



# The Love Letter

Volume 40

September 2012

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Heidi Meyer

## 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 to the 2012-2013 program year! We have a lot of exciting things happening as we look forward to fall. See how you can be involved throughout this issue of *The Love Letter*.

We officially kick off the new program year on September 9, Kickoff Sunday! Our **regular worship schedule** will resume, with worship at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. (see page 4, Worship). Between worship services, you can choose to enjoy **donuts, coffee, and fellowship**, or to participate in a **Sunday school** class (see page 5, Nurture). Following the 10:30 a.m. worship service on September 9, everyone is invited to our annual **congregation potluck luncheon** (see page 5, Nurture)!

The following weekend is also a busy one. On Saturday, September 15, Women of Love will host the **Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization (NSWO) Metro East Autumn Renewal** at Lord of Love. Then on Sunday, September 16, we celebrate **Confirmation** (see page 5, Nurture).

If you are interested in volunteering in the life of our congregation, we have a job for you! The Worship committee is looking for volunteers for **Altar Care, Greeters, and Ushers** (see page 4, Worship). In addition, the Nurture committee is looking for **substitute teachers** for Sunday school as well as a person to **"team teach" 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade** (see page 5, Nurture).

Finally, in October, the **Mission Possible Team** will meet to determine where to designate our congregational mission monies for 2013. If you have suggestions, please share your input with a member of the Mission Possible Team (see page 8, Outreach).

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### People Watching by Pastor Brad

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One of my favorite past times is “people watching.” I enjoy observing interactions between family members, interesting fashion statements being made by passersby, or simply just wondering what the person may be doing at this point in their life.

While Heidi and I were on vacation, I had the opportunity to watch people in airports, on public transportation, on a cruise ship (sorry – just had to mention that!), and shopping in stores.

It was on our flight home that we noticed three women traveling together, for business or pleasure we are not sure. As soon as the announcement was made that the flight was ready to board, they were among the first to launch themselves toward the gangway, like the plane was going to take off without them. Even though their specific group number hadn't been called, they stood in the way of others trying to board the plane in an orderly manner.

Due to the small size of the plane, many of the bags had to be checked at the bottom of the gangway and then collected when we disembarked. After the flight, a number of us were standing in line up the gangway to collect our suitcases. This same group of women nudged themselves ahead of the others to grab their luggage as soon as it appeared, ignoring the line of people behind them.

I didn't recognize these women as Hollywood movie stars with the paparazzi scrambling about, nor foreign dignitaries, or any other important figure that felt entitled to go to the head of the line. They simply ignored the rest of us humble folks, grabbed their bags, and without a parting royal wave in our direction, took off up the gangway.

I know that all of us, at one time or another, get wrapped up in our own world or believe that the world revolves around us. But what is it that puts us in such a rush that we don't pay attention to those around us?

I'm pretty sure that Jesus was a “people watcher,” too. He observed those around him. He observed enough human behavior to tell a parable in Luke 14:7-11 about not being so quick to take the place of honor at the banquet table, but rather wait to be asked to come forward. Jesus calls us to humble ourselves. “Those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted” (Luke 14:11). He realized the importance of responding to others needs before our own.

Holy Scriptures remind us that as God's people, it is our responsibility to take care of those around us and to model lives of service. What is required of us as God's people? “He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to live kindness, and to walk humbly with our God” (Micah 6:8).

As we jump back into the rush of our Fall schedules, and even during the slow times, let's not forget to look around us to see where there are those in need or those whom we can show a little kindness. Opportunities are there when we can show a little humbleness by allowing someone else's need to come before our own.

God grant us all the knowledge and wisdom to live humbly.

Peace,  
Pastor Brad



# MONTHLY CALENDAR

September 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
<b>2</b> 9:00am Worship & Communion	<b>3</b> Office Closed for Labor Day 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	<b>4</b> 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Vision & Coordination	<b>5</b> 5:00pm 9th grade Confirmands Mtg. 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Resources 6:00pm "Gather" Bible Study 7:15pm Chancel Choir	<b>6</b> 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>7</b> 7:30pm AA	<b>8</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
<b>9</b> Kick-Off Sunday 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 11:30am Potluck Lunch 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 5:00pm 9th grade Confirmands Mtg. 6:00pm Brass 7:15pm Chancel Choir	<b>13</b> 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>14</b> 8:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 7:30pm AA	<b>15</b> Women of Love Autumn Renewal 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
<b>16</b> 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Confirmation Worship & Communion 4:00pm Sunnyslope Pool Spaghetti Dinner 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>17</b> 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	<b>18</b> 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Church Council	<b>19</b> 5:00pm Confirmation instruction begins 5:30pm Luther Kids 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 7:15pm Chancel Choir	<b>20</b> 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>21</b> 7:30pm AA	<b>22</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
<b>23</b> 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>24</b> 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 5:30pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 7:15pm Chancel Choir	<b>27</b> 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>28</b> 8:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 5:30pm Lange/Drakulich Wedding Rehearsal 7:30pm AA	<b>29</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 8:00am Worship Planning 4:00pm Lange/Drakulich Wedding
<b>30</b> 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 1:00pm District 18 AA 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal						

# WORSHIP

## Regular Worship Schedule Resumes



Our regular worship schedule resumes on Kickoff Sunday, September 9. Worship services will be at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m., with Sunday School for all ages at 9:15 a.m. Coffee and donuts are available between worship services for a free-will offering. Please join us for worship, education, and fellowship on Sunday mornings!

Confirmation will be on Sunday, September 16, at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. For additional information, see the article titled "2012 Confirmands" on page 5, Nurture.

## Worship Servants Needed

We are in need of volunteers for Altar Care, Greeters, and Ushers. If you are interested, please contact Randi VeHuizen at 402-216-3067 or Pat Brewer at 402-496-4771.

## Installation of Our New Synod Bishop

The installation of the Rev. Brian Maas as the Bishop of the Nebraska Synod, ELCA is scheduled for Saturday, September 22 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Grand Island (1515 S. Harrison St.). A nursery will be available during the worship service. A reception will immediately follow the service. All are welcome!

### Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	September 2	September 9	September 16	September 23	September 30
<b>Greeter(s)</b>					
8:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m. Dave and Susan Lueders	Doug and Cathy Aden	Dave and Judy Egr	Josh and Carissa Combes	John and Val Florea
10:30 a.m.		Roger and Angie Meyer	Kathy Christiansen, Lynda McGraw	Brian and Nancy Shinrock	Barb Haskins, Pauline Schaffer
<b>Liturgist</b>					
8:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m.	Ken Garder	Judy Egr	Brian Lund	
10:30 a.m.	Claudia Rowen	Shawn Lorenzen	Brad VenHuizen	Ashley Vandeventer	Karen Armitage
<b>Communion Servers</b>					
8:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m.	Garder family	Egr family	Combes family	
10:30 a.m.	Rowen family	Shawn and family	Brewer family	Yarger family	Armitage family
<b>Nursery Attendant(s)</b>					
10:30 a.m.	9:00 – Anne Yarger	Sarah Horan	Lisa Rieff	Ashley Meier	Pat Brewer
<b>Altar Care</b>					
8:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m. Diana Haye, Marcia Roads	Doug and Rose Roberts	Vandeventer girls	Ed and Marjorie Keiser	Cathy Aden, Sue Dieter
10:30 a.m.		Debra Gillespie, Karen Armitage	Brenda and Suzanne Mac	Rowen family	Brewer family
<b>Ushers</b>					
8:00 a.m.	Paul Dieter, John Florea, Dennis Hindemith, Brian Walther				
10:30 a.m.	Brian and Deb Lund, John Edwards				

## Sunday School Begins September 9

Sunday, September 9 is Kickoff Sunday, when Sunday School will officially start for the 2012-2013 program year. Anyone who would like to be a substitute teacher for all grades would be more than welcome. There is also an opportunity for a person to “team teach” 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Please contact Lori Vanderventer, Paula Foster, or Claudia Rowen if you have an interest in serving in this capacity.



## Donuts and Coffee

This year, there will be donuts, cookies, and mini muffins to eat during the Sunday School hour. The food will be ready to pick up at Hy-Vee at 108<sup>th</sup> and Fort Streets by 7:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Volunteers just need to sign the pink sheet at Hy-Vee and then place it in the money can on the donut table at church. We also will need someone to volunteer to clean up the coffee cups and coffee pots. This is as important as picking up the donuts. If you do not know how to run the dishwasher, please do not let this stop you from volunteering to clean up! Lessons will be given free of charge!

## Congregational Potluck

On Kickoff Sunday, the congregation will have a potluck luncheon following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Ruth Manning will be in charge of the potluck. Please bring 2 dishes to share with your Lord of Love family (main dish, salad, side dish, or dessert). Coffee, lemonade, and water will be provided. See Ruth if you have any questions.

## 2012 Confirmands

The following young people will be confirmed on Sunday, September 16 at the 10:30 a.m. worship service:



Christopher Boarts

Parents: Lynette Nore and David Boarts

Kyle Christensen

Parents: Rolie and Heather Christensen

Katie Messerschmidt

Parents: Rett and Judy Messerschmidt

Kim Schuchard

Parents: Debra Schuchard and LeRoy Schuchard

Louis Ulferts

Parents: Arnold and Sarah Ulferts

Haley Yarger

Parent: Anne Yarger

## 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 (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades) @ LOL Abraham Room  
6:00 p.m. Luther Kids (1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> 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

## Fall Festival Cancelled

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It has been an incredibly busy year at Lord of Love involving many in the congregation. Because we discourage burn-out, we decided to take a break from the Fall Festival dinner and charity fund-raiser this year. We drew on your talents and work efforts for 3 extra events: the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, producing (and selling) our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary cookbook, and hosting the eastern NSWO Autumn Renewal this month. We still have 4 events in the works: the women's retreat in October, the road trip to Sioux Falls for a church bazaar with a Norwegian flavor, Advent by Candlelight, and preparation of "goodie containers" for elderly, shut-ins, and those with special needs. Whew!

We are not abandoning the Fall Festival. We look forward to the 2013 event with renewed enthusiasm. A break will give us an opportunity to recruit new planning team members, and in general, to improve this event that has been so popular every year.

## A Letter from Bishop David deFreese

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Dear Nebraska Synod church family,  
THANK YOU!

Thank you for responding to God's grace and calling...

You and I have been lavished with unconditional love...mercy beyond our deserving and abundant gifts profusely received. Awakened to the goodness of God, we are grateful and we respond with our lives lived sharing that love.

Thank you for making a difference!

Because we thankfully recognize God's giving and our receiving, we serve. We live out being "created in the image of God" by striving to care for and help others. The multitude and myriads of our Nebraska Synod efforts impact lives with Jesus' compassionate touch. We do mission...and it matters!

Thank you for struggling against the sin of selfishness by giving of yourselves.

Jesus said: "Take up your cross and follow me" and you have shared God's gifts of time, talent and treasure for the sake of others.

Thank you for the spirit in which things are done in the Nebraska Synod.

The camaraderie...the fun...the heart...the gratitude.

Thank you for the right balance of Christian living...

We take others and their needs very seriously, while wisely not taking ourselves too seriously...simple, humble children of God.

Thank you to all the steady, faithful folks in each mission center/congregation who work conscientiously behind the scenes.

You are needed, even if you don't feel noticed. You are partners with God!

Thank you for being "grace-bearing" people in a harsh and judgmental world.

For giving the benefit of the doubt to your neighbor's actions...for recognizing our own brokenness and our shared hunger for acceptance and kindness...for truly participating in Gospel "Good News."

Thank you for letting Jesus love you and for loving Jesus. Thank you for enriching my life...

Honoring me by sharing your life with me...your support and encouragement have bolstered every effort to serve...for your friendship.

Thank you for the honor and privilege of being your pastor!

*"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:3-6)*



Reprinted from <http://www.wedominion.org/reflections/a-letter-from-bishop-david-defreese/>.

## ELCA Celebrates 25 Years in 2013

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*Our presiding bishop, Mark Hanson, shares the following message regarding the ELCA's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, which we will celebrate in 2013.*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We are a church that is deeply rooted and always being made new. As we gather for worship this morning, may the Holy Spirit fill and guide us, so that we may be a church that is both resilient and always reforming.

**In less than a year, we will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the ELCA.** As we celebrate, we look back at the people and events that have shaped us as a church.

Join us in celebrating the stories that have made us vibrant and distinctive yet brought us together as nearly 10,000 congregations, 65 synods and numerous churchwide ministries freed in Christ to love and serve neighbors in our own communities and around the world.

What God has done through us is indeed worth celebrating. In 25 years, we have:

- Started 435 new congregations
- Ordained nearly 8,000 pastors
- Sent more than 2,000 missionaries to serve around the world
- Contributed more than \$350 million toward the alleviation of hunger and poverty

**The year of our 25th anniversary begins Jan. 1, 2013, with the theme “Always being made new.”** I invite you to join me in celebrating these 25 years together in Christ. Visit [www.ELCA.org/25years](http://www.ELCA.org/25years) for more information, and begin planning ways to bring this celebration to your congregation.

I am grateful for your leadership, support and prayers in making the work of this church possible.

In God's grace,



The Rev. Mark S. Hanson  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



P.S. In the coming months, please continue to visit [www.ELCA.org/25years](http://www.ELCA.org/25years) for resources to help you celebrate this important milestone in your own congregation and community.

### Lord of Love Community Garden

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Many pounds of fresh produce have been delivered weekly to the Lutheran pantries at Project Hope and First Lutheran Church, where the recipients are most appreciative. Most of the vegetables have been very abundant. We expect to harvest squash, potatoes, carrots, tomatoes, and peppers for some time yet. Thanks so much to everyone who assisted in any way with the Community Garden this current season.



### Mission Possible Update

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In addition to hundreds of pounds of fresh produce going to feed the hungry in the Omaha area, we have done well to serve others via special offerings and our congregational mission project funds this year. Here is a summary of activity to date:

- \$8,419 was given to Lutheran Family Services from previous Advent and Christmas offerings, and from the Diaper Derby Drive in February.
- Lenten and Easter offerings provided \$6,000 to be given for Pastor Anna's School Roof in Tanzania.
- Funds raised from Summer Breakfasts went to the Youth Fund, in part to assist with expenses for the recent National Youth Gathering.
- \$1,000 of our current congregational mission project funds will go to the local Habitat for Humanity ELF Coalition.
- \$1,500 has been given to Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries for Camp Carol Joy Holling's new Western Town Project at Angel Gulch.
- Special offerings for Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas will go to the Lutheran Family Services "At Ease" program. The LFS program provides trauma treatment and therapeutic support for active military, veterans, and their loved ones.
- \$500 will be designated for Youth Mission trips.

Thank you so much for giving so generously to these most worthy projects. The Mission Possible Team is meeting in October to determine where to designate the remaining congregational mission monies for 2013. Your input and suggestions are always welcome!

### Meet Our Habitat Homeowners – The Johnson Family

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This summer, many of us have worked on the Habitat for Humanity ELF Coalition Rehab House. Now we have the opportunity to find out who will be living in that house—Vaughan Johnson and his family!

Vaughan's cousin told him about Omaha's Habitat for Humanity program and recommended that he apply. Vaughan began working to improve his credit rating while earning Sweat Equity hours, and says that the budgeting class was the most beneficial because it taught him ways to be successful and motivated him to become the best homeowner he can be. In addition, Vaughan's experience as an engineer at a major hotel chain has provided him with a good foundation for working construction on his house.

Vaughan is a strong advocate for community-building, and explains that Sweat Equity has given him the chance to meet families from diverse backgrounds. "It is an overall feeling of joy to work together to give your family a decent place to live. I know that our new home will provide closeness for my family to intermingle and become as close as possible on birthdays, holidays, and other special occasions."





### Kasworm, Alegent Health Deliver in Tanzania

Reprinted from ELCA Living Lutheran

<http://www.livinglutheran.com/seeds/kasworm-alegent-health-deliver-in-tanzania.html>

When Bob Kasworm was approached by his employer, Alegent Health, to investigate whether it made sense for their hospital system to get involved in Tanzania, he thought it would be a three-week investigation, easily summed up in a tidy report. Now Bob lives in the village of Machame, high up on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro, where he has been since 2004.

Bob, a member of ELCA congregation Lord of Love Lutheran Church, Omaha, Neb., first traveled to Tanzania on a companion synod trip hosted by the Nebraska Synod in 2001.

“We (Alegent Health) had been approached by Martin Russell, assistant to Bishop De Freese of the Nebraska Synod. They were developing a sister church or companion synod relationship with the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania,” explains Bob.

The Tanzanians had asked for assistance from an American partner to work with their three hospitals, 24 dispensaries, public health program and more, explains Bob. With a background in both medical technology and business, Bob was a logical choice to evaluate the possibilities.

After the three-week trip, Bob returned to the U.S. and wrote his report, but then he went one step further and spearheaded the Alegent Health efforts in Tanzania. Between 2001 and 2004 he returned to Africa for more than a dozen short visits, while coordinating the building of the relationship and taking on various health-related projects.

When greater support and resources became available from Alegent, he reversed the situation by relocating to Tanzania, returning home two or three times a year for brief visits.

Alegent Health is a faith-based health system based in Omaha. It was formed more than 10 years ago and is an equal partnership of two sponsors — Catholic Health Initiatives and Immanuel Health Systems (which is sponsored by the Nebraska Synod of the ELCA).

One project Bob worked on recently was the new Orthopedic Surgery Center at Machame Lutheran Hospital. It took several years of building, planning, collecting equipment and innumerable meetings before the center was dedicated in August 2007. The guest of honor was the president of Tanzania, Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete.



*Dr. Meyer and Dr. Lyimo insert an artificial hip at the Machame orthopedic surgical theater.  
Photo: Bob Kasworm*

*Continued on the next page*

### Kasworm, Alegent Health Deliver in Tanzania, continued

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This orthopedic center was created to increase surgical capacity for the area, with modern equipment and techniques. There are many health needs in Tanzania, but Alegent-Health-Tanzania found this project attractive because orthopedic surgery can often reduce or eliminate pain, enable productive activity and remove social stigma.

Another project Bob developed through a partnership with the Nebraska Synod and Alegent Health is "Face of UKIMWI (AIDS)." Many people in the U.S. have heard stories of AIDS in Africa. This video helps put a face on the statistics by introducing viewers to people who struggle daily with HIV and AIDS.

Single copies of the "Face of UKIMWI" are available by contacting Karen Pickering in the Nebraska Synod office at 402-896-5311, ext. 1000.

You can keep up with the life of Bob by visiting his page at the Lord of Love Lutheran Church Web site. There you can find a series of postings and pictures from the last several years. Bob claims, "It might help you figure me out a bit."

### 100 Wells Challenge: We Did It!

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This year, young people of the ELCA set out to raise \$250,000 to support the water projects of ELCA World Hunger where they are needed most. Thanks to the generosity of youth across the nation, more than \$400,000 has been received in support of this effort to date. See [www.ELCA.org/100wells](http://www.ELCA.org/100wells) and be sure to click the link on the left to learn about the 100 Wells Tour concerts with AGAPE\*, Rachel Kurtz, and Lost and Found.

### Endowment Committee is Looking at Needs Again

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The Endowment Committee is again looking for special needs and missions that need funding. **Applications will be taken until the stroke of midnight on September 30.** The Endowment Committee helps fund special missions and projects, and gives one-time awards for good causes. It does not help with the general operating budget items of the church. To support these special missions, apply for funds by completing an application obtained from the church office and then returning it to the Endowment Committee.



In the past year, the Endowment Committee has awarded \$1,140 for three scholarships to the Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, \$500 to replace the roof on the Education wing of the Vocational School at Pastor Anna's Church, and \$1,000 to the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

Furthermore, the Endowment Committee needs additional funding so that more can be done. Remembering the Lord of Love Endowment Fund in your estate plan is an easy way to supplement the fund and assure that your fruits on earth are extended beyond your lifetime. Lord of Love will take contributions to the Endowment Fund at any time. Simply put a check in the collection plate stipulating that the amount goes to the Endowment Fund; please make it a check solely for the Endowment Fund.

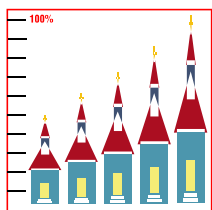
## RESOURCES

### Stewardship All Year Long: Tending to/Taking Care by Paul Kroll

The stewardship phrase for this month is "Tending to/Taking care." If we look at Genesis 4:9, it says: "Then the Lord said to Cain, 'Where is your brother Abel?' 'I don't know,' he replied. 'Am I my brother's keeper?'"

If Cain had asked me that question, I would have said "You betch'a you are!" This question comes from the first book of the Bible. It appears that the whole Bible then proceeds to answer this question. Our responsibilities to each other go beyond a minimum effort as described by law, on to a higher level as described by Jesus.

### Capital Campaign Report by Doug Aden



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

As of August 5, 2012, the Capital Campaign has received \$63,867.00. \$8,355.00 of pledges are still outstanding. If all are given, \$72,222.00 will be given to the campaign.

Just a reminder that all pledges are due December 31, 2012. I am not planning on sending reminders on unpaid pledges. The dollars that you have contributed appear on your Statement of Giving. If you have a question about that amount or on the remaining amount of your pledge, please contact Doug Aden.

## COUNCIL REPORT

### Our Giving Status by Barb Haskins, Council Treasurer

General Fund financial information for July 2012 is as follows:

- Income: \$26,895.70
- Expenses: \$22,361.52

General Fund financial information for the year to date (through July 31, 2012) is as follows:

- Income: \$172,801.02
- Expenses: \$167,583.88

Thank you for your faithfulness!!



### 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 – September 2012 by Brian Lund, Council President

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV) *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

This August, Deb and I traveled to South Dakota and Minnesota with my sister Chris for a long weekend. During that trip, we visited at Deb's parents at the farm just outside of our hometown. Then we went to my other sister's home near New London, MN. We enjoyed a day of good food, great conversation, and being outdoors in some delightfully cool weather. On Sunday, we all traveled together to a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday/ 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary party for my mom's brother and his wife. It was wonderful to visit with the uncles and aunts and the cousins I spent so much time with in my youth. I was reminded of the many blessings I enjoyed growing up in an extended family where mistakes were always forgiven (at least eventually), every kid knew that they were loved and accepted, and we were nurtured in our faith by living examples of Christ's love for others.



I think of the members of Lord of Love as my extended family. We gather together each week to praise God through worship and to engage in fellowship with each other. Together we confess our sins and receive forgiveness, always. We learn of the needs of others in our church family and beyond, and we respond in Christian love with various types of support: our time, our talents and abilities, and our financial resources. We are blessed to have many members who live out their faith in service to others.

I sure hope that each of our members and others that come as visitors or to join us in worship feel that they are accepted at Lord of Love. We show acceptance by greeting each other with a welcoming smile and word of encouragement. We accept others when we take the time to listen. Sharing words of concern, comfort, and congratulations help bind us together as the church.

Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV) *Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth... But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

**Thank You** for being members or friends of Lord of Love. Our ministry is enriched because of you. Your financial support and sharing of your time and abilities makes our ministries possible. I encourage you to use your passion and to get involved in one of the ministries of Lord of Love. Your regular attendance at worship is a great start.

Please continue to pray for Pastor Brad and his ministry among us, for our congregation, and our service to others. Give thanks for the many blessings you have received through Christ Jesus. Pray for healing for those in need, safety for all who travel and work on behalf of others, and wisdom for the leaders of Lord of Love.

Blessings in faith and service,  
Brian Lund



## WOMEN OF LOVE

### ***Gather* Bible Study Retreat**

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What a wonderful morning we had at Deb Lund's on August 4. The "hostess with the moistest" served her wonderful homemade rolls and coffee that gave us a jump-start on our study. Thanks to Beth Olson, Heidi Meyer, and Kathy Christiansen for leading the study sessions for the 20 women in attendance. There were many delicious salads at our potluck luncheon. We also may have started a new tradition! The choir women practiced an anthem for church the following day, and we plan to continue that in the future.

### **Another Retreat Opportunity**

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All women are invited to participate in the annual fall day retreat at the home of Randi VenHuizen, 17205 Seward Street, on Saturday, October 4. Ruth Manning and Gwen Edwards will lead the retreat, "Oh the Places You'll Go" (thanks, Dr. Suess). Go on a road trip with us and participate in Bible study, fun, and fellowship!

We'll begin with coffee followed by a potluck salad luncheon at noon. Following lunch, we will hold a brief general meeting that includes election of 2013 Women's Ministry team members, discussion of any business items, and a worship offering. Mark your calendars and join us for this special day!

### ***Gather* Bible Study**

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The theme for the September Bible study is "Our Present, Christ's Presence" based on Matthew 18:20: "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

You are invited to attend one of two study groups. The Wednesday evening group will meet on September 5 at 6:00 p.m. at Lord of Love in the Mary Room. Because of Labor Day, the Monday group, which normally meets the first Monday of the month, will meet on September 10 at 6:00 p.m. at Old Country Buffet at 145<sup>th</sup> and West Center Road.

### **Cookbook Sales**

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To date, we estimate that we've sold just over 300 cookbooks. But don't worry! We have plenty more! Remember that they make wonderful gifts for any occasion.

By the end of July, we had cleared \$667 from the sales. The ministry team voted at the August meeting to make our first charitable contribution from the profits, \$500 to the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary fund. Thanks to all of you who helped make that possible.

### **Lord's Laughing Ladies**

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Join us for coffee fellowship at Crane Coffee at 77th and Cass Streets at 8:00 a.m. on Fridays, September 14 and 28.



### **Women of Love Ministry Team**

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All women are invited to attend the Women's Ministry team that will meet in the Mary Room at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 11. We will have information from Karen Mullen on the trip to First Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls for their annual bazaar on November 3.



# WOMEN OF LOVE

## Thankoffering Service

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For more than 100 years, Lutheran women have been setting aside coins and small offerings every day to give thanks for blessings in the ordinary and extraordinary moments of life. At our annual Thankoffering service on October 14, our women will bring their Thankofferings together to give thanks to God in worship and fellowship. Thankofferings go in full to support the church wide ministries of the Women of the ELCA. The Thankoffering service will be incorporated into the regular worship at both the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services.

In the past, Women of the ELCA offered printed Thankoffering boxes. However, the boxes were costly to produce, store, and distribute. So, to be careful stewards of our churchwide resources, the boxes have been discontinued. We still have a supply of them, and you may pick one up at the Information Center. However, if you'd like to make your own Thankoffering container, you can use a jar of any kind.

The women at Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church know this from experience. At their 2011 kickoff event, the unit in Huntley, Illinois, brought jars, ribbon, flowers, glue, glitter, and other decorations to create their own Thankoffering containers. The results are impressive. "Our women are very creative," said Shepherd's unit treasurer, Barbara Auwerda.



Placed on a dresser or desk, the Thankoffering container serves as a visual reminder of our Thankoffering tradition. Like the offering, the container invites women to show gratitude for God's blessings and gives us an important and tangible way to express that gratitude in exceptional and ordinary moments, by putting coins or dollars into the container.

## Dates to Remember

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### September

5	6:00 p.m.	Gather Bible study, Mary Room
7	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
10	6:00 p.m.	Gather Bible Study, Old Country Buffet, 145 <sup>th</sup> and West Center Road
12	6:00 p.m.	Ministry Team Meeting, Mary Room
14	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77 <sup>th</sup> and Cass
15	8:30 a.m.	Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization (NSWO) Metro East Autumn Renewal, Lord of Love
21	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
28	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77 <sup>th</sup> and Cass



### Coming Soon

October 4	"Oh, The Places You'll Go" day retreat at Randi VenHuizen's followed by LOL Women of Love General Meeting
November 2-3	Road Trip to First Lutheran Church Bazaar, Sioux Falls, SD (Karen Mullen, coordinator)
December 1	Advent by Candlelight, 4 p.m.
December 8	Prepare "goodie containers" for elderly, shut-ins, and those with special needs

## IN OUR PRAYERS & LOVE NOTES

### In Our Prayers

Diana Baker (friend of the Thoms)  
Dick Bell  
James Cantrell (uncle of Gwen Edwards)  
Michael Crow (friend of the Egrs)  
Claire Foral (friend of Dave and Lisa Rieff)  
Mike Gillotte (neighbor of Bill and Karen Pickens)  
Nick Gehrig (grandson of the Schuchards)  
Jane Hawkins' brothers and nieces  
Marilyn Haworth (friend of Brenda Mac)  
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)  
Alice Mainwaring (sister of Pauline Shaffer)  
Marj Mahler (mother of Jane Hawkins)  
Debbie Michalak (co-worker of Jackie Combes)  
Ardis Mickelson (mother of Shawn Lorenzen and Heather VanArsdale)  
John Patrick Nicholson (friend of the Novaks)  
David Pippin (nephew of Lynda McGraw)

Marilyn Sanders (aunt of Deb Lund)  
Isaac Schroeder (infant son of Clay and Kelly)  
Ron and Brenda Thom  
Marilyn Thomsen  
Audrey Wapelhorst (niece of Brenda Mac)  
Ted Whitfield (former co-worker of Brian Shinrock)  
Jeff Wise (friend of the Thoms)

Those deployed around the world:

Kelvin  
Andrew Briggs  
Terry Duke  
Jesse Kinney

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 in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."*  
John 14:14, NRSV

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](mailto: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

Dear Lord of Love congregation,

My heartfelt thank you for all your prayers during surgery recovery and the months of chemotherapy. Surrounded by prayer and with excellent medical care, I just did whatever I was told to do with a feeling of great confidence in the results.

Sincerely,  
Phyllis Strasser



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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**This Month**

- September 9 Kickoff Sunday – Regular worship schedule resumes; Sunday school begins; Congregational potluck
- September 15 Nebraska Synodical Women’s Organization (NSWO) Metro East Autumn Renewal at Lord of Love
- September 16 Confirmation Sunday
- September 30 Endowment Fund application deadline

**Upcoming Events**

- October 4 Women of Love Fall Day Retreat
- October 14 Thankoffering service
- December 1 Advent by Candlelight
- December 8 Prepare “goodie containers”



*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](mailto:loveletter@lord-of-love.org). Articles must be received by the Love Letter editor by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.*