



www.lcrchurch.org

February 1, 2018

Ash Wednesday Services

February 14

Noon and 7:00 PM

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Supper, 6:30 PM

Worship, 7:15 PM

Feb. 21, 28

March 7, 14, 21



Please join us on Wednesdays in the Faith Center. We will once again worship using the beautiful Holden Evening Prayer Liturgy.

**Lent Midweek Worship Offering Supports ELCA World Hunger.** During our midweek worship services we'll have another opportunity to discuss World Hunger and give to the cause through the ELCA. Table discussions and stories during dinner will focus on the people and work that ELCA World Hunger does. There will also be an opportunity to support this work financially through our offerings each Wednesday. We're challenging the congregation to raise \$5000 to end hunger along with the ELCA and hope you'll prayerfully consider helping.



Worship & Music is in **need of someone to be the Coordinator for a few of the Lenten Soup Suppers.** Duties would include: helping unlock the doors, helping with setting up the

soups and salads, making the coffee, and then making sure everything is clean and locked up. If you are able to help out on one of the Wednesdays, please contact Kathy Wood at [kheinzwood@yahoo.com](mailto:kheinzwood@yahoo.com)

## Greetings from your Interim Pastor



Greetings!

Last month I told you about the communion ware that my grandchildren gave me for Christmas. The chalice and paten have the handprints of my five grandchildren on them in various colors. This communion set has

become my favorite.

However, what I did not tell you last month is that amidst all the colors and the care and the love that was put into and on these vessels, they are also quite messy. Think about it. Five kids – aged 18 months, 2, 5, 5 and 8 years old – all trying to make an art project for their grandfather. In a pottery studio. All with paint on their hands and various other parts of their body and clothes.



Messy. A great word. It not only describes my new communion vessels, it is a great way of describing intentional interim ministry. It is messy. Things don't always turn out the color that we want. Sometimes paint drips. Sometimes parts of the process are painted on the canvas only to be painted over by other parts of the process. Timelines don't always turn out the way we want so paint dries before we want it to.

We are in a very important part of the interim process. It is messy. No one ever promised that it would not be. But the process is advancing – rapidly. And although some of us are cringing at the mess, we all need to take a step back and remember that this is God's process, not ours. In the midst of the mess, the Holy Spirit is still calling, gathering and directing us in our ministry and our lives. Please keep praying. The mess with take care of itself.

Pastor Berry

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## Snapshots of Christ Lenten Series



Each week's Gospel during Lent portrays who Jesus is in some way – almost like various snapshots from his life and ministry. We learn Jesus is God's beloved Son, a suffering leader, and a humble servant among others. Each week we will focus on who Jesus is based on the gospel, a key phrase from the gospel, and how do we follow Jesus knowing who he is. For instance, in Lent 2, Jesus depicts his death from Mark 8:31-38 and insists he needs to be a suffering leader. Knowing Jesus this way we learn through a key phrase that we need to “take up our cross and follow” Jesus. These snapshots will build upon the complexity of Jesus identity all the way to the climax of Christ's true nature revealed on Easter as the Risen Savior.

### Lent Prayer Walk

Along with this series, there is a prayer walk around campus available in the office starting **Ash Wednesday, February 14**. This prayer walk takes you through the nine gospel passages through Lent and offers an activity during each as you walk through campus. This is similar to the Catholic's Stations of the Cross guided meditations. We encourage you to plan an hour to engage in this half-mile prayer walk during Lent. Stop by the office for the handout prior to your walk.

### “SKETCHINGS” from Pr Tom O. Miller



*“LET THE WATERS FLOW”*

When we visit our Florida family we usually use the occasion to visit Wakulla Springs State Park. Wakulla Springs, just a few miles outside Tallahassee, is one of the world's largest and deepest fresh water springs. The water in the spring is a constant 70 degrees. The main bowl of the spring covers nearly 3 acres and is over 100 feet deep. The spring puts forth some 11,000 gallons of water per second—right, per second—and apparently has been doing so for some 15,000 years. The water from the spring is sufficient to be the beginning of a fair sized river that runs on to the Gulf of Mexico. At the right time of the year, before the algae blooms, one can see clearly enough into the spring bowl to identify a few fossilized mastodon bones resting on the bottom. Geologically speaking the springs rest in a pre-Ice Age sinkhole connected to a massive aquatic cave system that is over 300 feet deep and extends well beyond the boundaries of the 6,000-acre park.

While the numbers are helpful, they simply cannot communicate the sheer size of this natural wonder. I do not have words to express what it is like to see a spring (there is no “bubbling” that we usually think of) of about a billion gallons of water per day coming into a “pool” that is large enough to encompass a big portion of the Resurrection campus. It is truly a phenomenal experience.

Standing beside this spring bowl, taking a boat ride along the river, always moves me to think about the “spring” of the love and grace of our God. I remember the image of springs of “living water” that Jesus speaks of as he sits beside the well at Sychar Samaria (John 4). I think about my baptism and my daily life.

You see, God blesses our lives (individually and collectively) with the same kind of abundance as the Wakulla Springs. God's blessing is as constant and predictable. As regular and as long lasting. As life giving and as overwhelming. As deep and satisfying as the waters of this phenomenal spring.

Every day, every breath, every movement, every joy, every sorrow, every ability, every experience that we enjoy is because of the grace of God. Every forgiveness, every spiritual gift, every spiritual insight is because of the ever flowing grace of God.

Furthermore, as the Resurrection community of faith, God's grace flows through us into acts of compassion and service, ministry and mission. God's abundance is shared in life giving and life changing expressions of God's love.

Friends, as we move into the exciting days ahead. As we move toward Easter. As we move deeper into our interim time. I'm looking to being deeply attentive to God's abundance and God's grace revealed in constant and eternal love.

I trust that you'll join me in finding ways to be immersed in God's abundance, and in thankful living in God's grace.

T. O. M.

### Mark Your Calendar to Attend!

Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, Dr. James Abshire, a Christian physician, who wrote a book titled **Live, Love and Let Go: A Doctor's Insightful Approach to Living and Dying** will speak in the Fellowship Hall following 11:00 a.m. worship.



Dr. Abshire wrote his book in 2008 after years of seeing patients encounter life's stressors and in particular, dealing with death. He felt the need to give people a positive, tactical approach to life and death that could not be accomplished in an office visit to a doctor. In 2010, Dr. Abshire gained new insight when he was given his own terminal diagnosis of lymphoma. Dr. Abshire is an engaging speaker who provides tools to make positive informed choices. He offers a positive, practical and spiritual approach to the most difficult phases of life for us and those we love and care for.

**A light lunch will be served** at noon and reservations will be taken for planning purposes. Contact Director of Shared Ministry, Karen Idler, at 916-791-4661 ext. 225 or [Karen@lcrchurch.org](mailto:Karen@lcrchurch.org) to make your reservation.

## Adult Faith Formation

### Social Statement on Women and Justice

The ELCA is preparing a social statement on women and justice to be considered by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. A draft of this statement is currently being studied by congregations. We, at Resurrection, will be reviewing the draft and discussing our responses **Sunday mornings at 9:30 in Room 5-6, Feb. 25, Mar. 4, and Mar. 11.** The discussion will be facilitated by Connie Losk.

The document was prepared by the ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice: One in Christ. It is an invitation to discern what this church should teach about contemporary issues related to sexism and patriarchy in our society.

ELCA social statements are teaching and policy documents that assist members in forming judgments and in guiding action on social issues. They set policy for this church, guide advocacy efforts, and support its public voice. This statement calls us to "...commit ourselves to the continual work of prayer, learning, reflection, discernment, and action to resist patriarchy and sexism..."

During the three sessions, we will review: our common foundation and core convictions, as analysis of patriarchy and sexism in society and our church, resources for resisting, and call to action in society at large and in our church. The draft statement on Women and Justice is available on the ELCA website ([www.elca.org/womenandjustice](http://www.elca.org/womenandjustice)).

### Helping Hands for February

*"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink."* Matthew 25:35



For many people in our greater community, making it to the end of the month is tough, and money can only be stretched so far. Many rely on our local food banks to provide essentials to feed themselves and their families. And those food banks rely on generous donations to fill their shelves to meet these needs. During the month of February we will collect non-perishable foods to support three local food banks – **Placer Food Bank, Orangevale Food Bank and the Sunrise Christian Food Closet.** These food banks provide food to single mothers, families, and seniors who are in need. These people all appreciate having someone assist them when they are hungry and down on their luck. All non-perishable foods are needed, especially canned fruits, macaroni and cheese, canned chili, canned meals, boxed cereals, and canned meats such as tuna. It's as simple as picking up a labeled grocery bag in the Narthex or Faith Center, filling it up, and bringing the bag back! Help us fill those shelves!

**Thanks to you** we collected **63 pairs of pajamas** to donate to the Mattress Firm pajama collection in January. Something so simple means so much to foster kids. The pajamas will go to foster children in our area.

**T-Shirt Dresses** – Recently, t-shirt dresses have been sent to orphanages in Nicaragua and Mexico, Bangladesh, the Caribbean Islands, Idaho and to Lutheran Social Services in Sacramento. Many thanks to those who donate t-shirts and material. Thank you to the dress makers!!



### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

by Tanda Ainsworth



Several people at Resurrection have been making prayer shawls, which we have to give to those in our Church community going through a difficult time. Prayer shawls are distributed by individuals visiting the sick, communion servers taking communion to shut-ins and by Meal Ministry.

My grandmother taught me how to knit when I was 8 years old, and I have been knitting ever since. I have always found it to be relaxing. For me knitting has become a doorway into compassion. I have learned that knitting and crocheting is much like doing Centering Prayer, which is a delightful meditation practice. I received an email from neuroscientists who studied brains of those who knit and crochet compared to those who meditate regularly, and it was found that the brains looked the same. I was invited by the neuroscientists to take yarn, knitting needles and crochet hooks to hospitals and care facilities and to teach people there how to knit or crochet as that will take their minds off any pain and suffering.

A few months ago I received a letter from a priest in Chicago Illinois who has rescued 140 children who have been abused and made homeless. He has a special home for them. When I asked him if he would like prayer shawls for them, he said that would be a gift from God. We have sent several, and he told me the children love them. He is now rescuing more children and so we will make more than 140 prayer shawls for those children. I would invite anyone who wants to make prayer shawls to join our Prayer Shawl Ministry. **We meet the first Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.** I have simple patterns for knitting and crocheting prayer shawls.

### The Work of Priceless Purls Continues

Sixty-seven hats were distributed in January to local hospitals. In December, these knitters and crocheters provided:

- 116 hat and scarf sets for the Christmas Baskets that were distributed by Lutheran Social Services,



- 34 hats to Roseville Kaiser Oncology,
- 16 children's hats to Roseville Kaiser Pediatric Specialties,
- 17 hats to Sutter Roseville Infusion Center,
- 50 baby hats to Sutter Roseville Family Birthing Center
- 34 prayer shawls to the Mercy Home for Boys and Girls in Chicago

So, on **Monday, February 5, at 10:00 a.m.**, we once again continue God's work with our hands. We'll start by sorting and packaging completed hats in the Fellowship Hall. Room 7 will be set up for anyone who wants to work on prayer shawls or needs any assistance with a work in progress or how to start something new. Patterns and yarn are available

If you can't join us finished hats, scarfs, prayer shawls, etc. can be dropped off in the Church Office or Fellowship Hall closet.

### Children's Ministry Happenings

**PLAY and PRAY PACKAGES** for February will be ready for pick up beginning February 4 at the Children's Ministry Greeting table in the Faith Center! Parents or Grandparents, come get your family a gift bag and have fun together discovering what's inside! Each month there is a new "something" to together have fun with, a Bible theme or story to think about, and suggestions for a creative way to pray as a family. It's a new project from Children's Ministry to give families simple ways grow their relationship with God and with each other.



**COMMUNION PREPARATION CLASS** for elementary-aged children (1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade) will be offered on a Sunday late winter/early spring. This is an opportunity for parents (or grandparents) to learn and explore the stories



and images of Communion and why we make this ritual part of our weekly worship. If you are interested in being notified of the details once they are available, email [Adriana](mailto:Adriana). Also let her know if you'd be interested in a different experience more suitable for preschoolers or kindergarteners.

**ROLLING RIVER RAMPAGE VBS** will be an amazing summer week of fun, friends and faith-building **June 18-22**. This is a time that kids, teens and adults look forward to all year, and is a great way of serving our neighbors. Early



planning and lots of helpers makes your Children's Ministry Director very happy! Please consider and pray over how you can be a part, and let [Adriana](mailto:Adriana) know your interest in supporting the camp.

### Youth Group News!



**Saturday, February 24**

**5:30 pm - 9:30 pm**

**Resurrection Faith Center**

**Garlic and Goodies Tickets - Now On Sale!**

Purchase online at [www.lcrchurch.org](http://www.lcrchurch.org) or between Services, starting January 21<sup>st</sup>, outside of the service. Registration deadline is February 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Dinner - Silent & Live Auction - Music - Entertainment**

Enjoy tasty Italian cuisine served with fine wines and support LCR youth attending the 2018 National Youth Gathering. Auction items will be on display including enjoyable weekend getaways, unbelievable prizes and gourmet cooked cuisine for 4. There's a likelihood of seeing Pastor Ralph in a tuxedo! Free childcare provided on site.

**Table Sponsorships \$600, \$400 & \$250 a table, \$25 Tickets**

Auction Item Donation questions: Lisa, Auction Chair, at (916) 899-9589 or [crystalbob32@att.net](mailto:crystalbob32@att.net). Questions: 916-791-4661 or [ht@eventswebpage.com](http://ht@eventswebpage.com)

### Notes from Dee Dee



We welcome the Resurrection Brass for our traditional Sunday services on **February 4th!**

You may have noticed a familiar face at the organ recently. **Jane Anderson** is back in town and we're thrilled that she is making time in her schedule to provide organ music for 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. services when she is available. She will be at the organ again at both traditional services on Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

**As we approach the Lenten Season**, we look for musical opportunities to enrich our worship experiences. We will be conducting Holden Evening Prayer services during Lent again this year using composer Marty Haugen's 30th Anniversary Edition of Holden Evening Prayer, which provides instrumental music enhancements and additional Psalm settings to complement his already beautiful original musical setting. We hope that you will join us for the 5-week Lenten series, which begins at 7:15 p.m. on **Wednesday, February 21st** in the Faith Center, following food and fellowship with a Soup Supper at 6:30 p.m. Join us!

**Daylighters in February** will be on Tuesday, **February 27**. Lunch will be served at Oakmont of Roseville, Senior Living Facility at 12:00 p.m. No charge. Tours will be available to those interested.

Please let the person calling you, or Sue Ellen Williams (916-899-5239), know if you will be attending. We need as accurate count as possible.

Oakmont of Roseville - 1101 Secret Ravine Pkwy  
Roseville.

## Let Yoga spring you into Spring



Join our class on Thursdays from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. You will learn healthy modified exercises emphasizing balance and flexibility while connecting body, mind and spirit. Instruction in both chair and mat Yoga are provided by Theodora Wilner who has inspired us to health for three years. Our class operates on six- week sessions costing \$40 per six-week session with a discount to \$25 per session for travelers who miss three or more classes. Your first class is free to help you discover the pleasure of Yoga and the camaraderie of the class. Call Kay Valler at (916)791-1001 for additional information.

## For All the Saints

### Youth Gathering Profile, by Karen Murbach



Every three years, as many as 30,000 young Lutherans gather in a city often far from home for the ELCA National Youth Gathering. They spend several days learning more about their faith and purpose. They also put those lessons to practical use going out into the community and serving alongside the residents of their host city. This year, 11 young women from Resurrection will travel to Houston, TX in the end of June for the event.

The event theme “This Changes Everything” is especially apt for the all-girl contingent this year. As women around the world are finding their voice and purpose, these 11 teens will step out boldly to serve others and learn more about their unique place in the God’s Plan.

The theme refers to Ephesians 2:8 where we hear, “By grace you have been saved.” The message of this year’s Youth Gathering is that every one of us is good enough, smart enough and strong enough because of what Christ has done and we’re called into the world to use our gifts to serve our neighbor and share the good news.

The young women of Resurrection want the world to know they’re more than ready for the challenge.

Returning 2015 Youth Gathering participants **Sami Larsh, Jacquelyn Laskey, Aika Msechu, Emily Schnell, Sophia Duerre** and **Crystal Moreno**, will be joined on the adventure by **Alessandra Tanfani, Gabriela Biageti, Clara Laskey, Naomi and Anna Dasari**. These girls are widely different in age, interests and experience but united in purpose.

“We’re not afraid to dig in and get our hands dirty to help people in need,” Jacquelyn Laskey said.

The returning members of the group look forward to The Gathering with eager anticipation. Their experience in Detroit in 2015, lit a fire in them that burns just as bright today. “My favorite part of the last Youth Gathering was the service day and that’s what I’m most looking forward to this time,” Jacquelyn added.

“I’m really looking forward to hearing from the speakers this year. Everyone we heard in Detroit was amazing,” Emily Schnell said.

The element of adventure also plays a big part in the Gathering experience. First-timer Alessandra Tanfani is wide-eyed with excitement over the opportunity to travel with friends, seeing new places and meeting new people.

“I think it’s awesome that a bunch of girls are going to the Youth Gathering. I think it’ll be a lot of fun traveling together. I think it’ll be cool to be in a big group talking about faith and hearing other people’s stories and hearing other people preach,” she said.

In the spirit of mentorship, the returning participants offered some sage advice for their uninitiated companions.

“Don’t go into this with expectations. It’ll be more than you could ever imagine, different than you could imagine.”

Their second bit of wisdom was a bit more practical, “Get as much sleep as you can, when you can, and make smart choices with your food money each day.” For the seniors in the group, there’s a touch of nostalgia. “It’s different this year because I know what to expect, so I’m more excited. But because I’m a senior it’ll be my last church trip with everyone I grew up with,” Sami Larsh said.

We have the pleasure of watching faith blossom and grow in these amazing girls. As they prepare for this next step in their journey we wish them Godspeed.

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**FOR ALL THE SAINTS** features stories of the lives of Resurrection members some of whom, for a variety of reasons, are no longer able to worship with us. We hold these saints in our thoughts and corporate prayers and reading about them is one way our entire community can get to know them also! Thanks to our interviewers, **John Frith and Karen Murbach**, who contact and set up interviews and write the newsletter articles.

Contact Karen Idler, Director of Shared Ministry, if you have a person you would like to have interviewed FOR ALL THE SAINTS at [karen@lcrchurch.org](mailto:karen@lcrchurch.org) or phone the church office at 916.791.4661 ext. 225.

## Words of Appreciation



**The Marvis Smith family** would like to thank all of the members of Resurrection for their cards, letters, thoughts and prayers and the ongoing support over the last three years as Marvis battled her illness. She loved the church and was very blessed to have so many friends here.

## News from your Property Ministry Team

### Property Ministry Team Meeting Time is changed:

As I reported last month the Property Ministry Team has changed our normal meeting time from second Friday of the month at 9:00 a.m. to the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. We made this change to encourage those of you who are working to be able to attend our meeting.

Our first meeting at this new time found no new members in attendance. The Team suggested that if the time change does not encourage new participation, that we would move the meeting back to Friday at 9:00 a.m. Because of Ash Wednesday, and the Lent Season leading to Easter, we have to push our next meeting to the 16<sup>th</sup> of February at 9:00 a.m. We will begin again our new meeting time after Easter, or April 11<sup>th</sup>. Now that I have you totally confused, please call Team leader at 916-855-3324 for more information.



“God’s Work our Hands”  
Ed Babcock, Chair

## St. Olaf Choir Concert

**Music Lovers!** The world famous St Olaf Choir is coming to Sacramento on **February 6**. Below is the link to their concert at Mondavi Center. Get tickets early for best seats! Tickets now on sale through Mondavi Center. <https://wp.stolaf.edu/stolaf-choir/>

## Resurrection Readers – New Reads!



On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month our book club meets in the library at 2:00 p.m. Contact Beryl Bakken at 916-791-1582. **Please join us!**

### Here’s what’s coming up:

- Feb. 15** The Underground Railroad, Colson Whitehead
- Mar. 15** Lilac Girls, Martha Hall Kelly
- Apr. 19** Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus, Nabeel Qureshi



**We have encountered some problems this quarter with many people not receiving their contribution envelopes.** Since we are almost halfway through the quarter, please just use a pew envelope or your check and remember to write your number on it. I apologize for the problem, but hope next quarter will be okay. Thanks. Darlene Reber

## Community Activities at Resurrection

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection has long been the center of community activities in Granite Bay.

### Here’s what’s happening in February:

- **AA** meets each Tuesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday each week in the Fellowship Hall. Times vary.
- **Al Anon District 10** meets Sunday, February 18 at 2:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- **American Association of University Women** meets Wednesday, February 7 at 3:00pm and on Tuesday, February 20 at 10:30am in the Carlson Library.
- **Boy Scout Patrol Leader (PLC) and Assistant Scout Master (ASM)** meet Tuesday, February 13 at 7:00pm in various classrooms.
- **Boy Scout Board of Review (BOR) and Troop 121 Patrols** meet Thursday, February 8 and 22 in the Fellowship Hall and various classrooms.
- **Daughters of Norway** meet Saturday, February 3 at 2:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Granite Bay Football Club** meets Monday-Friday on the soccer field for practice. Times vary.
- **Granite Bay High School Basketball Fundraiser** is held Saturday, February 3 at 6:00pm in the Faith Center.
- **Los Lagos HOA** will meet Tuesday, February 27 at 4:30pm in classrooms 5 & 6.
- **Mankind Project** meets each Wednesday at 6:30pm in Classroom 10.
- **National Charity League, Granite Bay Chapter**, meets Monday, February 26 at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Nor Cal Children’s Chorus** meets on Thursday, February 1, 8, 15 and 22nd at 4:15pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Nor Cal Children’s Chorus Board of Directors** meets on Thursday, February 1 at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Northern California Accordion Society** meets Wednesday, February 7 at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.



## Shared Ministry Matters



### From the Director of Shared Ministry, Karen Idler

Resurrection church groups are encouraged to begin our meetings and other gatherings with a brief devotion. Groups may choose a devotion for themselves or use the devotion provided in the monthly newsletters. This month's group devotion is by Brenda Satrum, Pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, Hamilton, Montana.

#### 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

“Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup> Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup> but anyone who loves God is known by God.

<sup>4</sup> Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” <sup>5</sup> Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords— <sup>6</sup> yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

<sup>7</sup> It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup> “Food will not bring us close to God.”<sup>[a]</sup> We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup> But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup> For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup> So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>12</sup> But when you thus sin against members of your family,<sup>[c]</sup> and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup> Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling,<sup>[d]</sup> I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them<sup>[e]</sup> to fall.

#### Knowledge Puffs Up, But Love Builds Up

I fear that my "knowledgeable," puffed-up words and deeds have sometimes blown others out of the water. I know good people who no longer attend church because Christians so often seem small and mean to them. I am complicit.

We are fully held in the love of God no matter what we do or say: "Food will not bring us close to God." What we eat, drink, wear, watch, read, say and even believe will not drive God away. However, everything

we do and say influences our ability to love God and build up others.

**PRAYER:** God, give us humble hunger to let your love renovate our lives. Let us shape our words and deeds that you might build up your love in us and our congregation and community and we might build up love in others. Amen.

**January Average Attendance 300**

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