

The Love Letter

Volume 46

September 2014

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Worship Schedule

Sun. 8:00 a.m. Worship Service
Sun. 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

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

A Look Ahead

We didn't forget, but we didn't quite get **Vacation Bible School** in the previous newsletter. Please see page 8 for a delayed recap of all of the fun and learning about God's love.

It's time to kick off Sunday School this Sunday, Sept. 7. Remember to bring a potluck dish to share. This is also "**God's Work, Our Hands**" Sunday, so that morning we will be bagging rice for Project Hope.

This month brings the start of a new Wednesday evening **youth group** for junior and senior high students (page 10). Make sure your teens know about this opportunity!

This time of year also means our beloved **choir** is back in action. Join them on Wednesday evenings for practice (see page 5).

There's a lot going on this month with Women of Love. **Gather Bible studies** resume this month and Crane Coffee fellowship is back on for every other Friday morning. Also note the deadline to register for the Autumn Renewal event on Sept. 13 is coming up soon – see page 12).

Rex Quadhamer has been providing thoughtful suggestions each month on how to **raise generous children**. For his last writing for now, please see page 11.

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Pastor's Page, by Pastor Brad Meyer

*"Make a joyful noise to the Lord!"
Psalm 100*



In general, Lutherans are not known for "making noise" or for our exuberant sense of excitement, either in worship or even as we share our faith. We tend to keep our faith to ourselves. We are not known for great public displays to draw attention to ourselves. Rather, our service is "behind the scenes."

But, what if that were different? What if we were to show a little excitement when we talk about Jesus? It wouldn't be hard, because I know that there are things that excite us in our daily lives and in the church. I've recently seen a few children excited about the start of a new school year, starting a new job, or buying a new car. There is even excitement at the slight potential of winning the lottery.

When these things happen, our heart rate increases, a smile covers our face, and at times we may even lose sleep over the anticipation of what is to come! Do you experience those same feelings of excitement when you talk about Jesus or the ministry of the church? If so, great! If not, why?

We are followers of Christ who have the best news to share with the world about love and forgiveness. We should be excited to tell it with joy in our heart and a smile on our face.

As we involve ourselves in social concerns that we have a passion for; feeding the hungry, eradicating poverty or disease, we should be excited to proclaim that we are involved because of our love for Jesus. When we commit our time and dedicate our life to making a difference in the world because of Christ, we should be excited to do so.

If you express your excitement for Christ with a smile, through laughter, or by doing the "happy dance," you do it in the name of Jesus. What I want you to do is dig down deep and find what excites you about your faith in God and share it with others - not just quietly, but with excitement and by making a joyful noise!

Peace,
Pastor Brad



P.S. If you read this article, send me a few words about what excites you about Lord of Love to: pastorbrad@lord-of-love.org



MONTHLY CALENDAR

September 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Church Office Closed 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	2 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Vision & Coordination Mtg.	3 5:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Brass Rehearsal 6:00pm "Gather" Bible Study 7:15pm Sr. Choir	4 7:00pm Boy Scouts	5 8:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 7:30pm AA Meeting	6 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
7 Kick-Off Sunday 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 11:30am Potluck Lunch	8 6:00pm Gather Bible Study 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	9 6:00pm Nominating Comte. Mtg.	10 5:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Brass Rehearsal 7:15pm Sr. Choir	11 7:00pm Boy Scouts	12 7:30pm AA Meeting	13 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
14 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion	15 Mary Lou on vacation 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	16 Mary Lou on vacation 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Church Council Mtg.	17 Mary Lou on vacation 5:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Brass Rehearsal 7:15pm Sr. Choir	18 Mary Lou on vacation 7:00pm Boy Scouts	19 Mary Lou on vacation 8:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 7:30pm AA Meeting	20 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 12:00pm 80th B-Day Party for Jo Olson
21 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 11:30am Bible 101 for 3rd Graders	22 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	23	24 5:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Brass Rehearsal 7:15pm Sr. Choir	25 7:00pm Boy Scouts	26 7:30pm AA Meeting	27 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
28 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 11:30am Praying 101 Kdgn - Gr. 2 1:00pm District 18 AA	29 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	30				

Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	September 7	September 14	September 21	September 28
Greeter(s)				
8:00 a.m.	Jesse & Pat Brewer	Harry Naasz & Gary Ramsay	Brian & Deb Lund	Caroline Stephenson
10:30 a.m.	Paul & Ann Kroll	Debra Gillespie & Sandy Hall	Dave & Susan Lueders	Doug & Karen Armitage
Liturgist				
8:00 a.m.	Paul Christenson	Brian Lund	Ron Thom	Heather Hansen
10:30 a.m.	Claudia Rowen	Tom Olson	Ruth Manning	Ashley Vandeventer
Communion Servers				
8:00 a.m.	Garder family	Christenson family	Doug & Cathy Aden, Pat Brewer	Matt Hansen, Jim & Jeri Morgan
10:30 a.m.	Vandeventer family	Olson family	Edwards family	Bill & Nicole Quackenbush
Altar Care				
8:00 a.m.	Brewer family	Ed & Marjorie Keiser	Cathy Aden & Sue Dieter	Connie Walther & Lisa Meyer
10:30 a.m.	Brenda Mac Rosie Avalos	Rowen family	Nicole Quackenbush & Karen Anderson	Janet Guthrie & Nancy Shinrock
Ushers				
8:00 a.m.	Paul Dieter, Dennis Hindemith, Brian Walther			
10:30 a.m.	Brian & Deb Lund, Wayne Witt & volunteers			
Nursery				
10:30 a.m.	Anne Yarger		Lisa Rieff	Ashley Meier
Recording				
	Pat Brewer	Paul Christenson	Dave Lueders	Paul Murphy

MISSION

Needed: Liturgists and Communion Servers

Worship is at the center of our expression of faith. In turn, the word of the Lord and the sacraments are central to our worship. Please consider giving your valuable time as a communion server or liturgist. Don't worry, training is available. Volunteers are especially needed for the 10:30 service.



Please let [Dayla Miller](#) know if you are interested.

Ministry Appreciation: Choir!

*"Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works."
From Psalm 105:2*

Thank you to all the members of the congregation for contributing to worship with you singing of the liturgy and hymns. A special thank you to director Jon Novak, accompanist Carol Novak and the fantastic choir members for the special music each Sunday to enhance worship for all of us.

The choir rehearses every Wednesday beginning at 7:15 p.m. and all are welcome. The choir usually alternates between early and late services each Sunday and Jon has the music and schedule planned for the upcoming months. As well as serious rehearsing for the upcoming weeks, there is also fun, fellowship and prayers.



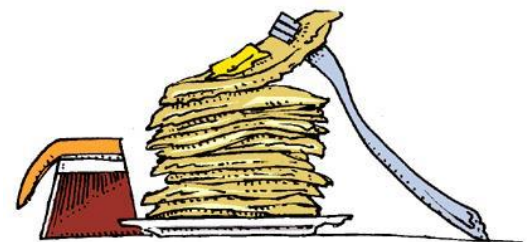
Music is one of the things that makes Lord of Love such a special place. Thank you to everyone for lifting your voices in song and praise to God!

MISSION

Mission Possible Update, by Deb Lund

Thanks to all of you who have so generously supported Lutheran Family Services' play therapy for children through our summer breakfasts. As of this writing, the proceeds from the breakfasts total nearly \$1000.

Thanks to those who have so lovingly prepared, served, and cleaned up after the breakfasts; as well as thanks to all of you who have given abundantly when enjoying the delicious meals.



Breakfast Proceeds

MISSION

Mission Possible Update Continued: Special Offerings Designation

The Mission Possible Team met and designated the upcoming special Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas offerings to the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response. Because of congregations' mission share monies and other gifts, the ELCA Lutheran Disaster response teams are among the first to arrive and last to leave at the sites of disasters throughout the world.

Examples include:

- Gaza Humanitarian Assistance
- Ebola Outbreak Response
- Unaccompanied and Migrant Children
- South Sudan Conflict
- U.S. Tornadoes (including here in Nebraska)
- Syria
- U.S. Flooding
- Typhoon

DISASTER



RELIEF

Check out [the Lutheran Disaster Response page](#) for more information:

The Nebraska Synod and Lutheran Disaster Response are working together to aid those affected by the Pilger tornadoes. You may wish to [give to help those impacted by the storm](#)

Community Garden Bounty

The gardeners have been working hard to reap an abundant amount of sweetcorn, summer squash, and potatoes throughout July and August.

Thanks to a newly installed “scarecrow”, more sweetcorn has gone to pantries than the neighborhood raccoons. Tomatoes are starting to ripen, and winter squash will mature later this fall.

Many pounds of delicious produce have been delivered twice weekly to the Lutheran pantries at Project Hope, First Lutheran, and the South Omaha pantry. Some vegetables have also gone to Table Grace Café.

Special thanks to all of those who have spent many hours weeding, tending, and harvesting this year's garden. Together, we have provided wonderful nourishment for the hungry and shared God's grace and love in our community.



Fall Clean-Up Day

Mark your calendars for Saturday, **Oct. 11**, from 8 a.m. - noon, for our annual Fall Clean-Up Day. We will have general yard cleanup, trimming plants and trees spreading mulch, and whatever else needs to be done.



Please bring your rakes and gloves and remember many hands will make for lighter work and the chance to get done early. Thank you!

Save the Date: Advent Gathering

The 2nd Annual Congregational Advent Gathering is Sunday, Nov. 30 from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. This is a great way to kick off the season of Advent.

Planning is in its initial stages. If you are interested in assisting with the planning and implementing of this wonderful event, please contact Heather Christensen at heather@lord-of-love.org



Vacation Bible School Recap

This summer on Son Treasure Island, 30+ young people discovered a truly glorious lifelong treasure, God's love! (1 Corinthians 13)

Amongst the sway of the palm trees dancing to the island beat, a craft cabana, a sea of games, and a beached boat, we learned about God's greatest treasure: His never ending love for us! There was much singing and dancing, game playing, and making special crafted keepsakes to help us learn the many ways that God shows his love to us. There was treasure hunting, a parrot that told stories, and a fun family night with tons of water fun.

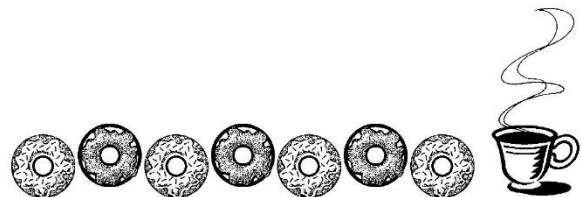
We are so very grateful for the many families that shared their children, grandchildren, and neighborhood friends with us for this special week. We had a great time getting to know you all!



Donuts and Coffee

When you sign up for donut pick-up or clean-up, look for your name to be in the bulletin the week before your Sunday and on the calendar for the next month in the love letter. An email reminder will be sent as well.

Please give generously for donuts and coffee on Sundays. Both items have gone up in price. Suggested donation is \$1 for a donut and 50 cents per cup of coffee!



VBS Continued

Many thanks go out to our volunteers! There were set-up and clean-up helpers, decoration helpers, meal and kitchen helpers, game, craft, and story helpers, registration and photo helpers, floating helpers, and small group helpers. They helped make this year's VBS a success.

We LOVE you all and THANK you very much!



A Storytelling Parrot



Crafting Kids

OUTREACH

Fall Festival

Lord of Love’s annual Fall Festival dinner and a silent auction are scheduled for **Saturday, Oct. 11**. The theme is “*Abundant Harvest: Lord of Love serving the Community and the World.*” Every year members of Lord of Love work externally to provide needed services and donations outside of our walls. This will be an opportunity to showcase how much is done and to recognize those participating.

Matt Weber of Table Grace Café will cater the dinner. We are seeking donations for the silent auction from members of the congregation (personal or from businesses you patronize). The profits will be divided evenly between Siena Francis House, Lutheran Campus Ministries, LOL Tanzanian Mission trip (Feb. 2015) and our local women’s ministries operating fund.

More information is coming after the first of September. In the meantime, please mark your calendars and support this outreach event.

Please direct any questions to Jackie Combes.



YOUTH

National ELCA Youth Gathering

The National ELCA Youth Gathering is July 15-19 in Detroit, Michigan! It is a ministry of the church-wide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to, with and for high school-aged youth and their adult leaders. The Gathering, as it is known, is a triennial event that takes place over five days – Wednesday to Sunday – and includes opportunities for worship, service, fellowship, study and holy play.



Current 9th -12th graders are invited to attend this tri-annual event and travel with us to Detroit. We will be holding an informational meeting at Lord of Love on **Wednesday, September 10 at 6:30 p.m.** to gauge interest in participating and to discuss initial event logistics, costs, fundraising and other details.

Registration forms will be due by Wednesday, October 8th with a deposit of \$150. Total cost of the event will be approximately \$800 per person to include registration, hotel, travel, and most meals. Questions? Contact Heather Christensen at heather@lord-of-love.org



YOUTH

New Wednesday Night Youth Group

Our Youth Group is open to all youth grades 7–12. If you aren't involved in our other ministry opportunities, that's fine. Come hang out with us on Wednesday nights from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Youth group will consist of opportunities to plan upcoming mid-week events, monthly events, devotions and Bible studies as well as time to have fun, to do service in our community, and more.

Our first meeting will be Wednesday, **September 17 at 6:30 p.m.** in the preschool room. See you there!



CHURCH COUNCIL

2014 Lord of Love Church Council

Executive Committee: Brian Walther, President; Kenn Garder, Vice-President; Judy Messerschmidt, Secretary; Lisa Meyer, Treasurer

Nurture: Paula Foster, Lisa Willard

Outreach: Karen Anderson, Mardi Fiske

Resources: Paul Concannon, Rex Quadhamer

Worship: Kathy Christiansen, Joan Witt



Giving Status

General Fund financial information for July 2014:

Actual Income - \$21,602.00

Actual Expenses - \$26,338.04

General Fund financial information **year to date** through July 2014:

Actual Income - \$177,350.95

Actual Expenses - \$187,204.99



RESOURCES

Raising Generous Children By Rex Quadhamer

Why do we want to raise generous children? As humans, it makes the world a better place in which to live. As Christians, it is a way for us to show love to this world. Generosity needs to be nurtured in our children. They do not come out of the womb being naturally generous.

Let's share a few more ways we can raise generous children:

1. Encourage your children to be involved in the life of your congregation. Perhaps you and other parents could initiate new ways for children to practice being stewards of your congregation's well-being. For example, children can help set up and clean up at congregational events; help watch younger children under the supervision of an adult; and participate in activities such as skits, children's choir, ushering, and ringing the bell.
2. Share the idea that giving to others is one of the reasons we're alive. Show your children that it is one of the ways we can all make the world a better place.
3. Along with regular presents for birthdays, Christmas, or other gift-giving occasions, give a "share-check." This is a check in which you fill out the amount and your signature, but the recipient selects a nonprofit cause to receive the check.
4. As you read family devotions together, look for ways to connect Bible readings to teachings about stewardship.

So as you attempt to teach children how to be generous - whether that be as a parent, grandparent, church school teacher, or mentor - think about ways you can encourage them to make wise choices with the gifts they have been given and to look for opportunities to give to others.

This is the last segment on "Raising Generous Children." We will look for you on our shared adventure!

MEN'S NEWS

Men's Saturday Breakfast Group

Check in with the usual suspects. Join us each and every Saturday morning at 7 a.m. for fellowship, food for the spirit and nourishment for the body. Held in Lord of Love's fellowship hall, we always will have a seat open for you. Don't wonder what it's all about: wander on in and find out what we're about.



MEN'S BREAKFAST
GROUP

WOMEN OF LOVE

Gather Bible Study Starting Up Again

The 2014-2015 “Gather” Bible study, “Transforming Life and Faith” kicks off Wednesday, **Sept. 3** and Monday, **Sept. 8**, both at 6 p.m. The Wednesday group will meet in the LOL Fellowship Hall for pizza prior to the study. The Monday group meets at the Oak View Mall Village Inn.

“Transformation and Conversion” is based on the theme verse, “Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel” (Acts 9:15). All women are invited to attend either study group. You do not need to commit to the full 9-month study; just attend whenever you can.

Crane Coffee Fellowship

September dates for the ladies’ coffee fellowship at Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass, are Fridays, **Sept. 5 and 19**. All ladies are invited to meet at 8 a.m. for food and conversation.



Fall General Meeting

Mark your calendar for Saturday, **Nov. 15** for the Women of Love general meeting, including the election of 2015 Ministry Team members, and planning for the 2015 Women’s Ministry program.



Autumn Renewal: “RejYOUvenate”

The NSWO’s Autumn Renewal day retreat is coming up on **Sept. 13**. Registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 5. Information and registration forms are on the W/ELCA bulletin board between the Sunday School office and the nursery, or at <http://www.nebraskasynod.org/welca/>

Women’s Ministry Team

All women are invited to the Women’s Ministry Team meeting at 6 p.m. in the Mary Room Wednesday, **Sept. 10**.



WOMEN of LOVE

Thankoffering Service

Our annual Thankoffering service will be held during both 8 and 10:30 worship on Sunday, **Oct. 12**.

For more than 100 years, Lutheran women have carried out the tradition of collecting Thankofferings at home to give thanks for blessings in the ordinary and extraordinary moments of life. Thankofferings are sent to Church-wide Women of the ELCA for ongoing ministries. Thank you in advance for participating in this ministry.



“Saved to Serve” Opportunity

The final “Saved to Serve” opportunity, Lutheran Campus Ministry, for Nebraska Synodical Women will be **Sept. 26-28** in Kearney, NE. Mark your calendar and plan to serve with students attending the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Meet Pastor Rachael Ziese-Hacker and the energetic young adults who serve a free lunch every Friday to UNK students. In addition to a service project, we are hoping to make chrismons with the students for one of their Christmas trees at the Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry Center. Lodging will be at the Bethphage Village Retreat Center in Axtell. Registration is \$39 and the registration form is available at <http://www.nebraskasynod.org/welca/>

Local units are encouraged to participate in a Kitchen Shower for Campus Lutheran Ministry. Items needed: paper towels, paper plates, cleaning sponges, Clorox Wipes, 409 cleaner, plastic forks, knives and spoons, toilet paper, Mr. Clean Magic Erasers, hand soap, and dishwasher detergent. A garbage disposal is at the top of their wish list. Monetary gifts will be welcome as there is a need for a stove and dishwasher. For questions contact: Mary Mayfield, 402-778-0291 mayfieldim@cox.net



Lutheran Women of Omaha

Lutheran Women of Omaha will meet Tuesday, **Sept. 9** at noon at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 6201 North 60th St. The program is the League of Women Voters and the monthly project is Shepherd of the Hills Food Pantry (monetary or tangible).

Please call Mardelle Gocek (292-1328) by September 7, 5 p.m., if you plan to attend.

Our Thanks

Thanks to Deb Lund for once again hosting our summer retreat Bible study, and also to Amy Kragnes, Ann Kroll and Kelly Duffy for leading the sessions.

Thank you for the good food, good Bible study and good fellowship!



Looking Ahead

October 3-4 Women of Faith Conference, Lincoln

October 11 Congregational Fall Festival Dinner and Silent Auction

November 15 General Meeting (9 a.m.)

IN OUR PRAYERS

In Our Prayers

Antoinette Anania (cousin of Deb Lund)
Chris Beckman (friend of Jane Gehringer)
Dick Bell
Connie Bennett (cousin of Karen Armitage)
Patricia Connolly (friend of the Thoms)
Pearl Garnaas
Mike Gillotte (neighbor of the Pickens)
Ken Gustafson (husband of Mary Lou)
Vicky Hays (friend of Ann Kroll)
Cheryl Jones (friend of Nancy Shinrock)
Verna Kragnes (sister of Amy Kragnes)
Matt Kreikimeier (friend of Brenda Mac)
Glenna Lee
Ken Lineweaver (Aaron Edward's Papa)
Lisa Lueders (sister-in-law of Dave Lueders)
Marj & Jim Mahler and Sue, Terry & Keith
(mother, brother and friends of Jane Hawkins)
Jennifer and John Mather (friends of the Lueders)
Rett Messerschmidt
Charles Meyer (father of Pr. Brad)
Mark Miller
Debbie Michalak (former coworker of Jackie Combes)
Dawn Neumann

*We always thank
GOD for all of you
and continually
mention you in
our prayers.*

1 Thessalonians 1:2, NIV

Brenda Nobles (friend of Gwen Edwards)
Charles Meyer (father of Pr. Brad)
Mark Miller
Debbie Michalak (former coworker of Jackie Combes)
Dawn Neumann
Brenda Nobles (friend of Gwen Edwards)
Don St. Ours (brother-in-law of Lynda McGraw)
Cynthia Palmer (friend of Dave & Lisa Rieff)
Karen Pickens
David Pippin (nephew of Lynda McGraw)
Chuck Santori
Isaac Schroeder
Jill Sheridan (sister-in-law of Rebecca Lund Sheridan)
Brian Shinrock
Georgene Sones (mother of Dayla Miller)
Diane Sullivan & Alice VanHoosen (friends of the Egrs)
Scott Swigert & Jeanna Steppuhn (nephew & niece of the Shinrocks)
Roslynn Thom (sister of Ron Thom)
Brenda Thom
Juanita Kiesel & Drew VanWinkle (friends of Mary Lou Gustafson)
Bill Wallway (uncle of Kenn Garder)
Al Weibusch
Ted Whitfield (former coworker of Brian Shinrock)

Those who are deployed:
Steve Slone, Travis Menzie and Paul Wendzel

If you would like to add a name to the In Our Prayers section, 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

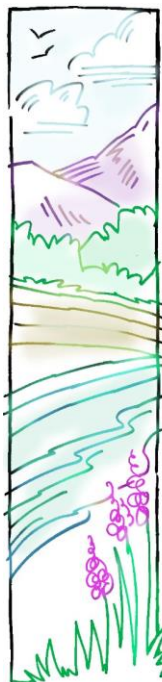
I want to take this opportunity to thank my brothers and sisters in Christ, the Lord of Love Congregation, and Pastor Brad, for all of the support during my heart attack and recovery. I received so many cards and thoughtful words of encouragement during this time. I am still benefitting from your generosity in the form of transportation to my rehab sessions. It is truly heartwarming to have such a wonderful church family.

I also appreciate all of the prayers that have been said on my behalf. I firmly believe that I am still alive through a miracle of God. I have been surrounded by His calming presence throughout this event and I am sure that your prayers added to the peace that I have felt.

You are all an amazing group of people and I am very grateful that God has put you in my life.

Sincerely,

Rett Messerschmidt



*And we
know that
all things
work together
for good to
them that
love God....*

Romans 8:28

Thank you to the Lord of Love family for your thoughts, prayers, cards and words of sympathy on my mother's passing.

Your kindness and concern are truly appreciated.

Doug & Cathy Aden & family



Thank you for the outpouring of support following Rett's recent heart attack. Your support through prayers, rides to cardiac rehab, numerous cards and just being there allowed all of us to feel God's presence during a difficult time.

My brothers and their wives who worshiped with us on July 27 were overwhelmed by your welcoming nature and the outpouring of support. Being able to worship and commune together in such a loving environment was extremely comforting to all of us. The welcoming and supportive nature of our church family is one of the many reasons we love coming to church!

Thank you for being there, for all of us. We continue to marvel at God's timing and His many blessings.

Love & Blessings to All

Judy, Katie & Ellie

Return Service Requested

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

This Month

- September 7** Kick-off Sunday – Potluck
- September 13** NWSO Autumn Renewal,
- September 17** Youth Group Begins

Save the Date

- October 3-4** Women of Faith conference
- October 11** Fall Festival/Clean-Up Day
- October 12** Thankoffering Service

Articles for The Love Letter can be submitted to the editor in the Love Letter mailbox at church or by email at loveletter@lord-of-love.org. Articles must be received by the 20th of the month.

