

# SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## FEBRUARY 2019

### Love Is In The Air !!!



Christmas items have been tucked away for another year and it is now a thing of the past. You may have found the rekindled seasonal emotions of love, hope, peace, and joy to have somewhat diminished. That is why I like the timing of February and its theme of love. The February love theme was planted in our minds and hearts all those years ago when we were young and we held to the Valentine's Day tradition of giving our classmates a Valentine. Did you count how many you got? Did some of them mean more to you than others? And oh my, what if you got more than one Valentine from the same person? And yet how bad did you feel when you figured out that not

everyone in the class gave you a Valentine?

I am glad God made us with the capacity to love and also the need to be loved. I am glad there are four kinds of love. C.S. Lewis identifies them as storge, philia, agape and eros (Latin words). Storge is affectionate love as that in family relationships. Philia is friendship love, that of befriending, treating kindly. Agape is charity love, shown in one's actions to help another in need. Eros is the love spouses have for each other. God made us with the ability to love others in these various ways and He also made us with the need to be loved by others in these various ways.

However, when we see the world around us not operating in love, and because of the desire for love that is in all of us, we end up with feelings of confusion, despair, upset and even fear. We want things to be loving and good and well for everyone and between everyone. When this is not so, our inner world can be shaken. Sadly the world today is greatly lacking in love as there is much strife, injustice, killings, persecution, adversity, disunity, ethnic cleansing, bullying, and more. The current state of the world accentuates the differences between the earthly kingdom and God's Kingdom. We are members of God's Kingdom. No wonder the earthly (devoid of God) kingdom causes us to be upset. Therein lies the challenge: we are to be in this world but not of this world. We are in this world to be that shining light of hope, joy, love, and peace that would beckon others to join us in God's Kingdom. This calls us to accountability to be Christ-like as we live out our lives here on earth, even in the midst of the tragedies, so that others who have not known the love of Christ will experience it and join us as members of Gods Kingdom.

Take the opportunity to envelop, every day, that wonderful tradition of Valentine's Day and share words and actions of love with numerous others.

Happy Valentine's Day - I love you.

*Pastor Joy*

"So faith, hope and love abound but the greatest of these is love" - 1 Corinthians 13:13

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and love your neighbour as yourself" - Luke 10:27