# Staying Connected





### Sunday Worship, April 21

Love in Action

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."  $\sim$  John 10:11

### Bible Study

Join us Sunday mornings at 8:30 am for Bible Study and prayer time. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## Youth Bowling

April 17<sup>th</sup> is our last night of education for the spring season. We are going bowling at the Lake Bowl. We will meet at the Lake Bowl at 5:00 pm. Bowling and dinner will be provided with Youth Funds. We will be done by 7:30 pm. Families and friends are welcome!

# Thank you, Steve!

Thank you, Steve, for filling in for Pastor Cathy while she is on vacation! Your gifts are greatly appreciated!

# Earth Day

Our planet is an amazing place! Help celebrate Earth Day by making our world a happier, healthier place to live.





### **April Birthdays:**

Matt Berg	24
Michael Mumford	24
Carmen Grangroth	24
Tom Tussing	24
Michele Berg	25
Curt Forst	26
Megan Johnson	28
Cathy Jones	29

#### **April Anniversaries:**

Dave & Maureen Hoover	21
Steve & Tami Freed	30

"I believe
in Christianity as I
believe that the sun has
risen: not only because I
see it, but because by it
I see everything else."
~ C.S. Lewis

Snow Removal:

Apr 14-Apr 20 Shaw's

Apr 21-Apr 27 Tim Berg

Apr 28-May 4 Forst's

## **Needed Prayers**



Please Pray for...

**Healing:** Rose Barberg's daughter Cheryl Paicius, Alma Robinson's grandson Chris Robinson, Mike Koeppe, Maureen Hoover, Rose Barberg & Jean Schmidt

At Cokato Manor: Reta Blanchette

Please Pray for thankfulness and joy for the lives of. . . Dave & Maureen Hoover! Lord, we thank you for Dave and Maureen and the many gifts they have bestowed on our congregation!

"If you want to be reminded of the love of the Lord, just watch the sunrise." ~ Jeannette Walls, "Half Broke Horses"

## **Looking Ahead**

- April 17 International Day of Farmers'
   Struggles; Youth Bowling event—meet at
   Lake Bowl at 5:00 pm
- April 21 4th Sunday of Easter; 8:30 9:15 am Bible Study & Prayer Time, 9:30
   am Worship, 10:30 am Fellowship
- April 22 Earth Day
- April 24 American Genocide Remembrance Day
- April 28 5th Sunday of Easter; 8:30 9:15 am Bible Study & Prayer Time, 9:30
   am Worship, 10:30 am Fellowship
- May 1 Mental Health Month begins;
   Foster Care Month begins
- May 2 National Day of Prayer
- May 3 May Friendship Day
- May 5 6th Sunday of Easter; Older
   Adult Week begins; Legacy Giving
   Sunday; National Day of Awareness &
   Action for Missing & Murdered
   Indigenous Women & Girls; 8:30-9:15 am
   Bible Study & Prayer Time, 9:30 am
   Worship, 10:30 am Fellowship

#### Devotion

#### Unfailing Love by Dr. James Merritt

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39

As humans, we all struggle with the idea of love. What is love? Will it last? Most of our problems with love arise from looking at each other. People stop loving one another for just about any and every reason. Marriages break up because; "We just don't love each other anymore." Friends fall out and quit loving each other. Parents and children turn love into hate. Most human love is limited and conditional. I love you "if" and I'll quit loving you "when."

Then we look at ourselves and we really have trouble believing that a God who is so perfect could love us who are so imperfect and that a loving God could love unlovable me because deep down we all know we are not worthy of His love.

Put simply, God's love is unlimited and God's love is unconditional. It doesn't matter what you do – God will still love you. You can desert God like the disciples did – He will still love you. You can deny God like Peter did, and He will still love you. You can doubt God like Thomas did, and He will still love you.

Think about the words in Romans 8: 38-39...nothing and no one can ever separate you from the love of God. You may be separated from your spouse, from your parents, or from your kids. You will never be separated from the love of God. You will never hear God say the words, "I don't love you anymore." This God of grace will never forsake you, never fail you, and never forget you.

Whatever struggle you are facing right now...a worry, a problem, a situation, or a heartache...God loves you. When it seems like the whole world is against you, God's faithfulness will never fail you. When sin and Satan accuse you, God's court will never condemn you. When you think nobody cares about you, God's love will never leave you.

Father, I am so grateful that no matter what I face, Your love is my constant confidence. In Jesus' name, Amen.