



The Love Letter

Volume 38

February 2010

Lord of Love Office

Phone 402.493.2946
Fax 402.493.3087
Website www.lord-of-love.org

Lord of Love Staff

Interim Pastor

Pastor Bob Oleson
pastorbob@lord-of-love.org

Office Administrator, Prayer Chain, and Financial Secretary

Mary Lou Gustafson
marylou@lord-of-love.org

Community Therapist

Kim Mueller
402.354.6891, Ext. 13

Youth Director

Adam Lueders
*402.312.1523 or
bravoleader@cox.net*

Web Steward

Gwen Edwards
webmaster@lord-of-love.org

Love Letter Editor

Kim Gust
loveletter@lord-of-love.org

Senior Organist

Carol Novak

Associate Organist

Amy Kragnes

Chancel Choir Director

Jon Novak

Kid's Choir Director

Claudia Rowen

LOL Brass Director

Brian Lund

Custodian

Larry Czapla

Summer Worship Schedule

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

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

A Look Ahead

With Valentine's Day coming soon, many of us are thinking about how we can show our love for our family and friends. We can show our love for our Lord of Love family and beyond through the following.

We can serve one another by volunteering to help with a **Lenten soup supper** or to pick up **donuts** on a Sunday morning (see pages 6-7, Nurture).

We can share the resources God has given us by donating to local needs such as the Women of Love's "**Bowling for Jesus**" fundraiser and our **Capital Campaign** (see page 6, Nurture, and page 9, Property) as well as by donating to global needs including **Houses for Health** in Tanzania and **disaster relief in Haiti** (see pages 8-9, Outreach).

We can support our Youth Group by giving a free-will offering for their **Valentine's Day babysitting** services and by making a pledge for the **Youth Fast** (see page 6, Nurture, and page 8, Outreach).

We can participate in our **men's and women's ministries**, including both fellowship and outreach activities (see page 12, Men's News Corner, and pages 12-13, Women of Love).

Finally, we can work together as a congregation to **accomplish goals** that the council has established for this year (see page 11, Transition/Call Process Update).

In This Issue

Pastor's Page	2	Men's News Corner	12
Monthly Calendar	3	Women of Love	12
Worship	4	LOL Youth	14
Nurture.....	6	Just for Kids.....	15
Outreach.....	8	In Our Prayers	17
Property.....	9	Love Notes	17
Council Report.....	10	Mark Your Calendar	18
Transition/Call Process Update	11		

Love God's Good Creation by Pastor Bob

Dear Friends in Christ,

"And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love."
1 Cor. 13: 13

Jim asked his friend, Tony, whether he had bought his wife anything for Valentine's Day. "Yes," came the answer from Tony, who was a bit of a chauvinist. "I've bought her a belt and a bag." "That was very kind of you," Jim noted. "I hope she appreciates the thought." "So do I," Tony replied. "And hopefully the vacuum cleaner will work better now."

A pastor friend of mine told me about a young couple who wanted to change the wedding vow to read, "As long as we both shall love" rather than the traditional vow that says "As long as we both shall live." The pastor did his job. He would not let them change the vow.

It is amazing how our culture can view love today. Sometimes, we get confused by the difference between love and romance. Sometimes, we forget that a belt and a bag do not express love in an appropriate way.

During the month of February, when we are expressing our love for the special people in our lives, it's a great time for us to remember the bigger picture. God loves the whole world and calls us to love it with the same kind of

sacrificial, joy-filled, and transformational love that God has demonstrated from the beginning. God has set us free in Christ, and it's up to us to use that freedom to participate with God in making the kingdom a reality "on earth as it is in heaven."



So guys, instead of heading out to an overpriced brunch with your sweetheart, you might make a statement this Valentine's Day by skipping the candlelit dinner and giving the equivalent money to a soup kitchen or food pantry. Ladies, instead of trying to find the perfect gift for your sweetie, perhaps you can gift your time to someone who may be lonely on what is for many people the loneliest of days. While taking that romantic walk through the park, maybe together you can pick up some trash or do a little creation care.

During the month of February, it's a great opportunity to break the chains of sentimentality and cultural obligation and instead get serious about loving God's good creation.

Pastor Bob



MONTHLY CALENDAR

February 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:00pm LWT Bible Study @ Old Country Buffet 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	2 9:00am Quilters 5:30pm YWCA Men's Group 6:45pm First Place 7:15pm Vision & Coordination Mtg.	3 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm LWT Bible Study 6:00pm Luther Kids 7:15pm Chancel Choir	4 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	5 8:00am LOL Ladies @ Crane Coffee 7:30pm AA	6 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 9:00am Crafters Group
7 Boy Scout Sunday 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 11:30am Congregational Mtg.	8 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	9 6:45pm First Place 7:00pm Sunnyslope/Sunnyview Neighborhood Assoc.	10 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 7:15pm Chancel Choir	11 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	12 7:30pm AA	13 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 8:00am Habitat Coalitions Kick-Off Meeting
14 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 12:00pm Youth Group Babysitting	15 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	16 Quilters 6:45pm First Place	17 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 7:45pm Chancel Choir	18 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	19 8:00am LOL Ladies @ Crane 7:30pm AA	20 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 1:00pm Music Club
21 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion	22 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	23 6:45pm First Place	24 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 7:45pm Chancel Choir	25 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	26 Youth Fast & Lock-In 7:30pm AA	27 Youth Fast & Lock-In 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 1:00pm Scout Blue & Gold Banquet
28 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion						

Altar Care Committee Has New Leader

After many years of devoted service to heading up the Altar Care committee, Cathy Aden retired at the end of 2009. Thank you, Cathy, for your faithful attention to our altar and communion during your tenure. All of us at Lord of Love very much appreciate your time and effort given while overseeing this essential part of our worship service.

We are pleased to announce that Randi VenHuizen has assumed responsibility for this important ministry team and began her duties at the start of 2010. Randi's willingness to serve in this capacity is also greatly appreciated. You may contact Randi with any concerns about altar care by telephone at 216-3067.

Thoughts on Worship by Carol Novak

"What we put into community is what we get out of it.... Most North American Christians view a church service more as a performance than as fellowship.

We go to the churches that have the best worship, or the most stimulating preaching, or the best facilities. We can slip in on a Sunday morning, sing a few songs, maybe give something in the offering, hear a message that's spoken to or at us, and then leave without having to interact with anyone.

Though a typical church service, this is not church. This is a production or presentation, and the churchgoer with this mentality becomes part of an audience instead of part of the body of Christ.

Continued on the next page

Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	February 7	February 14	February 21	February 28
Greeter(s)				
8:00 a.m.	Brian and Nancy Shinrock	Paul and Peg Murphy	Ed and Marjorie Keiser	Jim and Jeri Morgan
10:30 a.m.	Rett and Judy Messerschmidt	Roger and Angie Meyer	Anne Yarger and Brenda Mac	Rex and Deb Quadhamer
Liturgist				
8:00 a.m.	John Florea	Paul Murphy	Judy Egr	Ron Thom
10:30 a.m.	Dave Rieff	Claudia Rowen	Paul Christenson	Karen Armitage
Communion Servers				
8:00 a.m.	Florea family		Egr family	
10:30 a.m.	Rieff family	Rowen family	Ann and Haley Yarger, Paul and Deb Christenson	Armitage family
Nursery Attendant(s)				
10:30 a.m.	Anne Yarger	Sarah Horan	Lisa Rieff	Pat Brewer
Altar Care				
8:00 a.m.	Connie Walther, Lisa Meyer	Janet Guthrie, Nancy Shinrock	Mike and Christie Klos	Cathy Aden
10:30 a.m.	Rob and Karen Anderson	Paul and Ann Kroll	Concannon family	Diana Haye, Marcia Roads
Ushers				
8:00 a.m.	Joe, Josh, and Jason Combes, Ed Guthrie, Brian Shinrock			
10:30 a.m.	Lueders family			

Thoughts on Worship, continued

Community provides blessing and nourishment when one invests in it and sacrifices for it. The sacrifice and love that we give is the blessing.

That is why what we put into community is what we get out of it.”

This was taken from the book *Simple Spirituality*, written by a former piano student of mine, Chris Heuertz. He heads an international ministry called “Word Made Flesh,” headquartered in Omaha.



Tape Ministry: Getting to Know Marian Lindeen by Karen Pickens and Rachel Novak

In the November issue of *The Love Letter*, I wrote about Agnes Wilson and her new living quarters with her son and daughter-in-law. I said that she couldn't be happier short of being in heaven. Today, I am writing about Marian Lindeen, who I think is most of the time already in heaven. Marian is in the Memory Support Unit at Brookstone Village. She is usually in her chair with her eyes closed when we arrive for a visit. She awakens easily and peacefully. She is glad to see us and always polite. She usually doesn't know what day it is or what time of the day it is. She isn't sure if Harold, her husband, is still alive. But she knows every verse of every hymn she has learned, she knows her Bible, and she knows her Lord. After awhile, she is ready to go back to where we found her, and I can't help but think that it is a wonderful place. She lives and rests with the wonderful memories she has of the past. She trusts in the Lord at all times and is waiting to join him and her loved ones in heaven.

Marian was born on December 6, 1912, at 4225 Emmet Street, as was her sister, Pauline Shaffer, who is a member at Lord of Love. She attended Clifton Hill elementary school and Tech High school. Harold Lindeen also attended Tech High, and Marian “sure did like him.” “Still do,” Marian said... “Love him!” Marian graduated from high school in three years and went to work at an insurance company. Pauline was three at the time and remembers going to the office with her at night and playing on the typewriter.

Marian and Harold were married in 1936; Marian was twenty-four years old. They lived at 3227 Hamilton and were members of Augustana Lutheran Church. In 1948, they moved to Lincoln. Harold traveled most of the week during the thirties and forties for Bankers Life Insurance Company, managing farms in central and eastern Nebraska. Eventually, Marian and Harold formed their own business, the Lindeen Real Estate Company. Marian worked alongside Harold for nearly fifty years. Marian was a life member of the Real Estate Board of Lincoln. In Lincoln, they belonged to Christ Lutheran Church. Marian continues to receive birthday cards and letters from the people at Christ Lutheran.

In 1971, Harold died, leaving Marian to run the business. Upon retirement, she moved to a senior citizen's home, where she lived until March 2001. She then moved to Brookstone so she could be close to Pauline. Pauline brought her sister to church for as long as Marian was able to make the trip. Many of us were blessed to know her and enjoy her presence. She is no longer able to attend church or leave Brookstone, but she is very comfortable there and receives wonderful care. A china cabinet that was in her home in Lincoln sits close to her bed with pictures from the past. Pauline visits often, as do other family members.

All of her life, Marian has been a student of the Bible, and all of her life, she has waited for the Lord's return. She continues to look forward to that day and believes it will come soon, hopefully while she is still living. Rachel and I, on one of our visits, gave Marian communion. Rachel read from Marian's Bible, we sang some hymns, and as we were closing, I asked Marian if she would like for us to pray. “Yes,” said Marian. We closed our eyes and before I could start a prayer, Marian started singing “I Love You Truly,” the song that had been sung at her wedding. That was our closing prayer, and a perfect one it was. Marian has no fears, she worries about nothing, and she lives with the love she has received from her family, her husband, and her Lord.

Babysitting Available on Valentine's Day

Do you want to get away from the kids for a few hours on Valentine's Day? Drop your kids off at church and let the Youth Group watch over them! The Youth Group will be babysitting at church on Sunday, February 14 from noon to 6:00 p.m. This is a fundraiser, so a free will offering will be gratefully accepted. If you're dropping off a child right after the 10:30 a.m. worship service, please bring a sack lunch. Snacks and drinks will be provided during the afternoon. Lots of fun games and activities are planned, so come and join the fun.



Lenten Soup Suppers

We are looking for volunteers to host/cook for the Wednesday night Lenten Soup Suppers. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve Lord of Love. A sign-up sheet is located on the Information bulletin board. If you have questions, contact the members of the Nurture committee: Angie Meyer at 493-4256 or roanmeyer@cox.net or Heather Christensen at rnh94@yahoo.com.



Bowling for Jesus: A Women of Love Fundraising Event

Please join in the fun as we raise some money to send one or two women from Lord of Love on a mission trip. Although we haven't determined a destination or dates, we are considering a foreign destination and will need funds for travel and lodging. Please come!

- What:** 2 games of bowling (with shoes)
- Where:** Maplewood Lanes (102 & Maple)
- When:** February 28, Noon – 2:00 p.m. (right after the 10:30 a.m. worship service)
- Cost:** \$10 per person
- Sign-up:** Sign up by February 21 on the sheet in the Narthex or via email to Beth Olson (bolson@neirelo.com)
- Payment:** Prepayment is preferred; make payment to Beth Olson

The bowling alley is very flexible, so if you decide to come at the last minute, don't worry! You are welcome! You don't have to be a good bowler to participate. Just have fun! Maplewood Lanes does have a restaurant, so you can buy lunch there!



If you have questions, call Beth at 572-6730.

Weekly Education Opportunities at Lord of Love

<p>Sunday 9:15 a.m. Sunday School (Preschool – High School) @ LOL Classrooms Adult Studies @ LOL Abraham, Mary, and Joseph Rooms</p> <p>Monday 6:00 p.m. <i>Lutheran Woman Today</i> Bible Study @ Old Country Buffet (first Monday of month)</p> <p>Tuesday 6:45 p.m. First Place Bible Study @ LOL Joseph Room</p>	<p>Wednesday 4:45 p.m. Confirmation (7th & 8th grades) @ LOL Abraham Room 6:00 p.m. Luther Kids (1st – 6th grades) @ LOL Preschool 6:00 p.m. <i>Lutheran Woman Today</i> Bible Study @ LOL Joseph Room (first Wednesday of month)</p> <p>Thursday 9:30 a.m. Text Study @ Guthries</p> <p>Saturday 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast and Bible Study @ LOL Fellowship Hall</p>
---	--

Sunday Morning Donuts

A great, easy way to get involved at Lord of Love is to volunteer to pick up the donuts from Hy-Vee at 108th and Fort Streets on Sunday mornings. Donuts are ready by 7:30 a.m. Simply go to the bakery and tell them you are there to pick up donuts for Lord of Love. Hy-Vee will give you a receipt. Bring the donuts to Lord of Love, and put the receipt in the money canister. Please consider signing up for at least ONE Sunday!



Adult Christian Fellowship

We are looking for a team of people to plan/brainstorm ideas for monthly ACF events. If this sounds like something you'd be interested in, leave a note in the Nurture committee mailbox or contact Angie Meyer at 493-4256 or roanmeyer@cox.net or Heather Christensen at rn94@yahoo.com.



Rebecca's Vicar (ad)Ventures Part V by Rebecca Lund

Spring semester classes have started, and so have our new programs with campus ministry. We are doing a book study on Cathleen Falsani's book, *The God Factor*, on both campuses. Falsani interviews different public figures, including Barack Obama, Anne Rice, Bono, and Hakeem Olajuwon, about their faith and spiritual journeys. The interviews are short enough to read and discuss in an hour-long time, and they bring up a lot of relevant faith issues for college-aged students. A big event for our campus ministry in January was hosting the Central States Synod bishop, two churchwide campus ministry staff, and the campus pastor from the University of Chicago as they reviewed our ministry and gave commendations and recommendations. Every ELCA campus ministry is evaluated every four years in this kind of review. We found it helpful for outsider feedback and suggestions, and we were happy to receive lots of affirmation as well!

At Bethel, I am happy to see more lay people taking on leadership responsibility for our Green Team. I am loving our confirmation students; they have really gotten into our discussion of the Lord's prayer and are starting to pray more comfortably aloud in our classes. The recent earthquake in Haiti gave ample opportunity to talk about where we see God in the world and how God answers prayer even in the darkest of times.

Finally, the end of January has brought me to six full months of internship—I am halfway through my time here in St. Louis. There is still much to be done and many ways that I hope to grow. In particular, I am looking forward to improving my evangelism skills on campus, providing more one-on-one pastoral care, and taking on more leadership as I move from being a student to a colleague in ministry. Thanks for your continued prayers and support!

Rebecca

Youth Fast to Support Food Pantry



The famous Lord of Love Youth Fast is coming up the end of February, so be ready with a “yes” when someone approaches you with a pledge sheet. The fast will

start on Friday, February 26 at 7:00 p.m. and will end on Sunday, February 28 at 7:00 a.m. Funds raised will be split between the Youth Group and the food pantry.

Textbooks for Tanzania

In December, the Lord's Laughing Ladies decided not to give one another Christmas gifts but to instead pool our money and donate to a worthy cause. Because we have a continuing interest in Tanzania, we decided to support Textbooks for Tanzania, and we collected \$300.00 for this very worthy cause. Way to go ladies!!



Missions Possible Update: Houses for Health

Thanks to Bob Kasworm for the wonderful presentation he gave to us in January of his work in Tanzania. We were so blessed and inspired by the great work he’s doing with medical outreach, as well as Houses for Health.

Thanks to Nancy Shinrock and the Luther Kids as well as to Heather Christensen and the Sunday School class for making the lovely wall hangings that will be given to those who live in some of the houses built through the Houses for Health program. Our plan is for Pastor Bob to take them to Tanzania as gifts from Lord of Love.



It is not too late to give to Houses for Health. Be sure to indicate in the memo line that the gift is for this special mission project.

Haiti

Your church has been heavily involved with the disaster relief efforts in Haiti. “God’s work, our hands” have been present through the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Relief, the Lutheran Church in Haiti, and Lutheran World Relief. Because all three of those organizations have had a presence in Haiti for some time, assistance to victims began immediately following the earthquake in the form of basic needs for

survival: water, sanitation, medical triage, and shelter. Gifts are still needed for relief efforts. You may leave a gift in the offering plate at Lord of Love or give through either the ELCA or Lutheran World Relief websites: <http://www.elca.org/> or <http://www.lwr.org/>.

Relief for Victims of the



Earthquake in Haiti



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God’s work. Our hands.

OUTREACH

Helping Haiti through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is launching a national \$3 million Helping Haiti effort at www.Thrivent.com/helpinghaiti. Thrivent will contribute \$1, up to \$1 million, for every \$2 in donations that members make by March 31 to the following:

- Lutheran World Relief
- ELCA Disaster Response
- LCMS World Relief/Human Care
- WELS Committee on Relief



That means a potential of more than \$3 million for relief efforts: \$2 million or more from members and the added \$1 million. Members who want to partner with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans in responding to this disaster are encouraged to make donations at www.Thrivent.com/helpinghaiti or by calling 800-236-3736 between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. When prompted, say directory and enter extension 83003. Times like these prove the power of a fraternal benefit society. By joining together as members and with the strength of our membership organization, we make a much greater difference.

PROPERTY

Lights!!! Music!!! Worship!!!

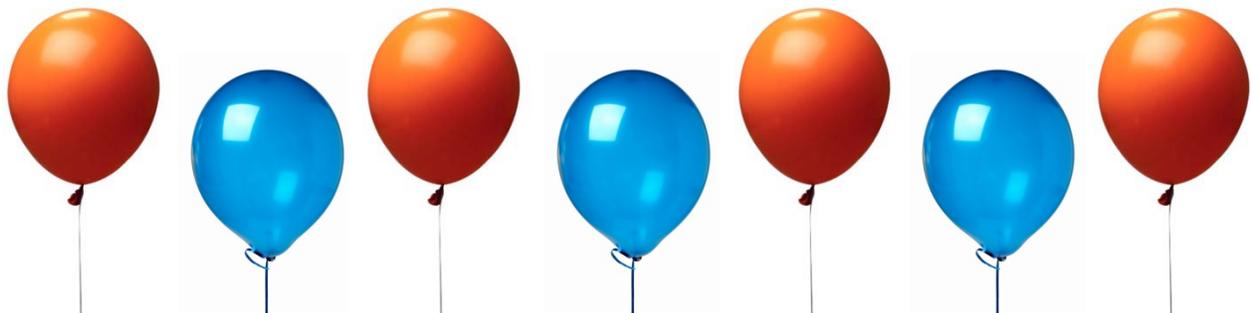
Our Capital Campaign to help pay part of the cost for the following is now underway:

- 1) Repairs to the south driveway
- 2) New sanctuary lights
- 3) Repair and upgrading of the organ console electronics
- 4) Replenishing the major improvement fund

You have received a letter from the Capital Campaign committee asking for your prayerful consideration in support of this project. Every donation, no matter the size, will add up and help us reach our goal of \$20,000!

To make a pledge to this campaign, please complete the pledge card and place it in the offering plate. Please mark all contributions or payments with "Capital Campaign." We are pleased to announce that we have already received pledges totaling \$7,000!!!

Be sure to watch our progress with the balloon display in the narthex!



COUNCIL REPORT & TRANSITION/CALL PROCESS UPDATE

January 2010 Council Report by Don Rowen, Council Vice-President

The annual council retreat was held on Friday, January 8 and Saturday, January 9, 2010. The activities on Friday evening included the following:

- Council members met for dinner and fellowship at Matt's Bar and Grill.
- Pastor Lee Griess, assistant to the Nebraska Synod bishop, discussed the steps in the "call" process. He emphasized that this is not an interview or hiring process. The next step is for the council to prepare a congregation profile. Don Rowen, Brian Walther, and Karen Mullen volunteered to begin working on it. The profile will describe our congregation and what we are looking for in a pastor. The ELCA has a lengthy form with questions we will fill out, but the synod is now recommending we also prepare an attractive booklet that covers the same material to use to attract interest in our position. Pastor Griess recommended that we do not form a call committee until the profile is near completion. The synod office will forward candidates to the call committee whom they think may be a fit with Lord of Love.
- The council discussed the theme for 2010, "Building On Faith To Serve."
- Council members worked on developing a list of goals for the council for the coming year.

The retreat resumed on Saturday morning with breakfast provided by Tom Olson and the Men's Saturday morning group and included the following activities:

- Brian Lund led a Bible study on Ephesians.
- The council had orientation, with discussion of how council members should do their duties.
- Council members attended Jessie Bell's funeral.
- The council discussed the Church Council organization and the duties that will be handled by the Council and the Strategic Planning Committee. Based on the experiences from last year, it was recommended that all council members attend the strategic planning meetings this year. The strategic planning committee and the council will meet every other month on alternate months. It was recommended that each ministry try to meet with some members of the subcommittees they supervise after the strategic planning meeting. The strategic planning meeting will work on long-range scheduling of events and visioning. The council will handle the policy, administrative, and budget issues.
- Brian Lund showed and discussed the new Lord of Love website that is under development.
- The Worship Enrichment Team (Clayton Petersen, Del Gust, Mardi Fiske, Marilyn Thomsen, Randi VenHuizen, and Sarah Horan) presented its recommendations to the council. The council agreed we should consider the recommendations. It was decided that the recommendations should be presented to the worship planning team to get their feedback and then decide whether and how to implement each of the recommendations.
- The council held its January meeting. The council voted to continue the current bill-paying policy without change. The council discussed what to do at the February Congregational meeting.
- The meeting and retreat ended with a prayer and with all members satisfied with what had been accomplished.

2010 Lord of Love Church Council

Executive Committee: Brian Lund, President; Don Rowen, Vice-President; Brian Walther, Secretary; Lisa Meyer, Treasurer
Nurture: Heather Christensen, Angie Meyer
Outreach: Harry Naasz, Paul Christenson
Resources: Craig Pennell, Doug Armitage
Worship: Karen Mullen, Debra Gillespie



COUNCIL REPORT & TRANSITION/CALL PROCESS UPDATE

From the Council President – February 2010 by Brian Lund, Council President

1 Corinthians 1:4 (NRSV) *“I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus”*

Last month, I talked about this being a year of challenge. Little did I know that meant having a challenge to get to church! Winter is upon us, with our snow quickly turning to fog and ice. Not exactly the challenges I was expecting to encounter. Despite the weather, your church council members were able to meet and begin the work of a new year. I am encouraged by the commitment and capability of the leaders that have stepped up to guide us through this exciting time for our congregation.

One of the first things we accomplished was to establish goals for our congregation. We had some great discussion on how we can build on the strengths of our congregation to grow in faith and service. As we progress through this year, updates on our progress and specific actions/activities to meet these goals will be presented to you. I hope that you can envision your role in helping move forward in these areas:

- Begin/Complete the call process.
- Re-energize our youth to be more involved in the life of our church.
- Support a variety of experiences to build stronger connections among people within our church community (study, worship, prayer, service, fellowship, outreach).
 - To strengthen the connection of newer members to the congregation.
 - To involve members in a variety of outreach ministries.
 - To enable spiritual growth; to know Jesus on a more personal level.
- Review/renew our worship.



Through February and into early March, the council will be completing our congregation profile, and then we will be ready to begin the action part of the call process. The congregation profile introduces our congregation to prospective pastors. You have provided input already, and we will continue to seek congregational input on this document. As we near completion of the congregation profile, a call committee will be formed and the formal call activities will begin: review of the profile by the Synod, discernment of candidates that match our vision for ministry, review of candidate profiles, interviews, and more. The duration of the call process cannot be accurately forecasted. There is much prayer, work, discussion, and prayerful consideration ahead of us. We must continue to give God the time needed to provide the right pastor for us. Your prayer and encouragement are appreciated as we move through this process.

“Created by God's gracious love, we are called, as a community of faith, to be witnesses and servants of Jesus to the world.” ~ Mission statement of Lord of Love

The theme for this year is **Building on Faith to Serve**. As I mentioned last month, this theme challenges us to grow in our understanding of God's will for us and to become Jesus to the world around us. It is not passive, waiting for something to happen, waiting for someone else to do something. It is active, encouraging action within and among us to strengthen our foundation of faith and to boldly act on that faith in service to others.

Take another look at the goals for this year. What interests you? Where do you fit in? How can you make a difference? As the year unfolds, I hope that each of us can find a means of serving in the ministry of Lord of Love that allows you and those you touch to grow in faith.

In faith and service,
Brian Lund

MEN'S NEWS CORNER

Men's Ministries Look to Expand in 2010

Men's Ministries at Lord of Love are continuously looking at more ways to evolve and increase serving the Lord. Most recently, the Men's Ministry (spearheaded by the Men's Breakfast group) has supported the Youth Group, sent relief money to Haiti and Tanzania, served breakfast to the Lord of Love Council, aided in snow removal, and made donations to the Food Pantry. The Men's Breakfast group continues to meet every Saturday morning at 7:00 a.m. for food, fellowship, and Bible study. Coming in the year 2010, we hope to expand our outreach by continuing growth in various men's fellowship events, such as the Easter prayer vigil, softball, NHRA drag racing trip, canoe trip, bowling, and gardening. The ideas are infinite, but it takes your participation. We look forward to seeing you and hearing about new opportunities your participation will bring.



WOMEN OF LOVE

New Ministry Team Seeks Input and Involvement

Greetings Sisters in Christ,

Our new ministry team has met a few times—to get to know each other, to brainstorm, and to plan. But our ideas are not the only good ideas, and many of the plans we have are a work in progress. We want to represent you, women of Lord of Love. In order to do so, we need your input and your involvement. Together, we can do God's ministry.

All women are invited to attend ministry team meetings. We would be happy to have you join us and welcome your concerns and ideas. Meetings are scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month. Join us soon. The next meeting is **February 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Mary Room.**

Movie Night

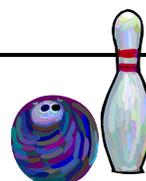
Are you ready for a ladies' night out? Randi VenHuizen is hosting movie night on Friday, February 26! We'll meet at 6:30 p.m. at Randi's home at 17205 Seward Street. Call Randi at 932-3435 if you need directions.



If you have a suggestion of a movie that you want to see, let Randi know. Everyone is welcome to bring snacks and beverages if you want something special. Of course, Brad's delicious buttered popcorn will be served during the movie!

"Bowling for Jesus" Fundraiser

Are you ready to raise some money to send one or two women from Lord of Love on a mission trip? Please join us in Bowling for Jesus! Details are provided on page 6, Nurture.



Coffee Fellowship

All women are invited to join the Lord's Laughing Ladies! We meet at 8:00 a.m. for fellowship at Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass, on February 5 and 19.

You're Invited!

Ladies, you're invited to the LoL Coffee Cafe (otherwise known as the Fellowship Hall) at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 20. Come and enjoy your favorite beverages, some good conversation, and a fun program. Look for details in the March issue of *The Love Letter!*

Lutheran Woman Today Bible Study – To God’s Beloved: Paul’s Letter to the Romans

Session 6 – Does God Keep Promises?

“For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.” (Romans 11:29)



You are invited to join one of these groups to participate in this study:

- Monday, February 1, Old Country Buffet, 145th and West Center Road at 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 3, Mary Room at 6:00 p.m.

Project Hope

Your generosity is appreciated. Place items in the containers under the Information Center in the Narthex. The needs for February are beans and cookies. These personal care items are always appreciated: bar soap, bathroom tissue, can openers, conditioner, and deodorant. Check out the website at projecthopeomaha.org for more information, including volunteer opportunities.



The Designer’s Label

I saved a pair of pants. They’re no longer in style and probably don’t fit anymore, but I kept them anyway. I saved them because of the label sewn in the waistband. On the label are the words “*Today you are beautiful*”. It was a simple thing, but when I put on those pants, I felt beautiful. That was a nice way to feel.

We ought to get dressed in Our Designer’s Label everyday. How would you feel if you put on “*Today you are forgiven*,” or “*Today you are protected*,” or “*Today you are loved*”? Fashion that would never go out of style and would always fit us beautifully. What a wonderful way to feel!

Calendar of Events

February

1	6:00 p.m.	LWT Bible Study, Old Country Buffet, 145th and West Center Road
2	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
3	6:00 p.m.	LWT Bible Study, Mary Room
5	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass
10	6:00 p.m.	Women’s Ministry Team meeting, Mary Room
16	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
19	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass
26	6:30 p.m.	Movie Night, Randi VenHuizen’s house
28	12:00 p.m.	Bowling for Jesus, Maplewood Lanes, 102nd and Maple



Coming Soon

March 20, 2010	Program and General Meeting, Fellowship Hall
April 17, 2010	Metro East Spring Gathering, First Lutheran, Blair, NE
April 23-24, 2010	Women’s Retreat at St. Benedict’s Retreat Center, Schuyler, NE
September 25, 2010	Autumn Renewal, Bethlehem Lutheran, Wahoo, NE
July 12-14, 2011	W/ELCA Triennial Convention, Spokane, WA
July 14-17, 2011	W/ELCA Triennial Gathering, Spokane, WA



Babysitting Fundraiser on Valentine's Day

The Youth Group will be babysitting kids at church on Sunday, February 14, from noon to 6:00 p.m. This is a fundraiser, so a free will offering will be gratefully accepted. Youth, sign up on the youth board for when you can help. Parents dropping off a child right after the 10:30 a.m. worship service are asked to bring a sack lunch. Snacks and drinks will be provided during the afternoon. Lots of fun games and activities are planned, so come and join the fun!



Youth Fast and Lock-in

The famous Lord of Love Youth Fast is coming up the end of February. Youth Group members, don't be shy about asking people for pledges. Many members have said over the years that they would be glad to pledge, but aren't asked by anyone.

The fast will start on Friday, February 26 at 7:00 p.m. with a lock-in. You might want to eat a big supper that night before it starts, because you'll only be drinking fruit juice until Sunday morning. Bring your favorite juice to the lock-in that night.



Everyone will go their separate ways on Saturday during the day and will gather again at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday night for another lock-in (and more juice). Everyone will be hungry by then, but everyone involved previous years says the experience makes you really think about what it's like to have to go hungry. You'll be very aware of how lucky you are that you're only hungry when you choose to be.

Breakfast will be served (and much appreciated) on Sunday morning before the 8:00 a.m. worship service. Funds raised will be split between the Youth Group and the food pantry.

Calendar of Youth Events

February

14 Valentine's Day babysitting
26-28 Youth Fast and Lock-in





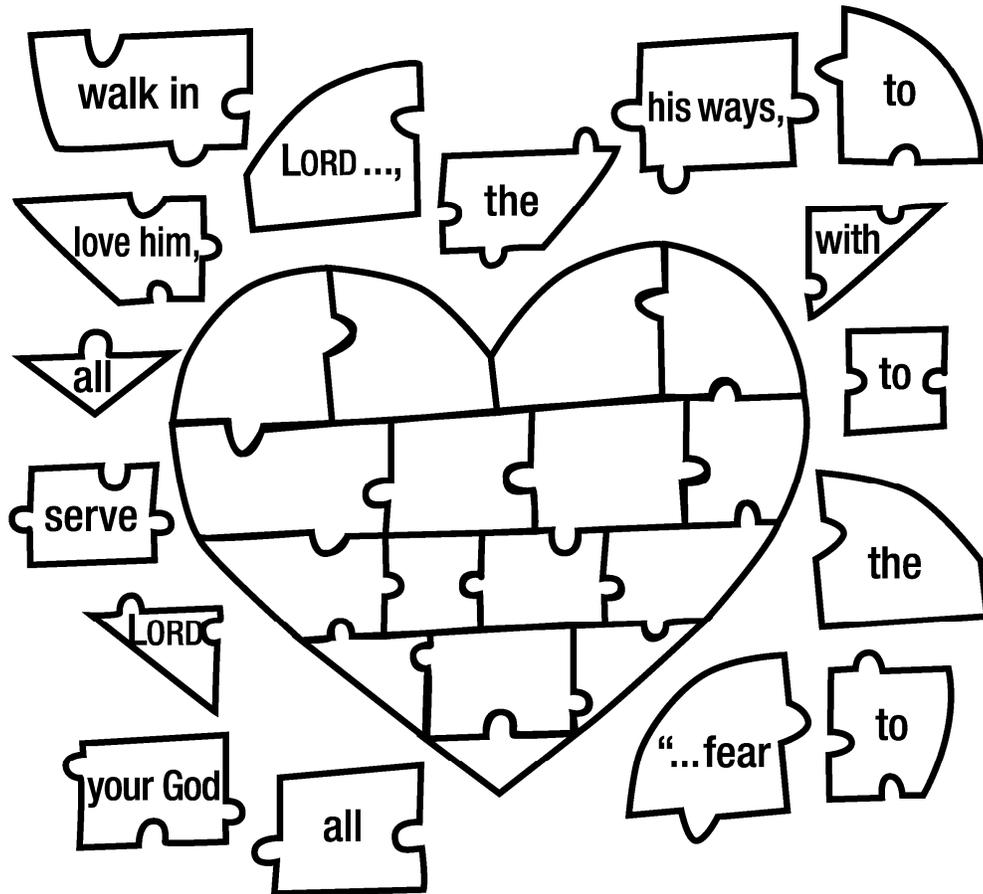
© copyright Virginia Sigle / biblekidsfunzone.com



Our first love

In Deuteronomy 10:12 (NIV), Israel is asked a question that's also for us to answer: "What does the LORD your God ask of you?"

To find the answer, write the words from the puzzle pieces on the matching shapes in the completed heart.



... your heart and with all your soul ..."

IN OUR PRAYERS & LOVE NOTES

In Our Prayers

Dr. Lori Arneson (niece of Ruth Cooley)
Dick Bell
Ryan Bolen (nephew of Sandy Hall)
Katie Brink (friend of the VenHuizens)
Miranda Brown (friend of the Shinrocks)
Portia Bruning (cousin of Shirley Schuchard)
Ann Christiansen
Elmer Corey (friend of Tom and Beth Olson)
Jan Davis (aunt of Paula Foster)
Laura and Jeremy DeWitt
Colin Farbotka (nephew of Tom and Beth Olson)
Patty George (friend of the Rieffs)
DeWayne Greim (friend of Pastor Bob)
Machelle Gross (niece of Lynda McGraw)
Jim and Norma Gunter
Amber Hartin (granddaughter of the Shinrocks)
Matthew Hayek (nephew of Sandy Hall)
Marj Holbrook (mother of Judy Messerschmidt)
Cathy Johnson (friend of Marilyn Thomsen)
Bob Kasworm and his ministry in Tanzania
Ken Kellogg (father of Karen Armitage)
Paula Lawhead (at seminary)
Carl Lueders (uncle of Dave Lueders)
Irene Lund (aunt of Brian Lund)
Rebecca Lund (at seminary)
Brenda Mac
Abbie Mahler (niece of Jane Hawkins)

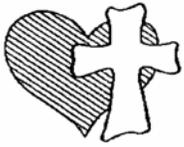
Pastor Elisante Maimu
Bob McKnight (grandfather of Ann Kroll)
Pastor Elibariki Mtui and all the saints of TPC Lutheran
Parish, Tanzania
Harry Naasz
Clarence (Swede) Nelson (brother of Pauline Shaffer)
Ried and Eunice Neve
Susan Oleson (sister-in-law of Pastor Bob)
Johanna Olson (niece of Tom and Beth Olson)
Joe Policky (grandfather of Tamra Johnston)
Bill and Bev Pugh (former members)
Berniece Reitan
Don St. Ours (brother-in-law of Lynda McGraw)
Evelyn Sacrider
Nancy Thoman (stepmom of Ann Kroll)
Joey Thompson (friend of the Murphys)
Brody Vermilyea (grandson of Brian and Nancy
Shinrock)
Agnes Wilson
Julie Wolf

Men's servant ministry
Stephen Ministers and their care receivers
Those deployed around the world
Those seeking employment
Those who mourn

If you would like to add a name to the In Our Prayers section of *The Love Letter*, please contact the office at 402.493.2946, send an email to marylou@lord-of-love.org, 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





The Love Letter
 Lord of Love Lutheran Church
 10405 Fort Street
 Omaha, NE 68134-1298

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 OMAHA, NE
 PERMIT NO. 368

Return Service Requested

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

This Month

- February 6 Women of Love Craft Day
- February 14 Youth Group babysitting
- February 17 Ash Wednesday
Lenten Soup Suppers begin
- February 26 Ladies’ Movie Night
- February 26-28 Youth Fast and Lock-in
- February 28 “Bowling for Jesus” fundraiser

Upcoming Events

- March 14 Daylight Saving Time begins
- March 20 Women of Love program and general meeting
- March 28 Palm Sunday
- April 4 Easter



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.