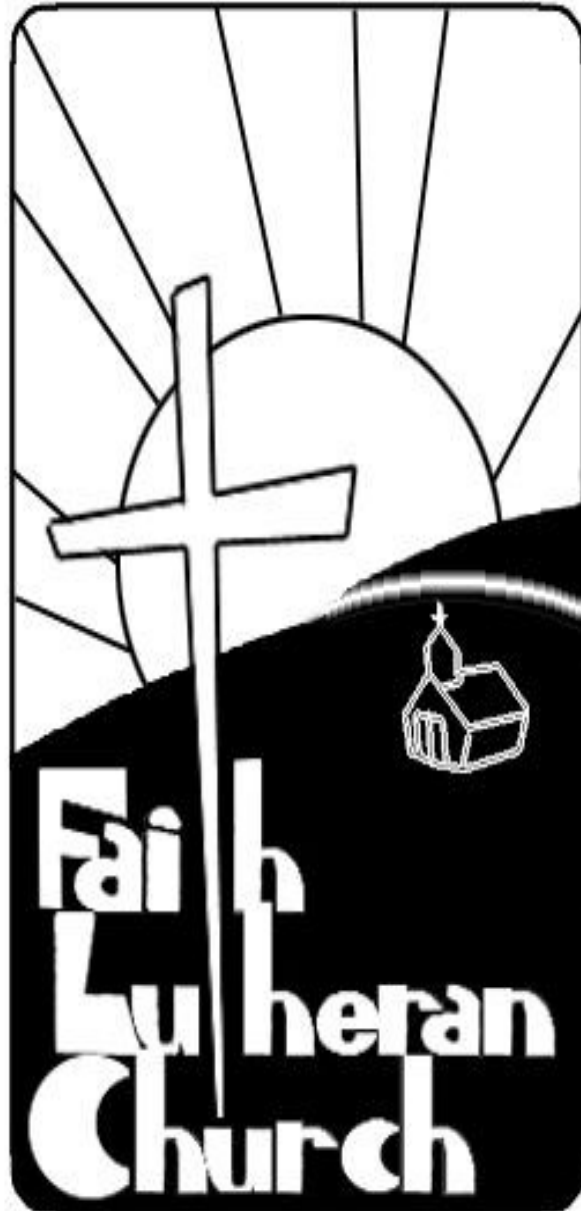


# The Grapevine

February 2019

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## Clippings from the Vinedresser

*In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and send his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4:10*



*"...the best gift we can give to our loved ones—and to everyone we meet—is to love them as Jesus loved us."*



February is the month of love. Christmas decorations have hardly been stowed away before Valentines Day hearts, cupids and chocolates appear. Why February and why the 14th day?

First, St. Valentine whose name this day honours. St. Valentine was a priest and physician in Rome in the 3rd century. During his life, the emperor, Claudius II, the Goth, persecuted Christians. Valentine worked to comfort those who suffered persecution and helped those whose family members had been put to death. For his work of love, St. Valentine was beheaded on February 14, AD 270. Oddly enough, I have never ever seen a Valentines Day card that depicts this, but admittedly, I don't scan the card racks all that closely.

This is not a story that would inspire romantic feelings and urge young lovers to declare their love for each other. There has to be more. There is.

Way back in the Medieval Age, it was commonly believed that on the middle day of February, birds chose their mates for the year. One of the first recorded linkings of St. Valentine to this practice of the birds is by English poet and nemesis of many first year university English students, Geoffrey Chaucer, in his poem, *Parliament of Foules*. He wrote, "For this was on St. Valentines day, Whan every brid cometh ther to chese his make."

Over the years February 14, St. Valentines

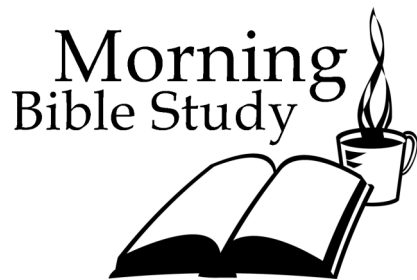
Day has been supplemented with images of cupid and his arrow, exchanges of cards, gifts, and romantic dinners. Hallmark is laughing all the way to the bank.

As Christians we do not need St. Valentine, the day in his honour, or the birds to remind us about real love. The very best example of love is Good Friday, where Jesus, God incarnate, stretched wide his arms in a loving embrace and said, "I love you this much." Wow!

Although it is nice to share a candlelight dinner in some romantic restaurant, the best gift we can give to our loved ones—and to everyone we meet—is to love them as Jesus loved us. This love is described so succinctly in 1 Corinthians 13. Paul writes to very fractured congregation: "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends." Wow!

If this is the gift we give everyday to everyone, what a world this would be. This is the gift the first St. Valentine gave as he laboured, illegally, to help those who needed him. This is the love of Mother Theresa, of those who volunteer at Gate 3:16, of those who contribute clothes and food to various drives, of those who risk their lives in the name of peace. It is the gift of those who give a cup of water in Jesus' name.

Let's remember God's love on St. Valentines Day. And may we, by reading about and following the God of Love and God's Son, Jesus Christ, be inspired to lead lives of love, Jesus style.



## Bible Study

The morning Bible Study group continues to grow. It is great to see so many of our residents joining us for the study. We grew so large that we needed to add another table to fit us all!

We are currently studying the Gospel of Matthew using N. T. Wright's study to guide us through. Progress is slow as we always find the text bringing up things that spark discussion.

If you are interested in joining us, we meet every second Tuesday, at 9:45 a.m. Bring your Bible and your thirst for growing in your understanding of God's Word.

In February we meet on the 5th and 19th. Will we see you there?

## Counters

We are looking to add to our counting team, especially for the summer months. At present, each member of the team is responsible for two months of counting during the year. Two people per team do the counting.

If you would like to be a counter please let Kathy Habec know. We sure could use your help!

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# DIRECTORY

## Faith Lutheran Ministries

We Worship Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

**Church Office** ..... 905-725-2755  
**email** ..... office@faithlutheranministries.ca  
**fax** ..... 905-576-8676

**Pastor**  
The Rev. Dennis Becker ..... 905-725-2755  
dbecker@elcic.ca

**Ministers**  
People of Faith Lutheran Church

**Faith Place Administration** ..905-576-8619  
Ray Latour, Administrator

**Support Services** ..... 905-436-1309  
Gabriele Albrecht, Manager

**Treasurer**  
Linda Fisher ..... 905-723-0291

**Faith Council**  
**Faith Council Chair:**  
Will Bachewich ..... 905-433-1606

**Vice Chair:**  
Paul Wolfenberg ..... 905-433-0265

**Secretary:**  
Leslie Morrow ..... 905-571-0845  
Ed Albrecht ..... 905-579-6803  
Vickie Goddard..... 905-432-7444  
Dayna Graham ..... 905-240-5984  
Kathy Habec ..... 905-723-6690  
Laurie Ikeda ..... 705-357-3488  
Joe Klimtschuck ..... 905-391-9213  
Andrea Leibrock ..... 905-728-4335  
Al Leibrock ..... 905-728-4335  
Wendy Ness ..... 905-576-5724  
Marty Schieman ..... 905-576-6051

**Sunday School**  
Lisa Bachewich ..... 905-433-1606

**Choir**  
Laurie Ikeda ..... 705-357-3488

**Women's Group**  
Elke Rosenau ..... 905-432-2240

**Youth**  
Tammy Becker ..... 905-720-2444

**Envelope Secretary**  
Gert Rosenau ..... 905-432-2240

### Communications Committee

**Finance Committee**  
Irvin Linkie ..... 905-723-0684

**Mutual Ministry Committee**  
Angela Hauke ..... 905- 723-3717

**Property Committee**  
Will Bachewich ..... 905-433-1606

### Program and Service Committee

**Social Committee**  
Dayna Graham ..... 289-240-5984

**Stewardship Committee**  
Vickie Goddard..... 905-432-7444



# February 2019



<b>Readers:</b> 3: Grace Klimtschuck 10: Laurie Ikeda 17: Bonnie Keates 24: Elke Rosenau	<b>Communion Set-Up:</b> 3: Laurie Molson Leslie Morrow 17: Carol Plath Joan Wood	<b>Communion Server:</b> 3: Leslie Morrow Ivy Linkie 17: Vickie Goddard Tammy Becker	<b>Coffee:</b> 3: Fellowship Hour 10: Vickie Goddard 17: Helen Linkie 24: Arlene Jacobs	<b>Counters:</b> Laurie Ikeda Charlotte Wolfenberg	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> Worship, 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour, noon	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Bible Study, 9:45 a.m. Faith Council, 6:30	<b>6</b> Choir, 6:30 p.m.	<b>7</b> Women's Group, 5:30, Club Loreley	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> Sunday School, 10:30 Worship, 10:30 a.m.	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Choir, 6:30 p.m.	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> Worship, 10:30 a.m.	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Bible Study, 9:45 a.m.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Sunday School, 10:30 Worship, 10:30 a.m.	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Choir, 6:30 p.m.	<b>28</b> Pint with Pastor, 7:00	<b>Ushers:</b> 3: Ken and Kathy Habec 10: Ray Latour, Laurie Ikeda 17: Elmer and Carol Plath 24: Ed Albrecht, Donna Jennings	

Faith Lutheran Church  
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Oshawa, ON L1J 7N6  
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