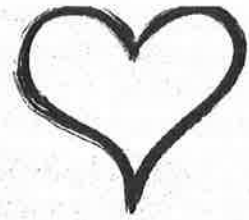


The Voice

February 2025



The Love Of God

by Pastor Kurt Schroder

One of my favorite hymns was written by Frederick Lehman in 1917.

The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell. It goes beyond the highest star, and reaches to the lowest hell.

The guilty pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win; His erring child He reconciled and pardoned from his sin.

There is no greater love than that of God the Father sending His Son to be the Savior of the world (John 15:13). Our sin had separated us from Him. You and I deserve to spend eternity in the lowest hell. Our guilt was overwhelming, felt or not. We are sinners by nature and by choice.

Yet God, knowing what we are and what we deserve, set about to fulfill His eternal plan. God the Son stepped out of heaven because He loved us and willingly dwelt among men, taking on flesh in order that He might die as our substitute. Through

His sacrificial death and glorious resurrection, erring children can be reconciled to God. Sin is pardoned. Life is imparted to the spiritually dead. Why? Not because we are good, but because God is love!

Mr. Lehman went on to write, Could we with ink the ocean fill, And were the skies of parchment made, Were every stalk on earth a quill, And every man a scribe by trade; To write the love of God above would drain the oceans dry; Nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky. Valentine's Day is a day of remembering love. But I wonder if besides giving flowers to someone special or going out for dinner or whatever you do to celebrate, how about taking a few minutes to thank God for demonstrating His love toward us when we were still sinners. And as a way of thanking God, let's be on the lookout for opportunities to share with others, telling them about the love of God in Jesus.

What is the Valentines Banquet? Why Should I Go?

by Lee Rometti

The Valentines Banquet, also known as "Ladies Night", has been a church tradition for many years. It takes place on a Saturday night close to February 14.

It is partially a fun event for the guys to take their wives to. But, it is not only for married couples. It is one event a year where all ladies will be served and ministered to be the men of the church.

The Valentines Day holiday is really focused on love. And that is what this banquet is about. The men get to show love to the ladies. They cook, serve, and clean up.

Also, we always have a speaker. This year, the speaker is traveling all the way from

Munising to share a message from the Bible with us. His name is Pastor Jason LaFlamme. If you would like to know about Pastor Jason, talk to the Schroders or the Munns.

We hope you join us on February 15 at 5 pm.

Guys, check out the menu and sign up in the church foyer. You amateur chefs can cook a favorite dish. The rest of us can find something a little simpler to provide.

So, ladies, whether you are married or single, you just come and let the guys love you. After all, we are part of the same family.

Get to know the Schroder Family!

We are so excited to welcome the Schroder Family into our church. We know they love Jesus but what else do they enjoy? Below is a challenge to see who can find out the answers to all these questions. Whoever can get all the answers first can receive a prize from Mrs. Sandy Rometti. For kids nursery through Children's Church age.

1. What is Titus's favorite football team

2. How many children do the Schroder's have?

3. What is their grandson's name?

4. Where did they live before Iron River?

5. What instruments do they play?

6. If they could have any superpower what would they choose?



7. What is Pastor Kurt's favorite book of the Bible?

8. What is Mrs Schroder's favorite song?

9. What food would they like to try?

10. What is their family's favorite meal?

11. Do they have any family traditions?

12. Who are their favorite Bible characters?

Get copies of these questions from Miss Lizzy Rometti beginning February 9.

Services & Bible Studies (Times and Places)

Every Sunday:

Sunday School	9:45 am
AM Service	11:00 am
PM Service	6:00 pm

Every Wednesday at 6:00 pm:

Adult Bible Study & Prayer
Youth Group/Kids Club

Men's Bible Study:

Men's breakfast is once a month.
Usually the 2nd Saturday at 8 am.

Women's Bible Study:

The ladies' Bible study will meet every other week. Monday morning at 9 am at the church and Monday evening at 6 pm at Sharon Rometti's home.

Book of Matthew Challenge

Your challenge is to read the book of Matthew this month. February has 28 days. Matthew has 28 chapters. Try to read a chapter a day.

While you read the book, learn about Jesus. What does He say? What does He do? What is important to Him?

As He teaches His disciples, He also teaches us. How can I apply His words to my own life

Pray before you read each day. Ask God to reveal more about Jesus to you.

Whatever you learn, share with others.

Summary of the Gospel of Matthew (from gotquestions.org)

Author: This book is known as the Gospel of Matthew because it was written by the apostle of the same name. The style of the book is exactly what would be expected of a man who was once a tax collector. Matthew has a keen interest in accounting (18:23-24; 25:14-15). The Gospel of Matthew is very orderly and concise. Rather than write in chronological order, Matthew arranges this Gospel through six discussions.

As a tax collector, Matthew possessed a skill that makes his writing all the more exciting for Christians. Tax collectors were expected to be able to write in a form of shorthand, which essentially meant that Matthew could record a person's words as they spoke, word for word. This ability means that the words of Matthew are not only inspired by the Holy Spirit, but should represent an actual transcript of some of Christ's sermons. For example, the Sermon on the Mount, as recorded in chapters 5-7, is almost certainly a perfect recording of that great message.

Date of Writing: As an apostle, Matthew wrote the Gospel of Matthew in the early period of the church, probably in A.D. 55-65. This was a time when most Christians were Jewish converts, so Matthew's focus on Jewish perspective in this Gospel is understandable.

Brief Summary: The Gospel of Matthew discusses the lineage, birth, and early life of Christ in the first two chapters. From there, the book discusses the ministry of Jesus. The descriptions of Christ's teachings are arranged around "discourses" such as the Sermon on the Mount in chapters 5 through 7. Chapter 10 involves the mission and purpose of the disciples; chapter 13 is a collection of parables; chapter 18 discusses the church; chapter 23 begins a discourse about hypocrisy and the future. Chapters 21 through 27 discuss the arrest, torture, and execution of Jesus. The final chapter describes the Resurrection and the Great Commission.

Missionary Report: Each month we will update our missionaries.

<u>Missionaries</u>	<u>Financial Need</u>	<u>Prayer Needs</u>
BRM—Bauers Assist Churches	No Need	Health issues. Need to find replacement
Barsuhns Oversee churches-Utah	No need	Radio station needs staff. Steve eye surgery.
Bowers Frontier-Maint. & Business	Need more support	Ministry with students. Preaches part time.
Bregis Haiti Pastor & School	Very needy	Health, \$ for school build., \$ church/school op. We are largest supporter of this ministry
Cochranes Frontier-Maint, discipleship	Raising support	New marriage, Baby coming. Only missionaries that IRBC has sent into field.
Gustafson CEF Director West UP	No Need	Salvation of kids, Safety in travel. Replacement for Trish in next year.
Hillebrands Ukraine-train/write books	Always needs.	Live in wore torn country. Safety. Travel. People are open to Gospel.
IBM: Cosby Church plants in MI	OK	Looking for pastors for churches
Marshners Frontier Bible teacher	Still raising support	Students studies. Sick staff. Wisdom for summer opportunities
Mikeshes Canada—ministry to Native Canadians	100% support	Dorothy-lost husband. Their kids. Bible Club. Youth Group. Daughter plans to join them.
Montgomery's L.A.—Friends of Israel	Short on support	Reach Jews. UCLA., Synagogues. Malls. Nate & daughter went back to Israel on trip
Shepherds Ministries School & training center	OK	Need workers. 5 students graduate January. Brazil trip in March (w/ Joni & Friends)
Wrights Pastor, Radio Station, Bible School in Uganda	Strapped for \$.	Unity in church. Andrew-engaged.
Wright's Disciples	Unlimited need	All kids in Missionary school or college. We supported Gabriel—blind evangelist last year. Recently had bicycle stolen.
Watson Teacher/writer	\$ for projects	Blind ministry Have helped with projects. In his 80s. Traveled to Africa to teach last year.
Basts Retired	Ok	Retired New Tribes Missions. May visit us this summer.
Helen Buck Retired	OK	Retired Missionary (widow). Served in Africa. Health issues and desire to minister.

How God Saved Me

by Rob Ward

When I was around 6 years old, my mom took me, my two brothers, and my sister to a Lutheran Church in Royal Oak, MI. I was in a Sunday school class and I remember the teacher asking us to repeat after her, that Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose from the grave and ascended to heaven. And I remember she said, "You are Saved!" To be honest, I wasn't sure what she meant, but being saved sounded like a good thing and she seemed really happy I was saved. So, I was happy too and was excited to tell my mom.

Years later, we stopped going to church. Like most young people of the 80's, I wanted to hurry up and get a driver's license, get a job, and move out of my parent's home and start living my own life by my own rules. I was never a drinker; not to say I didn't try it. It tasted terrible! I asked some friends why they drank. They said, "to get a buzz," and I told them it tastes terrible, and they said, "you'll get used to it." I thought to myself, "why would you want to get used to drinking something that tastes so awful?" My friends and I parted ways not too long after that.

I started working at an office supply company in Madison Heights, MI, delivering (you guessed it) office supplies to Detroit and the surrounding cities. I really wanted a girlfriend, but didn't know many people, and was pretty quiet and bit of an introvert (by the way, I only found out in recent years what that word even meant, but...I was one)! which made it challenging to meet people, let alone a girl! So, I went to prayer. I believed in God, and He protected me throughout my life. I would pray to Him, "if you really want me to believe in you, please bring me a girl that believes in you." It didn't happen right away, but as time went on, I met a girl at one of the businesses I delivered to and got to know her. Come to find out, she was the God-fearing Christian woman I had been looking for and she moved to the Detroit area all the way from a little town in the U.P. called Iron River. I then committed to the Lord that I believed in Him and wanted to get to know Him better. I started reading my Bible and getting really excited about it. Oh, I forgot to mention...I married that Yooper girl and it's been 34 years!

In 2008, we moved to Iron River and began attending IRBC. It was really then that I started to have a close relationship with the Lord, started reading the Bible more, and began faithfully tithing. Even though I was baptized as an infant, I really wanted to be baptized as an adult in order to be obedient to God "believe and be baptized." So, I (and the Yooper girl) were baptized at our church picnic in 2009.

Being closer to God and having that personal relationship has taught me so much. I always try to keep at the forefront of my mind that people are always watching and listening... and as a Christian, What am I doing? What am I saying? How am I reacting to any given situation? I know I have failed miserably, so I am so thankful for God's grace.

Kids' Corner with Miss Abby

Activity - From lifeovercs.com

Materials needed for Valentine's Day Science Experiments Using Milk:

- Milk-whole or 2 percent (about 1 cup)
- Food coloring
- Liquid dish detergent
- Cotton swabs or cotton balls
- Shallow dish

Steps in the Valentine's Day magical milk procedure:

1. Pour the milk into the shallow dish so that it covers the bottom.
2. Add several drops of food coloring to the edges of the milk, choosing the colors you like.
3. Dip a cotton swab/ball into the dish soap.
4. Place the swab into the middle of the dish to activate the food coloring molecules.

Bible tie in - 1 Corinthians 13

In February we often focus on love and Valentine's Day. Love can seem grown up or gross. But it's not. In fact the Bible says God is love (1 John 4:16). He loved us enough to die for us (John 3:16) and He wants us to love one another. So how do we love one another? 1 Corinthians 13 tells what love is and isn't. I encourage you to read the chapter and then think of how you can show love this month.

Love Word Search

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Find the hidden words.

K Y D S N G E G I P B E E E H
 U P A E M L G A A V E A B O N
 W R T V Q F P R R J A T P W E
 U E I E Z J R B R Z R E O P Z
 U N R I G H T E O U S N E S S
 N E B L B Q P P G F M H C J K
 N S Q E K E R S A V P P R P X
 E J E B C O P T N C M L C X Q
 R N S C V O N E T N X J J T C
 D P D O I E M D E R E F F U S
 Y N K U I O R I J E A L O U S
 R E I T R D J O N F L C G V K
 D R A K F E Z E A G X M K O F
 Z P Y Z D A S R R R L S R A W
 Q T K X B W R E V E N Y Y C N

Is **PATIENT**

Is **KIND**

Is Not **JEALOUS**

Does Not **BRAG**

Is Not **ARROGANT**

Does Not Act **UNBECOMINGLY**

Does Not Seek Its **OWN**

Is Not **PROVOKED**

Does Not Take Into Account A
 Wrong **SUFFERED**

Does Not Rejoice In
UNRIGHTEOUSNESS

REJOICES With The Truth

BEARS All Things

BELIEVES All Things

HOPES All Things

ENDURES All Things

Bear Valentine TOAST

HELLOYUMMY.CO



You will need

- 1 piece of bread toasted and covered in peanut butter (or any nut butter)
 - 3 chocolate chips for eyes and nose
 - 1 strawberry cut into a heart shape
 - 7 banana slices for arms, feet, ears, and nose
- Decorate your bear and enjoy!**

Memory Verse - 1 John 4:16b ... God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.