

Weekly News & Notes

Lamb of God Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH

May 3, 2015

Love

“A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” (John 13:34)

It is amazing how often the word love is used. It is equally amazing for what it is used. People can love just about anything. From pets to food, from houses to cars, and especially other people – all of these can be preceded by the word love.

It is unfortunate the word has become so diluted. It is difficult to determine whether a person only prefers something, or if there is a willingness to make a life-long commitment.

There should never be any confusion when Jesus uses the word love. As he prepared his disciples for his suffering and death, he gave them the command: “love one another.” The words were probably met with mixed emotions. This is why Jesus also added the following explanation: “As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” Suddenly, the word took on a special meaning. The new

command was not about personal preference or taste. It was about love that was unselfish and never-failing.

Jesus uses his own love as the key to understand this new command. His love brought him to this earth. It also made him endure shame, mockery and rejection. It even subjected him to the most horrible of deaths on the cross. In him, the love he commands for those who follow him is revealed in complete clarity.

What makes Jesus’ love unique is that it not only offers the encouragement to love, it also provides the reason and power to love.

Certainly there are many reasons for me to be selfish and self-centered. It is the natural response with which I am born. In contrast, there is only one reason why I can love. That is the love of Jesus. This is why I need to keep his cross before my eyes. It is also why I need to keep his resurrection fresh in my mind. Here is where love begins, grows, and overcomes every selfish



thought and desire I may have. Here is where I recognize what love really is.

Roughly forty years after the disciple John heard Jesus’ words, he wrote: “We love because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19). He learned the lesson Jesus taught and lived it without compromise. As I hear Jesus’ new command, “love one another,” how will I respond? As I learn of my Savior’s unselfish love for me, and as I grow in that love, there is only one response: I will love others as Jesus loves me.

Prayer: Dearest Jesus, you have revealed what true love is, fill me with your pure and unselfish love so that I can love you and all people in response to your love for me. Amen.

Devotion from

www.WhatAboutJesus.com

Contact Information

- **Church Office—**
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- **Online—**
›LambofGodColumbus.org
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- **Pastor Tim Wagner—**
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This Week at Lamb of God (May 4-10)

Serving Our Lord

- Cleaning: Nancy Gregory
- Bulletins: Bev Oldham
- Accompanist: Elisabeth Wagner
- Ushers—Chuck Sigrist and Michael Telander
- Refreshments: Chen Family

Events

- **Wednesday, May 6**
4:00-8:00 pm—Ritter Visitation (Newcomer Funeral Home)
6:30 pm—Choir Rehearsal
7:15 pm—Bible Study (Acts)
- **Thursday, May 7**
9:30 am—Ritter Visitation
10:30 am—Ritter Funeral
7:00 pm—Growing in Grace & Knowledge
- **Friday, May 8**
6:15 pm—Softball
- **Sunday, May 10**
9:15 am—Sunday School and Bible Study
10:30 am—Worship with Holy Communion

Mission Prayer: Adult Discipleship

Lord, you have the words of eternal life. Thank you that our synod's Commission on Adult Discipleship is working to provide creative ways for us to study your Word including the Interactive Faith online Bible study



series and weekend marriage enrichment retreats. Strengthen those who participate in these opportunities, and stir in us the will to continually read your Word, study it, and take it to heart. Amen.

Dinner with Our Kingdom Workers

We'd like to provide an opportunity for Kris & Ashley, our summer Kingdom Workers, to interact with

our families. If you are willing to host them for dinner, please sign up in the fellowship hall.

New Home Phone Number

Pastor & Elisabeth Wagner have a new home phone number: 614-702-7575.

Please update your records. (Their cell phone numbers have not changed.)

Favorite Hymn Survey

The WELS Hymnal Project invites you to tell them your favorite hymns, as they plan for our new hymnal. Find

information and a link to the survey online at welshymnal.com/research/favorite-hymn-survey.

Important Dates

- Westerville 4th Fridays: June 26, July 24, August 28
- Westerville Parade: July 4
- Vacation Bible School: July 13-16
- Fine Arts Camp: July 27-31

Ritter Funeral

- Visitation: Wed., May 6, 4 - 8 pm (Newcomer Funeral Home); Thurs., 9:30-10:15am (Lamb of God)
- Funeral: Thursday, May 7, 10:30am
- Committal: following the service at Glen Rest Memorial Garden
- Luncheon to follow the committal at the home of Debbie Albrecht

WELS Summer Camps

- Camp Lor-Ray—various ages and dates—www.camplor-ray.org
- Camp Killarney—various ages and dates—www.killarneycamp.org
- Camp Chi-Rho—completing grades 5-8—July 27-31—www.welsyouth.net
- Camp South—completing grades 3-7—July 27-31—hopelutheranwpb.com/#/events/camp-south-2015
- Freedom 513 Rally—completing grades 8-12—July 13-16—www.welsyouth.net

Volunteers Wanted

Volunteers are needed for weekly lawn mowing. Contact Andy Hensler or Dave Szczublewski with questions.

We also need volunteers to provide refreshments after Sunday worship. See Pastor Wagner with questions.

Sign up today in the fellowship hall.

If you have news, upcoming events, or prayer requests that you would like published in the weekly newsletter, please contact Katie Chen (katiesl@hotmail.com).

Prayer Requests

Please keep in your prayers this week:

- Shut-ins: Kitty, Dot, Julie, Betty, Monty, Mike
- College students: Jason, Ian, Janet, Jessica
- Serving in the military (or reserves): Ross, Garrett, Dane
- The family of Dick Ritter, who was called home to heaven on Thursday evening

Request prayers of your pastor and/or your fellow Christians using a prayer request form by the mailboxes or online at LambofGodColumbus.org/prayers

Give Thanks to the Lord!

Attendance (4/26):

Worship:	49
Sunday School (w/teachers):	11
Sunday Bible Study:	21

Offerings (4/26):

General Fund:	\$1450.48
Year-to-Date Average:	\$1931.93
Weekly Budgeted Ministry:	\$2274.33
Sunday School Offering:	\$11.00
Building Fund:	\$125.00