



Lytle Light

You Are The Light Of
The World.

– Matthew 5:14a

Believers are
appointed to be a
lighthouse to others;
a cheering lamp,
a shining star,
a loving guide.

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If you're searching for faith rather than simply religion; virtue rather than simply values; relationship rather than rule-keeping; divine help rather than self-help; then we may be the place for you.

bulletin of the CHURCH of CHRIST in Lytle, Texas

Sunday Schedule: 9:45AM – Bible Study | 10:45AM – Worship

12:00PM Fellowship Meal (4th or 5th Sundays)

Wednesday Schedule: 4PM – Bible Study

February 15, 2026

Volume MMXXVI Number 8

LOVE IS OF GOD

One of the apostle John's favorite subjects is love. In 1 John 4:7-8 he states, "7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love" (NKJV).

Once stating this premise, John initiates an extended teaching on the significance of showing love (1 John 4:7-21). He starts by clarifying that the believer's ability to love comes from knowing God: "Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God" (1 John 4:7, NLT).

The idea that "love is of God" (NKJV) can also be expressed as "love is from God" (ESV, NASB, CSB) and "love comes from God" (NIV, NLT). John explains that the fount of all love is God's divine nature meaning love has its origin in God because God is love by His very essence.

John shows why love is essential in the believer's life. Love is the litmus test of an authentic relationship with God. That litmus test is the yardstick or benchmark determining the quality, worth or authenticity of our love. If we are indeed children of God through faith in Jesus Christ, we share in His nature (2 Peter 1:4). Since God's nature is love and we are of His children, we will therefore exhibit love. So, demonstrating Christian love confirms the reality of our spiritual life.

"No one has ever seen God," states John, "but if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us" (1 John 4:12, NLT).

[continued on page 3]

WELCOME VISITOR!

If You're Visiting Today, We Welcome Each & Every One Of You To Our Worship Services! We Hope You Will Stay After Services So We May Become Better Acquainted! And Be Sure To Join Us For Our Bi-Monthly Fellowship Meal After Worship Services, Usually On The 4th or 5th Sunday approximately every other month!

Be Sure To Pick Up A Visitor Pamphlet From The Table Under The Mirror In The Front Hall.

And Please Fill Out A Visitor Card From The Back Of The Pew In Front Of You And Place It In The Collection Plate Located On The Table In The Back Of The Auditorium So That We May Have A Record Of Your Visit With Us Today. Thank You!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

- Enter To Worship
- Announcements
- Scripture Reading
- Opening Prayer
- 40 – *Come, Let Us All Unite To Sing*
- 439 – *Love Divine*
- Offertory Prayer
- 43 – *Sweet Peace, The Gift Of God's Love*
- Minister's Intercessory Prayer
- 45 – *The Love Of God*
- 167 – *He Loves Me*
- Lord's Supper
- Sermon – See Right Column For Outline
- 119 – *He Loves Me*
- Final Announcements
- 716 – *God Is So Good*
- Offertory & Closing Prayer
- Go In Peace, Departing To Serve In Love

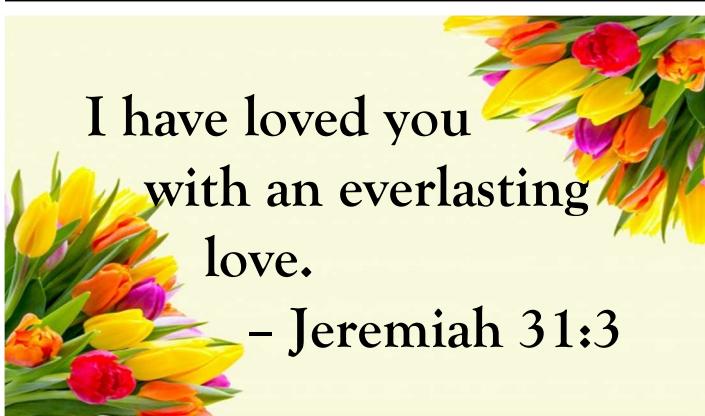
SERMON

- **THE PREACHER'S SEARCH FOR MEANING – PART TWO (ECCLESIASTES 2:1-26)**
- **SERMON SCRIPTURES**
Ecclesiastes 2:1-26; 1Kings 9:28; 10:10,14,21,27; 11:1-3; 1Kings 12:1-19; 1Timothy 6:17; Proverbs 28:8; Hebrews 11:6
- **SERMON OUTLINE**
INTRODUCTION - (1) The Search For Meaning In Life (2) His Conclusion "Grasping For The Wind" (3) So, He Looks Elsewhere
 - I. He Tested Life
 - A.What He Found
 - B.What He Did
 - C.His Conclusion
 - II. He Hated Life
 - A.Wisdom, Madness, And Folly
 - B.What Of Wealth
 - III. He Accepted Life
 - A.Seek To Enjoy The Good
 - B.Enjoyment A Gift From God

CONCLUSION - (1) The Preacher Has Introduced God (2) Until Now, He Reflected "Under The Sun" (3) God Brings Wisdom, Knowledge And Joy

• INVITATION

We are the handiwork of God's hands. – Ephesians 2:10

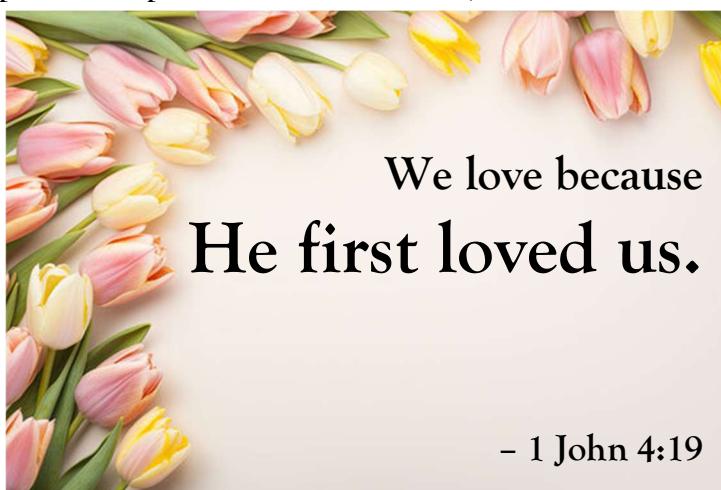


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One Bible commentator defines the word love in this passage as “a consuming passion for the well-being of others, and this love has its wellspring in God” If we want to be like God, we will care deeply about the well-being of others because God is love. Love is not only who God is but what He does: “God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him” (1 John 4:9, NLT).

We can thus claim that only those born of God’s Spirit can love in the fullness of its expression, which is sacrifice: “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters” (1 John 3:16 NIV).

We know that by human nature, due to biology, psychological and social factors, our love is selfish and conditional. We love those who love us. Love acts as a survival mechanism, fostering connections that meet personal needs of companionship and security. We love people who are sweet, kind-hearted and compassionate to us and who offer a benefit to us. But Jesus taught, “. . . Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them



We love because
He first loved us.

- 1 John 4:19

WED NIGHT STUDY

TOPIC – Righteousness – Part Two

2026 FELLOWSHIPS*

• MARCH 7 – Saturday – Picnic On The Grounds

- MAY 31 – Potluck (Ladies’ Choice)
- JULY 26 – Potluck (Ladies’ Choice)
- SEPTEMBER 27 – Potluck (L.C.)
- NOVEMBER 22 – Thanksgiving Meal
- DECEMBER 27 – New Years “Eve”

* Dates May Be Subtracted Or Other Dates Added As Our Ladies Decide To Do So.

do to you. “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that” (Luke 6:27-33 NIV).

God’s love is “agape” defined as self-sacrificing, selfless and unconditional. “Agape” loves those who don’t deserve our love, those who mistreat us, reject us, disappoint us and even hate us. And “agape” is only possible when it is born of God in our hearts. “Agape” love is of God, initiated by God: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16 ESV).

John is telling us to love one another with an agape-style love because this not just reflects, but is **how** God loves. Jesus [continued on page 6]



Father, Please Hear Our Prayer

CURRENT CONCERNS

- May The Will Of GOD, The FATHER Of LOVE, HOPE, COMPASSION, GRACE, MERCY, And RIGHTEOUSNESS Be Done On Earth As It Is In Heaven!
- *People In The U.S.A. And Around The World Who've Been Affected By Natural Disasters*
- Our Local, State & Federal Government Officials, Military, First Responders & Teachers Nourishing & Life-giving Rain
- Coronaviruses, Flues & Other Deadly Sickesses
- Civil Unrest, Racial Strife & Mass Shootings
- War, Unrest & Lack Of Peace In Other Countries
- Additional People/Situations For Which To Pray :

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
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15. _____
16. _____
17. _____

All Following entries Are By Date Order And Are Alphabetical By Last Name. A Superscripted Number In Brackets, I.E., ^[1], At The End Of An Entry Denotes How Many Weeks The Entry Has Been In The Bulletin.

FEBRUARY 15

- ◊ Brown, Colton - He's been admitted to the Audie Murphy VA hospital due to health concerns. ^[NEW]
- ◊ Cashion, Corena - Continued concerns due to her cancer. ^[NEW]
- ◊ Dwyer, Meagan [Betty Smith's granddaughter] - She's been experiencing heath issues. ^[NEW]
- ◊ McMeans, Melanie - She's been experiencing at least one migraine a month. ^[NEW]
- ◊ Moore, Sherry [Melanie McMeans' sister-in-law] - Her cancer has spread to her liver and has been upgraded from slow growing to fast growing. ^[NEW]
- ◊ Smoot, Deborah - An X-Ray taken Thursday, February 12 showed a hairline fracture of her kneecap. Unfortunately, there is nothing that can be done except to take pain medications until it heals. ^[NEW]
- ◊ Smoot, Beth [Smoot's granddaughter] - Her sister who was living in Haiti passed into eternity Tuesday, February 10. She has also started nursing school. ^[NEW]
- ◊ Strunk, Billy - He was admitted to the hospital Monday, February 9 either coughing or throwing up blood. As of Wednesday, February 11, it was determined that he had a blockage in his bowels. He was put on liquids, and his physicians were able to get the obstruction to open a little. He was released to go home where he's feeling weak. He may have to be on whole food by now. ^[NEW]

FEBRUARY 8

◊ Baily, Linzi [Ronda's niece] - She was discharged from the hospital and she'll be commencing oral (rather than IV) chemo for a 3 month period. She was also scheduled to see another doctor for a second opinion Friday, February 6. ^[01]

◊ Dygert, Harold [Melanie McMeans' uncle] - Harold (98) passed into eternity recently. ^[01]

◊ Guzman, Emily [Pat & Tom Woodard's hairdresser for many years] - She passed into eternity recently. ^[01]

◊ Last Name Unknown, Missy [Pam Flatequal's friend] - She's now under hospice care. ^[01]

◊ Renninger, Ruane - **Praise To GOD!** her back surgery on Tuesday, February 4 went well. She expected to be out of the hospital and into a rehab facility by Saturday, February 7. She's now in a rehab center and **Praise To GOD!** has been experiencing NO pain! ^[01]

◊ Smoot, Max [Roger Smoot's cousin] - **Praise To GOD!** his procedure went well. A muscle that was causing issues with his pacemaker was repaired and he was released the next day, Saturday, January 31. ^[01]

◊ Under The Weather - Vierling, Carlene; Watkins, Mitchell ^[01]

◊ Vierling, Gene - He underwent a CAT-Scan on Wednesday, February 4 and has one or more pinched nerves. His doctor said he had an old back. He'll be doing some rehab. ^[01]

◊ Villereal, Douglas [Melanie McMeans' brother-in-law] - Doug (71) passed into eternity Thursday, February 5. ^[01]

FEBRUARY 1

◊ Moved To A More Recent Date

JANUARY 25

◊ Coombs, Derek [Sarah Turner's 16-year-old cousin] - He's had swelling behind his eye and seizures. He's been in the hospital and has had surgery. ^[03]

◊ Moore, Perry [Melanie McMeans' brother] - He was sent home with home health care Monday, January 5, after his time in the hospital due to stroke. He's waiting for PT to begin. He's been trying to use a traditional rollator but with one hand not functioning he's had difficulty controlling the walking aide and has actually fallen a few times. He's going to see about a different rollator. ^[03]

◊ Sparks, Tim [Tom Woodard's son-in-law] - He's been diagnosed with Esophagogastric Junction (EGJ). ^[03]

◊ Watkins, Mitch - He's now been diagnosed with two mid-line hernias which will require surgery to correct. ^[03]

ONGOING CONCERNS

All Ongoing Concern(s) Below Will Remain For 20 Weeks. Removal Can Be Requested Earlier But Concern(s) Will Automatically Be Removed At The 21ST Week. If Someone Is Moved Off This Ongoing List And You Believe They Should Go Back On The Detailed List Above, Please Let Mitch Know.

Alderman, Kelly ^[15]; Alderman, Roy ^[12]; Andrews, Dale ^[16]; Balderrama, Matthew ^[1]; Bradley Family ^[09]; Bridgewater, Larry ^[04]; Brown, Colton family ^[04]; Brown, Diane Family ^[13]; Burris, Joyce ^[17]; Carter, Emily Family ^[08]; Cashion, Corina ^[16]; Duncan, Roberta ^[09]; Fintel, Rick ^[10]; Flatequal Family ^[10]; Flores, Carlos ^[10]; Gabehart, Tom ^[16]; Garay, Mary ^[19]; Gingerella, Ed ^[14]; Gonzalez, Joel ^[13]; Jackson, April ^[20]; Keese, Robert ^[20]; Lassen, Peter ^[14]; Lester, Bob ^[13]; Ashley Family

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[¹⁴]; McMeans, Wendell [¹⁰⁶]; Moore, Jennifer [¹⁰⁵]; Moore, Michael [²⁰]; Mr. Lowe [¹⁰⁹]; Persat, Diana [¹³]; Price, Jennifer [¹⁰⁷]; Rasmussen, Linda [¹⁴]; Renninger, Ruane's granddaughter-in-law [¹⁰⁷]; Schilling, Gene [¹⁵]; Schilling, Ina [¹⁰⁷]; Sims, Linda [¹⁰⁴]; Sisters of Oliver Flores [¹⁹]; Smith, Betty [¹²]; Smith, Jimmie (JD) [¹⁰]; Smoot, Bailey [¹⁰⁴]; Smoot, Cody & Emily [¹⁰⁸]; Smoot, Roger [¹⁷]; Smoot, Tiffany [¹²]; Sparks, Lane & Ashley [¹⁵]; Spicer, Ronda [¹³]; Street, Cris [¹¹]; Unknown Last Name, Katheryn [¹⁶]; Vierling, Gene [¹⁷]; Vierling, Scott [¹³]; Walker, Tony Family [¹³]; Weisel, Michelle [¹⁰⁹]; White, Linda [¹⁰⁴]



SCRIPTURE WORD SEARCH

2 PETER 1:4

⁴ And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.

E G H U M A N M V W M Y D E S U A C P
D S R G E L B A N E D L R O W H X G R
S I C E L T D E C N E L L E C X E L O
A B V A A T K Z V B E R U T A N K O M
A J E I P T Z D W D E S I R E S G R I
F L G C N E N O I T P U R R O C T Y S
X T G Z A E S U O I C E R P K M I I E
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instructed, “Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (John 15:12–13 NIV). God illustrated what real love – agape love – looks like by giving, serving, loving, and dying for us. He established a new benchmark, setting the bar high for how we are to love others, especially our brothers and sisters in Christ.

God decided to reveal His love to the world through the way we love others. “Love each other,” commanded Jesus. “Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples” (John 13:34–35, NLT). God’s love is made evident – it is manifest – as we love one another. The world sees the love of God expressed through the way we live our lives and love others.

“Love is of God” means that the love we show to others emanates from Him, the source. Believers can love with God’s heart “because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us” (Romans 5:5 ESV). God is the source, the fountain, the wellspring of our love for others. The love we show others mirrors God’s love for us because it flows from His heart into ours and out to others.

Brethren, have we become spiritual dwarfs because we lack love? I believe we may know the Word, we may never miss a service, we may pray fervently and we may demonstrate gifts of the Spirit. Even so, in it all we can be like Cain, offering to God the fruit of our hands and not the fruit of the Spirit. Remember our Lord said, “²⁰If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?” (1 John 4:20 NKJV). By this crucial measure, Jesus said the world could measure our status as His disciples by the degree of our love for one another. **END**

ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

Jim Gardner	Jan 30	Birthday
Rick Fintel	Feb 16	Birthday
Mitch & Betsy Watkins	Feb 22	Anniversary
Pam Flatequal	Feb 22	Birthday
Cecilia Dzielzanowski	Mar 6	Birthday
Dana Cashion	Mar 11	Birthday
Joyce Burris	Mar 12	Birthday
Mitch Watkins	Mar 12	Birthday
Abby Brown	Mar 23	Birthday



If Your Special Day Is Between Today And March 31st And You Do Not See Your Name(s) Above, Please Let Mitch Watkins Know!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

----- Church Stuff ----- Church Stuff ----- Church Stuff -----		
Generally - 4 th Or 5 th Sun, Every Other Sun	Table Fellowship Potluck Lunch - Approximately Noon To Two	
Every Thursday	Sewing Sisters (ALL Ladies Welcome!) - Meet In The Fellowship Room From Noon To 2 For Fellowship And To Sew/Craft Stuff For The Needy And Elderly	
Sun - Feb 22	In Search Of The Lord's Way - <i>Every Day With God</i>	
Sun - Mar 1	In Search Of The Lord's Way - <i>Things Jesus Will Not Do</i>	
Sun - Mar 8	In Search Of The Lord's Way - <i>God's Morals Never Change</i>	
Sun - Mar 15	In Search Of The Lord's Way - <i>Conversion</i>	
----- Non-Church Stuff ----- Non-Church Stuff ----- Non-Church Stuff -----		
Every Tue	Lytle Friendship Art Club - Meets In The Fellowship Room At 9:30AM	
Every 3 RD Mon	VFW Auxiliary - Fellowship Room At 6:30PM	
Sun - Feb 15	National ¹ Gum-Drop Day And ² I Want Butterscotch Days	
Mon - Feb 16	President's Day & National Almond Day	
Tue - Feb 17	Random Acts Of Kindness Day & National ¹ Cabbage And ² Cafe Au Lait ³ PTA Founders Days	
Wed - Feb 18	Pluto Day & National ¹ Battery And ² Crab-stuffed Flounder Days	
Thu - Feb 19	Coast Guard Reserves 85 th Birthday & Iwo Jima Day & National Chocolate Mint Day	
Fri - Feb 20	National ¹ Caregivers And ² Leadership And ³ Muffin And ⁴ Cherry Pie Days	
Sat - Feb 21	National ¹ Red Sock And ² Boiled Peanuts And ³ Sticky Bun Days	
Sun - Feb 22	National ¹ Cook A Sweet Potato And ² Walk Your Dog Days & Scouts 169 th Founder's Day	

see search
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local time
and
channel

GOD'S PLAN For Saving Man —

- ◊ **God's Grace** — Ephesians 2:8;
- ◊ **Christ's Blood** — Romans 5:9;
- ◊ **The Spirit's Gospel** — Romans 1:16;
- ◊ **Sinner's Faith** — Acts 16:31;
- ◊ **Sinner's Repentance** — Luke 13:3;
- ◊ **Sinner's Confession** — Romans 10:10;
- ◊ **Sinner's Baptism** — 1 Peter 3:21;
- ◊ **Our Work** — James 2:24;
- ◊ **Our Hope** — Romans 8:24;
- ◊ **Our Endurance** — Revelation 2:10

ARE YOU SAVED BY GOD? ASK HOW IF
YOU'RE UNSURE!

INTERACTIVE

Daily Bible Reading Plan —

To open and/or download the interactive
PDF file go to: video.wvbs.org/spotlight

DAILY Bible Reading For Edification —



OLD & NEW IN 365 —

Daily Readings From Both The Old And New
Testaments

SUN — Day 50 - Num 1-2; Mrk 3:1-21

MON — Day 51 - Num 3-4; Mrk 3:22-35

TUE — Day 52 - Num 5-6; Mrk 4:1-20

WED — Day 53 - Num 7; Mrk 4:21-41

THU — Day 54 - Num 8-10; Mrk 5:1-20

FRI — Day 55 - Num 11-13; Mrk 5:21-43

SAT — Day 56 - Num 14-15; Mrk 6:1-32

Num = Numbers | Mrk = Mark

WANT TO BE

Part Of This Local Family Of Christ Jesus?

To be identified with our Congregation (aka “place membership”): Please fill out a Visitor’s Card, making sure to check the box on front that says, “Wish To Serve In This Congregation.” Please place the completed card in the collection plate on the table in the back of the auditorium.

TOM'S DAILY Bible Reading

Sunday	2/15/2026	Genesis 15
Monday	2/16/2026	Genesis 16
Tuesday	2/17/2026	Genesis 17
Wednesday	2/18/2026	Genesis 18
Thursday	2/19/2026	Genesis 19
Friday	2/20/2026	Genesis 20
Saturday	2/21/2026	Genesis 21

MEMORIZE Scripture —

Scripture Verses

John 15:12-13 — ¹²This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

Luke 6:27-33 — ²⁷“But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. ²⁹To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either.

³⁰Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back. ³¹And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.

³²“But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.