

Newsletter 02.12.26

Valentine's Day is a rather odd holiday. Sure, on its surface it is about honoring the life of a saint, but it is a saint we really don't know. What did St. Valentine actually do? Did he convert the masses with boxes of chocolate and mushy greeting cards?

The saint connected to the day is basically inconsequential for the day has become not about a person, but a feeling, an emotion. The holiday venerates Love in all its forms. From when we were kids and we gave everyone in the class a card because we love them as friends to being an adult and giving our partners a card to show how much we care. Love is in the air.

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.

That is what we as Christians are called to do, 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.

As Pastor Cerna always told me, "Love them. Keep loving them. Then, love will win."

God Bless, Pastor Ed

Disciples and Dragons Youth Group Is meeting every other Sunday at 6 PM

Online giving is available for your convenience
Scan the QR code for the direct link. Also, at lakevilleumc.org



Food Pantry Needs: pancake mix, ketchup, saltine crackers, cereal – all kinds, jelly or jam, peanut butter, dish washing soap, soup with meat, ranch dressing, jello, toilet paper

The Food Pantry is open to anyone in the Union North school district as well as to our church family on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month 3 – 6 PM

Sunday Fellowship Time Refreshments Schedule

Feb 15 _____ Mar 1 _____ Mar 8 _____

**Sign up at the bulletin board outside the
kitchen door.**

Sunday Kids Church Schedule

Feb 15 Hope Mar 1 Communion

Mar 8 Hope

**Sign up at the bulletin board outside the
kitchen door.**

TOPS Club meets at LUMC on Mondays, 4:00 PM, Room 206, use north east door.

Looking Ahead

Mary Magdalene Mission Circle – Tuesday, Feb. 17, 7 PM

Ash Wednesday Service – Wednesday, Feb. 18, 6:30 PM

Food Pantry – Tuesday, Feb. 24, 3-6 PM

Euchre/Game Night – Saturday, Feb. 28, 4-6 PM

Missions/Evangelism Meeting – Thursday, Mar. 5, 6:30 PM

Daylight Savings Time Begins – Sunday, Mar. 8

Disciples & Dragons Youth Group – Sunday, Mar. 8, 6-8 PM

Food Pantry – Tuesday, Mar. 10. 3-6 PM

Blood Drive – Tuesday, Mar. 17, 2:30 – 6:30 PM Palmer Community Complex

Mary Magdalene Mission Circle – Tuesday, Mar. 17, 7 PM

Disciples & Dragons Youth Group – Sunday, Mar. 22, 6-8 PM

Food Pantry – Tuesday, Mar. 24, 3-6 PM

Ida Mission Circle – Wednesday, Mar. 25, 10 AM Fireside Room

Fill Easter Eggs & Pizza – Thursday, Mar. 26, 6 PM

Euchre/Game Night – Saturday, Mar. 28, 4-6 PM

Preschool Sunday/Easter Egg Hunt/Breakfast

Sunday, Mar. 29