation is important because it just is! We all need to hear the transforming word of God in our lives.

Transformation is indeed a necessary factor for any congregation in order to provide vitality and service to its members, the community, and God's grace in this world of pain, anxiety, and human suffering. Regardless of where you are in your church life or your own, transformation should be and needs to be a priority.

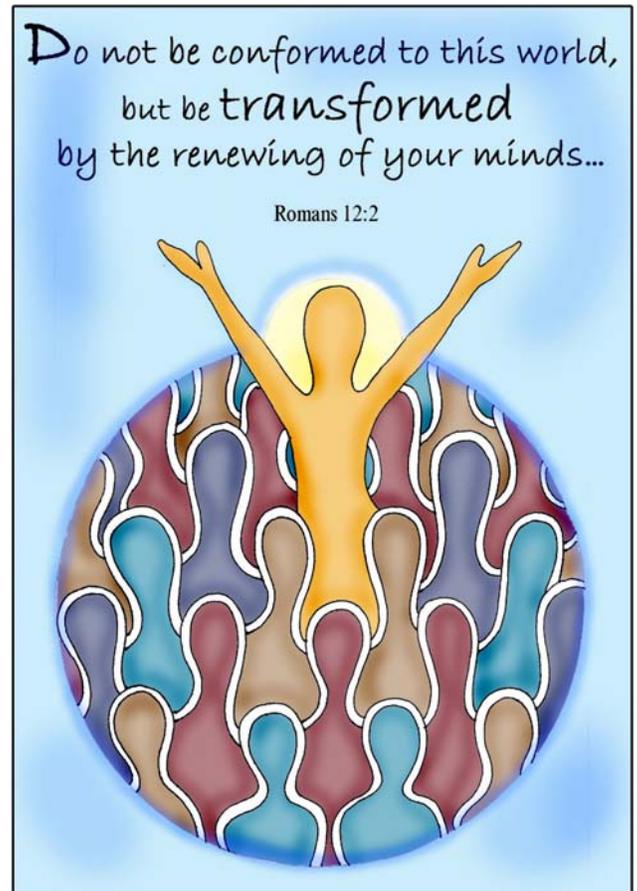
During my interim time here at Lord of Love, transformation has become an important component of your ministry. As one of the early dreamers of intentional interim ministry put it, “the time between called or installed ministers is an extended ‘time out’ to assess the current situation of the congregation and to set a clear vision and sense of mission for the future. The interim period is a time of transition and can be the right time for a congregation to take a reflective view of its history, context, and understanding of its God connection.” Because of your commitment to Lord of Love and your love for Christ, you have transformed your church, your attitudes, and your mission that even moms could be proud of.

Ronald A. Heifetz, in his insightful book, *Leadership Without Easy Answers*, gives us a great concept of “getting on the balcony” in order to get a “birds eye” view of the current situation. Terry Forland, commenting on this concept, says “that being on the balcony

implies a sense of ‘at ease.’ It allows one to move away from the anxieties that depress us and provides opportunity for getting a fresh perspective on what our possibilities might be. Being on the balcony in this concept is not a one-time quick peek at the situation but rather enough time to take in the whole picture and to allow for the spirit to call forth a new life as a church.”

As a church, you have taken this interim time and reengaged your hearts and minds into making yourself new. I hope as the new pastor comes on board in the near future that you will continue your process of discernment and careful listening to the voice of God.

In Christ,  
Pastor Bob



# MONTHLY CALENDAR

September 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 6:00pm LWT Bible Study 7:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>2</b> 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>3</b> 8:00am LoL Laughing Ladies @ Crane Coffee 7:30pm AA	<b>4</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
<b>5</b> 9:00am Final Summer Worship/Communion 10:00am Summer Breakfast	<b>6</b> 6:00pm LWT Bible Study @ Old Country Buffet 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	<b>7</b> 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Vision & Coordination	<b>8</b> 4:45pm 9th Grade Confirmation Mtg. 7:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>9</b> 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>10</b> 7:30pm AA	<b>11</b> LoL LWT Retreat 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
<b>12</b> Kick-Off Sunday 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 11:30am Congregational Picnic	<b>13</b> 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 4:45pm Confirmation Mtg. 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 7:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>16</b> 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>17</b> 8:00am LoL Laughing Ladies @ Crane Coffee 7:30pm AA	<b>18</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 4:00pm Ordination of Paula Lawhead
<b>19</b> 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Confirmation Worship & Communion	<b>20</b> Love Letter Deadline 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	<b>21</b> 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Church Council	<b>22</b> 4:45am First day of Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 7:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>23</b> 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>24</b> 7:30pm AA	<b>25</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
<b>26</b> Sunnyslope Fundraiser 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 1:00pm District 18 AA Mtg.	<b>27</b> 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 7:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>30</b> 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts		

# WORSHIP

## Regular Worship Schedule Resumes

Our regular worship schedule will resume on Kickoff Sunday, September 12. We will have worship services at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m., with Sunday School (ages 3 to adults) at 9:15 a.m. Those great summer breakfasts will be gone, but there will be doughnuts and coffee in the narthex between worship services.



Confirmation will be on September 19 at the 10:30 a.m. worship service.



## Paula Lawhead to be Ordained

You are invited to join us and share in the occasion of the ordination of Paula Olson Lawhead as a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on Saturday, September 18, 2010, at 4:00 p.m. at Lord of Love Lutheran Church. A reception of celebration will follow in the church fellowship hall.



"You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last..."

John 15:16a

### Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	September 5 (9:00 a.m.)	September 12	September 19	September 26
<b>Greeter(s)</b>				
8:00 a.m.	Brian and Nancy Shinrock	Doug and Cathy Aden	Mary Boyd, Shirley Bardsley	Woody and Mardi Fiske
10:30 a.m.		Kathy Christiansen, Paula Foster	Paul and Ann Kroll	Barb Haskins, Lynda McGraw
<b>Liturgist</b>				
8:00 a.m.	Paul Christenson	Judy Egr		Deb Lund
10:30 a.m.		Randi VenHuizen	Claudia Rowen	
<b>Communion Servers</b>				
8:00 a.m.	Barb Haskins and Julia Ritonya	Erg family	Doug and Rose Roberts	Brian and Deb Lund
10:30 a.m.		Brad and Randi VenHuizen	Rowen family	Paul and Ann Kroll
<b>Nursery Attendant(s)</b>				
10:30 a.m.	Anne Yarger			Pat Brewer
<b>Altar Care</b>				
8:00 a.m.	Paul and Ann Kroll	Mike and Christie Klos	Cathy Aden	Doug and Rose Roberts
10:30 a.m.		Concannon family	Diana Haye, Marcia Roads	Randi VenHuizen, Debra Gillespie
<b>Ushers</b>				
8:00 a.m.	Paul Dieter, Dennis Hindemith, John Florea, Brian Walther			
10:30 a.m.	Dave and Adam Lueders, Lund family			

### **Tape Ministry: Getting to Know Norma Dunn Gunter** by Karen Pickens and Rachel Novak

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Finally, Rachel and I are back on track and having some time to visit those unable to join us for Sunday worship. Yesterday, we took a ride to the Maple Crest Home in Benson, where Jim and Norma Gunter are currently living. Norma has been there for some time, and recently, Jim, her husband, became her roommate. We found Maple Crest to be a very pleasant place with friendly and helpful staff...lots of smiling faces!

Norma Jean Gunter, formerly Norma Jean Dunn, was born on January 31, 1938, to Harold and Martha Dunn. Harold was born in Colorado and had five siblings; Martha was born in South Dakota and had 13 siblings, which might be one of the reasons Norma was an only child. Martha was right in the middle of the family, and Norma is sure that her mom was kept busy tending to younger brothers and sisters. In any case, Norma enjoyed the attention she received as an only child but longed for brothers and sisters when she got older. Fortunately, she had friends to keep her company, and some of those friends were members of Our Saviors Lutheran Church, which was only houses away from Norma's home. Norma was baptized at the age of four at Our Saviors, and for a reason she is not sure of, she was baptized by the Bishop who was in attendance that day.

The family moved to South Omaha on 13th Street when Norma was older, and she attended Conestoga School. Another move took them to an apartment on Park Avenue, where they lived until Norma went to high school. She attended Central High, and during those years, her family lived on 42nd and Parker.

As a child, Norma enjoyed playing with dolls and playing the toy piano given to her by her parents. They were unable to afford a real piano. The best time of the week for Norma was Saturday mornings. She and her dad went off by themselves, leaving her mom to tend to the house. Her Dad worked for B.F. Goodrich Tire Company, which serviced many of the local companies, including Trailways Bus Line. Norma followed her dad around while he checked on the tires. They also ate breakfast out.

After graduation, Norma worked for the Better Business Bureau but only for a short time because she met Jim on a blind date and they were soon married in 1958. In 1959, Cindy was born, and in 1962, Kim was born. Two years later, Cathy was born, and on May 24, 1968, along came David.

Jim and Norma have lived in Omaha most of their lives, but Jim's job at Land O Lakes did take them to Lincoln for many years. When they moved back to Omaha, Jim worked for Methodist Hospital, and he was our custodian here at Lord of Love.

The years have been difficult for the Gunter family. Three of their four children have gone to heaven. Kim, their second child, died of Muscular Dystrophy when he was 17 years old. On Jim's birthday, Kathy died from unknown causes at the age of 37. She had been to the doctor the same day and was fine. Cindy died when she was 44. They think she had had a seizure and fell while in the bathroom. Jim found her in a pool of blood outside of the bathroom door.

Both Norma and Jim have health problems. Norma had been confined to her bed, but recently she is able to get into her wheelchair and move about. She is presently waiting for a new motorized wheelchair. She is happy to have Jim beside her and is less stressed as she doesn't have to worry

*Continued on the next page*

### Tape Ministry: Getting to Know Norma Dunn Gunter, continued

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about him since she knows right where he is. Despite their losses, they live their lives with hope and contentment. They are both thankful to be alive and to have survived all that they have gone through over the years. They think about their departed children all of the time, but they believe that they are in a better place. They know that they are not alone in their grief. They are mindful of our servicemen whose lives are taken from them at a young age and of other tragedies that occur within families. They are thankful for the years they did have with their children and for the happiness in their children's lives. Mostly, they are full of thanksgiving for their son David and for faithful friends.

David is a truck driver who is out on the road much of the time, but when he is in town, he visits his parents and he takes care of the tasks at the home belonging to the three of them. Norma and Jim do not know what they would do without him.

As for friends, they have the very best who have been there for them through the best of times and the worst of times. Jim grew up on a farm in Foster, Nebraska, as did his best friend, LeRoy Dean. Jim has good memories of their times together, including going to the free movie in town on Wednesday nights and sleeping on the fairgrounds at the state fair so that they could go another day without paying. When Jim and LeRoy became husbands, their wives became best friends, which they are all to this day. They were the first ones on the scene when the children died and the ones whom Norma and Jim could call during the day or during the middle of the night. They also cherish their other friends, Marcene and Jim Clark, who are unable to visit them now due to their own health problems. One remaining family member, a cousin, lives in Eugene, Oregon, and corresponds with Norma from time to time.

Norma and Jim worship with Kountze on TV, and Norma reads both her devotional book and the Love Letter. Norma has had a religious experience. A few years ago, she was very sick and in a coma. Her doctor did not think she would live and was ready to take her off of life support. David said "no"; he was confident she would come around and asked for her to be given a few more days. While in a coma, Norma saw Jesus and knew that it was not her time to go to the heaven. She still had work to do, children to care for. To this day, that vision has given her comfort.

At Maple Crest, Norma enjoys working on crafts and playing an occasional game of basketball. On the day I visited, she had made a basket and her team had won. Both Jim and Norma look forward to visits from Tom Olson, who gives them communion and shares with them church happenings and stories of his own life. They appreciate having someone from the outside to visit with and want to let their church family know that you are always welcomed. In fact, they would love to have you drop in any time. You will find them at Maple Crest Care Center, 2824 N. 66th Street, Omaha, NE 68104.

An update on Agnes Wilson: Agnes fell at her son and daughter-in-law's home and broke her collar bone. She was in the hospital for a short time and is now at the Good Samaritan Home, 12856 Deauville Drive, Omaha, NE 68137. Please keep Agnes in your prayers.



## Sunday School Begins on Kickoff Sunday

Kickoff Sunday is September 12! In addition to the return of our regular worship schedule, Kickoff Sunday includes the first day of Sunday School!

**Sunday School** is held from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. for everyone from preschool (age 3) through adults. Classes meet in the following locations:

- Preschool to 6th grade – Fellowship Hall
- Junior high – North side of sanctuary
- Senior high – South side of sanctuary
- Various adult studies – To be determined

On Kickoff Sunday, adults are invited to participate in a **“Speed Relating” activity**. To help our members get to know each other and build relationships that support faith, we are asking all members to participate in this fun activity that will occur between worship services (9:15 to 10:15 a.m.) in the sanctuary and after the 10:30 a.m. worship service in the Fellowship Hall along with the congregational picnic.

Sunday School leaders are anxious to share time with you! Everyone will enjoy an opportunity to dive into God's word and grow closer with your classmates while sharing and encouraging one another. We'll see you there!!

## Congregational Picnic on Kickoff Sunday

The annual **Congregational Picnic** will be held on Kickoff Sunday, September 12, after the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Fried chicken and beverages will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.



This is a wonderful tradition to enjoy great food and fellowship and catch up on everyone's summer events!

## Wednesday Night Activities Begin

Wednesday night activities for the 2010-2011 program year begin on Wednesday, September 15.



**Wednesday night suppers** will be served by Heather VanArsdale in the Fellowship Hall starting at 5:30 p.m. each week.

**Luther Kids** also starts again on Wednesday, September 15. Kids from grades 1 to 6 are welcome to join in from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. every Wednesday for stories, crafts, games, and music.

## 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)

### Wednesday

4:45 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. *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

## NURTURE

### Sunday School Leaders Needed

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We are looking for Sunday School leaders for 5th grade and 6th grade students. These children are wonderful visions of God's love, and they are really coming into their own as they learn about their faith and values. Help guide and share with this great group of kids. Curriculum and guidance are provided. Challenge them with great ideas, science, and maybe even a service project. Call Claudia Rowen or Heather Christensen at 415-4571 NOW!!

### Get Involved at Lord of Love

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Looking for an opportunity to get involved at Lord of Love? We have many with various time commitments and skills needed. Don't see something that matches your talents? Give us a holler and tell us what you'd like to do. I'm sure we can incorporate it into our ministries!!

### Looking Ahead to Christmas

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We are looking for a coordinator for the annual Christmas decorating, Chili, and Caroling Extravaganza. Publicize the event and coordinate participants as the church prepares for Christmas, shares in a great potluck chili feed, and carols to member shut-ins and delivers homemade cookies. The time commitment is about 2 to 3 hours of preparation in the month of November and the day of December 12. If you are interested, talk to Angie Meyer or Heather Christensen.

**NEW VOLUNTEER**  
**POSSIBILITIES**

### Lord of Love Preschool by Michelle Petersen

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It's back to school time! As of Monday, August 23, preschool is back in session! I am excited to begin another fun-filled year of learning. I have a great group of preschoolers this year. About half of the students are from returning families and half are from new families. I am pleased announce that due to an increase in demand, I have added another day into my schedule. Preschool is now offered Monday through Thursday mornings.

I am again participating in Scholastic Book Clubs. If you are interested in receiving a flyer, let me know and I can put them in your mailbox monthly. Not only does Scholastic offer reasonably priced children's books, but every book purchased helps earn books and supplies for the preschool.

Feel free to stop in the preschool room any time to check out the classroom and see what we are up to! We always have great projects and artwork displayed!

## OUTREACH

### Lord of Love Community Garden Update

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We continue to harvest a variety of produce from our prolific garden this season: summer squash, some winter squash that has matured, potatoes, lots of sweet corn, tomatoes, peppers, and green beans. Thanks to so many of you who have helped with the harvesting: Doug Aden, Paula Foster, Leah Klos, Deb Lund, Jeri and Jim Morgan, Harry Naasz, Bill Pickens, and Gary Ramsay. Thanks to Gary Ramsay and Harry Naasz for faithfully taking the produce to the Lutheran Pantry at Project Hope, too. More winter squash is to come, some sugar pie pumpkins are starting to become orange, and there are lots of potatoes to dig. So, some assistance is still needed! Contact Deb Lund if you are able to help!

### Habitat for Humanity

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Another successful Habitat build with the ELF Coalition was wrapped up on August 8 with the dedication of a new home. It was a particularly rewarding project, as the new owners of this home, Oscar and Maria Miramontes, were often present, working side by side with us. Oscar has learned a great deal about building and maintaining a house and has pledged to continue working with Habitat even though he has completed the “sweat equity” hours Habitat requires of its clients.



Pastor Bob saved the day at the dedication ceremony. Late in the afternoon on the day before the ceremony, we found out that the Miramontes' pastor would not be able to participate in the dedication because of a family medical emergency. After some panicked phone calls, I was able to get a hold of Pastor Bob, who graciously agreed to do the blessing. Even though it was extremely hot that day, we had a very touching dedication ceremony.

Lord of Love provided volunteers, food, and money to help remodel this home. We met our goal of raising \$2,500 for this project. It requires \$80,000 to pay for materials and professional contract work for each house that Habitat builds or remodels. After deducting the corporate donations and grants, the 13 churches needed to raise a total of \$20,000. Check the Habitat page on the Lord of Love website for a more detailed breakdown of the finances as well as a list of the corporate sponsors. Thank you to everyone who donated money, time, talent, and prayers so we were able to help another family attain the dream of owning their own home.

### Mission Update by Deb Lund

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Our Lord of Love Mission Possible Team has been working hard to make plans for our Mission Dollars (3% of income plus our special offering funds) for the 2010-2011 program year. More details will come, but overall plans for support and involvement include:

- All year – **Feed the Roots**, which includes support for various Nebraska Synod leadership programs
- Fall – **Pennies for Peace**, which builds schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan (for more details, see the “Pennies for Peace” article on the next page)
- Christmas/January – Support for education for **Pastor Miamu’s children in Tanzania**
- Winter/Spring 2011 – Support for **Cristo Rey Iglesia** (a Hispanic ELCA congregation in South Omaha), including purchasing Youth Bibles, assisting in teaching Sunday School, holding joint Lord of Love/Cristo Rey Youth Event, and working with their vacation Bible school in June
- Spring 2011 – **Doctors without Borders**

In addition, we encourage you to consider second-mile gifts to **Lutheran World Relief** specifically for funds for victims of the floods in Pakistan. For more information, check out the Lutheran World Relief website at <http://www.lwr.org/>.



## OUTREACH

### Pennies for Peace

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The Mission Possible committee has designated the months of September, October, and November for our children and youth to collect and give pennies to the Pennies for Peace program.

What's that? Pennies for Peace is a program offered by the Central Asia Institute designed to help educate children, particularly girls, in rural Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Central Asia Institute was founded by Greg Mortenson, author of *Three Cups of Tea* and *Stones Into Schools* (Our library has 3 copies of *Three Cups of Tea*.)



We can't buy much with a penny, can we? Can we buy ANYTHING with just a penny? A penny can buy a pencil for a child in rural Afghanistan and Pakistan. With a pencil, a better life is possible.

So, please save your pennies, bring them to church, and put them in jugs that will be located in the church. (This is a project for children and the youth.) At the end of November, the pennies will be taken to the bank (won't they be thrilled?!) and a check or money order will then be sent to the Central Asia Institute office in Montana.

This project will help educate children in parts of the world where public education rarely, if at all, is available. It will also help "our kids" broaden their cultural horizons and learn about their ability to help others.

For more information, see the Pennies for Peace website at [www.penniesforpeace.org](http://www.penniesforpeace.org).

So, save those pennies and watch for the jugs!

## RESOURCES

### Stewardship Committee News

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As your Stewardship Committee moves toward its "every member visit" goal and on to Commitment Sunday, we would like to extend the opportunity for anyone willing to be a visitor to please let us know. Aside from any volunteers that we have come forth, we will be asking for added volunteers to be visitors. Please contact the church office or any member of the stewardship team: Pastor Bob, Doug Armitage, Brad VenHuizen, Ron Thom, Lisa Meyer, Paul Barnett, Doug Johnston, Matt Garder, and Adam Lueders.

Visitors will go out in non-spouse pairs. They will be asked to attend a short training session. The purpose of the visits will be establishing personal contact with Lord of Love members and delivering commitment cards.

Please prayerfully consider the opportunity of being a visitor. If you do not wish to be a visitor, please plan for a 20- to 30-minute time period to be set aside for a scheduled visit. Thank you for your consideration.

# COUNCIL REPORT & TRANSITION/CALL PROCESS UPDATE

## August 2010 Council Report by Don Rowen, Council Vice-President

A Strategic Planning Meeting was held on August 17, 2010. Council members and a member of the women's and men's groups attended. The minutes of this meeting are summarized as follows:

- **Call Process.** Kenn Garder reported that the call committee has conducted an initial in-person interview with each of the five candidates whose names had been given to Lord of Love by the Nebraska Synod. Kenn reported that the committee members are working well together, that the interviews went well, and that the candidates were all good. The call committee received positive feedback from the candidates about our profile and some of our activities, especially our community garden project. The committee is now trying to discern which, if any, of the candidates may be right for Lord of Love and then how to proceed.
- **Outreach Ministry.** The group discussed Lord of Love's outreach ministry through the following:
  - Reviewed the church's mission statement.
  - Reviewed the responsibilities assigned to the Outreach committee: Mission, Invitation and Welcome, and Communication.
  - Listed the different mission and outreach activities that are occurring at Lord of Love.
  - Offered evaluations and comments on the different outreach activities.
  - Offered suggestions for adjustments to some of the activities and suggestions of items to work on improving.
- **Upcoming Events on the Church Calendar.** Kickoff Sunday is September 12. We will return to two worship services, Sunday school will start, and we will have an adult fellowship event (Speed Relating) and a Congregational Picnic.
- **Topic for Next Strategic Planning Meeting.** The topic for the next Strategic Planning Meeting will be the youth program.
- **Committee Meetings.** After the Strategic Planning Meeting, each committee met to discuss what they needed to work on.



### 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 – September 2010 by Brian Lund, Council President

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Romans 12:6-8 (NIV-edited) *We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If the gift is prophesying, use it in proportion to your faith. If it is serving, serve; if it is teaching, teach; if it is encouraging, encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, give generously; if it is leadership, govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, do it cheerfully.*

### **Strategic Planning – Reflecting on our Mission Statement**

Every other month, the council meets with other leaders of the congregation as a Strategic Planning group. This year, we have been focusing our discussions on various aspects of our ministry: call process/ congregation profile, Christian education, member involvement, outreach, and (next meeting) youth. The intent is to review our ministry and to look to the future. We are still learning how to do this, but we have had good discussions and are making progress in beginning to think more strategically.

We opened our August discussion on outreach ministries with some reflection on our mission statement. We have retained the same statement for a number of years. Our comments indicated it has served our congregation well and continues to reflect who we are and what we are about. It was interesting to hear the words of that statement repeated again and again as we proceeded with review and forward thinking about outreach.

*“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

*Created by God’s gracious love* – The statement begins with this simple, powerful statement of belief and trust. We acknowledge that we are God’s children and recipients of His undeserved love for us. For me, this is the basis for good stewardship: acknowledging God as a provider of all good things and responding to His love for me, a sinner.

*We are called* – God continues to work in and through us. He gives us challenges and encourages us to respond to His love through gifts of the Holy Spirit. Through prayer, we listen for God’s call and discern His will for us.

*As a community of faith* – We are not alone. As a community, we rejoice and celebrate each other’s joys, successes, triumphs, and accomplishments. As a family, we care for each other and provide support in our times of loss, sadness, and despair. We gather together in common faith to praise and thank, give and receive, and share the goodness of God’s love for us.

*To be witnesses and servants of Jesus in the world* – This is our response to God’s love. We model ourselves after Christ and his teachings to “love one another.” We show that love to others through our words and actions. We humble ourselves in service to others: those we know, those we encounter in our daily life, those who may be many miles and continents apart from us.

I’d encourage you to do your own reflection on our mission statement. How does it reflect the current phase of your faith journey? What are you being called to do in response to God’s love?

Please continue to pray for our congregation, our Call Committee, the pastoral candidates, the Nebraska Synod, and all who are involved in the call process.

In faith and service,  
Brian Lund

## COUNCIL REPORT & TRANSITION/CALL PROCESS UPDATE

### Call Committee Corner by Kim Gust, Call Committee Secretary

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August was a very busy month for the Call Committee! After receiving a slate of five candidates from the synod in July, the Call Committee conducted in-person interviews with all five candidates in August. In addition, the Call Committee had the opportunity to hear two of the candidates preach during August. During September, the Call Committee will work to discern which candidate (if any) best meets the criteria of "the pastor we seek." This will involve prayer, reviewing the congregational profile, prayer, conducting second interviews with select candidates, prayer, attending or viewing (via video or audio tape) worship services led by select candidates, and more prayer. Prayers from members of the congregation would be very much appreciated during this important time!

As always, please remember that the call process is confidential to protect the privacy of the candidates. Therefore, members of the Call Committee cannot share information about the candidates who are under consideration at Lord of Love. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact a member of the Call Committee: Kenn Garder, Kim Gust, Karen Armitage, Barb Haskins, Paul Murphy, or Chris Rich.



## WOMEN OF LOVE

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### Register Now for Autumn Renewal 2010!

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Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization presents...  
**Autumn Renewal 2010 – Together, we live love with Tanzania**  
Ephesians 5:1-2 (NRSV) *Therefore be imitators of God...  
and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us.*

September 18, 2010 – Bethlehem Lutheran – Wahoo  
September 25, 2010 – American Lutheran – Gothenburg



It's not too late to register! Please register before September 8 for the East and before September 15 for the West. The cost is \$18. This includes refreshments at 8:30 a.m. before the event begins at 9:00 a.m. and lunch. Registration forms are available at the Information Center in the narthex or go to [www.nebraskaelcawomen.org](http://www.nebraskaelcawomen.org) for more details.

Lord of Love's own Bob Kasworm will be presenting at this gathering. Kasworm first visited Tanzania on a Nebraska Synod trip in 2001 and relocated there in 2004. He is the appointed health advisor to the Northern Diocese of the Lutheran Church in Tanzania and serves as a member of the leadership team at Machame Lutheran Hospital. Kasworm is the commissioned on-site representative of the Nebraska Synod in Tanzania and an ELCA Global Mission Associate.

Lord of Love has two important events on Saturday, September 18: Autumn Renewal with a presentation by Bob Kasworm and the ordination of Paula Lawhead. It is possible for you to fit both events in that day! Head to Wahoo in the morning (refreshments at 8:30 a.m. with the event starting at 9:00 a.m.). Then in the afternoon, drive to Lord of Love to make it to the ordination ceremony by 4:00 p.m.

### *Lutheran Woman Today* Fall 2010 Bible Study

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The theme of the 2010-2011 *Lutheran Woman Today* Bible study is ***The People of God: Unity in the Midst of Diversity***. The authors of the study are the Revs. Linda and Jensen Seyenkulo, who met as seminarians in Minnesota, married, and moved to Jensen's home in Liberia. War drove the couple back to the United States, where they settled in the Chicago area. Now the parents of three teenagers, Linda and Jensen have served the church as parish pastors, educators, and administrators. Linda is currently pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Park Forest, Illinois, and Jensen is Director for Rostered and Authorized Ministries in the ELCA's churchwide Vocation and Education unit.

Here is what Linda and Jensen stated about the new session:

You don't have to look very far to find disagreements among people, even people of faith. The disagreements can be intense and drive us apart. At the least, there is not much conversation between folks who feel differently from each other on any subject.

In fact, if they are able to stay in relationship, it is often because they don't bring up anything controversial. That can work for a time, but as we have seen in many arenas lately, including our church, it can lead to broken relationships and disconnections.

The prophet Amos asks the question "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (KJV). It is an important question for our time. It merits investigation, using biblical texts (central to our Lutheran understanding of faith), and intentional ways of communicating together about some important issues in our faith community.

This study is based on the Book of Faith initiative of the ELCA. It brings us into intentional conversation around issues that divide us from each other.



Friends often avoid dealing with difficult topics in the context of God's word. We want to put those topics on the table for groups like yours that are already formed. We also want to encourage careful and thoughtful conversation on these important realities of our life together as God's people.

*Continued on the next page*

### Project Hope

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Thank you for your generosity to Project Hope! **The needs for September are Halloween Candy and Treats/Cookies.** (Plus throw in something nutritious!) In addition, the following personal care items are always appreciated: 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. Please place items in the containers under the Information Center in the Narthex.

### Coffee Fellowship

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All women are invited to join the Lord's Laughing Ladies! We meet at 8:00 a.m. for fellowship at Crane Coffee, 77<sup>th</sup> and Cass, on September 3 and 17.

### Thankoffering Sunday

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Just a reminder to continue using your Thankoffering boxes. Our Thankoffering service is early this year...October 3 at both worship services. Don't have a box? Pick one up at the Information Center.



Thank  
Offering

## *Lutheran Woman Today* Fall 2010 Bible Study, continued

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We begin the study with how we read the Bible. Biblical interpretation is at the root of many of the differences that divide us, and it can be a way we learn from each other. As we discover how others read the Bible, we find new ways to think about it.

We examine ideas like the body of Christ, evangelism and stewardship, spiritual gifts, race and culture, loving relationships in the context of the community of the church, difficulties that keep us from experiencing the wholeness of resurrection life, and what is at the heart of Lutheran worship.

Our hope is that you take this study seriously, yes, but that you will relax and have a good time together in the word.

~ Linda and Jensen

### **Session 1: Reading the Bible**

**Theme verse:** Everything written in the Scriptures was written to teach us, in order that we might have hope through the patience and encouragement which the Scriptures give us. Romans 15:4

Currently, two groups meet for these studies, both starting at 6:00 p.m.:

- First Monday of the month at Old Country Buffet at 145th and West Center Road
- First Wednesday of the month in the Mary Room at Lord of Love

I would like to encourage you to join a group for these studies. You don't need to subscribe to *Lutheran Woman Today* to participate in a study—just show up. But you will get more out of the study if you do subscribe and read the study ahead of time. I subscribed for the first time this year and really enjoy the articles and features in addition to the studies. Subscription rates are very reasonable at 10 issues a year for only \$12.00. To order, call 800-328-4648 or get a form online at [www.augsburgfortress.org](http://www.augsburgfortress.org) (go to Store, Lutheran resources, Lutheran Woman Today magazine for the online order form).

## Health Kits

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We delivered 50 health kits to Carol Joy Holling on July 31 to be shipped to Lutheran World Relief. These were added to the 32,000 kits prepared by the campers this summer, and many others presented by other churches.

As you know, the need is great. **The Women's Ministry Team is offering a challenge to the congregation to provide health supplies for 50 more health kits.** These will be shipped to Lutheran World Relief in mid-October along with the quilts made by our LOL ladies. To help "fine tune" the donations, choose from the tear off reminder strips near the Information Center. The Health Kit collection box also is located there. Thanks for your support.

## Volunteers Needed

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Contact Ruth Manning, Special Events Coordinator, at 455-7221 or [cranecoffeechick@gmail.com](mailto:cranecoffeechick@gmail.com) if you can help plan either of the following events:



**Fall Festival** – The congregational dinner will be held on October 23, with the fund-raiser to be held throughout November. Profits will go to an Omaha charity, which will be selected soon.

**Advent by Candlelight** – Debra Gillespie is heading up the team for this lovely event on December 5. This includes a program plus beautifully decorated tables by our women.

## Triennial Gathering 2011

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### Women of the ELCA Eighth Triennial Gathering July 14–17, 2011 – Spokane, Wash.



### Revitalize Yourself in One Transformational Weekend

#### Why attend Triennial Gathering 2011?

Are you looking for a life-changing experience that will inspire you to live out your faith? Enjoy this Christian woman's retreat and transform your mind, soul, and serving spirit.

**ESCAPE** from the busyness of your life.

**RENEW** your spirit.

**REJOICE** in fellowship with your Lutheran sisters!

**DISCOVER** your heart for service. Respond to your calling.

**ATTEND** workshops, worship services, Bible studies, and other events that will transform your life.

Early registration begins September 15. Watch for further information in *The Love Letter*.

#### Calendar of Events

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##### September

1	6:00 p.m.	LWT Bible Study, Hong Hing Restaurant
7	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
3	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass
17	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass
18		Autumn Renewal, Bethlehem Lutheran, Wahoo, NE (presentation by Bob Kasworm)
21	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall

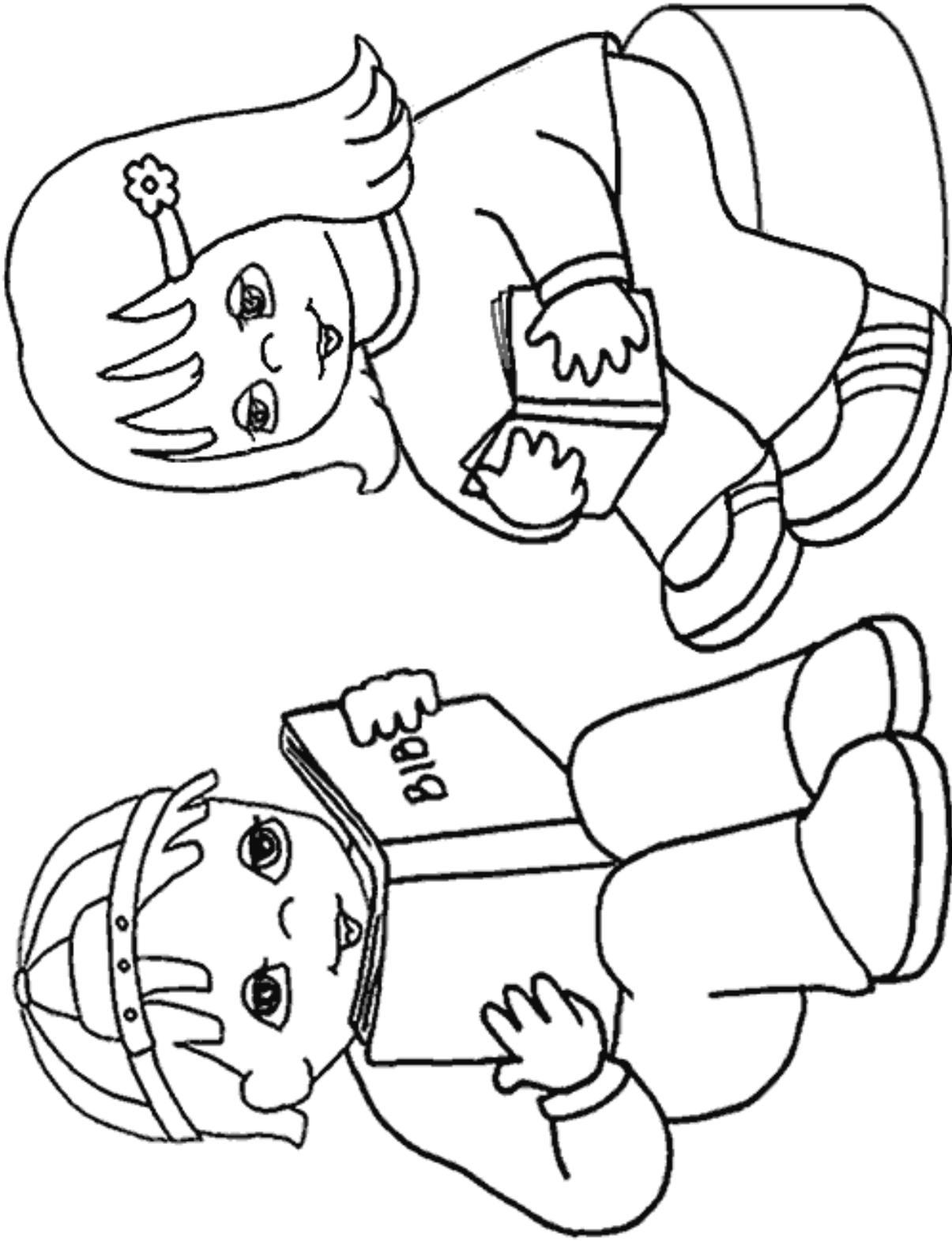
##### Coming Soon

October	Sarah Bible Study begins during Sunday School
October 3, 2010	Thankoffering Sunday
October 16, 2010	General Meeting
October 23, 2010	Fall Festival
December 5, 2010	Advent by Candlelight
December 11, 2010	Cookie Tins
July 12-14, 2011	W/ELCA Triennial Convention, Spokane, WA
July 14-17, 2011	W/ELCA Triennial Gathering, Spokane, WA



# September

Women of the ELCA



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## IN OUR PRAYERS & LOVE NOTES

### In Our Prayers

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Avery Akeman (friend of Kim Gust)  
Dick Bell  
Ryan Bolen (nephew of Sandy Hall)  
Barb Breazier (friend of the Egrs)  
Katie Brink (friend of the VenHuizens)  
Miranda Brown (friend of the Shinrocks)  
Connie Czaplá (wife of Larry Czaplá)  
Jan Davis (aunt of Paula Foster)  
Laura and Jeremy DeWitt  
Colin Farbotka (nephew of Tom and Beth Olson)  
Emma Finken (student of Deb Lund)  
Patty George (friend of the Rieffs)  
Machelle Gross (niece of Lynda McGraw)  
Jim and Norma Gunter  
Gary Hall (brother of Claude Hall)  
Amber Hartin (granddaughter of the Shinrocks)  
Matthew Hayek (nephew of Sandy Hall)  
Ralph Hild  
Marj Holbrook (mother of Judy Messerschmidt)  
Cathy Johnson (friend of Marilyn Thomsen)  
Bob Kasworm and his ministry in Tanzania  
Ken Kellogg (father of Karen Armitage)  
Brenda Kukouly (friend of the Garders)  
Paula Lawhead (on her ordination)  
Carl Lueders (uncle of Dave Lueders)  
Irene Lund (aunt of Brian Lund)  
Rebecca Lund (at seminary)  
Brenda Mac  
Abbie Mahler (niece of Jane Hawkins)  
Marj Mahler (mother of Jane Hawkins)  
Bob McKnight (grandfather of Ann Kroll)

Merlin Meyer (father of Todd Meyer)  
Pastor Elibariki Mtui and all the saints of TPC Lutheran  
Parish, Tanzania  
Clarence (Swede) Nelson (brother of Pauline Shaffer)  
Lloyd Neve (LOL Brass member)  
Johanna Olson (niece of Tom and Beth Olson)  
Dan Piehl (brother of Deb Lund)  
Joe Policky (grandfather of Tamra Johnston)  
Bill and Bev Pugh (former members)  
Berniece Reitan  
Angel Restivo (friend of Marilyn Thomsen)  
Don St. Ours (brother-in-law of Lynda McGraw)  
Evelyn Sacrider  
Pauline Shaffer  
Brenda Thom  
Nancy Thoman (stepmom of Ann Kroll)  
Joey Thompson (friend of the Murphys)  
Marilyn Thomsen  
Brody Vermilyea (grandson of Brian and Nancy  
Shinrock)  
Rachel Wapelhorst (niece of Brenda Mac)  
Agnes Wilson  
Julie Wolf

Lord of Love Call Committee  
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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Dear Lord of Love,

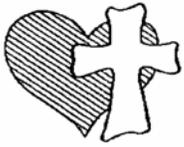
You said prayers, offered rides, brought groceries, visited me, and sent cards. You are a marvelous church family, and I thank God for each one of your generousities to me. And I thank you, too.

Marilyn Thomsen



Thanks to everyone who came to meet and greet our daughter Rebecca and her new husband, Richard Sheridan, during the reception on August 21. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and support. Thanks to everyone who helped prepare, serve, and clean up that day, as well. We are most grateful for our Lord of Love family!

Brian and Deb Lund



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**

- September 12 Kickoff Sunday:  
Sunday School begins and  
Congregational Picnic
- September 15 Wednesday night suppers and  
Luther Kids begin
- September 18 Women’s Autumn Renewal in  
Wahoo  
Paula Lawhead’s ordination
- September 19 Commitment Sunday  
Confirmation Sunday

**Upcoming Events**

- October 3 Thankoffering Sunday
- October 23 Fall Festival
- December 5 Advent by Candlelight



*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.*