



The Love Letter

Volume 40

December 2012

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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

Merry Christmas! Amid all of the hustle and bustle in December, take time to remember that Jesus is the Reason for the Season! Here is a taste of what is happening at Lord of Love during this busy month.

"Anticipate the Promise" this Advent during our **midweek Advent worship services**, which will be held on December 5, 12, and 19 (see page 4, Worship).

On December 8, help prepare "**goodie containers**" for our elderly, shut-ins, and those with special needs (see page 11, Women of Love), and make **blankets for Project Linus** (see page 6, Outreach). In addition, the children will be having a **dress rehearsal for the Sunday school Christmas program** (see page 5, Nurture).

The **Sunday School Christmas Program** will be on December 9 during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Everyone is invited to attend the program, "The Not So Silent Night" (see page 5, Nurture).

On December 24, we will have **Christmas Eve worship services** at 4:30 and 11:00 p.m. (see page 4, Worship). The late service is our traditional candlelight service. This year, there will be no worship service on Christmas Day.

The women of the church will be revealing their **Secret Angels** at a get-together between worship services on Sunday, December 30 (see page 11, Women of Love).

Finally, our **Capital Campaign ends** on December 31, and there are a few outstanding pledges. If you have not completed your pledge, please do so as soon as possible (see page 9, Resources).

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What a Shepherd! by Pastor Brad

"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us." (Isaiah 9:6)

"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.'" (Luke 2:8-11)

**"I am bringing
you good news
of great joy
for all the
people."**

Luke 2:10, NRSV



The first thing that comes to mind when I think of shepherds is pee-eww! Being a Shepherd was hard, dirty, lonely work and seen as one of the most disrespected professions. Not many parents encouraged their young sons to pursue a career in shepherding.

Yet, watching over immense flocks called for a great deal of care and attention. Some sheep would wonder off and need to be sought after by the shepherd, who would return them to the flock. The shepherd protected the flock from hyenas, jackals, or wolves that prowled around seeking those who went astray. The "good shepherd who gives his life for his sheep" was no myth: two thousand years ago as he gave his all for his sheep.

The shepherd was responsible to lead the sheep to where they would find water, call out to them to follow, play music on a flute to soothe them, and bear the extremes of heat and bitter cold all to keep them safe. At times, several shepherds would work together taking turns watching over the flock and resting in the warmth of a tent.

Imagine being one of those shepherds, taking turns watching over the sheep at night. The sudden appearance of an angel, wrapped in the glory of the Lord, would be frightening indeed. But the message the angel brought from the Lord was first of all, "Do not be afraid." God announces to the lowly shepherds the news that would change the world, "Fear not."

The good news proclaimed is that as wonderful and powerful as God is, we do not need to be afraid to listen to his words, to follow him in faith, or to open our hearts to his love. This is the message of Christmas: We don't need to be afraid anymore because God has sent us "the shepherd" to watch over, protect, and give his life for us: Jesus!

Blessed Christmas!
Pastor Brad



MONTHLY CALENDAR

| December 2012 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | | | | | | 1 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 4:00pm Advent by Candlelight |
| 2 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal | 3 6:00pm AA Potluck & Meeting 8:00pm Al Anon | 4 6:00pm Resources Mtg. 7:00pm Vision & Coordination | 5 5:30pm Luther Kids 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm "Gather" Bible Study 7:00pm Advent Worship 7:45pm Chancel Choir | 6 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 5:30pm Escalante Hills Mtg. 7:00pm Boy Scouts | 7 8:00am Crane Coffee 7:30pm AA | 8 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 9:00am Christmas container prep and Project Linus Quilts |
| 9 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Sunday School Program/ Worship & Communion 11:30am Chili & Caroling 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal | 10 6:00pm "Gather" Bible Study @ Old Country Buffet 8:00pm AA & Al Anon | 11 5:00pm Hy-Vee employee award banquet | 12 5:30pm Luther Kids 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm W/ELCA Minty Team Mtg. 6:00pm Brass 7:00pm Advent Worship 7:45pm Chancel Choir | 13 Final Day for Poinsettia Orders 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts | 14 7:30pm AA | 15 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study |
| 16 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal | 17 8:00pm AA & Al Anon | 18 7:00pm Church Council | 19 5:30pm Luther Kids 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 7:00pm Advent Worship 7:45pm Chancel Choir | 20 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts | 21 8:00am Crane Coffee 7:30pm AA | 22 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study |
| 23 8:00am Worship & Communion 10:30am Worship & Communion 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal | 24 4:30pm Family Worship 8:00pm AA & Al Anon 10:30pm Prelude Music 11:00pm Candlelight Worship | 25 Merry Christmas! | 26 Church office closed | 27 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's | 28 | 29 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study |
| 30 8:00am Worship & Communion 10:30am Worship & Communion 1:00pm District 18 AA 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal | 31 Church Office Closed 8:00pm AA & Al Anon | | | | | |

WORSHIP

Advent and Christmas Worship Services

“Anticipate the Promise” on Wednesdays, December 5, 12, and 19 at 7:00 p.m. Join us for Holden Evening Prayer and a time of reflection as we anticipate the promise of the savior, Jesus. Together, we will reflect upon the Promises of Care, Hope, and Love from God that we experience as God’s people.

Christmas Eve worship will be on December 24 at 4:30 and 11:00 p.m. There will be no worship on Christmas Day. On Sunday, December 30, we will have regular worship services at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. but no Sunday School.

Christmas Eve Worship Servants Needed

On Christmas Eve, greeters, liturgists, and communion servers are needed for our 4:30 and 11:00 p.m. worship services. If you can serve in one of these capacities, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex near the coffee and donuts.



Lord of Love's Worship Servants

| | December 2 | December 9 | December 16 | December 23 | December 30 |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Greeter(s) | | | | | |
| 8:00 a.m. | Doug and Karen Armitage | Josh and Carissa Combes | John and Val Florea | Doug and Cathy Aden | Harry Naasz, Paula Foster |
| 10:30 a.m. | Brian and Nancy Shinrock | Dave and Lisa Rieff | John and Gwen Edwards | Tom and Beth Olson | Dave and Susan Lueders |
| Liturgist | | | | | |
| 8:00 a.m. | Shawn Lorenzen | Paul Murphy | | | |
| 10:30 a.m. | Stephanie Baird | Karen Mullen | Brian Fanders | Dave Rieff | Rex Quadhamer |
| Communion Servers | | | | | |
| 8:00 a.m. | VanArsdale family | | | | |
| 10:30 a.m. | | | | Rieff family | |
| Nursery Attendant(s) | | | | | |
| 10:30 a.m. | Anne Yarger | Sarah Horan | Lisa Rieff | Ashley Meier | Traci Cadwallader |
| Altar Care | | | | | |
| 8:00 a.m. | Connie Walther, Lisa Meyer | Janet Guthrie, Nancy Shinrock | Mike and Christie Klos | Cathy Aden, Dayla Miller, Deb Quadhamer | Doug and Rose Roberts |
| 10:30 a.m. | Karen Anderson, Mardi Fiske | Paul and Ann Kroll | Pauline Shaffer, Randi VenHuizen | Diana Haye, Marcia Roads | Debra Gillespie, Karen Armitage |
| Ushers | | | | | |
| 8:00 a.m. | Kenn Garder, Matt Garder, Paul and Deb Christenson, Craig Pennell | | | | |
| 10:30 a.m. | Rett Messerschmidt, Rob Anderson, Paul Barnett | | | | |

Sunday School Christmas Program and December Dates to Note

The Sunday School children would like to invite the congregation to our program, "The Not So Silent Night," on December 9 during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. This year's program is a courtroom drama featuring the shepherds, who are on trial for disturbing the peace on the night of Jesus' birth.



We will have a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 8 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Please bring your children to church by 8:45, so we can start right away at 9:00. We will be done by 11:00. A light snack will be provided.

We will have Sunday School on Dec. 16. There will be no Sunday School on Dec. 23 or 30.

Junior Choir

Children who are in 2nd grade and up are invited to join Lord of Love's Junior Choir! Practice is typically on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 7:25 p.m., but December practices will be announced. The Junior Choir will sing during our worship services on occasion. If you have questions, please contact Jane Hawkins at 402-343-1680 (please leave a message).

Pearl Garnaas Celebrates 100th Birthday!

Happy Birthday to Pearl Garnaas! Pearl, a life-long member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church and then Lord of Love, will be 100 years old on 12-12-12. She would love getting birthday cards from her church family at:

Pearl Garnaas
16811 Burdette Street, Apt. 224
Omaha, NE 68116-2783



Bowling for Jesus

It's coming soon! The annual "Bowling for Jesus" family event will be held on Sunday, January 13 following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Be prepared to roll those balls at 12:00 noon until 1:30 at Maplewood Lanes, 3030 N. 101st Street. Cost is \$10 per person.

Profits will go to Lord of Love's "Women on a Mission" project.



Weekly Education Opportunities at Lord of Love

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

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

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

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

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

OUTREACH

Be a “Blanketeer” for Project Linus

On December 8, starting at 10:30 a.m., a blanket-making day for Project Linus will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring enough fleece fabric to make one blanket. Each blanket can be made from two pieces of fleece, 1 ½ or 2 yards each.

Since 1995, the Project Linus organization has brought comfort and security to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need by donating quilts and blankets crafted with care by hand. Project Linus is named after the Peanuts character that always carried his security blanket. A recent update from Project Linus states that blankets for boys 9 years and older are especially needed, but many area hospitals and organizations are in need of blankets.

If you would like to participate, please bring enough fleece to make one blanket. Also, if you have scissors, please bring those, too. You can come long enough to make one blanket or stay for the entire time. If you would like to do this as a family, that is great, too.

Watch for a bulletin announcement and sign-up sheet as the time draws closer. Please contact Jackie Combes at 402-301-5664 if you have questions.



2013 Blood Drive



The 2013 blood drive will be on Sunday, February 10, 2013. Mark your calendar and plan to participate! People can donate blood every 56 days, so if you are a regular donor, this is an early notice so you will be on schedule to donate on February 10, 2013!

Mission Possible Update

Special offerings for Advent and Christmas will go to the Lutheran Family Services “At Ease” program, which provides trauma treatment and therapeutic support for active military, veterans, and their loved ones. The Mission Possible Team designated the remaining Congregational Mission monies from the final quarter of 2012 to Food Bank of the Heartland, Sienna Francis House, the ELCA Disaster Response (Hurricane Sandy), the Lord of Love Youth Fund (for 2013 mission trip) and Together, Inc.



Pause for Peace on December 10

In the busy rush of the holiday season, take some time out to breathe, to center, to pray in the Chapel at the Tabitha Nursing and Rehab Center (4720 Randolph Street) in Lincoln. On Monday, December 10, the chapel will be open between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. for people to come and light a candle for peace, to pray, to rest in holy silence, and to hear soft sounds of live music, poems, and prayers.

Pause for Peace is sponsored by Faithful Sojourners, an arm of the Lincoln Cluster of the Nebraska Synod, ELCA, dedicated to offering opportunities for spiritual growth to our congregations and community friends. For more information, contact Rev. Renae Johnson at 402-486-3569 or renaej@tabitha.org.

Tanzanian Fabric, Fun, and Facts Workshop

The next Tanzanian Fabric, Fun, and Facts Workshop will be held February 24-26, 2013, at the Carol Joy Holling Retreat Center near Ashland.



This year's feature project is a quilt or wall hanging made of variations of the X-block, large and small. For a faster project, participants may consider making a table runner, tote bag, or several placemats.

A kit of six different 6-inch-wide strips of Tanzania Fabric with pattern will be available onsite for \$30. All fabrics have been washed and pressed. A plastic X-block ruler will be available along with many fabric options: commercial, hand-dyed, and batiks from East Africa. Cotton background fabrics will be on hand as well.

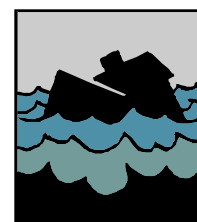
The retreat also will feature morning and evening devotions, food, and fun activities.

Register online at www.caroljoyholling.org. Just select the Events and Retreat button and choose "Tanzanian Fabric, Fun, and Facts."

ELCA Global Links—"God's Work, Our Hands"

Hurricane Sandy: ELCA provides and receives aid

In the wake of the devastation in the U.S. from the storms spawned by Hurricane Sandy, the ELCA is for the first time receiving international aid from The Lutheran World Federation. Through ELCA Disaster Response, this church is also providing relief to the storm-damaged areas of the U.S. and the Caribbean. Read more at www.ELCA.org/Sandy-aid and www.ELCA.org/Sandy-response.



Video: Bishop Hanson responds to Hurricane Sandy

Promising "a shared commitment to restore communities," ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson offers words of hope and action to "rebuild lives, congregations and communities" damaged by the deadly storm. Watch the video at:

www.ELCA.org/Hanson-video.

Storm
Relief
You Can Help!

Israel: ELCA, others request a review of U.S. military aid

Concerned about the deteriorating conditions in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories and the commitment for a just peace, the Rev. Mark Hanson, presiding bishop of the ELCA, and other U.S. Christian leaders are urging Congress to conduct an investigation into possible human rights and weapon violations by the government of Israel. Read more at www.ELCA.org/investigation.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Stewardship Volunteer Opportunity—Together, Inc.

The Stewardship Committee has lined up a volunteer opportunity at Together, Inc. on Saturday, January 12. This is in conjunction with the 40 hours of volunteering that is being promoted for Lord of Love's 40th Anniversary. In addition, Together, Inc. is one of the organizations that are being supported with our Congregational Mission Project dollars for the final quarter of 2012.



Please plan on participating on January 12! There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex, or you can talk to Rex Quadhamer or Pastor Brad Meyer or call the church office, and we'll get you signed up! Please sign up so we can let Together know how many of us to expect! What we do for Together on January 12 will depend on how many people sign up and what Together's needs are at that time. Together receives a lot of clothing donations, so we may be sorting clothes, or we may be doing another project. Watch the bulletin announcements for more information.

Together, Inc. is a first stop for people in need. They provide education, guidance, and services such as food, clothing, living essentials, and financial assistance to prevent people from becoming homeless. They provided nearly 45,000 services last year by bringing together our community to assist people in need with hope, dignity, and compassion.

Stewardship Includes Our Relationship with God by Deb Lund

John 1:10-13 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.



Children of God

A part of being good stewards is being “good kids.” We are **all** children of God, so we should treat our Father right! Like all parents, God wants to be a part of our lives always. We would do well to foster a genuine relationship with our heavenly Father by getting to know Him better. We should take time for God, talk to God, read His word, and follow His commandments. We should listen more and talk back less.

Jesus addresses God as “Abba,” a most intimate and respectful term of endearment for father. The word is likened to our use of “daddy” today. In being good kids and having a deep relationship with God, Jesus wants us to have such intimacy. In modeling Jesus, we are to love and serve others. Our relationship with God is best when our relationship with others is best. Both types of bonds grow stronger when fostered in such a way.

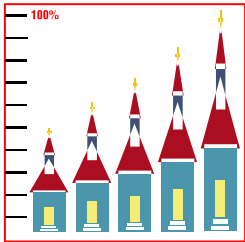
All of us have sinned and fall short of God's glory, but each of us is forgiven thanks to God's most precious gift of his son, Jesus. Let us live each day knowing that God's love is always surrounding us, no matter where we go and what we do.

RESOURCES

Capital Campaign Update by Doug Aden

Through November 20, 2012, the Capital Campaign has received 64 gifts totaling \$67,992.00. There are 15 units with outstanding pledges of \$6,749. If all pledges are paid, the total for the campaign would be \$74,741.

The Capital Campaign will close on December 31, 2012. I encourage you to complete your pledge as soon as possible. If you have a question about your pledge, please contact Doug Aden.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Lord of Love is to be congratulated for its response to this campaign. We have been able to complete major projects that add to the quality of our physical facility. As many may know, the heating and air conditioning systems in our building are near the end of their useful life. The council is preparing a plan to replace these units over the next several of years. Capital Campaign funds raised above our \$50,000 goal will help pay for the initial series of replacements. Thank you for making it possible to carry out these necessary property maintenance and improvement projects.

Stewardship: Why Do We Give Money to the Church? by Paul Kroll

The simple answer to this question is because the church cannot tax us and there are no membership fees. This may seem like a flip response, but during Jesus' time there was a temple tax. Jesus' response to the temple tax is recorded in Matthew 17:24-26 (NIV). *After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax came to Peter and asked, "Does your teacher pay the temple tax?" "Yes, he does," he replied. When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. "What do you think, Simon?" he asked. "From where do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes – from their own sons or from others?" "From others," Peter answered. "Then the sons are exempt." Jesus said to him.*

We are the children of Christ, and we are thus exempt from mandatory assessments by the church. Still, the church needs money to maintain the staff and buildings as well as missions. Even Jesus had a treasury. Judas was in charge of it. So if the church needs money, to whom does it go?

The church is at the mercy of the congregation to provide financial necessities. We don't have a set amount. In the Old Testament, the first fruits consisted of ten percent of the harvested crop. Paul told us in 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NIV), *Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*



Don't expect to become wealthy because you donate and perform good works. 2 Corinthians 9:10 says, *Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.* We give money for the love of God with no expectation of monetary enrichment but only a better world according to God's plan.

COUNCIL REPORT

From the Council President – December 2012 by Brian Lund, Council President

Romans 15:12-13 (NRSV) *And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

During Advent this year, we are focusing on anticipating the promise. Maybe we should do more than anticipate it. Maybe we should also reflect the promise through our daily lives.

We all likely have vivid memories of years eagerly anticipating Christmas. As children, we eagerly dream about the gifts we will receive and the joy their use will bring. As adults, we hustle through each week busily preparing for the gatherings and celebrations of the season. We get so busy that we may miss some of the real joys of Christmas. We become so involved in all the extra events and in making the season special for those most dear to us that we forget that others may be struggling with the same concerns and problems that affect them all year round.

What can we do about this? How can we make a difference? Here are some suggestions that you could think and pray about. Maybe you have a special person who is "so difficult to shop for" who would appreciate a special gift to a charity in their honor. Take the time to go to a local Holiday event where canned food or a modest donation is the entry fee. Consider ringing a bell or serving at a food pantry or shelter as a family. Use your musical talents to carol around your neighborhood, especially to those who you know need a little encouragement. Write a note, make a phone call, or stop in to see the special people in your life. Bake some cookies or make some homemade candies and share them with neighbors, friends, and co-workers. Set aside time to slow down and enjoy the company of others.

Remember those
who are less
fortunate



We have been richly blessed in many ways. As we anticipate God's promise made flesh this season, let His light shine through you in loving friendship and service to others. And, let us not limit ourselves to this season of giving; rather let us reflect God's wondrous love all year round.

Isaiah 11:2 (NRSV) *The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.*

Thank you for the many ways that you support the ministry programs of Lord of Love. Our ministries are possible because members give of their time, treasures, and talents. Follow your passion and get involved in one of the ministries of Lord of Love.

Please continue to pray for Bishop Brian Maas and the Nebraska Synod, for Pastor Brad and our congregation, and for our ministry together. Pray for healing for all those in need, safety for all who work on behalf of others, and wisdom and understanding through the Holy Spirit for the leaders of our congregation, state, country, and world.

Blessings in faith and service,
Brian Lund

WOMEN OF LOVE

We Are WELCA!

What is WELCA? It's an easy way to say Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Quite a mouthful, we know.

Our organization includes Lutheran women who gather in over 7,000 locations in the U.S. and the Caribbean for service, study, advocacy, fellowship, and more. WELCA embraces all kinds of ministries that support our mission of mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

There is a place for you in Lord of Love's unit in the Women of the ELCA, also known to as LOL Women of Love. Contact Val Florea, Lynda McGraw, or Ruth Manning for further information.

Women of the **EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA** 

Goodie Containers



Please join us in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, December 8 to help prepare "goodie containers" for our elderly, shut-ins, and those with special needs. Please bring 2 dozen cookies and join us for coffee at 9:30 a.m.

Revealing of Secret Angels

A get-together for those participating in the Secret Angel program will be held on Sunday, December 30 at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a signed card for your Secret Angel.

We also will be signing up to be Secret Angels for 2013. Forms will be available on December 30, as well as at the Information Center through January. Secret Angels will be assigned in time to remember your new angel on Valentine's Day.

What do secret angels do? The most important thing is to pray regularly for your angel. Also, notes of encouragement, greeting cards, and perhaps a token gift on special occasions are a good way to let your secret angel know she's in your thoughts and prayers.



Ladies Coffee Fellowship

It's a busy time of the year, but never too busy to take a break for fellowship and a cup of coffee. December dates are the 7th and 21st. Join us at Crane Coffee at 77th and Cass Streets at 8:00 a.m. Teachers on break are especially invited to attend.



Coffee Fellowship

Women's Ministry Team

The Women's Ministry Team will not meet in December, but will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, January 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the Mary Room.

WOMEN OF LOVE

Gather Bible Study

The theme for the December Bible study is "Gathered and Empowered: Shake it Up," based on Acts 4:31: *When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness.*



All women are invited to attend one of two study groups. The Monday evening group will meet on December 3 at 6:00 p.m. at A+ Buffet Mongolian Grill, 14426 West Center Road. The Wednesday evening group will meet on December 6 at 6:00 p.m. at Lord of Love in the Mary Room.

Spring Retreat

Lord of Love women and their friends are invited to attend the annual spring retreat at St. Benedict's Retreat Center in Schuyler on April 5 and 6. Mark your calendars now and watch for further information.

We're looking for theme ideas and also a group of women to plan this retreat. Contact Val Florea (JVFlorea@aol.com) if you would like to help.



We Are the WELCA! Celebrating our 25th!



Women of the ELCA are celebrating 25 years of mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. We've been busy creating a just world, supporting global sisters, bringing about health and wholeness, to name a few things.

Lord of Love Women of Love will be celebrating the occasion in early spring with a special adult forum. A special offering will be received for the 25th Anniversary Appeal. The total monies raised by the appeal will be divided equally between the Women of the ELCA and the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

Dates to Remember

December

| | | |
|----|-----------|---|
| 1 | 5:00 p.m. | Advent by Candlelight |
| 3 | 6:00 p.m. | Gather Bible Study, A+ Buffet Mongolian Grill, 14426 West Center Road |
| 4 | 9:00 a.m. | Quilters, Fellowship Hall |
| 5 | 6:00 p.m. | Gather Bible Study, Mary Room |
| 7 | 8:00 a.m. | Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77 th and Cass |
| 8 | 9:30 a.m. | Prepare "goodie containers," Fellowship Hall |
| 12 | | No Women's Ministry Team Meeting |
| 21 | 8:00 a.m. | Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77 th and Cass |
| 30 | 9:30 a.m. | Secret Angel Get-together, Fellowship Hall |



IN OUR PRAYERS & LOVE NOTES

In Our Prayers

Dawn
Diana Baker (friend of the Thoms)
Chris Beckman (friend of Jane Gehringer)
Dick Bell
Mary Boyd
James Cantrell (uncle of Gwen Edwards)
Ann Christiansen
Claire Foral (friend of Dave and Lisa Rieff)
Nick Gehrig (grandson of the Schuchards)
Mike Gillotte (neighbor of Bill and Karen Pickens)
Joel Harris (friend of Gwen Edwards)
Cathy Johnson (friend of Marilyn Thomsen)
Cheryl Jones (friend of Nancy Shinrock)
Dolores Jordan (aunt of Paula Foster)
Jude Konvalina
Jane Loquist (sister-in-law of Kristi Omar)
Donna Lueders (mother of Dave Lueders)
Lisa Lueders (sister-in-law of Dave Lueders)
Jim Mahler (brother of Jane Hawkins)
Marj Mahler (mother of Jane Hawkins)
Debbie Michalak (co-worker of Jackie Combes)
Ardis Mickelson (mother of Shawn Lorenzen and Heather VanArsdale)
Jacob Nelson (infant son of Bradley and April)
Brenda Nobles (friend of Gwen Edwards)
David Pippin (nephew of Lynda McGraw)
Judy Quest (friend of Jane Gehringer)

Delilah Reinhardt (infant daughter of Scott and Rebecca)
Marilyn Sanders (aunt of Deb Lund)
Isaac Schroeder (infant son of Clay and Kelly)
Ron and Brenda Thom
Marilyn Thomsen
Ted Whitfield (former co-worker of Brian Shinrock)
Jeff Wise (friend of the Thoms)

Those deployed around the world:

Kelvin
Andrew Briggs
Terry Duke
Zach Gehrig
Jesse Kinney
Nash Oltman

Children waiting to be adopted & those seeking to adopt

Men's servant ministry
Stephen Ministers and their care receivers
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

My sincere thanks to those who sent cards and had kind words for me after the death of my sisters, Alice and Hildur. The care and thoughtfulness of my Lord of Love family is much appreciated.

Pauline Shaffer



Greetings,

Just a note of *Thanks* for the Advent Devotions I received in the mail today. I'm certain this came to me through a wonderful family—John, Gwen and Aaron Edwards.

Gwen and I have a strong W-ELCA connection and sharing our faith is a vital part of our lives. Each of us are constant prayer partners! Thank you again!

Syd Brinkman
Ex Bd member W-ELCA

Return Service Requested

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

This Month

| | |
|-------------|---|
| December 1 | Advent by Candlelight |
| December 5 | Advent Worship Service |
| December 8 | Sunday School Christmas program dress rehearsal Prepare cookie tins Make blankets for Project Linus |
| December 9 | Sunday School Christmas Program |
| December 12 | Advent Worship Service |
| December 19 | Advent Worship Service |

This Month, continued

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| December 24 | Christmas Eve Worship Services |
| December 25 | Christmas Day – No Worship |
| December 30 | Secret Angel Get-together |

Upcoming Events

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| January 12 | Volunteering at Together, Inc. |
| January 13 | Bowling for Jesus |
| February 10 | 2013 Blood Drive |

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.