

The Love Letter

Volume 49

December 2014

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Worship Schedule

Sun. 8 a.m. Worship Service
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

Christmas is coming and Advent is here! Plan to attend the Advent services on Wednesdays, Dec. 3, 10 and 17 at 7 p.m. Our theme for Advent is "Comfort and Joy."

The first Christmas Eve service will be at 4:30 p.m., with the candlelight service at 11 p.m. Thank you to the staff and members of the congregation who put in extra time and energy to make our holiday worship services special.

If you're looking for a way to give to those in need this season, you can bring warm socks for the Youth Group's collection for Siena Francis House.

May your Advent and Christmas season be full of the joy that comes with celebrating the coming of our Savior!



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PASTOR'S PAGE

Pastor's Page, by Pastor Brad Meyer

*Bright and glorious is the sky,
radiant are the heavens high
where the golden stars are shining.
All their rays to earth inclining
beckon us to heaven above,
beckon us to heaven above.*

This Epiphany hymn, "Bright and glorious is the sky," tells the story of the Wise Men seeking the infant king that came to earth at Christmas and the announcement of his birth through a shining star.

Today, when princes and kings are born the news travels around the world via modern technology in a split second. Yet these wise men slowly followed a star and traveled a great distance to find the newborn king. Matthew 2:1-2 recounts the wise men seeking out the child.

"In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'"

Both wise men and shepherds found the baby born in a manger and brought with them their most valuable gifts. The greatest gifts were not gold or spices; they came to pay him homage with the gift of worship.

God has given us the greatest gift of all through the birth of this child. No gift can compare. This child brings light into our darkness. He sends life where there was once death. God gives us his Son so that we may know his love forever.

Treasure this priceless gift. Worship the One who gives us this gift. Share the news of his coming into the world to give us life.

*And this star, as bright as day,
that will never lead astray
with its message so appealing
is the word of God, revealing
Christ, the way, the truth, the life,
Christ, the way, the truth, the life.*

Peace to your Advent and Christmas season,

Pastor Brad



Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him

MONTHLY CALENDAR

December 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:00pm Gather Bible Study 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	2 7:00pm Vision & Coordination Mtg.	3 6:00pm Brass Rehearsal 6:30pm Youth Group 7:15pm Sr. Choir	4 5:30pm Escalante Hills Mtg. 7:00pm Boy Scouts	5 8:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 7:30pm AA Meeting	6 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 9:30am W/ELCA Metro East Mtg. for Spring Gathering
7 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 6:00pm Bell Choir	8 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	9	10 6:00pm Brass Rehearsal 6:00pm W/ELCA Ministry Team Mtg. 6:30pm Youth Group 7:15pm Sr. Choir	11 7:00pm Boy Scouts	12 7:30pm AA Meeting	13 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 9:00am Goodie Tin & Project Linus Event
14 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Christmas Program/Worship/Comm 11:30am Chile Lunch & Caroling 11:30am Youth Christmas Gathering 2:00pm Recital 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Cub Scout Leader Mtg.	15 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	16 7:00pm Church Council Mtg.	17 6:00pm Brass Rehearsal 6:30pm Youth Group 7:15pm Sr. Choir	18 7:00pm Boy Scouts	19 8:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 7:30pm AA Meeting	20 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 4:00pm Cello Recital
21 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 1:00pm District 18 AA Plng Mtg. 6:00pm Bell Choir	22 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	23	24 4:30pm Chritmas Eve Worship 11:00pm Candlelight Worship	25 Merry Christmas!	26 Church Office Closed 7:30pm AA Meeting	27 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
28 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 6:00pm Bell Choir	29 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	30	31			

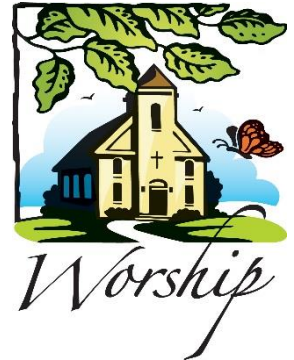
Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	December 7	December 14	December 21	December 28
Greeter(s)				
8 a.m.	Jesse & Pat Brewer	Gary Ramsay	Brian & Deb Lund	Paul & Peg Murphy
10:30 a.m.	Paul & Ann Kroll	Dan & Ruth Manning	Dave & Susan Lueders	Doug & Karen Armitage
Liturgist				
8 a.m.	Judy Egr	Paul Murphy	Ron Thom	Karen Armitage
10:30 a.m.	Dave Rieff	Christmas Program	Ashley Vandeventer	Paul Christenson
Communion Servers				
8 a.m.	Egr family	Peg Murphy & Tessin/Stephenson family	Bill Baker, Joan & Wayne Witt	B. Lund/ Wayne & Joan Witt
10:30 a.m.	Rieff family	Paul & Ann Kroll Anne Yarger	Debra Gillespie, Lynnette Nore & Chris Boarts	Quackenbush family
Altar Care				
8 a.m.	Wayne & Joan Witt	Deb Christenson & Angie Meyer	D& R Roberts & Caroline Stephenson	Brewer family
10:30 a.m.	Deb Quadhamer J. Messerschmidt	Diana Haye & Marcia Roads	Debra Gillespie & Karen Armitage	Brenda Mac & Rosie Avalos
Ushers				
8 a.m.	Kenn Garder, Matt Garder, Paul & Deb Christenson, Craig Pennell			
10:30 a.m.	Rett Messerschmidt, Rob Anderson, Bill Quackenbush, Paul Barnett			
Nursery				
10:30 a.m.	Anne Yarger		Lisa Rieff	Ashley Meier
Recording				
	Pat Brewer	Paul Christenson	Dave Lueders	Paul Murphy
Donut Pick Up and Clean Up				
Pick-up Clean-up	Paul Christenson Barb Haskins	Paul Murphy Karen Anderson	Karen & Doug Armitage Dan & Ruth Manning	No Donuts
Recording				
	Pat Brewer	Paul Christenson	Dave Lueders	Paul Murphy

Worship Appreciation: Worship Planning Committee

Worship is an integral part of our life at Lord of Love. Through God's word, bread and prayer, we are nourished in faith and sent out into the world. Worship unites us in celebration and helps us grow in faith.

Did you ever wonder why we sing the hymns we sing each Sunday? How about the liturgies? It is the result of our hardworking and talented Worship Planning Committee. This committee meets several times a year (on *early* Saturday mornings) to review the texts and themes of the upcoming Sundays and plans out the hymns and liturgies that would complement them.



This group includes **Shawn Lorenzen, Pastor Brad, Amy Kragens, Carol Novak, Renae Rich** and **Pauline Shaffer**. Their planning is done with thoughtful and respectful discussion but always highlighted with humor! We are very fortunate as a congregation to have this group planning our worship. Take a moment and thank them the next time you see them!

Advent Worship Services



Using Holden Evening Prayer, Advent worship will be at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays, **Dec. 3, 10, and 17**. We will focus on the theme: "**Comfort and Joy.**"

A few members of the congregation have been asked to share their thoughts about the comfort and joy that is brought to us during Advent as we feel the **Power, Pardon** and **Presence** of Christ in the world.

Our special Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas offerings will be given to the Nebraska Synod Disaster Response in Pilger and to the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

On Wednesday, **Dec. 24**, we celebrate the birth of Christ at two different services. The first one is at 4:30 p.m. The candlelight service is at 11 p.m. (with gathering music beginning at 10:30 p.m.).

Please join us for a Christmas celebration.



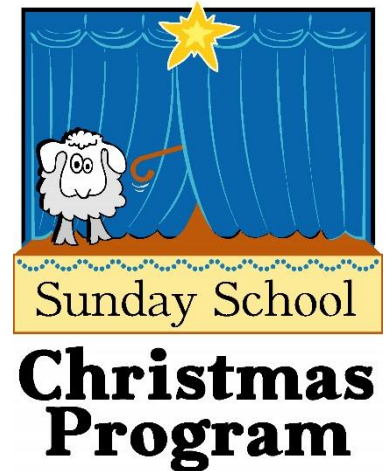
NURTURE

Sunday School Christmas Program

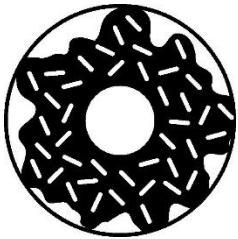
Don't miss the Sunday school's Christmas Program during second service on **Sunday, Dec. 14**. Dress Rehearsal will be **Saturday, Dec. 13**, 9-11 a.m.

Remember, we would love for your children to continue attend Sunday school as often as possible in the next couple of weeks as we work on the finishing touches.

If you have any questions, please contact Heather Christensen.



Pick-up and Clean-Up Schedule for Donuts and Coffee



Dec. 7 Pick-up: Paul Christenson | Clean-up: Barb Haskins

Dec. 14 Pick-up: Paul Murphy | Clean-up: Karen Anderson

Dec. 21 Pick-up: Karen & Doug Armitage | Clean-up: Dan & Ruth Manning

Dec. 28 No donuts!

Thank you to all who volunteer service to Lord of Love!

Happy Anniversary to the Mannings!

You are invited to an open house in honor of Ruth and Dan Manning's 50th Wedding Anniversary. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall from 2-4 p.m. on **Sunday, Jan. 4**.

In lieu of gifts, please bring nonperishable items for the Food Pantry.



YOUTH

Collection for Siena Francis House

The Youth Group is collecting new medium-heavy weight socks for people in need at Siena Francis House. There is currently a big need for these items. Please put them in the box by the Youth Corner in the Narthex.



Youth Group meets Wednesdays

Youth Group continues to meet Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Youth grades 7-12 are invited to join this time of fellowship, fun, events and service project planning, devotions and study time.

ELCA Good Gifts Program

Need Christmas gift ideas? Consider a contribution to the ELCA through its Good Gifts program, via <https://community.elca.org/ELCAGoodGifts>

ELCA Good Gifts go beyond your regular congregational offering to support the ministries of the ELCA that mean the most to you and your loved ones. Together, we do more than we could ever do alone: *grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives*. Here's how:



1) Choose your gift from the website above or the catalog.

Browse the catalog and select from more than 50 gift-giving options. Choose the gifts that mean the most to you or choose gifts in honor of friends or loved ones.

2) Announce your gift

Tell others about the Good Gifts you have given in their honor by printing a card or sending an eCard. With each online donation, you may request a printed card to be mailed to your home. Allow up to 2 weeks for delivery.



3) Where your money goes

We believe that people know their own communities best. We start by listening to our congregations and our global companion churches that identify the local needs and related solutions that help make a difference. Then, we partner with people to make those dreams a reality in their communities.



The items in this catalog represent the kinds of projects and programs supported by funds from the ELCA. Your donations support work within the same categories of ministry (e.g., agriculture, malaria, disaster response, etc.) related to your gift, where needed most, so that your donation has the biggest impact.

4) How you help

Your gift carries God's love to others, making a difference in their lives and in the world. Your donations support long-term, sustainable solutions that ensure that these good gifts last for



MISSION

Potluck Chili Lunch and Caroling

Please join the Chancel Choir for a potluck chili lunch after the 10:30 a.m. Sunday school Christmas program, followed by caroling for all ages on **Sunday, Dec. 14**. Bring a pot of chili or something that goes with chili for the lunch.

The Carolers will organize and leave about 12:15 pm to sing to folks who need some Christmas cheer. We should return to Lord of Love by 2:30-3 p.m. For questions—contact Deb Lund.

Congregational Advent Gathering

The Mission Possible Team has designated this year's special offerings from Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas to go to the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response (2/3) and to the Nebraska Synod Disaster Response to Pilger (1/3).

Please give generously to help do vital ministry when disaster strikes.



OUTREACH

Fall Festival Success!

Thanks to all of you, this was our most financially successful Fall Festival. Income received was **\$3,552** (\$1,183 from the sale of dinner tickets and \$2,369 from the silent auction). Expenditures were \$1,217.10 (\$870 to Table Grace Café for catering; \$247.10 for professional quilting of the silent auction quilt; and \$100 to the youth group for serving).

Net profits were divided evenly among the Siena Francis House, Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry, LOL's Women on a Mission and LOL's WELCA operating fund (\$583.73).

In addition, the youth received \$373.50 in tips for their ministry and \$1,751 worth of items were gathered for Project Hope.



Freezing Race for Table Grace 5K

Ignite Student Ministries at Nebraska Methodist College is hosting a race on **Saturday, Dec. 6** to raise money in support of Table Grace Café.

The race will begin at the riverfront property at Miller's Landing along the Missouri River. The 5K Run/Walk will start at **9 a.m.** Awards will be given to top qualifiers of the 5K and there will be a best dressed holiday theme contest for which participants will receive awards. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/freezing-race-for-table-grace-tickets-13266880597>.

CHURCH COUNCIL AND RESOURCES

2015 Church Council

Congratulations to the 2015 Church Council members (newly elected in **bold** below), who were elected at the November congregational meeting.

2015 Lord of Love Church Council

Vision and Coordination: Brian Walther, President; **Dave Hild, Vice-President**; Judy Messerschmidt, Secretary; **Jackie Combes, Treasurer**

Nurture: Caroline Stevenson and Lisa Willard

Outreach: Mardi Fiske and **Scott Reinhardt**

Resources: Craig Pennell and **Bill Quackenbush**

Worship: Heather Hansen, Joan Witt



Giving Status

General Fund financial information for Oct. 2014:

- Actual Income - \$22,071.25
- Actual Expenses - \$33,571.96

General Fund financial information YTD through Oct. 2014:

- Actual Income - \$255,161.88
- Actual Expenses - \$268,456.19



Offerings were **down** in October – it was the lowest month of offerings YTD. Expenses were higher in October due to a couple of items. Lord of Love's property insurance bill of \$2900 was due in October. Also there were two regular monthly bills that were not paid in September, for which the September and October bills were both paid in October.

As discussed at the congregational meeting on Nov. 9, the available cash (if we were to pay out everything owed), at the end of October was **negative** (\$23,000). As a reminder, the 2014 budget was approved with an \$18,000 deficit with the realization we must increase our budgeted giving, decrease our budgeted expenses or a combination of each. Expenses have been held to an absolute minimum. Unfortunately at this point we are not meeting our budgeted giving; therefore we haven't reduced our budgeted deficit.

Please prayerfully consider increasing your current giving and/or starting your 2015 pledge now to help reduce this deficit. Any shortfall will be carried into 2015.



RESOURCES

Stewardship: Musical Talents, by Deb Lund

Lord of Love is blessed with wonderful music that helps make our worship services meaningful.

**...THAT TOGETHER YOU MAY
WITH ONE VOICE GLORIFY
THE GOD AND FATHER OF
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.**



Our treasured pipe organ provides rich accompaniment to hymns, as well as meditative preludes and inspiring postludes. The sounds of the baby grand piano and keyboard add variety and interest for congregational singing and other musical offerings.

The Chancel Choir has been an essential part of worship throughout Lord of Love's history. The Lord of Love Brass is not far behind the choir. More recently, the Bell Choir has become a beautiful addition to our worship experiences.

Music can make messages clearer, and the use of music in worship is indispensable at Lord of Love. Both those who perform and those who listen benefit.

Jon Novak does a superb job choosing choir music for each Sunday's worship that fits the lessons of the day. Our services are enriched and enhanced by musical selections that offer a deeper understanding of the lessons read each Sunday.

One of the benefits of singing in choir is having a tune and message go through one's head after working on a piece for a number of weeks. Those messages are long remembered. Sometimes in lessons years later, one hears the same words that were once sung

A Special Christmas Gift

A gift that the choir and friends give to folks who cannot get to Lord of Love regularly for worship is Christmas caroling. Singing to people we don't see regularly at worship and visiting with them is such a special experience for the singers as much as for the listeners. All are blessed because of the music, and there's nothing like caroling to put one in the Christmas spirit!

It is because of the generosity of our regular offerings and the commitment that has been made by our congregational leaders that we have such a vital music program.

Thanks be to God that we can use music to profoundly touch lives.



MEN'S NEWS

Men's Saturday Morning Breakfast

Men's group and Bible study continues to meet on Saturday mornings, in the Fellowship Hall, starting with breakfast at 7 a.m. and study fellowship following. We generally wrap up at 8 a.m. Plenty of food and seating is always available. All men are welcome.

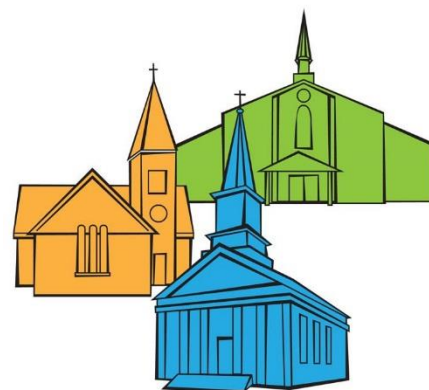


Nebraska Lutheran Men in Mission: Annual Gathering/ Business Meeting

You're invited to take part in something bigger than Lord of Love's men's ministry. The 2015 Annual Gathering/Business Meeting of Nebraska Lutheran Men in Mission (NELMM) will be held on **Saturday, Jan. 17, 2015**, at Sheridan Lutheran Church in Lincoln. The theme of the event is *"We're In It To Win It – Keeping Our Boys and Young Men Actively Engaged in Manly, Spiritual Development."*

The business meeting will include the election of a vice president and secretary for the 2015-16 term; a vote to approve a new constitution and set of bylaws; and a dynamic special presentation by Pastor Tim Wright, author of *"Searching For Tom Sawyer – How Parents and Congregations Can Stop The Exodus Of Boys From Church."* Pastor Wright was one of the keynote speakers at the National Lutheran Men in Mission conference held in Nashville in July of 2014.

Registration is \$10 at the door. Registration opens at 8:15 a.m., with the business meeting beginning at 9 a.m. Your registration fee includes morning coffee and a box lunch. Pastor Wright will speak at 2:15 pm., and the event will close with worship starting at 3:45.



Carpooling from Lord of Love will be available. Please make plans to attend this event!

WOMEN OF LOVE

Lutheran Women of Omaha



Lutheran Women of Omaha will meet **Tuesday, Dec. 9** at noon at Luther Memorial Church at 6099 Western Avenue. Simone Weber from Table Grace will present a musical program. The monetary project is Table Grace Café.

Cost of the luncheon is \$6. Please make your reservations with Ruth Manning at 402-451-0221 by Dec. 7.

WOMEN OF LOVE

Women's Ministry Team

All women are invited to attend the women's ministry team work session on the second Wednesday of each month. We will meet at 6 p.m. in the Mary Room on **Dec. 10.**

Epiphany Luncheon

All women and girls are invited to attend the Epiphany Luncheon and program on **Sunday, Jan. 11** at 11:45 in the Fellowship Hall. The theme is "Hark How the Bells."



Please bring a salad to share (dessert will be provided). Also bring a tangible offering for Lutheran Family Services Center for Healthy Families. Items needed are:

- diapers size 4 and 5
- baby wipes
- baby care items (shampoo, lotion, body wash)
- outfits newborn to 5T
- shoes for children ages 1 to 5
- training pants and underwear size 2T to 5T, pajamas newborn to 5T
- children's books
- quilts
- convertible car seats
- baby bathtubs
- strollers

The program will include the revealing of secret angels. If you had a secret angel this year, bring a card for her revealing your name. We also will begin signing up for 2015 secret angels. The only requirements to be a secret angel is to pray for her regularly and send her notes of encouragement throughout the year

Crane Coffee Fellowship

You don't need to be a coffee drinker to enjoy the ladies' coffee fellowship at Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass (think tea, chai, or smoothies). We meet at 8 a.m., **Friday, Dec. 12 and 26.** All ladies are invited.



Coffee Fellowship

Goodie Containers and Project Linus

Saturday, Dec. 13, you are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee at 9 a.m. and then prepare "goodie" containers for the elderly, shut-ins and those with special needs. Please bring 2 dozen cookies for the containers.



Following that, you can help make fleece blankets for "Project Linus." Their mission is to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need, through the gifts of new, handmade blankets and afghans created by volunteers

You will need 2 pieces of coordinating fleece for each blanket. Finished size is 1-1/2 yards X 60". See the Sunday bulletin or contact Jackie Combes at 402-498-4283 for further information.

Gather Bible Study

“Growing Together” is the theme for the December *Gather* Magazine Bible study. Spiritual growth happens in communities—home, congregation, school and anywhere people share their experiences of God. Session 4 is “Faith in the Family” and the theme verse is, “When she and her household were baptized, she urged us saying, ‘If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.’ And she prevailed upon us.” (Acts 16:15)

The Monday group will meet at 6 p.m. on **Dec. 1** at the Village Inn near Oakview Mall. The Wednesday group meets at 6 p.m. on **Dec. 3** in the Mary Room.

All women are invited to attend either study group. You do not need to commit to the full 9-month study; just attend whenever you can.



News from LOL's Women of the ELCA

At the Nov. 15 general meeting of LOL's Women, Ministry Team members were elected for the 2015 program year. They are:

- Rose Roberts, coordinator
- Ruth Manning, assistant coordinator
- Gwen Edwards, treasurer

The communications coordinator will be selected at a ministry team meeting from team members-at-large: Rosie Avalos, Debra Christenson, Jackie Combes, Brenda Mac, Lynda McGraw, Nicole Quackenbush, and Joan Witt.

Events planned for 2015 include “Bowling for Jesus,” the women’s retreat, “God’s Daughters,” Thankoffering Service; Fall Festival, two general meetings with programs, preparing “goodie tins” and Project Linus projects, and returning by popular demand next December – “Advent by Candlelight!”

Dates will be in the Women of the ELCA program folder that will be out in January.

Nebraska Synodical Women's Winter Retreat

“Many Gifts but One Spirit” is the theme for the annual winter retreat on **Saturday, Jan. 24, 2015** at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Grand Island. Rachel Kurtz from Minneapolis will share her powerhouse singing voice with the joyful message of “Many Gifts but One Spirit”. Her song “Make a Difference” has become a widespread sensation. Rachel has performed in benefit concert tours across the country helping to raise awareness for world hunger, hurricane relief and multi-cultural reconciliation.

We encourage you to invite your friends of all faiths to attend with you. NSWO is really about encouraging generations of women; please invite your mother, daughters and granddaughters. Rachel’s message is based on Corinthians 12. She will speak to our hearts that we work together to use our gifts for the good of others. Come and be energized!

Registration fee is \$18, and an offering will be received for the Lutheran Women’s Health Initiative. The registration form is attached to the *Love Letter*, and additional copies are posted on the WELCA bulletin board between the Sunday School office and the nursery. Registrations are **due Jan. 12**.



WOMEN OF LOVE

Dates to Remember

Dec. 1 , 6 p.m.	Gather Bible Study, Village Inn, 3304 S.143rd Pl.
Dec. 3 , 6 p.m.	Gather Bible Study, Mary Room
Dec. 10 , 6 p.m.	Ministry Team Meeting, Mary Room
Dec. 12 , 8 a.m.	Crane Coffee Fellowship
Dec. 13 , 9 a.m.	Goodie tins and Project Linus
Dec. 26 , 8 a.m.	Crane Coffee Fellowship

Looking Ahead

- **Jan. 11** Epiphany Potluck and Luncheon
- **Jan. 24** Nebraska Synodical Women's Retreat, Grand Island

LOVE NOTES

Dear Lord of Love Family,

We want to thank you so very much for the wonderful love and support we have received during the past several months. You fed us, you prayed for us, and you cried with us. We continue to draw strength from your love. We have experienced God's love through you.

Thank you, Pastor Brad, for sharing those last precious moments with us and for helping to make them peaceful ones. Thank you for giving so much of your time that day and seeing us through that difficult transition. The sermon you gave was very touching and genuine with just the right amount of humor thrown in. You knew her well.

Thank you to the choir. Singing in the choir was one of Mom's favorite ways to worship and she loved being one of you. You sounded beautiful and listening to you was a great comfort.

Thank you to Carol Novak for once again sharing her gift. The music was wonderful. We did not hear the prelude on that day, so it is nice to be able to hear it on the CD.

Thank you to all who prepared served, and cleaned up for the luncheon. The food was delicious and, for some of us, it was the first time in days that we actually filled a plate and sat down to enjoy a meal.

Thank you to all who helped serve communion and provided altar care, those who opened and closed the church for us, and anyone else we may have missed.

Thank you to all who gave memorials to the church in honor of Mom. She was a faithful giver and giving in her name is a wonderful way to honor her.

Our family has experienced tragedy as well as great joy. Through it all, this congregation has shared in those experiences with us. We are blessed. Thank you.

The Family of Karen Pickens

IN OUR PRAYERS

Antoinette Anania (cousin of Deb Lund)
Chris Beckman (friend of Jane Gehringer)
Dick Bell
Connie Bennett (cousin of Karen Armitage)
Patricia Connolly (friend of the Thoms)
Ken Gustafson (husband of Mary Lou)
Vicky Hays (friend of Ann Kroll)
Mary Howard (friend of Carol Novak)
Cheryl Jones (friend of Nancy Shinrock)
Matt Kreikimeier (friend of Brenda Mac)
Glenna Lee
Ken Lineweaver (Aaron Edward's Papa)
Lisa Lueders (sister-in-law of Dave Lueders)
Debbie Michalak (former co-worker of Jackie Combes)
Mark Miller
Charles Meyer (father of Pr. Brad)
Dawn Neumann
Brenda Nobles (friends of Gwen Edwards)
Don St. Ours (brother-in-law of Lynda McGraw)
Cynthia Palmer (friend of Dave & Lisa Rieff)

Isaac Schroeder
Jill Sheridan (sister-in-law of Rebecca Lund Sheridan)
Brian Shinrock
Georgene Sones (mother of Dayla Miller)
Ted Strasser
Scott Swigert & Jeanna Steppuhn (nephew & niece of the Shinrock's)
Brenda Thom
Roslynn Thom (sister of Ron Thom)
Ted Whitfield (former co-worker of Brian Shinrock)
Caregivers and those who suffer with depression.

Those who are deployed:

Steve Slone
Travis Menzie
Paul Wendzel

Those who mourn:

The family and friends of Bill Wallway, uncle of Kenn Garder

If you would like to add a name to the In Our Prayers section, 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!



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

- Dec. 13** Goodie baskets and Project Linus
- Dec. 14** Sunday School Christmas Program
Chili Potluck and Caroling
- Dec. 24** Christmas Eve services

Save the Date

- Jan. 4** Manning Anniversary Open House
- Jan 11** Women's Epiphany Luncheon
- Jan. 17** NE Lutheran Men in Mission Meeting and Gathering



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

WOMEN OF THE ELCA NEBRASKA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

WINTER RETREAT 2015

Saturday, January 24, 2015

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Grand Island, NE



"Many Gifts but One Spirit"

Rachel Kurtz of Minnesota will share her powerhouse singing voice with the joyful message of "Many Gifts but One Spirit". Her song "Make a Difference" has become a widespread sensation. Rachel has performed in benefit concert tours across the country helping to raise awareness for world hunger, hurricane relief and multi-cultural reconciliation.

We encourage you to invite your friends of all faiths to attend with you. NSWOW is really encouraging generations of women; please invite your mother, daughters, and granddaughters. Rachel's message is based on Corinthians 12. She will speak to our hearts that we work together to use our gifts for the good of others.

Come, Be Energized!

Coffee/Registration – 8:30 a.m.
Singing & devotions – 9:00 a.m.
Closing 3.00 p.m.

Offering will go to The Lutheran Women's Health Initiative

Driving Directions: From I-80, take US Highway 281. Turn East onto W. Stolley Park Road. Turn North onto S. Harrison Street to 1515.

REGISTRATION FORM

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: January 12, 2015

Name _____
Street or PO Box _____
Town _____ ZIP _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____
Church Name _____
Church Town _____
Special Needs (hearing or sight impaired, wheelchair, dietary, etc.) _____

Conference:

- ☐ Midlands
- ☐ Metro East
- ☐ Southeast
- ☐ High Plains
- ☐ Northeast
- ☐ Central
- ☐ Southern Prairie

Please make check payable to NSWOW. Registration is transferable, but not refundable

Send registration form and \$18 to: JoAnn Rohrs

402-274-3058 (Home)

1409 10th Street

joannrohrs1409@yahoo.com

Auburn, NE 68305-1414



What is the Women's Health Initiative?

In 2004, the Women of the ELCA created a church wide health initiative called **Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls**. This initiative seeks to help women and girls make healthy spiritual, physical and emotional choices in their lives. The primary way the Women's Health Initiative is funded is by the Run, Walk and Roll held at Triennial Gathering. We have also had this event at our conventions for several years. This year we decided to use our Winter Retreat offering to contribute to this valuable program.

How is the funding used?

- From the funds of the Women's Health Initiative the Women of the ELCA has co-sponsored the federal HEART Act for Women. **Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls** focuses on the importance of taking care of our hearts...physically, emotionally and spiritually.
- Seed Grant Programs are offered to congregational units who are expanding and growing their work within the initiative. (Health Fairs, Exercise Events, Healthy Cooking Classes, Spa Days, etc.) Seed Grants were given to Women of the ELCA units to continue raising awareness, educating and promoting wellness among women and girls. The *Planting Seeds for a Healthy Tomorrow* resource was created to help understand about the seed grants. Every unit that receives a seed grant is expected to "seed" back the initiative with some money. It's a wonderful circle of stewardship! Generally stories of the seed grants appear in the Interchange.

How do we learn about the health initiative?

- Resources are necessary to help women in our organization understand and support the health initiative. *A Journey to Wellness* is a discussion starter program resource. *Sacred Spaces and Shared Wisdom*, *Knitting as a Spiritual Practice* and *The Faces of Grief* are all program resources addressing emotional, spiritual and physical health. There are many more and many more to come!

As with any initiative, it is an ongoing effort. It was started in 2005 and won't stop until we're all emotionally, spiritually and physically healthy...which means this will be going on for quite a while!

What are your units doing or can do to promote healing and wholeness?

LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Women of the ELCA are committed by our purpose statement to promote healing and wholeness in our church, society and world. **Making a real difference** in the total health of women begins at the "heart" of the matter...being physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually healthy balanced women.