

Love is...

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7 ESV)

In this passage, we are reminded what love truly looks like. But do we need to be reminded of such a thing? Love seems to come to us as naturally as breathing, yet scripture reminds us that the love we are to have for one another is to be a reflection of the love God has for us. This is important as the world around us and our own sinful nature has a different idea of what love is that often needs to be corrected.

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, this season of love is the perfect time to reflect on just how great and pure God's love is for us. And as we do so, seek to show that same love to our spouses, family, friends, neighbors, and yes, even our enemies.

Triple Ordination

Calvary Community Church in Fullerton, California, experienced a "triple ordination" on January 19th of this year. Pastor Seth Leivestad (Mid-Left), Elder Rick Fuller (Left), and Elder Bob Bestian (Right) were ordained into their respective ministries at a service officiated by CLB President Paul Larson (Mid-Right). Also participating in the service were Pastor Larry Olson and Elders Jerry Leivestad, Gary Koslowsky, Jay Saladino, and Joe Nolan. May God's myriad blessings be on these men and the ministries He has prepared for them, and may our prayers be for His strength, wisdom, and guidance as they shepherd this flock.



LEAD Retreat 2020



Not long now! This year's LEAD Retreat is February 28-March 1, 2020 at the Cannon Beach Christian Conference Center. LEAD, which stands for, "Love, Engage, Aspire, Develop," is our region's annual leadership conference focusing on developing leadership skills in pastors and laypersons alike. Our speaker will be the new North American Mission director, Rev. Nick Mundis, and he will be presenting sessions on Loving God as a Disciple-Maker. Visit leadretreat.org for more information, or contact Mark Goodman at thegoodmans@comcast.net. A 25% discount applies to "first-timers" so this is the perfect opportunity for you to come and see what the LEAD Retreat has to offer.

Faith & Fellowship

Did you know that the CLB's *Faith and Fellowship* publication has a blog? Head on over to clba.org/faith-fellowship-blog to check out current and past articles. Faith and fellowship is a free, bi-monthly, and official publication of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren which serves the individuals and congregations of our synod. Each magazine contains news and devotionals from the CLB's pastors, leaders, and professors. If you aren't currently receiving this valuable resource, be sure to contact your pastor or the CLB's communications office. The magazine can also be accessed through the CLB app for Android and Apple. Simply search, "CLB," in your device's app store.



All Nations



Jesus commands us to make disciples of all nations. This doesn't have to be done by crossing borders because that word, "nations," really means all the people groups of the world. How fortunate we are that all nations can be found right in our own neighborhoods! The key to evangelism is relationship, and the key to relationship is understanding. Because of the many differences between the cultures of different people groups, understanding can

be hard to come by. We might be hesitant to interact with someone from a different culture than ours for fear of doing something offensive or getting into an uncomfortable situation. But this doesn't have to be the case. There are many opportunities to learn about and enjoy all the different peoples whom God loves. Some ideas are:

- Attend a local multicultural festival
- Visit a local cultural center
- Attend a cultural parade
- Find cultural programs at your local library
- Visit a city museum
- Listen and ask questions

That last one is both the easiest and the most enjoyable. After all, you enjoy talking about your heritage, background, family, and culture, right? So do most people. Your neighbor will love that you have taken an interest in learning about who they are and where they come from. So give it a try! You'll be amazed at how much richer your life becomes when you surround yourself with all the different peoples of the world. And more importantly, you'll be amazed at how God uses those opportunities to bring them His gospel through you.