

Toni Talks About.....



February 2012

Valentine's Day..... A Lesson in Love

There are several opinions as to the actual origin of Valentine's Day. Some individuals believe it originated from St. Valentine, a Roman who was martyred for refusing to give up Christianity. He died on February 14, 269 A.D., the same day that had been devoted to love lotteries. Legend also says that St. Valentine left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter, who had become his friend, and signed it "From Your Valentine". Other aspects of the story say that Saint Valentine served as a priest at the temple during the reign of Emperor Claudius. Claudius then had Valentine jailed for defying him. In 496 A.D. Pope Gelasius set aside February 14 to honor St. Valentine.

The connection between St. Valentine and romance was popularized by Geoffrey Chaucer, the 14th-century English writer and poet. Later writers on the saints embellished Chaucer's story, leaving us with the Christian saint who honored marriage and sent the first Valentine's Day card.

I grew up with little knowledge of the history of Valentine's Day. It was simply a day when we did special things to express affection for our friends and family members. The "big event" occurred at school, when we made valentine boxes and exchanged valentine cards with our classmates. When I got home, I'd dump out my valentines to see if any of them included special notes from the boys in my class or any candy. (Honestly, I was happier with the candy than the notes.)

Our Valentine's Day traditions seem to be disconnected from what is stated in Luke 6:32: "If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them." In a way, my childhood Valentine's Day practice did express love like that of Jesus. We were expected to give valentines to every person in the class, including those whom we didn't necessarily care for and those we might have considered to be our "enemies" on the playground. Our valentine exchange was more a reflection of the kind of love Jesus commends in Luke 6 than it was a celebration of exclusive, romantic love.

I think it's wonderful to be reminded to express our love to those who are most special to us. If Valentine's Day encourages spouses to say "I love you" to each other and friends to commemorate their friendship, that's great. Goodness knows the world would be a better place if people expressed their love more often. But Jesus encourages us to love, not just those who love us back, but also those who do not reciprocate. All of us have such people in our lives, at work, in the local store, perhaps even in our families or our church. Our calling, as followers of Jesus, is to love them and do good to them, not in order that they might respond, but so that we might live each day as beloved, faithful children of our Heavenly Father.

Administrator's Corner

One of our goals this year is to raise the funds to purchase a new piano for the Activity Room. Pastor Deb and I have been to Leithold's Music and had a great time trying out all the cool things that digital pianos can do. We were like two kids in the candy shop. The clerk was very patient with us while we demonstrated our "musical talent" or more accurately our lack thereof!!

February 14th will kick off the fundraising activity with a "Buy a Key" campaign. Each piano key (and there are 88) can be purchased for \$32.00. You may purchase one or more keys. If you would like additional information, please contact Pastor Deb at 608-788-7489. More details will be forthcoming.

Check out the new curtains in the laundry rooms! Kudos to Marlene Cleven for volunteering her sewing skills.....

We will be offering a couple of new services in the coming months. Beginning in March with a physician's order we will perform ear washes. Janet will be providing the service and the cost will be \$20.00 and billed on your monthly invoice. You will be hearing more about this at the next tenant meeting. In addition to this service, I will be signing a contract soon with HealthDrive to provide audiology, podiatry and ophthalmology services in-house. At this time, only tenants who have straight Medicare or Health Traditions insurance are eligible. We will be discussing this further at the tenant meeting in February. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at 608-788-7489 or by email at toni.kettner@crsinc.org.

Please join me in welcoming our newest tenants Lorraine Brieske and Myron "Mike" Helgerson.

Important Dates to Remember

Breakfast "Eggs" to Order February 1 6:30 am

Valentine's Day Party February 14 2:30 pm

President's Day (First Ladies Presentation) February 20 1:30 pm

Last Day of Mardi Gras Kings Cake Dessert February 21 12:00 Noon

UWL Women's Chorale February 22 2:30 pm

Pizza Party w/ St. Joe's February 29 Sign -up 1145 am MWAL Activity Room

Happy Birthday Wishes go out to.....

Father Thomas Smith February 5

Father Thomas Finucan February 23

