

The Ceresco Messenger ~ Ceresco Baptist Church

Pastor's Pen - February 2017

February, the month of love. Much is made of love by commercial America; candy, cards, flowers and jewelry. I will be the first to say these are all ok ways to express our love to another. However, there is no love greater than God's love. Imagine if all the candy, cards, flowers and jewelry came from one who knows God. Love expressed with the love of God in the giver's heart is priceless! All gifts will fade and tarnish, but a gift of sharing one's faith may endure forever.

I preached a sermon a few weeks back from the book of Matthew 7:13-14, about the narrow and wide gates. A good friend gave me lyrics of a song titled "**Working the Road to Glory.**" Below are the lyrics:

I often think of the days so swiftly passing away

The road to heaven is hard to find and so I'm trying my best

To reach the home of the blessed, and make it easy for those behind

Oh, yes I'm working the road to glory, working the road to heaven

helping the weak and blind, I wanna smooth out the road that leads to heaven's abode, and make it easy for those behind

The road to heaven is straight and also narrow the gate,

Around us trials of every kind

If we could clean out the snares that hinder, give them our prayers

And make it easy for those behind

Oh, yes I'm working the road to glory, I'm trying daily to live for others

Something to give my brothers

Groping in darkness blind so I can hear them some day

In glory lovingly say you've made it easy for those behind

Oh, yes I'm working the road to glory.

That's true love working for God's glory for those who come behind us.

Happy Valentine's Day! ~ Pastor Gary

Just Before MACS Time

By Mary Tinsley Young

'Twas just before MAC's time and all through the town
Helpers were shopping, up streets and down.

Some families were taken, an adoption-type thing,
but the need, it kept growing,
like a bird taking wing.

More families than ever are hungry this year,
Most people would panic, but MACS has no fear.

"The people of Marshall, we know they'll come through
They have in the past. It's just what they do.

"They'll bring us some clothes, washcloths, and fruit
They'll bring us warm blankets and trumpets that toot.
The school kids will gather from home and from store
The need it is greater, but we know they'll give more."

Harriet and Sue and all their MACS elves
Are still looking for objects to put on their shelves.
You don't need to give much, just a little will do.
Be glad you can help, be glad that you're you.

With a smile on your face and heart that is happy,
We need to give more and we must make it snappy.

There are those who buy footballs, toy cars, and ball bats
Some others are knitting green scarves and red hats.
A coloring book, or a bouncy red ball
One person can't do it, it has to be **ALL**.

Give books, or a check, or maybe some cards
Purses, and pillows, and love by the yard.
Gift notes for movies, shopping and food,
Much needs to be gathered to help lift the mood.
Service clubs have given and so have the stores,
Those who gave last year have given some more.

On December 13, at noon on that day,
Volunteers sort and put gifts in their sleighs.
If you want to help MACS and be part of the fix,
Call 781-7996.

And if you are needy, they want you to call
That's what they're there for – to help one and all.
And just before Christmas we'll return to our beds
And let visions of MACS-smiles dance in our heads.

<<< This article was published in the Advisor/Chronicle in Dec.

Read it for some great information on what MACS is all about!



Martha Circle Report

Five members of the Martha Circle met on Wednesday, 1/11/17, Gretchen gave the devotion.

Joanne reported that we are clear with White Cross as we decided not to support the Race Track Ministries in Ohio, but will concentrate on local support.

Several cards were sent to people this past month.

Kitchen - still need to discuss and/or decide what to do with the boxes of kitchen supplies that are in the storage room. There is no room for them in the kitchen, so possibly just go through to sort out, then put items that are no longer needed/used in the Treasure Sale.

Old business - next bake sale is Jan. 29th, Fellowship Sunday.

We'll continue to make fleece blankets as we get more fabric.

New business - Adult Bibs for Maplewood. We have patterns and some towels to get started. We cut 22 tonight, began checking supply of bias binding. We each took some home to work on. Did not have time to roll bandages.

Collections: Devotional \$11.00, Love Gift \$10.13

Scripture Study: Discussed 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22. Read Proverbs 22:17-25 for the February meeting.

Enjoyed refreshments, and left the church at 9:15 pm.

God's Word is Full of Love for You!

There's nothing more special than a love letter--words that gift us with the knowledge that someone cares just for us. That someone loves us just the way we are, with our accomplishments, our failures, our hopes, our dreams, our highs, our lows. We looked through the Bible to find God's love letters to you, and there were so many! Here are a few. Read the Scripture passage and take a few moments to revel in the words that embrace you with love.

"... I will always love you; You are precious to me." (Jeremiah, 31:3-4 (CEV))

"... I can't let you go. I can't give you up. ... My feelings for you are much too strong. (Hosea 11:8 (CEV))

"... You have rejected me, but my anger is gone; I will heal you and love you without limit. I will be like the dew—then you will blossom like lilies and have roots like a tree." (Hosea 14:4-5 (CEV))

"... If you love me and truly know who I am, I will rescue you and keep you safe. When you are in trouble, call out to me. I will answer and be there to protect and honor you." (Psalm 91:14-15 (CEV))

"Could a mother forget a child who nurses at her breast? Could she fail to love an infant who came from her own body? Even if a mother could forget, I will never forget you." (Isaiah 49:15 (CEV))

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Deacon Meeting 6:00 pm			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Communion Sunday Flowers OPEN		Bible Study 10:00 am	Martha Circle Meeting 6:30 pm	Bible Study 6:00 pm		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Flowers by Wood		Bible Study 10:00 am 	Family Night Potluck 6:30 pm	Bible Study 6:00 pm		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Flowers OPEN New Hymnal Dedication	Presidents' Day	Bible Study 10:00 am EMT 5:30 pm	Information for March Messenger due by noon	Bible Study 6:00 pm		
26	27	28	Mar. 1	Mar. 2	Mar. 3	Mar. 4
Flowers OPEN Fellowship Sunday						8 am Church Breakfast 9 am Admin Council

Father's Love Letter

An intimate message from God to YOU.

My child,

You may not know Me, but I know everything about you (Psalm 139:1). I know when you sit down and when you rise up (Psalm 139:2). I am familiar with all your ways (Psalm 139:3). Even the very hairs on your head are numbered (Matthew 10:29-31). For you were made in My image (Genesis 1:27). In Me you live and move and have your being (Acts 17:28), for you are my offspring (Acts 17:28).

I knew you even before you were conceived (Jeremiah 1:4-5). I chose you when I planned creation (Ephesians 1:11-12). You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in My Book (Psalm 139:15-16). I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live (Acts 17:26). You are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14). I knit you together in your mother's womb (Psalm 139:13). And brought you forth on the day you were born (Psalm 71:6).

I have been misrepresented by those who don't know Me (John 8:41-44). I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love (1 John 4:16). And it is My desire to lavish My love on you (1 John 3:1). Simply because you are My child and I am your Father (1 John 3:1). I offer you more than your earthly father ever could (Matthew 7:11), for I am the perfect Father (Matthew 5:48).

Every good gift that you receive comes from My hand (James 1:17). For I am your provider and I meet all your needs (Matthew 6:31-33). My plan for your future has always been filled with hope (Jeremiah 29:11). Because I love you with an everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:3).

My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore (Psalm 139:17-18) and I rejoice over you with singing (Zephaniah 3:17). I will never stop doing good to you (Jeremiah 32:40), for you are My treasured possession (Exodus 19:5).

I desire to establish you with all My heart and all My soul (Jeremiah 32:41), and I want to show you great and marvelous things (Jeremiah 33:3). If you seek Me with all your heart, you will find Me (Deuteronomy 4:29). Delight in Me and I will give you the desires of your heart (Psalm 37:4). For it is I who gave you those desires (Philippians 2:13). I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine (Ephesians 3:20). For I am your greatest encourager (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17). I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

When you are brokenhearted, I am close to you (Psalm 34:18). As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart (Isaiah 40:11). One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes (Revelation 21:3-4), and I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth (Revelation 21:3-4)

I am your Father, and I love you even as I love My son, Jesus (John 17:23) for in Jesus, My love for you is revealed (John 17:26). He is the exact representation of My being (Hebrews 1:3). He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you (Romans 8:31) and to tell you that I am not counting your sins (2 Corinthians 5:18-19). Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled (2 Corinthians 5:18-19). His death was the ultimate expression of My love for you (1 John 4:10). I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love (Romans 8:31-32).

If you receive the gift of My Son Jesus, you receive Me (1 John 2:23). And nothing will ever separate you from My love again (Romans 8:38-39). Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen (Luke 15:7). I have always been Father, and will always be Father (Ephesians 3:14-15). My question is...Will you be my child? (John 1:12-13) I am waiting for you (Luke 15:11-32).

Love, Your Dad, Almighty God

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Valentine's Day Love Poem

Celebrate now we do, The season of Saint Valentine
A season of sharing our hearts, And expressing love divine

We commemorate the Saint in Rome, Who with Valentine went by name
A Saint martyred for Jesus Christ, Giving all for love and not for fame

"Valens" itself in Roman times, Meant worthy, powerful and strong
Thus this worthy martyred Saint, With our dear Savior does now belong

What is this Day of celebration then, Of candy, roses and sweet greeting?
Is it one of passionate romance, Of feelings powerful yet fleeting?

At its core and at its essence, This Day is far more than these
It is a Day of love pure and holy, One which brings us to our knees

For God Himself is love, Christ embodied love in His Life
He is our beloved Bridegroom, We, the Church, to be His Wife

Oh, glorious is this truth indeed, It touches and warms my soul
When I give my all to Christ, He completes and makes me whole

So strong is the love I have for Jesus, So passionate, so deep, so wide
Yet even greater is His love for me, And for His Church, His beloved Bride

Sing to sweet Jesus, then, on this Day, Sing of His love perfect and pure
Sing of His unending and undying love, In which you and I can rest secure

For greater love has no man, Than to lay down his life for friends
Our dear Lord died for us, mere sinners, We know then His love never ends

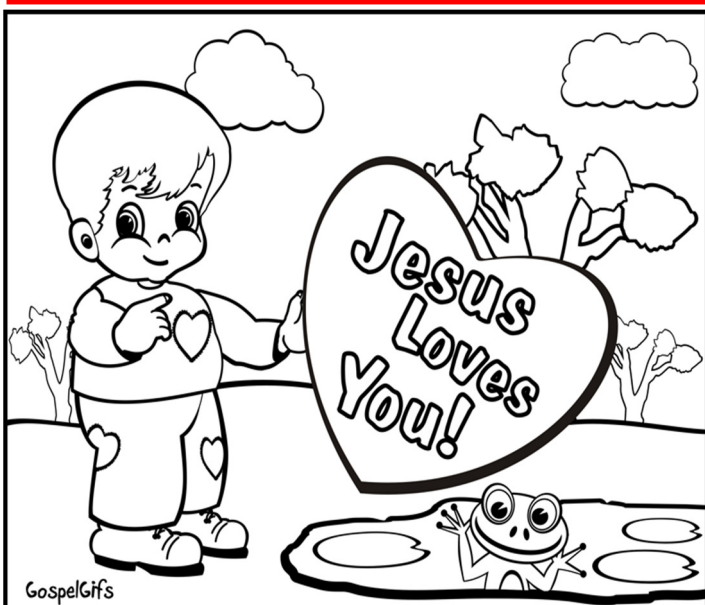
This, dear Christian, is the meaning, The heart of the Day we now celebrate
It is a day of sacrifice, of true love, It is a day of expressing agape great

Such is the agape-love expressed, In the martyred Saint Valentine of Rome
He poured out his life as a love offering, For his Father in his Heavenly home

And such is the love shown by Christ, Yes, by our sweet Savior on the Cross
All I have known before meeting my Lord, I consider all merely but waste and loss

So sing, dear Christian, on this Day, Lift your heart to the Eternal One
Raise your voice in songs of praise, To the Father, the Spirit and the Son

For sweet is the love we know in Christ, Precious, priceless, undying and true
A love that He shows today and every day, To me and, yes, dear friend, to you

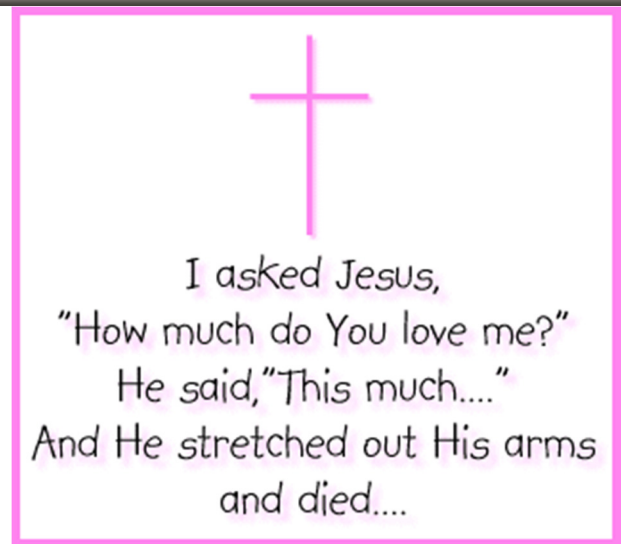


Many are the plans
in a person's heart,
but it is the LORD's
purpose that prevails.

Proverbs 19:21

Happy Birthday

- Feb 4 Nicole Thomas
- Feb 5 Nadine Coats
- Feb 9 Chris Sorell
- Feb 17 Carlton Anthony
- Feb 18 Glen Cary
- Feb 23 Hailey Latshaw #10
- Feb 23 Mike Hatton
- Feb 24 Rocho Kidder
- Feb 25 Kelcie Collins
- Feb 26 Gretchen King
- Mar 1 Tommy Burke
- Mar 3 Derek Holtz
- Mar 4 Chris (Chip) MacCrossen
- Mar 4 Garrett Skinner
- Mar 9 Brian Markos
- Mar 9 Ron Chisholm
- Mar 9 Monica Entsminger
- Mar 10 Barb Griffin
- Mar 11 Ruth St. John
- Mar 12 Denise Green
- Mar 13 Martin Coats
- Mar 13 Lucas Finch
- Mar 13 Bill Westphal
- Mar 14 Jada Haroff
- Mar 15 Joanne Henley
- Mar 15 Vi Halder
- Mar 18 Brayden Entsminger
- Mar 18 Pam Kirkland
- Mar 20 Deborah Beltz
- Mar 21 Mike Halverson
- Mar 22 Cassidy Perkins
- Mar 22 Danny Sommers
- Mar 27 Sarah (Frey) Collins
- Mar 29 Hainsley Casey
- Mar 29 McKenzie Babcock
- Mar 30 Jody Davis



Happy Anniversary

- Mar 8 Albert & Margie Cole
- Mar 24 Bill & Laurann Frey

Church Attendance, January

1 ~ / 8 ~ 39 / 15 ~ 41 / 22 ~ 37 / 29 ~ 38

Ceresco Baptist Church

PO Box 35

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(269) 964-9669

Pastor Gary Schooler

(517) 990-5883

Church Schedule

Sunday Worship

9:45 am

Sunday School

11:15 am

Bible Study

Tuesdays at 10 am

Thursdays at 6 pm

