



The Love Letter

Volume 37

November 2009

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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

The holiday season is fast approaching, and 2009 is coming to an end. As the hustle and bustle of the season begins, make time to be involved in some of the following activities at Lord of Love!

On Sunday, November 8, attend the **November Congregational Meeting** following the 10:30 a.m. worship service (see pages 10 and 11, Council Report and Transition/Call Process Update).

On Saturday, November 14, attend the **Advent worship planning** meeting or help set up for the Fall Festival in the morning, and then attend the **Fall Festival Dinner** in the evening (see page 4, Worship, and page 7, Nurture).

On Saturday, November 21, all women are invited to help **plan the 2010 program for the Women of Love** (see page 12, Women of Love). Then on Sunday, November 22, attend a **lunch fundraiser for our seminarians**—Paula Lawhead and Rebecca Lund—and attend our **Thanksgiving worship service and Pie Fest** (see page 8, Nurture). November 22 is also **Thankoffering Sunday** for our women (see page 13, Women of Love).

Finally, during November and December, participate in Bible studies through the **Book of Faith Initiative** (see page 2, Pastor's Page). In addition, continue to support our **outreach ministry in education** as well as **Project Hope** (see page 9, Outreach, and page 13, Women of Love).

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The Book of Faith Initiative by Pastor Bob

Dear Friends in Christ,

In 2005, the Churchwide Assembly approved a request from the North Carolina Synod to develop an "ongoing effort to address issues surrounding the authority of Scripture." In response, the 2007 Churchwide Assembly adopted the Book of Faith Initiative as a 5-year collaborative effort to expand its engagement with the Bible for the sake of God's mission in the world.

The ELCA is inviting all its members and the whole church to renew and deepen engagement with the Bible through the Book of Faith Initiative.



So what is the Book of Faith Initiative?

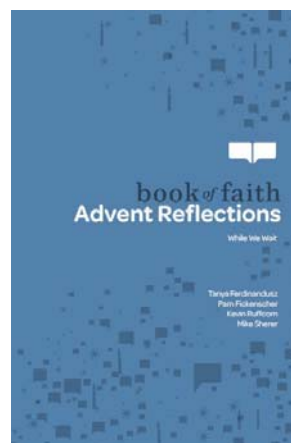
The Book of Faith Initiative is an invitation to do what we have always claimed we do: read, study, reflect, and meditate upon the Bible together. The initiative is a call for the whole church to embrace the vision by doing what we say we should always do: Open Scripture and Join the Conversation.

The Book of Faith Initiative does not ask congregations to adopt a specific Bible study program. The initiative is not a course, a kit, or a technique. You are not required to use all or any of the new books and other resources produced for the Book of Faith Initiative. There is no one way to participate in the Book of Faith Initiative.

But what it does ask of us is to make a commitment to become "more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture"!

Next month, we will begin Bible studies using the Book of Faith resources. So please join us as we learn about God's Will for Life, a study in Mark. This study is three sessions; it will be held November 15, November 22, and December 6 at

9:15 a.m. in the Mary Room. Learner Session Guides will be available for those attending and will be ordered by Lord of Love.



And coming in December, you will have the opportunity to reflect on the meaning of the season with the Book of Faith Advent Reflections: While We Wait.

I hope you make the commitment. Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Pastor Bob



MONTHLY CALENDAR

November 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am New Member Orientation 10:30am Worship & Communion	2 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	3 9:00am Quilters 5:30pm YWCA Men's Group 6:45pm First Place	4 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm W/ELCA Bible Study 7:15pm Chancel Choir	5 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	6 8:00am Coffee Fellowship @ Crane 7:30pm AA	7 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
8 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 11:30am Congregational Meeting 6:00pm Youth Bowling	9 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	10 5:30pm YWCA Men's Group 6:45pm First Place 7:00pm Sunnyslope/Sunny view Neighborhood Assoc.	11 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 7:15pm Chancel Choir	12 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	13 7:30pm AA	14 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 8:00am Worship Planning 5:30pm Fall Festival Banquet
15 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion	16 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	17 9:00am Quilters 5:30pm YWCA Men's Group 6:45pm First Place	18 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 7:15pm Chancel Choir	19 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	20 8:00am Coffee Fellowship @ Crane 7:30pm AA	21 Boy Scout Lock-in 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
22 Thankoffering Sunday 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 11:30am Benefit Lunch for Paula Lawhead	23 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	24 5:30pm YWCA Men's Group 6:45pm First Place	25 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 7:15pm Chancel Choir	26 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	27 7:30pm AA	28 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 2:30pm Brazier/Hemrich wedding
29 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 1:00pm AA District 18 Mtg.	30 8:00pm AA & Al Anon					

Advent Planning – Call for Volunteers!

Do you have an idea for an Advent theme for this year? Have you seen something at another church and thought it would be great for us to try? Here's a short-term opportunity to help plan our Advent services!

The Worship Planning Committee is looking for members who would like to assist in the planning process for our Advent worship season. The committee will meet on November 14 at 8:00 a.m., and we invite you to join us. We will be selecting a theme for the season as well as hymns, banners, and such. If you have ideas to share, please come! If you have questions prior to the meeting, please contact Karen Mullen or speak with Carol Novak, Amy Kragnes, or Shawn Lorenzen.

If you are interested in planning seasonal worship services but are unable to participate now, please consider helping with planning for our Lenten worship services. That meeting will be on a Saturday morning in January; details will be announced closer to that time.

If you are not able to attend the planning meetings for Advent or Lent but have ideas for themes for either season, write them down and place them in Karen Mullen's mailbox at church. Be sure to leave your name along with your theme ideas!



Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	November 1	November 8	November 15	November 22	November 29
Liturgist					
8:00 a.m.	Ron Thom	David Hild	Karen Armitage		Shawn Lorenzen
10:30 a.m.	Paul Christenson	Lori Vandeventer		Susan Lueders	Dave Rieff
Communion Servers					
8:00 a.m.			Armitage family		
10:30 a.m.	Paul and Deb Christenson, Barb Haskins and Jessica Ritonya	Vandeventer family		Dan and Ruth Manning, Ann Yarger and family	Rieff family
Altar Care					
8:00 a.m.		Doug and Rose Roberts	Deb Christenson	Ed and Marjorie Keiser	
10:30 a.m.		Randi VenHuizen, Debra Gillespie	Brenda and Suzanne Mac	Rowen family	
Ushers					
8:00 a.m.	David Hild, Paul Murphy, Claude Hall, Bob Christensen				
10:30 a.m.	Dan Manning, Rex Quadhamer, Gary Ramsay, John Edwards				

Tape Ministry: Getting to Know Ann Christiansen by Karen Pickens and Rachel Novak

I have had the pleasure of knowing Ann Christiansen for many years now. I first met her when I started taking the worship tape to her husband Alvin. There was hardly a Sunday when Ann and Alvin were not eagerly waiting for my visit. And there was not a Sunday when I didn't look forward to being with them after Sunday services. It took little time for me to love them both. After Alvin's death, Ann moved in with her two daughters, Kathy and Sharon, where she still calls home. Ann has a wonderful little cozy space of her own filled with memories from the past and efficient enough to make life very comfortable. She calls it her "nest." I can still go there by following the aroma of delicious home cooking which Ann cooks for her family and friends.

Ann Kathryn Christiansen was born on January 8, 1922, in Culberston, Montana. She had three sisters and four brothers. One of her sisters died at the age of two from Scarlet Fever. Ann's father was a farmer, and he raised cattle. However, those were rough years because of the drought, and he eventually had to sell the cattle. When Ann was a sophomore, the family moved to Sidney, where her father was employed in a lumber yard until he retired. Ann's mother never worked outside of the home after she married.

While living in Culbertson, a favorite pastime for Ann and her siblings was playing circus. Few children today have a real live Shetland pony to play circus with as did Ann. Another playtime activity was riding on empty gasoline barrels. Riding horses to school was routine, even riding double. School was about 5 miles away. They also rode the horses to round up the cows. One ride proved to be quite scary. A storm came up while they were riding and frightened the horses, who took off for home without their riders. Ann and her brothers and sisters were left stranded with lightning and thunder all around. They thought of getting into a culvert but decided that wasn't a good idea, so they just ran for home. Lightning is one thing that scares Ann to this day.

Ann's family was never without a church, although the church was 12 miles away. In the winter, they went by sled pulled by horses. It was her father's responsibility to see that the pastor got to church since he lived quite a distance away. Ann remembers one particular Christmas Eve. She remembers that the Christmas tree was lit up with real candles. Two men stood by to watch the candles and were prepared to put out a fire, should it happen, with sand that they had in their buckets. When they came out of church, there were Christmas presents under the hay in the sleigh. How they got there was a mystery to Ann. On the way home that night, the horses got spooked and broke away. (Seems like their horses had minds of their own!) That night they all had to stay with their Grandpa Badts, who lived close by. Ann only remembers one Christmas present, which was a little broom. The little broom was a welcomed present, and Ann loved sweeping with it. She learned early to do what she would do throughout her life. Ann says she still enjoys sweeping.

When the family moved to Sidney, Ann had to start a brand new school. It was not a good experience for her, and by the time she was a junior, she decided she would have no more of school. She got a job as a housekeeper, which paid a dollar a day. Two years later, she got another job, which paid a little more plus board and room. That was in a boarding home and that was also where she met Alvin Christiansen. They became "best of friends and best of lovers" (Ann). In 1942, they were married. Of course, there was the war, but Alvin had been classified as 4F because of a rapid heart beat so

Continued on the next page

Tape Ministry: Getting to Know Ann Christiansen, continued

they didn't think he would be drafted. However, like Floyd Welliver, he became eligible when warm bodies were needed. On August 28, 1942, Alvin was taken into the army. It would be nearly three years before Ann would see Alvin again. He was shipped to Iceland. The ship he was supposed to sail on sunk, and all aboard died. When it was his time to sail, they were all on edge. Of course, Ann knew none of this at the time as they were not allowed to write home any of that information. Finally, after two and a half years, he was allowed to come home on furlough for two weeks. After that, he was transferred to Fort Townsend, Washington, and Ann joined him. They were close to Seattle but had to take a ferry if they wanted to travel there.

In 1945, the war ended and they moved back to Sidney, which they had been longing to do. By that time, Ann was expecting her first child, Sharon. Alvin got a job at the Sugar Beet Factory and then became a painter for 21 years. Two more children were born to Ann and Alvin: Jim and Kathy. When Kathy was in kindergarten, Ann went to work at the church. The church secretary became her best friend. They took coffee breaks together every day and always had something good to eat. Friends have always been very important to Ann, and one thing she misses now is someone to get together with for coffee each day. Eventually, Ann and Alvin both got jobs in the school. Alvin was the custodian and Ann the cook.

In 1990, Alvin and Ann moved to Omaha. They chose an apartment in an excellent location, close to their children, their doctors, Hy-Vee grocery store, and Lord of Love Lutheran Church. Attending church was a must for both Ann and Alvin, especially Alvin who was a devout Lutheran. They made many friends through Golden Agers, a group started by Floyd Welliver and Helen Jordon. Eventually, Alvin was unable to come to church, and as stated earlier, church came to him through the worship tape and communion. Alvin died in 2003. He is dearly missed by Ann and her children. Alvin was a joy to be with, and his love for God was an inspiration to those who knew him, including me.

Today, Ann faithfully attends worship service with her daughter, Kathy. She also is involved in Bible Study on Thursday mornings at Janet Guthrie's home. Many of the quilts made at church have her signature on them, but she has had to give that up because of her failing eyesight. She keeps busy, however, tending to household chores and being with the much-loved family dog, Fiona. Reading, which also was one of Ann's passions, isn't possible, but Ann's daughter, Sharon, brings her books on tape from her job at the Omaha Public Library. Ann and her children are not ones to sit at home on weekends and holidays. They find plenty to do, which adds to their already full lives. It is rare that one sees a family so close and so intent on meeting the needs of one another.

In closing, I would like to say that before I took the worship tapes to the Christiansens, the only thing I really knew about them was that they sat on the left side of the church. Getting to know them through tape ministry has given me a heightened sense of community and has strengthened me as a person. When our family suffered the loss of one of our own loved ones, Ann and Kathy were the first ones to come to our home bringing comfort and food. We remain good friends to this day and get together whenever possible. These past few weeks, Rachel, Ann and I have gotten together for lunch as we put together the pieces of Ann's life. I know that you at Lord of Love will enjoy getting to know Ann Christensen as much as we have. Ann had only one stipulation in regard to writing her life story. "Keep it to one page." As you see, we have not followed her direction; I hope that she will forgive us.

God's Bountiful Abundance
 Fall Festival Celebration
 Saturday, November 14, 2009

Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Music of the 50s and 60s
 by The Jrs. at 7:00 p.m.

Silent Auction

Tickets are available Sundays
 at the church for \$15
 or contact Ruth Manning
 (455-7211 or
 cranecoffeekick@gmail.com)

Ticket sale deadline is
 Sunday, November 1

Childcare provided
 (bring a sack lunch)



Fall Festival Coming on November 14

Silent Auction

This year, we are hoping for a different look at the auction. Do you have a talent you would be willing to auction? Are you a great cook, a photographer, a carpenter? If that doesn't appeal to you, would you be willing to donate an item for auction, or share the cost with a friend? And if your gift is gab, would you be willing to go to businesses to solicit items or gift certificates?

Donations we've received so far include stained glass art, baby-sitting, a dinner party for 6, photo note cards, a Barbie basket, and a decorated cake.

We'll need items large and small, so anything you can provide would be great. Please let either Connie Walther (bcwalther@aol.com) or Jackie Combes (jcombes@cox.net) know as soon as possible what you have to offer.

Helpers Needed on November 14

We need help from some of our men to set up the dinner tables and chairs in the sanctuary (note change of location) after men's breakfast. (Suggestion: drop by the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 a.m. and enjoy breakfast and study with the guys first.)

At 10:00 a.m., we need helpers to decorate and set the tables, set up decorations, etc. Following the dinner and entertainment, please stay and set the sanctuary up for Sunday worship. I know it's a cliché, but many hands make light work!

Thank you for supporting this event, which will provide financial help for Building Families Boutique, a ministry of Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska. Ruth Henrichs, CEO of LFS, will share on that ministry at both worship services and adult forum on Nov. 1.

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)

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

Fundraiser for Our Seminarians

Please join us for a lunch fundraiser for Paula Lawhead and Rebecca Lund on Sunday, **November 22** after the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Paula will be graduating from Luther Seminary on May 30, 2010, and Rebecca is currently doing her internship in St. Louis.

There will be a free will donation for lunch.

Any monies raised will be matched up to \$4,000 per seminarian by Sheridan Lutheran Church and Yankee Hill Golf Course in Lincoln, NE. Please come and show your support for these two remarkable women!



Annual Thanksgiving Pie Fest

Bake a Pie! Buy a Pie! Bring a Pie! Eat Pie! The annual Pie Fest will be held following the Thanksgiving worship service on Sunday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m. Come and give thanks for God's bountiful abundance followed by pie and coffee in the Fellowship Hall.



Lord of Love Preschool Update by Michelle Petersen



Preschool is off to a great start! I have classes every morning this year, with about 8 kids in class each day. So far this year, we have begun the alphabet, with letters A through F already finished. Each week, I focus on one letter of the alphabet, and the week's curriculum focuses on that letter. For example, for "F" week, we learned about fire safety, feelings, and the fruits of the spirit. We also made "Friendship Salad," and each child brought one thing to add to the "salad" (a.k.a. trail mix). We talked about how cooperation and friendship can turn good things into GREAT things.

We are also going to be "world explorers" this year as we learn about different parts of the world. In September, we "visited" the United States and learned about Barack Obama's inspirational words "Yes, we can!" and the American flag. Check out their great flags in the preschool windows as you pass by at church! In October, our travels took us to Europe. We read the Madeline book and talked about how her school was similar to and different from our own.

We had a nice field trip in September to the OPPD Arboretum, where we took a nature walk. I gave each child a map of our path along with things in nature to look for as we walked. Our October field trip to Vala's Pumpkin Patch FINALLY took place on Monday after being rescheduled three times due to this crazy October wintry weather!

The preschool garage sale was a success, despite the surprisingly large amount of snowfall we received that morning. We made about \$300, which will be used to purchase classroom supplies and fund special events. Thank you to all of you who donated items and/or shopped the garage sale!

I also want to say a huge thank you to those of you who purchased Scholastic Books through the preschool to donate to the Literacy Center book drive. The preschool received over \$30 in free books and TONS of bonus points to purchase books or supplies in the future! THANK YOU!

NURTURE

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

As students leave for fall break, it is hard to believe I have been in St. Louis for about 3 months now!! I am finally feeling like I remember most names and faces on Sunday mornings, and I have developed deeper relationships with several students. In particular, I enjoy carpooling with a Washington University student to St. Louis University and back for our Wednesday night Bible study. I've found that often the big questions and conversations arise not only in the large group but in the drive home or cleaning up after dinner. Our studies of the book of Revelation on Mondays and Wednesdays have resulted in more conversations about life issues than I could have imagined. How is the Church still relevant today? What do we believe about heaven and hell? Is God primarily a God of judgment or of grace? These are all questions we have wrestled with this fall. We will end the month of October with a "Tell-tale Heart" retreat the night before Halloween, where we will help students explore their true selves and who God is calling them to be, before going out dressed up as someone else!

At Bethel, I have started being more involved with worship planning. The first Sunday of every month, we hold a "Center Celebration" in place of adult forum and Sunday school. This is a worship service planned by lay members (usually two or three families) with a theme. I am helping with our December center celebration, with the theme "Welcoming the Stranger." This October, I had the opportunity to attend a "Welcoming Church" training that Bethel hosted with other churches in the area, and we hope to incorporate some learnings into that service. Pr. Yancey and I are starting a Tuesday night Bible study on the book of Romans, and I have also begun teaching confirmation by myself.

Finally, Pr. Rebecca and I are planning an undergraduate alternative spring break trip to Guatemala in March! I am excited to use my travel experience and passion for the accompaniment model for global mission in creating a trip that is meaningful for students. We are working with the Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala and its pastors to expose students to a different kind of Lutheranism as well as a different way of life. It is exciting to be part of the two vibrant ministries of Bethel Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry. I pray that Lord of Love, in its own mission, continues to be vibrant and growing! Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

OUTREACH

Lord of Love Outreach Committee Update

Lots of folks have been doing lots of things to be the church for lots of people under the Outreach umbrella. Thanks to Randi VenHuizen, Kathy Christiansen, and Lynda McGraw, meaningful **follow-up with visitors** at Lord of Love occurs. **Advertising** takes place via signage, ads and listings in the various phone books, and in print. The Mission Possible Team is now working on **education outreach** by collecting books to share with folks in the area through the Literacy Center. We again participated in a local **Habitat for Humanity** endeavor. Many hands helped with the **garden project** that resulted in giving over 1,000 pounds of fresh produce to people who do not often get fresh vegetables. Thanks to all of you who helped in any way this past year to be the hands of Christ.



COUNCIL REPORT & TRANSITION/CALL PROCESS UPDATE

October 2009 Council Report by Don Rowen, Council Vice-President

The Lord of Love council met on October 20, 2009. The minutes of the October meeting are summarized as follows:

- **Budget** – The council considered suggestions for adjustments to the proposed 2010 budget that were made at the budget forum held on October 11, 2009. After considering each suggestion, the council decided to make no changes to the proposed budget. The council approved the budget for presentation to the congregation.
- **Youth Leader** – The council considered a proposed job description for the youth leader position that had been developed by the Youth Ministry Team. It was decided that we wanted to add some additional information to the job description. The council voted to approve the recommendation that Adam Lueders be hired as the youth leader at the present salary of \$4,000 per year.
- **Memorial Committee** – The council considered a job description for the Memorial Committee. A couple of changes were suggested. The council agreed to form a Memorial Committee again to handle the duties described.
- **New Member Orientation and Reception** – The church will be host an orientation session on November 1 for individuals wishing to join Lord of Love. Then these individuals will join the church on November 8, with a reception between worship services.
- **November Congregational Meeting** – The council discussed the items to be handled at the November congregational meeting.
- **Property Committee and Major Improvement Projects** – The council discussed potential improvement projects on which the property committee is working. The council decided that the priority for the projects would be: 1) replacing the lights; 2) fixing the south driveway; and 3) refurbishing the organ. The council decided to develop information about these projects for the November congregational meeting and to ask the congregation to pay for these projects with funds from the Major improvement project and ask for a special gift from congregational members.

Bits and Pieces by Doug Aden, Council President

On November 8, Lord of Love will hold its **November Congregational Meeting**. As of now, the agenda will include the following three major items: the 2010 Budget, the election of Council members, and the approval of the Major Improvement Budget.

Continued on the next page

2009 Lord of Love Church Council and Strategic Planning Committee

Executive Committee: Doug Aden, President; Don Rowen, Vice-President; Brian Walther, Secretary; Lisa Meyer, Treasurer

Finance: Brad VenHuizen*, Paul Barnett, and Jackie Combes

Nurture: Heather Christensen*, Angie Meyer, and Liz Smith

Outreach: Deb Lund*, Brian Vandeventer, and John Florea

Property: Craig Pennell*, Doug Roberts, and Joe Combes

Worship: Karen Mullen*, Debra Gillespie, and one other to be announced

Committee chairpersons are denoted with an asterisk; council members are underlined.

The Executive Committee is not part of the Strategic Planning Committee.

COUNCIL REPORT & TRANSITION/CALL PROCESS UPDATE

Bits and Pieces, continued

The total expenses in the **2010 Budget** are only \$941 greater than the 2009 Budget, but we have a deficit of \$27,566. The main reasons for this deficit are a reduction in projected income of \$18,000 and an increase in Pastoral Transition Expenses of \$7,500. Why did we reduce projected income by that amount? Because during the last few years, our income has decreased. In 2007, the total general income was \$290,400; in 2008, the total general income was \$266,500; and by annualizing the September 30 numbers, the projected general income for 2009 is \$250,400. Our projected income of \$280,000 may seem to be ambitious.

Several comments or suggestions for the budget were made at the Budget Forum. The Council discussed each of these items at their last meeting and the thoughts of the Council will be given when the budget is presented for approval at the Congregational Meeting. The 2010 Budget is tight. There is not room for much cutting except in the areas of missions and salaries. A reduction in these areas would greatly affect the operation of our church.

The **Nominating Committee** has completed its tasks, and there is a nominee for each position of the Council. The slate of nominees will be presented at the meeting.

The Resources Committee will make a recommendation regarding expenditures from the **Major Improvement Fund**. These recommendations will include changing the lighting in the sanctuary, repairing the south driveway, and making repairs to the organ. We do have a proposal for the lighting. Costs for the south driveway have not been finalized but will be completed by the meeting. The total cost for these three projects exceed the monies in the Major Improvement Fund, so we will also discuss a method of financing. If all goes well, we should have new lighting in the sanctuary in the next few months.

A Youth Ministry Team was appointed in August and charged with the task of preparing a job description for the **Youth Leader** and making a recommendation for a new youth leader. That job has been completed. The Job Description is in the final stages of approval by the Council, and the Council approved hiring Adam Lueders as the new Youth Director. Just a note about the Youth Group—they had 20 participants at a lock-in during the last part of October.

We are always concerned about how adults relate with the youth in our church. Lord of Love has had a **“Youth Protection” training program** for adults who are involved in Sunday School and VBS. The Council voted to require that all adults who work with youth take this program every 2 years. If you have not completed the course in the last 2 years, you will be asked to take it again.

Lord of Love has not had an active **Memorial Committee** for a long time. The Council approved a Job Description for the formation of a Memorial Committee. If you are interested in being a part of this committee, please let a Council member know. Once the Memorial Committee is organized, the time commitment will not be that great.

In our journey toward forming a **Call Committee**, Pastor Lee Gries from the Synod office will meet with the Council on December 15 and explain the mechanics and goals of the call process. This is in preparation for being able to formalize the call process at the February Congregational Meeting.

A question: why is it that a church that claims to be interested in youth and acknowledges that a good youth program is necessary to attract new members cannot fill the position of **Sunday School Coordinator**?

The volunteer sheet for bringing **doughnuts** to church on Sunday morning is empty. We need your help. Please volunteer for this task.

WOMEN OF LOVE

Blessings from Ruth Manning, President, LOL Women of Love

To my Sisters in Christ,

A special thanks to several of our women who chose to “Act Boldly,” the theme of Women of the ELCA. Attending their first Nebraska Synodical Women’s Organization Convention were Pauline Shaffer and Kelly Duffy, who also took on the role of delegate. Our third “bold woman” is Gwen Edwards, who accepted the election as president of NSWOW for a term of 2 years. Pauline and Kelly share their experiences with you in this issue of *The Love Letter*.

At our general meeting on October 17, four more women acted “boldly” by being elected to the 2010 LOL Women’s Ministry team for the first time. They are Janet Baker, Val Florea, Pauline Shaffer, and Shirley Schuchard. Kelly Duffy, Ruth Manning, Beth Olson, and Rose Roberts were re-elected to the team.

Please pray for these women as they serve in women’s ministry leadership, and for all our women as they find their “bold.”

Peace and love,
Ruth Manning, President

Orientation and Program Planning

Saturday, November 21 is an important day for Lord of Love Women’s Ministry. The revised constitution and by-laws of LOL Women of the ELCA was adopted at the general meeting on October 17. This means a change from the board format (president, secretary, and treasurer) to the team ministry format.

At 9:00 a.m., outgoing and newly elected team ministry members will meet for the orientation session. This will include taking a spiritual gifts inventory to help match gifts and passions to tasks performed by the ministry team.



All women are invited to join us at 10:45 a.m., when we will evaluate our program and mission efforts of 2009 and develop the 2010 program. Please come and share your ideas. Are there some subjects you’d like to see us cover in a one-time workshop or a two- or three-session class? *Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls* is the W/ELCA health initiative. What are some things we can do at LOL to develop this program (remember, health is physical, spiritual, and emotional)? What are you interested in? Think outside the box! Remember, we are not our mother’s Ladies Aid! Neither are we last year’s LOL Women of Love! Help us to continue to stretch and grow in all aspects of our lives.

At 11:30 a.m., a light lunch will be provided. We will conclude our session at 1:00 p.m. Please come, and Act Boldly!

Coffee Fellowship

All women are invited to join the Lord’s Laughing Ladies for 8:00 a.m. coffee fellowship at Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass, on November 13 and 27. You don’t need to be a coffee drinker to enjoy the laughs.



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

Session 3 – *Hope Does Not Disappoint*

“So you almost consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Jesus Christ.” (Romans 6:13b)

There are three opportunities for you to participate in this study:

- Monday, November 2, Old Country Buffet, 145th and West Center Road at 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 4, Mary Room at 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, November 8 (Part 1) and November 15 (Part 2) in the Conference Room at 9:15 a.m.

All women are invited to participate in one of these groups.



Thankoffering Sunday

Women of the Lutheran church have been gathering in the setting of Thankoffering services since the early 1900s. It is a tradition grounded in our celebration of community. We come together as faithful women joyfully giving thanks and praise for what God has given us. Thankofferings will be submitted to CWO (Church-wide Women's Organization) for the total outreach of the women's organization. On Sunday, November 22, we will participate in our Thankoffering Service at both worship services.

Thank Offering



Several of us have been using the Thankoffering boxes throughout the year, dropping in coins in a thanksgiving response to God. For those of you who do not have a box, an envelope will be available for your offering.

Project Hope

Please continue to bring in items for Project Hope and place them in the containers under the Information Center. Monthly needs for November are baking supplies, such as flour and sugar, and cookies. Always needed are canned vegetables and fruit, peanut butter, baked beans, and bathroom tissue. Personal care items are also needed. Thank you for your generosity.



NSWO 2009 Convention by Pauline Shaffer

Would you enjoy a peaceful weekend with spiritual growth and relaxing humor? That is what I experienced at the NSWO convention in Kearney. The weekend was full of lessons, talks, and fellowship. This was the first state convention that I attended, and I plan on attending the next convention to see what they have planned.

Are you going to be at the 2011 convention in Kearney? You will be renewed if you do.

WOMEN OF LOVE

NSWO 2009 Convention by Kelly Duffy

This fall, I served as Lord of Love's delegate to the NSWO (Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization) convention in Kearney. Also attending from our congregation were Gwen Edwards and Ruth Manning (old pros at the convention) and Pauline Shaffer (who was a first-timer, like me). I have to admit, I didn't immediately offer up my time to serve as delegate when the opportunity was first presented. Ruth was to the point of "pleading on her knees for a delegate" when I decided to volunteer. But after I was reassured that I could handle the position, I did consider it an opportunity and looked forward to the trip.

The drive down with Pauline was so much fun that we missed the exits for Grand Island, where we had planned to stop for lunch, and soon found ourselves in Kearney where we registered, took part in workshops, ate with our Lord of Love crew (including Dan Manning), and then joined others in worship led by Bishop deFreese. After that, Anita deFreese led an icebreaker to help us get to know each other better. I was worn out and ready for bed, but had to set the alarm clock early for Saturday's "Run, Walk 'N Roll". I registered for that because I wanted some exercise before sitting on my butt all day, and because the money that I raised from generous women at the convention was for a good cause—Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls.

When the alarm went off, Pauline was already awake. She told me she would be. I probably didn't need to set the alarm, but no way was I going to miss my walk. Our group got acquainted as we walked briskly in the cold morning air. It was dark. We could see the bright yellow arches of a McDonalds on the horizon, but better yet, we could see a whole sky full of stars. I looked up in awe, enjoying a view I don't often see.

Saturday and Sunday were also filled with activities—Bible studies, workshops, worship, and business meetings, too. On Saturday, a total of 211 individuals were in attendance, and 202 attended on Sunday. I took my place with the other delegates, my information packet at hand. I could tell that many women had put in a lot of care and time serving in various capacities. We approved reports and budgets and voted to pass resolutions and to fill positions (giving hard-working women more opportunities to serve). Everything was run very smoothly, and it was easy to catch on to the proceedings.

We Lord of Love women were very excited and proud to see Gwen Edwards elected as NSWO President for 2009-2011. Also elected were:

Board Officers		
President	Gwen Edwards	Lord of Love Lutheran / Omaha
Vice President	Leslie Marchando-Cook	Holy Trinity Lutheran / Sidney
Secretary	Jane Johnson	Trinity Lutheran / Newman Grove
Treasurer	Nancy Johnson	Rejoice! Lutheran / Omaha
Conference Board Representatives		
Central	Carol Ann Ortegren	Salem Evangelical Church / Stromsburg
High Plains	Nancy Steele	Calvary Lutheran / Scottsbluff
Metro East	Jody Ptacnik	First Lutheran / Blair
Midlands	Jane Flores	St. Paul / Hooper
Northeast	Mae Greve	Salem / Wakefield
Southeast	Michelle Steadman	St. Paul (Hickory Grove) / Auburn
Southern Prairie	Carol Bosshardt	First St. Paul / Hastings
2011 Triennial Delegates		
Tara Bahnfleth, Carol Bierman, Lynn Echternkamp, Shirley Kehne, Lanette Kellogg, Terri Johnson, Emily Laaker, Fran Hughes, Mary Mayfield. (1 st Alternate Teresa Christensen)		

Continued on the next page

WOMEN OF LOVE

NSWO 2009 Convention, continued by Kelly Duffy

Total mission offering at the convention was \$6,411.50. Tangible offerings for the convention were items for health and school kits. Volunteers assembled hundreds of the kits at the convention. A silent auction for linens painted and donated by women in Argentina brought in money designated for Building Families Boutique.

Beth Wrenn, churchwide president of the Women of the ELCA, came all the way from North Carolina to join us at the convention. She was there to greet, advise, educate, share, listen, and grow. She wanted to thank and encourage individual women, and I want to pass that on to you. You do make a difference. It may not seem like much to you when you give in the many ways that you do, but it does make a difference because your efforts are multiplied across the state, the nation, and the world. It starts with individuals in a church like ours.

Finally, I would like to close with the theme of the convention, "Be Still and Feel Christ's Heart Within You", and with the words to the theme song. I invite you to read them out loud. Then be.



Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am.
Be still and know.
Be still.



Calendar of Events

November

2	6:00 p.m.	LWT Bible Study, Old Country Buffet, 145th and West Center Road
3	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
4	6:00 p.m.	LWT Bible Study, Joseph Room
8	9:15 a.m.	LWT Bible Study (Part 1), Conference Room
11	6:00 p.m.	Ministry Team Meeting, Joseph Room
13	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass
14	5:30 p.m.	Fall Festival Dinner
15	9:15 a.m.	LWT Bible Study (Part 2), Conference Room
17	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
21	9:00 a.m.	2010 Planning Session
22		Thankoffering Sunday
27	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass



Women of the ELCA

Coming Soon

January 16, 2010	Winter Retreat, St. Paul's Lutheran, Grand Island, NE
April 10, 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

Let's Bowl!

For November, think bowling! Youth group will go bowling at Maplewood Lanes on Sunday, November 8. Meet at the church at 11:30 a.m. after second service and bring \$10 for bowling (more if you want enough for snacks). As always, invite your friends to come along!



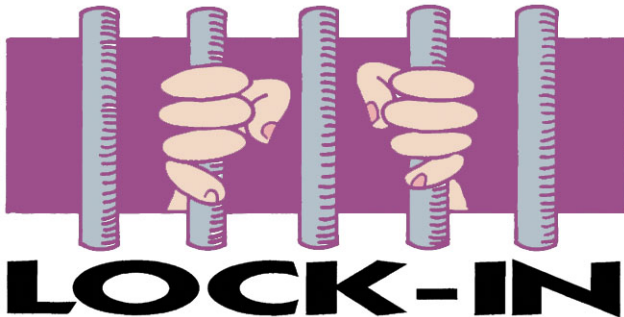
Fall Festival Dinner Volunteers Needed

Youth will be helping serve at the Fall Festival dinner on November 14. Remember to sign up on the youth board by the calendar if you can help out with this service project.



Youth Group Lock-in a Success

The youth group had a full house for the lock-in on October 17, with 20 kids present and having a great time. They also got the rest of the "youth year" planned.



Donate to the Youth Fund

Unfortunately, the youth fund is in the hole from the New Orleans trip. If you'd care to make a donation to help the youth move on to this year's budget in the black, it would be much appreciated. You can drop donations in the offering plate or mail them to the church. If you're writing a check, make it to Lord of Love and put "youth group" in the subject line.



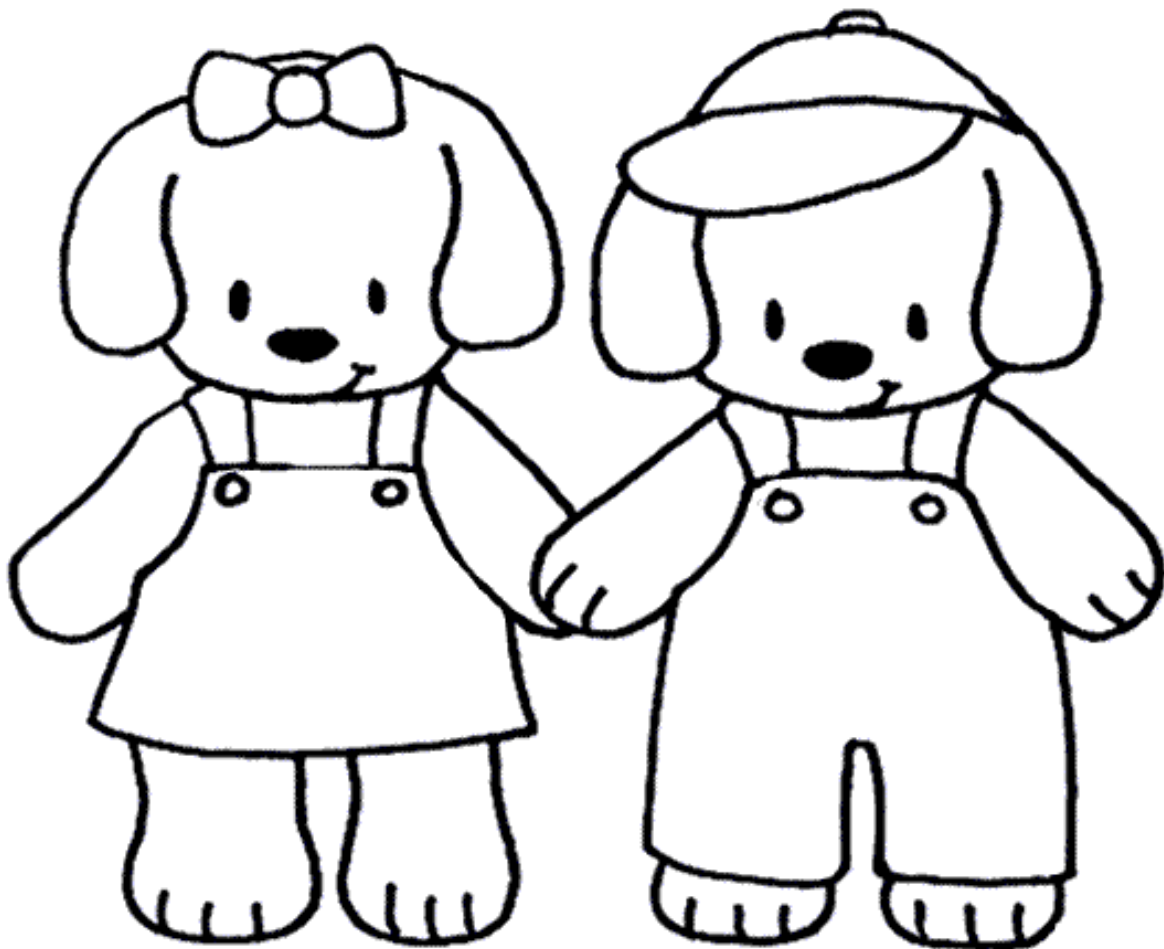
Calendar of Youth Events

November


- 8 Bowling
- 14 Fall Festival dinner



Thank you, God,
for good friends!



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Just for KIDS

He gave thanks

This Thanksgiving, you may share a special meal with family and friends. Do you remember the time when Jesus shared a meal with thousands of people and gave thanks?

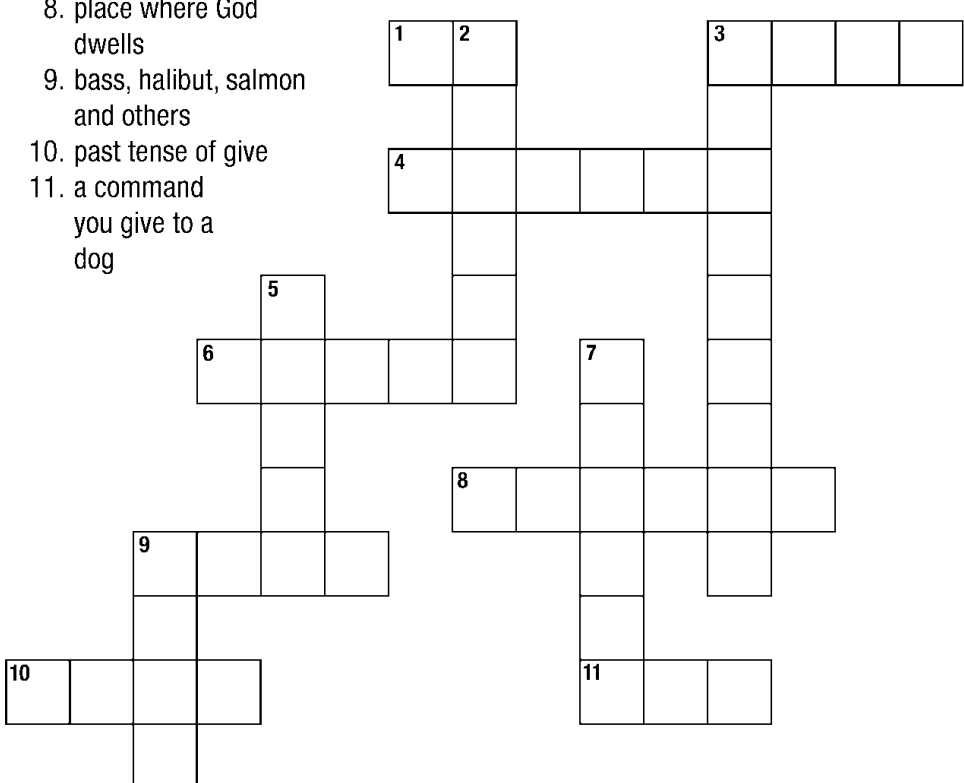
Use the clues to find important words from Matthew 14:19 (NIV).

Across

1. opposite of down
3. opposite of up
4. more than one loaf
6. penniless
8. place where God dwells
9. bass, halibut, salmon and others
10. past tense of give
11. a command you give to a dog

Down

2. another name for humans
3. twelve of Jesus' closest friends
5. what a lawnmower cuts
7. _____ giving
9. odd number after 4



IN OUR PRAYERS & LOVE NOTES

In Our Prayers

Dr. Lori Arneson (niece of Ruth Cooley)
Dick and Jessie Bell
Ryan Bolen (nephew of Sandy Hall)
Miranda Brown (friend of the Shinrocks)
Portia Bruning (cousin of Shirley Schuchard)
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)
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)
John Hoelsing (friend of Judy Egr)
Marj Holbrook (mother of Judy Messerschmidt)
Hazel Humphrey (mother of Mary Lou Gustafson)
Cathy Johnson (friend of Marilyn Thomsen)
Bob Kasworm and his ministry in Tanzania
Ken Kellogg (father of Karen Armitage)
Hannah Knudson (neighbor of the VenHuizens)
Paula Lawhead (at seminary)
Rose Lubbert (friend of the Rieffs)
Carl Lueders (uncle of Dave Lueders)
Irene Lund (aunt of Brian Lund)
Rebecca Lund (at seminary)

Pastor Elisante Maimu
Bob McKnight (grandfather of Ann Kroll)
Pastor Elibariki Mtui and all the saints of TPC Lutheran
Parish, Tanzania
Harry Naasz
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
Eloyse Rice
Don St. Ours (brother-in-law of Lynda McGraw)
Evelyn Sacridier
Nancy Thoman (stepmom of Ann Kroll)
Brody Vermilyea (grandson of Brian and Nancy
Shinrock)
Robin Wapelhorst (relative of Brenda Mac)
Agnes Wilson

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
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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

- November 1 Daylight Saving Time ends
- November 8 Congregational Meeting
Youth Group bowling
- November 14 Advent worship planning meeting
Fall Festival dinner and silent auction
- November 22 Lunch fundraiser for our seminarians
Thanksgiving worship service and Pie Fest

Upcoming Events

- December 15 Council meeting
- December 24 Christmas Eve
- December 25 Christmas



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.