

**February 2022  
Issue 02-22**



# REACHING

First Immanuel Lutheran Church Newsletter

# You

## The True Essence of Love

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### Mission:

*In response to God, who first reached down to us—the mission of First Immanuel Lutheran Church is to reach up to God, reach into each other and reach out to the world.*

The theme for this month’s “Reaching You” newsletter is “love.” This is a “no brainer.” With Valentine’s Day tucked in the middle of the month it was only natural to see “love” as the month’s theme. But what is “love?” We sure use the word in a variety of ways to express a variety of thoughts and feelings. We proclaim to our spouse, “I love you!” and in the next breath proclaim that we love pizza. We love our children and we love our pets. We love our favorite sports team and our favorite actor. We love summer evenings on the porch and winter nights in front of the fire. We love a lot for people, a lot of activities and a lot of things. Of course, we love the Lord.

Jesus often identified “love” as a verb. For Jesus, love was something we do. It is seen as a lifestyle. Jesus said, “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35). Jesus went even farther when He instructed us to love our enemies (Matthew 5:44). “Love” is what we do. Jesus demonstrated that by coming into our world and into our flesh to live on our behalf, to die on our cross and to rise from the grave to promise eternal life in heaven to all who believe in Him. Jesus is true love.

Jesus showed us that loving isn’t always simple or easy, but it is necessary if we want to fulfill our purpose on earth. Love is simply using our gifts and abilities in service to others. This happens in the home when we, as husbands and wives, parents and children, care for one another. This happens in the work place as we give an honest day’s labor for a day’s fair wage. But love is also exercised when we serve others outside our home, our workplace or our classroom. Love is displayed when we serve meals at the rescue mission. Love is given when we shovel the elderly neighbor’s walks. Love is shown when we visit a shut-in or send a card to one who is ill. Love is apparent in a simple word of welcome by a greeter in the back of church or a teacher in our KidMin program.

Real love is displayed in outward service. As your pastor I encourage you to find a way to use your talents to serve others and experience the joy of real love.

Your servant-leader,  
*Pastor Raasch*



# MISSIONS & OUTREACH

## Mission of the Month: Lutheran Hour Ministries

*“Bringing Christ to the Nations – and the Nations to the Church”*

On October 2, 1930, the first broadcast of The Lutheran Hour radio program was aired with Dr. Walter A. Maier as speaker. You can still hear the Lutheran Hour broadcast every Sunday morning by tuning in to radio 620 WTMJ at 6:30 a.m. The present voice of Lutheran Hour broadcasts is Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Since those early days, the Lutheran Hour has increased its scope of ministry to include television broadcasts, Men’s Network Ministry, and Mission U evangelism training seminars, among others. Weekly, Lutheran Hour Ministries reaches more than one hundred fifty million people through their broadcasts and programming efforts. They maintain more than thirty-four ministry locations that reach out to the unchurched in Jesus’ name in more than fifty countries on six continents! During National Lutheran Schools week this past January, First Immanuel School took a virtual mission trip to learn of the work LHM is accomplishing in the country of Zambia on the African continent. LHM even decorates a float for the annual Rose Parade in Pasadena, California!

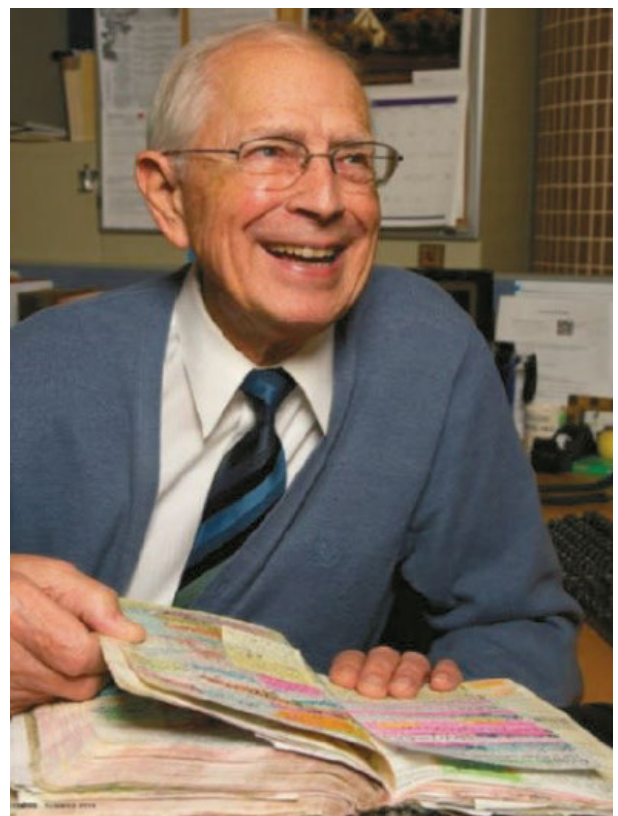
The Lutheran Hour also posts podcasts, offers a mobile phone app, and has a presence on social media sites. Go to [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org) to find out more about the many ways the Lutheran Hour is reaching out into the world in the name of Jesus.



## 2021 Christmas Appeal Update

The Concordia Bible Institute **Saleska Scholarship Endowment**, whose purpose is to provide financial assistance to pre-seminary students at Concordia University Wisconsin, is the recipient of our December Mission of the Month, otherwise known as our annual Christmas Appeal. In an age of biblical illiteracy, it is hoped that this endowment will help future pastors carry forward Rev. Dr. John Saleska’s lifelong conviction of teaching “Christ in Every Word” as they read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the Scriptures. This Christmas Appeal offering will be a blessing to many pre-seminary students for years to come.

It is our joy to let you know that a total of **\$26,984.21** was gifted to the Saleska Scholarship Endowment through our Christmas Appeal. To God be the glory!

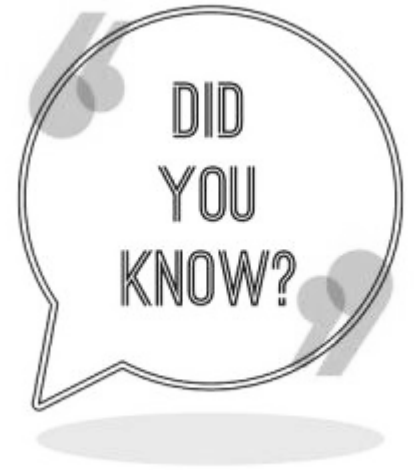


But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;  
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

ACTS 1:8

## Did You Know?

- ◇ Did You Know that we can update your **communication preferences**? Would you prefer your newsletter mailed to you or emailed? Have you recently gotten an email address due to everything shifting virtual and now have access? Do we have that new email of yours to stay in touch? Email us at [connect@fils.org](mailto:connect@fils.org) or call us at 262-377-6610 to help us to keep you better connected!
- ◇ Did you know that the River of Life Community Garden's annual Hog Roast raised \$1300 for the **Saukville Community Food Pantry!** Thanks to everyone who enjoyed a great meal for a generous donation.
- ◇ Did you know that the **Wednesday Bible Study** at First Immanuel has been averaging an attendance of over 60 people. And there is room for you there too! Join us Wednesdays at 9:00 am or 7:00 pm at First Immanuel.



## Office Staff Change

On January 1st, 2022 our office staff changed as we said farewell to Mrs. Danielle Halpin and welcomed Mrs. Julie Weber as our new Office Manager. Here is a greeting from her:



Hello FIL – I am excited to continue serving First Immanuel Ministries, its members and school families in a new role. At the start of the New Year, I began work as the new Office Manager and Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor. I feel blessed to have this opportunity and look forward to serving FIL in this capacity.

A little background about me - I have been married to my husband, Brad, for 25 years. We met in college at Concordia University Wisconsin and were married in July of 1996. We have been members at First Immanuel since 2003.

Prior to accepting this new role, I had been working at First Immanuel (since 2014) as an Administrative Assistant for the both the church and the school. Prior to that, I had worked at Market Day, Ozaukee Bank and Concordia University Wisconsin.

I have a strong background in attending Lutheran schools having gone to Hales Corners Lutheran, Martin Luther High School and Concordia University Wisconsin where I earned both a Bachelor's Degree in 1993 and a Master's Degree in 2002.

My interests include all types of travel, the beach, nature, reading, walking, biking, tennis and spending time with my family.

I know many of you already, but for those I do not, I look forward to meeting you!



# ONGOING ADULT BIBLE STUDIES!

## IN-PERSON BIBLE STUDIES

### SUNDAY MORNINGS

#### FIL Fellowship Hall

8:45–9:45am | Pastor Paul Kelm

#### River of Life

9:00–9:30am | Dr. Jim Juergensen

### Wednesdays - FIL Fellowship Hall

9am & 7pm | Pastor Raasch

#### MEN'S STUDY

7:30am | First Immanuel  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of each month

#### WOMEN'S STUDY

9:00am | River of Life  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month

## ONLINE BIBLE STUDY

# FRIDAYS LIVE @12:05

The topic is: "Boy, have I got questions!"  
Pastor Raasch will address your questions  
in this weekly online Bible Study.

Email your questions to: [RRaasch@fils.org](mailto:RRaasch@fils.org)  
with the subject line 'Question'

<https://firstimmanuel.online.church/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/FirstImmanuel>

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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**~Communion Schedule~**

**First Immanuel (FIL):** On 1st and 3rd Sunday at 5:00pm, 7:30am, 9:00am and 10:35am  
**River of Life (ROL):** Every Sunday at 8:00 am, On 1st and 3rd Sunday at 9:30 am, and 10:45am

<p><b>Events Held At FIL Unless Notes Otherwise</b></p>		<p><b>1</b> Noon Ladies Aid 2:30pm Rooted 3:00pm Serve a Meal—MRM</p>	<p><b>2</b> 9:00am &amp; 7:00pm Adult Bible Study 5:30pm Faith Education 6:30pm Adult Bells 7:00 pm Disciple.First Cohort</p>	<p><b>3</b> 8:00am Zoom Prayer Meeting 2:30pm DC4K 2022 6:30pm Men's Basketball</p>	<p><b>4</b> 6:00am Breakfast Bible Study 4:19pm FIRSTLive @ firstmin.church</p>	<p><b>5</b> 7:30am Men's Bible Study 5:00pm Trad. Worship (FIL)</p>
<p><b>6</b> 7:30am Traditional Worship (FIL) 8:00am Traditional Worship (ROL) 8:45am Adult Bible Class (FIL) 9:00am Traditional Worship (FIL) 9:00am Adult Bible Class (ROL) 9:30am Café Contemporary Worship (ROL) 10:00am Spiritual Formation Group (FIL) 10:35am Contemporary Worship (FIL) 10:45am Café Contemporary Worship (ROL)</p>	<p><b>7</b> Newsletter Deadline 9:30a Quilters - Sewing Group 10:00am &amp; 7:00pm Stephen Ministry 6:30pm Women in the Word</p>	<p><b>8</b> 2:30pm Rooted 3:00pm Serve a Meal—MRM 7:00pm LWML 7:00pm Men's Club</p>	<p><b>9</b> 9:00am &amp; 7:00pm Adult Bible Study 5:30pm Faith Education 6:30pm Adult Bells 7:00 pm Disciple.First Cohort</p>	<p><b>10</b> 8:00am Zoom Prayer Meeting 9:00am Mom to Mom 2:30pm DC4K 2022 6:30pm Men's Basketball</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b> 5:00pm Traditional Worship Service (FIL)</p>
<p><b>13</b> 7:30am Traditional Worship (FIL) 8:00am Traditional Worship (ROL) 8:45am Adult Bible Class (FIL) 9:00am Traditional Worship (FIL) 9:00am Adult Bible Class (ROL) 9:30am Café Contemporary Worship (ROL) 10:00am Spiritual Formation Group (FIL) 10:35am Contemporary Worship (FIL) 10:45am Café Contemporary Worship (ROL)</p>	<p><b>14</b> 6:30pm Women in the Word</p>	<p><b>15</b> 2:30pm Rooted 3:00pm Serve a Meal—MRM 7:00pm Board of Lay Leaders Meeting 7:00pm Lutherans for Life Chapter Meeting (ROL)</p>	<p><b>16</b> 9:00am &amp; 7:00pm Adult Bible Study 5:30pm Faith Education 6:30pm Adult Bells 7:00 pm Disciple.First Cohort</p>	<p><b>17</b> 8:00am Zoom Prayer Meeting 2:30pm DC4K 2022 6:30pm Men's Basketball</p>	<p><b>18</b> 4:19pm FIRSTLive @ firstmin.church</p>	<p><b>19</b> 7:30am Men's Bible Study 5:00pm Traditional Worship Service (FIL)</p>
<p><b>20</b> 7:30am Traditional Worship (FIL) 8:00am Traditional Worship (ROL) 8:45am Adult Bible Class (FIL) 9:00am Traditional Worship (FIL) 9:00am Adult Bible Class (ROL) 9:30am Café Contemporary Worship (ROL) 10:00am Spiritual Formation Group (FIL) 10:35am Contemporary Worship (FIL) 10:45am Café Contemporary Worship</p>	<p><b>21</b> NO SCHOOL 9:30a Quilters - Sewing Group 6:30pm Women in the Word 7:00pm Stephen Ministry</p>	<p><b>22</b> 2:30pm Rooted 3:00pm Serve a Meal—MRM</p>	<p><b>23</b> 9:00am &amp; 7:00pm Adult Bible Study 5:30pm Faith Education 6:30pm Adult Bells 7:00 pm Disciple.First Cohort</p>	<p><b>24</b> 8:00am Zoom Prayer Meeting 9:00am Mom to Mom (FIL) 2:30pm DC4K 2022 6:30pm Men's Basketball</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> 5:00pm Traditional Worship Service (FIL)</p>
<p><b>27</b> 7:30am Traditional Worship (FIL) 8:00am Traditional Worship (ROL) 8:45am Adult Bible Class (FIL) 9:00am Traditional Worship (FIL) 9:00am Adult Bible Class (ROL) 9:30am Café Contemporary Worship (ROL) 10:00am Spiritual Formation Group (FIL) 10:35am Contemporary Worship (FIL) 10:45am Café Contemporary Worship (ROL)</p>	<p><b>28</b> 9:30a Quilters - Sewing Group 6:30pm Women in the Word</p>					

# SERMON SERIES

## You Are Here



### Sermon Series on Colossians

During the month of February, we will be walking through the book of Colossians. Paul invites the church 2,000 years ago, along with believers throughout time and space, to consider where we are. Where God is. And the answer to that is: You are here. And Christ is all and is in all things.

You are exactly where God wants you to be. God is everywhere- above time and space- yet God has revealed his love in Christ, making known to us the great plan and work of God. We then have the privilege of living that out. Right where we are!

Follow along this month to hear sermons about:

**Week 1: Christ in All: The preeminence of Christ** Colossians 1:15-23

**Week 2: Here in the World: The sufferings we face, often as Christians**  
Colossians 1:24- 2:5

**Week 3: Here in the Church: The “new self” that we live through the Kingdom of Grace** Colossians 2:6-23

**Week 4: Here at Home: Our relationships to one another as families designed by God**  
Colossians 3:18-25

# WORSHIP SCHEDULE



### Traditional Services

Saturday 5:00 pm  
Sunday 7:30 & 9:00 am

### Contemporary Service

Sunday 10:35 am

online at:  
[firstimmanuel.online.church](http://firstimmanuel.online.church)



### Traditional Services

Sunday 8:00 am

### Contemporary Service

Sunday 9:30 & 10:45 am

online at:  
[RiverofLifeSaukville.online.church](http://RiverofLifeSaukville.online.church)



# School Service Projects

*Written by Dawn Walker, Principal*

1 Peter 4:10 *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.*

We shared back in August that, beginning with this school year, each of our grade levels would be participating in a service project to serve and share their love with others.

We would like to highlight some of those here!



**Kindergarten - Lasata Costume Parade and Card Making - Students sang *God is So Good***



**2K - Operation Christmas Child Packing**

The FILS ministry is so blessed to love and serve and to encourage our students to do the same!



**6th Grade - Bake sale to raise funds for a classmate's medical bills. Funds were matched by the church to raise \$3000**



**5th Grade - Wrote and Presented a Reformation Chapel shared with Early Childhood and K-8**



**2nd Grade - Weekly "Thank You" cards to Chapel leaders**



**3K - Food Drive and Card Making**

"As a vital ministry of First Immanuel Lutheran Ministries the purpose of our school (FILS) is to "Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old, he will not depart from it," Proverbs 22:6. By following this verse we will develop the whole child - academically, artistically, physically, socially and spiritually - by providing a Christ centered, quality education for the children of the First Immanuel congregation and the surrounding communities."



## Life's Plans and the Stephen Ministry

We all make plans for our life. We set a goal for ourselves, such as going to college, choosing a particular career position, or at what age we wish to retire, and we construct a plan to get us from where we are today to that goal. We may be working on one plan or multiple plans at any one point in our life. We know what we would like our future to look like, where we would like to spend it, and with whom we wish to spend it with. We make plans.

But being imperfect people living in an imperfect world, our plans do not always go as we would like. We can and will have setbacks. Some of the setbacks will be small such as your boss reprimanding you, losing some of your retirement money in the stock market, or not getting into your first college choice. When these setbacks occur, we may have to alter our plans somewhat and identify new options to try and paths to take. With small setbacks, we are able to adjust and proceed on.

We can also experience large setbacks in our life plans such as losing a job, getting divorced, or receiving a negative health report. These types of setbacks can cause us to go through a time of crisis. The effects of the crisis on our lives can cause us to have a lowered self-concept, increased disorganized thinking and ineffectual behavior, a preoccupation with self, irritability, a shake-up in our values and beliefs, and a reexamination of our relationship with God. During this time, we may not be able to cope with our negative experiences properly, trapping us in a negative cycle causing more damage to ourselves. After the crisis occurs, we are at a decision point. We can try to go it alone, avoiding the problem, and trying inadequate solutions that have not worked in the past. The other option is to try turning to others for assistance, acknowledging the problem, and discovering new ways of living and thinking. One path leads to greater brokenness, the other to greater wholeness.

When you are ready to ask for assistance in a setback, a Stephen Minister is available to be with you on the road to recovery. Stephen Minister is a congregational layperson that has been through more than 50 hours of specialized training to provide one-to-one Christian care to hurting people both inside and outside the congregation. Stephen Ministers care for people with a wide range of ministry needs – grief, divorce, unemployment, hospitalization, loneliness, a spiritual crisis, financial stress, terminal illness, and countless other difficulties. Stephen Ministers are trained Christian caregivers. Their role is to listen and care – not to console. A Stephen Minister will meet with you on a weekly basis. They are there for you to help you work through all of the issues of the setback for as long as you need them.

### Is caring for a loved one leaving you...

- Stressed?
- Exhausted?
- Depressed?

*A Stephen Minister might be able to help you—  
in person or virtually.*

To take advantage of what a Stephen Minister can offer, contact Pastor Reichmann: (262) 377-6610



If you or someone you know needs someone to be there with them as they go through a setback in life, please consider contacting Pastor Reichmann at 262-377-6610 to explore the possibility of having a Stephen Minister. All referrals and discussions with a Stephen Minister are kept in the strictest confidence.

**Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.**





## *In Pursuit of the Greatest Gift – What the Love Chapter Reveals About Godly Living!*

Author: John R. Strubhar  
Reviewed by Audrey A. Stockey

Love, the Greatest Gift of all, is based on Paul's letter to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 13). Pastor Strubhar's book is all about that love, not just love as we humans think about it, but rather AGAPE love, the greatest virtue of all because God is its source. It is also the greatest because Christ laid down his life for our sins and it is central to Christ's teachings. And it is the basis of our discipleship. Love should be our primary pursuit—love of God and love of each other. This love is expressed through our faith with the Holy Spirit pouring agape love into our lives so we can live love every day.

Agape love covers all relationships in our life; to God and to others. It includes self-sacrifice, self-giving, and is other-centered with nothing expected in return. Without this key ingredient in our life, we can't show our spiritual gifts to others and we can't make the Word of God come to life for them. Without it we lack humility, graciousness, kindness, and are short-sighted. But with agape love, we have the ability to see God's point of view, show generosity to one another, and accomplish all that He wants us to. We can give messages of love, joy, and hope to others, giving of our time and resources just as God does in our lives.

Agape love is action, motion. In Paul's words it is patient, kind, doesn't envy or boast, display arrogance or rudeness, fails to insist on its own way, and is not irritable or resentful. This means always looking for the best in others, displaying kindness, consistency, selflessness, and forgiveness. In other words, others in our life are more important than we are, just as Christ lived his life. For us, we need to think and act like Christians with God's Word and truth permeating all we do. And we need to praise God for His grace and forgiveness.

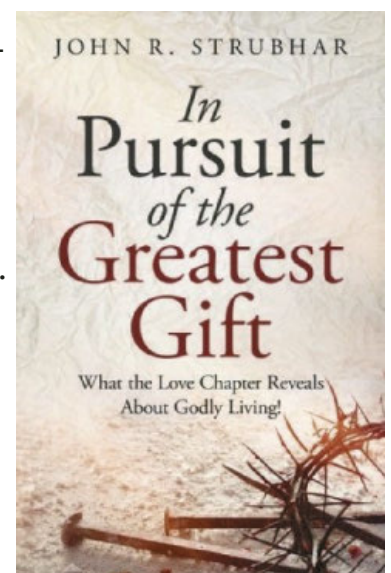
Agape love has "heart", rejoicing with truth, exuding courage and relentlessness. It doesn't involve evil, senseless acts of violence, and participation in the ugliness around us. With it we celebrate what is good, remembering heaven is our final

and true home. This Christ-like love covers and protects, giving us the strength to reach out to others. God has a purpose for us and in all things. Christ-like love allows both blessings and burdens. To understand these things, we need God's Word and our prayers, giving us strength and endurance.

God's agape love gives us hope and a promise for our future as well as bringing us joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, and faith. His love will outlast everything in this world and has staying power for all time. Faith, hope, and love are forever. We need to pursue them all during our life. And we need to remember AGAPE love is the greatest of all, being central to Christ's teaching while he was on earth with his Father as its source. Our primary goal on earth is to love God and each other. Our life here should be "other-centered" at all times. This is true agape love!

*In Pursuit of the Greatest Gift* is a 118-page book containing Biblical quotations with their explanations. It contains a Note from Strubhar, an Introduction and Conclusion as well as Notes explaining resources used, information about the author, and an explanation about "Sermon To Book" for other pastors. It is a motivating text and easy to read. A helpful suggestion would be to first read 1 Corinthians 13 because it is the total basis for the book.

At the end of each chapter is a set of questions based on information provided as well as space for an answer. Following this is an application-action step with writing space. Both are designed to get readers reflecting on Christ-like love and applying it on a daily basis. The book is designed for Godly living every day of our lives.



# Loaded with Love, Fill Others Up!

*Written by Pastor Tim Seban*

A car can't run without fuel. A flashlight doesn't work without batteries. Our relationships are dysfunctional without love. We all have a love tank. Each day we either are filling or emptying each other's love tank. The hard part is that our expressions of love are not always understood, and we do not understand others' expressions of love. What is clear, however, is that we all need to have our love tanks filled up. Our loving God is certainly filling our love tank!

## **God's Shows Us His love:**

- “For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son...” John 3:16
- “God shows His love for us in this, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8  
“Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.” 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Your tank is now filled up. You are forgiven and redeemed because of Jesus. You have eternal life given to you because of God's love. Now as one loved by God, we are called to love one another. Don't just take my word for it, for Jesus says it beautifully in John 15:12, “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” Let's fill each other's love tank, and reflect the love of God!

Gary Chapman's research suggests that we have 5 love languages. While we all appreciate one love language, usually one stands out above all the other! What is your love language?

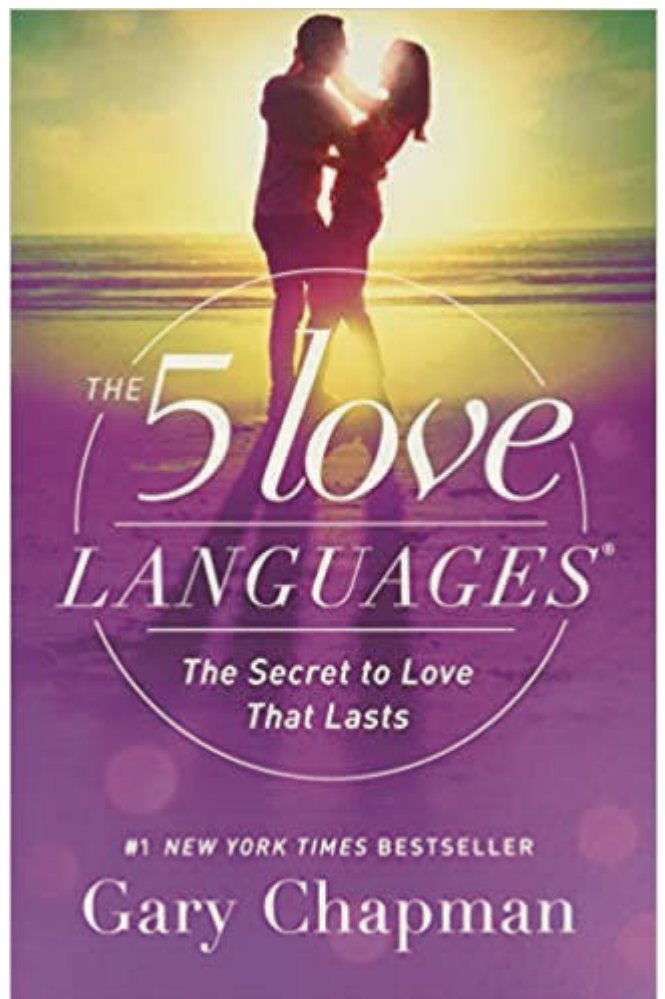
## **Gary Chapman's 5 Love Languages\*\***

Act of Service  
Giving Gifts  
Quality Time  
Physical Touch  
Words of Affirmation

Now it is time to be a detective, so you can learn to better express love to the people you care about the most. Look for the clues and try to identify how your spouse, child, family or friends express and receive love with the most joy. Are you filling their love tank the way they prefer? Are you emptying their love tank? If you are expressing love, and they don't seem to be receiving it, likely their primary love language is different than yours. Learn to love them the way they receive love the best. Solve the love language mystery and you will be surprised by the results! Fill their love tank!

It is no mystery that Jesus emptied Himself, so that we could be filled. As we marvel at his uncompromising and unconditional love, may that inspire us to share that love with others.

Fill'er Up!



\*\*Gary Chapman: The 5 Love Languages: The secret to love that lasts.

# Church Library News



February 202

The Church Library has been in its new location now for several months. If you haven't already, please come and check it out. The books and items on the shelves are now arranged by the Dewey Decimal System. Signs and the new online catalog are works in progress. Please be sure to sign the checkout card for every item you take and leave the card on the library desk.

## New Additions

Dewey	Format	Copies	Title	Author
232.96 LUC	book	1	And the Angels were Silent: the final week of Jesus	Lucado, Max
234.5 FIN	book	1	As We Forgive Those: How to forgive others, ourselves and God	Finck, Charles F. III
248.8 JAY	book	1	Becoming the Woman of His Dreams	Jaynes, Sharon
220.6 FRA	book	1	Believe: Living the story of the Bible to become like Jesus Study Guide	Fraze, Randy with Larson, Randy
248.4 CLO	book	1	Boundaries: When to say yes, how to say no to take control of your life	Cloud, Dr. Henry & Townsend, Dr. John
616.99 HAU	book	1	Cancer: Now What?	Haugk, Kenneth C.
248.5 COM	book	1	Changing Hearts and Minds About Life's Hot-button issues	Comfort, Ray
220.7 ROE	book	1	Concordia Self-Study Commentary: An authoritative in-home resource for students of the Bible	Roehrs, Walter H.
242.643 DAI	book	1	Daily Whispers of Wisdom for Women	
241 STA	book	1	Developing a Servant's Heart	Stanley, Charles
227.91 CLA	book	1	Discovering a Living Faith: A study of the book of James	Clark, Bryan
232.5 BLA	book	1	Experiencing the Resurrection	Blackaby, Henry T. and Blackaby, Melvin D.
220.076 FRY	book	1	FAQs: Frequently asked questions	Fryar, Jane, ed.
249 NAP	book	1	Fifty-two (52) Fun Family Devotions: Exploring and discovering God's Word	Nappa, Mike and Amy
231 SHI	book	1	God is Able	Shirer, Priscilla
248.3 MOH	book	1	Growing in Gratitude: Rediscovering the joy of a thankful heart	Mohler, Mary K
306.7 YER	book	1	How We Love: Discover your love style, enhance your marriage	Yerkovich, Milan & Kay
306.7 YER DVD	3 DVDs	1	How We Love: Discover your love style, enhance your marriage	Yerkovich, Milan & Kay
235.4 ING	book	1	Invisible War, The: What every believer needs to know about Satan, Demons, & spiritual warfare	Ingram, Chip
242.2 YOU	book	1	Jesus Listens: Daily devotional prayers of peace, joy, and hope	Young, Sarah
253 WIL	book	1	Life in Community: Joining together to display the Gospel	Willis, Dustin



## New Additions Continued

Dewey	Format	Copies	Title	Author
264 WIN	book	1	Lutheranism 101: Worship	Winger, Thomas M.
222.11 LOT	DVD	1	Magnificent Obsession, The: Embracing the God filled life	Lotz, Anne Graham
220.07 OES	book	1	Making the Bible Yours: A journey into the heart of God	Oesch, Jackie
226.3 DUM	book	1	Mark: The Serving Christ	Dumit, Julene Gernant
248.4 MOR	book	1	Mastering life before it's too late: 10 Biblical strategies for a lifetime of purpose	Morgan, Robert
362 SCH	book	1	My Two Elaines: Learning, coping, and surviving as an Alzheimer's caregiver	Schreiber, Martin J.
232.96 WAN	book	1	Reliving the Passion: Meditations on the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus as recorded in Mark	Wangerin Jr., Walter
264 CON	booklet	3	Simple Explanation of the Church Service	Concordia Publishing House
248.83 BRO	book	1	Soul Tending: Life-forming practices for older youth and young adults	Broyles, Anne & others
224.97 ROT	book	1	Take Courage: A study of Haggai	Rothschild, Jennifer
224.97 ROT	kit: 1 book, 2 DVDs	1	Take Courage: A study of Haggai	Rothschild, Jennifer
248.5 COM	book	1	Thanks a Million: An adventure in Biblical evangelism	Comfort, Ray & Cameron, Kirk
646.7 SOU	book	2	Unstuffed: Decluttering your home, mind and soul	Soukup, Ruth
646.7 SOU	DVD	1	Unstuffed: Decluttering your home, mind and soul	Soukup, Ruth
261.8 MOH	book	1	We Cannot Be Silent: Speaking truth to a culture redefining sex, marriage, and the very meaning of right and wrong	Mohler, R. Albert, Jr.
234.161 MEL	booklet	3	Welcome to the Family! For parents whose child is about to be baptized	Melheim, Richard
262.001 HUN	book	1	Who Broke My Church? 7 proven strategies for renewal and revival	Hunter, Kent R. w/ Swank, Tracee J.
230.044 BON	book	1	Wisdom and Witness of Dietrich Bonhoeffer	Bonhoeffer, Dietrich: Floyd, Wayne
248.8 MAT	book	1	Woman of Strength: Living the best life possible for God in this broken world	Mathews, Alice
220.9 BRE	book	1	Women of the Bible Speak: The wisdom of 16 women and their lessons for today	Bream, Shannon

# WORD

REFLECTIONS ON A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY FROM *LOIS GIORDANO*

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## ***TO ALL CAREGIVERS—FROM MY HEART TO YOURS***

***But Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”*** Matthew 19:26

As we look at love in service to others this month, I cannot think of a better example of that than those who are actively engaged in caring for loved ones. I am focusing especially on the long-haul caregivers who work to improve the lives of parents, family members, or friends who are aging or facing debilitating illness or other challenges. Each one of you is a hero.

All caregiving roles—whether daily hands-on care or supportive roles—challenge me mentally and physically and emotionally and spiritually and leave me weary.

- At times I have felt like a sandwich, pressed together between two generations.
- Other times I have felt totally isolated; my life was so filled with the endless tasks and demands of caring for someone else all the time that I had little or no contact with others.
- Most often I feel like taffy—pulled apart, stretched, and yanked around. I am tugged at by all the parts of my life, by the demands of caregiving, my family, my ministries, my need to take care of myself, and my desire to serve my Lord.
- No matter how hard I try, I can never do any of my roles and vocations completely or as well as I want to. I want my loved ones to have the best of me, but my efforts feel so limited and imperfect. I feel guilty about my limitations.

All of these responses are natural and appropriate. As a caregiver for various family members and friends over more than 30 years, I have experienced all of them.

I hope you already know this fact: *It is impossible to survive as an effective caregiver without the strength, grace, and mercy of God. You **must** walk with God!* Faith grows—deepened and strengthened by the Holy Spirit—through each of these seasons of caregiving. And be comforted that you truly are not alone. God is walking with you even on those days when you don't see or feel his presence, or even know for what to pray.

***The Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good for those who are called according to his purpose.*** Romans 8:26-28

Be assured that all caregivers struggle to be enough, to be sufficient to the demands. Give your guilt to God.

***There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.*** Romans 8:1

Suggestions (prayerfully offered):

- Actively seek to create a support system. If you don't know where to start, I would recommend contacting Pastor Reichmann to request a Stephen Minister who can listen and support you.
- If someone offers help or encouragement, get creative and figure out how they can help. Accept help!
- Join a Reach Group Bible study. If it's hard to get out of the house, invite them to meet in your home. (It's okay. They won't expect a clean house.) And your loved one can benefit from God's Word and fellowship.
- Join a Zoom Bible class. You can do that while you are still caring for your loved one.
- Engage in God's Word in new ways.

May God's peace be with you. *To Him be the glory!*

**“We come, His will obeying as children bringing needs; and to support our praying, His Spirit intercedes!”** (*In Holy Conversation,* LSB 772, stanza 1)

# LO>ELINESS

Written by Pastor Ethan Luhman

Valentine's Day: what a great celebration- love in the air, candy hearts, sweet notes, cute stuffed animals. At least that's what the cards suggest. More often than not, February highlights our loneliness, not our loveliness. The days are still dark, the nights are still cold, and our calendar is still much more empty than we hope- or filled with things we dread rather than desire.

Are you lonely? You can be lonely, whether or not you have people in your life. So the question becomes, why are we lonely? A major part of loneliness is feeling unknown, unimportant, insignificant, not valuable. We are lonely because *we don't have life-giving relationships*. We are lonely because *we lack relational responsibility and importance*. We are lonely because *no one is really there for us- and we aren't really there for anyone else*.

First, just be honest with yourself. Say it with me: "I'm lonely." There is freedom even in speaking it out loud. And that is because there is Someone listening, who hears even in your confession your great need. Your honest confession is an invitation to the God who "will never leave you or forsake you." God hears you. God is ever present with you.

As with Hagar in the wilderness, ready to give up because she has been kicked out of her home and abandoned, hiding her son because she doesn't want to see him die, weeping and crying, God draws near. "**What troubles you?**" he asks. "**Fear not, for God has heard,**" God reassures her (Genesis 21:12-21). And God reassures us. God is with us, no matter what. God hears our heartache. God is present in our loneliness.

We are lovely to God, even when we are lonely. We have a community- a Trinity of love- ever present with us. And, oftentimes, we do have people around us, too. We just undervalue or under-appreciate or neglect those people and relationships that are there. Or we are too afraid to find new, life-giving relationships.

If you're struggling with loneliness, find someone this month, and ask them these questions:

How are you, really?

What is bringing you joy these days?

Do you believe you are meeting God's call for you right now? How so?

What's going well for you? What are you struggling with?

How can I be there for you?

If you'd like to get connected to a group, we have plenty of life-giving groups. Reach out at [connect@fils.org](mailto:connect@fils.org), and we will make sure to remind you that you are not alone.

## FIRST



If you know of anyone looking to connect with the Church in a new way, invite them to check out @firstmin.church on Facebook or Instagram, or have them head over to <http://firstmin.church> to learn more.

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# LOVING YOUR SCHOOL

*Written by Teresa Hajdu, Communications & Admissions Director*

Here it is February 2022 already! It seems it was just August 2021 and a new school year was beginning. It was exciting, warm and sunny, and a lot of school year was still ahead.

But now it's February 2022. It's cold, snowy and the excitement that comes with a new school year has long worn away. And you know what? That is OK. It's the natural course of things.

So, given this simple fact, I started to think about what themes are common to celebrating February. With a quick google search I found a list of daily holidays and observances including:

- February 1: National Freedom Day, National Dark Chocolate Day, National Baked Alaska Day, National Get Up Day
- February 2: Groundhog Day, National Hedgehog Day, National Tater Tot Day, National Ukulele Day
- February 3: Four Chaplains Day, National Carrot Cake Day, National Golden Retriever Day
- February 4: World Cancer Day, National Homemade Soup Day
- February 5: National Weatherperson's Day, World Nutella Day
- February 6: Pay a Compliment Day, National Frozen Yogurt Day
- February 7: National Send a Card to a Friend Day, Rose Day, National Fettuccine Alfredo Day, National Bubble Gum Day\* (first Friday), National Wear Red Day\* (first Friday), Give Kids a Smile Day\* (first Friday)
- February 8: Take Your Child to the Library Day\* (first Saturday), National Kite Flying Day, Opera Day, Read in the Bathtub Day
- February 9, National Pizza Day
- February 10: National Umbrella Day, Teddy Day, National Clean Out Your Computer Day\* (second Monday)
- February 11: National Inventors' Day, National Make a Friend Day, Get Out Your Guitar Day, International Day of Women and Girls in Science
- February 12: Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
- February 13: World Radio Day, National Tortellini Day
- February 14: Valentine's Day,
- February 15: National Gumdrop Day, Susan B. Anthony Day, National Bagel Day
- February 16: Do a Grouch a Favor Day, National Almond Day
- February 17: Presidents' Day\* (third Monday)
- February 18: National Battery Day, National Drink Wine Day
- February 19: National Chocolate Mint Day
- February 20: National Love Your Pet Day, National Muffin Day
- February 21: National Sticky Bun Day
- February 22: George Washington's Birthday, Be Humble Day, World Thinking Day, National Margarita Day
- February 23: National Banana Bread Day
- February 24: National Tortilla Chip Day
- February 25: Let's All Eat Right Day, National Clam Chowder Day, National Pancake Day,
- February 26: Tell a Fairy Tale Day, National Pistachio Day
- February 27: No Brainer Day, International Polar Bear Day, National Chili Day
- February 28: National Chocolate Souffle Day, National Science Day
- February 29: Leap Day (every four years)

There really is a lot going on in February!

But theme of this newsletter is Love so that is what we'll focus on here. When walking through the hallways you can feel it. When families looking to join our school visit, they feel and acknowledge it (some have said they felt a warm fuzzy feeling, or they felt like they've been here before, or their dream of a school their child can love is being fulfilled).

We here at First Immanuel are blessed with some of the very best teachers and leaders in early childhood, elementary and middle school education. Together, our team has centuries of experience providing a superior educational setting for every student in a loving, caring community that helps every student excel! First Immanuel Lutheran School really is a school where God's love is celebrated, we share a Biblical Worldview and students are learning in an environment where Christian Values, Faith and Forgiveness are embraced.

If your family or family you know is not already a part of our school family I encourage you to come visit – invite a friend to join you – and see for yourselves what we have to offer.

Love your family, Love your school.  
Join our school family!

# MINISTRY GROUP NEWS

## LWML



The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (L.W.M.L.) will meet at an earlier start time of 6:00pm on February 8th. We will meet at Lasata Crossings (the building farthest west in the complex) to sing familiar songs for the residents. We will then return to church for refreshments, a devotion and a short meeting. We always welcome new members to join in our mission work.

## Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid will meet again on February 1st at 12:00pm at FIL in the Church Library, our new meeting room. The Church Library is right off of the Narthex and next to the Fellowship Hall. All ladies of FIL and ROL are always welcome to join us for lunch, fellowship and often a speaker or activity. Our devotion will be "A Hot Cup of Tea".

## Lutherans For Life

Ozaukee County Lutherans for Life Chapter meets three times each year—the third Tuesday of February, May and October. We would be honored by your presence **Tuesday, February 15, 7:00 p.m., River of Life Lutheran Church, 598 Hillcrest Rd, Saukville 53080.** You will be encouraged and informed by Dr. Kevin Voss, Director, Concordia Center for Bioethics, covering seven classic arguments for abortion and Christian responses to them; also basic abortion law. Concordia students will also be present to recap their January 21<sup>st</sup> March for Life trip in Washington DC.

## Men's Club

The men's club would like to thank all the people who made the Holiday Tournament a success in every way. The school staff, all the fans and the players created a great environment of fun and competition the whole weekend.



We will be meeting Tuesday February 8th in the FIL library at 7:00 pm. This month we are welcoming one of our newest teachers at our school, Mr. Sam Fluegge, to share some of his life story that led him here to share his faith with our FIL family.

After a short meeting we will enjoy some of John's chili. Please come and enjoy an evening with the guys.

We also meet the first and third Saturday of each month for a morning bible study in the fellowship hall from 7:30 to 9:00 am. Join us for some faith and fellowship.

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS!**

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Children age 4–4th graders should join us for Kidmin!  
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## **SAVE THE DATE!!!**

**Vacation Bible School**  
**First Immanuel Lutheran Church**

**June 20-24<sup>th</sup>**





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