

# Mountain View

---

February Newsletter - 2018

***"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." 1 John 4:9-11***

## Proven Love

They told each other "I love you" every night before turning off the lights, every morning before leaving for work, and every phone conversation before hanging up. But those three words just weren't enough for her. Over the years, his love was turning into lip service. She wanted more. She pleaded, "you say you love me over and over again, but if you really loved me you would start....." His heart didn't sink because he felt like the victim. His heart sank because he knew she was right.

Been there before? On which side of the conversation were you? Gary Chapman has a book called *The 5 Love Languages: The Secret to Love that Lasts*. Chapman offers couples helpful insights detailing how each of us want love communicated in different ways. Some want words of affirmation. Some want physical touch. Some want quality time. Some want gifts. And others want acts of service. All of us want something different whether we realize it or not. But no matter what your love language is, you don't just want three words, you want them to *prove* they love you.

Our need for proven love reaches beyond significant others. We also want God to prove his love for us. Maybe you've prayed to God, "You tell me you love and care about me in Scripture, but just *show* me

you love me by answering my prayer *this* way." It's like we're telling him, "just do this one thing for me and I'll know you really love me."

If you're looking for God to show his love for you, read 1 John 4. John, the author of these verses, was a disciple of Jesus. If he wanted to prove God's love for him, all he had to do was close his eyes and relive Good Friday. John was there at the foot of Jesus' cross. He heard the agony, he smelled the blood, he saw God's love for him in seeing his friend Jesus on the cross. We weren't there in John's shoes but we were there in Jesus' heart. He had you on his heart when he suffered and died. He made sure to not simply say "I love you." He proved it.

This is how God showed his love among us. This is how we also ought to love one another. Birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays like Valentine's Day come and go. Our God's love for us in Jesus never comes and goes. Our love for one another doesn't come and go. The proven love of Jesus moves us to prove our love for one another in a note of encouragement, in time given up to lend a helping hand, or in a gift. We don't just say it. We prove it.

- Pastor Josh Schultz

## **Sunday Adult Bible Study**

### *Reformation: Grace, Faith, Scripture*

This course, meeting every Sunday at 10:45 am, uses a 3-4 minute video clip from the film *A Return to Grace: Luther's Life and Legacy* to introduce each Lesson. We will deepen our understanding of Reformation history and connect that with what the Bible and our church believes, teaches, and practices today. We will finish the course with the following lessons: Lesson 10) Bold Witness: Confidence Drawn from Scripture, Lesson 11) Not by Force: Power of the Word, and Lesson 12) My Bible: The Bible Into People's Hands.

## **Sunday Lenten Worship Series**

### *The Road to Redemption*

We all have a path in life. Robert Frost once penned these famous words, "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference." Jesus took the path that no one else would choose or could choose. He did this to save us from traveling the wide, easy road to hell. We now have a new road to travel in life. It may not be easy, but Christ has given it to us for our good and it makes all the difference for us. Starting on Sunday February 18, our worship will focus on just that. We will follow Jesus on his road to the cross.

## **Midweek Lenten Study Series**

### *Teach Us to Pray*

An interesting Martin Luther story.... Martin was visiting his barber, a man named Peter Beskendorf, for a shave and haircut. The two men were good friends and had great conversation while Martin was in Peter's chair. That afternoon, Beskendorf had a deep question for his friend. He asked, "Dr. Luther, how do you pray?" Luther didn't answer there and then. Instead, he returned home and responded with a 40-page letter answering his friend's question in great detail. In 1535, that letter was published under the title *A Simple Way to Pray, for a Good Friend*.

Luther loved the season of Lent. He thought it was an absolutely vital preparation for Easter. Luther would hold special mid-week services at the Castle Church in Wittenberg during Lent. Typically, he would use these mid-weeks services as an opportunity to teach through "catechetical" (teaching) sermons. He most often used parts of his catechism as a guide, including the part that deals with prayer.

And so during our Wednesday gatherings in Lent, we will review what God's Word says about prayer. We will join Beskendorf and Jesus disciples and ask "Lord, teach us to pray." (Luke 11:1) Our Ash Wednesday (Feb 14) service will follow a worship outline. The following five Wednesdays will be a Bible Class setting in the sanctuary for the whole family. We will begin each Wednesday with a soup and sandwich meal before hand. Food will be available from 6-6:45 pm. Our study begins at 7 pm.

## **Women's Bible Study**

All the ladies of Mountain View are invited to the parsonage on Thursday, February 8th at 6:30 pm to study God's Word. Speak with Rachel Schultz if you have any questions (989) 412-3045.

## NEW Membership Teams

As proposed and discussed at our congregational meetings in October and January, we will coordinate our membership responsibilities with membership teams starting this month of February. We are trying to accomplish a few goals in taking this approach. First, to promote better coordination and cooperation among each other knowing who's doing what on which week. Second, to increase membership participation so these tasks are not left to only a few. Third, to facilitate a spirit of fellowship interacting and working with a variety of our brothers and sisters in Christ at Mountain View.

Here's what this will look like. Each month one team of families will be responsible for the weekly church cleaning, after worship snacks, and set up of communion (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month). The congregation has been divided into four teams who take one month at a time and 3 months out of the year total. The team leaders will be responsible for coordinating duties amongst their team members for that month. The team leader will reach out to their team families asking who is willing and able to do what on which week that month.

The teams are as follows. Team leaders are in bold letters.

February	March	April	May
<b>Tomt</b> Bauer Boggs Pawlowski Schott	<b>Holmberg</b> Gascon Newton Schulz (Bill & Patty) T. Spek Winkleman	<b>Pepke (Jeff &amp; Kerri)</b> Baerman Bischoff Graft Lehman Schultz (Josh & Rachel)	<b>Gibbs</b> Kiehnau Nicols Pepke (Jerry & Joan) Swedberg

After doing this for a few months, we will be able to critique and adjust accordingly. As we work through this we are happy to hear your feedback and suggestions. As with any aspect of our ministry, this is a work in progress! Please contact your team leader with any questions.

### Associated Ministry Updates

Receive Bi-Weekly Synodical Updates by going to:

[Wels.net/news-media/together/](http://Wels.net/news-media/together/)

Receive monthly updates from Great Plains Lutheran by going to:

[Gplhs.org](http://Gplhs.org)

### Our Weekly Thank Offerings:

Dec 31-Jan 21 Weekly Average Received: \$1350.37

2018 Weekly Needs from Approved Budget: \$1318.63