



From the Pastor

As we move into the month of February, we approach another holiday (holy day): Valentine's Day. While this was originally a Church holy day celebrating the life of St Valentine (c. 226 – c. 269), it eventually came to be a civic holiday celebrating romance. February 14th was the date of Valentine's martyrdom for proclaiming the Christian faith and denying the gods of the Roman religions, but later legends thought Valentine was also arrested for secretly marrying Christian couples. Those legends arose the same time people began using St Valentine's Day to celebrate love in general. It was only a matter of time until Valentine cards began to circulate in the 1800s.

Since, in the present age, the focus of Valentine's Day is on romance, there is a special emphasis on couples this time of year. But not everyone is in a relationship. In fact, St Paul believed it was better to be single than in a relationship since this can free you up to serve in the Lord like him.

⁶Now as a concession, not a command, I say this. ⁷I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another. (1 Cor 7)

This is a tad closer to the original spirit of Valentine's Day which was foremost about devoting your life in service to God. But it is not always easy to celebrate Valentine's Day when

you are alone with all appointments on your calendar devoted to evangelism. Marriage joins people together to support each other in godly love. Being single is tough at times. Sometimes Valentine's Day is jokingly called "Singles Awareness Day" by pointing out that you are without a romantic love interest. This can definitely be hard for people who are not wishing to be single, have been widowed, have been divorced, or are isolating. Paul admits that singlehood can be difficult.

⁸To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am. ⁹But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion. (1 Cor 7)

From the beginning to today, all people have wanted companions in their lives. God declared that it was not good for the man, Adam, to be alone even though the rest of creation was very good (Gen 2:18). It can be lonely in singlehood. Everyone needs support spiritually, emotionally, and even physically. Husbands and wives are supposed to do this for each other. Not having a spouse can be difficult for many reasons. In 1 Cor 7, Paul states one of these reasons as being tempted with lust, but elsewhere Paul declares that marriage offers needed support from love (Eph 5:25-27). As Christ loved us and gave his life in making us holy, so we want that someone special in our lives to whom we can entrust our lives and, in turn, offer their lives to us.

Of course, married life is not all red roses and blue violets. Marriage takes work. Love is committing your life to the wellbeing of another, so marriage must be worked upon.

³³But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, ³⁴and his interests are divided and...the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. (1 Cor 7)

Expressing love can be difficult but we can rely on a great source and example for love. As Christ laid his life down for us, so we can offer our lives for others. Christ was unwavering in his love for us, his beloved, that we may be brought into splendor. We are made perfect and holy by Christ. Marital love may not always be seen as a dramatic elevation of your spouse above the muck and terror of a sin-filled world, but Christian love in a marriage can be expressed by committing your life to the wellbeing of your spouse every day. Although this can be shown through little things, like preparing dinner every night or making sure you say compliments, it all stems from giving your life to someone.

In addition to Christ giving himself for us, St Valentinus can also give a picture of love for single people. In the legends we have of him, there is no mention of a spouse. He is simply depicted as a man dedicated to spreading the word of Christ so all may be loved by Christ. Those of us who are single are not without love or people to love. We possess the love of Christ who has given his life for us and we are surrounded by people who need this love for themselves. Instead of offering their lives in a marriage, single people are freer to present the love of the Lord to their surrounding community.

³²I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. (1 Cor 7)

Whatever situation we happen to be in, married, dating, or single, all of us have been given the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. This love we in turn offer to those we love, whether this be a spouse or a stranger in our midst. Everyone needs the love of Christ—the love that resides within us—and we can give it in the name of Christ.

²⁴So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God. (1 Cor 7)

Happy St Valentine's Day,
Pastor Adam Chandler

From the Worship Committee

I thought to write an article about our hand chimes! We started our hand chime program a number of years ago, renting a 25-piece set from the BC Handbell and Hand Chime Guild, which I have been a member of. When our 6 months of 'free' use expired, as a congregation we decided to purchase our own hand chimes, and to commit to a hand chime program in our church. Our first set was the same set as our rental set, 25 chimes. With these 25 chimes, we managed to keep 5 chimers involved in playing a musical selection each week for the worship service. After a short while, the chimers decided that we 'needed more chimes' as we kept having to reach over someone to grab a chime for our particular part. At this time, both Mel's and my mother passed away, and Mel and I decided that we would purchase this second set of chimes to add on to the original set of 25, and that we would honor each of our mother's memory with music in our church. The

addition of the new chime set allowed us to play lower notes, and higher notes, and it kept us quite satisfied for a period of time.... Then, we 'needed more chimes'! Laura, Mel, and I then purchased another set of chimes, allowing us to play the beautiful bass notes. My husband, Mario, built a case for these large chimes, even though he is not a craftsman, he built a case with love and thought that houses F, F#, and E. And so, with these new chimes, we soon realized that what was now needed was a chime table with the correct depth and perhaps with an adjustable height, so we would not have to stoop over the chimes anymore and save our backs. Mark Beiderwieden graciously built two wonderful chime tables that we are so thankful for! With the addition of the lovely bass chimes, we thought it would be fantastic to add 'more bass chimes', so Mel, Barb and Laura purchased the second set of bass chimes. Then we realized that these chimes were so big, that we would need a chime rack to play them on as they were too big to flick with one's wrist. So, we also purchased a chime rack along with a mallet. Then came Covid, and we needed to be physically separated in order to keep chiming! What was really needed, was a second set of those original 25 chimes, as they are the most used chimes. I then decided to purchase my own set of 25 chimes that we now use at church every Sunday – it has allowed us to 'have more chimes', to rearrange our chiming tables so that we are all at least 6 feet apart from each other, and we can play more diverse music, and maybe I will bequeath this set to my grandchildren one day. In total, we have 81 individual chimes in the balcony, which we play every Sunday at the beginning of each worship service for a moment of meditation. While the first chime instruments can be traced back to Southeast Asia and some parts of China thousands of years ago, the modern version that we have is from an amazing Pennsylvania U.S.

company, Malmark. They found the right combination of metals to produce a "pure" tone, based on the principals of the tuning fork with an external clapper mechanism. Malmark is known throughout the world as the premier maker of hand chimes, hand bells and church steeple bells. We are blessed to have these beautiful chimes in our church, it is a blessing to play them each week, it is a blessing to have fellowship at each rehearsal, and we hope that you enjoy hearing them as much as we enjoy playing them. While our balcony is getting crowded, we always have room for more chimers (and chimes!!),

God's Blessings,
Barb

What a friend we have in Jesus!

Do you remember learning this hymn as a child? I do not remember when I did, only that the words are permanently embedded in my brain and my heart! Even knowing this to be true, there are times when we need reminding of God's love for us. Perhaps this is one of the reasons that spiritual music is such an essential part of our church life. We long to hear familiar words and tunes at certain times of the year or at special occasions. Nearly all of us have favourite hymns that warm our hearts! Even people with significant memory loss, will hum or sing along with hymns they learnt many years ago.

We mailed out colouring sheets to all the Sunday school children to colour and return so that they can be sent to some of our members reminding them of the loving gift God gave us, His one and only Son, Jesus! They will be sent to our members not able to attend church as often or at all. If some of you adults wish to join in the fun, please colour and drop off at the

church the sheet included in the February newsletter by the 8th. Missed the 8th? Please phone the office on Wed morning and we can give you a name for mailing them to. We all know that Jesus is our Saviour, who loves each of us. Even so, a visual reminder lifts our spirits.

Maybe, like me, you have a fridge door or picture board or table full of memories in the form of photos, children's drawings, cards, and/or favourite sayings or verses. We seem to need visuals, to keep what is important, right in front of us.

Our sewing group's next project is to make pocket crosses, which are actually tiny, quilted holders for a cross. They keep Jesus close to us, in our own pockets. When we are troubled, we may need to physically feel the cross upon which Jesus died and rose again from to show His ultimate love for and friendship with us.

"Greater love has no one than this, that he may down his life for his friends. You are my friends (said Jesus) if you do what I command." John 15:13-14. "This is my command,; Love each other. " John 15:17

The smell and taste of Jesus' love? When we participate in the Lord's Supper and take communion, we are not only completed in the senses that Jesus uses to assure us of His caring, but we have the sixth sense that we are filled with His love through the forgiveness of our sins.

It is known that even if one of our senses, such as sight or hearing, is not as strong, the other senses increase in strength, to compensate. Through these senses, wondrously created in us, by God, we are fully immersed in the Love of our Lord.

What a friend we have in Jesus; what a gift we have from God!

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

Louise
Evangelism

Love In Action

- Phone a friend and share stories of your adventures together
- place a call to your "mug mate"
- write a card to someone and tell them how they have made a positive difference in your life; then do the same for someone else
- make muffins for or share a meal with a neighbour
- invite someone to church or to an event such as a virtual Bible Study or to Theology on Tap
- offer to do a task for someone, to lighten their load
- **"do unto others as you would have them do unto you" Matthew 7:12**

***God's Blessing to everyone
with February birthdays!***



We are the redeemed children of God and as such dedicate ourselves to Him wherever and whenever He has need of us. This year TWO new opportunities to share the love of Jesus with others have been provided to us. We are looking forward to sharing them with ALL ladies of our congregation.

First, in partnership with the Open-Heart Society of BC our first sewing workshop was held in January. At that time a society representative demonstrated the various steps involved in making pillows for surgery patients.



- Step 1: Cut out preprinted heart shaped pillows
- Step 2 Sew around pillow leaving a 4" opening
- Step 3 Press and stuff pillow
- Step 4 Hand sew opening closed
- Step 5 Bag pillows and deliver to Royal Jubilee Hospital for staff distribution

As you can see there is a place to serve for everyone.

Second: In partnership with the BC Mission Boat Ministries a new Quilt project was adopted. "A Cross in My Pocket Quilt" a tangible reminder of what Jesus accomplished for us. Through our Saviour we are offered a new beginning each and every day. These pocket-sized quilts will be distributed by the mission teams visiting God's people living along the BC coastline.



As the old adage states many hands make light work, so I'm inviting everyone to join us Thursday afternoon at 1pm for fun and fellowship (with all health protocols in place) Can't make it "take home" kits are available.

Thank You

In December we celebrated the Lord of love coming to us and as His people we want to pass it on. Through your generous gifts, \$150 was realized and forwarded to Mustard Seed food bank to comfort those in need.

Coming Events

The 33rd A-BC District Convention June 2-4 in Red Deer, Alberta under the theme "One in Him" "For you are ALL one in Christ Jesus" Galatians 3:28b

Since 1951, (more than 70 years) faithful women have gathered together for business, fellowship and spiritual nourishment. This year is no exception, however due to LWMLC Bylaw changes this will be our Last District Convention A memorable event! Join us either in person or online. There will be a mission walk, In-gatherings, mission grants, guest speakers and inspirational Bible studies and lots of friends old and new to meet. You will not want to miss it!. Laura Gibson is our delegate and Theo Henry is our alternate. Please keep them in your prayers.

As our brothers and sisters in Christ you are a valuable partner in sharing our LWMLC pledge. "May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all." 1Thessalonians 3:12a

If you have any questions please contact me or any member of LWMLC.

In His Service
Deborah

Children's Corner

Why do we celebrate Valentine's Day?

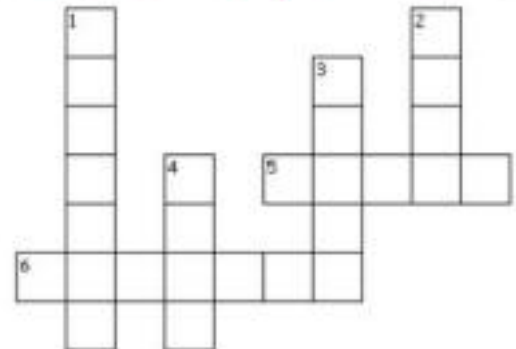
Often on February 14 we only think about chocolate and heart-shaped cards, but do you know the history of Saint Valentine?

He was a Christian pastor, imprisoned by the government for preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ during a time when it was illegal. But even though he was thrown into prison, it didn't crush his zeal for sharing the Good News. He wanted everyone to know that God loved the world so much He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him has eternal life. Saint Valentine wrote short messages to encourage other imprisoned Christians. He distributed them within the prison to encourage their faith during difficult times. He eventually gave up his life for the Lord who gave up His life for us all.

The inspiring message of love wasn't based on feelings of the heart, but on the solid historical truth that Jesus saves us from death, darkness and the power of the devil. These messages were the first "Valentine's Day cards"! In a way, the entire Bible is a love letter from God to us, because Jesus is its message...which is way better than chocolate!



Valentine's Day Crossword



Across

5.



6.



Down

1.



Down

2.



3.



4.



John 3:16



for God so lo
 that He g
 on y Son that
 whoever b
 i Him
 should no
 per sh but have
 eter al
 lif



Coldest Night of the Year



Our Place Society is grateful once again to host the **Coldest Night of the Year** event both downtown and in the Westshore in partnership with Pacific Centre Family Services Assn.

This F-U-N family friendly 2km or 5km walkathon fundraiser happens in cities across Canada on **Saturday, February 26th**.

We humbly ask for your participation with members and families of your congregation and any others in order that we are able to fund critical components of our efforts for those in need.

Coldest Night brings more awareness of the issues of poverty and homelessness in our region and gives a physical sense to those who walk of what it is like for our most vulnerable population.

Please go to the following links for more information <https://cnoy.org/location/victoriapandora> or <https://cnoy.org/location/victoriawestshore> and to sign up a team with your group and also share the opportunity for others to take part as well.

Mission Prayers

Cambodia- **Rev. Bun Phanna** serves the community of Phnom Penh as the director of theological education at The Luther Institute Southeast Asia.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, as Your Son sent forth His Church to make disciples of all nations, we lift up before You, Rev. Phanna, asking You to

sustain him by Your Spirit and bless his labours for the sake of the Gospel; Lord in Your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Cambodia- **Deaconess Candidate: Sopean Da** is studying at The Luther Institute Southeast Asia.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, since Your Son has saved the world through His holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death and sent forth His Church to proclaim the Good News of this salvation to the ends of the earth and to distribute His saving gifts of grace, we pray that You would sustain Deaconess Da by Your Spirit and richly bless her labours for the sake of the Gospel; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Nicaragua - **Rev. Carlos Manel Amador** is the missionary pastor serving in the community of Villa Nueva.







Prayer: Heavenly Father, as Your Son sent forth His Church to make disciples of all nations, we lift up before You Rev. Amador, asking You to sustain him by Your Spirit and bless his labours for the sake of the Gospel; Lord in Your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Theology on Tap get together give people a chance to meet up for conversation and perhaps invite a friend to join them. These chat sessions are casual, with people ordering appies, meals or just a soda or coffee. This month's meeting place is The Rose, in Colwood, off Sooke Road. Phone Pastor, if you would like to arrange a ride.

The Rose, 592 Ledsham Rd, Victoria, BC V9B 1W8

Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church

February 2022

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
30 4 th Sunday a. Epiphany Worship, 10:30 am	31 12:30 Devotion	1 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Devotion	2 12:30 Devotion	3 12:30 Devotion  Lindsay	4	5 7:30 pm Theology on Tap (The Rose)  Jacob
6 5 th Sunday a. Epiphany Bible Study, 9:15 am Worship, 10:30 am	7 12:30 Devotion  Cole	8 12:30 Devotion  Richard	9 12:30 Devotion 7	10 12:30 Devotion 1:00 pm Sewing Group  Pastor Chandler	11	12 10:00 Chimes Rehearsal 12:30 Devotion
13 6 th Sunday a. Epiphany Bible Study, 9:15 am Worship, 10:30 am	14 12:30 Devotion 	15 9:30 Devotion 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Devotion	16 12:30 Devotion	17 12:30 Devotion 1:00 pm Sewing Group	18	19 12:30 Devotion
20 7 th Sunday a. Epiphany Bible Study, 9:15 am Worship, 10:30 am	21 12:30 Devotion	22 9:30 Devotion 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Devotion	23 12:30 Devotion	24 12:00 LWML Lunch 1:00 pm LWML Devotion	25	26 12:30 Devotion Coldest Night Walk, Victoria or Westshore
27 Transfiguration Sunday Bible Study, 9:15 am Worship, 10:30 am	28 12:30 Devotion	1 9:30 Devotion 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Devotion	2 12:30 Devotion	3 12:30 Devotion 1:00 pm Sewing Group	4	5 12:30 Devotion
	Notes	ELDERS: Gene Murdoch (250-704-1029) Bert Weiss (250- 382-2612) Fred Smale (250-652-9396) Michael Rumsch (250-588-0776).		Altar Guild: Theodora Henry Deborah Gruben Elder of the Month: Michael Rumsch		