



The Love Letter

Volume 39

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Worship Schedule

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

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

A Look Ahead

The Lenten season is upon us, and Easter is near! Spring is here as well! There is a lot going on at Lord of Love as we remember Jesus' death and resurrection and as we begin spring and even some summer activities and planning.

Lenten soup suppers and **mid-week worship services** continue in April. This year's **Wednesday Lenten service offerings** will go to Pastor Elisante Maimu's family in Tanzania (see page 10, Outreach). Then we will celebrate Holy Week with **special worship services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday** (see page 4, Worship). Our traditional **Easter prayer vigil** will begin on Good Friday and will continue until Saturday at noon (see page 5, Worship). Finally, we will have **three worship services on Easter Sunday as well as breakfast** served by the youth group (see page 4, Worship).

Work in the **Community Garden** has already started and will continue in May and throughout the summer. This is a wonderful volunteer opportunity (see page 10, Outreach). In addition, planning for **Vacation Bible School** at Lord of Love has begun, and volunteers are needed! Learn how you can help out (see page 8, Nurture).

In February, four members of Lord of Love had the chance to travel with others from the Nebraska Synod on a **Tanzanian mission trip**. Are you curious about what happened? Read information and insights from two of our members who participated in this trip (see page 6, Worship, and pages 11 and 12, Outreach).

Finally, our church building is in need of some maintenance and repairs. The **property committee** is working on a plan for the larger items, and a **church clean-up day** will be held in April (see page 15, Council Report). Watch for details in upcoming Sunday announcement bulletins.

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Reflecting and Refocusing During Lent by Pastor Brad

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." Psalm 51:10

Lent is a good time to examine and maybe change the way we do things so that we can draw closer to God. When we examine our day, is most of our time spent getting tasks completed and sometimes feeling rushed to get them done? Is our day filled with "busyness"?

Lent helps us to reflect on our day to see where we might pray more often, to see where we might pay more attention to the needs of those around us and ways that we might give more of ourselves. Lent is a time of quiet reflection on how God is working in our lives to change us from thinking mostly about ourselves to how we might think of others. In the midst of our reflection, we see God's activity in our lives, and we then deepen that relationship.

Deepening our relationship with God can be a Lenten focus. I've had conversation with some who, rather than giving something up for Lent, have taken on something for Lent. They have taken on a daily devotion time or added service to an organization or financial support of an institution. This, too, helps us to see where God is alive and active in and through our lives.

In baptism, we received the Holy Spirit of Jesus, and throughout our Christian life, we are given more and more opportunities to share

deeply in Christ's life through an increase in faith, hope, and love. That is why we change the way we do things during Lent: to keep our hearts open to all the great gifts God wants to share with us.

The challenge is to not return to our "pre-Lenten" selves once Easter arrives. Rather than reverting back to our old selves, we can celebrate Easter and all that Christ has done by allowing others to see Christ in us!

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you for your continuing presence in our lives. Amen!

Peace,
Pastor Brad

*Create in me a
clean
heart,
O God,
and put a new &
right
spirit
within
me.*

Psalm 51:10



Cottage Meetings

If you have not already had the opportunity to attend a cottage meeting with Pastor Brad, please make plans to attend one in April! Cottage meetings are being held in a small-group setting so that Pastor Brad can get to know Lord of Love members on a more personal level. In addition, there is time set aside during the evening for members to "Ask the Pastor" questions so that we can get to know Pastor Brad better, too. Please join us for an evening of fellowship! Sign-up sheets are posted on the windows between the Narthex and the Sanctuary.

MONTHLY CALENDAR

April 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 8:00am LoL Laughing Ladies @ Crane Coffee 7:30pm AA	2 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7:30am Preschool Garage Sale 10:30am Sanctuary reserved for Novak
3 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion	4 6:00pm LWT Bible Study 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	5 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Vision & Coordination	6 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm LWT Bible Study 6:00pm Luther Kids 7:00pm Lenten Worship 7:45pm Chancel Choir	7 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 2:00pm Cottage Mtg. at Lord of Love 7:00pm Boy Scouts	8 7:30pm AA	9 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 6:00pm Youth Lock-In
10 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 3:00pm Sunnyslope Pool Assoc. Open House	11 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	12	13 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm W/ELCA Ministry Team Mtg. 7:00pm Lenten Worship 7:45pm Chancel Choir	14 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	15 8:00am LoL Laughing Ladies @ Crane Coffee 7:30pm AA	16 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
17 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion	18 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	19 9:00am Quilters 6:00pm Strategic Planning Mtg.	20 Love Letter Deadline 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 7:45pm Chancel Choir	21 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm Boy Scouts	22 7:00pm Good Friday Service 7:30pm AA	23 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00am Easter Breakfast Prep
24 6:30am Sunrise Service 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:00am Easter Breakfast 10:30am Worship & Communion	25 Church Office Closed 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	26 7:00pm Roanoke Homeowners Assoc.	27	28 9:30am Text Study @ Guthrie's 7:00pm Boy Scouts	29 LoL Laughing Ladies @ Crane 6:30pm Sanctuary Reserved 7:30pm AA	30 7:00am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 9:30am W/ELCA General Mtg. 1:00pm Church Reserved

Holy Week Schedule

On Palm Sunday, April 17, we celebrate Jesus' triumphant march to Jerusalem. All things seemed possible to his followers then, and they didn't understand that Jesus' kingdom was "not of this world" but was, in fact, a more glorious kingdom than they could imagine. On Maundy Thursday, April 21 at 7:00 p.m., we celebrate Jesus' gift of Holy Communion to his followers. On Good Friday, April 22 at 7:00 p.m., we remember the crucifixion of Jesus.



We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus at three services on Easter Sunday, April 24. Join us for the Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. or for the more traditional Easter services at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Christ is risen!

The celebration of Easter continues on for six more Sundays. Easter is too wonderful to be contained in one Sunday, so it is a "week of weeks," or seven Sundays. That's why May 1 is not the First Sunday After Easter, but The Second Sunday of Easter.

Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	April 3	April 10	April 17	April 24
Greeter(s)				
8:00 a.m.	Josh and Carissa Combes	Ed and Marjorie Keiser	Woody and Mardi Fiske	Paul and Sue Dieter
10:30 a.m.	Dave and Susan Lueders	Paula Foster, Kathy Christiansen	Rhett and Judy Messerschmidt	Gary Krause, Paul Barnett
Liturgist				
8:00 a.m.			Marilyn Thomsen	Deb Lund
10:30 a.m.	Gary Krause	Ruth Manning		Paul Christenson
Communion Servers				
8:00 a.m.				Lund family
10:30 a.m.		Dan and Ruth Manning		Paul and Deb Christenson
Nursery Attendant(s)				
8:00 a.m.				
10:30 a.m.	Anne Yarger	Sarah Horan	Lisa Rieff	Pat Brewer
Altar Care				
8:00 a.m.	Cathy Aden, Sue Dieter	Connie Walther, Lisa Meyer	Janet Guthrie, Nancy Shinrock	Mike and Christie Klos
10:30 a.m.	Brewer family	Rob and Karen Anderson	Paul and Ann Kroll	Pauline Shaffer, Randi VenHuizen
Ushers				
8:00 a.m.	Kenn Garder, Craig and Peg Pennell			
10:30 a.m.	Rhett Messerschmidt, Rob Anderson, Paul Barnett			

Calling All Ushers



If you are a current usher or would like to become an usher, we invite you to attend an Usher Meeting on Tuesday, April 19, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. At that time, we will review usher duties, restructure the current teams, provide some training, and get new ideas from Pastor Brad. Please plan on attending this important meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Dave Lueders, Karen Mullen, or Randi VenHuizen. Thank you.

Easter Prayer Vigil

Everyone is encouraged to participate in this year's prayer vigil. Prayerers are needed every half hour from 8:00 p.m. on Good Friday, April 22, through noon on Saturday, April 23. A sign-up sheet is on the north bulletin board in the Narthex.



Why is Easter on a Different Date Each Year?

Easter is always the first Sunday after or on the first full moon, after the Spring (vernal) Equinox in the Northern hemisphere and the Autumnal Equinox in the Southern hemisphere.

The date is determined by a combination of events centered around the lunar cycle, the solar cycle, the division of each year into 365 days and a 1,700 year old Church ruling.

The explanation starts with the fact that early Christians elected to link the date of Easter to the Hebrew calendar. The New Testament states that the Resurrection took place on the first day of the week following Passover. Sunday is the first day of a Jewish week; the Passover falls on the day of the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which can fall on either March 20 or 21.

Chaotic, or what? The result was that different churches ended up celebrating Easter on various days. And to try to clear up the confusion, the Roman Emperor Constantine I organized a major summit meeting.

The first Ecumenical Council was held at Nicea in present-day Turkey in the year 325. It decreed that Easter would be celebrated on the Sunday following the first full moon that occurred after the Spring Equinox. This retained a lunar connection as a sort of "memory" of the Jewish calendar system, and ensured that the feast would be on a Sunday. Because lunar phases occur independently of the solar year, this means that there is a "window" of several weeks during which Easter may be celebrated. By this reckoning, in our calendar, Easter must occur between March 22 and April 25.

So, go to your calendar, and find the first day of spring - then find the first full moon immediately following that. And Easter will be the first Sunday after (or on) that first full moon.

The system that was slowly developed throughout the Middle Ages is the base for what we use today.

Source: http://wiki.answers.com/Q/How_is_the_date_for_Easter_calculated_each_year#ixzz1H9p08r9N

Tape Ministry: The God Moments in Tanzania as Documented by Doug Roberts

Before a small group of Lord of Love members flew off to Tanzania, Karen Pickens asked a few of them to keep a journal of where they saw God. Doug Roberts was kind enough to share his insights with us in this article. Thank you, Doug!

For more details about the Nebraska Synod trip to Tanzania, see the article on pages 11 and 12, Outreach.

The God moments were everywhere in Tanzania. One day, we went to a rock quarry where they were mining the lava rock for building blocks. There was this one women carrying blocks up out of the quarry on her head. She made about 3,500 Tanzana schillings a day, which was about \$2.00 per day. We gave her about 15,000 schillings just to take her picture.

We went to schools for handicapped children where there were teachers working with these children; all I can say is what dedication to care for the really needy. Most of the teachers were also learning to become certified teachers as they were teaching. Of the schools we saw, all were using the Montessori method, the same one Rose uses, and I recognized all the little wood projects that Rose is always asking me to cut from scrap wood. All the schools were pretty austere compared to schools in the U.S., but they do with what they have.

We had a small earthquake while in Ndutu right by the Serengeti. It was a small one and only lasted a moment, but what really surprised or scared me was the feeling of the power of the thing. I was lying in bed, and it washed over me just like a wave of water. I heard it coming, and it just kept right on going, more like a locomotive, but it was moving really fast. We must have been some distance from the center, and it was moving through the ground like a wave through water.

We went to the original location of the Lutheran Church in Tanzania, a place called Ashira Parish. It was where the locals at the time thought was a cursed place. When a couple had twins, they would be killed because they thought they were a curse. The bodies would just be thrown into a ditch and left for the animals. Also if someone died and they thought they were cursed, those bodies would also be thrown into the ditch. The church flourished on the spot and is still there today.

Bob Kasworm has started a program called Houses for Health. Lord of Love has participated in that effort, and we got to meet the family that is living in one of our houses. It is amazing what he can build for such a small amount of money.



Bridal Shower

Please join us for a bridal shower for Jess Heine, fiancé of Jason Garder, on Saturday, May 14 at 1:00 p.m. The shower is being given by Jason's aunts. Jess and Jason are registered at Target and Bed Bath & Beyond.



Lord of Love Preschool News by Michelle Petersen

March brought us spring weather and busy minds at Lord of Love Preschool! It's hard to believe that the end of the school year is nearing! Time flies when you're having fun!

We have been celebrating spring at preschool, and the kids have really enjoyed playing outside again. We celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a Hop-a-thon benefiting the MDA. We took a couple of field trips to HyVee and PE101. We also spent a week with my favorite lesson—our five senses. I love seeing their minds digest how their five senses help them understand the world. The preschoolers identified hidden foods only using their sense of smell. They did a great job guessing lemons, cinnamon, and popcorn, with a few even identifying onions and coffee. We also played sound bingo; tasted salty, sweet, sour, and bitter foods; had a scavenger hunt; and explored different textures.

April will be a busy month as well. We will celebrate Easter and Earth Day. April 10-16 is The Week of the Young Child, sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), to promote the needs of young children, their families, and the early childhood programs that support them. To celebrate, we are going to have pajama day, walk to Sunny Slope park, have a visit from a police officer and ambulance for safety day, and hold the preschool prom.

preschool registration



Registration for the 2011-2012 school year is open! If you know anyone interested in attending preschool in the fall, please send them my way!

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 (7th & 8th grades) @ LOL Abraham
Room
6:00 p.m. Luther Kids (1st – 6th grades) @ LOL Preschool
6:00 p.m. *Lutheran Woman Today* Bible Study @ LOL
Joseph Room (first Wednesday of month)

Thursday

9:30 a.m. Text Study @ Guthries

Saturday

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

SonSurf Beach Bash – Dude, It's All About Jesus

On those hot summer days, the beach is the perfect place for VBS! As kids explore the wonders of the beach, they'll also discover the Big Answers to the Big Questions about Jesus: who He is and why they need Him. At SonSurf Beach Bash VBS, kids learn that there is only one truth: Jesus!



VBS will be back at Lord of Love this year! We are SO excited to bring this year's beach theme and the message of Jesus to our children in our congregation and our community! Mark June 13 to 17 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on your calendar to participate!

This year's program will be a bit different than past years as we will run our program in the evening. We will have a family meal from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and VBS program from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

This ministry and outreach will take MANY volunteers. There is something for everyone to do to support the success of VBS.

Planning is underway. We ask that you prayerfully consider how you might help us build a successful VBS program. Some opportunities are short term and very simple, others may require time in preparing for VBS, and others will require time in implementing the programs that week.

To volunteer, simply contact Heather Christensen at 415-4571 or Mary Lou or Pastor Brad at the church at 493-2946. We are looking for volunteers—youth and adults—for the following areas: Promotion & Registration Team, Props & Décor Team, Dinner Team, Snack Team, Craft Team, Music Team, Assembly (opening & closing with skits) Team, Game Team, Bible Story Team, Teaching Team, Take Aways Team, and Prayer Team.

There is something for everyone!! So call now to share your talents and strengths with us. See ya at the beach to share the SONshine!



Fall Festival

Because of the lagging economy, Omaha-area food banks have experienced a tremendous demand to serve Omaha's hungry. In addition, a recent news report on WOW-TV showed how the rising price of fuel has strained the budget of the Food Bank for the Heartland even more. Its seven trucks travel to 93 counties in Nebraska and western Iowa. The Food Bank budgeted \$69,000 for gas this year, but rising prices have put it on track to spend \$80,000 or more.

For this reason, the women's ministry team selected Food Bank for the Heartland (formerly known as the Omaha Food Bank) as the recipient of monetary support from our 2011 Fall Festival. Food Bank for the Heartland is the largest food bank in Nebraska and Iowa, encompassing 93 counties in a two-state region and distributing approximately 7 million pounds of food annually. The Food Bank serves more than 300 food pantries, emergency shelters, after-school programs, senior housing sites, and rehabilitation centers in the community.

Watch for further information on our Fall Festival Celebration, which will be held on Saturday, November 12, beginning with a Fellowship Dinner at Lord of Love at 5:30 p.m.



April Seminary Update by Rebecca Sheridan

Dear Lord of Love,

Spring is finally here, and this means only a few more weeks until graduation! As I complete my studies, I find constant reminders of God's love for me and call for me to ordained ministry. One of the ways I have been challenged to articulate what is core for my faith and ministry is through my "Constructive Theology" class, where our final paper is to literally write our theology. Another is the process I have been undergoing as I put together my first-call paperwork, reflecting on my gifts and dreams for ministry. All of these things are leading me to confidently say I am ready to be a pastor...which sometimes takes the shape of senioritis and neglect of my coursework. ☺

As some of you know, I have been assigned to the Nebraska Synod to begin my first call as pastor. Rich and I are excited to be close to family and to be in a place that is familiar. I am especially looking forward to sharing Nebraska culture with Rich as we go to Husker games and eat at Runza! Rich is more than halfway through his internship, and he is hoping to find a full-time clinical social work position to receive his license in Nebraska, which is about a 2-year process. His vision for ministry is eventually to provide licensed pastoral care and counseling in a congregation, and we are grateful to be in a synod that supports his non-traditional route to ordained ministry. We don't know exactly where we will be yet, but we will have met with Bishop deFreese by the time you read this to talk about specific congregations.

As always, we deeply appreciate your prayers and support, and we pray for Lord of Love's ministry regularly. We are energized for new ministry just as it sounds like you all are with a new pastor. We would particularly appreciate your prayers for trust and discernment as we negotiate finding careers that we both find fulfilling and life-giving.

God's grace, love, and peace be with you this Lenten season,
Rebecca Sheridan

OUTREACH

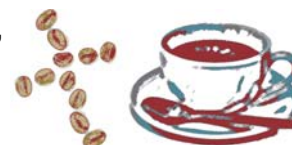
Lenten Offering Reminder



This year's Wednesday Lenten service offerings will go to Pastor Elisante Maimu's family in Tanzania for their children's education and other needs. Pastor Maimu passed away this past year. He was a great blessing to us some years ago when he spent six weeks with our congregation, and Pastor Don Wright spent six weeks in Tanzania. You can help us be a blessing to Pastor Maimu's family by giving an offering during the mid-week Lenten services.

Fair Trade Products

Thanks to all who took part in the coffee tasting on Sunday, March 13 and purchased fair trade items. Winners of the prize drawing were: Marilyn Thomsen, mug; Deb Christensen, T-shirt; and Karen Armitage, a package of coffee.



The next Fair Trade sales Sunday is April 10. Stop by and pick up coffee, tea, and dark and milk chocolate bars!

Lord of Love Community Garden



We've already gotten a great start on our 2011 Community Garden. Thanks to Mulhalls for two truckloads of Oma-Gro and to Doug Aden, Jeri Morgan, Gary Ramsay, and Doug Roberts for spreading the compost around both garden areas and getting the initial tilling done. Plans are to plant early crops sometime in April, with the remaining planting done in between worship services on May 15 or 22, weather-permitting. No plants or seeds are needed, but we will need volunteers for planting, weeding, tilling, watering, and harvesting. Please talk to Jeri Morgan or Deb Lund if you're interested.

Feed the Roots

Last year, the congregation voted to support the "Feed the Roots" program. It is part of the "Feed the Roots, Strengthen the Tree, Grow the Forest" campaign. We have a 3-year commitment to support this campaign through the Nebraska Synod. We have the best and brightest people in our own congregations, and the program is designed to develop these people to lead us in the future. To learn more about the program, go to the website at www.feedtheroots.com.



ELCA Disaster Response



One ministry that the ELCA does very well is to respond to disasters throughout the world very quickly. The ELCA works with local partners to provide basic needs when disasters strike. Some examples of countries where much-needed relief work is being done include Japan, Libya, New Zealand, and Haiti. There is a huge demand for funds, and donations are most welcome. For more information and to donate online, visit the ELCA website, ELCA Disaster Response.

Highlights of our Nebraska Synod Tanzania Vision Trip by Paul Christenson, with assistance from Craig and Peg Pennell and Doug Roberts

We left Omaha at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, February 7 CDT (8:00 p.m. Tanzania time). Our flight took us to Detroit and a 3-hour layover, then to Amsterdam and a 4-hour layover, and then finally to Kilimanjaro International Airport, 28 hours after leaving Omaha. It's now 11:00 p.m. Tuesday night. After clearing the entry port, we were greeted by a fully costumed Masai choir and brass band. They showered us with music and gifts and then escorted us to transportation for our main hotel while in Tanzania, the Lutheran Uhuru Hotel in Moshi.

DAY ONE: Wednesday

Our first morning was to start at 7:00 a.m., but most of us woke to a chorus of roosters starting about 2:30 a.m. and continuing to build their choir to a climax around 5:30 to 6:00 a.m.

When the sun finally made its appearance, we got our first look at majestic Mt. Kilimanjaro. After a breakfast of fruit, juice, eggs, toast, sausage, and coffee or tea, we learned about Mosaic International and its work in Tanzania. This wonderful service of Mosaic (formally known as Bethphage) started in Axtell, Nebraska, and has its home office right here in Omaha. Director Richard Carmen and his wife split their time between Romania, Tanzania, and a home in America. The Magengo parish is host for this ministry and cares for mentally challenged children, allowing their mothers to attend school or find work so they can care for and keep their children in the family unit. Many of the mothers make handbags and other items available for sale to support themselves and their children. We, of course, purchased some. ☺

Our next stop was the Faraja Diaconic Center. This is a community of Deacons that support physically handicapped children and provide rehabilitation and training for those who are often neglected. This center supports a primary school, and they are connected with physical therapy, medical treatment, and other services for students and patients. The parish is heavily funded by a German group, and the school is supported by a family from Missouri.

Our next stop was Ngarony Parish and “future site” of Ngarony youth center. This was our first introduction to a major stumbling block that plagues many Tanzanian communities: “big ideas” but little organization or planning. This particular parish has lofty plans for growth and a road that will bring climbers and visitors to the area. The road would help capitalize on tourist dollars and help fund their youth center. Currently, the youth center is a skeleton structure and has little chance of success unless or until a donor adopts the parish and/or the road is built for a Kilimanjaro summit climb (it's very unlikely the road will be built anytime in the near future). After a light snack of some purple potato thingy (taro root, we think), which we all politely tried to swallow, it was back to Uhuru hotel and a chance to clean up and get ready for supper at the Bishop's home. Once again, we were royally treated and received a personalized English/Swahili Bible and enjoyed another very good meal.

DAY TWO: Thursday

Another early choir from our roosters (eventually we got used to the dang things), and then it was breakfast and off to Neema orphanage. This is a well-funded facility with solid plans in place. They have a small farm and are building a nurse's training facility that will support itself and help the orphanage. One thing we noticed is almost all children in Tanzania are schooled using the Montessori Method. After another light lunch, it was off to Houses for Health and Mechame Hospital to see Bob Kasworm in action. We were able to visit one home under construction and one of the two homes funded by Lord of Love. We presented the Lord of Love gifts made by our children to the home owner then left for Machame Hospital. To help give you a mental picture of the hospitals, just imagine what it may have been like entering a 1940 or 1950 style

Continued on the next page

Highlights of our Nebraska Synod Tanzania Vision Trip, continued

U.S. hospital. That is how I would describe the building style of many of the local hospitals. The hospital equipment will vary depending on funding and support. Due to the relationship with Alegent Health, Mechame Hospital is improving its ability to serve the local communities. Partnerships and relationships like the one Machame has with Alegent are incredibly valuable to the success of health care in Tanzania. The Mechame Hospital trains doctors and nurses and is currently building a nursing training center. Bob shared with us that nurses are in short supply, and if available, he would hire 30 nurses. One member of our tour group is currently supporting a nursing student and had the opportunity to visit with that student for the first time during our tour. We learned from Bob that a couple of students may be dropped from the training program due to lack of funds. It was during this tour that we decided to assist a nursing student with some of the funds Lord of Love sent with us. We had the ability to bring delinquent tuition up to date and fund one additional semester plus leave a few schillings of pocket money for Aimborla Slaa. It is our hope that Lord of Love will support our decision and continue to assist this young lady with her education. Personally (and I know I can speak for my traveling companions), we will find a way to help her finish her education. Once again, we went back to Uhuru and took a walk to Mama Temu (friend of Martin Russell living about a block from the hotel) for a chance to visit, have a few drinks, and relax. Then, we finished the evening with supper at the hotel.

DAY THREE: Friday

On Friday morning, most of us were so exhausted we didn't even hear the roosters until almost 5:30 a.m., when the choir was at its climax. (It's great to sleep in.) We had breakfast and then were off to Agape Lutheran Junior Seminary. This is one of the Northern Diocese premier secondary education and boarding schools. Students hoping to enter Agape must go through an application and interview process before being accepted. Acceptance usually means success and almost always assures a chance for continuing with college education. After another light lunch, we continued to Mwika Market and experienced Tanzania outdoor market shopping. Then we took a short walk down the road to Mwika Bible College or SMMUCo Bible Campus. This is an ELCT college that educates students in teaching, accounting, business administration, and several other degrees. At SMMUCo, we meet Jeanne Kocher. Jeanne grew up near Nickerson, Nebraska, and attended Midland University in Fremont. After several years of teaching, she was looking for something more, and she found herself in Tanzania. Like Bob Kasworm, she frequently writes for the ELCA Nebraska Synod Tanzania E-Newsletter, where you can read their articles, and she also writes a blog at ayearintanzania.blogspot.com. After we left SMMUCo, we drove down the road to Ashirs parish, where Pastor Rogers and his wife Pastor Carrie gave us a presentation on Tanzanian church history and early Lutheran missionaries. Then we got back in the van and returned to Uhuru hotel and then ate dinner at El Rancho restaurant, featuring Indian cuisine. "Mmmmm" that was a night of good eating.

DAY FOUR: Saturday

We had breakfast at the hotel then went on to Ushirika wa Neema Deaconess Center. Driving up to the front gate, I would never have guessed that what lay behind was 40 acres of land with a farm, church, school, boarding rooms, and training center for women wanting to become deaconesses and teachers to serve with the ELCT church. This center was started in 1962 and within 3 years was overwhelmed with applicants and needed to expand in order to serve the community. We learned about how teaching students make all their own Montessori teaching material. The center makes and sells communion wafers, and all students assist with the farming requirements while living and training in this community. After another lunch, we returned to Uhuru hotel so we could start preparations for our afternoon departure and 3-day weekend with a parish to experience life in the local villages.

Watch for the May edition of *The Love Letter* and read about our highs, lows, and GOD Moments while visiting Ngaruma parish as we conclude the story of our travels in Tanzania.

RESOURCES

Stewardship All Year Long: Caretaking by Deb Lund

I've been blessed with the gift of caretaking for most of my life. I started cooking, baking, cleaning, and doing chores on the farm at a very young age as my mother worked part-time as a nurse in a local hospital and my dad was a busy farmer. I didn't realize it at the time, but we didn't have much money, and we made do with whatever we had.

I got into recycling when it was a very novel idea in the midst of my teen years. There was a recycling place in a nearby town that accepted the new aluminum cans. Some of my friends and I would walk around and collect the rare aluminum cans we could find. In those days, stainless steel pop and beer cans were relatively new, and only one brand used aluminum. (I bet some of you remember what kind that was!)

In my college years at Augustana in Sioux Falls (then ALC and now ELCA), I learned much about stewardship from Dr. Jim Limburg, my religion professor. One basic concept that has stayed with me is that in the beginning, when God gave humans "dominion of the earth," God was giving us the responsibility to care for the earth—the same as was given to kings and expected of them at the time. We are not to "dominate" the earth, but take care of it. Because of my upbringing and my early learning of God's intent for us, I have felt called to do my best to do what I can in all that I do to take care of myself, my family, my community, and my earth.



April 22 is Earth Day each year. Though I think it's great that there's a day to remind of us ways to take care of the earth, I honestly do not think too much about celebrating it. I think it's better to take good care of the earth every day.

I'm glad that there are more and more ways to reduce the use of things that would otherwise go into landfills, to recycle whatever we can, and to reuse items (or the latest word, "upcycle"). I think it's important as people of God to model proper stewardship and loving care for all, including the earth, as much as we can.

I could write pages about specific ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Caring for the earth is definitely one of my passions. Suffice it to say that little things can make a difference and that our actions often do speak louder than words. Consider some of your daily routines and habits and think about ways you could change them to lessen the use of some of our precious resources or be kinder to the earth. New habits and routines are always difficult, but keep in mind that we teach by doing and that we can have a profound impact on how children and those around us learn stewardship.



Our congregation provides ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle items. The city of Omaha and the metro area offer various ways and means of recycling all kinds of things. I'd be happy to visit with anyone who has questions or needs suggestions.

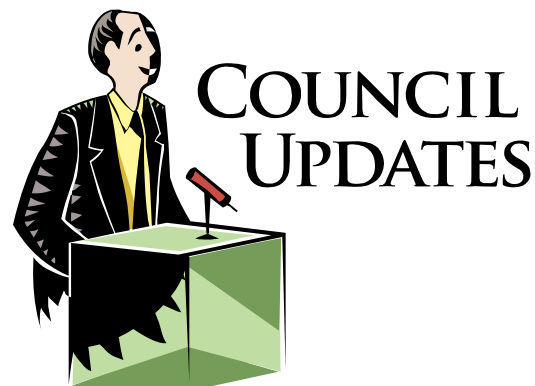
God's peace to each of you as we all do our best to live our lives as Jesus has taught us.

COUNCIL REPORT

March 2011 Council Report by Brian Walther, Council Secretary

The Lord of Love council met on Tuesday, March 15, 2011. The minutes of this meeting are summarized as follows:

- **Financial Reports.** Barb Haskins, Council Treasurer, reported that the committee formed to address the way we report income in the Congregation's Annual Report has started their task. It is going so well that they expect a final report to the Ministry of Vision & Coordination by May.
- **Endowment Committee.** The Ministry of Vision & Coordination recommended Paul Kroll as the candidate to complete the Endowment Committee. The council agreed. Therefore, our Endowment Committee consists of Doug Aden, Paula Foster, John Florea, Gary Krause, and Paul Kroll.



- **Habitat for Humanity.** We approved a fund raising in the month of May for Habitat for Humanity. Our goal will be to raise \$2,000.00 and support the ELF Coalition in the build.

- **Summer Worship Schedule.** Summer worship services will run from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, and we will have one service at 9:00 a.m.



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 – April 2011 by Brian Lund, Council President

Matthew 11:28 (NIV) *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*

Oh, the joys of home ownership. About 4 years ago, Deb and I painted most of the rooms in our home. A major storm a couple of years ago prompted replacement of windows, roof, siding, and carpeting. Our driveway is in need of repair, more carpeting is showing its age, and the idea of putting in a sprinkler system comes up periodically. It seems there is no end to the maintenance.

Our church home has similar issues. Things we can easily see (driveway, doors, and windows) and things that are more hidden (roof and furnaces) are in need of maintenance, repair, or replacement. The property committee is working to put together action options for congregation consideration. The committee will be recommending those areas that need immediate attention and some options about how to address all known needs in a logical manner.



We are also forming a special task force to look at ways that we can pay for the work to be completed. The task force will look at loans, a capital fund drive, the impact on future budgets, and other issues related to funding the impending projects. Because of the projected costs of the highest priority projects, congregation approval will be needed for any action to be taken.

The council will devote our April Strategic Planning meeting to the property issues that need to be addressed now. We hope to be well on the way to presenting workable options to the congregation. As we move forward with these planning activities, we will do our best to involve congregation members and keep you informed. Anticipate that there will be a special meeting of the congregation in the next few months (June?) to vote on any formal recommendations.

Ephesians 1:3 (NIV) *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.*



I am so thankful that we have people in our congregation capable and willing to undertake the details necessary to help us care for our church building and property. But, we can't rely on just a few of people. A property clean-up day is on the schedule sometime in April. Please help care for our property by volunteering. Many hands make light work.



Please continue to pray for Pastor Brad, for our congregation, for those who lead and serve, and for all those in need.

Blessings in faith and service,
Brian Lund

Birthdays Worth Celebrating



A Special Birthday

It's a party...a birthday party! "Birthdays Worth Celebrating" is the theme of our first general meeting of 2011 for our Women of Love. All women and girls are invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 30, and we'll celebrate our birthdays. Because this is only a few days after Easter, we also will celebrate our new birth in Christ, which we have received through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Come and "party hearty" with us, and invite your friends!

Lutheran Woman Today Bible Studies – An Easter People

Session 8: The People of God: Barriers to Resurrection

Theme verse: ³ They asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴ Then they looked up and saw that the stone had been rolled away. The stone was very large. Mark 16:3-4



All women are invited to attend one of the two groups that meet for these studies, both starting at 6:00 p.m.:

- Monday, April 4 at Old Country Buffet at 145th and West Center Road
- Wednesday, April 6 in the Mary Room at Lord of Love

Any questions? Please contact Ruth Manning at 455-7221 or cranecoffeekick@gmail.com.

Project Hope

Thank you for your continued generosity to Project Hope. **The needs for April are canned fruit and macaroni and cheese.** The following personal care items are always needed: bar soap, bathroom tissue, can openers, conditioner, deodorant, dish soap, feminine hygiene products, hair products (combs and brushes), Kleenex, laundry soap, mouthwash (without alcohol), razors, shaving cream, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. Please place items in the containers under the Information Center in the narthex.

A special reason to donate to Project Hope now through the end of April is that Alan Shawn Feinstein has been helping anti-hunger agencies throughout the country for 13 years. He matches the amount given to these agencies, with a total of \$1 million to be divided proportionately among the agencies receiving donations toward his offer. Donations can include cash, checks, and food items (valued at \$1 per item or pound).

Coffee Fellowship

All women are invited to join the Lord's Laughing Ladies! We meet at 8:00 a.m. for fellowship at Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass, on April 1, 15, and 29. Almost every time we meet, we pray over the prayer shawls that have been made since our last get-together.



The 2011 Summer Bible Study

The *Lutheran Woman Today* (LWT) Summer Bible study is the same one that will be used at Triennial in July. Participants will have the opportunity to meet the authors, the Rev. Catherine Malotky and the Rev. David Engelstad. They have spent two and a half decades as ELCA pastors, serving congregations together in the early years and then following separate ministerial paths into communications and chaplaincy. Their interests in spiritual direction, coaching, and faith formation inspired this Bible study.

Deb Lund will once again host a day retreat in August (date TBA) at her home, where we will cover all three sessions. All women are invited to participate, and you will not need the *Lutheran Woman Today* magazine. The individual lessons will be available online in May.

The comments below are taken from the LWT website:

The cloud of witnesses surrounding us can teach us much about what it means to bring your best self to the life you've been given. This summer's Bible study in *Lutheran Woman Today* will invite readers into the dynamic web of life anchored by "renew, respond, and rejoice." This is vocation in the richest sense of that term: Who are you and how are you called to service in a world full of surprises? There is so much to do. How do we stay spiritually healthy in the face of overwhelming need?



Session 1: Renew

The first session challenges us to "get unstuck." The writers explore the issue of hardness of heart. The key verse is Psalm 51:10-12, which begins "Create in me a clean heart, O God." The session looks at two important stories in the Hebrew Bible, one centered on King David and the other on Hagar. Readers will consider questions such as: How do I know when and what kind of renewal I need? How can I renew myself when so many others depend on me? Who benefits from my renewal?

Session 2: Respond

This session reminds us that we are gifted to serve. The key verses are Luke 1:46-48, which we know so well: "My soul magnifies the Lord..." In this session, readers will explore the way response flows from renewal. We'll consider the stories of two women: Mary the mother of Jesus, and the widow at Zarephath. Critical questions for this session are: How do I discern which of my gifts God wishes me to offer to others at this time? What do I do if God seems to be asking me for more than or less than I think I have to offer? Who do I serve? Where will/can I offer my gifts? How do I serve from a sense of fullness?

Session 3: Rejoice

This session exhorts us to "Rejoice in the Lord." The key Scripture is Philippians 4:4. Readers will explore the cycle of faith between renew, respond, and rejoice. We'll study the stories of Miriam and the witness of the paralyzed man's friends (Mark 2:1-12). We'll reflect on: How do I rejoice when things are complicated or unresolved? What feelings inspire rejoicing? Might there be some additional feelings to associate with rejoicing? How does rejoicing spring out of responding and lead again to renewal?

Revitalize Yourself in One Transformational Weekend

Women of the ELCA • Eighth Triennial Gathering • July 14–17, 2011 – Spokane, Washington

Top 10 Reasons to Attend the 2011 Triennial Gathering

Maybe you've been on the fence. Should I go to the triennial gathering? Maybe yes. Maybe no. Take a look at these top ten reasons to attend the 2011 Triennial Gathering. Then get ready to sign up right away!

10. "Halle, Halle, Halle" (or any other song, for that matter) will never be the same after you've sung it with 2,000 Lutheran sisters.
9. You'll return home with lots of ideas for study, service, support, advocacy, and giving ... enough ideas to last for the next 3 years, until we gather again in Charlotte, N.C. in 2014.
8. Resurrection will take on a whole new meaning once you hear our Lutheran sister Leymah Gbowee talk about how the Muslim and Christian women brought peace to Liberia.
7. Where else can you dance and sing with abandon, praising God, and not worry about how you're dressed or who's watching?
6. With the addition of the prayer shawl you knit or the one you bring from a sister at home, we will blanket the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod territory with fiber prayers.
5. Dynamic and Spirit-filled preaching will send you soaring—but hold on to your airline ticket because you'll still need that to get home.
4. Nora Gallagher—key plenary speaker—and Jane Redmont—prayer service and workshop leader—can write a personal note in your copy of their books.
3. Your offering will be joined with the offerings of all of your Lutheran sisters, and together we'll support the ministries of Women of the ELCA and the ELCA Malaria Campaign. Together we'll make a difference!
2. You'll make friends and build connections that will span Spokane to Charlotte and beyond.
1. You will be renewed. You will respond. You will rejoice!

Online registration can be completed at the Women of the ELCA website.

Calendar of Events

April

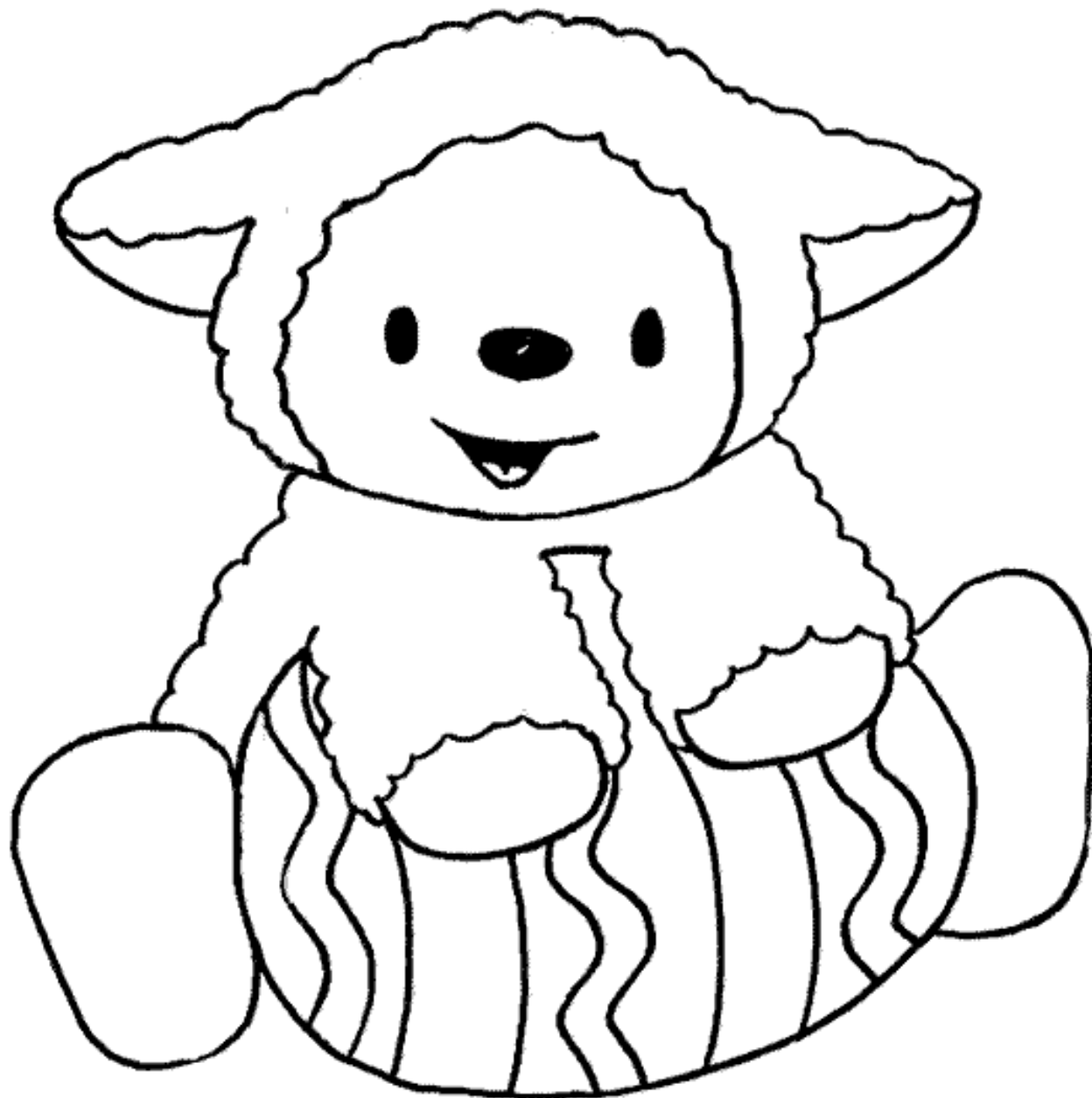
1	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass
4	6:00 p.m.	LWT Bible Study, Old Country Buffet, 145th and West Center Road
5	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
6	6:00 p.m.	LWT Bible Study, Mary Room
9	9:00 to 3:00	Metro East Spring Gathering, Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church, Omaha
13	6:00 p.m.	Women's Ministry Team, Mary Room
15	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass
19	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
29	8:00 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship, Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass
30	9:30 a.m.	General meeting/program, Fellowship Hall

Coming Soon

July 12-14, 2011	W/ELCA Triennial Convention, Spokane, WA
July 14-17, 2011	W/ELCA Triennial Gathering, Spokane, WA



Celebrate Easter!



Jesus is risen!


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FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection helps us live with gratitude every day.


Use the picture and number code to fill in the blanks for Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV.



1. Jesus	5. cross
2. weary	6. endured
3. endured	7. scorning
4. opposition	8. shame



1. Jesus	5. perfecter
2. lose	6. him
3. pioneer	7. faith
4. sinners	8. hand



1. eyes	5. right
2. us	6. grow
3. joy	7. God
4. heart	8. throne

"... fixing our _____ on _____, the _____ and
 _____ of _____. For the _____ set before _____
 he _____ the _____, _____ its _____, and
 sat down at the _____ of the _____ of _____.
 Consider _____ who _____ such _____
 from _____, so that you will not _____
 and _____." HEBREWS 12:2-3, NIV

HOT CROSS BUNS

Make this traditional Easter recipe to remember how Christ gave his life for you.

What you need:

- 1 can (12 oz.) evaporated milk
- 1 stick (½ cup) butter, melted
- ½ cup sugar
- Pinch of salt
- 1½ Tablespoons yeast
- 1 egg, beaten
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- 5 cups flour
- Icing
- An adult to help

What you do:

1. In large bowl, combine the first eight ingredients.
2. Stir in flour, one cup at a time, to form soft dough. Knead on a floured surface until smooth and elastic (about five minutes).
3. Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease top. Cover and let rise until doubled (about one hour).
4. Knead out air bubbles. Form six two-inch balls.
5. Place two inches apart on a greased cookie sheet. Cover and let rise until doubled (about 30 minutes).
6. Bake at 375 degrees until golden (13 to 15 minutes). Cool on wire racks.
7. Add icing in a cross shape. Enjoy!

IN OUR PRAYERS & LOVE NOTES

In Our Prayers

Bill (uncle of David Hawkins)
Dick Bell
Ann Christiansen
Rolie Christensen
Ruth Cooley
Patty George (friend of Dave and Lisa Rieff)
Zach Haye
Jim Mahler (brother of Jane Hawkins)
Marj Mahler (mother of Jane Hawkins)
Ellen Nore
Connie O'Neil (friend of Marilyn Thomsen)
Luana Salerno (friend of Sandy Hall)
Marilyn Thomsen
Esther Welliver
Agnes Wilson



Add to
your
prayer
list

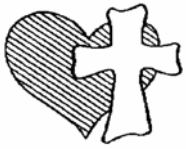
Children waiting to be adopted & those seeking to adopt
Men's servant ministry
Stephen Ministers and their care receivers
Those deployed around the world
Those seeking employment
Those who mourn

If you would like to add a name to the In Our Prayers section of *The Love Letter*, please contact the office at 402.493.2946, send an email to marylou@lord-of-love.org, or fill out a prayer request note available in the narthex and place it in the basket. **Please help keep this list current by informing us when a name can be removed.** Thanks!

Love Notes



BEHOLD,
CHRIST HAS RISEN!



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

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

This Month

April 2	Spring Preschool Garage Sale
April 10	Fair Trade Product sales
April 17	Palm Sunday
April 21	Maundy Thursday worship
April 22	Good Friday worship
April 22-23	Easter Prayer Vigil
April 23	Easter Breakfast preparation
April 24	Easter Sunday

Upcoming Events

May 14	Bridal Shower for Jess Heine (fiancé of Jason Garder)
May 15 or 22	Planting of the Community Garden
June 13-17	SonSurf Beach Bash Vacation Bible School



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.