



The Love Letter

Volume 41

January 2013

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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: Celebrating and sharing God's love in a welcoming community of faith, while serving others.

A Look Ahead

Welcome 2013! A new year is upon us, and many of us use this time to set new goals and make a fresh start at achieving them. Consider making it your goal to become more involved in the life of the church! This issue of *The Love Letter* provides a look at upcoming opportunities in which you can be involved at Lord of Love.

Help with Lord of Love's **CD ministry** by recording Sunday worship services and special events. These CDs are shared with those who cannot make it to church on Sunday mornings but still desire to worship with us (see page 4, Worship).

Attend a **special adult forum** on Sunday, January 6 to learn about **Together, Inc.**, donate gently used coats to this organization through the Youth Group's **coat drive**, and sign up to **volunteer at Together, Inc.** on Saturday, January 12 (see page 5, Nurture, and page 8, Resources).

Go **bowling for Jesus** and enjoy fellowship while helping the Women of Love raise funds for an upcoming mission trip (see page 5, Nurture).

Make plans to participate in Lord of Love's **Blood Drive** on February 10 (see page 6, Outreach). Sign-ups will begin in the middle of January.

Finally, consider being a voting member at the **2013 Nebraska Synod Assembly** this May/June (see page 9, Church Council). If interested, contact Pastor Brad or a council member to become a candidate for this important position at the February congregational meeting.



In This Issue

Pastor's Page	2	Church Council	9
Monthly Calendar	3	Women of Love	11
Worship	4	In Our Prayers	13
Nurture.....	5	Love Notes	13
Outreach.....	6	Mark Your Calendar	14
Resources	8		

Follow Jesus Closer by Pastor Brad

Happy New Year!

Each time we enter into a new year, we tend to set goals for ourselves. We make new commitments to family or our job, we promise to follow through on something that might make us healthier or more prosperous, or we commit to giving up one of our vices. Sometimes we succeed; other times we fail at keeping these commitments. But how often do we make resolutions about nurturing our faith in God?



Goals for the **NEW YEAR**

I recently saw a bumper sticker that read: “Are you following Jesus this closely?” Of course I had to get fairly close to be able to read it, so I guess I was following the other driver rather closely. So I had to ask myself, “Am I really following Jesus this closely?” It made me think: What does it mean to follow Jesus closer? And if I’m not, what can I do to follow Jesus closer?

After some reflection, to follow Jesus closer would mean to:

- Be mindful of what Jesus taught about caring for another person—and actually do it. (Matthew 25:31-40)
- Have a constant awareness of Jesus’ offering of forgiveness—and forgive others. (John 8:1-11)
- Remember Jesus’ dedication to prayer and the reading of Scripture—and take time in my day for intentional prayer and devotion. (Mark 1:35-39)
- Give thanks for what Jesus did for me through his death and resurrection—and show my gratitude toward Jesus’ gift by living a grateful life each day.

My 2013 resolution—“To follow Jesus closer”—is the best resolution for me to make.

My prayer is that as we journey together through this year, we are reminded of the blessings that Jesus brings to our lives and the privilege we have of sharing that Good News with others. And that by doing so, we will follow Jesus closely.

Blessings to you in this New Year!

Peace,
Pastor Brad



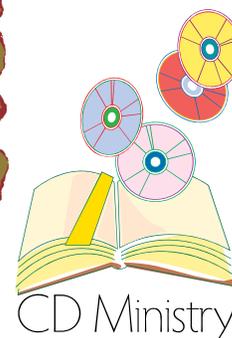
MONTHLY CALENDAR

January 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Church Office Closed for holiday	2 7:15pm Chancel Choir	3 9:30am Text Study at Guthrie's	4 7:30pm AA Meeting	5 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
6 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	7 6:00pm "Gather" Bible Study @ Hibachi Grill & Grand Buffet 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	8 12:00pm Lutheran Women of Omaha lunch	9 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Luther Kids 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Women's Ministry Team 6:00pm Brass 7:15pm Chancel Choir	10 9:30am Text Study at Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	11 7:30pm AA Meeting	12 "Together, Inc." volunteer day" 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 8:00am Worship Planning Mtg.
13 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 12:00pm "Bowling for Jesus" 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	14 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	15 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Church Council	16 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 5:30pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Mission Comte Mtg. 6:00pm Brass 7:15pm Chancel Choir	17 9:30am Text Study at Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	18 7:00pm Church Council Retreat 7:30pm AA Meeting	19 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 8:00am Church Council Retreat
20 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	21 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	22	23 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 5:30pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 7:15pm Chancel Choir	24 9:30am Text Study at Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	25 7:30pm AA Meeting	26 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 8:00am Pinewood Derby
27 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 1:00pm District 18 AA Mtg. 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	28 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	29	30 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Luther Kids 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 7:15pm Chancel Choir	31 9:30am Text Study at Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts		

WORSHIP

Recording Worship Services and Special Events

We are in need of help with recording our Sunday worship services and special events. We usually record either the 8:00 a.m. or the 10:30 a.m. worship service each Sunday depending on when the choir is singing or the bells or brass are playing. If we are able to get 4 to 6 people to volunteer, then we could have a regular schedule of volunteers. We are very grateful and appreciative for Karen Pickens, as she has been our "media recording specialist" for many years! She is recovering from surgery at this time, so we need help with this important ministry. If you are able to help, please contact Pat Brewer at jpbrewer123@cox.net or 402-496-4771, or Randi VenHuizen at randiv@cox.net or 402-216-3067. Training will be provided!



Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	January 6	January 13	January 20	January 27
Greeter(s)				
8:00 a.m.	Jesse and Pat Brewer	Jim and Jeri Morgan	Ed and Marjorie Keiser	Doug and Cathy Aden
10:30 a.m.	Roger and Angie Meyer	Nate and Brooke Penn	John and Caroline Tessin	Barb Haskins, Kathy Christiansen
Liturgist				
8:00 a.m.	Paul Christenson	Paul Murphy	Judy Egr	Paul Christenson
10:30 a.m.	Brian Fanders	Randi VenHuizen	Brian Fanders	Brad VenHuizen
Communion Servers				
8:00 a.m.			Egr family	
10:30 a.m.		Brad and Randi VenHuizen, Jane Hawkins	Yarger family	Nick Olson
Nursery Attendant(s)				
10:30 a.m.	Anne Yarger	Sarah Horan	Lisa Rieff	Ashley Meier
Altar Care				
8:00 a.m.	Vandeventer girls	Ed and Marjorie Keiser	Cathy Aden, Sue Dieter	Connie Walther, Lisa Meyer
10:30 a.m.	Brenda and Suzanne Mac	Rowen family	Brewer family	Karen Anderson, Mardi Fiske
Ushers				
8:00 a.m.	Paul Dieter, John Florea, Dennis Hindemith, Brian Walther			
10:30 a.m.	Brian and Deb Lund, John Edwards			

Together, Inc. at Adult Forum

Please plan to attend the adult forum on Sunday, January 6 at 9:15 a.m. The executive director of Together, Inc. will speak and tell us what Together is and what they do. Together, Inc. does so many wonderful things for those in need in our community, providing services to keep people from becoming homeless.



Junior Choir

Children who are in 2nd grade and up are invited to join Lord of Love's Junior Choir! Practice is on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 7:25 p.m. In January, there will be no Junior Choir practice on January 2, but the Junior Choir will meet on January 9, 16, 23, and 30.

The Junior Choir will sing during our worship services on occasion. If you have questions, please contact Jane Hawkins at 402-343-1680 (please leave a message).

Bowling for Jesus

Please join us for Bowling for Jesus! This family event, which is a combination of fellowship and fundraiser, will be held on Sunday, January 13, from 12:00 noon until 1:30 p.m. at Maplewood Lanes, 3030 N. 101st Street. The cost is \$10.00 per person and includes two games plus shoes.

To spice it up a bit, please bring extra \$\$ for the following contributions: 1 strike = 25 cents; 2 strikes in a row = 50 cents; 3 strikes in a row = \$1.00; making a 7/10 split = \$5 (or whatever makes you feel good).

Please sign up in the narthex, at which time you may prepay your \$10.00. Please have your money turned in before arriving at the bowling alley so as not to take time away from bowling. Beth Olson and Ruth Manning will gladly relieve you of your donation! Proceeds go to Lord of Love Women on a Mission fund.



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

OUTREACH

Lord of Love Blood Drive

Mark your calendars! The American Red Cross bloodmobile will be at Lord of Love on Sunday, February 10, 2013, for our annual blood drive. Blood can often be in short supply during the winter months, so please help support our community!



We will start signing up donors in the middle of January. We had such a tremendous turn-out last year that we are extending the time to allow more people to participate. If you have questions about your eligibility to donate please call 1-866-236-3276 or go to redcrossblood.org. Remember, blood cannot be manufactured—it comes from generous donors like you!

Mission Possible Update

Thanks to your generosity in special offering gifts and your commitment to give away 2.5% of Lord of Love's offering income to use as mission outreach funds, we have assisted ministries in the Omaha area, U.S., and beyond. Working with the Stewardship Team, we are supporting area organizations in giving of our time and dollars. The Mission Possible Team is meeting this month to plan for 2013. All input is welcome. Contact any of the Mission Possible Team: John Florea, Dave Hild, Brenda Mac, Paula Foster, Carol Novak, and Deb Lund.

Tanzanian Fabric, Fun, and Facts Workshop

The Tanzanian Fabric, Fun, and Facts Workshop will be held February 24-26 at the Carol Joy Holling Retreat Center near Ashland.



This year's feature project is a quilt or wall hanging made of variations of the X-block, large and small. A kit of six different 6-inch-wide strips of Tanzania Fabric with pattern will be available onsite for \$30. All fabrics have been washed and pressed. A plastic X-block ruler will be available along with many fabric options: commercial, hand-dyed, and batiks from East Africa. Cotton background fabrics will be on hand as well.

The retreat also will feature morning and evening devotions, food, and fun activities. Register online at www.caroljoyholling.org. Click the Events & Retreats button and choose "Tanzania Fabric, Fun & Facts."

Rebuild Joplin Mission Trip

On May 22, 2011, a multi-vortex EF-5 tornado ripped a 13-mile path of destruction through Joplin, Missouri, and its neighboring communities. The devastation left behind was impossible to imagine, affecting thousands of residents and taking 162 lives. While the storm hit well over a year ago, much work remains to getting the community fully back on its feet.



This year's Synod adult mission trip will take those willing to share their time, labor, and love to Joplin from February 16 through February 23, 2013. The group will volunteer through the organization of "Rebuild Joplin," which is currently focused on rebuilding permanent housing for homeowners and renters in Joplin. You can find more information about their efforts at www.rebuildjoplin.org.

Continued on the next page

Rebuild Joplin Mission Trip, continued

Participants will work to help rebuild homes in Joplin and worship with the people of Peace Lutheran Church, whose building was destroyed by the tornado. Although people with construction skills and experience are needed, those of us who are willing to try new things and learn new skills can contribute to the rebuild project as well. If you are not interested in helping with construction work, there will be other ways that you can serve.

Housing will be provided by Abundant Life Christian Center (abundantlifejoplin.org). Carpooling from Omaha will be available, or you may provide your own transportation.

A registration deposit of \$140 will cover housing and two meals a day at Abundant Life Christian Center. For more details or to register, download and complete a registration form and submit with a check for each participating individual to:

Nebraska Synod, ELCA
4980 S. 118th St., Suite D
Omaha, NE 68137

For more information, contact Connie Stover (308-440-4450 or conniestover@nebraskasynod.org) or Karen Pickering at the Synod office in Omaha (402-895-5311 or karenpickering@nebraskasynod.org).

Responding to Hurricane Sandy: A Letter from Bishop Mark Hanson

I recently traveled with church leaders to areas in New York and New Jersey that were impacted by Hurricane Sandy. I assured all those affected by the storms that they are not alone. We, as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), stand with them and will stay until the work is done. Together, we can achieve things on a scale and scope that we could never do alone.

Despite the hardship and difficulties people are still experiencing, we have witnessed incredible resiliency. As we stood in a congregation, still without power, we held candles and sang. I saw in those who sang around me the reflection of Jesus, the Light of the world, the one through whom God is making a way to us.

As we visited, they shared a recognition that the long road of recovery will depend on our continued prayers and support.

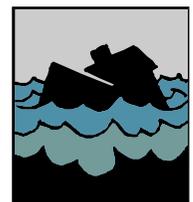
Thanks to your generosity in the weeks following this disaster, we have already responded in the Caribbean and in areas of the United States with food, water and shelter.

But your support is still needed.

Gifts to Hurricane Sandy will be used entirely—100 percent—to provide relief to areas most impacted. Your gift now will help:

- Address basic needs of families and individuals
- Build and reconstruct homes, communities, and congregations
- Coordinate volunteer efforts from people across the country
- Support case managers working directly with those who have lost everything

During this season of Advent, may your continued support be a light for all those rebuilding their lives in Hurricane Sandy's wake.



**Storm
Relief**
You Can Help!

Volunteer at Together, Inc. on January 12

The Stewardship Committee has lined up a volunteer opportunity at Together, Inc. on Saturday, January 12, as part of the 40 hours of volunteering for Lord of Love's 40th Anniversary. We could be sorting donated clothing or doing some other project depending on the number of people signed up or Together's needs at the time. Our congregation also is supporting Together with our Mission Project dollars in the final quarter of 2012. Please see the sign-up sheet on the pillar in the narthex, talk to Rex Quadhamer or Pastor Brad, or call Mary Lou in the church office. We will meet at the church by 9:30 a.m. to car pool, or you can drive yourself to 1616 Cass Street, where Together is located.



Together, Inc. is a first stop for people in need. They provide education, guidance, and services such as food, clothing, living essentials, and financial assistance to prevent people from becoming homeless. They provided nearly 45,000 services last year by bringing together our community to assist people in need with hope, dignity, and compassion.

Youth Group Coat Drive for Together, Inc.

In conjunction with Lord of Love's service opportunity to work with Together Inc., the high school youth are organizing a coat drive to collect gently used coats for this organization. You can donate coats for adults, teens, and children by placing them in the box in the Narthex by the Youth Bulletin Board. The coats will be taken to Together, Inc. on January 12.



Where Does the Money We Give to the Church Go? by Rex Quadhamer

I don't know why I volunteered to write on this subject. There are so many places our monies go that it's almost impossible to write a short article on the subject, let alone one you'd want to read.



Most of the money we give to the church goes to provide a setting where we can worship and praise our God and learn to live a life of faith. There may not be a more important place you can put your money as this is the foundation of our lives. Also, the nurturing we receive and give to others builds lives of faith. The church building, land, paid staff, and all sorts of items, such as hymnals, bulletins, and Sunday school supplies, are part of this setting.

The other part of where the money goes is where we live out our lives of faith by serving others. We give 10% to the Nebraska Synod, which distributes the money where it is needed. Our congregation distributes 2% to places like Lutheran Family Services, Habitat for Humanity, Ngaruma Parish, ELCA disaster relief, Heartland Food Bank, Sienna/Francis House, and Together, Inc. In addition, we gave money to Project Hope and Table Grace Café along with Habitat for Humanity for our 40th Anniversary.

Continued on the next page

RESOURCES

Where Does the Money We Give to the Church Go?, continued

In addition, 1% of our monies went to the Nebraska Synod's Feed the Roots campaign for youth and leadership. Monies from Lent and Advent are designated each year to provide help for some organization or cause.

The Endowment and Memorial funds also provide monies to help in worship and in service or mission. The bells for the Bell Choir were purchased with these funds, along with new chairs we are buying, a heart defibrillator in the narthex, and probably many items I can't think of.

Deuteronomy 15:10 *Give generously to God and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.*

CHURCH COUNCIL

Nebraska Synod Voting Member Nominations



Interested in representing Lord of Love at the 2013 Nebraska Synod Assembly? It provides a great opportunity to find out more about what the Nebraska Synod is doing and to interact with fellow ELCA Lutherans throughout the state. The 2013 Nebraska Synod Assembly will be held in Kearney from Friday, May 31, through Sunday, June 2. The congregation pays for room, meals, and mileage. Voting members will need to commit to attending the entire assembly and providing a written report to the congregation in the July issue of *The Love Letter*.

Two voting members from Lord of Love are elected each year at the February annual congregational meeting. This year, we would like to present a slate of candidates for consideration. Additional candidates could still be nominated from the floor. The intent of preparing the slate of candidates is to identify people who have expressed an interest in attending the assembly, provide the opportunity to a varied set of members, and ensure that we elect someone who is able to attend.

If you have an interest in being a Nebraska Synod voting member for Lord of Love and would like to be nominated, please contact Pastor Brad or one of the council members. Additional information may be requested from you as we work to prepare the candidate list.

2013 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: Mike Klos, Karen Anderson

Resources: Rex Quadhamer, Paul Concannon

Worship: Randi VenHuizen, Pat Brewer



CHURCH COUNCIL

From the Council President – January 2013 by Brian Lund, Council President

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NRSV) *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.*



At the beginning of Advent, Deb and I went to Sioux Falls to a meeting at Augustana College. We attended chapel that day. Each Friday, chapel features a message delivered by an Augustana senior. This day's Advent message was on the anticipation of Christ's birth and living life on the edge. Now I will not claim to remember much of what was said, but this did get me thinking.

We all may interpret "living life on the edge" in a variety of ways. It could mean being close to financial ruin or independence. It may imply that we may enjoy taking chances in a life filled with action and drama, or we hang on the fringes and observe others who live more recklessly than we do. It can also mean that even though we live in a diverse world, we stick with things and people that are familiar, comfortable, or similar to us. I'm sure you may have other ideas about this concept of "life on the edge".

We live a Christian life of faith "on the edge" when we actively respond to God's grace by sharing His love with others. As a new year begins, let us consider some ways we can do that. We can push ourselves away from our comfortable middle ground into the sometime uneasiness of doing something new. We can take the initiative to get to know someone new within our congregation, participate in Christian education (even as a leader), or become more involved in support of a ministry program. It may include recognizing a need and volunteering to fill it rather than waiting to be asked. We can become more aware of a world in need and respond by using God's gifts for the support and benefit of others. The key is that we don't just claim to be Christians, but we actively show our Christian faith by engaging in service for others.

Martin Luther – *No one can be good and do good unless God's grace first makes him good; and no one becomes good by works, but good works are done by him who is good. Just as the fruits do not make the tree, but the tree bears the fruit.... Therefore all works, no matter how good they are and how pretty they look, are in vain if they do not flow from grace.*

Lord of Love is blessed to have so many wonderful members who work behind the scenes each month in support of our mission, education, and worship activities. Let us give thanks to all of those who live lives filled and empowered by God's grace.

Thank you for helping support the ministry programs of Lord of Love. The success of our ministries is through the efforts of many faith-filled members who give of their time, treasures, and talents. Please take time to thank all those who help to make our ministries a success.

Please continue to pray for the ELCA, Bishop Hansen, the Nebraska Synod, Bishop Brian Maas, Pastor Brad, our congregation, and our ministry together.

Blessings in faith and service,
Brian Lund

WOMEN OF LOVE

Ladies Soup Lunch



The annual Ladies Soup Lunch will be a celebration of the 12th Day of Christmas this year. Meet at the home of Amy Kragnes, 309 S. 155th Avenue, at noon on Saturday, January 5. A sign-up sheet will be at the Information Center; please sign up so Amy knows how many kinds of soup to make.

Lutheran Women of Omaha

Lutheran Women of Omaha will hold its monthly luncheon at Lord of Love on Tuesday, January 8. If you can help in the kitchen that day, please contact Ruth Manning at 402-451-0221 or cranecoffeekick@gmail.com.

Winter Retreat

The Nebraska Women of the ELCA is holding the annual winter retreat on Saturday, January 19. Come and join "A Joyous Celebration" at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Grand Island. Jenny Herrick, motivational speaker, humorist, and author, will be the main speaker. Bishop Maas will be present, and entertainment will be provided by The Bottle Band from Hildreth, Nebraska. Offering will be received with half going to Lutheran Family Services and half to Mosaic. The registration deadline is January 9 (\$18), and forms are available at the Information Center in the Narthex.

Secret Angels



You are invited to participate in the Secret Angel program in 2013. Forms are available at the Information Center through January. Secret Angels will be assigned in time to remember your new angel on Valentine's Day.

What do secret angels do? The most important thing is to pray regularly for your angel. Also, a note of encouragement, greeting cards, and perhaps a token gift on special occasions are a good way to let your secret angel she's in your thoughts and prayers.

Gather Bible Study

Session 5 of the Bible study focuses on the theme "Gathered for Rest and Community: Getting Away," based on Mark 6:30-31: *For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat.*

You are invited to attend one of two study groups. The Wednesday evening group will meet on January 2 at 6:00 p.m. in the Mary Room. The Monday evening group has been looking for a new venue and will meet this month at the Hibachi Grill & Grand Buffet, 3425 Oakview Drive, on January 7 at 6:00 p.m.

Ladies Coffee Fellowship

New Year's Resolution: I will try to join the Lord's Laughing Ladies at some time for coffee at Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass Streets.

The first dates for coffee fellowship in the new year are January 4 and 18 at 8:00 a.m.



Women's Ministry Team

The Women's Ministry Team meets on Wednesday, January 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the Mary Room. All women are invited to attend.

WOMEN OF LOVE

Ninth Triennial Gathering

It's not too early to start planning to attend the Ninth Triennial Gathering of Women of the ELCA from July 24-27 in Charlotte, NC. The theme is "Of Many Generations," which is an encouragement for us to plan to attend with daughters, granddaughters, sisters, and friends.

Nancy Johnson, our Nebraska triennial coordinator, will have bookmarks, stickers, flyers, and business cards available at the winter retreat in Grand Island. Also, continue to watch www.womenoftheelca.org for breaking information on the Triennial.



Thank You!

Many thanks to those who participated in any way in the Advent by Candlelight program. The tables were beautiful, Matt and Simone Weber shared a wonderful program with us, and the desserts Matt prepared were awesome! Thanks to your generosity, we were able to make a donation of \$493 to the ministry at Table Grace Café.



Also thanks to all who provided cookies and helped package up the "goodie tins" for our elderly, shut-ins, and those with special needs. We know the recipients love to get them. Also thanks to Val Florea for the yummy Danishes we rewarded our work with.

Twenty-one blankets were completed that same day for Project Linus. Thanks to Jackie Combes for arranging this worthwhile project. It was fun to look over the blankets in the Narthex the next Sunday.

Dates to Remember

January

2	6:00 p.m.	<i>Gather</i> Bible Study, Mary Room
4	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77 th and Cass
5	12:00 p.m.	Ladies Soup Lunch, Home of Amy Kragne
7	6:00 p.m.	<i>Gather</i> Bible Study, Hibachi Grill & Grand Buffet
8	11:30 a.m.	Lutheran Women of Omaha at Lord of Love
9	6:00 p.m.	Ministry Team Meeting, Mary Room
13	12:00 p.m.	Bowling for Jesus, Maplewood Lanes
15	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
18	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77 th and Cass
19		NSWO Winter Retreat, Grand Island



Women of the ELCA

Looking Forward

March 9, 2013	Metro East Spring Gathering, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Millard
April 5-6, 2013	Annual Women's Retreat at St. Benedict's, Schuyler
September 20-22, 2013	NSWO Convention, Holiday Inn, Kearney
July 24-27, 2014	Ninth Triennial Gathering of the Women of the ELCA, Charlotte, NC

IN OUR PRAYERS & LOVE NOTES

In Our Prayers

Diana Baker (friend of the Thoms)
Chris Beckman (friend of Jane Gehringer)
Dick Bell
Mary Boyd
James Cantrell (uncle of Gwen Edwards)
Ann Christiansen
Claire Foral (friend of Dave and Lisa Rieff)
Nick Gehrig (grandson of the Schuchards)
Keith Gillespie
Mike Gillotte (neighbor of Bill and Karen Pickens)
Joei Harris (friend of Gwen Edwards)
Cathy Johnson (friend of Marilyn Thomsen)
Cheryl Jones (friend of Nancy Shinrock)
Dolores Jordan (aunt of Paula Foster)
Jude Konvalina
Jane Loquist (sister-in-law of Kristi Omar)
Donna Lueders (mother of Dave Lueders)
Lisa Lueders (sister-in-law of Dave Lueders)
Brenda Mac
Jim Mahler (brother of Jane Hawkins)
Marj Mahler (mother of Jane Hawkins)
Debbie Michalak (co-worker of Jackie Combes)
Ardis Mickelson (mother of Shawn Lorenzen and Heather VanArsdale)
Brenda Nobles (friend of Gwen Edwards)
Karen Pickens

David Pippin (nephew of Lynda McGraw)
Judy Quest (friend of Jane Gehringer)
Isaac Schroeder (infant son of Clay and Kelly)
Ron Stoffers (friend of the Millers)
Ron and Brenda Thom
Marilyn Thomsen
Ted Whitfield (former co-worker of Brian Shinrock)
Jeff Wise (friend of the Thoms)

Those deployed around the world:
Kelvin
Veronica Barnes and her fiancé Jake Harmon
Andrew Briggs
Terry Duke
Zach Gehrig
Jesse Kinney
Nash Oltman

Children waiting to be adopted & those seeking to adopt
Men's servant ministry
Stephen Ministers and their care receivers
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

Thanks to all our friends at Lord of Love for the cards, words of support, and visits during my hospitalization and rehab. It was greatly appreciated! Ann is doing much better at home and plans to continue to do so! Thanks again!

Ann & Kathy Christiansen



Return Service Requested

Mission Statement: Celebrating and sharing God’s love in a welcoming community of faith, while serving others.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

This Month

- January 1 Church Office Closed
- January 5 Ladies Soup Lunch
- January 6 Together, Inc. at Adult Forum
- January 8 Lutheran Women of Omaha luncheon at Lord of Love
- January 12 Volunteering at Together, Inc.
- January 13 Bowling for Jesus
- January 18-19 Church Council Retreat

Upcoming Events

- February 10 American Red Cross Blood Drive
- May 31-June 2 2013 Nebraska Synod Assembly in Kearney



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.