



The Love Letter

Volume 37

January 2009

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. 2

Youth Director

Josh Combes
*402.871.8393 or
jcombes02@hotmail.com*

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

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

Happy New Year! Beginning a new year often brings new goals and new opportunities. This is definitely a new year for Lord of Love! **New goals** will be set as we move through the transition process toward calling a new pastor, and **new opportunities** will arise as we as a congregation work together to define a vision for Lord of Love and try a new organizational structure for our church leadership. To learn more about these goals and opportunities, read the December council report and council president Doug Aden's "Bits and Pieces" article (see pages 9 and 10, Council Report & Transition/Call Process Update).

If one of your goals for the new year is to become more involved at Lord of Love, attend the **Baptism of Our Lord service** that will be held at Lord of Love with area churches on Sunday, January 11 (see page 4, Worship & Witness, and page 6, Organizations & Activities). Other opportunities to be involved include participating in women's or men's activities such as **Craft Day** (see page 6, Organizations & Activities), **Women of Love** events (see pages 11 and 12, Women of Love), or the **Men's Breakfast Ministry** (see page 10, Men's News Corner).

Perhaps one of your goals is to become more involved in the community. There are many **volunteer opportunities with Project Hope, the Lutheran Pantry, and the Omaha Food Bank** (see pages 7 and 8, Mission & Outreach).

There are many opportunities for youth as well, including a **bowling party and lock-in, an indoor game day, and a Super Bowl party** (see pages 12 and 13, LOL Youth).

In This Issue

Pastor's Page	2	Transition/Call Process Update	10
Monthly Calendar	3	Men's News Corner	10
Worship & Witness	4	Women of Love	11
Education.....	5	LOL Youth	12
Organizations & Activities.....	6	Just for Kids.....	14
Mission & Outreach	7	In Our Prayers	17
Resources & Stewardship	8	Love Notes	17
Council Report.....	9	Mark Your Calendar	18

God is With Us by Pastor Bob

Dear Friends in Christ,

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." Isaiah 9:6

A couple of years ago, I saw a wonderful cartoon in *The Lutheran*. It showed a group of shepherds lounging lazily on a hillside with their hands clasped behind their heads. Meanwhile, just over the hill, unbeknownst to the shepherds, an army of angels is winging its way toward them at great speed, singing, "Gloria!" and the star of Bethlehem is brightly shining. In the midst of this dramatic scene, one of the shepherds is saying, "Well guys, I'd have to say that this has been one boring day..."

I love that cartoon because it reminds us of the lesson that the shepherds learned long ago on that first Christmas: that in the midst of the common, ordinary routine of daily life, when nothing seems to be happening, something is. As the angel told the shepherds, *"Do not be afraid; for behold, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord!"*



Sometimes, in the frantic rush and hectic schedule of the Holidays, we lose track of this amazing Good News. We get so bogged down in our own baking, shopping, decorating, wrapping, partying, and the like, that we begin to forget that God is at work in the common, ordinary stuff of life. As we race from store to store, we forget the real meaning of Christmas, which tells us that God became a human being in Jesus Christ and that he is with us right here, right now.

I like the story that a pastor friend of mine told me a few years ago. He was working part-time at a home for abused children in Minneapolis. Surrounded by all of these kids at Christmas, he longed to tell them about the real meaning of Christmas, but by law he was not allowed to talk about his Christian faith. At Christmas time, all of the children received many donated gifts, but what they really wanted was the love of their parents.

One day, a group of kids went out to go sledding and a little boy asked my friend, "What's Christmas all about?" My friend tried quickly to figure out how to explain Christmas without using a bunch of big words. But as he stood there thinking, before he could even say a word, a little girl named Sparkle bounced up and said, "Christmas is where God loved all the people so much that he gave them the baby Jesus!"



Sparkle understood the real message of Christmas: that out of love for all people, God came down from heaven to be with us. In each and every moment of our lives, whether we are at the mall or sick in bed or opening presents around the tree or standing at the graveside of a loved one, God is with us now and forever. As God says to you today, *"Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand."* (Isaiah 41:10)

May your Holy Days be blessed!

Pastor Bob Oleson



MONTHLY CALENDAR

January 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's	2 8:00am Lord's Laughing Ladies 7:30pm AA	3 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 8:15am Prayer Ministry
4 8:00am Worship & Communion 10:30am Worship & Communion 1:00pm Boy Scout event	5 6:00pm LWT Study @ Old Country Buffet 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	6 9:00am Quilters 6:45pm First Place	7 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm LWT Study 7:45pm Chancel Choir	8 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Swingtones	9 7:30pm AA	10 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 8:00am Worship Planning 8:15am Prayer Ministry 9:00am Craft Day 1:00pm Boy Scouts
11 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 1:00pm Gust family birthday 7:00pm Baptism of Our Lord	12 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	13 6:45pm First Place	14 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm WELCA Board 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 7:45pm Chancel Choir	15 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's	16 12:00am Church Council Retreat 7:30pm AA	17 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 8:00am Pinewood Derby 8:15am Prayer Ministry
18 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion	19 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	20 6:45pm First Place 7:00pm Church Council	21 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Preschool Board 7:45pm Chancel Choir	22 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's	23 7:30pm AA	24 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 8:15am Prayer Ministry
25 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion	26 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	27 6:45pm First Place	28 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 7:45pm Chancel Choir	29 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's	30 7:30pm AA	31 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 8:15am Prayer Ministry

Ecumenical Worship – Baptism of our Lord Service



Traditionally, Northwest Omaha churches gather together for a special ecumenical service to celebrate our common baptism in Christ Jesus. Plan to attend this year's Baptism of Our Lord service on **Sunday, January 11 at 7:00 p.m. here at Lord of Love**. This is an opportunity for us to come together as Christians from various faith traditions and celebrate our unity in Baptism and our common mission to serve God's people.

This year, the offering will go to the Food Bank, and you are asked to **bring a non-perishable food donation** for them, also.

Special music will be provided by Lord of Love Brass, St. Michael's bell choir, a children's choir, and a combined adult choir. If you'd like to sing in the combined choir, practice will begin in the sanctuary at 5:45 p.m. A Social Hour will follow the service in the Fellowship Hall.



Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25
Greeter(s)				
8:00 a.m.				
10:30 a.m.				
Liturgist				
8:00 a.m.	Shawn Lorenzen	Judy Egr	Ron Thom	Tom Olson
10:30 a.m.	Brad VenHuizen		Ruth Manning	
Communion Servers				
8:00 a.m.	Doug and Rose Roberts	Egr family	Ron and Brenda Thom	Olson family
10:30 a.m.	Brad and Randi VenHuizen	Barb Haskins and Julia Ritonya	Dan and Ruth Manning	
Altar Care				
8:00 a.m.	Cathy Aden, Sue Dieter	Connie Walther, Lisa Meyer	Janet Guthrie, Nancy Shinrock	Mike and Christie Klos
10:30 a.m.	Brewer family	Rob and Karen Anderson	Sharlene Morrissey, LaVerna Morrissey	Concannon family
Ushers				
8:00 a.m.	Paul Dieter, Dennis Hindemith, John Florea, Brian Walther			
10:30 a.m.	Dave and Adam Lueders, Lund family, Tony Brazier			

Seminary Update by Paula Lawhead

Hello, Lord of Love!

Aaaahhhh, it's nearly January! I cannot think of another time when I have been so involved at church on almost a daily basis than this past Advent and Christmas. We have had weekly Advent services and various fellowship events for the youth, WELCA, and staff; we have gone caroling, delivered gifts and meals, decorated the church, had a Christmas choir concert, and I still had Sunday services and education to prepare for. I suppose this is what December will be like for the rest of my career as a pastor, and I have loved every minute of it!! I have loved it, but I am pooped!

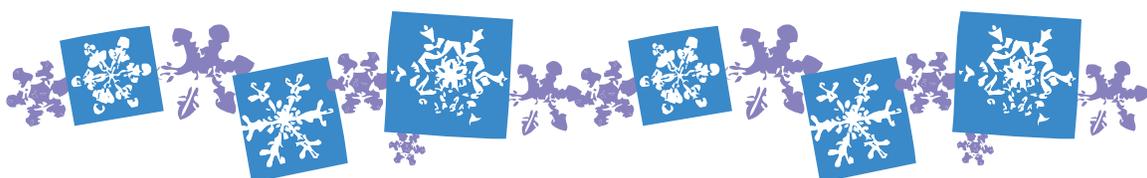
So, here comes January. It's quiet. Slow. Only two holidays, neither of which demands preparation or a special service, and I sigh a long breath of relief. Someone out there understood that full-time parish workers may need a breather after the first of the year. I received an invitation last October to sign up for a church leaders retreat at a nearby camp during the first week of January. Last October, I thought, "Who wants to go to a camp in January?" By mid-November, I knew I was going to need a few days away. So, I signed up and received the itinerary a few days ago. It said, "Bring work if you need to catch up, don't bring work if you need a break, join us for our scheduled events, or stay in your room and read a good book. It's up to you!" Aaaaahhhh!



I am also anticipating the annual Winter Convocation at Luther Seminary. This year, the keynote presenter is Walter Brueggemann, a great contemporary Old Testament scholar. Also, Greg Mortenson, author of *Three Cups of Tea*, will be at the Convocation to share with us. I read his book with the Book Club at my internship parish earlier this year and recommend it to you all. Along with the guests of the seminary, the annual Convo is traditionally a time for first-call pastors to come and have a reunion of sorts with their fellow recent graduates. I am especially looking forward to seeing many of my friends who graduated this past year and are currently serving in their first congregations.

David and I are still doing well and missed being home for the holidays this year. We are loved and well taken care of by my internship congregation, though, which makes our time here fun and joy-full!!! Much love to you and thanks for your always generous support for David and me, both financially and in prayer. We always think of you and keep Lord of Love in our prayers.

Peace,
Paula Lawhead



EDUCATION

Weekly Education Opportunities at Lord of Love

Sunday

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

Monday

6:00 p.m. *Lutheran Woman Today* Bible Study @ Old Country Buffet (first Monday of month)
7:00 p.m. *No Experience Necessary* Bible Study @ Vandeventers (every other Monday)

Tuesday

6:45 p.m. First Place Bible Study @ LOL Joseph Room

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. *Lutheran Woman Today* Bible Study @ LOL Joseph Room (first Wednesday of month)

Thursday

9:30 a.m. Text Study @ Guthries

Saturday

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

ORGANIZATIONS & ACTIVITIES

Craft Day – All Women are Welcome!

As the new year begins, make a resolution to set aside one Saturday morning each month for crafting and fellowship with other women!

For the last few years, a small group of women has been meeting once a month for dedicated time to work on a variety of crafts, including scrapbooking, card making, quilting, knitting, and crocheting.

This year, we would love to see this fellowship opportunity grow to include many more women at Lord of Love! All women and all crafts are welcome! You can come alone or bring your children to craft alongside you.

If you have questions or want to learn more, please talk with Gwen Edwards, Kim Gust, Amy Kragnes, or Beth Olson.

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for Craft Day on **Saturday, January 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Then mark your calendar for our next Craft Day on Saturday, February 7!

Baptism of Our Lord: Worship and Fellowship

This year's Baptism of Our Lord service will be held at Lord of Love! The Baptism of Our Lord service is a special ecumenical service in which Northwest Omaha churches gather together to celebrate our common baptism in Christ Jesus.

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, January 11 at 7:00 p.m.** and plan to attend the worship service and the social hour that follows!

Special music will be provided during worship, and this year's offering will go to the Food Bank. You are also asked to **bring a non-perishable food donation** for the Food Bank.



MISSION & OUTREACH

Lord of Love Missions Committee Update

Thanks so much to all of you who have brought items for the barrel and wheel barrow and for your special offerings for our hunger projects this past year. It has been great seeing the wheelbarrow full!

By now, everyone should know that our mission emphasis for the rest of this program year is hunger. Lord of Love gave the special offerings for Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas to Project Hope, Lutheran Pantry, and the Omaha Food Bank. Our special missions' budget for 2008, 3% of our income, also went to Project Hope, Lutheran Pantry, and the Omaha Food Bank. These offerings and mission funds are above and beyond the 10% of our income that goes to the Nebraska Synod and the ELCA to be used for their varied outreach programs that include things like Lutheran World Relief.

While in the church office recently, I was reminded by our office administrator, Mary Lou, that too many people right here in Omaha are desperate for food now more than ever. She said that she has been getting more calls than ever asking for food.



Please continue to give generously. Non-perishable food and health care staples, money, and time continue to be needed. Thank to those who have already volunteered for tasks at the Food Bank and Project Hope. There are ongoing short-term opportunities for volunteer service with the Food Bank and with Project Hope. Call the Food Bank (402-331-1213) or Project Hope (402-453-3774) or check the display board in the Narthex and take a tab for contact information for a task you would like to do. All of your gifts are a model of love and commitment, and they are a witness of the Lord of Love in our community.

Habitat for Humanity



The 2008 Ecumenical Labor Force (ELF) Coalition house has been completed and was dedicated in November. We should all be proud! Lord of Love, working with the eleven other congregations in the coalition, has helped provide another family with a new home. Thank you to all of the people who made this possible by donating money, working on the house, or providing food! It takes hundreds of dedicated people to build a Habitat House.

The new home owners are Nyangok Thoan, Yak Thiep, and their five children. In the dedication bulletin, they wrote the following:

“We immigrated to the United States from Sudan in 2000. We feared for our children’s safety in Sudan, and we came to Omaha searching for a better life. We are very happy in Omaha, but our living conditions in Omaha are still poor and we don’t feel safe in our apartment. Our living space is very small, and we are all very anxious to move into our new home. We believe our habitat home will give our children stability and a better chance to succeed in school.”

This Christmas season, take a moment to reflect on this family living in their new home and how much it will change their lives. Perhaps it will remind us how fortunate we are to have all the things we possess. Then give thanks to God for everything He provides us and for opportunities to serve Him by helping others.

MISSION & OUTREACH

Project Hope

From a recent mailing from Project Hope...

Donate:

- Non-perishable food items
- Personal care items
- Laundry soap
- Gently used coats
- Baby food and formula
- Diapers and feminine hygiene products
- Books
- Paper products

From your church or home:

- Pray with staff and volunteers, who stop and pray every noon.
- Pray for this ministry, our clients, and donors.
- Collect food for Project Hope to distribute.
- Prepare personal care kits.
- Make Easter Baskets.
- Make "meals in a jar" mixes.
- Collect coats, hats, mittens, and gloves.
- Donate quilts, blankets, and sheets.
- Collect school supplies.
- Build "Birthday in a Bag" kits (everything needed for a birthday party).
- Hold an "undie" Sunday (collect socks and underwear for children).

Volunteer:

Available volunteer hours – Monday and Friday, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; Wednesday, 12:00-5:00 p.m.; Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

- Drive a truck to pick up food on a Thursday.
- Unload the truck on a Thursday.
- Fill in to do computer data entry.
- Pack or repack pantries on a Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday.
- Help organize clothing on a Monday, Wednesday, or Friday.
- Repack frozen food on a Thursday.
- Bring in a group when the pantry is open to help with clients.
- Use your professional skills (marketing, legal, public relations) to serve on our Board.



RESOURCES & STEWARDSHIP

Custodian Position Available at Lord of Love

Lord of Love is now accepting applications for the custodian position. If you are interested, please contact Mary Lou in the church office for an application.



COUNCIL REPORT & TRANSITION/CALL PROCESS UPDATE

December 2008 Council Report by Don Rowen, Council Vice-President

The December meeting of the Lord of Love council was held on Tuesday, December 9. Members of the current council and the oncoming council met to discuss the proposal from Pastor Bob to change the organization and operation of the church council and its ministry committees.

Pastor Bob explained how the new organization would work. The new organization would shift or split the responsibilities handled by the council between a smaller council that would act more like a governing board and a strategic planning team that would consist of the ministry committee chairs and the pastor. The council and strategic planning team would meet quarterly (four times per year). The role of the council and the strategic planning team under this new structure is described below:

- The **council** would include the executive committee (president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer) and possibly a couple of other members. The council would act to oversee operations by reviewing quarterly reports from each committee and by overseeing the budget. It would also act to approve any changes to the budget or expenses not included in the budget.
- The **strategic planning team** would act to communicate, coordinate, and vision. At the strategic planning meetings, each committee chair would report about upcoming events and issues with the ministry teams he/she oversees. The strategic planning team would act to coordinate the occurrence of upcoming church events and discuss ways to address any known issues or problems. After the strategic planning meeting, the committee chairs would meet with their committees, which would each consist of three to five members, to oversee their upcoming events and ministry teams and would act to address problems or implement new procedures. Pastor Bob proposed five ministry committees: Worship, Outreach, Property, Finance, and Nurture. The ministry committees would oversee the work of several ministry teams that would do most of the work in their area.

After the presentation and discussion, most council members saw advantages to the new organization, such as improved communication and coordination between the committees, less meeting time, and less potential micromanagement, while potentially promoting greater involvement of members on committees or ministry teams.

The council decided to try to implement the proposed organizational structure starting next year in order to test it. To do that, the council formed an ad hoc committee of five members to develop a proposal by the January council retreat that would propose where each council member would serve under the new structure and to assign which ministry teams each of the five proposed committees would supervise.

2009 Lord of Love Church Council

President
Doug Aden
Vice-President
Don Rowen
Secretary
Brian Walther
Treasurer
Lisa Meyer
Worship and Witness
Karen Mullen
Debra Gillespie
Education
Brian Vandeventer
Heather Christensen
Daily Life
Liz Smith
Angie Meyer
Resources
Brad VenHuizen
Craig Pennell



Council Report

COUNCIL REPORT & TRANSITION/CALL PROCESS UPDATE

Bits and Pieces by Doug Aden, Council President

Just a short time ago, it was the beginning of 2008, and we began talking about soil and growing. We asked ourselves what kind of soil Lord of Love is and what kind of soil we want Lord of Love to be. At the beginning of 2008, there were many things to do and many task to complete. Now it is 2009, and we still have a lot of work to do.

The big undertaking that faces Lord of Love this year is getting ready to start the call process. The first part of this process will be congregational forums where we discuss and share "Memories, Hopes, and Conversations" about Lord of Love. The format and dates have not been finalized, but the discussions should take place before the beginning of Lent. We are planning to have three sessions, and the congregation will be invited to each session.

The next task will be defining a vision for Lord of Love and will be conducted after Easter, probably sometime during May or June. Keith Mundy from the ELCA office in Chicago will guide us through this process. We will let you know the dates and times when the plans are in place. Again, the congregation will be invited and expected to participate in this process.

Then, in late summer or early autumn, we should be ready to begin the call process. But remember that a pastor is not immediately called when the process begins. Much work needs to be completed by the council and a call committee before a call can be issued. We will outline for you and discuss with you what needs to be done before a call can be made.

Our goal is to keep the congregation involved in each step as we move toward the final goal of calling a pastor.

Another item. Rumors always seem to get started when any organization is going through a change, and this is probably true about Lord of Love. If you hear a wild story, please do not repeat it. If that story bothers you or you have a question about what is happening at Lord of Love, please contact Pastor Bob, me, or a council member. As I said last month, it is better to correct an issue when it is small rather than wait until it gets out of control. Our intent is to keep everything as open as possible.

MEN'S NEWS CORNER

Lord of Love Men Plan Events for 2009

As we enter the New Year of 2009, we are anxious to be involved in the tasks that Christ places before us and that follow His example. The following events and projects for 2009 are proposed and are subject to change:

- Every Saturday morning at 7:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast and Bible Study at LOL
- February – The second LOL-sponsored Lutheran Men's Breakfast Invitational
- TBD – Toolz 'N Boyz 'N Toyz event
- TBD – Men and kids event
- Summer – Canoe trip



All men are invited to become involved in Lord of Love's Men's Ministries! A great way to begin is by attending the Men's Breakfast Ministry on Saturday mornings. We hope to see you there!

WOMEN OF LOVE

Blessings from Ruth Manning, President, LOL Women of Love

To my Sisters in Christ,

How many of us work ourselves to exhaustion preparing for Christmas, or should I say, preparing the trappings we have attached to Christmas? Hopefully, you used your Advent time for preparation of your heart for Jesus. Dan and I enjoyed using the Lord of Love Advent devotions together each night, a good way to slow down at the end of the day and reflect on what is really important.

But Christmas isn't over. December 24/25 is just the beginning of the 12 days of Christmas, which concludes with Epiphany on January 6. Let's not be too quick to put away the decorations and the Christmas CDs. Take time to really listen to the words of those familiar Christmas hymns, reflect on the gifts of the season (and I'm not talking about the packages that were under the tree), and continue to rejoice in the birth of the Baby Jesus who came to earth for us...for our salvation.

And have a Blessed New Year.

Thanks are in Order...

I was so blessed at the Advent by Candlelight program on December 7. The table settings were beautiful! Particularly touching were the personal reflections on love, joy, peace, and hope by Brenda Thom, Gwen Edwards, Kelly Duffy, and Debra Gillespie. Thanks to Kelly Duffy and Heather Christensen for planning the event. A special thanks to Kelly's Mom, Audrey Roh, who set 3 tables and spent the evening with us. Oh, did I forget to mention? The desserts were great, too!

We had an abundance of goodies provided on December 13 for preparing the 19 "Goodie Tins" for the elderly, shut-ins, and those with special needs. Thanks to Beth Olson and Gwen Edwards for providing coffee and coffee cake to strengthen us for the task ahead. And thanks to all who helped deliver the "Goodie Tins."

Lutheran Woman Today Bible Study

The Old Testament book of Daniel is a fascinating read, and in January and February, the *Lutheran Woman Today* Bible study continues the 3-month look at some of its writings. There are two opportunities for LOL women to participate in this study: 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 5 at the Old Country Buffet at 145th and West Center Road, and at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 7 in the Joseph Room at church. *Daniel: Trial by Fire* will focus on the theme verses of Daniel 3:17-18. All women are invited to attend.

Crane Coffee

The ladies' coffee fellowship at Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass, is a wonderful time for laughter and friendship. Join us at 8:00 a.m. on January 9 and 23.



Coffee Fellowship

Women of Love Ministry Team

The Women of Love Leader Ministry Team will meet in the Joseph Room at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 14.



WOMEN OF LOVE

Winter Retreat

Lord of Love women are invited to participate in the annual Nebraska Synod Women of the ELCA Winter Retreat on Saturday, January 17. It will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church at 1515 South Harrison Street in Grand Island. Check the details in the December issue of *The Love Letter*.



Registration is \$18 and forms are available at the Information Center in the narthex. Please register by January 8.

Calendar of Events

January

5	6:00 p.m.	LWT Bible Study, Old Country Buffet, 145th and Center
6	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
7	6:00 p.m.	LWT Bible Study, Joseph Room
9	8:00 a.m.	Lord's Laughing Ladies, Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass
14	6:00 p.m.	Women of Love Ministry Team Meeting, Joseph Room
17	8:30 a.m.	NSWO Winter Retreat, Grand Island
20	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
23	8:00 a.m.	Lord's Laughing Ladies, Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass



Coming Up

February 28	Metro East Spring Gathering, Luther Memorial, Omaha
April 24-25	Women's Annual Retreat at St. Benedict Retreat Center, Schuyler



LOL YOUTH

Retreat to Prepare for Youth Gathering

Those going to New Orleans this summer will be having a retreat to help prepare for *Jesus Justice Jazz*, the 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering. It will be January 16-17 at the St. Benedict Center near Schuyler. Jeri and Jim Morgan are planning activities to help everyone get to know each other and get started choosing which activities to participate in at the Youth Gathering.



Who's going to New Orleans next summer?

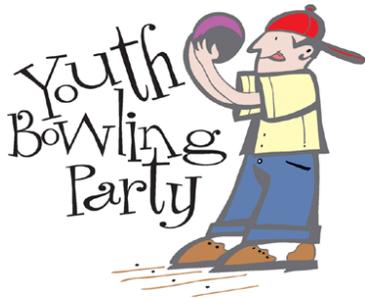
Youth

Laura Armitage
Jason Combes
Casey Florea
Lauren Florea
Matt Garder
Sara Gehringer
Alex Harris
Kevin Krause
Kim Lueders
Kira Luxon
Nadine Rowen
Sarah Vandeventer

Chaperones

Josh Combes
Carissa Christenson
Jeri Morgan
Jim Morgan

Bowling Party and Lock-in



It's winter—must be time for bowling! The Youth Group will have a bowling party and lock-in on Saturday, January 3. Pizza and soda will be provided, but you need to bring money for bowling and other activities. Friends are welcome, so make sure you invite someone!



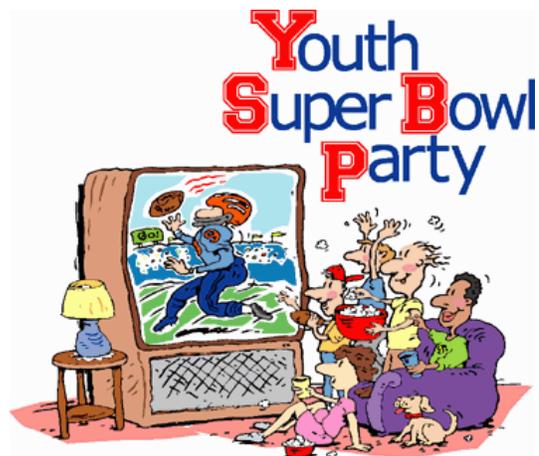
Indoor Game Day

On Sunday, January 18, the Youth Group will have an indoor game day and hot chocolate right after second service. Bring along your favorite game!



Super Bowl Party

Plan to come to the Super Bowl Party at Christenson's house on February 1! Sign up on the youth board and indicate whether you'll bring a snack or soda.



Calendar of Youth Events

January

- 3-4 Bowling and Lock-in
- 16-17 Retreat to prepare for Youth Gathering in New Orleans
- 18 Indoor Game Day

Coming Up

- February 1 Super Bowl Party
- February 15 Happy Un-Baptismal Birthday (White Elephant Gift Exchange and Party)
- July 19-26 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans

Thank you,
God, for
fuzzy
blankets!

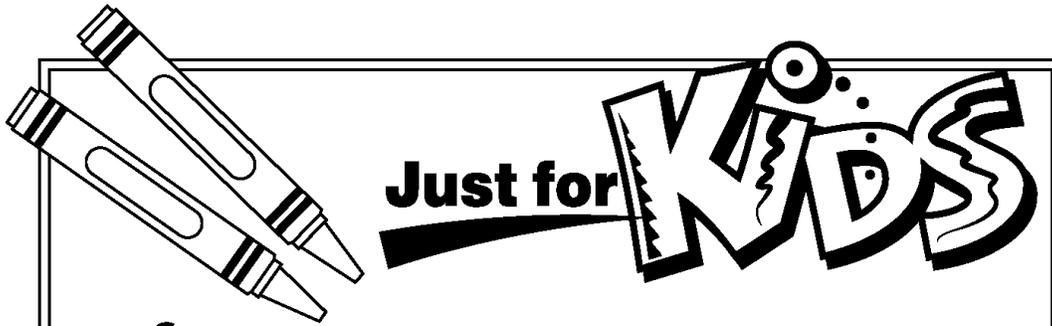


© copyright Virginia Sigle / biblekidsfunzone.com

Thank you, Lord, for winter fun!



© copyright Virginia Sigle / biblekidsfunzone.com

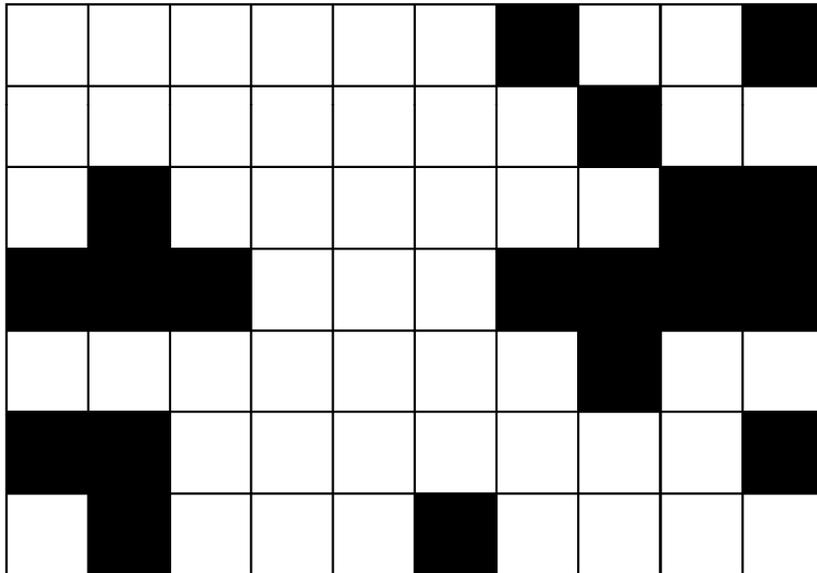


CHARACTER THAT PLEASES

The New Year is a time for renewed commitments and changes in our behavior. Complete the puzzle below to see whose example is worthy of imitating or copying.

Match the blocks of spaces and letters to finish the NIV Bible verse.

Y		M	L	L	O	W	F	O
A	S	E,	A	M	P	L	E	X
		O	F	O	L	L	I	
O	F	E		T	H	E		
.		S	A	M	P	L	E	X
:	1	1	1	1	R	I		
		1	1	C	O	R	1	



IN OUR PRAYERS & LOVE NOTES

In Our Prayers

Chris Baker (brother-in-law of Ron Thom)
Dick and Jessie Bell
Ryan Bolen (nephew of Sandy Hall)
Jan Davis (aunt of Paula Foster)
Pearl Garnaas
Norma Gunter
Cindy Harper (friend of Lynda McGraw)
Matthew Hayek (nephew of Sandy Hall)
Harold and Marj Holbrook (parents of Judy Messerschmidt)
Rachael Hueftle (student of Linda Christensen)
Cathy Johnson (friend of Marilyn Thomsen)
Gene Jordan (uncle of Paula Foster)
Bob Kasworm and his ministry in Tanzania
Hannah Knudson (neighbor of the VenHuizens)
Mike Koesters (friend of David Boarts)
Paula Lawhead (at seminary)
Mark Ley
Carl Lueders (uncle of Dave Lueders)
Irene Lund (aunt of Brian Lund)
Rebecca Lund (at seminary)
Pastor Elisante Maimu
Chris Miller (nephew of Judy Egr)

Pastor Elibariki Mtui and all the saints of TPC Lutheran Parish, Tanzania
Harry Naasz
Tom Parker (friend of the Lueders)
Dianna Poledna (sister of Jan Miller)
Joe Policky (grandfather of Tamra Johnston)
Berniece Reitan
Doyle Sones (father of Dayla Miller)
Joey Thompson (friend of the Murphys)
Zeffin Thurow (cousin of Deb Lund)
Brody Vermilyea (grandson of Brian and Nancy Shinrock)
Harlan Walther (father of Brian Walther)
Agnes Wilson
Bernie Wolff (friend of Marilyn Thomsen)
Rob Zalk (cousin of Mary Lou Gustafson)

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



