

The Love Letter

Volume 44

October 2015

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Sun.: 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

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

A Look Ahead

Fall is officially here. This brings to mind many traditions - pumpkin patches, Halloween candy, jumping in (or just raking) leaves - and one to think about now is the upcoming Autumn European Tour (Fall Festival). You can find the latest details on page 6.

You will also notice a special page giving an update on the newly selected call committee and where they are in the call process. Learn a bit about each member on page 5 of this issue. Over the next few months, continue to check the Love Letter for related communications, and please pray for the committee.

And as always, you are welcome to send your favorite recipes for inclusion in the Love Letter to loveletter@lord-of-love.org (pie, anyone?).

OCTOBER



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FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR'S DESK

Watching Pope Francis speak before a joint session of Congress, I was reminded of his passion for the poor. Whether he is talking or writing about the family, the sanctity of human life, peace and justice, or the care of all creation, he makes his concern for the poor known. He has also become famous for making himself available to the poor both in Rome and in his travels.

What this says to me is that Francis is passionate about people: about the relationships he can build with people. Ideas, doctrines, rituals, teachings may be important but only insofar as they serve people, and particularly the poor.

To put it another way, while the idea of the family is undoubtedly important to him, caring for and having compassion for the

family in the midst of life's struggles and heartaches is what seems to move him.

You may wonder where I am going with all this. During the call process prayer team meeting this past week, the importance of discerning what it is that Lord of Love is passionate about came up. Specifically, it is important for the call committee to consider as they proceed to interviewing candidates for your next pastor. What is it that inspires your mission and ministry as a congregation? That is your passion.

Knowing what Lord of Love's passion is frees you to be able to ask the pastors you interview about what drives her/his ministry. What is his/her passion?

Peace,
Pastor Glenn



"The Beauty of Growing Old"

Editor's note: another thing Pope Francis mentioned in his address to Congress was the need to treasure the wisdom of seniors. I thought the following would make a lovely and timely reflection to include here. It comes from newsletternewsletter.com.

"How beautifully leaves grow old," wrote 19th-century essayist John Burroughs. "How full of light and color are their last days." Society doesn't think highly of old age. Beauty products tout the supposed virtues of maintaining a youthful appearance. Older adults' wisdom, born of much life experience, is often disparaged, ignored or not sought.

But God says this about the righteous, whose lives are rooted in him: **"In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap, showing that the LORD is upright"** (Psalm 92:14-15, NRSV).

The aging leaves of autumn can prompt us to look for beauty in the seniors among us, to notice the light and color that still abound. From all the fruit they still produce — service, prayer, love — may we learn about living faithfully until our own last days.

—Heidi Mann

WORSHIP

Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	Oct. 4	Oct. 11	Oct. 18	Oct. 25
Greeter(s)				
8:00 a.m.	Jesse & Pat Brewer	Harry Naasz	Roger & Angie Meyer	Brian & Deb Lund
10:30 a.m.	Paul & Ann Kroll	Dave & Susan Lueders	Dan & Ruth Manning	Doug & Karen Armitage
Liturgist				
8:00 a.m.	Karen Armitage	Brian Lund	Paul Murphy	Dave Hild
10:30 a.m.	Matt Willard	Claudia Rowen	Susan Lueders	Tom Olson
Communion Servers				
8:00 a.m.	Doug Armitage & Bill Baker	Deb Lund & Egr family	Peg Murphy & Pat Brewer	Joe & Jackie Combes
10:30 a.m.	Lisa Willard & Ashley Vandeventer	Don Rowen & Lori Vandeventer	Dave Lueders & Nicole Quackenbush	Beth Olson & Gwen Edwards
Altar Care				
8:00 a.m.	Ed & Marjorie Keiser	Cathy Aden & Sue Dieter	Connie Walther & Lisa Meyer	Mardi Fiske
10:30 a.m.	Rowen family	Nicole Quackenbush & Karen Anderson	Janet Guthrie & Nancy Shinrock	Paul & Ann Kroll
Ushers				
8:00 a.m.	Joe & Jackie Combes, Josh Combes, Dale & Karen Finck			
10:30 a.m.	Dave Lueders, Adam Lueders, Lynnette Nore & Chris Boarts			
Nursery				
10:30 a.m.			Lisa Rieff	Ashley Meier
CD Recording				
10:30 a.m.	Pat Brewer	Paul Christenson	Dave Lueders	Paul Murphy

MONTHLY CALENDAR

October 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:00pm Boy Scouts	2 6:30pm Novak in Sanctuary 7:30pm AA Meeting	3 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
4 Celebration of Faith Sunday 8:00am & 10:30 a.m. Worship/Comm 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Adult Forum 6:00pm Bell Choir	5 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	6 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Vision & Coordination Mtg.	7 6:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 7:00pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:15pm Sr. Choir Rehearsal	8 7:00pm Boy Scouts	9 7:30pm AA Meeting	10 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 11:00am Novak-Haar recital 3:00pm Eagle Scout Ceremony
11 Thanksgiving Sunday 8:00am & 10:30 a.m. Worship/Comm 9:15am Adult Forum 9:15am Sunday School 6:00pm Bell Choir	12 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	13 7:00pm Sunnyslope Neighborhood Assoc. Mtg.	14 6:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 7:00pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:15pm Sr. Choir Rehearsal	15 12:00pm Aged to Perfection Lunch 7:00pm Boy Scouts	16 7:30pm AA Meeting	17 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 7:00pm Youth Group Lock-In
18 8:00am & 10:30 a.m. Worship/Comm 9:15am Adult Forum 9:15am Sunday School 1:30pm Spooky Suzuki Recital 6:00pm Bell Choir	19 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	20 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Church Council Mtg.	21 6:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 7:00pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:15pm Sr. Choir Rehearsal	22 7:00pm Boy Scouts	23 7:30pm AA Meeting	24 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
25 8:00am & 10:30 a.m. Worship/Comm 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Adult Forum 1:00pm District 18 AA Plng Mtg. 6:00pm Bell Choir	26 Administrative Professionals Retreat @ CJH 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	27 Administrative Professionals Retreat @ CJH	28 6:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 7:00pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:15pm Sr. Choir Rehearsal	29 7:00pm Boy Scouts	30 7:30pm AA Meeting	31 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 9:00am W/ELCA General Mtg.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Meet Your Call Committee

The call committee has been identified. On Sept. 13, the congregation met to vote on possible committee members. Names were selected by the church council from the call for nominations, and the congregation voted on five names, per Lord of Love's constitution. In addition, the council appointed a sixth member to ensure a balanced representation of the congregation. On Sept. 20, the committee members were installed. They are:

Doug Aden, Chairperson

Doug has been a member of Lord of Love since 1982. He has served on the Church Council several times and has worked on several committees at Lord of Love. Doug and Cathy have two daughters and three grandchildren.

Bill Quackenbush

Bill and his family have been members of Lord of Love since 2012. He and his wife, Nicole, have a 12-year-old daughter, Emily. Bill is a professional civil engineer and works for Advances Services Professional as a contractor to Union Pacific. Bill also serves on the church Resource Committee and church council.

Heather Hansen

Heather moved to Omaha in 1999 after marrying husband Brandon. They have 2 children: Kaycian ("Kayci"), who is 8 years old, and Brayden, who is 6 years old. They also have 2 cats and a turtle. Heather is a Licensed Veterinary Technician and works for Ralston Veterinary Clinic. Heather and her family have been members at Lord of Love for 3 years. She is on the Worship Committee and the Stewardship Committee. She also just started playing

in the Bell Choir. Brandon and Heather are from Coleridge NE, which is a small town in Northeast Nebraska. Lord of Love reminds them of their small-town church with its friendly, family-oriented environment.

Matt Garder

Matt grew up in Omaha and was baptized at Lord of Love. He is a graduate student at UNO studying Civil Engineering with an emphasis in water resources and a business minor. Matt is active in the LOL choir and usher team, and occasionally helps with youth group. He also serves as assistant scoutmaster with Boy Scout Troop 565 (based out of Lord of Love). He enjoys sports, music, camping, and the outdoors.

Karen Armitage

Karen grew up in North Platte and attended Midland Lutheran College and Indiana University. She is a lifelong Lutheran, having been a member of Lord of Love since 1983 (except 5 years in Indiana). She works as an optometrist. She and husband Doug have a daughter, Laura, and son, Luke. Karen has served several terms on the church council, including as president, and she served on the last call committee. She is looking forward to the call process and the next pastor for LOL!

Charise Adams

Charise has been a member of LOL for just over a year and has lived in Omaha for two years. She works at Creighton University and is married to Travis. She also serves as the Love Letter editor.

NURTURE

Autumn European Tour Details

Thanks to a most capable and creative committee, plans for the annual Fall Festival (**Nov. 7**) are progressing! Letters have been sent to prospective donors for the auction and donations have started to come in.

If you know a business that you think might be willing to make a donation, please contact Connie Walther and she can tell you whether they have been contacted or give you a request letter to present to that business.

Earlier we announced that 50% of the profits would be divided evenly between the LOL operating budget and the women's scholarship fund.

The local group we have chosen to support is **Heartland Hope Mission**, a faith-based charitable organization founded to help the working poor by providing them with some of life's most basic staples. They will receive the remaining 50% of the profits.



Cost for the dinner tickets will remain the same as the previous two years: \$17.50 each or two for \$30.

Watch your church mailboxes for flyers with additional information on this fun event. Mark your calendars now!

MISSION

Mission Possible Update

Thanks again for the wonderful support of the summer breakfasts, which earned more than \$1400 to give to the prison ministry programs supported by the Nebraska Synod.

The Mission Possible team has designated proceeds from the special Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas offerings to go to the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Fund, to western states affected by wildfires (see next page).

Community Garden Update

The last of the winter squash has been harvested, and a few tomatoes are still ripening, but otherwise, garden clean-up has prepared the soil for the coming winter months.

Thanks to all those who have spent many hours to provide hundreds of pounds of nourishing vegetables for several of our metro Lutheran pantries. We look forward to another productive season next summer!



MISSION

ELCA Disaster Relief Update: U.S. Wildfires



The Situation:

A rage of more than a dozen wildfires has consumed parts of California in recent months, with one of the most ferocious in recent history erupting in Northern California. The explosive Valley fire has led to at least one death, displaced more than 10,000 residents and destroyed hundreds of homes. Thousands of acres of land have been destroyed as fire fighters struggle to keep up.

Our Response:

Lutheran Disaster Response, working with the Sierra Pacific Synod and Lutheran Social Services of Northern California, is monitoring the situation and communicating with those impacted. Many that have been impacted by the fires do not have insurance or are underinsured, which will make recovery that much more difficult. We stand ready to provide assistance in the long-term recovery efforts once the fires subside.

As many organizations are quick to respond and available to assist, Lutheran Disaster Response will look to fill the long-term needs not met by the government or other organizations. Pastors and ELCA

church members are reaching out in prayer, support and compassion, especially in response to the Valley fire. Following any major disaster, recovery is a long-term process, and your prayers and gifts are needed to assist those impacted by the fire to rebuild their homes and their lives.

What you can do:

Pray:

Pray for those who are evacuated and whose homes and livelihoods have been destroyed, grant them peace and healing.

Give:

Your gifts are needed now to help with immediate relief. Gifts designated for U.S. Wildfires will be used in full (100 percent) to assist those directly impacted.

Connect:

To learn more about the situation and the ELCA's response:

- [Sign up](#) to receive Lutheran Disaster Response alerts.
- Check the [Lutheran Disaster Response blog](#).
- Like Lutheran Disaster Response on [Facebook](#) and follow [@ELCALDR](#) on Twitter.

MISSION

ELCA Disaster Relief Update: Middle East and Europe Refugee Crisis



The Situation:

A record number of refugees and migrants from the Middle East and Africa are fleeing war and poverty and making a terrifying, life-threatening journey to find a safer, better way of life in Europe. Although they come from different countries, for various reasons, they share a common goal: hope for a brighter future. As conflicts continue, especially in Syria and Iraq, the number of people seeking safety and basic necessities is on the rise.

Our Response:

As a church, we are called to respond. Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to meeting basic humanitarian needs and upholding the rights of those fleeing war and crisis. We are working with our companion churches, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary, the Slovak Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Augsburg Confession in Serbia and The Lutheran World Federation to provide food, diapers, blankets, water, health kits,

hygiene kits and psychosocial services to assist those who have fled their homes. We are also in communication with our church companions in Germany. As temperatures drop and resources run out in the coming weeks and months ahead, your gifts will provide warmth, healing and hope.

What you can do:

Pray:

Pray for those who are affected by violence and are vulnerable, that they may be granted peace and healing.

Give:

Your gifts are needed now to help with immediate relief. Gifts designated for the Middle East and Europe Refugee Crisis will be used in full (100 percent) to assist those directly impacted.

Editor's note: Articles on pages 7 and 8 are from ELCA.org's [Lutheran Disaster Relief Blog](http://www.elca.org/lutheran-disaster-relief-blog).

YOUTH

High School Bible Study

Bible Study for our high school youth grades 9-12 has begun. Youth are invited to join a time of study and devotion on **Wednesdays from 7-8:15 p.m.**



HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

Sign up for LYON Assembly

Senior High LYON (Lutheran Youth of NE) Assembly registration is due to Miss Heather by **Oct 9**. The assembly will take place in Hastings from **Nov. 20-22**. Youth from across the synod will meet for fellowship and service. Music features AGAPE* and Rachel Kurtz.



Registration is \$120 and fundraising opportunities are available. Talk to Heather Christensen or visit nebraskasynod.org for details.

Camp-Out at the Cross

Saturday, October 17 - Sunday, October 18 is the youth camp-out in the backyard of the church. We'll gather around the campfire at 7 p.m. for singing, s'mores and Bible study. In the morning, we'll have cinnamon/orange rolls and worship together at 8 a.m.

Youth should bring

- sleeping bag
- warm clothes
- snack to share
- a friend!

Contact Heather with questions at heather@lord-of-love.org or 402.209.9305.



Other upcoming Youth Events:

Saturday, Nov. 7: Service opportunity for Fall Festival

Sunday, Nov. 15: Youth Group Fellowship Event



CHURCH COUNCIL AND RESOURCES

2015 Lord of Love Church Council

Vision and Coordination: Brian Walther, President; Dave Hild, Vice-President; Judy Messerschmidt, Secretary; Jackie Combes, Treasurer

Nurture: Susan Lueders and Lisa Willard

Outreach: Mardi Fiske and Scott Reinhardt

Resources: Craig Pennell and Bill Quackenbush

Worship: Heather Hansen and Joan Witt



Giving Status

General Fund financial information for August 2015:

Actual Income - \$34,031.00

Actual Expense - \$25,639.20

Financial Information Year-To-Date as of the end of August:

Actual Income - \$201,810.81

Actual Expense - \$207,791.19



As of the end of August, the available cash deficit has decreased. It is (12,101.56). Weekly offerings of \$6,799 are needed to meet budgeted expenses. The weekly offering average through the end of August was \$5,666. The monthly offering average was \$23,796.42 at the end of July and \$24,786.75 at the end of August. Giving statements will be sent out again for the end of September. Thank you for your support and for keeping your pledges current.

“For the Fruit of All Creation, Thanks Be To God!”, by Rex Quadhamer

How wonderful it is that our Creator has given us an abundance of resources to sustain us and for us to cultivate. The stewardship part of his gifts for us is caring for them and sharing them with our neighbors.

We're all aware of the many ways we try to care for his creation: recycling at our homes and businesses, farmers practicing care of their farmland and animals, cleaning up rivers and the ocean, preserving our water resources, cleaning up polluted air. Perhaps the biggest challenge will be reversing global warming. It's a big world and getting everyone to work together to care for it can be challenging.

The other task is to share resources with those who are hungry and despairing (*cont.*).

HEADER

“For the Fruit of All Creation,” continued

Many of us have an abundance that we're able to share through the food pantries (i.e. Project Hope), our gifts at church which go to the synod and then throughout our country and the world, building homes for “Habitat for Humanity”, giving blood during blood drives, and special offerings for specific causes (i.e. prison ministry, nets for malaria prevention, Lutheran disaster response). There are many more ways that we have given of ourselves to help others.

October is when we take a look at our stewardship commitments. How wonderful it is that our Creator has given us an abundance of resources to sustain us and to cultivate. Thanks Be To God!

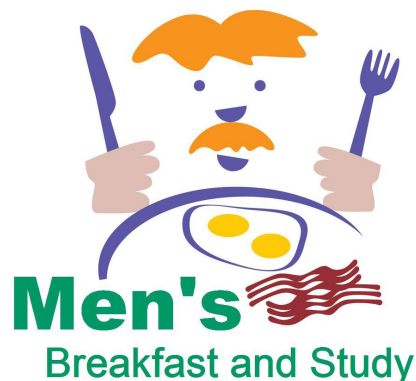


MEN'S CORNER

Men's Bible Study

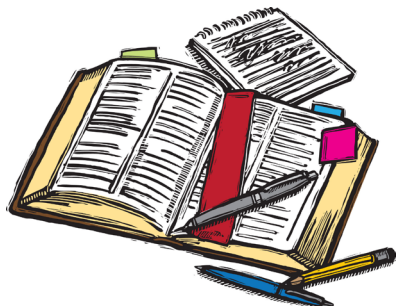
Lord of Love's men's group and Bible study meets on Saturday mornings in our Fellowship Hall. The 7 a.m. breakfast is followed by Christian study and fellowship. We close the meeting at 8 a.m.

Plenty of food and seating is always available. Come join us for food and stay for the fellowship. All men are welcome.



WOMEN OF LOVE

“Gather” Bible Study



The October lesson is “Make Haste O Lord” based on Psalm 31:15, “My times are in your hand. Deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.”

The Monday evening group will meet on **Oct. 5** at the Oak View Village Inn. The Wednesday evening group will meet in the Mary Room **on Oct. 7 at 6 p.m.**

WOMEN OF LOVE

Lutheran Women of Omaha

Lutheran Women of Omaha will meet on **Tuesday, October 13 at noon** at Lutheran Church of the Master, 2617 South 114th St. The program will be Lutheran Family Services, and the monetary project is Katie's Fund.

As Ruth Manning will not be available to take your reservations, please make them directly with Mardelle Gocek at 402.292.1328 by 5 p.m. Sunday, October 11.

Thankoffering Sunday

Remember to bring your Thankofferings to either the 8 or 10:30 worship service on **Sunday, Oct. 11**. For more than 100 years, Lutheran women have carried out the tradition of collecting Thankofferings to give thanks for blessings in the ordinary and extraordinary moments of life.



Thankoffering
Sunday

Thankofferings are sent to Church-wide Women of the ELCA for ongoing ministries. Thank you in advance for participating in this ministry.

Fall General Meeting

Please note this change of date: Because of a conflict, the Women of Love general meeting has been rescheduled to **Saturday, October 31**. Coffee and goodies will be served at 9 a.m. We will elect members of 2016 Ministry Team members, and plan for the 2016 Women's Ministry program. All women are invited to come and share their ideas.



If you are interested in serving on the ministry team, contact Rose Roberts, 402.392.1559 or Ruth Manning, 402.451.0221.

Ministry Team Meeting

The women's ministry team will meet at 6 p.m. on **Wednesday, Oct 14** in the Mary Room. All women are invited to attend.

It's Coffee Time!

Ladies Coffee Fellowship will meet at 8 a.m. on Fridays, **October 2, 16 and 30** at Crane Coffee at 77th and Cass. Bring a friend!



WOMEN OF LOVE

Advent by Candlelight



Advent

It's been a couple of years since we celebrated "Advent by Candlelight" but it's on our calendar for **Dec. 6 at 4 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Women are invited to decorate a table of their

choice for a meal: dinner, lunch, coffee party or other occasion. We have a brief program followed by coffee and dessert.

If you're interested in helping with the planning, please contact Rose Roberts or Ruth Manning.

Dates to Remember

October

- 2** **8 a.m.** Crane Coffee Fellowship
- 5** **6 p.m.** Gather Bible Study, Village Inn, 3304 S.143rd Plaza
- 6** **9-12** Quilters, Fellowship Hall
- 7** **6 p.m.** Gather Bible Study, Mary Room
- 11** Thankoffering Sunday
- 14** **6 p.m.** Ministry Team, Mary Room
- 16** **8 a.m.** Crane Coffee Fellowship
- 20** **9-1** Quilters, Fellowship Hall
- 30** **8 a.m.** Crane Coffee Fellowship
- 31** **9 a.m.** General meeting and election of Ministry Team, 2016 Planning

Looking Ahead

Nov. 7 Fall Festival and Dinner

Dec. 6 Advent by Candlelight

Dec. 12 Preparation of goodie baskets for elderly, shut-ins and those with special needs

Triennial Gathering Theme

It's not too early to begin to plan for the 2017 Triennial Gathering of the Women of the ELCA to be held **July 13-16** in Minneapolis. The theme is "All Anew." Because this event falls during the observance of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, the theme resonates with reformation and transformation images.

Since Minneapolis is within driving distance, do I hear "carpooling?" It's time to start putting away those dollars and plan to attend this inspirational event.



IN OUR PRAYERS

Antoinette Anania (cousin of Deb Lund)
Chris Beckman (friend of Jane Gehringer)
Syd Brinkman
Brenda Thom
Dick Bell
Connie Bennett (cousin of Karen Armitage)
Carl (friend of Saylor Boylan)
Jim Christiansen (brother of Kathy Christiansen)
Patricia Connolly (friend of the Thoms)
Vicky Hays (friend of Ann Kroll)
Mary Howard (friend of Carol Novak)
Marjorie Holbrook (mother of Judy Messerschmidt)
Sgt. Dean & Erin Hansen (Delina Wiater's son & his wife)
Janet Jensen (mother of Dawn Burton)
Margret Kragnes (mother of Amy Kragnes)
Matt Kreikimeier (friend of Brenda Mac)
Glenna Lee
Lisa Lueders (sister-in-law of Dave Lueders)

Charles Meyer (father of Pr. Brad)
Vi Neu (stepmother of Carol Novak)
Don St. Ours (brother-in-law of Lynda McGraw)
Drew Van Winkle (friend of Gustafsons)
Georgene Sones (mother of Dayla Miller)
Cynthia Palmer (friend of Dave & Lisa Rieff)
Nancy Shinrock
Betty Wallwey (aunt of Shari Garder)
Steve Wiitala (friend of Karen Mullen)
Wayne Witt
Ted Whitfield (former co-worker of Brian Shinrock)
Caregivers and those who suffer with depression

Those Who Are Deployed

Steve Slone

Those who Mourn

The family and friends of Karen Beck

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!



God has nothing but the best, and he offers it to us, weeds us, sustains us and cares for us through his Son. That's the way our hearts are changed to follow Christ.

—Martin Luther





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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

Oct. 4 Celebration of Faith Sunday

Oct. 15 Aged to Perfection Lunch

Oct. 17-18 Youth Camp-Out at the Cross

Save the Date

Nov. 7 Fall Festival

Dec. 6 Advent by Candlelight

Dec. 13 Sunday School Christmas Program

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 (including recipes or favorite poems, etc.) must be received by the 20th of the month.