



July
2013

Pastor's Page



"Love and Marriage"

1 Corinthians 13: 4-7

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Church
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Love and Marriage go together like a horse and carriage, so sang Frank Sinatra. There certainly is a lot of talk about love and marriage in the news lately. This is one reason why we are discussing these issues in our Sunday morning Bible class; what is marriage? What is Biblical love? What is the purpose of a Christian Wedding Service? In order to whet your appetite for our Sunday morning study, I am providing for you a wedding sermon I wrote a few years ago. The couple wanted to use a contemporary song in the wedding service, entitled, "In This Very Room." I used this title as the theme for my sermon, interpreting it in a different direction than the song. (I have changed their names to Adam and Eve for this newsletter). I look forward to seeing you Sunday mornings to learn what God has to say about love and marriage. In Christ's love—Pastor

In This Very Room

Adam and Eve, I know as you stand here in this very room you are excited about God joining you together in Holy Matrimony. As it is with almost all couples getting married, you feel that you have enough love for each other, in this very room, to last as long as you both shall live. You have chosen your music and Scripture readings all based around love. What I am about to tell you may surprise you. I am here to tell you that your love for each other doesn't have as much to do with your marriage lasting a lifetime as you might think.

Your love for each other won't always feel like it does in this very room today. There will be times that the funny differences that you have now won't be so funny. Adam, there will be times that you are less than grateful for Eve's organizational skills. Eve there will be times that you will not find Adam's laid back approach to life to be very relaxing. Yes, there will be times when your love won't be patient and kind. As it is in all marriages, you will have irreconcilable differences and there won't be any love in that very room.

Why does this happen in all marriages? Since Adam and Eve's fall into sin, life, including marriage, hasn't been the same. None of us love God with our whole heart or our neighbor as ourselves, and this includes our spouse. And after our fall into sin, God could have rightly done away with His creation and His gift of marriage. Eve and Adam, as you know, you are not entitled to God's gift of marriage. In fact, all of us as sinners deserve to live a lonely life here in time and also in eternity. But God doesn't give us what we deserve. Instead of doing away with His creation, He chose to save it. Instead of doing away with His gift of marriage, He willed to redeem it.

Though your love for God fails, His love for you doesn't. His love for you **is patient and kind; His love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.**

Christ's love for you has endured all things. He endured the punishment for all of your sins. Your sins while single, your sins in engagement, and the sins you will commit in marriage. All of your sins, and the sins of everyone in this very room, and in this very fallen world, have been paid for by Christ's death on the cross. Jesus was faithful unto death for all of your unfaithfulness to Him and to your neighbor.

And in this very room Christ has covered you with His faithful life. Sunday after Sunday you have been in this very room with Christ your bridegroom in the Divine Service. You come each week confessing your unfaithfulness, and He is here, in this very room, faithfully forgiving your sins through His Word and Sacrament. Right now as you stand in this very room about to be joined together for as long as you both shall live, you are covered with the sinless life of Jesus that is given to you in your baptism.

While your love for each other may not have as much to do with your marriage lasting as you might think, Christ's love for you has everything to do with it. You are free to see each other as God sees you - completely

forgiven, without spot or wrinkle for the sake of Jesus. God doesn't complain that you aren't good enough or have messed up, because Jesus was perfect in your place and died for your imperfection. It is from this Gospel, from this love of God toward you, that your marriage will last a lifetime. Like it is for all of us in this very room, like is for young and old, single people and married, rich and poor, those in sickness and those in health, we are only sustained in this life unto life everlasting by being married to Christ.

I encourage you to continue to come to this very room where Jesus your bridegroom is present loving you His bride. I pray that if you are blessed with children, that you bring them to this very room so they too can be embraced by Christ in Baptism. Apart from Christ, apart from this very room, you can do nothing. In the arms of your Bridegroom in this very room, you have nothing to fear in life, in marriage, and even when death does you part. Adam and Eve, enjoy God's gift of marriage to each other that has been redeemed by Christ.

There certainly is enough love in this very room - Christ's love for you and your marriage. While your love for each other may not have much to do with your marriage lasting a lifetime, Christ's love for you has everything to do with it. Amen.

OUTDOOR CAMPING FOR YOUTH GROUP:

Who: Youth 7th – 12th Grade

When: July 1st – 2nd from 4 p.m. to 8 a.m.

Bring: Sleeping Bag, Swimsuit, Bible, treats to share.

Why: Fun and Fellowship with Lutheran Teens.

(Parents are allowed to join) If you have any questions talk to Pastor.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Sunday July 28th - Thursday August 1st

Our theme will be "FROM ABOVE", learning about Baptism and how God saves us. We begin on **Sunday, July 28th, at 5 p.m.** for a light supper with **opening devotions at 5:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary every night. We hope to share Jesus with all children age 3 years through 6th grade (as of the class they will be entering in the fall.) The students will rotate between Lesson, Music, Crafts, and game time ending with everyone gathering for closing devotions in the sanctuary. **Dismissal will be about 7:30 p.m.** each evening. The last class will be on Thursday, August 1st. We hope to have all students with their families join us for **Worship in the Park on Sunday, August 4th, at 10:30 a.m.** and a **potluck lunch** with games following. The children will be singing hymns from VBS and showing items from VBS, which they completed during the week. There will also be games for everyone to enjoy.

HELP NEEDED> Vacation Bible School needs your help.

We are looking for a Craft Director, Classroom Teachers, Game Leaders, Registration person, Skit Actor, poster maker, supper helpers, and several people to shepherd the students to learning stations. Contact Carol Gale, if

VBS would like your used toilet paper rolls to make a craft. Place them in the box at the back entrance.

b l b

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL THE ACTIVE MEMBERS WHO HAVE JULY BIRTHDAYS!!

Larry Gale	7/3
Richard Russell	7/3
Walter Deuel	7/6
Greg Leland	7/6
Jessica Geissler	7/8
Stephanie Geissler	7/8
Jacqueline Schick	7/12
Jeanette Geissler	7/14
Paul Taylor	7/15
Joann Ehlers	7/16
Brian Schweistal	7/20
Henry Taylor	7/20
Juanita Lueck	7/21
Gerri Bresina	7/23
Ralph Bellore	7/25
Wyatt Stark	7/27
John Emanuel	7/28
Sara Hakes	7/28
Harold Polzin	7/30
Alice Schwetz	7/30
Sawyer Hakes	7/31
Henry Stark	7/31

♥ HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO: ♥

Mark & Carol Klemke 7/11/1992
Sam & Beth Hunt 7/20/1985

† WE ASK YOU TO REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS THE HOMEBOUND MEMBERS:

Irene Kvapil Isabel Lenz
Juanita Lueck Myrna Mattison

PRAYER REQUEST

If you would like a prayer on Sunday morning, please contact the secretary during the week. If it is last minute, you can also catch pastor before service.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS:

Each Wednesday at 9:30am 10-15 men and women meet in the Fireside Room to go over the upcoming Sunday's scripture lessons. Lively discussions prevail and there is always room for more participants.

FUNERALS

Mildred Hunt 5/23/2013

WOMEN'S SOCIETY NEWS:

The Women's Society met on Thursday, June 13th for lunch at The Lodge Restaurant. Eleven members, six guests, and Pastor attended. Pastor led us in the table prayer before we enjoyed meal. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, July 11th we will meet at 12:30 p.m. at Flag Hill in Irvine Park for a pot luck picnic. Please bring a dish to share and your own beverage. Plates, eating utensils, and napkins will be provided. All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us. In case of rain we will meet at church.

THE FELLOWSHIP BOARD:

Warm weather has finally arrived and soon it will be time for our annual worship in the park service and picnic. This year it also follows Vacation Bible School.

Please note the following:

Date: Sunday, August 4th

Place: Main Pavilion at Irvine Park

Time: 10:30 a.m.

The picnic will follow the worship service. Members are requested to bring a dish to share. Your choice of a hotdish, salad, dessert, or other picnic food. Beverages, plates, cups, napkins and eating utensils will be provided. Please mark your August calendar to reserve the date to be sure to join us for this special outdoor worship service and picnic. Extended family members and friends are welcome.

LWML:

Our next LWML meeting will be on Tues. July 16th, 2013 at 7pm. All ladies from 8 to 80+ are invited to attend...transportation can be provided.

BOARD OF EDUCATION NEWS:

Youth Kwik Trip Script may be purchased most Sunday mornings in the back entrance from Kathy Michels or Tuesday - Friday during office hours from Tricia.

Youth collection of aluminum beverage cans: You may bring the aluminum cans to the green plastic can in the church garage.

All fundraising money which we get from recycling the cans and the 10% from the Kwik Trip Script sold will go into the Youth Scholarship Fund to be used to assist youth in attending district or national retreats and conventions.

RADIO & FLOWERS:

If you would like to furnish altar flowers or sponsor a radio broadcast for a special occasion please call the office. **Altar flowers** are **\$30.00** at Gordys if **you pick up** yourself or **\$40.00** if you would like them **delivered** to the church. You also may bring your own flowers. There is a flower chart in the church on the left of the door as you enter from the education wing. Sign your name by the date you would like to furnish flowers. **The radio broadcast is \$76.00.** Call the office if you would like to furnish a broadcast or if you would like the Secretary to order and have the flowers delivered.