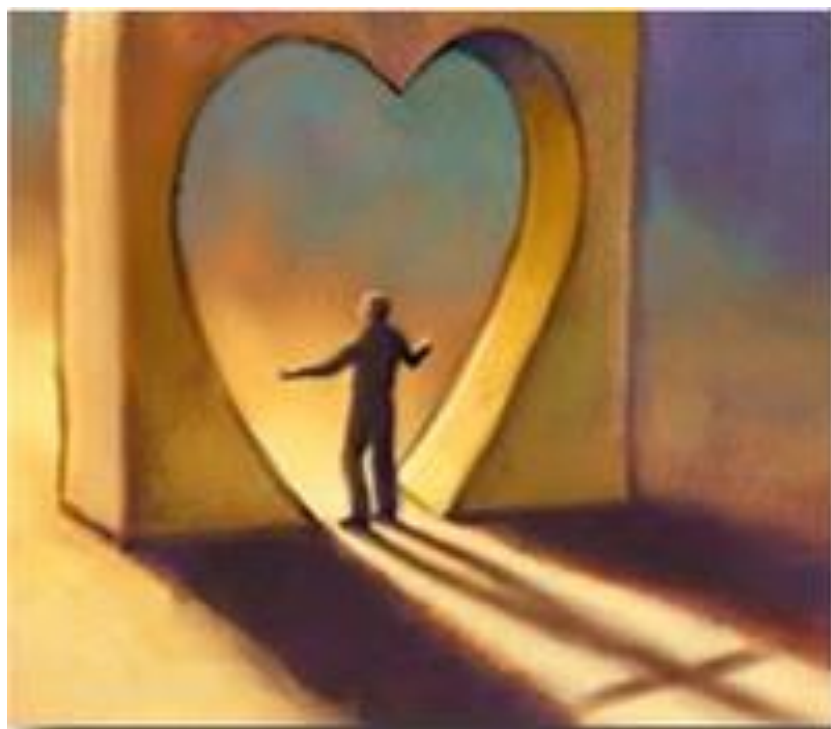


**Grace Lutheran Church
Royersford, PA**

Lent Devotional—2020



“Claiming the ‘L’ Word”

**Grace Lutheran Church
6th and Main Streets
Royersford, PA 19468**

610-948-3684

www.gracelutheranroyersford.com

**The Rev. Janelle Kraus, Pastor
Allison Wilcox, Deacon**

**Wednesdays in Lent
“Claiming the ‘L’ Word”**

**6:30 - 8:00pm: Dinner Church &
Discussion, in the Social Hall**

**Suggested meal donation: \$5/person or
\$15/family**

What is dinner church?

A delicious way to grow in faith while eating, worshipping, learning, and talking together!

Topics for Adults

- March 4: From Belief to Love
- March 11: Rediscovering a God of Love
- March 18: Love Changing the Church
- March 25: Practicing Love in Worship
- April 1: Loving the World



**Our regular Sunday services are held at 8:00 & 10:45am with
Sunday School at 9:15am. Join us!**

Week 1: February 26-29

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit.

~Psalm 51:10-12

Make confession/repentance a daily part of your prayers this week...

How does confession open up my heart to God's love?

What helps me to trust in God's love and forgiveness?

Who do I need to forgive and how can I begin to show that love?



Week 1: Thoughts, Answers and Journaling

Week 2: March 1-7

Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?” And Jesus said to them, “The wedding guests cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them, can they? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak, for the patch pulls away from the cloak, and a worse tear is made. Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are destroyed; but new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.”

~ *Matthew 9:14-17*

How is “love” a new wineskin?

Where does love need to be shown in new ways in my life and in the life of the church?



Week 2: Thoughts, Answers and Journaling

Week 3: March 8-14

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ~2 Corinthians 5:16-20

How are love and reconciliation connected? Can there be love without reconciliation?

What can I do to begin to see others as “a new creation in Christ”?



Week 3: Thoughts, Answers and Journaling

Week 4: March 15-21

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

~ *Galatians 3:28-29*

Week 4: Thoughts, Answers and Journaling

What does love look like when all barriers are removed?

What are the barriers to love that I see in my life or my congregation?

How am I being called to "evangelize"- collaborate with all neighbors to help build the Beloved Community?



Week 5: March 22-28

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

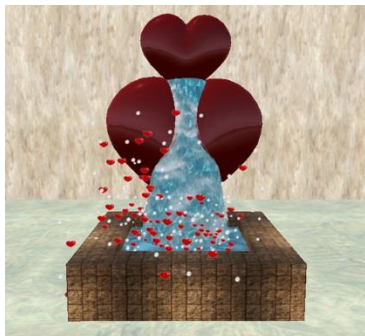
Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.

~Romans 12:9-18, 21

*Which of these examples of “love” are most challenging?
Why?*

In what ways is the church showing love like this? In what ways does the church need to show this kind of love better?

*How can I be more loving to family and friends...
coworkers... community... world?*



Week 5: Thoughts, Answers and Journaling

Week 6: March 29-April 4

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

~I Corinthians 13

Week 6: Thoughts, Answers and Journaling

What is the part God is calling me to play in love for the whole of creation?

What is the first step I need to take to begin to act out this love of creation?

Week 7: April 5-11

After Jesus had washed their feet (*at the Passover meal*), had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So, if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. ~*John 13: 12-17*

Knowing that he was about to be betrayed by all and crucified, how do you think Jesus was able to do this act of love?

When have I been blessed by loving and serving others?

What spiritual nourishment do I need to become more willing to love and serve?



Week 7: Thoughts, Answers and Journaling