

~~ FEBRUARY 2021 ~~

The Messenger

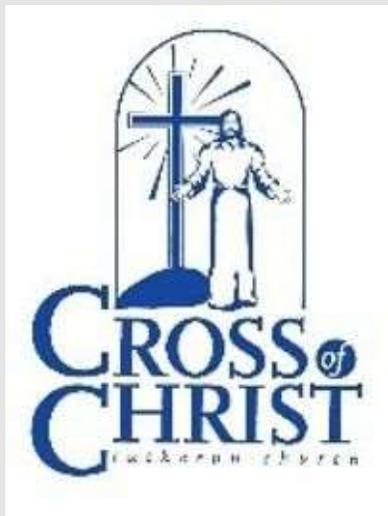
***Cross of Christ
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Paul Mueller, Pastor



Worship Services

Sunday: 10:00 am

Communion

1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays

Bible Classes

Sunday: 9:00 am

Tuesday: 11:00 am

Wednesday: 4:15 pm, 6:30 pm

Thursday: 1:30 pm

Men's Bible Class

Second Saturday: 9:30 am

Sunday School

Sunday: 9:00 am

Message from the Pastor

Candy, Flowers ...or a Bible

At my former church, we were at the half-way point in our Small Group Bible Study. The next meeting was supposed to be on Valentine's Day. I asked the class if they wanted to skip that night or not. No one said anything until Stephanie spoke out, "Pastor, of all the days of the year, that's the day I most want to have class." With a tearful eye, she explained.

"Dave (her husband) and I had been dating since New Year. Valentine's day was approaching, so he asked me what I wanted. I told him 'nothing'. (We men suspected this was one of those female ploys where they say 'nothing' but really expect 'something'). So, Dave just took me out to dinner. Just before he took me home, he gave me a present. I protested but he just said, 'Please open it'. Inside was a Bible. I had never owned a Bible before or really knew what it said. He had a marker at 1 Cor. 13 where it said, 'I will show you the most excellent way. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy or boast. It's not rude, self-seeking, easily angered. It keeps no record of wrongs...It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.'

Right then, I knew this was the man I wanted to marry and spend the rest of my life with. He told me that God and his faith were very important to him, and that the Bible was an ideal gift. And, if you remember Pastor, you married us on Valentine's Day a year later.

I have grown so much in my faith since that day. I couldn't imagine skipping Bible Study that day—besides we'll go out for dinner after that."

I think sometimes people try so hard to impress others with gifts, or their money, or their intelligence or whatever currency they value, that they forget "the One Thing Needful" as Jesus described to Martha. That one needful thing is God's Word. Everything the Lord shares with us in that Bible is priceless. That's why Bible Study is still so important (Commercial Break: We're starting a new Bible

Basics Class on Monday afternoons at 1:30 starting Feb. 15th, the day after you-know-what Day).

Stephanie found something very special with Dave. It wasn't just a mate, but someone who accepted her as she was—a single mom—and shared a love she couldn't understand up to that time. It was a love based in Jesus and a love that increased as she came to know Jesus as her Lord and Savior. Jesus forgave her sins, Dave's sins, my sins and your sins. He has a special place in his heart and in his eternity for each of us. The Lord wants us to know him, to love him and to live with him in Heaven. Now, isn't that better than flowers and chocolate?

Something to Think About* *Do You Love Me?

Did you ever watch the show/movie "Fiddler on the Roof"? Tevye sings the song "Do you love me?" to his wife as he wonders how his life would have been different if his parents had not chosen his wife Golde for him. He wonders how important love is in a marriage. The song acknowledges an important truth: deeds of love are necessary in a relationship, but no less vital are words of love to the loved one.

Golde points out that for 25 years she has cooked, cleaned, milked cows, and shared his bed. Tevye presses for more, "Then you do love me?". To which Golde understatedly replies, "I suppose I do." Tevye is satisfied.

Today the statement is frequently heard "Don't just say you love me; show it!" People evidence that in many ways. Like the rank a wife has on her husband's to-do list; by the importance placed on alone time; by simple little gestures such as compliments, courtesy and kindness. The Bible confirms this: "Let us not love with just words, but with actions in truth." 1 Jn 3

Yet, loving and romantic words are important. There is trouble brewing when a groom says to his bride on their wedding day, "I just told you I love you. If anything changes in the future, I'll let you know!" We need to—even long to—hear someone we care about to tell us we're special, treasured and valued.

The Lord satisfies our need by loving us in action and in word. God made us and our world. He rescued us from sin by sending his only Son. He gave us His Word, the Bible. In that, over and over again, he tells us we are loved, forgiven and rescued. He promises to be with us no matter where we are or what is going on in our lives. 1 Jn. 3 continues, "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us!" No human marriage is perfect. No greeting card, bouquet of flowers, fine chocolate, or even diamond can generate perfect love. But when love is alive and growing in a marriage, this is a picture of our relationship with God.

Tevye and Golde's song ends in a line of duet: "After 25 years, it's nice to know, my love for you will ever grow." Our song of God's love continues to eternity. That's more than nice to know!

Pastor Paul Prange

**Pastor Mueller's sermons are still on our [website](#) and [YouTube](#).
We're glad to hear so many people are benefitting from them.**

LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES begin on Feb. 17 (Ash Wednesday) at 7 PM. Lent is a time when we take a close look at the great love Jesus showed to us during his last days on Earth. On Ash Wednesday, you will be invited, but not required, to have ashes put on your forehead as a symbol of sin and Christ's work to rid us of that stain.

WELS NEWS – The Lord continues to bless and motivate His people. Contributions from congregations, called CMO, was a half million dollars higher than last year and the highest ever! Instead of cutting back outreach, we can do much more... In Vietnam, Pastors there are more worried about lost souls than COVID. Even using COVID protocols, more than 12,000 people became members of our church there. Nine more mission churches were

started, 1,321 future pastors are being trained, and the Seminary building (although being slowed considerably lack of healthy workers) continues to make solid progress... Martin Luther College is conducting a funding program (Equipping Christian Witnesses) to build a new dorm, a winter athletic facility, and reduce student debt. Two donors stepped forward to fund the entire \$3 million athletic complex. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

What's Important

When the great earthquake occurred, a policeman was stationed at Eitai-bashi Bridge in Tokyo to warn fugitives who were fleeing with huge bales of property strapped on their backs, "Dangerous! Throw your baggage away! Throw it away!" Nevertheless, some of them did not heed the admonition and insisted on saving their possessions. As a result, they caught fire and were burned to death. Can we not now listen to the advice of this policeman? Of course it is necessary to preserve the wherewithal to live and to eat. But I tell you it is always a good plan to discard useless things and unnecessary encumbrances. Jesus said truly, "What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

Toyohiko Kagawa, *Meditations*, New York: Harper & Brothers, 1950

C.O.F.F.E.E.

Christ Offers Forgiveness For Everyone Everywhere

YOUNG ADULTS EVENING BIBLE CLASS

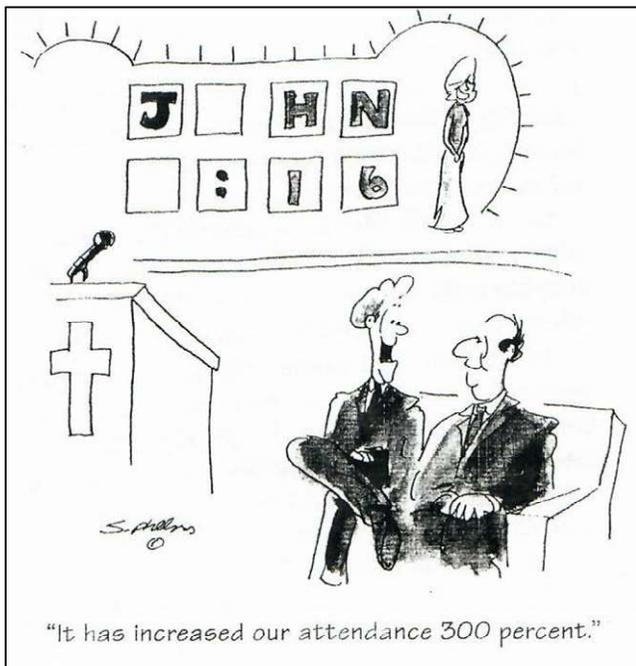
Pastor hopes to begin a new Class on Monday evenings at 7:00. The first series will be *Engage*, a video and discussion outing designed to get you to think about your relationship with God and others. Contact Pastor if you might be interested.

BIBLE BASICS CLASS

If you don't know the difference between Redemption and Recycling, Ash Wednesday and Trash Day, this class is for you! It's a slow-paced, fun learning experience. It will answer all the questions you might have about God and church. If you know little about the Bible, you need to be in this class.

HUMOR

An older couple was being married. Both had lost their spouses to death and had grown children. The combined children sent out this wedding invitation in their behalf: "Phil, Richard, Karen and Allison, and John, Matt and Steve request the honor of your presence at the marriage of their Mother and Father. Because they are combining two households, they already have at least two of everything. So please, no presents! Reception and garage sale immediately following the ceremony."



Did you hear that NASA put up a new small satellite? NASA programmed it so that it only beeps when it passes over a truly righteous man or woman. Have you heard it? No, I thought not. I haven't either.

BIBLE BASEBALL - We're starting something new each month. Test your Bible knowledge by playing 'Bible Baseball'. We'll have four questions. The easier ones are a single, harder a double, harder yet a triple, and hardest a home run. Your goal is to hit a grand slam by getting them all right. (Answers are below.)

SINGLE - Where did Jonah spend 3 days & nights? (The Holiday Inn is incorrect?)

DOUBLE - What king, a son of David, was known for his wisdom? (Einstein is incorrect)

TRIPLE - In the wilderness, Moses was able to get water from what unlikely source?

HOME RUN - Who was Bathsheba's husband? (Joe Biden is incorrect)

*Answers: Single - a Rock; Home Run - Urrah
Triple - a large fish; Double - Solomon;*





THE LADIES CIRCLE

FEBRUARY NEWS

A new devotional mini-series was introduced in our January meeting entitled "Woman of God - Wonderfully Made".

This will be a mini-series from January to May 2021.

January - Wonderfully Created

February - Made to Love

A copy of the January devotion was put in each ladies of the congregation's church mailbox.

Contact Rhonda Hutchins if you need an extra copy for a family or friend.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

We will continue to talk about future activities and events in our next meeting as we all continue to work through the Covid-19 restrictions and safety measures. Thank you all so much for your patience and understanding through these trying times.

FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING

Saturday, February 13th at 9:30 am

In the Education Building

(Monthly meetings are on the 2nd Saturday of the month)

Call leaders will contact you prior to the meetings.

Note: In order to vote on any business item(s), we need at least 8 attendees at any monthly meeting.

We will continue to practice CDC guidelines with regard to COVID 19...wearing of masks and social distancing.

CONTINUE TO STAY SAFE & GOD BLESS!



FEB USHERS

Michael Coffin

Gene Bishop

Leo Galvan

Mark McCoy



FEB BIRTHDAYS

16 th	Gale Parker
18 th	Lynda Boyd
21 st	Leonard Rezac
22 nd	Bill Neal
27 th	Margaret Henry
28 th	Marilyn Jenkins
29 th	Mark Hutchins



FEB ANNIVERSARIES

14 th	Leo & E. Jane Galvan
14 th	Dave & Leena Meza

February 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		8:00 am Workday 11:00 am Bible Class	4:15 pm Catechism	1:30 pm Bible Class		9:30 am Men's Bible Breakfast
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Communion Worship Service	6:00 pm Elders Mtg	8:00 am Workday 11:00 am Bible Class	4:15 pm Catechism	1:30 pm Bible Class		9:30 am Ladies Circle Meeting
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	1:30 pm Bible Basics 7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Class	8:00 am Workday 11:00 am Bible Class 6:00 pm Council Mtg	ASH WED 4:15 pm Catechism 7:00 pm Worship Service	1:30 pm Bible Class		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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