



# The Love Letter

Volume 39

October 2011

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### Chancel Choir Director

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### Kid's Choir Director

Claudia Rowen

### LOL Brass Director

Brian Lund

## Worship Schedule

Sun. 8:00 a.m. Worship Service  
Sun. 9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
Sun. 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Mission Statement: Created by God's gracious love, we are called, as a community of faith, to be witnesses and servants of Jesus to the world.

## A Look Ahead

The 2011-2012 program year is underway, and as we move into the fall season, the focus at Lord of Love is on discovering the gifts and talents that God gave us and then sharing these gifts and talents with our church family and our community.

Two specific opportunities for us to give thanks for all that God has given us are on October 9, Celebration of Faith Sunday, and on October 16, Thankoffering Sunday. **Celebration of Faith Sunday** is when all members of Lord of Love will all be able to commit to the work and life of Lord of Love by completing an Estimate of Giving card, to live and give in ways that other will know God's story and the grace of His salvation. **Thankoffering Sunday** is when the women of the church can show their gratitude for God's blessings in a tangible way (see page 15, Women of Love).

Prior to the start of our new program year, those members of Lord of Love who are working with youth participated in youth safety training. If anyone was unable to attend this training at Lord of Love, they are encouraged to participate in the **Safeguarding God's Children** event on Saturday, November 12, 2011, at Rejoice! Lutheran Church (see page 5, Nurture).

Also on November 12, the long-anticipated **Fall Festival Fiesta** will be held at Lord of Love! Make plans now to attend. You will enjoy food, fun, and fellowship and support the **Food Bank for the Heartland** at the same time (see page 6, Nurture, and page 9, Outreach).

## In This Issue

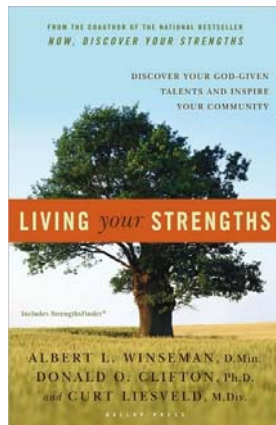
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### Living Your Strengths by Pastor Brad

"What I do you cannot do; but what you do, I cannot do. The needs are great, and none of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful." – Mother Teresa of Calcutta

For us to do "wonderful things," it helps to know how God has designed us with talents and gifts. Maybe you have the talent of communication, or intellection, or empathy, but how can you use them for the glory of God?

In September, a small group of Lord of Love members went on a journey together called "Living Your Strengths." They discovered their talents—some that they didn't know they had yet then shared how others notice them in their daily lives. The exciting part was watching participants identify and name their talents and discover who God created them to be.



**Talent  
Search**

Throughout the journey, each person uncovered "talents," naturally recurring patterns of thought, feeling, or behavior that can be productively applied. They shared the things that they enjoy doing and tasks that they rely upon others to help with.

Ultimately, we learned that God has gifted all of us with differing talents and gifts that are unique to each of us. Together when we use them, even to do small things, we can accomplish wonderful things.



### **SHARE YOUR TIME, TALENT AND TREASURES**

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone."

1 Corinthians 12:4-5.

There will be more journeys in the future at Lord of Love—some through a class called "Living Your Strengths" and others through the journey of our faith together as the body of Christ. I can't wait to see how God will use the variety of gifts and talents at Lord of Love!

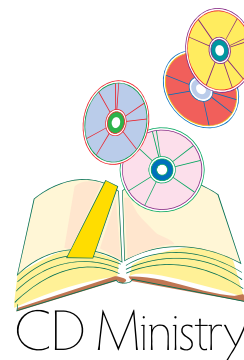
Peace,  
Pastor Brad

# MONTHLY CALENDAR

October 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
<b>2</b> 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b> 6:00pm LWT Bible Study 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	<b>4</b> 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Vision & Coordination	<b>5</b> 5:00pm 7th & 8th grade Confirmation Class 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass Rehearsal 7:15pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b> 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts Class	<b>7</b> 7:30pm AA	<b>8</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
<b>9</b> 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 5:00pm 7th & 8th grade Confirmation Class 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass Rehearsal 6:00pm Luther Kids 7:15pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b> 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>14</b> 7:30pm AA	<b>15</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
<b>16</b> Thankoffering Sunday 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 6:00pm & 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>17</b> 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	<b>18</b> 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Strategic Planning Mtg.	<b>19</b> 5:00pm 7th & 8th grade Confirmation Class 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass Rehearsal 6:00pm Luther Kids 7:15pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<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> 7:00pm Roanoke Neighborhood Assoc.	<b>26</b> 5:00pm 7th & 8th grade Confirmation Class 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass Rehearsal 6:00pm Luther Kids 7:15pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b> 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>28</b> 7:30pm AA	<b>29</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
<b>30</b> 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	<b>31</b> 8:00pm AA & Al Anon					

## Worship Service Recordings Now on CD by Karen Pickens

On September 11, 2011, I had the privilege of delivering the first CD recording of Lord of Love's worship service to Pearl Garnaas. She, along with many other members of our congregation, have for several years received a weekly tape of the service. However, our method for taping the service broke this summer, and we have been without a means to record worship or any other service. I am happy to say that it didn't take long for the council to decide on a brand new system and a duplicating machine, which makes three copies in three minutes. Recording and listening to the CD is much more convenient (no turning the tape over at half time). Pearl reports that she can hear every word of the sermon and that everything sounds better.



*Continued on the next page*

### Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	October 2	October 9	October 16	October 23	October 30
<b>Greeter(s)</b>					
8:00 a.m.	Harry Naasz, Mary Boyd	Kenn and Shari Garder	John and Valerie Floreas	Doug and Cathy Aden	Doug and Rose Roberts
10:30 a.m.	Claude and Sandy Hall	Tom and Beth Olson	Dave and Judy Egr	Paul and Deb Christenson	Dave and Lisa Rieff
<b>Liturgist</b>					
8:00 a.m.		Deb Lund	John Floreas	Paul Christenson	Karen Mullen
10:30 a.m.	Randi VenHuizen	Gary Krause	Claudia Rowen	Rex Quadhamer	
<b>Communion Servers</b>					
8:00 a.m.					
10:30 a.m.					
<b>Nursery Attendant(s)</b>					
8:00 a.m.					
10:30 a.m.	Anne Yarger	Sarah Horan	Lisa Rieff	Pat Brewer	Ashley Meier
<b>Altar Care</b>					
8:00 a.m.	Mike and Christie Klos	Cathy Aden, Dayla Miller, Deb Quadhamer	Doug and Rose Roberts	Vandeventer Girls	Ed and Marjorie Keiser
10:30 a.m.	Pauline Shaffer, Randi VenHuizen	Diana Haye, Marcia Roads	Debra Gillespie, Karen Armitage	Brenda and Suzanne Mac	Rowen family
<b>Ushers</b>					
8:00 a.m.	Joe Combes, Josh Combes, Dennis Hindemith				
10:30 a.m.	Dave Lueders, Adam Lueders, Brad VenHuizen				



## WORSHIP

### Worship Service Recordings Now on CD, continued

I am so very thankful to Pastor Brad and to the council for approving this action and purchasing the equipment so quickly. Those who are unable to attend Lord of Love will once again be able to worship with us in the privacy of their homes, and we will be able to keep special memories alive such as last week's Confirmation service. Our five confirmands each received a copy of the worship service from their Confirmation Day. In closing, I would remind everyone that if they would like to receive a CD copy of worship, a home visit, and/or communion, all they need to do is contact me or Pastor Brad.

## NURTURE

### 2011–2012 Program Year Underway!

The **Congregational Potluck** on Kickoff Sunday was a SUCCESS! A big thanks to Ruth and Dan Manning for coordinating this event.

**Sunday School** is back in session! All people ages 3 through 103 have an opportunity to learn more about God's love for us all.



**Wednesday night suppers** have resumed. The suggested amount for each meal is \$3.00. Any money collected above the \$3.00 will go toward supporting Lutheran Family Services.

### Youth Safety Training

Safeguarding God's Children training was held at Lord of Love on September 10, 2011. Sue Halvorson is offering another **Safeguarding God's Children event on Saturday, November 12, 2011**, at Rejoice! Lutheran Church from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. If you or anyone you know was not able attend the session at Lord of Love, you can attend the session at Rejoice!. The training is part of the Lord of Love Youth Safety Policy and is required for all adults who work with youth. There will be a \$5.00 charge for training materials. Please call Rejoice! Lutheran Church at 402-334-1999 to let the church know you will be attending this training.

### Weekly Education Opportunities at Lord of Love

#### Sunday

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

#### Monday

6:00 p.m. *Lutheran Woman Today* Bible Study @ Old Country Buffet (first Monday of month)

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

#### Thursday

9:30 a.m. Text Study @ Guthries

#### Saturday

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

### Thanks to Adam Lueders!

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Adam Lueders has resigned as the Lord of Love Youth Director. We thank him for sharing his gifts with our youth and wish him well in his endeavors. May God's blessings be with you!

**Big  
Thank  
You!**

### Youth Ministry Evaluation

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The Nurture Committee is using a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats method to review the current Youth ministry program (defined as 7th grade through high school). If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Lori Vandeventer or Paula Foster and give your input.



### Fall Festival Fiesta = Food, Fun, and Fellowship

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In a couple of weeks, you will find a brochure in your church mailbox with the details of the Fall Festival Fiesta, which will be held at Lord of Love on Saturday, November 12.

But...a few teasers!

Silent Auction

Door Prizes

Strolling Mariachi Band

Wonderful Food



Tickets will be available beginning October 9. Watch for the announcement of the ticket sale deadline.

Watch for our "big ticket" silent auction item. The LOL quilters put together a beautiful Pennsylvania Dutch design king-size quilt with a matching throw pillow. It was professionally quilted. It has a value of about \$200. Bring your checkbook...it will be well worth the investment. (Handmade quilts go for several hundred dollars at the Carol Joy Holling quilt auction each summer.

Are you willing to make a donation of your services to the silent auction? Things like a decorated cake made to order, a wine tasting party, childcare, as well as certificates for spa services, beauty products, etc. We also will be soliciting for some theme gift baskets. We have already received a "dinner party for six." There will be sign-up sheets available on the Fall Festival bulletin board, and we'd appreciate you signing up as soon as possible.

## Renew, Respond, Rejoice! by Gwen Edwards

In July, I attended my third Women of the ELCA Triennial Convention and Gathering, in Spokane, WA. It was an investment in my spiritual growth, the opportunity to make new friends, and to have a little “me” time. The Convention was July 12-14 and the Gathering was July 14-17.



At the time of the convention, I was the president of the Nebraska Women of the ELCA and, as such, attended the Convention as a voting delegate; there were four hundred delegates plus one hundred non-voting members. I enjoy attending the business sessions. Women of the ELCA is a non-profit organization, and like other such organizations, there is business to conduct. Business included approving the budget, passing memorials, voting on constitutional amendments, discussing and voting on resolutions, and electing the 2011-2014 Churchwide Women's Organization Executive Board. For details visit [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org) or attend the Women of Love general meeting next month. Highlights for me of the convention were opening worship with Bishop Jessica Crist, ELCA Montana Synod. “Sisters we come here to renew—all areas: our family life, our church life, our spiritual life, etc.,” she said. “It is good to be with women who 'get' the church—with women who are the church.” Another highlight was the State of the ELCA report presented by Presiding Bishop Hanson.

A special moving highlight was “yes” when I was elected to the board on the first ballot (third highest votes, but who's counting) and then being installed by the Presiding Bishop. It was not my plan to submit my name for the 2011 ballot; then the phone call came months after nominations closed. Discernment took time and God clearly told me to tell them yes, they can put me on the ballot. It's a story for another time.

After the convention closed, the Gathering was upon us. The Gathering attendance was over two thousand, and it renewed us, invited us to respond, and allowed us to rejoice. We heard from keynote speakers, attended worships, attended inspiring workshops, and visited Camp Dianoigo (Exhibit Hall); it was the home of servant opportunities, hands-on activities, and exhibitors. I took time to help count socks at the in-kind gathering booth, staffed the Dining Hall (Women of the ELCA booth), and made a pictorial prayer journal—where I was reminded that God likes our fellowship. I attended a “Prayer in Our Busy Lives” workshop and hope to put some of the information into practice. Nebraska Women also had lunch with our Sister Synod, Pacifica; it was fun!

Preliminary offering numbers include \$41,797 at the Thankoffering service; \$38,189 at closing worships being split among four recipients; and In-Kind gifts of \$10,420, 11,160 minutes of phone cards, 600 health kits, hundreds of school supplies, 2,225 prayer shawls, and many other clothing kits.

It is my hope that more women from Lord of Love will attend the 2014 Triennial Gathering in Charlotte, NC, so mark those calendars now. I am attending; after all, I have already registered. So mark your calendars and plan on joining me.



Thank you again for your support during my past six years (three two-year terms) on the Nebraska Women of the ELCA board. Thank you for your continued prayers during the new opportunity where God has called me to serve, serving as Churchwide Executive Board Member. I couldn't do it without my church family.

Blessings to you,

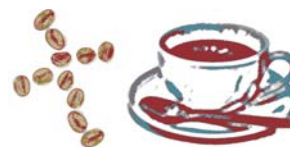
*Gwen*

## OUTREACH

### Pour Justice to the Brim

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Within the month, we will be stocking up on Fair Trade coffee and tea products. In order to make sure we have your favorite on hand, please pick up the coffee survey sheet at the Information Center, fill it out, and leave it in the designated basket.



Through the LWR Coffee Project, a partnership between Lutheran World Relief and Equal Exchange, Lutherans can enjoy delicious fairly traded products while supporting small-scale farmers across the world. Farmers earn a fair price for their crops, have access to affordable credit, and can invest in education, health care, and sustainable agriculture, building a better future for their families.

In addition, for all fairly traded coffee, tea, cocoa, sugar, and snacks purchased through the LWR Coffee Project, Equal Exchange gives \$.20 per pound back to Lutheran World Relief for projects supporting small-scale coffee farmers.



Lutheran World Relief  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Lutheran World Relief works with partners in 35 countries to help people grow food, improve health, strengthen communities, end conflict, build livelihoods, and recover from disasters.

Equal Exchange is a democratically organized, worker-owned co-operative dedicated to building a new model of trade based on fairness, environmental sustainability, and strong relationships between farmers and consumers.



### Lord of Love Community Garden

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At the time of this writing, the cool weather is causing the produce harvest to slow down, but there are lots of potatoes yet to dig. Squash, tomatoes, peppers, and beans continue to be taken to Project Hope for their pantry each week, too. With the increased demand for food, the produce is most welcome. Thanks, again, to everyone who has helped in any way throughout the growing season. Hundreds of pounds of fresh vegetables have gone to folks who desperately need nutritious food. We are grateful

for the time and energy that so many of you have given to be the hands of Christ to others, and we look forward to another productive season next year!

### Mission Possible Update

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Remember that the team is still determining the focus for our special mission monies this fall. Thanks to those of you who expressed interest and desire to help particular organizations. One organization that we will definitely support is our local Lutheran Family Services. Any extra funds from Wednesday night suppers will be given to them, as they do so very much to touch so many lives all across our Nebraska Synod. Thanks to all of you for your ongoing prayers and support.





### Fall Festival Fiesta to Benefit Food Bank for the Heartland

Yes, we know you already have November 12 marked on your calendar for the Fall Festival. We also know you'll be at church by 4:00 p.m. to look over the craft tables of Lord of Love crafters. Then, we know you will be seated by 5:30 p.m. to enjoy an authentic Mexican dinner served by Iglesia Cristo Rey (Hispanic Lutheran church in south Omaha). Maybe you need reminding, however, that **the proceeds of our Fall Festival will be as follows: 25% each to LOL's "Women on a Mission" project and LOL Women's Ministry, and 50% to the Food Bank for the Heartland here in Omaha.**



Every day, people here in our community face devastating hunger issues—families that are experiencing cutbacks and layoffs during this difficult economic climate, children who arrive at school hungry because their parents cannot afford to feed them breakfast, and senior citizens on fixed incomes who are forced to choose between food and medicine.

Hunger affects thousands of people in Nebraska and western Iowa, but Food Bank for the Heartland is committed to raising awareness about this epidemic and is working to eliminate it.

Some data:

- About 21,900 different people in Food Bank for the Heartland's service area receive emergency food assistance in any given week.
- The Food Bank distributed 9,000,588 pounds of food in 2010—a 37 percent increase from 2009.
- 15.9 percent of Nebraskans reported at least one time in the past 12 months when they did not have enough money to buy food that they or their family needed.
- 86 percent of client households served by Food Bank for the Heartland's emergency food programs have low and very low food insecurity.
- 52 percent of clients served by Food Bank for the Heartland report having to choose between paying for food and utilities.
- 42 percent of member households have children under 18 years old.
- 76 percent have incomes below the federal poverty line.
- 19 percent are homeless.
- 74 percent of pantries and 43 percent of shelters reported an increase in the number of clients who come to their emergency food program sites since 2006.



## OUTREACH

### Hay Lift Donations are Requested

Due to wildfires in Texas, farmers are in need of hay to feed their livestock.

Pastor Robert Sorensen from Brenham, Texas, is willing to help organize a hay lift from the Nebraska Synod to the Texas-Louisiana Synod. At this time, Pastor Sorensen is looking for only commitments for the number of hay bales Nebraska farmers would be willing to donate. Once he has a rough estimate of how many bales are available, he will arrange for a trucking company to back haul the hay to southeast Texas.



The Texas ranchers receiving the hay are offering to pay the freight costs to transport the hay from Nebraska to Texas. If you have hay you would be willing to donate to the Texas-Louisiana Synod, please contact your pastor. Pastors are asked to let the Synod office know how many bales may be available through their mission centers.



**Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

More details will be made available as soon as Pastor Sorensen and the Texas-Louisiana Synod are ready to begin the hay lift.

### ELCA in Action



**DISASTER  
RESPONSE**

There are numerous ways that our larger church, the ELCA, assists individuals in times of need, but one vital ministry is ELCA Disaster Response. There are experts in place throughout the world that take action immediately in times of natural disaster and turmoil. Lord of Love supported ELCA Disaster Response with funds raised this past summer at our Sunday morning breakfasts. We also support the work of the

ELCA indirectly through our mission-share dollars that go first to the Nebraska Synod and then to the larger church. Individuals may always give additional gifts, and it is very easy to do online. The home page for the disaster fund is continuously updated with various work being done, and it is gratifying to read about our church doing God's work through our hands. You may wish to check it out yourself: <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Responding-to-the-World/Disaster-Response.aspx>.

Another important ministry taking place within the ELCA is the ELCA Malaria Campaign. Just \$10.00 provides a mosquito net that saves an individual's life. The focus is to serve people in Africa because the need is so great in so many countries there. In addition to nets, insecticides, medication, health care, education, and more are being provided to people throughout Africa to help eliminate deaths from this disease—for good. You can read about this initiative on the ELCA website: <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Responding-to-the-World/ELCA-Malaria-Campaign.aspx>



## RESOURCES

### Using Our Gifts – An Extension of Stewardship by Heidi Meyer

I'm not sure how the conversation started between my mom and dad, but somehow it was decided that in the 4th grade, I should learn how to play the piano. Maybe it was because my mom grew up with a piano in her home, and she wished to recapture the days when the family would gather around the piano and sing hymns and Christmas carols. But whatever the reason, a brand new Kohler and Campbell piano showed up in our living room. I started lessons at the age of 10. Of course after a few years, I wanted to quit. Scales were no fun, and I wanted to play popular music. I made a deal with my teacher; if she excused me from scales, I would keep playing. And I did. For the next 10 years, I faithfully took lessons each week. My knowledge and experience grew, and what an absolute blessing this gift of music lessons has been to me.



In high school, I accompanied our church's youth group on tours where we presented Christian musicals all along the West Coast. When I was a junior in college, my home church purchased a beautiful three-octave set of Schulmerich handbells. I joined the bell choir and had a marvelous time. However, I was lazy and marked all my notes L for left, R for right, and M for middle so I would not have to read the music. But my passion was alighted. After college ended, Brad and I were married. We were blessed to have my church's handbell choir play for our wedding. Then Brad and I were off to Ohio to begin seminary. During his third year, on internship, the church to which he was assigned had a bell choir, and I played in their choir for 1 year.

After Brad served two small churches in Creston and Leigh, Nebraska, for 5 years, he was asked to interview at Rejoice! Lutheran Church in Omaha. I was present at the first interview. As we were being shown around the facility, I asked if Rejoice! had a bell choir. I received the most wonderful but unusual response from the Pastor. "We don't have a bell choir, but we have memorial money earmarked for them." I was shocked. What church has the money just waiting there for anything—let alone handbells? Apparently they were in need of a director! Well, I had never directed anything in my life, but I knew I had a passion for playing bells and hearing their beautiful music. So I jumped in, started two adult choirs, and had the privilege of directing them for 10 years. I am extremely proud of those two choirs, the friendships we developed, how we inspired those who heard us, and the level of difficulty of music they attained. And now that same experience is beginning again at Lord of Love. I am thrilled to be directing two adult bell choirs again. And I cannot wait to share with the congregation what we have accomplished so far. I am deeply grateful for the commitment so many have made to this program, either as a ringer or a donor.

Through the wonderful gift of music lessons, my life has been blessed in so many ways—church youth choirs, Concert Choir in college, adult church choirs, bell choirs, etc. It has always been my thought that because I was blessed with such a wonderful gift, I should share that gift with others. And even though I consider it sharing my gifts, I gain so much in return.



*Continued on the next page*

## RESOURCES

### Using Our Gifts – An Extension of Stewardship, continued

During this fall season, I would like you to consider what your gifts and passions are and ask you to consider using your gifts for the Church.

Suppose you love to cook. What about starting a group that meets once a month on Saturdays at the church where you share recipes, cook, and teach younger girls and women how to cook from scratch? I am amazed at what a lost art this is becoming. One of my most favorite things in this world is whipping up a batch of Toll House Cookie dough, eating several spoonfuls without cooking it, and savoring the homemade cookies, especially the next day. Think of the friendships that would develop, the support that could be given, and the knowledge gained.



Suppose you love to build and create with your hands using tools like saws and hammers. A couple of years ago, I lead a Vacation Bible School craft that involved hammering nails into a small piece of wood. Hardly any child, even the older ones, had ever held a hammer in their hands. Think of how you could pass this love of woodworking on to the next generation.

Suppose you love to read novels. How about reading to an elderly person who can't anymore? Suppose you have compassion for others and want to support some group or event. Suppose you have the gift of organization, the gift of listening,... the list goes on and on. The point is that each of us is gifted and talented in some way, and I believe the Spirit, if asked, would lead you on a wonderful journey where you share your gift or talent with others. Don't be afraid to dream big; our God is a God of the Universe. If you don't know what your talents are, consider attending the next session of Living Your Strengths with Pastor Brad. Go on, dream big, share your gifts, I dare you.

## COUNCIL REPORT

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

Our financial picture for the month of August 2011 is as follows:

- Income: \$19,420.00
- Expenses: \$19,707.33



### 2011 Lord of Love Church Council

Executive Committee: Brian Lund, President; Kenn Garder, Vice-President; Brian Walther, Secretary; Barb Haskins, Treasurer  
Nurture: Lori Vandeventer, Paula Foster  
Outreach: Paul Christenson, Jeri Morgan  
Resources: Doug Armitage, Josh Combes  
Worship: Karen Mullen, Randi VenHuizen





## COUNCIL REPORT

From the Council President – October 2011 by Brian Lund, Council President

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Psalm 103: 1 (NIV) *Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!*

Lord of Love has been blessed to have many members strongly rooted in their faith. These members provide us with wonderful examples of lives of compassion for others and faithful service to God. The recent passing of Esther Welliver caused me to consider the other faithful witnesses who have helped shape my faith.

My grandparents provided a firm base for my faith. At their home, we prayed before meals and family celebrations. I can still hear the hymns my grandfather sang at church and family gatherings. Spending time with grandpa, we saw him in daily devotion and Bible study. He encouraged each grandchild to participate in the life of the church through his own service and in conversation with us.

My parents strengthened and encouraged my faith through our daily life. Most days began with family devotions with us kids actively participating once we learned to read. My parents cleaned the church on weekends for several years, so we all learned to be comfortable in the church building. We had the pastor and his family over for dinner at least once every year and always developed a personal relationship with them. My mom was always busy with Ladies Aid and Circle. My father did some pulpit supply in area rural parishes. I sometimes went along and listened as he shared his insight in the lessons for that week. Not attending church was never an option. I tried testing that one Sunday after I had been confirmed. My parents really did not pressure me, but I quickly came to the decision to continue to attend church each week.

My wife has been a real inspiration of faith. She shows me Christ each day with her patience, understanding, and in her caring for others in our circle of friends and church family. She sometimes leaves the daily devotion book out, probably hoping I will find time to read it. We engage in discussion of the Sunday lessons and sermon. Together, we decide how we respond to God's love for us through the stewardship of our financial gifts.

So many other family members and friends have helped and continue to shape my faith. Each week, I see examples of faithful lives and service in many members of Lord of Love. Thank you for continuing to be Christ to me and to all those other people who you encounter in your daily lives.

Hebrews 11 (NIV) *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*

I am thankful for all our members and the faithful sharing of talents, time, and money in support of Lord of Love and its ministries.

Please continue to pray for Lord of Love, Pastor Brad, our ministry together, and for all those in need.

Blessings in faith and service,  
Brian Lund



### Courageous

Several **Lord of Love** men have previewed the movie **Courageous**, and they have determined that **this is one Great movie.**



Omaha Lutheran Men in Mission is actively promoting this film in the Omaha area. They are organizing a special showing and family event to see the movie on **October 2, 2011, at 4:30 p.m. at Oakview theatre.** After the movie, Rejoice Lutheran (at 138th and Center) is hosting a discussion about the film. All are invited to attend this event and to bring friends. Also, several area churches, including Lord of Love's Men's Ministry, are planning to do a Bible study with material developed based on this movie. Ask any Lord of Love Men's Ministry member for details.

Please call the church office to reserve a seat for the October 2nd 4:30 p.m. show, or plan to attend on your own schedule after it opens in theatres on **September 30.** BUT please make plans to see this Great Movie.

#### Movie Summary: Honor Begins at Home

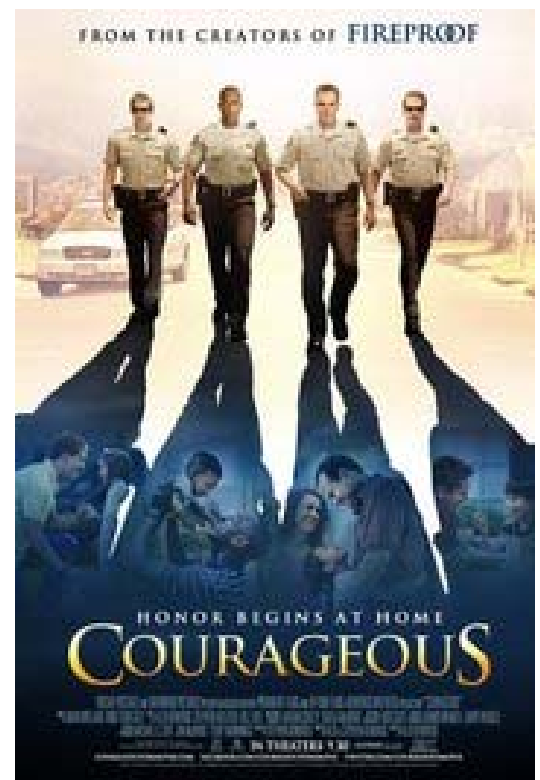
Four men, one calling: To serve and protect. As law enforcement officers, Adam Mitchell, Nathan Hayes, David Thomson, and Shane Fuller are confident and focused. Yet at the end of the day, they face a challenge that none of them are truly prepared to tackle: fatherhood.

While they consistently give their best on the job, good enough seems to be all they can muster as dads. But they're quickly discovering that their standard is missing the mark.

When tragedy hits home, these men are left wrestling with their hopes, their fears, their faith, and their fathering. Can a newfound urgency help these dads draw closer to God ... and to their children?

Filled with action-packed police drama, **COURAGEOUS** is the fourth film from Sherwood Pictures. Riveted moviegoers will once again find themselves laughing, crying, and cheering as they are challenged and inspired by everyday heroes who long to be the kinds of dads that make a lifelong impact on their children.

Protecting the streets is second nature to these men. Raising their children in a God-honoring way? That's courageous.



## WOMEN OF LOVE

### Welcoming the Stranger

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All women and your friends are invited to a half-day retreat on Saturday, October 15. It will be held at the home of Randi VenHuizen, 17205 Seward Street. Coffee and goodies will be provided at 8:30 a.m. with the study beginning at 8:45 a.m. Welcoming the Stranger will be led by Val Florea and Brenda Thom. Please bring a salad for the potluck salad luncheon. We anticipate being done by 1:00 p.m.

Please sign up at the Information Center so Randi will know how many coffee cups to put out!



### Thankoffering Sunday is October 16

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Stewardship helps us exercise our faith and trust in God.

- We give what God has first given us: our time, our talents and our possessions.
- We give because it is part of God's plan.
- We give because it is essential to our partnership with God in accomplishing God's mission.

One of the ways women of the church can help is through Thankofferings. Thankofferings show gratitude for God's blessings and give us an important and tangible way to express that gratitude. It is a tradition grounded in our celebration of community, of meeting together to joyfully give thanks for what God has given us. Thankofferings have always been, and still are, our opportunity to say thank you to God in both significant and ordinary moments. Today, Women of the ELCA collects more than \$1 million in Thankofferings annually for the ministries and mission of our Churchwide Women of the ELCA.



October 16 will be the ingathering of the Thankofferings at both the 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. worship services. If you don't have a Thankoffering box, you may place your offering in an envelope marked "Thankoffering." There also will be boxes at the guestbook podium.

Also that morning, the LOL Quilters will be displaying quilts they made for Lutheran World Relief this year. Be sure and take time to examine their beautiful work that will be displayed on the altar rails.

### Mini Ministry Fair

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Ministry Fair

What does LOL women's ministry involve? How does it connect with "Women of Love" and Women of the ELCA? They are one and the same thing. We usually use the less formal terms of "women of love" and "women's ministry" as we feel these terms more accurately describe who we are and what we do.

In connection with Thankoffering Sunday, October 16, we will be holding a mini-ministry fair in the narthex. There will be displays of some of the things we do, handouts, and an opportunity to win a one-year subscription to the official W/ELCA magazine, *Gather: for faith and action*. (This is the new name for *Lutheran Woman Today*, and it is more descriptive of our calling.) Ministry team members will be on hand to answer any questions.

### Lord's Laughing Ladies

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This name aptly describes what happens every other Friday morning at 8:00 a.m. at Crane Coffee at 77th and Cass. We meet this month on October 14 and 28. Non-coffee drinkers are invited to attend (Crane Coffee has a variety of beverages and pastries). Please come and join the fun!

# WOMEN OF LOVE

## Gather Bible Studies

"To Follow and to Serve: The Gospel of Mark" emphasizes what it means to follow Jesus Christ today. We are called to a living faith, to a deeper and more courageous understanding of what it means to follow the one we first meet in Mark's Gospel at his baptism in the Jordan River.

Session 2 is "Mothers and Brothers" based on the theme verse, "Whoever does the will of God is my mother and sister and brother." (Mark 3:35)

All women are invited to attend one of two groups that normally meet on the first Monday and Wednesday of the month. The Monday group will meet on October 3 at Old Country Buffet, 145th & West Center Road, at 6:00 p.m. The Wednesday group will meet on October 5 in the Mary Room at 6:00 p.m. Dinner is available at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

## LOL Women's Ministry Team

Would you like to see the inner workings of the ministry team as they work out details for LOL women's ministry? They meet in the Mary Room at 6:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month (October 12), and all women are invited to attend.

Soon, the nominating committee will begin recruiting members for the 2012 team. Please pray about your involvement in this area.



## Women of Love Semi-Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 6, we will hold the election of LOL women's ministry team members for 2012. Yes, we are meeting on Sunday. Hopefully that will fit in better with our women's busy schedules. We will meet at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a soup luncheon. You don't need to bring a thing...just come and enjoy the fellowship.

Further details will be available in the bulletin and November issue of *The Love Letter*, but mark your calendars and come!

## Dates to Remember

### October

3	6:00 p.m.	Gather Bible Study, Old Country Buffet, 145th and West Center Road
4	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
5	6:00 p.m.	Gather Bible Study, Mary Room
12	6:00 p.m.	Women's Ministry Team, Mary Room
14	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass
15	8:30 a.m.	Half-day Retreat & Potluck Salad Luncheon, 17205 Seward
16		Thankoffering Sunday/LWR Quilts; Mini Ministry Fair
18	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
28	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass



OCTOBER

Women of the ELCA

### Coming Soon

November 6	11:30 a.m.	Women's Ministry meeting and election of ministry team members
December 10	9:00 a.m.	Preparation of cookie tins for those with special needs
January 8	11:30 a.m.	Epiphany luncheon and program



# Share Your Faith in Christ



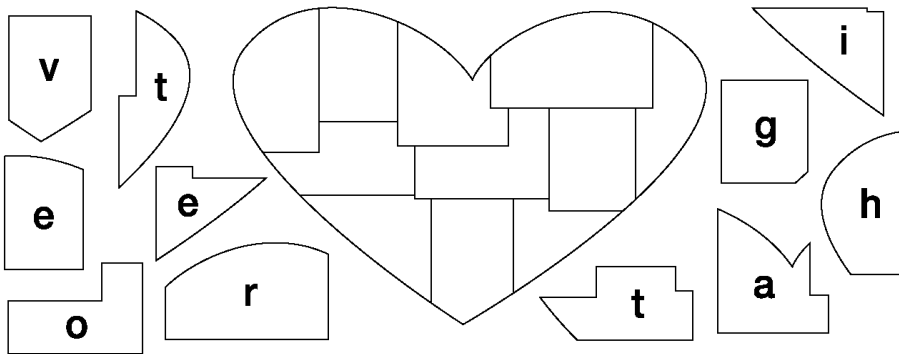


# How to give

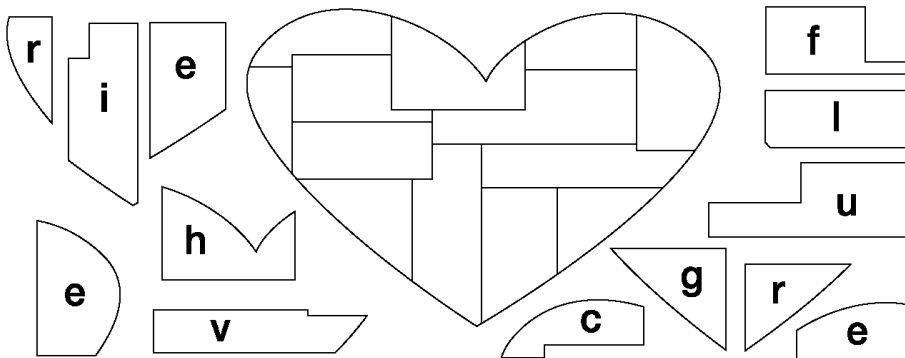
We can give in a variety of ways, including our money, possessions and time. But God says there's only one attitude to have when we give.

Finish the puzzles by matching the pieces and writing out the letters in order to complete 2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your ...



... not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a ...



....."

# A COOKIE SMILE

Make these cheerful lollipop cookies to share.

## What you need:

- An adult to help
- 1 roll of sugar cookie dough
- Knife
- Cookie sheet
- Wooden craft sticks
- Frosting
- Sprinkles
- Cellophane treat bags
- Ribbon



## What you do:

1. Freeze the roll of dough.
2. Cut dough into 1/4-inch slices.
3. Place slices 2 inches apart on cookie sheet.
4. Bake at 350 degrees for five minutes.
5. Remove cookies from oven and place a stick into the bottom of each cookie (about 1 inch into the dough).
6. Return cookies to the oven until done, three to five more minutes.
7. After cookies are cool, make a "face" on each one, using frosting and sprinkles.
8. Put cookies into bags and tie with a ribbon. Then give away these edible smiles!

## IN OUR PRAYERS & LOVE NOTES

### In Our Prayers

Adrienne (staff member/friend of Rose Roberts)  
Karen  
Dick Bell  
Marty Beutler (son of Gary and Connie Beutler)  
Ruth Cooley  
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)  
Jennifer Novak Haar  
Cory Heumann (friend of Cathy Petrick)  
Dennis Hindemith  
Cheryl Jones (friend of Nancy Shinrock)  
Gene Jordan (uncle of Paula Foster)  
Jim Mahler (brother of Jane Hawkins)  
Marj Mahler (mother of Jane Hawkins)  
Debbie Michalak (co-worker of Jackie Combes)  
Luana Salerno (friend of Sandy Hall)  
Brenda Thom  
Marilyn Thomsen  
Elizabeth Werthman (mother of William)  
Agnes Wilson

Those affected by the flooding  
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](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,  
Thank you to all for the prayers and support at my ordination service. I would like to give a special thank you to those who helped with worship, to those who helped with the dinner afterwards, and to Mary Lou for printing all those bulletins! I deeply cherish your continued prayers and support as I begin my ministry at Calvary and Zion. My installation will be on Sunday, November 6. Worship is at 8:30 a.m. at Zion in Benedict, NE, and at 10:30 a.m. at Calvary in Swede Home, near Stromsburg, NE. Our website is [www.calvaryswedehome.org](http://www.calvaryswedehome.org). You are welcome to visit anytime!

Love in Christ,  
Pastor Rebecca Sheridan

I would like to thank you for all your support and prayers during these past 3 ½ months. Thank you all.

God Bless You,  
Dennis Hindemith





The Love Letter  
Lord of Love Lutheran Church  
10405 Fort Street  
Omaha, NE 68134-1298

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## Return Service Requested

Mission Statement: Created by God's gracious love, we are called, as a community of faith, to be witnesses and servants of Jesus to the world.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### This Month

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| October 2  | Special showing of movie<br><i>Courageous</i> at Oakview<br>theatre |
| October 9  | Celebration of Faith Sunday   |
| October 16 | Thankoffering Sunday  |



Happening  
This Month!

### Upcoming Events

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| November 1  | Deadline for Endowment Fund<br>requests  |
| November 6  | Women's Ministry Team<br>semi-annual meeting   |
| November 12 | Safeguarding God's Children<br>training at Rejoice! Lutheran<br>Church<br>Fall Festival Fiesta |
| December 10 | Preparation of cookie tins for<br>those with special needs                                     |

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.