



St. John's Lutheran Church

A Lutheran Congregation in Mission for Christ

News & Notes ~

 **FEBRUARY** 2023

FAITH
HOPE
LOVE

WHY WOULD GOD ALLOW CRISIS?

Perhaps this tumultuous time it is actually God' kindness at work, allowing our great nation to bear the heavy consequences of her departure from His ways. As crisis after crisis puts more pressure on our way of life and affects the freedoms and the livelihoods of countless Americans, as well as our comfort and our security, we are beginning to see a rumbling and a stirring in our nation that has not been seen before. Like a little bird trying to navigate a windy storm, perhaps this generation is likewise finding itself caught in a storm with no way out. Drawn to the light in the window, longing to come out of the darkness and find shelter from the storm, perhaps we are about to see a generation stopped short by its own desperate need for help. God has a way of interrupting our flight path in abrupt and sudden ways.

What if He has sent a perfect storm to bring a generation to its knees? Could it be that what sometimes looks to us like anger and judgment being poured out upon our nation is actually the mercy of God confronting people's hearts with the longing for something better than the darkness in which they live?

Maybe He has to give us an abrupt interruption to the path that we are on and let us fly right into circumstances that knock us to the ground in order for us to see how desperate we really are and how much we really need Him.

THE BEAR FACTS

Since February is the "LOVE" month, I want to bark about how much love I have in my heart. When I was in the shelter for 10 days, I slept on a cement floor, no blankets, no toys, a bowl of water and a bowl of food which was empty most of the time until feeding time. When mom walked in I fell in love with her that very moment. The staff put me and mom in a room to get to know each other and I was all over her. They asked her if she was interested in me and she started crying. I think I did too. My home for the past 10 years is soooooo full of love. I have people that love me beyond words, I have soooooo many toys, I sleep on a blanket on the recliner, my water and food bowl are always full. And of course I have people like you that sent me Christmas cards & gifts. Thank you for always asking about me. I love you all and Happy Valentine's Day. Remember to love each other cause we are only here for a little while. Until we bark next month.

Hugs & Puppy Kisses,

Bear

Just for Kids!



Jesus L♥ves me,
this I know



Christian Symbol - ECCE AGNUS DEI — Latin for “Behold, the Lamb of God,” this is the phrase John the Baptist uses twice to point out Jesus to others (John 1:29, 36). It marks Jesus’ Epiphany (manifestation, revelation) as the Anointed One (Christ, Messiah)

Marked by Love - Through the centuries [people] have displayed many different symbols to show that they are Christians. They have worn crosses in the lapels of their coats, hung chains about their necks, even had special haircuts. Of course, there is nothing intrinsically wrong with any of this, if one feels it is [one’s] calling. But there is a much better sign, a universal mark that is to last through all the ages of the church until Jesus comes back. Love — and the unity it attests to — is the mark Christ gave Christians to wear before the world. Only with this mark may the world know that Christians are indeed Christians and that Jesus was sent by the Father. —Francis Schaeffer



Bible Quiz

Fill in the blanks for three qualities Paul, in 1 Corinthians 13, attributes to love: “Love is _____; love is _____. ... it keeps no record of _____.”

- A. challenging, important, the past
- B. childlike, innocent, injustice
- C. self-sacrificing, generous, finances
- D. patient, kind, wrongs

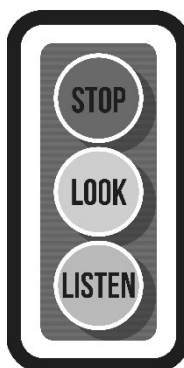
Love is...

Why



Answer: D (See 1 Corinthians 13:4-5, NIV.)

should we observe Lent? This 40-day season of repentance and reflection that begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, has three important purposes. Lent helps us STOP, LOOK and LISTEN.



We observe Lent because it tells us to STOP and rest awhile — and to stop sinning. Lent tells us to LOOK inward for an honest self-examination, to look upward to see the cross of Jesus with healing and love, and to look forward to the hope of the Resurrection. And we observe Lent because it tells us to LISTEN — to the voice of God, the words of Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

STOP, LOOK and LISTEN! These commands that are so crucial for travel safety are also important for our journey through Lent.