

# The Love Letter

Volume 50

January 2015

## Lord of Love Office

Phone ..... 402.493.2946  
Fax ..... 402.493.3087  
Website ..... [www.lord-of-love.org](http://www.lord-of-love.org)

## Lord of Love Staff

### Pastor

Brad Meyer  
[pastorbrad@lord-of-love.org](mailto:pastorbrad@lord-of-love.org)

### Director of Christian Education/Youth Ministry

Heather Christensen  
[heather@lord-of-love.org](mailto:heather@lord-of-love.org)

### Office Administrator, Prayer Chain, and Financial Secretary

Mary Lou Gustafson  
[marylou@lord-of-love.org](mailto:marylou@lord-of-love.org)

### Community Therapists

Kim Mueller  
402.354.6891, Ext. 13  
Becky Herber  
402.354.6891, Ext. 21

### Missionary to Tanzania

Bob Kasworm

### Web Steward

Del Gust  
[webmaster@lord-of-love.org](mailto:webmaster@lord-of-love.org)

### Love Letter Editor

Charise Adams  
[loveletter@lord-of-love.org](mailto:loveletter@lord-of-love.org)

### Senior Organist

Carol Novak

### Associate Organist

Amy Kragnes

### Chancel Choir Director

Jon Novak

### LOL Brass Director

Brian Lund

### Bell Choir Director

Heidi Meyer

## 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

Happy 2015! This first Love Letter of the year is a short one. So what better time to introduce a new feature – a recipe of the month! Your editor is still new, but understands that food is a key element of fellowship at Lord of Love. ☺ So try making or sharing this recipe with loved ones!

January brings the return of Luther Kids on Wednesday evenings, starting Jan. 14. See "Nuture" on page 5 for details. Youth Group will also resume on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

As for the men's group, the Nebraska Lutheran Men in Mission Annual Gathering and Meeting will take place on Sunday, Jan. 17 in Lincoln.

The women's group is busy in January, with a soup lunch, Bible study, coffee fellowship, the Epiphany luncheon, and the synodical women's retreat. Details start on page 9.

And, to start your year on a positive note, don't miss the list of the top things that happened this year thanks to your stewardship, compiled by Rex Quadhamer and featured on page 7.



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### Pastor's Page, by Pastor Brad Meyer

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#### *Head towards the light!*

The phrase, "Head towards the light!" is often used in movies when a person is trapped in the darkness of a cave yet can see their way out marked by a beam of light coming through a crack or crevice that leads to freedom.

In one of my favorite movies, "Ghost," Patrick Swayze walks into the bright light as he silently walks into heaven at the end of the movie. (Spoiler alert to a 1990 movie – sorry!)

I can imagine the wise men saying, "Head towards the light," as they journeyed to find the newborn king that entered into the world at Christmas. They were guided by the brilliant star shining in the east to find the infant in Bethlehem who brought hope to the world.

Just as the wise men encountered the Christ child, the light of the world, we too discover again at Epiphany the light that guides our lives. We focus on the light of Christ as we journey through this life of faith. Jesus says, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

Nations shall come  
to your light,  
and kings to the  
brightness of your dawn.

Isaiah 60:3, NRSV



At times, we may feel that we are walking in darkness, but Jesus is certainly the light that brings us hope and grace in the midst of the darkness. Jesus says when we keep our focus on the light, we experience the presence of Christ in us that overpowers the darkness.

Throughout Epiphany, and the rest of the year, "Head towards the light", the light of Christ!

Peace,  
Pastor Brad



# MONTHLY CALENDAR

January 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> Church Office Closed 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>2</b> 8:00am Crane Coffee 7:30pm AA Meeting	<b>3</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
<b>4</b> 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 6:00pm Bell Choir	<b>5</b> 6:00pm "Gather" Bible Study 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	<b>6</b> 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Vision & Coordination Mtg.	<b>7</b> 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Mission Possible Mtg. 6:00pm "Gather" Bible Study 6:00pm Brass Rehearsal 6:30pm Youth Group 7:15pm Sr. Choir	<b>8</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>9</b> 7:30pm AA Meeting	<b>10</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 8:00am Worship Planning Mtg. 11:00am Gust Birthday in Fellowship Hall
<b>11</b> 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 11:45am Epiphany Lunch 6:00pm Bell Choir	<b>12</b> 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 5:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm WELCA Ministry Team 6:00pm Brass Rehearsal 6:30pm Luther Kids 6:30pm Youth Group 7:15pm Sr. Choir	<b>15</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>16</b> 8:00am Crane Coffee 7:30pm AA Meeting	<b>17</b> 8:00am Church Council Retreat
<b>18</b> 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 6:00pm Bell Choir	<b>19</b> 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	<b>20</b> 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Church Council Mtg.	<b>21</b> 5:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Brass Rehearsal 6:30pm Luther Kids 6:30pm Youth Group 7:15pm Sr. Choir	<b>22</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>23</b> 5:00pm Pinewood Derby Set-Up 7:30pm AA Meeting	<b>24</b> Pinewood Derby
<b>25</b> 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 1:00pm District 18 AA Plng Mtg. 6:00pm Bell Choir	<b>26</b> 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 5:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Brass Rehearsal 6:30pm Luther Kids 6:30pm Youth Group 7:15pm Sr. Choir	<b>29</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>30</b> 8:00am Crane Coffee 7:30pm AA Meeting	<b>31</b>

# WORSHIP

## Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25
Greeter(s)				
8 a.m.	Kenn & Shari Garder	Paul & Sue Dieter	Volunteers please	Jim & Jeri Morgan
10:30 a.m.	Matt & Lisa Willard	Bill & Nicole Quackenbush	Dan & Ruth Manning	John & Gwen Edwards
Liturgist				
8 a.m.	Shawn Lorenzen	Dave Hild	Deb Lund	Matt Garder
10:30 a.m.	Amy Kragnes	Rex Quadhamer	Karen Mullen	Susan Lueders
Communion Servers				
8 a.m.	Jim & Jeri Morgan	Joan & Wayne Witt	Brian Lund Peg Murphy	Garder family
10:30 a.m.	Bill & Nicole Quackenbush	Deb Quadhamer & Deb Gillespie	Lynnette Nore & Chris Boarts	Dave Lueders Anne Yarger
Altar Care				
8 a.m.	Ed & Marjorie Keiser	Cathy Aden & Sue Dieter	Connie Walther Lisa Meyer	Mardi Fiske
10:30 a.m.	Rowen family	Nicole Quackenbush Karen Anderson	Janet Guthrie Nancy Shinrock	Paul & Ann Kroll
Ushers				
8 a.m.	Paul Dieter, Dennis Hindemith, Brian Walther, Matt Willard			
10:30 a.m.	Brian & Deb Lund, Wayne Witt			
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				Matt & Lisa Willard
Clean-up				

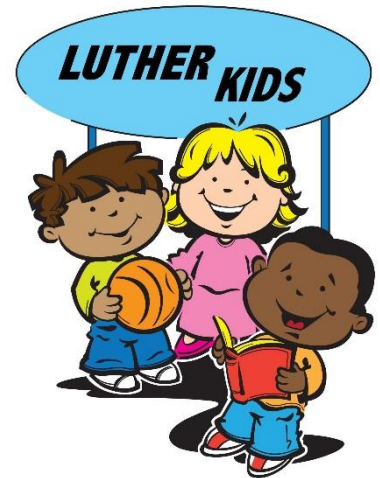
## NURTURE

### Luther Kids is Back

We invite children in Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade to join in this mid-week ministry on Wednesday nights from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., starting **Wednesday, January 14**. Laurie Heavey will coordinate our Luther Kids program, which will utilize materials from our Sunday school program teachings - Whirl Lectionary Curriculum (Augsburg Publishers).

Luther Kids will have teachings, activities, crafts, and music in a multi-age environment that will foster learning and relationship-building. Laurie has experience in and a passion for working with children in a classroom environment and is excited to share God's Word and God's love with our children. We look forward to seeing you on the 14<sup>th</sup>!

Questions? Contact Heather Christensen at [heather@lord-of-love.org](mailto:heather@lord-of-love.org).



## MISSION

### Lutheran Disaster Response Providing Assistance for People Fleeing Attacks in Nigeria

*From ELCA.org* - Nigerians are fleeing amidst continued attacks that are believed to be the actions of Boko Haram. On Nov. 10, there was a massacre of 48 people near the territory of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (LCCN). This attack is one example of attacks worsening in the northern and eastern part of Nigeria where the LCCN is active.

While Nigerians continue to flee, receiving communities are dealing with an influx of internally-displaced persons (IDPs). A youth center outside of Yola, the state capital of Adamawa State, has almost 9,500 refugees living in it. Yola is now struggling to feed and provide humanitarian assistance for the growing number of people arriving.

Working through the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, Lutheran Disaster Response is assisting internally-displaced persons in the Yola region by providing 200 blankets, 500 mosquito nets, 200 mattresses, clothes and food packages.

Lutheran Disaster Response will continue to walk with the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria and our brothers and sisters who are seeking safety. Join us as we pray for peace, that the attacks will end and the people of Nigeria will find safety. See more at: [www.elca.org/News-and-Events/blogs/ELCALutheranDisasterResponse/280#sthash.DcvkESJG.dpuf](http://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/blogs/ELCALutheranDisasterResponse/280#sthash.DcvkESJG.dpuf)



## MISSION

### Mission Possible Update, by Deb Lund

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Thanks so much to all of you for your generous giving in the special Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas offerings. Two-thirds of the proceeds are going to the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response. One-third is going to the Nebraska ELCA to help with the recovery of the Pilger community following the June 2014 tornados.



The Mission Possible Team meets early in January to determine recipients of special offerings this spring. Input is always welcomed, so be sure to talk to anyone on the Mission Possible Team with suggestions: **Karen Anderson, Paul Christenson, Jackie Combes, Mardi Fiske, Paula Foster, Deb Lund, Brenda Mac, Jeri Morgan, and Caroline Tessin.**

## OUTREACH

### Save the Date: Blood Drive

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Lord of Love's annual blood drive will be **Sunday, Feb. 8, 2015**. We will have information available for sign-up after the first of the year. We encourage you to sign up if you intend to donate. This allows the Red Cross to send the appropriate number of staff.

If you need help signing up, Jeri Morgan or Paul Christenson can assist you.



## YOUTH

### Upcoming Youth Events

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Watch your email and Youth Bulletin Board for details.

- Spring Lock-in
- Spring Service Project (Ideas needed! Email Heather@lord-of-love.org)
- Garage Sale Fundraiser for Youth
- Easter Breakfast Fundraiser for Youth
- Planning for World of Fun Summer Fun Day

\*\*We will take a break from Youth group through the holidays and resume on **Wednesday, Jan. 14, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

### Meeting for Youth Gathering in Detroit

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We will have a short youth and parent meeting on **Wednesday, Jan. 21** at 7 p.m. We will discuss questions and concerns, travel plans, costs, and fundraising.

Heather Christensen will be attending the Extravaganza Conference for youth ministry in Detroit at the end of January and will be able to seek out information while there. She will be prepared to come back and make final preparations for the trip!



## CHURCH COUNCIL AND RESOURCES

### 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 and Joan Witt



### Giving Status, from Lisa Willard and Mary Lou Gustafson

As reported in the November Love Letter, our available cash as of October 31 was *short* more than (\$23,000). At November 30, the deficit was reduced by more than half as the available cash was short (\$10,891). During November, offerings surpassed projected giving every Sunday except for one. For only the second time this year, the total offerings in November not only met, but exceeded the monthly budgeted expenses! Thanks to all who helped make this possible.

Sometimes it is difficult to keep our offerings current due to vacations or other weekends away from home. One thing that keeps my family's offerings on track is to use **Simply Giving**. Now that you have considered your pledge for the New Year, we want to remind you that we offer Electronic Giving through "Simply Giving" and Vanco Services as a way to automate your offerings. It is free and convenient for you and provides much-needed consistency for Lord of Love. Collection plate offerings fluctuate significantly from week to week but when contributions are automated, the church receives the funds it needs to operate on a steady, uninterrupted basis.

We encourage you to complete a paper authorization form and return it to the church office. Forms may be found on the board above the information desk. Contact Mary Lou in the office at (402) 493-2946 if you have any questions.



P.S. If you need more reasons to sign up, just read on below!

### Top Ten Things that Happened in 2014 Because of Member's Gifts, by Rex Quadhamer

1. **Weekly Worship.** Your offerings provide the basics for weekly worship, singing hymns, prayers, communion and nurturing. What could be more important?
2. **Youth Group trip to Ohio.** Garage sales of over \$1000 and generous donations helped send 11 of our youth to a "work camp service mission" where 45 home projects were completed.
3. **West Entrance Renovation.** New glass doors replaced old heavy wooden ones that were in decline. Much more light now comes into the narthex and staff safety is enhanced.
4. **Fall Festival:** \$2335 was raised from ticket sales and a silent auction. Money was distributed between Siena Francis House, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Tanzania trip in 2015, and the women's operating fund.

### Top Ten Things that Happened in 2014 Because of Member's Gifts, continued

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5. **Fall Festival** continued: 1751 nonperishable food items were collected for Project Hope. Members went to Project Hope and stocked shelves and saw their new facilities.
6. **Lent/Easter Offerings:** A sizable amount was distributed between the Food Bank and Table Grace Café.
7. **Advent/Christmas offerings:** Money will be sent to ELCA Disaster Response to be used worldwide and locally.
8. **Summer Breakfasts:** \$1000 was sent to Lutheran Family Services Play Therapy for Children. Members visited the Lutheran Family Services office on North 30th Street and toured the facilities.
9. **Memorial Fund:** Money was used to buy: Peg's banner currently hanging in the sanctuary; large Christmas tree and a couple of smaller ones; partial payment for the handicapped doors at the West Entrance; purple paraments; and a Paschal Candle.
10. **Property:** The parking lot was resealed and striped. Furnaces and air conditioners were replaced.
11. **High School Sock Drive.** Many people at Siena Francis House will have warm feet this winter because of your generosity
12. **Endowment Fund:** \$5219 was distributed: \$1000 to Table Grace Café, \$1000 to ELCA Disaster Relief, \$1000 to Pastor Makaya (African Church), \$500 to Boy Scouts, \$500 to Lutheran Minister Fund, \$390 to Oak Indian Mission, and \$250 to Mosaic. Please consider a legacy gift that keeps on giving after your life on earth has passed.
13. **Lord of Love Garden.** Many of our members get together twice a week and work hard to provide Project Hope and 1st Lutheran Pantry with fresh vegetables. Sweet corn, potatoes, tomatoes, cucumbers, and other vegetables are grown.
14. **Pilger weekend.** Lord of Love had over 16 people participate in helping Pilger families repair tornado-damaged homes before winter hit. The Men's Group donated money to feed everyone— around 40 adults and 90 cadets helped out Pilger and were fed by Lord of Love.



I know I said top 10, but I kept finding more things. I know there are many more not listed: quilts made, Linus Project, prayer shawls, etc. God knows your generosity even if it doesn't appear here!



## MEN'S NEWS

### Men's Saturday Morning Breakfast

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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.



### Annual Gathering/Business Meeting

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You still have time to plan to attend the 2015 Annual Gathering/Business Meeting of Nebraska Lutheran Men in Mission (NELMM). The event will take place on **Saturday, Jan. 17**, 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.

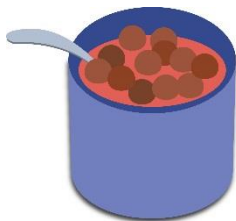
Carpooling from Lord of Love will be available.

## WOMEN OF LOVE

### Soup Lunch Invitation, from Amy Kragnes

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I'm bringing back the Soup Lunch, and it will be **Friday, Jan. 2**. I've got some cool new recipes to try, so if you're game, sign up on the sheet in the narthex or give me a call ([402-697-9165](tel:402-697-9165)) so I know how many chairs to get out.

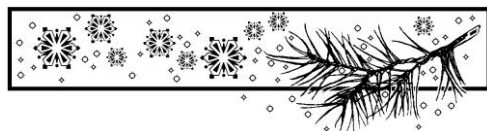


Join me at my house (309 S. 155<sup>th</sup> Ave., Omaha) at noon.

### NE Synodical Women's Winter Retreat

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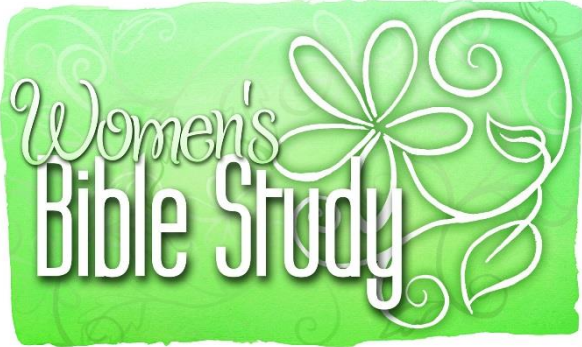
Registrations are due on **Jan. 12** for the annual NSWOW winter retreat on **Jan. 24**, St. Paul's Lutheran in Grand Island. Information and registration forms are posted on the W/ELCA bulletin board between the Sunday school office and the nursery.



## WOMEN OF LOVE

### Gather Bible Study

"Being Made New" is a very appropriate title for the first *Gather* Bible Study of the New Year. We are forgiven and we learn to forgive – and that transforms our lives. Session 5, "Repent and Forgive," focuses on the theme verse: *"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me."* (Psalm 51:10).



The Monday group will meet at **6 p.m. on Jan. 5** at the Oakview Mall Village Inn. The Wednesday group meets at **6 p.m. on Jan. 7** in the Mary Room at church. All women are invited to attend one of these study groups. You do not need to commit to the full 9-month study; just attend whenever you can.

### Lutheran Women of Omaha

Lutheran Women of Omaha will meet **Tuesday, Jan. 13**, at noon at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 4117 Terrace Drive. The program is "Angels Among Us" (a grief-counseling program for children) and the monetary project has been designated for that ministry.

Cost of the luncheon is \$6. Please make your reservations with Ruth Manning at 402-451-0221 by **Sunday, Jan. 11**.

### Epiphany Luncheon

Don't forget the Epiphany Luncheon and program on **Sunday, Jan. 11 at 11:45** in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a salad to share. A program featuring the bell choir will follow the luncheon. In honor of the birth of the baby Jesus, please bring a gift for Lutheran Family Services Center for Healthy Families program. 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

Secret Angels will be revealed at the luncheon. If you had a secret angel this year, please bring a card for her signed with your name. Registration forms will be available for the 2015 Secret Angel ministry at the luncheon as well as at the Information Center in the narthex. **Sign-up deadline is Feb. 1** and assignments will be distributed Feb. 8, just in time to send a valentine!

### Women's Ministry Team

You are invited to attend the women's ministry team planning session on the second Wednesday of each month. We will meet at 6 p.m. in the Mary Room on **Jan. 14**.



### Annual Women's Retreat Planning

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It's time to begin planning for our annual retreat.

This has taken a variety of forms over the years – guest speaker, in-house presentations, etc.



Help put a “fresh spin” on this favorite activity for our women. The date is yet to be determined, but probably in April. Please contact Jackie Combes or Ruth Manning if you would like to be part of the planning. Thank you!

### Crane Coffee Fellowship

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Yes, we will drink coffee in 2015! Enjoy the ladies' coffee fellowship at Crane Coffee, 77<sup>th</sup> and Cass at 8 a.m. on **Friday, January 9 & 23**. All ladies are invited for food and conversation.

### Goodie Containers and Project Linus

---

Thanks to all who participated in these projects on Dec. 13. We had a record number participating in the “goodie tin” preparation – 21 men and women! Several stayed on for Project Linus, and over 60 blankets were completed in 2014! Way to go!

### Dates to Remember

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<b>January 5</b> , 6 p.m.	Gather Bible Study, Village Inn, 3304 S.143rd Pl.
<b>January 6</b> , 9 a.m. – 12 p.m	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
<b>January 7</b> , 6 p.m.	Gather Bible Study, Mary Room
<b>January 9</b> , 8 a.m.	Crane Coffee Fellowship
<b>January 14</b> , 6 p.m.	Ministry Team, Mary Room
<b>January 20</b> , 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
<b>January 23</b> , 8 a.m.	Crane Coffee Fellowship

### Looking Ahead

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- **March 21, 9 a.m.** LOL Women of the ELCA General Meeting with Joy Johnson, “The Boob Girls” (Burned Out Old Broads)



## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

**Editor's Note:** Here's something new! At the "goodie tins" service project, my cookie bars were too gooey with frosting to work well in the tins – oops! So we ate them instead. Several people asked for the recipe, and Ruth suggested putting it in the newsletter. Someone else suggested a monthly recipe feature, which I agree is a great idea (when space permits).

Here's the cranberry cookie bar recipe with optional icing/ topping recipe (from my husband's side of the family – my mother in law was a baker for many years!)

### Cranberry White Chocolate Chip Cookie Bars

1 cup unsalted butter, softened	1 tsp vanilla
2 large eggs	½ tsp baking soda
2 ¼ cups flour	1 cup cranberries
¼ tsp salt	1 cup white chocolate chips
1 cup chopped walnuts (if desired)	1/3 cup sour cream or plain yogurt
1 ½ cups packed brown sugar	

Cream butter and sugar in large bowl. Add eggs one at a time. Beat well. Blend in vanilla.

In separate bowl, mix flour, soda and salt. Stir dry into wet ingredients. Mix in sour cream or yogurt. Stir in cranberries, nuts and white chocolate chips.

Cover and refrigerate one hour. Meanwhile, preheat oven to 350 and prepare a 9 x 12 baking pan. Line bottom of the pan with parchment paper and grease the sides.

Spoon cookie dough into lined pan and spread evenly (use spatula or clean hands). Bake for 20-25 minutes at 350 degrees.

Let cool completely after removing from oven. If desired, top with icing below.

### White Chocolate Cream Cheese Icing/Topping

Beat 8 oz. softened cream cheese with 1 cup powdered sugar. Melt 3 oz. white baking chocolate and blend with cream cheese mix.

Frost cookie bars with mix. Chop ½ cup dried cranberries and sprinkle onto frosted bars. Melt 3 more oz. white chocolate (baking chocolate or extra white chocolate chips will do) and drizzle over frosting and cranberries.

Let harden somewhat before cutting into bars.



If you have a favorite recipe to share, please email it to [loveletter@lord-of-love.org](mailto:loveletter@lord-of-love.org). Thank you!

## 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 Edwards' Papa)  
Lisa Lueders (sister-in-law of Dave Lueders)  
*Charles Meyer* (father of Pr. Brad)  
Debbie Michalak (former co-worker of Jackie Combes)  
*Mark Miller*  
Dawn Neumann  
*Brenda Nobles* (friend of Gwen Edwards)  
Cynthia Palmer (friend of Dave & Lisa Rieff)  
*Don St. Ours* (brother-in-law of Lynda McGraw)

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 Shinrocks)  
Roslynn Thom (sister of Ron Thom)  
*Brenda 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 Karen Pickens

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](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



### **From Heather Christensen and the Nurture Committee:**

We'd like to thank the many hands that helped make our Sunday School Christmas program a success again this year. It's such a joy to see the children share the story of our Savior's birth and share in their excitement as the program comes together. Thank you to the **children** for participating, giving a wonderful program and singing so well!

Thank you to **Claudia Rowen** for preparing a wonderful solo for the children and to **Carol Novak** for accompaniment through practices and the program. Thanks to **Lori Vandeventer and Judy Messerschmidt** for production support (scripts, sets, costumes & support). Thanks to our amazing teachers (**Nicole Quackenbush, Heather Johnson, Ashley Meier, Katie & Ellie Messerschmidt**) who guide and support our process and jump in wherever needed. Your easygoing spirit is much appreciated! For all the others that helped in small ways, we thank you too!

**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

- Jan. 4** Manning Anniversary Open House
- Jan 11** Women's Epiphany Luncheon
- Jan. 14** Luther Kids begins
- Jan. 17** NE Lutheran Men in Mission Meeting and Gathering (Lincoln)

### Save the Date

- Feb. 8** Blood Drive
- March 21** LOL Women of the ELCA General Meeting



*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](mailto:loveletter@lord-of-love.org). Articles must be received by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.*