

John tells us in his first letter that God is love (1 John 4:8). Paul famously tells us that he is nothing without love (1 Corinthians 13:2). John and Paul of the Beatles remind us that all you need is love.

I guess I have love on the mind, after all it is February. Every time I go to the store I see pink and red hearts everywhere. Even though it's the dead of winter, flowers are going on sale. Valentine's Day is soon upon us. The holiday that ostensibly celebrates the life of a saint, who did something (maybe involving heart shaped chocolate?), but in truth it's a holiday devoted to love.

It reminds me of the greatest piece of advice given to me by my mentor. Pastor Cerna told me as a pastor my number one job was to love the church. The church council is having an argument? Love them. New ministry up and running and needs my support? Love them. Strife within the congregation? Love them even more.

It was her solution to every problem and issue within the church. Love the people. For love conquers hate. It endures all things. It is patient, kind, and selfless. The world has a lot of problems, but the answer was love.

And while Pastor Cerna gave that advice to me, I think it's pretty universal. We as Christians are called to love. Love God with everything we have and love our neighbors as ourselves. We are to answer the world with love. When people don't understand us? Love them. When people hate us? Love them even more. For they are all our neighbors and children of God worthy of being loved.

We love for we were first loved by Christ. A love that forgave us of all our faults and made us new. A love that never ends and, most amazingly, is freely given. With such a wonderful gift, how else could we respond but share it with all?

Our faith calls for us to love all. This month, though, let's take up the difficult challenge of responding with love. Answer anger and hate with patience and kindness. For there is a lot of hate out there in the world. Anger festers everywhere. It is easy to respond in kind, but hate breeds hate and anger feeds on anger. Only love, the kind of love that Christ showed us, can ever truly overwhelm them.

Enrollment for the 2023-24 Little Ones' Preschool year will be open to all LUMC church families and current preschool families beginning February 13, 2023.

Families in the community and surrounding areas may register beginning March 13.

Your child must be 3 years old before August 1, 2023 for our Preschool classes and age 4 before August 1, for our Pre-Kindergarten classes.

Registration forms will be available in the church office or from Carlene Weber.

TOPS Club is meeting at LUMC on Mondays, 4:00 – 5:30 PM
Room 206, use north east door. Looking for new members to join us!

Cardio Drumming

Classes are Saturdays at 9:00 AM in Trodie Hall. FREE Bring a 55 to 75 cm ball, a 25+ gallon bucket and drum sticks. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate!

Coming Up!

Staff Parish Meeting – Thursday, February 9, 7:00 PM

Ad Council Meeting – Monday, February 13, 7:00 PM

Mary Magdalene Mission Circle – Tuesday, February 21, 7:00 PM

Ash Wednesday Service – February 22, 6:30 PM

Euchre/Game Night – Saturday, February 25, 7:00 PM

Lenten Study beginning Sunday, February 26, during Sunday School.

Pastor Ed will lead a study on the Sermon on the Mount
from Matthew 5-7.

Sunday Fellowship Time Refreshments Schedule

February 12 Larry & Betsy

February 19 Amber

February 26 Danny & Cheri

Please plan to bring about 4 dozen cookies. Thank You

Recycle your used bed sheets to the Sewing Group to make bandages.
There is a box in the entry way. Thank you

Have A Heart Help Feed your Community by Stocking our Food Pantry Shelves

Sponsored by Mary Magdalene Mission Circle

Help by adding a few items each week to your grocery list

Monetary Donations also Appreciated

Suggested items:

February 12

Pudding and Gelatin mix
Peanut Butter, Crackers- Saltines

February 19

Canned meat- Chicken or Tuna
Canned Fruits and Vegetables

February 26

Pancake Mix and Syrup

Thank you for supporting the Food Pantry.

Thank You

Thank You So Much

Tom and I want to thank everyone for all the prayers, phone calls, words of encouragement, and help with the many things we needed help with. Pastor Ed for his visits. Help with moving furniture, animal chores.

We are so blessed to have such a caring church family. It has meant so much to both of us.

Thank you to everyone. I know God will bless all of you.

Love in Christ, Sue & Tom

District Leadership Workshops

Saturday February 11, 9 a.m. to Noon **ET**, ZOOM only

Workshops include (you may only register for ONE):

- Staff Parish Relations Committee; led by Rev. Dr. Marti G. Lundy
- Finance and Trustees; led by ADS Rev. Paul Arnold
- Church Council/Single Board Governance; led by ADS Rev. David Schrader
- Children Ministries; led by Rev. Lori Grasty
- Youth Ministries; led by Conference Staff Member Emily Krach
- Lay Leadership; Led by North District Lay Leader, Denise Parker and Lay Leadership Team
- Making Stress Work For You; led by Rev. Dr. Kent A. Lundy
- Messy Church; led by Trish Johnsen
- Outreach: Food Pantries and Beyond; led by Pastor Carl Hetler

These workshops are open to all laity, clergy, supply and certified lay ministers in the District. Church leaders, check your email for the registration link. See Pastor Ed about any questions regarding the workshops.

It is very important that all members of the laity are well trained. I especially desire for as many of your Staff Parish Committee members to be in attendance as possible. Attendance now can help you with many questions and issues that may come up later.

Superintendent Rev Dr Marti Lundy