



Dear Family in Christ,

March 1st begins the season of Lent for many Christians. It's a time of self-examination and extra acts of service in order to prepare hearts for the celebration of Easter. Even if that tradition is not particularly important to you, I do invite you to spend some quiet time with God to take a closer look at your lifestyle, attitudes, and core beliefs. Jesus said that doing that kind of listening to your heart will result, with His guidance, in an experience of *freedom*.

Keeping you informed:

- **The final Family Movie Night** is coming up Fri., Mar. 10, 7 pm, with the hilarious "Ice Age: Collision Course". Bring a buddy for all the fun (and free popcorn & pop).
- **Tuesday morning gathering** is off in a NEW DIRECTION! Watch for updates and come join the fun (and learning)!
- **Ice skates** are available in the office entryway on a loan basis for the community to use. Spread the word!

I invite you to commit some daily time to sit quietly with God in listening prayer. Use a devotional or some section of Scripture or maybe some music to help you zero in on God's Presence. I also encourage you to take some notes in what you hear God saying. If you are having trouble or would just like a little encouragement, give me a call!

Love you,

- Scott

MISSIONS

We have continued our tradition of lending ice skates out to the community. People have enjoyed skating at the Twp. rink (even with the fickle weather). This is yet another simple way to share the generous grace of Jesus with Islanders.

Please continue to pray for and collect \$\$ for our three missions this quarter (Collection Sunday will be **March 26th**):

- ✓ **Healing Art Mission** – <http://healingartmissions.org/>
- ✓ **Salvation Army, Soo, MI** - <http://sasaultstmarie.org/>
- ✓ **Local Benevolent Fund**

Finally, please remember to invite a friend or neighbor to our final **Family Movie Night**, coming up **Mar. 10 (Fri.) at 7 pm**.

A Prayer from Ambrose of Milan (4th century)

O Lord, who has mercy upon all, take away from me my sins, and mercifully kindle in me the fire of thy Holy Spirit. Take away from me the heart of stone, and give me a heart of flesh, a heart to love and adore You, a heart to delight in You, to follow and enjoy You, for Christ's sake. Amen. cf. Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Experience The Love Of God

by Ron Ovitt



*Were not our hearts burning
within us while he talked with us
on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?
Luke 24:32 (NIV)*

When was the last time you really experienced the presence of God? I mean more than just head knowledge but a time you really felt His presence? You see, we were meant to know God, not just know about Him. Isn't that the way it should be with someone you love? Isn't real love more than "head" knowledge? Love was meant to be experienced, not just studied. It's the same with God. Stop and close your eyes, focus on a time you really felt the presence of God. When you get that image, relive it again in your mind. Do you remember what it was like? Did your heart burn within

(over)

you? Paul writes, "And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." He says that knowing God's love surpasses knowledge. If that doesn't warm you up, what will? We were meant to experience God or as Paul says it, "be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." I pray that today you will be conscious of His presence and have a deep and meaningful relationship with Him.

TODAY'S PRAYER

Father, I long to know You in a more deep and intimate way. Guide me into Your presence. Reveal more of Yourself to me. I pray that I may really grasp all the love You have for me. In Jesus' name. AMEN

(from: <https://devog.wordpress.com/2017/02/22/experience-the-love-of-god/>)

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

9 Donna Bailey
10 Connie Buxton

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES:

4 Chuck & Colleen Barko
17 Gary & Mary Lutz

(If we don't have your birthday or anniversary, let us know!)

Upcoming MARCH ACTIVITIES:

5 Potluck! Following worship.
10 Family Movie Night @ 7
12 Leadership Meeting, following worship. All are encouraged to participate.
18 MEN'S BREAKFAST @ 9:00 am (Note new time)
28 Elders meet: 7 pm, Church Library

JOIN US for Friendly Small Group Fellowship:



- **Tuesdays:**
 - 10:00 **Discussion Group** in the Library on God, life, and the Bible. Current study: **Watch for Updates!**
 - 11:15 **Prayer Group** in the Pastor's Office. Come grow in your prayer life, in a warm, supportive atmosphere.
 - 11:30 **Worship Team** in Sanctuary. You're invited to listen in as the Team prepares for Sunday.
- **Men's Breakfast**, every third Sat. @ 9 am, in the Church basement. Come for a great breakfast in the company of friends!

(If you've got an idea that might gather a group together, let me know! - Scott)

ARTICLES FOR THE APRIL NEWSLETTER ARE DUE TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY TUESDAY, Mar. 21st
(IF YOU CAN SUBMIT BY EMAIL, IT IS APPRECIATED)

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We are revising the CHURCH DIRECTORY. If you aren't sure if you are on the current one and you'd like to be listed, please let us know!