
In Lent there is Love

Rev. Ralen M. Robinson

“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33

This year, we celebrate Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day on the same day. Valentine's Day is a reminder of the power of love in our lives, whether it's with a partner, friends, or family. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 beautifully captures the essence of love, and we can draw parallels between these qualities and the period of self-reflection and spiritual preparation that Lent represents.

Lent invites us to examine our hearts, practice humility, and cultivate a deeper understanding of love in its purest form. In the spirit of reflection, we turn to the words of 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy; it does not boast; it is not proud; it does not dishonor others; it is not self-seeking; it is not easily angered; it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. As we delve into the season of Lent, a period of self-reflection and spiritual preparation, we can draw parallels with the qualities outlined in 1 Corinthians. Lent invites us to examine our hearts, practice humility, and cultivate a deeper understanding of love in its purest form.

In *Let Me Be a Woman*, missionary Elisabeth Elliot writes about the “ground rules” for “how this thing called love really works - in a marriage, in the world.” Her list reflects many of the principles found in 1 Corinthians 13, the Bible’s love chapter.

- This love of which I speak is slow to lose patience. It looks for a way of being constructive.
- Love is not possessive.
- Love is not anxious to impress, nor does it cherish inflated ideas of its own ideas.
- Love has good manners and does not pursue selfish advantage.
- Love is not touchy.
- Love does not keep account of evil or gloat over the wickedness of other people. On the contrary, it is glad ... when truth prevails.
- Love knows no limits to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope; it can outlast anything. It is, in fact, the one thing that stands when all else has fallen.

Let us strive to be patient and kind, to cast aside envy and pride, and to focus on the uplifting aspects of love. Lent provides us with an opportunity to shed the burdens that may weigh us down, fostering a spirit of renewal and growth. As we navigate the intertwining themes of Valentine's Day, Lent, and the profound teachings of 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, let us use this season to uplift one another and practice love that protects, trusts, hopes, and perseveres.

Wishing you a season of love, reflection, and spiritual fulfillment.

“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant.”

1 Corinthians 13:4

Getting to Know You

Randy and Ruth Ann Koepsel



- Randy and Ruth Ann joined in 1974, so they have been members for 49 years.
- They celebrated their 50th anniversary this past August.
- They grew up in Abilene and Enterprise, KS.
- Randy went to K State studied Business Administration. Ruth Ann graduated from KU with a degree in Special Education.
- They are retired. Ruth Ann was a special education teacher/ dept chair in Wichita Public Schools for 37 years. Randy worked at Intrust/1st National for 40 years.
- Their son, Chris and 2 grandchildren, Emmett (10) and Blythe (8) live in Los Angeles. Their daughter, Sara and husband Toby, who is British, live in NYC.
- They have always had a cat - sometimes more than one. They currently have one who adopted them, and they take care of 2 “outdoor orphans.”
- Randy likes listening to music (he was a professional drummer for 30+ years), feeding birds, financial markets (giving advice, when asked) and spicy food.
- Ruth Ann likes flowers and house plants, playing piano and handbells, reading a book a week, volunteering with Assistance League in Wichita and serving on the National Assistance League Board and KU football and basketball.
- One of them doesn't like anything spicy and one of them doesn't like sushi or sitting in a meeting. Just checking whether you are paying attention because one of them listed spicy food as a favorite!
- They like the Traditional service because of the time, that's when the bell choir plays and they enjoy the full liturgy.



Interested in becoming a Member?

If you want more information about membership at Reformation, contact Rev. Ralen Robinson.



Thunder on Ice

Sign up now (see sign-up sheet in narthex) to watch an exciting **Wichita Thunder Hockey** game with your church friends! We are going to see the Wichita Thunder play on Sunday, **February 18** at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$20/person. Payment needs to be made by February 11, so we can put in our reservations. Clearly mark checks for “Thunder hockey” and put checks in envelope in collection plate or leave in office.



Luck of the Irish Baked Potato Bar and Bingo

Join us on **Saturday, March 16** at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for an evening of fun and fellowship. Reformation will provide the baked potatoes. Watch for a sign-up sheet to help provide toppings, side dishes and other goodies. Feeling lucky? Stay afterwards for a few games of bingo. Maybe you'll be lucky enough to walk away with one of the many awesome prizes available that evening.

Women of ELCA Scholarships



Women of the ELCA churchwide are offering scholarships for Lutheran laywomen and for those studying for ordained ministry. Applications are due by April 15. Learn more at www.womenoftheelca.org/scholarships.

Christian Music Event



March 3, World Vision presents the **Winter jam 2024 Tour**, Christian music's biggest tour with performances by first time tour performers CAIN, Katy Nichols, Seventh Day Slumber and Joseph O'Brien. No tickets are required, a \$15 donation will be accepted at the doors. See www.intrustbankarena.com/

This year during Lent the Youth Group will be doing a hygiene drive for Simply Hygiene, a local Kansas nonprofit organization. There will be 2 barrels set up in the Parish Hall for collections. The barrels will be available from **Monday, February 5th to Monday, March 25th.**



List of items (packaged and sealed)

Bar soap	Body wash	Conditioner	Toothpaste	Deodorant	Lotion	Laundry detergent
Toilet paper	Toothbrushes	Shampoo	Wipes	Feminine products		



On **Sunday, February 11, 2024** we will offer Sunday school for our very youngest. A class for children from birth to kindergarten age accompanied by their parent(s). We will read Bible stories, sing songs and maybe even do a craft or share a snack. Our initial class will be on Sunday, February 11 from 9:45 – 10:15. Our first class will meet in the open area of the basement. We will see where the spirit leads us from there.



Plan to attend the **Messiah Festival of Arts**. March 24-31, 2024. The Messiah Festival of the Arts is a celebration of the fine arts, held prior to and during every Holy Week at Bethany College in Lindsborg, since 1882. Tickets are now available at www.messiahfestival.org.



Valentine Cards

We invite **ALL THE CONGREGATION** to come together for a creative time between services on Sunday, February 4. We will make Valentine cards for the residents of the nursing home, Via Christi Village. We will have the supplies so that you can make cards that will bring joy to those who are in need of joy on Valentine's Day. Please put this date, February 4, on your calendar and come for fellowship and creativity. Even if you think you do not have any creativity, we will have supplies and ideas set up for you.

Bags of Blessing



You will find a **BIG BOX** in the Narthex to collect items for Partners for Wichita's Bags of Blessing. The distribution of these bags will take place at St. Paul's in March. They are asking that we have bags to them by February 19 to 22. Here is a list of the items needed for each bag:

Soap (bar or liquid)	Hand lotion	Razor
Shampoo/conditioner	Deodorant	Comb
Chapstick/lip balm	Washcloth	Kleenex
Emery board or clippers	Toothpaste	Toothbrush
Shaving cream	Band-Aids (3 individual)	
Gallon zip-lock bags	Crew socks	

Partners for Wichita requests new, travel size, non-fragrance items. You may either fill a zip-lock bag with all the above items or bring items that we can assemble into the bags.



January Council Recap

Hayenga fund: In 2023, Reformation received a \$278,000 gift from the family of Betty Hayenga. A committee has been established to determine the next steps for overseeing this generous gift. To date the funds have been invested in an interest bearing CD and Money Market account. In January the council decided that due to the size and expected longevity of this fund that it would be in our best interest to identify these funds in a dedicated account within the Reformation accounting system.

Budget: David Dorf, treasurer, presented the council with a Final Draft of the 2024 budget. Council accepted and approved the 2024 budget as presented.

Highlights to be aware of: Income lower than prior years but based upon the current giving trend. Admin Expenses lower than prior years mainly due to new copier contract. Salaries and Compensation slightly increase, approved educational assistance plan in December 2023 was reflected. Small increases in Fellowship and Worship board funds. Reductions in Learning, Outreach/Inreach, and Service Board funds. Property board funds lower but on track with actual expenditures.

Summer Worship:

Plans are to proceed with a single service during the summer months. The structure for this service is still in the planning stages. Time for the service still to be determined but anticipate it to be somewhere in between the current service times.

Coming Up:

All ministry boards meeting in parish hall, Thursday, Feb. 1 at 7pm
Valentine creation for our neighbors at Via Christi Village Sunday, Feb, 4 between services



Operation Holiday Thanks the Community

With your support more than 15,000 people including 9,000 children received basic needs to get through the coldest and most expensive months of the year. Whether you donated, volunteered, sent a monetary gift, shared our content, hosted a collection site, or participated in our annual [#WeekOfGiving](#), thank you.

Because of you, thousands of Wichitans felt the generosity of the community.”



February is the month of love. Red hearts and Valentines are everywhere we look. This month give foods from the heart for the Open Door Food Pantry. You could find **red** items or just items that bring you warmth and love. In this cold season those who are food-deprived need our help more than ever. Again and again and again—thank you for your generosity.



Holy Baptism, Feb. 4, 8:30 a.m.

Welcome **Luna Dee Martin** into the Lord's family.

Luna is the granddaughter of Susan Martin.



Attendance Update

Jan. 7 1st after Epiphany

Rise: 52
Traditional: 45
Total: 97

Jan. 14 * 2nd after Epiphany

Rise: 20
Traditional: 20
Total: 40

Jan. 21 3rd after Epiphany

Rise: 65
Traditional: 46
Total 111

Jan. 28 4th after Epiphany

Rise: 65
Traditional: 45
Total: 110

* numbers reflect dangerous weather



If you're a Thrivent member and eligible to designate 2023 Choice Dollars, don't wait until they expire in March. Designate them for your church or charity now. Visit www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice for eligibility requirements and how to give.



We continue to bring hope and help to the local neighborhoods we call home. Last quarter, we helped 47 households with total donations of \$264.97 through Dillon's Community Rewards Program. It's easy to help. Simply link your rewards card to Reformation Lutheran.



Happy Birthday

Kuttler Emma 2/1
Oyler, Natalie 2/2
Keith, Carl 2/3
Rakestraw, Dulcinea 2/4
Byers, Kimberly 2/6
Scott, Ron 2/8
Thompson, Aleigha 2/8
Hund, Roman 2/10
Biehle, Beth 2/13
Wallman, John 2/13
Buxton, Mike 2/15
Flores, Ryan 2/15
Mtawali, Kisa 2/15
Lang, David 2/20
Allbritten, Matthew 2/25
Mercer, David 2/25
Carson, Annette 2/26

Happy Anniversary

Richard & Diana Maier 2/1
Robert & Carol Weaver 2/2
Luke & Joselyn Lindgren 2/7
Karl & Veronne Ruud 2/8
Kate & Adam Zimmerman 2/18
David & Nancy Day 2/22



Please Pray for...



In Our Prayers

Pray for healing and safe recovery for the sick,

the suffering, those defending our right to freedom of religion, for our brother and sisters in the Middle East and the following:

Kourtney Franke
Robert Pfeiffer
Annette Carson
Sheila Carlson
Ed Wilks
Kenn Woodard
Sheldon Christenson Sheryl Johnson
Alan Hobart
Matthew Demoura
Carole Lyons-Osborne

Additional prayer requests may be written in the book at the back of the sanctuary.

upcoming events

Feb. 1 Bold Café Monthly Dinner
Feb. 2-4 Quake
Feb. 11 Transfiguration
Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday/ Valentine Day
Feb. 18 Wichita Thunder Game
Feb. 19 Presidents Day
Feb. 29 Leap Day
Mar. 3 Winter Jam 2024
Mar. 16 Luck of the Irish Potto Bar & Bingo
March 17 St. Partick's Day



Ladies Night Out will be held at Oak & Pie, 2244 N. Greenwich Rd. at 6:30 pm on **Tuesday, February 6th**. Join us for fellowship, fun, and conversation. All ladies are welcome! Please let Micah Hobart know by Sunday, **February 4**, to reserve a spot or if you have questions, please contact Micah at (316)708-5828.

ASH WEDNESDAY
worship

Ash Wednesday Services, February 14
Noon service followed by luncheon provided.
6 p.m. Pancakes served by Boy Scouts Cost: \$8
7 p.m. Evening Service

There will be no Midweek Lenten Services this year. Please use the Lenten Devotional to help prepare for your Lenten journey.

Kids Corner

Jokes for Animal Lovers

What did one sheep say to the other?
I love ewe!

And how did the other sheep respond?
You're not so baaa-d yourself.

Why do skunks love Valentine's Day?
They are very scent-imental creatures.

What did the enamored deer say?
I'm very fawn-ed of you!

What question did the penguin ask on February 14?
Waddle I do without you?


What do you call two birds in love?
Tweethearts!

?? ? ? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ? ? ?


Use one word (perhaps in different forms) for all the blanks to complete this Scripture passage:

"Dear friends, let us _____ one another, for _____ comes from God. Everyone who _____ has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not _____ does not know God, because God is _____."

A. believe
B. help
C. love
D. forgive



Answer: C (See 1 John 4:7,8,19)




CONNECTED BY LOVE

God's Word is filled with messages about love, which connects us to God and to one another.

Directions: Draw a line from the beginning of each Bible verse (on the left side) through the heart to the rest of the verse (on the right side). Use the Scripture references for help.

<p>a. We</p> <p>b. Above all,</p> <p>c. My command is this:</p> <p>d. And over all these virtues put on</p> <p>e. Greater</p> <p>f. See what great</p> <p>g. There is no fear in</p>	<p>1. each other as I have loved you. John 15:12</p> <p>2. has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13</p> <p>3. But perfect love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18</p> <p>4. each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8</p> <p>5. the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! 1 John 3:1</p> <p>6. because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19</p> <p>7. which binds them all together in perfect unity. Colossians 3:14</p>
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Answers: a 6, b 4, c 1, d 7, e 2, f 5, g 3

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>4 Scout Sunday</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Rise Worship</p> <p>9:45 a.m. Learning For All Ages</p> <p>Valentine Service Project</p> <p>11 a.m. Traditional Worship</p>		 <p>6 Church Office Open 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.</p> <p>9 a.m. Blanket Makers</p> <p>9 a.m. Pastor Office Hours</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Ladies Night Out</p>		<p>1 Church Office Open 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.</p> <p>6 p.m. Worship Board</p> <p>7 p.m. All Boards Meeting - Parish Hall</p>	<p>2 Church Office Closed</p> <p>Ground Hog Day</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>11 Transfiguration Sunday</p> <p>Homebound Communion</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Rise Worship</p> <p>9:45 a.m. Learning For All Ages</p> <p>11 a.m. Traditional Worship</p>	<p>5 Church Office Open 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.</p> <p>7 p.m. Back to Basics</p>	<p>13 Church Office Open 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.</p> <p>9 a.m. Blanket Makers</p> <p>9 a.m. Pastor Office Hours</p>	<p>7 Church Office Open 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.</p> <p>10 a.m. Pastor Office Hours</p>	<p>8 Church Office Open 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.</p> <p>10 a.m. Rebecca Circle</p>	<p>9 Church Office Closed</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Chinese New Year</p>
<p>18</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Rise Worship</p> <p>9:45 a.m. Learning For All Ages</p> <p>11 a.m. Traditional Worship</p> <p>4 p.m. Thunder on Ice</p>	<p>12 Church Office Open 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.</p> <p>7 p.m. Back to Basics</p> <p>Abraham Lincoln's birthday</p>	<p>20 Church Office Open 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.</p> <p>9 a.m. Blanket Makers</p> <p>9 a.m. Pastor Office Hours</p> <p>7 p.m. Church Council</p> <p>President's Day</p> <p>George Washington's birthday</p>	<p>14 Ash Wednesday</p> <p>Church Office Open 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Stephen ministry</p> <p>10 a.m. Pastor Office Hours</p> <p>10:30 a.m. In Reach</p> <p>Noon Ash Wednesday Service</p> <p>6 p.m. Pancake Dinner</p> <p>7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service</p> <p>Valentine Day</p> <p>Lent begins</p>	<p>15 Church Office Open 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.</p> <p>RefLife Deadline</p>	<p>16 Church Office Closed</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7 a.m. St. Paul's</p> <p>Community Breakfast</p>
<p>25</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Rise Worship</p> <p>9:45 a.m. Learning For All Ages</p> <p>11 a.m. Traditional Worship</p>	<p>26 Church Office Open 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.</p> <p>10 a.m. Assistance League</p> <p>7 p.m. Back to Basics</p>	<p>27 Church Office Open 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.</p> <p>9 a.m. Blanket Makers</p> <p>9 a.m. Pastor Office Hours</p>	<p>21 Church Office Open 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.</p> <p>10 a.m. Pastor Office Hours</p> <p>1 p.m. Dorcas Circle</p> <p>6 p.m. Bell Chour</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Youth Group</p>	<p>22 Church Office Open 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.</p>	<p>23 Church Office Closed</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Rise Worship</p> <p>9:45 a.m. Learning For All Ages</p> <p>11 a.m. Traditional Worship</p>	<p>26 Church Office Open 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.</p> <p>10 a.m. Assistance League</p> <p>7 p.m. Back to Basics</p>	<p>27 Church Office Open 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.</p> <p>9 a.m. Blanket Makers</p> <p>9 a.m. Pastor Office Hours</p>	<p>28 Church Office Open 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.</p> <p>10 a.m. Pastor Office Hours</p>	<p>29 Church Office Open 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.</p>	<p>Upcoming Events</p> <p>3/3 Winter Jam</p> <p>3/16 Irish Potato Baar & Bingo</p> <p>3/24-31 Messiah Festival of Arts</p>	<p>Leap Day</p>