

The Mountain Top

Messenger

Zion Lutheran Church

VOLUME 55, ISSUE #1 FEBRUARY 2017

Well, here we are February, we are entering the downhill side of winter, the days are getting noticeably longer and Valentine's Day is rapidly approaching. Partly out of personal interest and partly out of not knowing what to write this month I decided to look into Valentine's Day. I, like others, am thought that it was named after St. Valentine, so I started there. Turns out very little is actually known about St. Valentine, as a matter of fact it is thought that he might actually have been two people with the same name who lived about the same time. According to the Roman Church, which created most of those saints, they admitted they really didn't know much about him. Other than he supposedly restored the sight of his Jailer's daughter and then was later beheaded by the Roman Emperor Claudius when he tried to convert him to Christianity. So you might ask what in the world does that have to do with the Valentine's Day that we celebrate. Great question, and from what I could find out, pretty much nothing. It wasn't until the fourteenth century when a man named Geoffrey Chaucer and those in his circle tied Romantic Love to the already established feast day of St. Valentine. Kind of a crazy story and I gave you the short version.

Two quick questions come to mind, first why are you telling everyone this and secondly who cares anyway? Well those are both good questions so here is the transition; Valentine's day is supposed to be about love, giving, sharing, caring, all of that mushy stuff, right? Well the point I am going to dive into is this; long before St. Valentine, long before Geoffrey turned it into being about love, we received a directive to Love. As Christian's that is what we are supposed to do. Remember those two great commandments; Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your mind, and all your soul, and love your neighbor as yourself. Being a Christian is supposed to be about love, every day, all the time. In the New Testament the word Love is used 235 times (and that doesn't count derivatives, i.e. loved, loving, etc), the apostle John is the one who really tries to instill that love upon us. John uses the word Love 84 times within the five books that he authored, a full one third of the time. Sometimes in this world we find it hard to love, we find it hard to see love, we find it hard to share love. It seems this is particularly true if you're a man, it seems the world has tried to instill upon the men of this world that we can show or share our love. Now I know that is not exclusive to men, but in my 62 years it does seem to prevail. So what John tries to do, particularly in his epistles, is to show us why.

First and foremost, we need to love one another because God loves us (and he loved us first). 1 John 3:1 *See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.* God loved us so much that he adopted us, He made us His children so we could inherit His gift. He then tells us 1 John 3:11 [**Love One Another**] *For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.* Because God loved us so much that He adopted us, made us brothers and sisters of His Son, we are to love one another, seems like a fair trade to me. John later sums it up in chapter 4 vs. 7-12; ⁷ *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.* ⁸ *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.* ⁹ *In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.* ¹⁰ *In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.* ¹¹ *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.* ¹² *No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

In those 5 verses, John uses the word love thirteen times, there are only three other books in the New Testament (besides John's) where love is used that many times in the entire book. In Hebrew tradition and understanding the more often a word was used the more important it was. Can you see the point? God loves us, we are to love God **and** love one another. And as John has in chapter 3 Vs. 16-18; ¹⁶ *By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.* ¹⁷ *But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?* ¹⁸ *Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.*

As Valentine's Day as our reminder, let us share God's love, not in word or talk, but in deed. Love your neighbor as yourself. Sorry for being long winded, or worded, Happy Valentine's Day and share God's love with the world.

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you, the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Your brother in Christ

Pastor Rick



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Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479 Office Hours: M/T/W/Th 8:00am-5:00pm

(Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor Williams as he may be visiting shut-in's, at a conference, etc.)

Church President: Nick Jarvela 715-682-0385

Head Elder: Darryl Warren 715-492-0488

Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center: 715-682-5185

LFOJ Administrator: Karyn Leino 715-682-6075



SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP



Sunday School resumed Jan. 8th continuing with the same curriculum as before. The incentive for attending Sunday School ten times continues with:

David G., Dylan O., Parker L., Grady W., Reider W., John T. 3/4 year olds, Lucas B., Anna W., Olivia O. for the 2 year olds, Jeffrey G., Eli W., Sophie T., Emma M., Belle for the 1,2,3rd Grade, Ayeisha D., Daniel T., Austin V., for 4th and 5th Grade and Lily T. for 6th Grade.

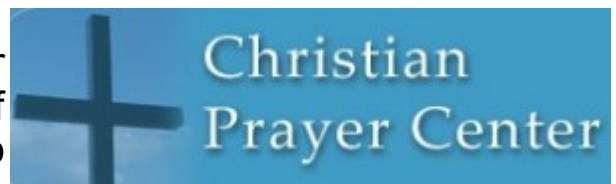
The Sunday School plans on singing during the Jan. 29th service with Jody Truchon directing them.

Project Sundays is set for Jan. 29th with the planned theme of "The Colors of Faith."

Respectfully Submitted Katie Colgrove
Sunday School Superintendent

NEED A PRAYER?

Zion Lutheran Church has two active prayer chains—a daytime and an evening chain. If you would like to have the chain activated to pray for a specific need, please call Marge Douglas at 682-2160. If you reach the answering machine, please leave a message, but then call the church office at 682-6075 and give the request to the church secretary and the chain will be activated. The Prayer Chain members are asked to keep all prayer requests confidential and not discuss them with others, but caller discretion is advised.



Our Prayer Concerns FEBRUARY

Mission

Zion Lutheran Church Little Friends of Jesus Childcare Center LWML
Jordan Kroll Mission in China Zion Sewing Circle Monthly Missions

Thanksgiving To all of you who have worked faithfully and joyfully to serve our Lord by serving others and often go unnoticed by all but our Heavenly Father.

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

For good test results, treatment, positive thinking, healing, and comfort during cancer treatments, for those suffering from addiction, mental illness and for healing, strength, comfort, and peace for family we pray for: Katie Stipetich, Bob Heggie, Kevin Heggie, Wendy Meierotto, Joni Frisco, Brad Prill, Dean Jansheski, Jean Wickman, Fran Fleig, Emily Hagstrom, Eddie Brown, Johnny Galligan, Alice Balmer, Mary Bullis,, Sheldon Henri, Charles Ylitalo, Violet Basina, Sheryl Hildebrandt, Tracy Steward, Max Beiersdorff, Gail Schielke, Micayla Key, Tim Smith, Scott Albright, Terry Clark, Scott Albright, Nick Frisco Family, Ernie Spangle, Kayla Stach, Melissa Grage, Jim Bullis

PRAYERS FOR HOMEBOUND

Those who aren't able to attend common worship that they would find comfort knowing that the Lord is with them. *Walt Schutte, Arlene Zimmerman, Madge Houle*

PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION

For our full-time troops and public servants, for travel, missionaries, and for peace and protection for families.
Aaron Esala, David Wright, Johanna Pearce



February Mission

Collecting donations for
The BRICK

Drop off soup,
monetary donations, hygiene items or other
non-perishable food during the month of
February.



Stewardship Thoughts

This month we will tackle another "hard-hitting" subject of stewardship and that is removing the barriers to faithful stewardship. You are a steward. When The Lord spoke creation into existence, He created human beings to be stewards of His creation. He is the owner, we are the husbandmen or caretakers. When we care for our family, share the Gospel with them and serve our neighbor and our Lord we are doing what The Lord created us to do. However, sin destroyed this relationship in The Fall and we as stewards took on the role of owner and stole from God! Think about that for awhile. No where in scripture or human history has The Lord transferred title of creation to humans.

This owner/stewardship relationship is the greatest barrier to faithful stewardship. Any inserting of the will of the steward into the position of owner is theft and idolatry. When the steward claims ownership he is stealing the title that belongs to another. When someone steals a car, it isn't called poor stewardship, it's called theft. Even worse, when an individual asserts their wisdom and understanding over The Lord by their ownership mentality over the things in life, they are usurping the place of The Lord. This isn't theft but idolatry. This can be seen in the congregation when individuals limit their stewardship only to the needs of the congregation. The Lord desires His Gospel to be shared with all people who are in the shadow of the church steeple or bell tower who don't know Jesus.

Another barrier to faithful stewardship is that of perception. If it is perceived that the congregational leadership is wasteful of congregational resources, this will prevent faithful stewardship of others. The reverse is also true. If the leadership is perceived as being too "tight-fisted" it will have a negative impact on faithful stewardship. It will demonstrate an ownership mentality that will fly in the face of the fact that all we are and have comes from The Lord.

Removing the barriers to faithful stewardship will require a redirection back to the altar where our Lord meets and serves us through the Means of Grace and His Word. The Law to show the error of our ways, the Gospel to show forgiveness. Preaching and teaching are irreplaceable weapons in removing barriers of faithful stewardship. The Holy Spirit at work in the hearts and lives of stewards softens hardened hearts, loosens clutched hands, and directs the feet and lives in the path of faithfulness.

Most of my computer time the past two weeks has been focused on earning a graduate credit to renew my teaching license. To make a long story short, this assignment is just about history and now I can return to thoughts and ideas that invite me to examine my journey of faith.

Valentine's Day 2010

-A. Ellis

Dear Family and Friends,

So here we are, on the cusp of celebrating another Valentine's Day. A day to remember love, practice love, and celebrate love. Most of us are steeped in the love of family and friends and we would not want it any other way. Most of us also know that love is not all cards, chocolate, and roses. For many times, love is a tough assignment that takes hard work, practice-practice-practice, and generous doses of forgiveness.

God knew that love would be pushed to a new limit when He created humans, but He promised His unconditional love for the long haul. In good order, He set this love in motion, and humans didn't waste time responding with dis-order. He even washed the earth with a flood, and many missed the boat. He gave people daily bread, and they complained they had no onions (leeks). He empowered a lad to bring down a giant, and later this young man (now a king) schemed to get another man's wife. God creates us to be holy people, and we shatter the plan to become broken people. What is wrong with this picture?



But do not despair. This is not the end of the story. God is a God with a love that is so deep and wide, He holds nothing back. He placed His love-message in His son Jesus and sent him to dwell in our midst. There was no one too broken for Jesus. No one too down-and-out. No one too far away. No one too lost. No one too hopeless. From the beginning, God's love was for keeps and he secured this promise with His life on our behalf.

So dear family and friends, let us eat rich chocolate, smell fresh roses, send sweet cards, and proclaim our love for each other. For we are a redeemed and holy people. When I was a teacher, the Our Lady of the Lake students would often sing this refrain:

*I have loved you with an everlasting love,
I have called you, and you are mine.*

God loves us. God calls us. Hear His promise: *I have called you, and you are mine...* and let us collectively say "Amen" to His everlasting Valentine



DAILY DEVOTIONS

Mustard Seed



Living in the Spirit...Helps Me to Pray

In the Word

We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us
... [Romans 8:26b](#)

Of the Word

Sometimes our hearts and minds are unable to put prayers into words. How thankful we can be that the Holy Spirit speaks for us, interceding on our behalf!

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests ([Ephesians 6:18a](#)). Praying in the Spirit means that we are praying for God's will to be done in our lives. The Holy Spirit guides us, reminding us that God wants us to pray at any time, in any place, about any need. We can be confident that our loving God hears every prayer, no matter how large or small the request may be.

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus ([1 Thessalonians 5:16-18](#)).

Walking with my Lord

Father God, I rejoice knowing that You are always ready to listen to me, no matter what I bring to You. The Holy Spirit brings my prayers to Your ears. Thank You for this gift. In Jesus' name. Amen.

A man said to

his wife one day, "I don't know how you can be so stupid and so beautiful all at the same time." The wife responded, "Allow me to explain. God made me beautiful so you would be attracted to me. God made me stupid so I would be attracted to you."

As she fumbled

for her wallet I noticed a remote control for a television set in her purse. "So, do you always carry your TV remote" I asked. "No," she replied, "but my husband refused to come shopping with me, and I figured this was the most evil thing I could do to him legally."

Zion Lutheran Council Minutes: January 18, 2017

The Jan. 18, 2017 Church Council Meeting was called to order by Nick Jarvela at 5:30pm.

Pastor Rick Williams opened with devotions on 2 Peter 1:16-21. We need to share the story that it is "true".

Roll Call: Nick Jarvela (President/Trustees), Mary Koosmann (Financial Secretary), Carol Key (Co-Treasurer), Lisa Guski (Co-Treasurer/LFOJ), Darryl Warren (Elders), Chad Lipske (Education), Chuck Chronis (Stewardship)

November 2016 Minutes: Motion to accept minutes by Guski, second by Chronis. MMC

Pastoral Report: In January attended Homiletics II Class in St. Louis. Working on a few assignments due in the next few weeks. 18 worship services, two of which were done by Elder Darryl and one by Pastor Hyvonen. Confirmation is continuing. Monday's Bible Study finished Job and will be starting on Psalms. Sunday Bible Study is continuing with Being Lutheran. Visitations completed before Christmas. No Winkel in December, January's is at St. Paul's. Had LFOJ Chapel on Dec. 6 and 7. LFOJ Christmas Program Dec. 20th, great attendance. Pastor Daniel Paavola, from CUW coming 1/22/17.

Treasurer's Report: Motion accepted by Warren, second by Chronis. MMC

Meeting Agenda: Motion to approve proposed agenda with changes by Warren, second by Guski.

Board Reports:

Trustees: No maintenance at Church. JFOJ had some pipe issues, snow removal good, concrete repair, consulted with insurance company last week, getting bids on breaker panels.

Elders: Finished list, dividing Church members between the six Elders. Next meeting working forward. Placing in newsletter and on board, keep families associated with same Elder. Start slow and work into a relationship.

Financial Secretary: 2016 Statements in mailboxes. Will be ordering 2018 envelopes (good discount with early purchase)

Education: Sunday School Christmas Program on Dec. 18th went very well. Lynn Ladd has stepped down from the board. Chad Lipske has joined the board.

Little Friends of Jesus: Classes are full, had some frozen pipes during the extreme freeze and replacement of faulty valve, looking into be a satellite class for the 4K program the school district is starting this fall.

Evangelism: Working on new membership dinner, thinking of a "reach out to others" activity-concert or speaker

Stewardship: Nothing to report.

Motion to accept board reports by Warren, second by Chronis. MMC

Official Acts: Baptisms Maggie Rooni 12-03-16, Zander Pagels 12-11-16

Old Business:

Evergreen Lutheran Church and School, Detroit, MI, has requested a donation. There will be a freewill donation in February with a match from the church.

New Business:

Vacuums – Sexton will try to repair one and/or get prices for new ones, then decision will be made.

Soup/Sandwich Suppers 3/1 Altar Guild, 3/8 Trustees, 3/15 Sunday School, 3/22 LFOJ, 3/29 Stewardship and Youth, 4/5 Elder/Evangelism

The Brick – request to participate in fundraiser with a basket to raffle at their event. John or Lori will take care of purchase.

School District 4-K Program – Should LFOJ become a satellite classroom. This Wednesday will be a public forum for information. Many from LFOJ/Board will be attending. Get info and bring back to board.

The next Church Council meeting will be February 20, 2017.

Adjourn: Motion by Warren, seconded by Chronis. MMC

Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

FEBRUARY Servers for Worship Services

Our Servers for our Worship Service are very important. We ask that if you are unable to serve on your designated date, please find someone else to take your place. We really appreciate your help in this matter!! If you would like to be added or taken off one of our lists please contact the office. Greeters and Ushers should arrive 20 minutes before services start. Thank-you to all who serve.

February	Elders	Acolytes	Ushers	Greeters
Wed. 1st	Doug Warren			
Sun. 5th	Andy Pruss John Pruss	Abbi Moreland	Scott Sapper Don Moreland	Brian & Linda Klobucher
Wed. 8th	Scott Thimm			
Sun. 12th	Randy Spangle Darryl Warren	Trista Bolz	Cooper Tamke Jake Pruss	Vyskocil Family
Wed. 15th	Scott Thimm			
Sun. 19th	Doug Warren Andy Pruss	Ella Bauer	Bruce Honkala Curt Harpster	Thimm Family
Wed. 22nd	Darryl Warren			
Sun. 26th	Doug Warren John Pruss	Logan Esala	Micke Cashman Larry Hildebrandt	Ron & Brenda Schwiesow
Wed Mar. 1	Andy Pruss Darryl Warren	Abbi Moreland	Warren Draeger	Herb & Alice Ellis
Sun. Mar. 5th	Darryl Warren Scott Thimm	Emily Dickrell	Tim Bauer Chris Bolz	Adam Hinch

Call Linda Klobucher if you would like flowers on the altar for a remembrance, special celebration or to adorn the altar.

715-746-2064

Jule Jarvela 682-0385
Janet Houle 682-2387

