Prince of Peace

THE BELLS

February 2017
Volume 43, Issue 2

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Love is…

Dear Friends in Christ,

Walking into just about any store on December 26th, you'll see two things. All Christmas decorations, candy, and wrapping paper is now on sale and Valentine candy, cards, and hearts are now on sale. Every February 14th, Valentine's Day is celebrated not so much for the saint it is named after, but for the romantic desire that one feels for another.

Romantic desire is not love. We often confuse it for love. We speak of "falling in love", that elated, "high" feeling we get at the beginning of relationships. But this kind of love, this romantic desire lasts typically less than a year unless it is replaced by true love. Romanic desire, unless replaced by true love, will end in broken relationships.

True love is not rooted in our desires, in our wants, but comes from God. "God is love," (1Jo 4:8 ESV) John writes. God's love was made evident in this world when God sent His only Son into the world that we might live through Him. We are able to love because God first loved us.

Most of us know the biblical description of love from 1 Corinthians 13: "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends." (1Co 13:4-8 ESV)

Not only does this explanation perfectly fit God's love toward us, it is an apt description of God Himself. Look what happens when we insert "God" in place of "Love": God is patient and kind; God does not envy or boast; He is not arrogant or rude.

And although there is only one way to Heaven, God does not insist on His own way, rather He grieves for all those who are lost. And this should be the way we love each other and God. Through our baptisms we have been recreated in the image of God. We should be patient and kind; we should not be envious or boastful; we should not be arrogant or rude. For the sake of our brothers and sisters here on earth, we should bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things, for we know that in Christ, we will never end. This is what Jesus called us to do when He said, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Mar 12:31 ESV)

However, none of us have ever perfectly fulfilled this biblical definition of love.

The Bible says that this unconditional love is more important than everything else (a partial list includes oratory ability, prophecy, knowledge, faith, philanthropy and hope). All of these things, which are "good" things, will pass away. Only love is eternal, since love is the basis of eternal life. Love is the essence of all the Commandments. Paul said loving our fellowman is the way to fulfill all the commandments. (Rom. 13.10)

Isn't it a great blessing to know that despite our failures, God continues to love us, being patient with us and always calling us back to remember our baptisms and to whom we belong? This Valentine's Day, as you celebrate the romantic love that God has given you, remember even more the Love He has for us in Christ.

In Christ Jesus,
Pastor Michael

WORSHIP WITH US
Saturday: 6:30 PM
Sunday: 10:15 AM

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February Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

Roger Nuerge	2
Avis Miller	3
Jean Taylor	4
Shane Parker	11
Brett Torres	11
Joel Nuerge	12
Justin Nuerge	12
Luke Bendekovic	12
Matthew Osten	16
Skylar DeThomas	19
Minnie Nowry	20
Rich Clayton	21
Allison Bendekovic	22
Hannah Bendekovic	27
Kyle Borgman	29

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Kathy Voland	
Tom Sigler	
George Mesing	2
Sallie Mannino	5
Bill Mallary	8
Jean Taylor	9
Joan Coe	14
Mary Nuerge	15
Kim Singleton	21
Roger Nuerge	22
Brooke Lehman	22
Jason Mengel	24
Becky Mallary	25
Joel Nuerge	26
Justin Nuerge	26
Karen Meinert	28
Jane Wilson	28

ANNIVERSARIES

Scott & Beth Lehman	19

Servants In Ministry

"But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you."

Greeter
5 – Ed/Sandi Morgan
12 – Ruth Miller/Matthew Gunther
19 – Rich Ethel
26 – Beau/Twila DeThomas

Reader
5 – Karl Borgman
12 – Bill Mallary
19 – Peter Humphrey
26 – Darryl Gunther

Altar Guild
Linda Weimer/Susan Ozenich

Acolyte
5 – Hannah Bendekovic
12 – Nikolai Podeszwa
19 – Ethan Bendekovic
26 – Skylar DeThomas

Prayer Concerns

Please keep the following members & friends in your prayers:

- Rachel Humphrey, recovering from foot surgery.
- Continued prayers of healing for Willis Voland's sister; Betty Ann.
- Joel, a young friend of the Mesing family, Hodgkin's lymphoma.
- Additional prayers for those battling cancer: Bob Greer, Carol Helkowski, Milt Scott and Erica Davids.
- Layana (Granddaughter of Karen & Joe Meinert) for her mental health.
- Thomas Haffely who was hospitalized for cardiac arrest.
- Blaise Fischer, son of friend of Liz Shuttleworth, heart issues.
- Bill Humphrey, father of Peter and grandfather of Joshua and Rachel who is recovering from surgery.
- Milt Scott recovering from pneumonia.
- Dave Stump, concussion.
- Barb Bishop, leukemia.
- Mary Lou, Kathy Voland's sister, health concerns.

LUTHERAN HOUR – FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

February 5
"Nothing But Jesus!"
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz
Amid life's commotion and clamor, what will give us peace? Nothing but Jesus!
(1 Corinthians 2:1-16)

February 12
"Here's to Life!"
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz
Even as the world becomes a meaner, angrier place, God calls us to share His life with others.
(Deuteronomy 30:15-20)

February 19
"Love Your Enemies--Jesus Does!"
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz
God calls us to love and forgive our enemies the way He loves and forgives us.
(Matthew 5:38-48)

February 26
"Guilt's Gone"
Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus
A guilty conscience accuses; a forgiving Savior brings peace to troubles hearts.
(1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

LCMS Foundation
TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

www.lcmsfoundation.org 800-325-7912

Blending Family and Ministry Priorities

Personal priorities are often closely linked to family concerns. For Christians, spiritual precedence binds the importance of values we consider significant. Such unification combines the primacy of family and ministry motivations.

Throughout life, such priorities tend to show up in our actions. Whether laden with mistakes, or framed by good works, the priorities of our lives will be made known in the fruits that result from those actions.

God's Word clearly brings family and ministry priorities together on the same road. We don't need to look any further than the Ten Commandments to see ample evidence of this. It begins with the top priority - love for God, and moves to the second priority - love for our fellow man. All societies in history build on the foundational layer of family as the footing for humanity.

The beginning of a new year is an excellent time to encourage all parents with children to put in place or review their last will and testament that blends the spiritual priorities of family and ministry life. This is done using Christian preambles, charitable bequests and appropriate gifts to family members that will serve to bless and not curse them.

Parents with minor children will find it especially important to establish a minor's trust to protect dependent children and to manage property or nominate Christian guardians who can be trustworthy in continuing consistent parental values.

Stewarding all of life includes managing risks that surround us during the days God gives. Preparing a Christian estate and gift plan should reflect a person's priorities and merge family and ministry goals. If you haven't completed your plan or updated it recently, you can give witness to your priorities for family and ministry by resolving to start, with our help, in the year of our Lord, 2017.

For more information, contact Robert Wirth, LCMS Foundation Gift Planner @ robert.wirth@lfnd.org or 716-863-4427.

DEAR PRINCE OF PEACE MEMBERS,

We would like to thank each and every one of you for all of your love, kindness, and support. Words cannot express how you have touched our lives in such a positive way. We appreciate all of the prayers and thoughts from each of you, the many meals that have been prepared, the gift cards received, and arm bands with the slogan "No One Fights Alone, Team Joan". Support was shown in too many ways to list.

One of the things that touched Joan tremendously while working at Children's Hospital was the fact that so many of the patients' families were able to benefit from the Ronald McDonald House connected to the hospital. Joan wanted to support this organization by having donations made in her memory, and you have made this possible. Her co-workers in the PICU had shirts made to recognize her, and wore them at work on designated days. They also made the shirts available to others, and were able to provide extra funds from the shirt sales to our family.

Joan decided that she wanted these funds and the funds collected in October at Prince of Peace, along with any other gifts received by our family, to be donated to the Ronald McDonald House. We were able to make a donation in the amount of $4,000 to the Ronald McDonald House in her name. Fortunately, Arthur Moats, a player for the Steelers matched all of the donations during the month of December, so this gift to them was doubled. Not only that, but all of the individual donations in her memory received in December were matched, as well.

Thank you all for making one of Joan's wishes possible. We appreciate all of your love and support.

The Doerr Family

FROM ELDER ALLEN:

Thank you God for the new Prince of Peace that is emerging now.

We have the power to change the things about us that we truly desire to change. So in a quiet time away from the business of the day we relax. We concentrate on ourselves – not in a self-centered way, but in a spiritual centered dedication of giving our time and attention to the presence of God within us.

We concentrate on doing a great work on ourselves, not on trying to change the people around us. We know that it is up to each individual to work with God to change the things he or she wants to change.

So we focus on changing ourselves. Instead of reacting with emotion to things that happen, we respond from the spiritual center within us. Thank God that a new Prince of Peace is emerging and a stronger more faith-filled persons and a stronger church. "Thank you God."

"There is a new creation. Everything old has passed away, see everything has become new! All this is from God, who has given us the ministry of reconciliation." 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

OUTREACH TEAM

In the Great Commission, Jesus says,

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matthew 28: 19-20

He's not saying that only pastors and teachers should do this—he's speaking to all of us here. And don't be fooled into thinking that it's a suggestion (because that's how Satan wants us to think). For Christians, it's a call to action. So think of ways that you can get involved in sharing the Gospel with those around you. If you're short on ideas, your outreach leadership team has planned fun events for 2017 that will give you an opportunity to share your faith without getting too far outside of your ***comfort zone***:

- ***Kids Night Out – February 10th***
- ***Easter Egg Hunt – April 8th***
- ***Vacation Bible School – June 26th-30th***
- ***Big Knob Grange Fair – Labor Day Weekend***
- ***Fall Festival – September 23rd***
- ***Trunk or Treat – Green Valley Park - October 28th***
- ***Angel Tree – December***

We'll be sending out more details as the year rolls along, so be on the lookout. If you're not already on the e-mail list for POP, please contact Mirka Fatschel.

In the meantime, you can reach out to Willis Voland, Twila DeThomas or Tammy Eckstrom. We'll be glad to plug you in wherever you feel most comfortable.

ATTENTION MARRIED COUPLES: Have you signed up for your 2017 Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend? Marriage Encounter invites married couples on a journey—a deepening of your love. The program allows husband and wife to eliminate all distractions and focus solely on each other for the weekend. A $100 per couple registration fee gets you signed up; plus toward the end of the weekend, you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish toward continuation of the program. Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included. The 2017 Northeast US Weekends are:

- March 24-26, 2017 at Toftrees Golf Resort Conference Center -- a peaceful resort nestled in 1500 wooded acres in State College, PA.
- April 28-30, 2017 in Lancaster, PA, at the all newly-renovated Heritage Hotel Lancaster, home of the unique tree-house-inspired restaurant, "Loxley's."
- September 15-17, 2017 at Spruce Lake Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA, a new hotel-style facility on Spruce Lake in the heart of the Pocono Mountains – an hour north of Allentown.
- October 6-8, 2017 at the Black Swan Inn in Lee, Massachusetts. Nestled in the foothills of the Berkshire Mountains, a hidden gem overlooking Laurel Lake – an hour north of Hartford, CT.

To sign up online, go to: www.GodLovesMarriage.org and pay the $100 registration fee using your credit card, or mark the option to mail in a check For questions, or if you would like a brochure mailed to you, contact Northeast US Area Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or email: fjschamber@comcast.net. Registrations are limited, so act TODAY to ensure that you can attend the Weekend of your choice!

HELP SAVE LIVES IN PITTSBURGH!

Here's how to take part:

- **Vigil location:** Outside Planned Parenthood, 933 Liberty Ave., downtown Pittsburgh
- **Vigil hours:** 7 am to 7 pm daily
- **Local contact:** Nikki Bruni, nbruni@40daysforlifepgh.com or 412-926-9413 (text or call)
- **Learn more** and get involved by visiting our campaign at the address below!

You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization!
Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 725,000 volunteers!

With God's help ... we've seen proven results in 19 coordinated campaigns:

- **12,668 babies** saved from abortion
- **141 abortion** workers converted
- **75 abortion** centers closed

40daysforlifepittsburgh.com or 40daysforlife.com/Pittsburgh

Mrs. Shuttleworth & Miss Jill's Preschool News

Well it is that time of year again, when we get the snow suits out and dress children over and over again! I love a good snowball fight and making snow angels in the fresh fallen snow! Winter is definitely here! The children are all busy working on their alphabet books and their number books. They have grown in so many ways since the beginning of the school year. You should be very proud! We are! I will say that I do believe that they have spring fever and the teachers do too!!! They have a lot of energy to run off so we have been doing just that. We have been playing musical snowflakes and snowmen in the fellowship hall with many balls and some hockey nets. Boy they have been enjoying that!!! It's also great exercise for the teachers. Our Bible lesson for the month was the 12 disciples of Jesus. Both classes had a pajama party and the teachers even liked coming to school in our pajamas. We danced and played games. A great time was had by all!

Three year olds

The three year olds lesson for this month was Nursery Rhymes. I was glad to see that some of them knew some! We did some fun activities too. Mitten Matching, Mitten Measurement and Musical Snowflakes! Wow did they like that! We even wished upon our own stars! This is such a fun unit to do with them. We had a lot of fun with the kids. Thanks for sharing them with us.

Four year olds

The four year olds lessons for this month were hibernation and rhyming words. Once they caught on to the rhyming, they had a lot of fun with it! We even made up silly rhyming words, like Dr. Seuss is known for! The children had so much fun with this! We discussed the many animals that sleep for the winter and how other animals prepare for the winter and we talked about how we prepare for the winter too. We are still working hard on our number and alphabet books. We have started printing our names in upper and lower case letters. Everyone is doing a great job and time is sure flying.

Mrs. Shuttleworth & Ms. Jill

Mrs. Smith & Miss Twila's Preschool News

HAPPY 2017!! Both preschool classes jumped right back into each school day after a quick "show and tell". All the boys and girls were permitted to bring his or her favorite Christmas gift to show the class. Toys were definitely the most popular type of gift that the children brought; but jewelry must have been popular gift idea this year too.

It was nice during the month of January to have full weeks of instruction again since the holiday season is over. The only thing we are battling now is "Mother Nature". Is spring coming yet? Please stay warm and safe during the rest of this winter. Both classes sure were busy all month. We learned four new letters during our writing skills lessons during January. We learned the letters; N, Y, D, and Z. During the N week we talked about the "New Year". Towards the end of the month we focused on animals that hibernate. We talked about what it means to hibernate and which animals typically do so. We always have crafts that go with lessons and even our three year old class took home a book about hibernation. This time of year it's hard to keep the distractions to a minimum, but when it was time for a science project about the five senses, the boys and girls sure were attentive. The sense of "taste" was so cool to play with. Students were encouraged and given the opportunity to taste food items that were: sweet, sour, bitter, and salty. We really had their attention during this activity. In addition to taste the students learned about sight, sound, smell, and touch. Our job is so easy when we have all these eager learners.

As always, all classes had a Bible lesson to focus on. This month the preschoolers learned about the Twelve Disciples. The children learned that these twelve men were servants of God and followed Jesus. We talked about how the disciples did his work and that Jesus loves all the children. Our boys and girls really participated in a question and answer segment Miss Twila held, asking detail questions about our lesson. One question was "What are some ways you (students) can follow Jesus?" The answers coming from the innocent children were amazing! Miss Twila asks enough questions so that every student can win a small prize during our bible lessons each month.

January was a fun and exciting month during preschool. We are gearing up for a very busy February too. We will have two field trips to look forward to in February to Monte Cello's Restaurant and X-Cel Gymnastics facility. Our time with the four year olds is half over, which makes us push toward preschool graduation so that they may be ready to enter kindergarten. We are now accepting 2017-2018 registration for both three year old and four year old preschool classes. Please contact one of us at the preschool should you have any questions or need the information for someone else. Referrals are always appreciated!

Until Next Month; God Bless,
Mrs. Smith & Miss Twila

February 2017

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 11:00 Bible Study	2 6:00 Kidz Klub 7:00 Choir	3	4 6:30 Holy Communion
5 5th Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion	6	7	8 11:00 Bible Study	9 6:00 Kidz Klub 7:00 Choir	10	11 9:00 Men's Club 6:30 Holy Communion
12 6th Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00 SS/Adult 10:15 Holy Communion	13	14	15 11:00 Bible Study	16 6:00 Kidz Klub 7:00 Choir	17	18 6:30 Holy Communion
19 7th Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00 SS/Adult 10:15 Holy Communion	20	21	22 11:00 Bible Study	23 6:00 Kidz Klub 7:00 Choir	24	25 6:30 Holy Communion
26 Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:00 SS/Adult 10:15 Holy Communion Voter's Meeting	27	28				