

# Ironies of the Passion the word

## Mark Your Calendar

- 1/30**  
Outback Senior Teen Babysitting
- 1/30**  
Outback Steak House Event
- 1/31**  
Voters Meeting
- 2/4**  
Pioneer Meeting
- 2/7**  
Senior Teens SkyZone Event
- 2/10**  
Ash Wednesday
- 2/11**  
Senior Community Luncheon
- 2/25**  
Pioneer Meeting
- 2/26**  
Basketball Awards Night
- 2/27**  
Pioneer Pine Car Derby

## I Love You Because...

By Mark Kom

It's February. That means the stores will be filled with exotic flavors of chocolate in clever packaging. Flowers in varying arrays will be snatched up for that special night. Jewelry sales will spike. Restaurants will have "all hands on deck" as couples will flock to their favorite eateries for a special dinner. Ah yes.....let the Valentines Day festivities begin. It's the one day or even the week where we see so many folks trying to creatively express the same thing: I love you!



But did you ever ask why? Why do you love him? Why does she love you? Perhaps you would consider that a foolish question because it has so many obvious answers. I can still remember sitting in the office of my Associate with my fiancé by my side. We were there to take premarital counseling. He asked me and my beloved the most obvious of questions: "Why do you love her? Why do you love him?"

In my mind I thought it was just a conversation starter. I thought, "I've got this. Easiest question in the world to answer!" I gave some of the typical

*continued*

## *I Love You Because... continued*

answers. "She's beautiful inside and out." She is so giving and kind." I even tossed in a few spiritual compliments, too. "I admire her faith." "She leads me closer to Jesus." My Associate sat and smiled and nodded as he listened.

Then it was my future wife's turn. "Tell me why you love this man...." She gave many flattering answers about how I treated her so well, made her smile and laugh and led her closer to Jesus.

If I asked you the same question (as I often do with those who go through premarital counseling with me even now), would you answer any differently? Be honest. As you look at your sweetheart and think about your relationship, how would you answer the question? I love him/her because..... Is it because of their looks? Their attitude? Their enduring service to you? Do they still make you laugh and smile? Is it their faith that makes you love them?

It has been about 19 years since that day in my Associate's office. I still remember it well. With Mark and Michelle still glowingly proud of their "loving" answers they had just given, he smiled and said, "Those are two of the most self-centered, selfish answers any two people could give. All you have really said is that you love each other because of what the other person can do for you. You love them because

you get something from them that makes you feel good on the inside. At it's core – that's selfishness!" And he was right, of course. Ugh! The model that God points us to is in Ephesians 5. St. Paul said, husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... Jesus didn't love us because there was something so loveable about us. He simply chose to love us – no strings attached. And that set the tone for our whole relationship with him! His Heavenly Father's will was to love us, despite all of our sins and failings, and continue to the cross so that we could have a wonderful relationship with him through faith.

Of course, my Associate didn't just dismiss the complimentary things Michelle and I had said about each other as useless. He redefined them as wonderful fruits of faith that we can admire about each other as we serve each other. Jesus loved us first, so we reflect that love to each other. Of course that love will show itself as we serve each other!

I hope you have a wonderful Valentines Day. But I pray that you use Christ's example in how you approach your relationship. Make sure you tell your Valentine, "I love you because I choose to love you, no strings attached – the same way that Jesus loved me. I am determined to show my love for you, just like our Savior did for us. I love you."

Happy Valentines Day!

**Thanks to all** who helped out with our 3rd Annual Chili Cookoff! Best chili was made by **St. John's Lutheran Church**, with second place to Jessica Kelm and third place to Christine Fischer.





**Q In Jesus' time, how did one become a Pharisee?**

**A** Paul gives us some insight into that when he was in Jerusalem in Acts 22. He speaks to a hostile crowd and says, "3 'I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. Under Gamaliel I was thoroughly trained in the law of our fathers and was just as zealous for God as any of you are today.' From Paul's own words we see that to become a Pharisee, just as any other profession, it involved schooling and training.

**Q How long did they exist after Jesus' death?**

**A** This is a tricky one to answer. It may be overly simplistic to phrase it this way, but the Pharisees basically became what is now Rabbinic Judaism. One of the most important figures in Rabbinic

Judaism was a man named Johanan ben Zakai, who lived until about 90 AD. Some even consider him the first Rabbi of Judaism, and interestingly he studied under the son of the same Gamaliel mentioned in Acts 22. So, to recap...the title "Pharisee" disappeared in the late 1st century. And although their title disappeared, their teachings basically continued through Rabbinic Judaism.

**Q Did His death and resurrection change their minds about who he was and how they taught?**

**A** While some Pharisees were apparently converted, i.e. Nicodemus, others hardened their hearts and continued in their false beliefs, and encouraged people to lie about Jesus resurrection. Cf. Matthew 28:11-15.

**DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?**

Submit to: [zacharypudlo@crownoflifemn.org](mailto:zacharypudlo@crownoflifemn.org)

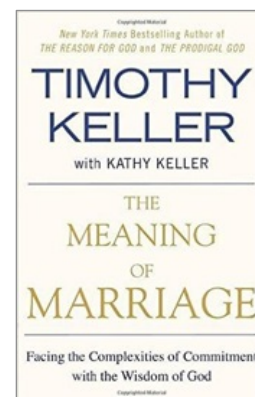
## The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God

*Reviewed by Pastor Zac Pudlo*

Do a search on Amazon for books on marriage and you will get somewhere around 21,000 results. So, what sets *The Meaning of Marriage* apart from all those other books? New York Times best-selling author, Timothy Keller, doesn't have a psychology background, so he doesn't speak from a psychological standpoint. As a pastor, he bases everything he writes on the timeless truths of God's word.

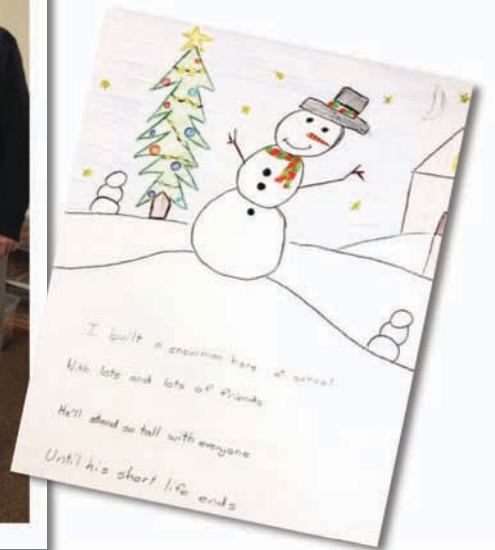
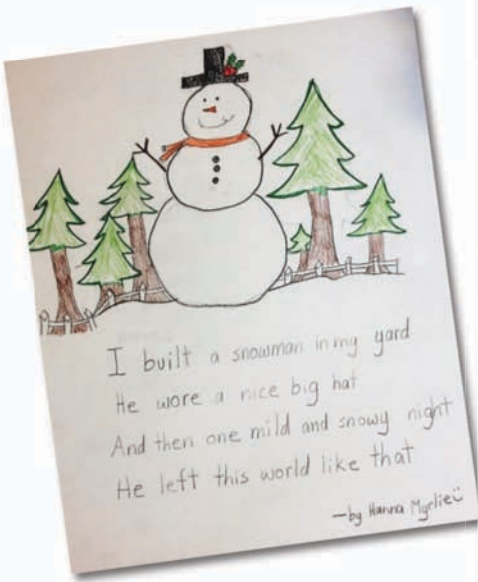
In this book Keller does a couple things very well: 1) With an additional philosophy background he is very good at putting the state of marriage into its proper historical perspective and thus identifying why marriage is in such dire straits in Western Civilization, and 2) he gives us a greater appreciation for the Gospel of our Lord which not only is the source of our ability to love, but also gives us the model to follow in Christ.

This is a great book for both married and unmarried. To quote Keller, this book's "primary goal is to give both married and unmarried people a vision for what marriage is according to the Bible." Being a book that gives such an optimistic view on marriage in a time when marriage is viewed with such pessimism, I would highly recommend this book to both married and unmarried.



# SCHOOL NEWS

4th graders are making the most of winter, learning to write poetry using snowmen as the subject. Demonstrating their writing and artistic skills, the class did a fantastic job! We had the opportunity to present our poems to the Kindergarteners. We thank Julane Severson and Robert Buckner who showed us their work and helped guide the students. We'd love for you to come and see the poems displayed in our hallway!



## Yarn Painting – 8th Grade Art Class



## 5th Grade Hall

5th grade learned about God's strength and power as they studied "The Fall of Jericho." They worked together for a reminder for the rest of the school.

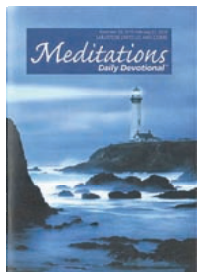


# Family Bible Study Ideas

by Lucas Boehm

Here is the third and final installment of suggestions for answering the “what should I read or study?” question that we all have occasionally. In October and November there were suggestions for using the Lectionary as a Bible study tool in various ways. This month we’ll take a look at a few other possible tools for getting into the Word more regularly.

There are easy-to-follow plans that will guide you through the bible. A simple online search produces a variety of such guides, from reading the entire bible in ninety days (ambitious!) to reading it in one, two, or three years. It can be difficult reading the bible straight through. Many plans switch back and forth between the old and new testaments. Printing out a plan and checking it off as you go provides additional motivation and tracks progress.



Another option for personal devotions is the “Meditations Daily Devotional” which is available to every member in the entrance to the church. This quarterly publication can be

used as a hardcopy or electronically and provides a daily devotion with a

prayer and additional suggestions for bible reading. The booklet also includes a collection of seasonal prayers, special prayers, and a morning and evening prayer for each day of the week. Daily e-devotions are found at <http://www.whataboutjesus.com/daily-devotion>. This site is a thorough source for personal spiritual growth and encouragement when dealing with any variety of trials, challenges, or questions that arise in life.

Here is a possibility that may apply if your child or grandchild attends a Christian day school, Sunday School, or catechism class - have a discussion about what they are studying and read together any bible references that might be included in their class work. These lessons often have questions or bible verses for the children to consider at home with their family. This offers a great way to engage your child more deeply and to reinforce bible stories and spiritual concepts.

Choose a topic – person, place, or idea - for the week using a concordance. For example, look up the word “peace” and read the context of how it is used. Or maybe read about a person – Gideon, Ruth,

or any number of other more or less known people from the bible.

Lastly, here are a couple of suggestions to help apply whatever you may read. Take a moment to ask yourself a few questions, such as: “What does this say about God - who he is...what he’s done or will do?” “What does this say about me, others, and our relationships?” “What does this say about the relationship between God and me?” “What does this reading move me to want to do?”

With the New Year Crown of Life is now on the Lectionary Series C on page 165 in the front part of the red hymnals. See October and November’s issues for ideas on how to use the Lectionary. Also, don’t be shy about asking your pastors questions about the text – your pastors love to clarify and share! So, write down or get a copy of that Lectionary for yourself at home, you might even get yourself a hymnal for at home – it is a rich wealth of prayers, readings, and praises! Give it a try for the next four weeks and see what you think.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Jason Myrlie	10	Kimberly Olson	17	Mary Pogalz	23	Douglas Danner
2	Tracey Beebe		Jean Quinn	18	Laurie Footh		Kirsten Fischbach
	Quinn Hood		Demetra Redner		Emma Mae Homan		Jack Kapanke
	Rachel Stokke	11	Charlotte Kwasniewski		Erin Krempel-Everson		James Koeppen
3	Jonah Evenson		Lenore Wagenknecht		Elliette Wiplinger		John Oldfield
	Paul Stokke	12	Joel Bejblik	19	Jonathan Harley	24	Ayden Bilitz
4	Andrew Enger		Ryan Lemmer		Roger Knippenberg		Darlene Unruh
6	Victoria Rider		Logan Lorenz		Amber Prahl	25	Kelly Widhammer
8	Rebecca Boehlke	13	Andy Coates	20	Gwen Pasbrig	26	James Tako
	Robert Learmann		Amanda Johnston		Chase Schindeldecker		Julie Waldhauser
	Lucas Otterstatter		James Loewen		James Stueber	27	Susan Tapp
9	Kathryn A. Danner	14	Robert Stokke Jr.	21	Orell Pieper		Nancy Wakefield
	Jason Fogle	15	Michael Ahlman	22	Brian Haehnel	28	Jesse Green
			Katherine Schletty			29	Andrew Rowe

# February 2016

## Monday, February 1

6:30pm Worship WSP  
7:00pm Mary/Martha - WSP

## Tuesday, February 2

6:30pm Handbell rehearsal  
7:00pm Evangelism

## Wednesday, February 3

6:30pm Bible Class EGN  
6:30pm Public School Confirmation EGN  
7:00pm Sr. Choir  
8:00pm Praise Band Reh

## Thursday, February 4

2:30pm Southview Sr. Living Service  
6:30pm Pioneer Meeting WSP

## Friday, February 5

5:30pm Away Game @ Cross of Christ

## Saturday, February 6

B Team Tournament  
5:00pm Worship EGN

## Sunday, February 7

B Team Tournament  
8:00am Choir -WSP 8&10:30, & EGN  
8:00am Worship WSP  
9:00am Worship EGN  
9:15am Bible Study/Sunday School WSP  
10:30am Worship WSP  
1:15pm Senior Teen-SKYZONE

## Monday, February 8

6:30pm Worship WSP  
7:00pm Fellowship  
7:30pm Worship Committee

## Tuesday, February 9

9:00am Mom's Time-EGN  
6:30pm Education  
6:30pm Properties  
7:00pm Stewardship

## Wednesday, February 10

4:00pm Grades 2-6 Sing WSP  
7:00pm Sr. Choir

## Thursday, February 11

9:30am Seniors' Luncheon  
1:00pm Circle C - WSP  
2:30pm Southview Sr. Living Service  
7:00pm Elders

## Friday, February 12

League Tournament (A Teams)

## Saturday, February 13

League Tournament (A Teams)  
5:00pm Worship EGN

## Sunday, February 14

League Tournament (A Teams)  
Praise Service  
Valentine's Day  
8:00am Worship WSP  
9:00am Worship EGN  
9:15am Bible Study/Sunday School WSP  
10:30am Worship WSP

## Monday, February 15

Presidents' Day  
6:30pm Worship WSP

## Tuesday, February 16

6:30pm Handbell Rehearsal  
7:00pm Council

## Wednesday, February 17

6:30pm Grades 7-8 Sing WSP

## Thursday, February 18

2:30pm Southview Sr. Living Service  
7:00pm Riverview Cemetery Meeting- WSP

## Friday, February 19

8:00am MLC Basketball Tournament

## Saturday, February 20

MLC Basketball Tournament  
5:00pm Worship EGN

## Sunday, February 21

» 9:00am MLC Basketball Tournament  
8:00am Worship WSP  
9:00am Handbells play EGN  
9:00am Worship EGN  
9:15am Bible Study/Sunday School WSP  
10:30am Worship WSP

## Monday, February 22

2:30pm Lilydale Sr. Living Service  
6:30pm Worship WSP

## Tuesday, February 23

9:00am Mom's Time-EGN

## Thursday, February 25

2:30pm Southview Sr. Living Service  
6:30pm Pioneer Meeting WSP

## Friday, February 26

5:00pm Basketball Awards Night

## Saturday, February 27

8:00am Pioneer Pine Car Derby  
5:00pm Worship EGN

## Sunday, February 28

8:00am Handbells-WSP 8 & 10:30  
8:00am Grades 1-8 Sing EGN/WSP  
8:00am Worship WSP  
9:00am Worship EGN  
9:15am Bible Study/Sunday School WSP  
10:30am Worship WSP  
6:30pm Handbell rehearsal

## Monday, February 29

6:30pm Worship WSP  
7:00pm Youth & Adult Education

## REPORTS

**BAPTISM** – Abigail Bejblik daughter of Jacob and Corey Bejblik on Jan 3; Charlotte Kock daughter of Drew and Jill Kock on Jan 10

**MARRIAGE** – Erin Schmeling and Ryan Bohl on Dec 19; Alexis Plath and Nathan Boerneke on Jan 2

### **TREASURER** – Fiscal Year 7/15 to 6/16

December ended the fiscal year to date (FYTD) with \$653,999 in total income with expected budget income to be \$790,016, \$136,016 below budget. Expenses were \$768,801 which gave us a FYTD of negative \$114,801. We owe \$69,654 to our savings account to keep our bills paid up to date. \$514,848 Clear the Path contributions (12-31-2015) paid to reduce loan balance down to \$955,000.

Direct questions to PerryAbel@gmail.com

## Care Committee 2015

Meals  
Provided



25  
Providers on Care  
Committee List



2  
Meals to members  
recovering from  
surgery

# JUST FOR FUN

## January Answer 5th Grade Hallway Puzzle

Last month's puzzle was a photo of the school's hallway on the second level. You were to try to locate the 10 Plagues. If you only located 9 of the 10 plagues, then you got 100%. The plague of darkness wasn't depicted in the photographs.

M	R	A	T	B	C	E	M	E	S	F	T	T	H	I	D	B
O	A	N	O	O	O	O	A	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
U	T	D	M	N	R	T	S	R	N	A	R	W	L	M	V	L
T	H	E	E	D	E	E	H	O	O	I	F	O	O	E	E	T

## The Force Awakens

*Reviewed by Shelley Unruh*

The theater darkens, the screen comes to life with a beautiful field of stars, narration crawls across the screen, familiar music swells . . .

The new Star Wars movie is fun for the whole family. *Episode VII – The Force Awakens* takes place about thirty years after 1983's *Return of the Jedi*. The evil Empire, now called the First Order, is still trying to rule the galaxy and is once again facing opposition from the Resistance. Luke Skywalker has been missing for many years and is desperately needed to aid in the rebellion; what follows is the quest to find him.



Those familiar with the Star Wars universe will see many recognizable faces (some truly iconic) and there are a lot of references and callbacks to the original film trilogy, both visual and verbal. However, even if you don't know a Wookiee from a womp rat, don't worry – you don't need to be familiar with the previous movies in order to enjoy this chapter.

We have two new protagonists and some new (and pretty creepy) villains, along with a very entertaining little droid. One of the best surprises has to do with the origin story of one of the potential heroes – I won't spoil it, but it's an imaginative touch and a fresh twist on a familiar type of character.

There are epic aerial dogfights, light saber battles, and lot of blaster fire, all of which account for the film's PG-13 rating. There is also a lot of humor, wonderful scenery, some very poignant moments, and of course the traditional interesting alien creatures. It's two hours and 16 minutes of pure entertainment.

Please direct ideas, questions or comments about this issue to [ZacharyPudlo@crownoflifemn.org](mailto:ZacharyPudlo@crownoflifemn.org)



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