



MAY 17, 2020

LOVE FIRST, FIRST LOVE

WEEK DEVOTIONAL BASED ON SUNDAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP SUNDAYS 9:00AM AT
WWW.FIRSTLUTHERAN-BARRON.ORG OR ON THE RADIO 97.7FM

John 14:15-24

15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate,[g] to be with you forever. 17 This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. 18 "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. 19 In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them." 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?" 23 Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

HOLDING IN PRAYER

For health and healing we pray for: Eugene Olson, Ron Kahl, Kathy Weghorn,
DeAnn Anderson, Betty Missling and Gail Larson

For hope and peace in time of loss we pray for the family of Effie Hegna.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.



This Jack!

REFLECTION

BY PASTOR RON MATHEWS

Pets hold a dear place in many people's hearts and lives. We show affection to our pets in a variety of ways: we play with them, pet, feed, brush, walk, etc. I have a cat named Jack who, when we wants to be petted will jump on your lap and headbutt you until you scratch his ears. In all these ways we show we care and love them.

How we interact with our pets shows our love and care for them. How we interact with others shows our love for others. So let me ask, do you love God? How can we show our love for God?

Love is an action word for our faith. Loving God is about developing our relationship with God – Worship (celebrating what God has done and coming to God for support in our need). Prayer (conversation). Bible Study (learning about what it means to love God).

In today's Bible reading Jesus says "if you love me, you will keep my commandments." It isn't enough to just tell God you love him. You have to act like it too. What you believe influences the way you live. Your actions demonstrate your faith.

And it is hard! We often live lives that do not reflect the love of God. In these times, we sin. Our lives are a combination of demonstrating God's love and our struggle to do so. But this reading isn't just about me. You see the "you" is a plural "you." This means it is systemic, cultural, communal, and congregational. It is all of us. Our church. As THE body of Christ, how WE live our lives in accordance too our faith.

IT IS ABOUT HOW WE, THE BODY OF CHRIST, EMBODY GOD'S LOVE.

So how are we living as God's church?

When we say that we "love others first because God loves us first" we are talking about doing stuff.

Jesus said:

"If you all (or ya'll) love me, you will keep my commandments." (vs 15)

"They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me." (vs 21)

In **1 John 2:3-5**, God teaches us:

And by this we know that we have come to know God, if we keep God's commandments. Whoever says "I know God" but does not keep God's commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in God.

If you love your pets, then you would show them love by caring for them.

We share in a faith that is shown through the way we live and treat others. The greatest temptation of our world today is to pay lip service to our faith. To say "I believe in God" or "I love Jesus" and yet not attend worship, not spend time in prayer, not read scriptures. These faith practices are primary to developing and deepening relationship with your Father who is longing to be with you.

When we choose to show others love, that is when we choose to show God's love.

When live out our faith, we live out of God's love. And God is in us, and we are in God.

HOW DO YOU SHOW YOUR PETS, CHILDREN, SPOUSE, OR NEIGHBOR THAT YOU LOVE THEM?

WHAT WAYS CAN YOU SHOW GOD'S LOVE THIS WEEK TO ONE IN NEED?

