



The Love Letter

Volume 40

January 2012

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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! As one year comes to a close and another year begins, it is a wonderful time to reflect on the blessings we received in 2011 and to look forward to all that is to come in 2012. Here is a peek at what is coming in January at Lord of Love.

On Sunday, January 8, the women will have their annual **Epiphany potluck luncheon** at 11:30 a.m. (see page 12, Women of Love). Then everyone is invited celebrate **Ann Christiansen's 90th Birthday** at an open house beginning at 2:00 p.m.

On Saturday, January 14, **Lutheran Men in Mission** and the **Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization** are holding **retreats** in Elkhorn and Grand Island, respectively (see page 11, Men's News Corner, and page 12, Women of Love).

Then on Sunday, January 15, the **high school youth group** will have its first meeting of 2012 (see page 14, LOL Youth).

Finally, on Sunday, January 22, Lord of Love members will participate in the area *Celebration of the Word of God for Christian Unity* **ecumenical worship service** at 7:00 p.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church (see page 4, Worship). All are invited to attend this worship service and to sing in the ecumenical choir!



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Epiphany by Pastor Brad

God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God's generosity can flow through you. 1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)

The Twelve Days of Christmas—the ones we often sing about—are counted from December 25 until January 5. Epiphany is the climax of the twelve days, falling on the thirteenth day after Christmas. It is an occasion for feasting in many cultures, with a special King's cake often baked as part of the Epiphany festivities.

January 6 is the day of Epiphany. The term "epiphany" means "to show," "to make known," or "to reveal." This holiday remembers the wise men who brought gifts to the young Jesus and, by so doing, revealed Jesus as King to the world. Their story is told in Matthew 2:1-11:

"In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."'"

"Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went

the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage." (NRSV)

These men came to the King bearing gifts. You and I have gifts to bring to the King of Kings as well. Ephesians 2:10 reveals that we are each created in Christ Jesus for good works—complete with certain gifts and talents. The gifts that we have been given are to be offered and celebrated to fulfill God's good plans for our lives. When we use them to bless others, we bless our King as well.

Do you have the gift of HOSPITALITY? Bake a needy neighbor some cookies, or throw a party and invite others in.

Do you have the gift of TEACHING? Teach a bible study, coach a softball team, or offer to tutor a neighborhood child.

Are you blessed with the ability to GIVE graciously? Give not only to your church, but to the poor and to organizations doing work helping others.

Are you good at SEWING, BAKING, or GARDENING? Just look around—there are others who could benefit from your expertise!

As we celebrate this day, let's consider how we can bring our gifts as an offering to our King. In so doing, we'll allow God's generosity to flow through us to others. Happy Epiphany!

Peace,
Pastor Brad



MONTHLY CALENDAR

January 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00am Worship & Communion 10:30am Worship & Communion	2 Office Closed for holiday 6:00pm "Gather" Bible Study 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	3 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Vision & Coordination	4 6:00pm "Gather" Bible Study	5 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	6 8:00am Laughing Ladies @ Crane Coffee 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 Epiphany Lunch 2:00pm Open House for Ann Christansen's 90th 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	9 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	10	11 5:00pm 7th & 8th grade Confirmation Class 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Women's Ministry Team Mtg. 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass Rehearsal 7:15pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	13 7:30pm AA	14 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
15 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 11:30am Youth Group Activity 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	16 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	17 9:00am Quilters	18 5:00pm 7th & 8th grade Confirmation Class 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass Rehearsal 7:15pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	19 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	20 8:00am Laughing Ladies @ Crane Coffee 7:30pm AA	21 Pinewood Derby 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 8:00am Worship Planning
22 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Service of Christian Unity @ Holy Cross Lutheran Church	23 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	24	25 5:00pm 7th & 8th grade Confirmation Class 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass Rehearsal 7:15pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	26 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	27 Church Council Retreat 7:30pm AA	28 Church Council Retreat 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
29 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 11:30am Youth Group Activity 1:00pm District 18 AA Planning Mtg. 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	30 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	31				

Ecumenical Christian Unity Worship Service on January 22

In lieu of the annual ecumenical Baptism of Our Lord Service in early January, there will be an area *Celebration of the Word of God for Christian Unity* on Sunday, January 22, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 4117 Terrace Drive. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Those who enjoy singing are invited to join the ecumenical choir that evening, with a rehearsal at 6:15 p.m. The Lord of Love Brass will be playing as will other special ensembles from the various Northwest Omaha congregations participating. Refreshments will be served following the service.



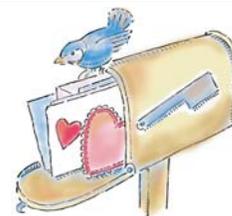
Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
Greeter(s)					
8:00 a.m.	No 8:00 a.m. service	Paul and Deb Christenson	Jim and Jeri Morgan	Paul and Peg Murphy	Kenn and Shari Garder
10:30 a.m.	Lynda McGraw, Gary Ramsay	Brian and Nancy Shinrock	Roger and Angie Meyer	John and Gwen Edwards	Rett and Judy Messerschmidt
Liturgist					
8:00 a.m.	No 8:00 a.m. service			Ron Thom	Kenn Garder
10:30 a.m.	Shawn Lorenzen	Brad VenHuizen		Lori Vandeventer	
Communion Servers					
8:00 a.m.	No 8:00 a.m. service				Garder family
10:30 a.m.		Brad and Randi VenHuizen		Vandeventer family	
Nursery Attendant(s)					
10:30 a.m.	Anne Yarger	Sarah Horan	Lisa Rieff	Pat Brewer	Ashley Meier
Altar Care					
8:00 a.m.	No 8:00 a.m. service	Connie Walther, Lisa Meyer	Janet Guthrie, Nancy Shinrock	Mike and Christie Klos	Cathy Aden, Dayla Miller, Deb Quadhamer
10:30 a.m.	Cathy Aden, Sue Dieter	Karen Anderson, Mardi Fiske	Paul and Ann Kroll	Pauline Shaffer, Randi VenHuizen	Diana Haye, Marcia Roads
Ushers					
8:00 a.m.	Paul Dieter, Dennis Hindemith, John Florea, Brian Walther				
10:30 a.m.	Brian and Deb Lund, John Edwards, Woody Fiske, Tyler Price				

WORSHIP

Our Homebound Members by Karen Pickens

On Sunday, the choir went caroling to our homebound members. The group that I went with had a wonderful time singing and visiting with those we do not see too often. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that cards and letters are so appreciated. Here are the names and addresses of those who still call Lord of Love their church, who have many memories of being with us for worship and other events, who keep us in their prayers.



Pearl Garnaas	Heritage Point	16811 Burdette Street #224	Omaha, NE 68115
Marian Lindeen	Brookstone	4330 South 144th Street	Omaha, NE 68137
Agnes Wilson	Good Samaritan Home	12856 Deauville Drive	Omaha, NE 68137
Glenna Lee		1730 South 116th Street	Omaha, NE 68144
Dick Bell	Immanuel Village	6803 North 68th Plaza #406	Omaha, NE 68152
Ruth Cooley	Immanuel Village	6801 North 67th Plaza #29	Omaha, NE 68152
Anna Jensen	Crowell Home	245 South 22nd Street	Blair, NE 68008

Next month, I hope to bring you another life and faith story of one of our church family members. I appreciate all who are willing to share their story, as do our readers. I sometimes run into people who have moved away but continue to be on our mailing list, and they tell me how much they enjoy reading your stories.

I pray that your Christmas was filled with Peace, Joy, and Love.

NURTURE

Sunday School Christmas Program

Watching the Children's Christmas Program was a delightful and inspirational way to hear about Jesus' birth. Curtain calls to all the children who were wonderful messengers of the how our Lord came to Earth for us. Thank you to all the adults who participated and assisted in this Christmas production.

Sunday School resumes on January 8, 2012.

Bowling for Jesus



It's coming soon—the 3rd annual Bowling for Jesus for all ages. Watch for additional information in the bulletin, or check with Beth Olson. Proceeds from the event will be added to the "Women on a Mission" fund to partially fund sending 2 women to our sister Lutheran church in Argentina in 2013.

HELP WANTED!

No experience necessary; on the job training provided!

Job Description: Need one or more people to pick up donuts at the 108th and Fort Street HyVee bakery, sign the invoice at the bakery, and bring the donuts and cookies to Lord of Love by 9:00 a.m. Sunday mornings.



“Other duties as assigned.” Cleaning up the coffee pots and cups (ask for helpers if you cannot clean up!)

Compensation: Smiles and Thank You’s from many hungry people.

Applications being accepted on the Narthex table where the donuts and cookies are located on Sunday mornings!

Adult Forum: Types of Psalms

Biblical scholars identify many types of Psalms, but Ruth Manning has selected 5 of the main types to study in the adult forum in January. We will open with an overview of the Psalms on January 8 and conclude the study on January 29. Please bring a Bible!

Lenten Soup Suppers

A tradition at Lord of Love is Lenten Soup Suppers. This begins on Ash Wednesday and goes through the Lenten Season until Holy Week. This is a time for the congregation to engage in fellowship before the Lenten worship services. Ash Wednesday is on February 22, 2012. Yes, it does seem like we have just finished Christmas, but isn’t it wonderful we get to “hear the rest of the story” so soon? After all, the reason Jesus was born was to die for us.

Look for Lenten Soup Supper sign-up sheets in the Narthex.



Courageous Parenting Bible Study

Coming in February: Courageous Parenting Bible Study. This 4-week study will challenge attendees to live courageously for the sake of their family. The study was specially developed to challenge men to be better parents but will be of interest to all adults who know any parents. This study will use clips from the recently released movie “Courageous,” real-life examples, and Bible passage to stimulate discussion. The study will meet at 9:15 a.m. in the sanctuary each Sunday in February.

Also we are planning a movie night in early February where you can come to watch the entire movie. Watch for the forthcoming details.

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. *Gather* Bible Study @ Old Country Buffet (first Monday of month)

Wednesday

5:00 p.m. Confirmation (7th & 8th grades) @ LOL Abraham Room
6:00 p.m. Luther Kids (1st – 6th grades) @ LOL Preschool
6:00 p.m. *Gather* Bible Study @ LOL Mary Room (first Wednesday of month)

Thursday

9:30 a.m. Text Study @ Guthrie’s

Saturday

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

Red Cross Blood Drive



Lord of Love is hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Sunday, February 26, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. To schedule your donation time, please see Gary Ramsay or Paul Christenson. If you would like to help with this event, please contact Paul or Gary ASAP.

Mission Possible Update

Thanks so much to all of you for your generosity and kindness in giving to Together, Inc. for the Thanksgiving offering and to Lutheran Family Services for the Advent offering. Both of these organizations are most busy in assisting more people than ever. It's truly a blessing that we are able to help these organizations reach our brothers and sisters in Christ when they are in severe need.

MISSION: POSSIBLE!



Diaper Derby

Look for more information to come regarding the Lutheran Family Services **Diaper Derby**, as we will seek more gifts to help support specific needs of those participating in healthy families and parenting classes in various parts of Nebraska, such as North Omaha. Disposable diapers are one of the popular items that can be purchased with earned rewards, and the need is great to help LFS supply the diapers.

Responding to the World

Serving our Neighbors Outside the U.S.

Addressing AIDS in Uganda. Rebuilding homes destroyed by hurricanes on the Gulf Coast or a tsunami in Indonesia. Supporting schools in the Holy Land. Supporting new congregations in Malawi. In today's world, there are countless important ways we as a church work together with our neighbors at home and around the world.

The ELCA, through its missionaries, companion churches, and partner agencies, works every day to proclaim the love of God and make the world a better place to live. While we are the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, our hands reach out in partnerships across the globe.

Learn about some of our programs, and be sure to visit our website (<http://www.elca.org>) under "Stories of Faith in Action" to see real-life examples of how we share God's boundless love with the world.

ELCA Disaster Response

When flood, fire, or storm wreaks havoc on a community, the ELCA is there to empower, provide relief, and educate for future preparedness. Visit our website to learn more about "ELCA Disaster Response."

ELCA World Hunger

For decades, we have worked to support people who live with chronic hunger and poverty around the corner and around the world, through relief, development, education, and advocacy. Learn more on our website under "ELCA World Hunger."

Mission Investment Fund by Doug Aden

Last month I introduced you to the Mission Investment Fund by explaining how they provide loans and supporting services to congregations and ELCA-supporting ministries and by providing investment opportunities to ELCA members, congregations, and ministries. This month, I am going to give a brief description of the investment products that are available from the Mission Investment Fund.

TERM INVESTMENTS

The term investment is similar to a Certificate of Deposit. Term Investments may have terms of 6 months to 7 years. Interest is paid quarterly from the date of investment and can be sent to you by check or reinvested. Term investments can be in either an adjustable rate account or a fixed rate account. A \$100 minimum investment is required to open an account.

DEMAND INVESTMENTS

One demand investment is a check-writing interest-bearing checking account. The account may be opened with a minimum investment of \$100. Additions or withdrawals may be made any time with no fees. Qualified account holders are eligible for a Visa debit card.

Another demand account is more like a traditional savings account, which requires an initial \$5 investment and may be added to any time.

MIF4KIDZ

This is a savings account for young people under the age of 16 and may be opened with a minimum deposit of \$50. Once an investment is made, a custodian, usually a parent, is responsible for the investment. The investment matures on the child's 18th birthday.

RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Both traditional and Roth IRAs can be established with the Mission Investment Fund. All term investments and Savings Account investments may be used in the IRA.

HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

If you have a qualifying high deductible health plan, you may establish a Health Savings Account, which lets you manage your medical expenses. The plan lets you accumulate unused funds while receiving interest payments. The HSA investment includes a checkbook and a Visa HSA Disbursement Account debit card, which can be used to pay for qualified medical expenses.

These are examples of investments that may be made with the Mission Invest Fund. For more information, visit the Mission Investment Fund's web site at ELCA.org and click on Mission Investment Fund at the bottom of the page or call 877.886.3522 and request a packet of with information about MIF investments. In the next few weeks, there will be more information about MIF at the Information Center in the narthex.

Mission Investment Fund investments are subject to certain risks. See "Risk Factors" in the fund's Offering Circular. The fund's investments are not bank accounts. As securities issued by a nonprofit institution, the investments are not insured by FDIC, SIPC, or any other federal or state regulatory agency. The securities are sold only by means of the Offering Circular. This is not an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy the securities described here.

RESOURCES

Stewardship All Year Long: Nurturing by Kathy Christiansen

The stewardship word for this month is “nurturing.”

“But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace that you have been saved.” Ephesians 2:4-5

As we have discussed in the past months, everything we have been given in life is because of God’s great love for us. So how do we nurture those gifts responsibly? It sounds like it should be easy, yet most of us have trouble even naming our gifts and using them well on a regular basis.



One difficulty (especially for us Lutherans) is the fear of being seen conceited or bigheaded if we say “I have a gift for” listening or managing conflict or teaching or compassion. The challenge is to be able to name our gifts and declare them with responsibility and modesty. When we are able to do this by remembering that all gifts come from God, we are motivated to use all of our gifts as a form of service to God’s greater good.

The more we are able to do God’s work, the better stewards of His gifts we become.



COUNCIL REPORT

2012 Lord of Love Church Council

Executive Committee: Brian Lund, President; Kenn Garder, Vice-President; Judy Messerschmidt, Secretary; Barb Haskins, Treasurer

Nurture: Paula Foster, Lori Vandeventer

Outreach: Jeri Morgan, Mike Klos

Resources: Doug Roberts, Rex Quadhamer

Worship: Randi VenHuizen, Pat Brewer



COUNCIL REPORT

From the Council President – January 2012 by Brian Lund, Council President

Mark 16:15 (NIV) *He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."*

Wow! It's already the start of a brand new year. Lord of Love was truly blest this past year. We have enjoyed a full year with Pastor Brad. We undertook an aggressive set of property maintenance projects and completed the major work items. Our congregation voted to fund the projects partially through a capital campaign with a target amount of \$50,000. Pledged amounts exceeded \$69,500. So many good things happened around Lord of Love due to the faithful service and financial gifts of our members.

Our congregation council is again blessed with good, faithful members. Our organizing retreat is scheduled for late January 2012. This retreat provides the council with an opportunity to get to know each other better and to begin focusing on the important aspects of our ministry together for 2012.



Pastor Brad and I have been talking about questions that may drive much of our focus in 2012: Who are we? When we have the opportunity to talk to others about Lord of Love, what do we tell them? Many new members come to our church because they are invited. How do we equip our membership to be open to inviting those whom they encounter?

I'm excited to discuss these and related questions with members of our council and congregation. We do many things to help others in our community. Is that one of the key things we want others to know about Lord of Love? I know that I need help in becoming more comfortable talking to others about our congregation and who we are. How do we equip me and others for this important aspect of witnessing our Christian faith?

Galatians 6:10 (NRSV) *So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.*

I give thanks for all of the members of the council. They are wonderful people with great love for our congregation and our ministry. Please join me in thanking these council members who have finished serving this past year: Brian Walther, Karen Mullen, Paul Christenson, Doug Armitage, and Josh Combes.

Our mission statement states that we are created by God's gracious love to be witnesses and servants to the world. The skills, passions, talents, and treasures of all of our members help us to have a strong, growing community of faith that actively works for others within our community. When you are asked to help serve, please consider the invitation. If you are not asked but would like to help, please contact me, Pastor Brad, or any of our council members.

Please continue to pray for our congregation, Pastor Brad, our congregation council, for all of God's children with special needs, and for our ministry together.

Blessings in faith and service,
Brian Lund

Building Men for Christ Workshop

The Building Men for Christ Workshop is scheduled for Saturday, January 14, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Wellness Center at Bethany Lutheran Church in Elkhorn, NE. This workshop is designed and presented by Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM) at the national level. The target audience is Pastors (both male and female) and current and potential future lay leaders in the Men's Ministry field for the purpose of strengthening existing or starting new Men's Ministry programs. The registration fee is \$65.00 per person, and the registration deadline is January 6. The registration fee includes two books, student materials, and lunch. Pastors (both male and female) are encouraged to attend. Pastors' registration fee will be waived if their registration is accompanied by two paid registrations of lay men from their congregation. The registration flyer is available on lutheranmeninmission.org.

2012 NE LMM Annual Gathering

The 2012 Nebraska LMM Annual Gathering will be held on Saturday, February 11, from 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Camp Carol Joy Holling near Ashland, NE. The gathering is open to all men in the Nebraska Synod. The program includes:

- Business Meeting (including election of President, Exec. Secretary and Treasurer for 2012-2013 term)
- Workshop
- Key Note Speaker
- Installation of Officers
- Sending Service & Communion – by Bishop deFreeze



Courageous Parenting Bible Study

Men, do you want to be a better father, either now or in future? Then come to the Courageous Parenting Bible Study on Sundays in February at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This 4-week study will challenge attendees to live courageously for the sake of their family. The study was specially developed to challenge men to be better parents. This study will use clips from the recently released movie "Courageous," real-life examples, and Bible passage to stimulate discussion.

Also, we are planning a movie night in early February where you can come to watch the entire movie. Watch for the forthcoming details.

One Year to Live Men's Retreat

The One Year to Live Men's Retreat is planned for March 23-25 at Camp Rivercrest in Fremont, NE. This is not your typical retreat. It's a "spiritual boot camp" led by lay men and is intended for any/all men looking to find God's purpose for them in life. The registration fee is \$195.00 per person and includes 2 nights lodging, 5 meals, student materials, and the opportunity to "change your life". The registration deadline is March 9. A limited number of partial scholarships are available, based on need. For more information, see the registration flyer on lutheranmeninmission.org.

Any questions about any of these events can be directed to any member from Lord of Love's Men's Breakfast Ministry, who among others includes Paul Christenson, Tom Olson, Don Rowen, Brad VenHuizen, and Ron Thom.

WOMEN OF LOVE

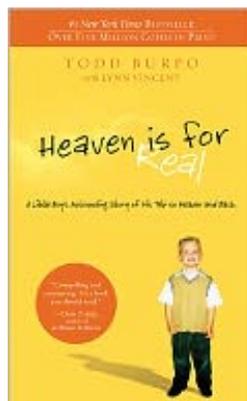
NSWO Winter Retreat



The registration deadline is January 3 for the Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization retreat to be held January 14. The cost is \$18, and registration forms are available at the Information Center in the Narthex.

Featured speakers are Rev. Todd Burpo and his wife, Sonja, who will tell the amazing story of their son, Colton's trip to heaven and back (*Heaven is for Real*). Joan Naber, Ms. Wheelchair Nebraska 2010, also will share her story of hope.

Coffee is served at 8:30 a.m., and the session is from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The retreat is at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1515 South Harrison Street in Grand Island.

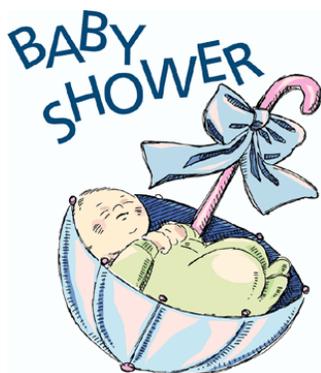


Lord's Laughing Ladies

The coffee group will meet on January 6 and 20 at 8:00 a.m. at Crane Coffee at 76th and Cass. All women are welcome, so please come and join the fun!



Women's Epiphany Luncheon



It's a baby shower in honor of the birth of Jesus! Join us for a potluck lunch after the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, January 8. Please bring a baby gift for homeless women at the Stephen Center Shelter. There will be a short program, installation of the new Women of Love ministry team, and revealing of the secret angels, as well as signing up for your 2012 secret angel. Things to bring: potluck lunch item; baby gift, and a card for your secret angel revealing your identity.



Gather Bible Studies

The fifth in our nine-part series on the study of Matthew focuses on "Confessing Christ." The theme verse is Mark 9:24, "I believe, help my unbelief."

The Monday group will meet on January 2 at the Old Country Buffet, 145th & West Center Road, at 6:00 p.m. The Wednesday group will meet on January 4 in the Mary Room at 6:00 p.m. All women are invited to attend either of these groups.



Women's
Bible Study

WOMEN OF LOVE

LOL Women's Ministry Team

At the December meeting, ministry team members selected their area of service for 2012, as follows:

- Val Florea, ministry team coordinator
- Rose Roberts, communications coordinator
- Lynda McGraw, finance coordinator
- Ruth Manning, publicity coordinator
- Brenda Thom, special events coordinator
- Beth Olson, member at large
- Pauline Shaffer, member at large

The January ministry team meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. on January 11 in the Mary Room.



*Women's
Ministry Team*

Women's Shelter



Randi VenHuizen and Ruth Manning recently purchased the supplies for 12 Welcome Kits on behalf of LOL women's ministry. Each kit contains a scrub bucket, laundry basket, broom, mop, dust pan, dish soap, laundry soap, shampoo, body soap, cleaning compound, dish cloth, dish towel, bath towel, hand towel, and washcloth. The Catholic Women's Shelter provides a Welcome Kit to women transitioning from the Shelter into an apartment.

Dates to Remember

January

2	6:00 p.m.	<i>Gather</i> Bible Study, Old Country Buffet, 145th and West Center Road
3	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
4	6:00 p.m.	<i>Gather</i> Bible Study, Mary Room
6	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 76th and Cass
8	11:30 a.m.	Epiphany potluck luncheon, baby shower, and program
11	6:00 p.m.	Women's Ministry Team, Mary Room
14		NSWO Winter Retreat, Grand Island
17	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
20	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 76th and Cass



Coming Soon

April 14	Metro East Spring Gathering, Bethany Lutheran, Elkhorn
April 27-28	Retreat at St. Benedict Center, Schuyler



Lynette Kistler is Youth Ministry Intern at Lord of Love



Hello! Some of you may have noticed my new face around the church recently! My name is Lynette Kistler, and I am the new Youth Ministry Intern at Lord of Love. I am currently a senior at Midland University in Fremont, where I am a double major in Youth and Family Ministry and History.

I have a passion for working with people in ministry and look forward to getting to know everyone at Lord of Love. Thus far, I've had the opportunity to meet the youth in various activities, and we will plan to meet at least twice a month starting in January.

Thank you all for welcoming me into the church community!

God's Peace,
Lynette

Upcoming Youth Meetings

Mark your calendars! The High School youth group will start meeting on a monthly basis. Our first meeting will be on January 15. During this time, we will plan on getting to know one another more and will take a look at the Nooma Series by Rob Bell.



Keep your eyes and ears open for Middle School youth meetings and activities. More information is coming on that!

Past Events

In November, the youth had the opportunity to gather together and make a few pies for the Thanksgiving Pie Fest as well as brainstorm ideas for upcoming service projects and events. We ended our afternoon by playing Apples to Apples.

For December, the youth gathered at the UNMC outdoor ice rink to skate together. There were limited falls, and everyone had a great time! Check out some of the pictures to see what went on!



IN OUR PRAYERS & LOVE NOTES

In Our Prayers

Adrienne (staff member/friend of Rose Roberts)
Karen
George Barry
Dick Bell
Marty Beutler (son of Gary and Connie Beutler)
Ruth Cooley
Treyson Cooper (student of Susan Lueders in
burn unit)
Jill Coster
Janet Duckworth (friend of Marilyn Thomsen)
Brian Flores (friend of Brenda Mac)
Claire Foral (friend of Dave and Lisa Rieff)
Patty George (friend of Dave and Lisa Rieff)
Keith Gillespie
Kaye Haar (friend of the Novaks)
Cheryl Jones (friend of Nancy Shinrock)
Gene and Dolores Jordan (uncle and aunt of
Paula Foster)
Jude Konvalina
Lisa Lueders (sister-in-law of Dave Lueders)
Jim Mahler (brother of Jane Hawkins)
Marj Mahler (mother of Jane Hawkins)
Ruby Mathis (aunt of Lynnette Nore)

Debbie Michalak (co-worker of Jackie Combes)
John Patrick Nicholson (friends of the Novaks)
Charlotte Peters (sister of Karen Mullen)
Luana Salerno (friend of Sandy Hall)
Phyllis Strasser
Karen Swanson (sister of Marilyn Thomsen)
Brenda Thom
Marilyn Thomsen
Ted Whitfield (former co-worker of Brian Shinrock)
Agnes Wilson

Children waiting to be adopted & those seeking to adopt
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



