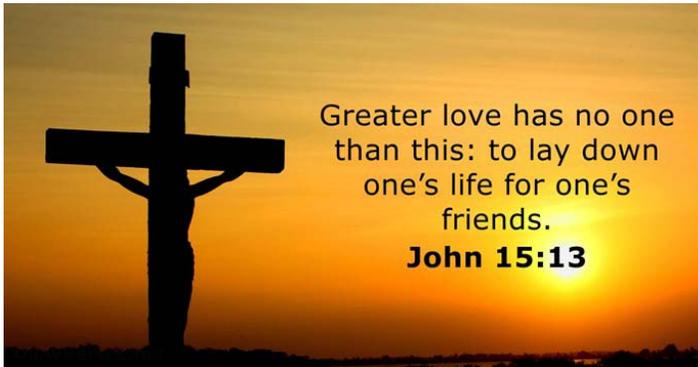


Christ Lutheran Church

127 N. Spring St., Klamath Falls, OR 97601

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February 2020



This month around Valentine's Day, there is much talk about love. Often when people speak of love, it has to do with romantic sentiments connected to someone. They are "in love" because it feels right. Often, a man and woman come to a point where they are ready to "tie the knot" in marriage, vowing to love one another: "for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until death parts us."

Sometimes, the word "love" may describe a non-romantic relationship. Two people who have been best friends for years may never have even said, "I love you." Yet by being there as friends to share in each other's life interests and accomplishments, to share in each other's joys and trials, they have expressed the love of true friends that says: "I will stand faithfully beside you, no matter what; I will be there for you through thick and thin."

Jesus said: "*Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends*" (John 15:13).

Some of the most heartwarming stories are true life accounts, in which a spouse or a friend laid down his or her life in love for another. It may be the soldier who throws himself on a grenade in concern for saving the life of comrades in battle. Or it may just be the loving husband or wife who cares for an ailing spouse, day after day, year after year – long after the charm and beauty of younger years has passed (Proverbs 31:30).

On the other hand, some of the most heartbreaking stories are when people fall "out of love," when hurt

feelings replace good feelings, when best friends become bitter enemies. What then? Is there hope for love lost?

Yes there is, when that love is centered in Christ. The love Jesus speaks of is His self-sacrificial love. Our Savior spoke these words just before He laid down His life on the cross as our greatest Friend.

This is good news, because as sinners we all had turned away from God and become bitter enemies. Instead of loving Him above all and obeying His Commandments, we followed our sinful heart. Instead of loving people He put in our lives, we followed our selfish feelings and hurt others. How it must have broken our Maker's heart to see His creatures turn from His love in bitter enmity of sin.

Yet He still loved us. His love is not just a feeling, but an act of His will that says: "I will always be faithful and do what is best for you, even when you do not deserve it. I will even lay down My life for you, to reconcile you to Myself as friends."

Romans 5:8-10 says: "*God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us... For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.*"

On February 26, we will begin the Lenten season. Once again, we will see the greatest love of God, who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all (Romans 8:32). The sinless Son of God laid down His life on the cross to take away all our sin and reconcile us to God in peace.

Some of the most heartwarming stories are true life accounts of reconciliation between enemies who have become friends. God has made this our true life story – a heartwarming story of His forgiveness and love in Christ that we can share.

In His love,
Pastor Smith

My Truth, Your Truth, and THE Truth

“I’m following my truth.” Have you heard or said something similar to this? It’s become quite popular to say that you’re living “your truth.” Should I live “my truth?” What if “your truth” and “my truth” disagree? Whose truth do we follow? And how many “truths” are there?

Navigating the ever-changing terminology of contemporary culture can easily lead to confusion, doubt, and despair. If our “truth” is what we think, how we feel, or what currently makes us happy, we are setting ourselves up for never-ending problems.

In the Bible, Pontius Pilate famously asks Jesus, “What is truth?” (John 18:38) He is implying that objective truth does not exist, ignoring the truth standing before him. In this account, Pilate promotes the same thinking so popular today: that there is no objective truth or that we decide our own truth.

If something is objectively true, it is always true and is never untrue. In other words, truth never changes based on what you or I think. Jesus very clearly tells us where to find truth. Praying to God, His Father, He says, “Your Word is truth.” God’s Word, the Bible, is truth. Objective truth. Everything from a six-day creation, a worldwide flood, and the Ten Commandments to the Virgin birth, the death of our Savior on the cross to pay for the sins of the world, and His physical resurrection from the dead are truth. Objective truth. Every teaching of the Bible is true.

Of course, not everyone believes in the truth of God’s Word. But the truth of God’s Word does not depend on what we think, how we feel, or what makes us happy. “Your truth” and “my truth” don’t really exist. *The truth* of God and His Word exist and are objective truth.

That truth should bring us real comfort because it not only tells us that we, by nature, are condemned by God for our sins; it also tells us that, by His mercy, our Savior Jesus Christ has taken those sins on Himself, paying for them with His life. By God’s grace, through faith in Jesus, you are declared innocent and given eternal life.

Thank God that truth does not depend on us!

(A blog by Rev. Paul Fries, from the Evangelical Lutheran Synod website: <https://els.org/about/blog/>)

February 2020

Christ Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 <i>Epiphany 4</i> Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM	3	4	5 Youth Catechism 4:00 PM	6 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Eva Brumble</i>	7	8
9 <i>Epiphany 5</i> Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM	10	11 Council Meeting 4:30 PM	12 Youth Catechism 4:00 PM	13 Rogue River Place Outreach Event 2:00 PM CLWMS Meeting 4:30 PM	14	15
16 <i>Epiphany 6</i> Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM	17	18	19 Youth Catechism 4:00 PM	20 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Ana Jay</i>	21 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Lois Newsom</i>	22
23 <i>Transfiguration of Our Lord</i> Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM	24	25 Pastors Meeting <i>Myrtle Creek</i>	26 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Midweek Lent 1 Service – 12:00 PM Lunch afterwards	27 Youth Catechism 4:00 PM	28	29

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