

No Love Without Honor

BY PASTOR JEFF MANTZ
First Assembly of God Church

Recently, I have taken our congregation on a series of messages I call "The Journey of Love." Among other things we discovered from the Scriptures and real love experiences that love is not an emotion, though it affects us deeply emotionally. Love is not intellectual, though it dramatically changes the way we think about parenting when you have given birth to a child of your own. Love is more spiritual than any other category you could identify. In the Book of 1 John, John writes that "God is love." That is a bold statement that identifies how significant love is in God's view. It's one thing to describe someone as a loving person. It is quite another to declare that Someone IS love.

Like too many of our words that we loosely use to describe a feeling or idea, love becomes overused and mostly misunderstood and demeaned to express a happy feeling we get with a new pair of warm gloves on a cold winter day. When we say God is love, we are describing the creator of life and the universe in terms of His relationship with humanity. Come in direct contact with Almighty God and you will get a revelation of love — His love.

Human love actually discredits God's love as it is mostly self-serving and sought out as a need to be filled. Human love at times will break down when it is needed the most and leaves people bitter and guarded as it rips to the core of our being. Now those folks need a revelation of God's love to experience healing for a broken heart.

God's love is also mistakenly viewed with an attitude that reflects the ideas of "God will love me anyway" or "All roads lead to heaven" or "a loving God would never send me to Hell." Those are subtle deceptions that give license to what I call "grace abuse." Their behavior and atti-



REFLECTIONS

tude disregards any respect for God as a Person whose nature is to love and redeem people from sin and future destruction. The one element that will reveal God's true love in someone is how they honor Him. You cannot love someone you don't respect or honor. You may pity them or use them for sex or cling to them for security, but without respect there is no love that will satisfy the human soul. You don't have to look around very far to find broken people in your life or perhaps you are that person who struggles to love because of broken trust. Trust is giving and receiving love with someone you respect and respects you. When you feel betrayed or disrespected, trust is broken and eventual disconnect takes place. Call it running away from home or divorce or blocking someone's phone call or "detracting" someone on Facebook — it all says "you broke trust and you dishonored me and our love."

The Bible describes love as a fruit. Fruit needs a tree and branches to develop to maturity. We all need and want to love and be loved. Every living fruit tree has roots and those roots hold the tree in the time of storm and drought and other challenges. Those roots are honor and respect. Take away the roots and your fruit dries up or never develops. We hear movie stars and Divas declare to their millions of fans that they love them. What a joke! Yet we will bring people into our lives and give our hearts to little more than strangers that talk a good game and we honor them by giving what we think is love. Most of the people that go to divorce court love each other. The real reason they are there is because they have

lost respect for each other and no longer honor each other, if they ever did. Without honor and respect there is no love. We give away the farm in the name of hoping to be loved. It will fail every time and we need to rewind our expectations and think about how much that person that says they love you honor you over a period of time. When the tough times come the roots of honor and respect will hold and protect the fruit of that love.

Jesus identified clearly in John 5:39-44 how love works with Him and with those you love. 39 "You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! 40 Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life.

41 "Your approval means nothing to me, 42 because I know you don't have God's love within you. 43 For I have come to you in my Father's name, and you have rejected me. Yet if others come in their own name, you gladly welcome them. 44 No wonder you can't believe! For you gladly honor each other, but you don't care about the honor that comes from the one who alone is God."

The next time someone says "I love you!" give pause and examine how much respect have they shown you. Whom do they honor? Do they honor God in their lifestyle? Do they know how to live by their word or are they feeding you a line to get something from you. In the '60's the term "free love" came on the scene. There is no such thing. Love cost Jesus Christ His sinless life to be given on a sinner's cross to die in your and my place. I cannot approach that cross without a deep and reverent respect for Him and what He means to me. When He rose from the dead, He gave us THE way to an eternal love that is the greatest fruit I have ever tasted and that satisfies my soul every day I am alive here in this world. All other loves are human failures that cannot sustain the God kind of love.



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

The Yankton United Church of Christ adult choir, directed by Jennifer Powell, will present its Candlelight Holiday Concert at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 15.

UCC Candlelight Concert Dec. 15

The Yankton United Church of Christ will again present its Candlelight Concert for the Christmas season at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 15, at the UCC church located at 5th & Walnut. The concert will feature the adult choir, accompanied by a string ensemble and historic pipe organ.

Musically, the program will feature Antonio Vivaldi's "Gloria." Composed in 1715 for a Viennese girls school by choir and orchestra, the piece was lost after the composer's death in 1741. Amazingly in 1920 the piece was found in a box of forgotten Vivaldi manuscripts. In 1957 the familiar version was published and performed in New York. From the joyous opening movement, to the con-

trasting bold and slower harmonies of following sections, the last movement is quick and vibrant.

The concert will open with a divided choir singing "Antiphonal Joy," arranged by Hal Hopson. The concert will also include the spirited piece "African Noel" by Giovanni Anerio and Patrick Liebergen and conclude with "Alleluia" by Mark Repasky.

Several opportunities for congregational singing of traditional Christmas hymns will be offered as well.

For more information, contact Melissa Pratt, the church's administrative assistant at the Yankton United Church of Christ office (melissapratt@iw.net; 605-665-7320).

Peace Presbyterian Program Sunday

Rev. Don Barbalace and the congregation of Peace Presbyterian Church invites people from throughout the community to worship at 10 a.m. on Sundays and at a special Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m. during the Christmas season.

On Sunday, Dec. 15, the Sunday School Christmas Program will be held. The sermon that Rev. Barbalace will give is "Doubts" based on Matthew 11, 2-11. A celebration for one of the members will follow. "Faith and Possibilities"

(Matthew 1, 18-25) is Rev. Barbalace's message on Sunday, Dec. 22. The Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m. will be lessons and Christmas carols. On Sunday, Dec. 29, the sermon will be "Fleeing Herod" (Matthew 2, 13-23).

Peace Presbyterian is located at 206 East 31st St., Yankton, between Menards and the airport. The coffee pot is always on and the congregation enjoys meeting new people anytime, not just at Christmas!

FUMC Live Nativity Set For Dec. 14

The First United Methodist Church, 207 W. 11th Street, Yankton, will be hosting a live Nativity on Dec. 14 at 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

A brief pageant and music will be performed featuring

the talents of local First United Methodist actors, actresses and musicians.

In addition, the Nativity will feature two camels, goats, sheep, miniature cattle and a donkey.

This free performance is open to the public and spectators are welcome to attend either performance. The public is invited to join in the refreshments that will be served immediately following

in the church's Wesley Hall. The manger will be located just to the west of the church.

For additional information, contact Lexy Klinkhammer at 605 201-3495.

CHURCH SCHEDULES

Abundant Life

ABUNDANT LIFE MINISTRIES, Pastors Butch and Barbara Hladky, 517 Burleigh, Yankton. 665-0889. Open for prayer daily, FRI Shabbat Service 6pm Youth Service 7pm. SUN. 10am Worship.

Alliance of Renewal Churches

LIVING WATER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, Sun. 10am Yankton Middle School (2000 Mulberry) Weds. 7pm Prayer. David Olson, pastor. (605)260-2138.

Assembly of God

First Assembly of God, 801 W. 25th. (605)665-6362 (office). SUN. 10 am: Bible teaching sermons WED. 6:30pm Midweek service and Bible study for all ages. www.yanktonassembly.com

Baptist

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH, 100 E. Douglas, Kevin Caskey, pastor, 665-0066. SUN. 9:30am Sunday School, 10:45pm Preaching Service, 4pm Preaching Service. THU. 7pm Preaching Service.

Bethel Baptist Church

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH, 301 Ohio St., Wakonda. Dr. Calvin Jones, pastor, (605)267-1100. SUNDAY Worship. 11:00a.m.

Calvary Baptist Church

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, SUNDAY: 9:00 Sunday School for all ages, 10:30 Worship Service. MONDAY: Service broadcast 7:30pm Channels 3 & 98. WEDNESDAY 5:30pm Family meal; 6:30pm AWANA, 7-8th Grade Youth Group: 7:00pm 9-12th Youth Group, Adult Bible Study. Pastor Jon Cooke, Associate Pastor Rick Slattery, Youth Pastor Adam Ansel, Children's Ministry Director Allie Klopenstein. www.cbchurch.com-http://www.cbchurch.com- 2407 Broadway, (605)665-5594.

Harvest Independent Baptist

HARVEST INDEPENDENT BAPTIST, 100 W. 3rd, Mission Hill. Pastor Nathan Martin, 668-0708 (ch.), 665-1481 (home). SUN. 9:30am SS. 10:30am Worship. 5:30pm Worship. WED. 7:00pm Worship.

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Baptist

YANKTON BAPTIST CHURCH, SBC, 607 East 15th St., Yankton, 665-7587. SUN. 9:30am Bible study, SS; 10:45am Worship. WED. 7pm Midweek service.

Bible Church

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH, Home Fellowship during the fall and winter. Call Pastor Joel Finck for times and locations. (605)760-4701.

Catholic

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH OF CEDAR COUNTY (Immaculate Conception), St. Helena, NE. Rev. Eric Olsen. (402)357-2400. Mass: Sunday 11:00am.

Holy Family Church of Cedar County

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH OF CEDAR COUNTY (Sts. Peter & Paul), Bow Valley, NE. Rev. Eric Olsen (402)357-2400. Mass: Sundays 9am.

Holy Family Church of Cedar County

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH OF CEDAR COUNTY (Sacred Heart), Wyanot, NE. Rev. Eric Olsen. (402)357-2400. Mass times, Saturdays 5pm.

Mount Marty College

MOUNT MARTY COLLEGE, Peace Chapel, MMC campus. SUN. 10am Mass with the Sisters in the Bishop Marty Chapel. Public is welcome to attend.

Sacred Heart

SACRED HEART, 509 Capitol, Yankton, Rev. Mark Lichter pastor. 665-3655 (office). SAT. 4:30pm Mass. SUN. 8am, 9:30am, 11am Mass. THUR. 12:30pm, 2:30pm and 7:30pm Confessions.

St. Agnes Parish: Sigel, rural

ST. AGNES PARISH: SIGEL, rural Utica. SAT. 5pm Mass, confessions 1/2 hour before Mass. Father Daniel Houris.

St. Andrew's Catholic Church

St. Andrew's Catholic Church
Bloomfield, Nebraska
Fr. Michael Schmitz, Pastor
SUNDAY Mass-10:30 AM; 2nd, 4th, 5th TUES DAY Mass-8 AM; THURSDAY Mass-8 AM.

St. Benedict Catholic Church

ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC CHURCH, 1500 St. Benedict Drive, Yankton, Father Ken Luff, 664-6214 (church). Masses: SAT. 5pm. SUN. 8:30am&10:30am.

St. Boniface Catholic Church

ST. BONIFACE CHURCH, rural Freeman/Idylwilde. DECEMBER WEEKEND Mass Sundays 9am. Christmas Eve/Day Mass time December 24 @ 4:30pm.

St. Columba Church

ST. COLUMBA CHURCH, rural Irene/Mayfield. DECEMBER WEEKEND Mass Sundays @ 10:45am. Christmas Eve/Day Mass time December 24 @ 6:30pm.

St. George Church

ST. GEORGE CHURCH, Scotland, SD. Sundays 9:30 am. DECEMBER WEEKEND Mass Saturdays 5pm. Christmas Eve/Day Mass times December 24 @ 8:30pm & December 25 @ 9:30am.

Catholic

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC, Fordyce, Neb. Rev. David Fulton. SUN. 10:30am Mass.

St. John the Baptist Catholic

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC, Lesterville. SUN. 10:30am Mass. Father Daniel Moris.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, Constance, Neb., Father David Fulton, pastor. Saturday Mass: 7:30pm.

St. Patrick's Catholic

ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC, Wakonda, Rev. Scott Trayner, 605-624-2697. Sunday 8:30am Mass.

St. Rose of Lima

ST. ROSE OF LIMA, Crofton, Neb. Fr. Michael Schmitz. SAT. Mass: 8:00am & 5:30pm. SUN. Mass: 8:30am. WED/FRI Masses: 8:15am. Confessions: WED. 11am-11:30am, SAT. 5-5:20pm.

St. Wenceslaus

ST. WENCESLAUS, Tabors, (605)463-2336. Father Daniel Moris. Saturday 7pm Mass. Sunday 8:30am Mass.

The House of Mary Shrine

THE HOUSE OF MARY SHRINE, 6-mi. W. Yankton, Hwy.52. Masses: Monday 8:30 through October. Masses Saturday 9:00 every Saturday. Rosary Sunday 4:00. Rosary 4:00. Open 7 days a week for prayer. thehouseofmaryshrine.org

Christian

Kingsway Christian Church

KINGSWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH, 19th & Burleigh, 665-6317. Joseph Mason, Pastor. 9am-SS; Worship 10:15am. Wed.- 6:30pm Kids for Christ/Adult Bible Study. www.kingswaychristianyankton.org

Church of Christ

CHURCH OF CHRIST, 1114 West 12th, Yankton, 665-6379. SUN. 9:30am Bible study; classes for all ages. 10:30am Worship.

Church of Jesus Christ

Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS, 2300 Douglas, Yankton. Michael Maxwell (402)586-2645 Family History Ctr 665-0901. SUN. 10am Sacrament meeting.

Episcopal

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 517 Douglas, Yankton. Rev. James Pearson, (605)665-2456. Sunday 9:00 am Serenity; 10:15 Holy Eucharist; Wednesday; Noon Holy Eucharist.

Evangelical

Cornerstone Evangelical Church: Pastor Steve McHone, 208 West 21st Stewart Elementary School; Sunday School 9:30a.m.; Morning Service 10:30a.m. Contact Mike Stevens at (605)661-0057.

Emmanuel Church

EMMANUEL CHURCH We gather together for worship every Sunday at 9:30am at the Yankton Middle School (2000 Mulberry Street). www.emmanuelyankton.com (605)760-1143

Lutheran

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH NALC: 305 W. 25th, Yankton, 665-8848. Rev. Dani Jo Ninke. SUN: 8:30am & 10:45am worship services; 9:45am Sunday School.

Faith United Lutheran

FAITH UNITED LUTHERAN, 44874 303rd St., Volin SD 57072, (605)267-2277. SUN. Worship Services 9:30am. Children's Education WED. Evening (WOW) 6:30-7:30pm.

First American Lutheran Church

FIRST AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH, AFLC 300 S. Carpenter St., Tripp. (605)935-6941 9:30am Sunday School; SUN. 10:45 Worship firsthope@santel.net

Gayville-Bergen Lutheran Pastor

GAYVILLE-BERGEN LUTHERAN Pastor Ralph Egbert. (605)267-4342 (church) Church: 10:30am-GLC Worship, 9:15-GLC SS, 10:15am-BLC SS, 9:00am-BLC Worship.

Hope Lutheran Church

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH, AFLC 200 South Wilson, Delmont. (605)935-6941. SUN 9am Worship. 10am Sunday school. firsthope@santel.net

Martinus Lutheran Church

Martinus Lutheran Church, Utica. Pastor Dean Schroeder Sunday Divine Service 10:30am (605)589-3195 www.MartinusLutheran.org

Our Redeemer Lutheran

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN, rural Irene. 263-3724. SUN. 9am Worship.

Our Savior's Lutheran

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN, LCMC/NALC, Menno. Pastor Theresa Jacobson Office 605-387-5241 Worship 9am, Brunch, SS 10:20am.

Our Savior's Lutheran

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN, LCMC, 12th and Elm, Springfield, Rev. Kenneth Johnson, pastor. SUN. 8am Worship. 9am SS. THUR. 7pm Adult Bible study.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Wisconsin Synod, 201 E. 25th Street, Yankton. Pastor Christian Sultzle, (605)665-4793. Sunday 9:15 am Worship; 10:15 am Bible Study.

South Dakota Lutheran Church

South Dakota Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, MAIN STREET LIVING television program, 10a.m. (CST) on KDLT-NBC; and 11a.m. (CST) on KAUN-PAX; and 10a.m. (MST) on KKRA-PAX.

St. John Lutheran Church

St. John Lutheran Church, Tyndall. Pastor Dean Schroeder. Sunday Divine Service: 8:30am; Sunday School 10:00am (605)589-3195. www.StJohnsTyndallCMS.org

St. John's Lutheran Church

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS), 1009 Jackson. David Gunderson, Pastor. SUN. 8am Worship, 9:15am Education Hour, 10:30am Worship.

Trinity Lutheran Church

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, 403 Broadway, Yankton, 665-7415. Worship: Saturday 5:30; Sunday 8:15am & 10:45am; Classes, coffee fellowship 9:30am.

Lutheran

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Hartington/Crofton, NE, Amanda Jertson pastor; (402)254-6606. SUN. 9am Worship (Hartington), 10am SS (Hartington), 11am Worship (Crofton).

Trondhjem Lutheran Church

TRONDHJEM LUTHERAN CHURCH (AFLC), rural Volin. 263-3841. Sunday 9:15am; 10:30am Worship.

Vangen Lutheran Church

VANGEN LUTHERAN CHURCH, Mission Hill. 665-5426. Worship 9:30am.

Non-Denominational

FAITH ALIVE, 501 Cedar St., Yankton. 665-4797. Contemporary Worship & Family Values. SUN: 10am service. WED. 7pm Care-Cells "Small Groups For Building Relationships" Various Locations.

Glory Christian Center

GLORY CHRISTIAN CENTER, 901 E 11th St. Yankton. Gail Ryken, pastor, 665-2369. SUN. 10am Service. WED. 6pm Prayer. GC School, call (605)665-1988.

Presbyterian

PEACE PRESBYTERIAN (PC/USA), 206 E. 31st. 665-0448. Rev. Don Barbalace. Sun-10am worship, Coffee to follow. SS for kids 10:30am. Aired at 8pm Fri. on Ch. 3 & 98.

Reformed

RIVERVIEW REFORMED, 17th St. & Burleigh, Rev. Rodney Veldhuizen, pastor. 665-9204. SUN. 9:30am Worship, 10:15am SS. WED. Youth group & adult choir.

Seventh-Day

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST, 722 Locust St., Yankton, 665-1032. Worship Services: Saturday 9:30am & 11am. Pastor Nick Osborn (605)760-7791. Yankton Fruit Program. yanktonfruitprogram.org

United Church

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, Newcastle, Neb., 303 Highway 12, Rev. Gary Kimm, pastor. SAT. 6PM Church school, 7PM Worship. Second THUR. 2PM Ladies Aid.

First Congregational United Church of Christ

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, 301 W. Franklin, Hartington, NE, (402) 254-6563 or 664-5310, Rev. Gary Kimm, pastor. SUN. 8:15am Church school, 9am Worship.

Pilgrim Congregational UCC

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL UCC, 103 S. Elm St., Coleridge, Neb., (402) 283-4824 or 664-5310, Rev. Gary Kimm, pastor. SUN. 9:30am Church School, 10:30am Worship.

United Church of Christ

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, (Congregational) 210 West 5th St., Yankton. (605)665-7320