



# Our Savior

LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

2900 Burton Street SE + Grand Rapids, MI 49546 + 616.949.0710 + www.oursavior-gr.org

## What is Love?

### *Third in a series on 1 Corinthians 13*

The middle section of 1 Corinthians 13, verses 4-7, spells out the character of love. 15 verbs are used by Saint Paul to describe what love is by telling what love does. In English these 15 verbs mainly end up being adjectives, (e.g. love is patient) whereas in the original these are action words (e.g. love suffers long). The English rendering sounds like love is a *thing*, when really love is all action, all doing, ever busy serving.

Isn't that what we see with our Lord and His love for us? His love acts. He created. He promised. He came. He was born, suffered, died, rose, and ascended. He still serves us. He hears us, prays for us, and forgives us.

The 15 verbs in 1 Corinthians 13 starts with two positive qualities of love. "Love is patient. Love is kind." Patience is certainly swimming against the stream of our hectic, increasingly emotional society. This Greek verb is more literally translated "longsuffering". It's opposite would be short-tempered. It is a taming, a lengthening of emotions. Instead of urging a quick emotional response, longsuffering draws out emotional responses. It waits. It puts a gap between an event and our emotional response to it.

An Australian Lutheran pastor observed: "In the fast-paced, achievement-oriented world ... when the spirit of the age tempts churches to look for quick and impressive results, it is salutary to reflect on the priority Paul accords to the love which expresses itself in being longsuffering, a love that can wait." (Lockwood)

God has a love that waits for you. He has always displayed longsuffering in His dealings with His people. Paul was deeply conscious of how much he owed to the perfect patience Christ Jesus had shown in his case. As he wrote in 1 Timothy 1:16: "However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life."

After patience and kindness, Paul uses 8 negated verbs to describe love: "love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity". These are all done for us completely in Christ Jesus' perfect live in our place. He humbly served us with no thought for Himself, but only for you and your salvation.

Paul then concludes love's description with four verbs that describe love's tenacity—it's resolve not to quit: Love "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

Lockwood comments: "love 'bears all things,' that is, it puts up with other people and circumstances which try its patience, just as Paul and his coworkers put up with hard work and deprivation for the sake of the Gospel. ... To say that love 'believes [has faith through] all things' does not mean that love is gullible and always believes other people. Rather, faith generated by God's love in Christ lasts in all circumstances. Similarly, love never gives up its hope in God. The same theme is found in 1 Thessalonians 1:3 where Paul thanks God for the church's 'endurance of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ'. Finally, love "endures all things". Endurance is one of the great characteristics of life under the cross in Christ's kingdom. The verb endures is a close synonym of to be longsuffering at the beginning of 1 Corinthians 13:4, neatly rounding off the paragraph."

Such bearing, believing, hoping, enduring love the Triune God always has toward us while we are in this world. Such love from our Lord Jesus Christ delivered to us in His means of grace enables us to remain in faith and hope in Him, and thus bear, believe, hope, and endure all things.

Peace and Joy in Christ,

Pastor Fleming

## Senior Saints - No meeting in August!

July 10 at noon.

"Meet the Muths" Bring a sandwich - dessert and drinks provided. Come and join us and "catch up" on Arizona news from Bill and Sue.

## Mighty Mites:

Praise God! The national biennium mission goal of \$1,825,000.00 was reached! New mission grants will be voted on June 28 at the LWML national convention in Pittsburgh, PA



## Women in Fellowship

### June Meeting Recap

Puzzles, games, and craft supplies were collected for Lutheran Child and Family Services Family Fun Nights. Norma's supply of games gave our us our own "Fun Night".

July 3, 9:00 AM to 1:00PM

### Quilting Bee @ Fellowship Hall

Come for as long as you can. Questions? Contact Judy.

### No WIF meetings in July and August

September 10, 9:30AM - 1:00 PM

### Women in Fellowship - regular meeting

Mark your calendar now for Brunch and Planning for the 2013-2014 year.

September 12, 9:30AM

### Women's Thursday Morning Bible Study @ Church

This fall's study is the book of Job.

## Office Secretaries' Schedule

We are moving to a reduced summer schedule. The office will most likely be open 9-12 every day, but we might be out and about. Please call ahead so we know to expect you.

## Lutheran High News

### Foreign Exchange Student Hosts

We are looking for families to host Foreign Exchange Students for the upcoming school year. We have up to a \$2,000.00 tuition credit available for the family that hosts an exchange student. This tuition credit is transferable to another WMLHS family if the host family does not have a WMLHS student. Please share this information with friends and family.

Besides the exchange student organizations we have worked with in the past, we are also now connected with the Lutheran High School in Slovakia. All the classes at this Lutheran high school are taught in English so the these students have a high level of English proficiency.

Please share this information with your friends and family. Feel free to email our school office with questions, 455-2200.

## Teaching Positions

We are looking to fill following opening paid positions for the 2013-2014 school year:

- \*Choral Director- One period a day, five days per week
- \*Spanish Teacher- One period a day, five days per week
- \*Girls Volleyball Coach- Fall
- \*Boys Varsity Basketball Coach- Winter
- \*Girls Basketball Coach- Winter

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Robert Patrick at [rpatrick@wmlhs.org](mailto:rpatrick@wmlhs.org)

## Summer Project!

We are continuing to update our school library. We would love any donations of gently used books that are at a High School reading level or above. We are looking for all types of books that will help our students get excited about reading! You can drop the books off at the school Monday through Thursday between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. (601 36th St. SW, Wyoming 49509) or at Immanuel Lutheran Church (2 Michigan St. NE, Grand Rapids, 49503). Thank You!

## Lutheran World Relief Challenge

Some generous friends of Lutheran World Relief have issued a challenge. They will double the value of gifts received — dollar for dollar — between now and August 31, up to a total of \$171,000!

Those gifts mean so much in places like Nicaragua, where contaminated water sources threaten the health and livelihoods of already struggling people. With the help of people like you, we're reaching out to them. In one of the country's driest regions, San Luis, we've built one well and rehabilitated seven others. Now families can access clean water to drink and are growing nutritious vegetables and basic grains in their household gardens.

When I visited San Luis, one local woman told me, **"With this new well we can see, touch and drink the love of God."**

## Lutheran Radio and Television

- \* **THE LUTHERAN HOUR.** 105.7 FM at 6:30 AM & 1680 AM at noon.
- \* **WORSHIP FOR SHUT-INS** WTLJ-TV 54 in Grand Rapids, Sundays at 11:30 AM. Also on DirecTV channel 377
- \* **KFUO** Synod's radio station. You can listen on line at [www.kfuo.org](http://www.kfuo.org).

## July Meeting Schedule

School Board, Tuesday, July 9 at 7:00 PM  
Council, Tuesday, July 9 at 5:30 PM

## Our Savior School News

### Summer Scrip Orders

Scrip will run through summer thanks to our dedicated PTL! Please put orders and checks in Stephanie Norcross' mailbox at church by the Sundays listed below.

**Scrip Dates:** 7/14, 8/4, 8/18