

Twin Cities Christian

NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of Riverview Park Christian Church **MAY 2024**

2929 Niles Road, St. Joseph MI 269.429.0700 www.riverviewparkchristianchurch.com Follow us on FACEBOOK!

A MOTHER'S LOVE



When I think of the month of May, I think of geraniums. They were one of my mother's favorite flowers, and we would bring them to her for Mother's Day most years. The geranium red looked nice sitting on her white porch.

It was a small thing to do, considering how much she gave me - the gift of life and a lifetime of love. Like most people, I didn't appreciate all my parents did for me until I became a parent, and that full picture of their love - of my mother's love - is still developing now that I've also become a grandparent like her.

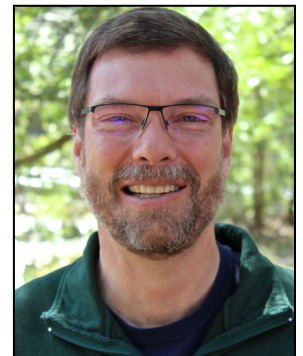
I think that's true with a lot of the love we experience in our lives. We realize the impact it has on us, and our gratitude for that love, in small stages and steps. Then, one day it really hits us, and we understand more fully what the love of someone in our lives has done for us.

That may be what the Apostle Paul meant when he wrote these words in his first letter to the Church at Corinth:

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child;

*when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.
(1 Corinthians 13:11-13)*

As we go through life, we discover all the ways love has shaped us. That begins with our mothers, but it can also continue with other women who have had a profound impact on us in the ways they have cared for us... sisters, grandmothers, teachers, friends, and women who have served as role models for us.



All these women can express the feminine side of love, including the feminine side of Divine Love.

Jesus referred to this kind of love when he said of the city of Jerusalem: "How often have I longed to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings." (Luke 13:34) God is love, and if that's true, then God's love can be like that of

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a mother, human or otherwise! And just like with human love, we spend our whole lives coming to know better and better the love of God for us.

May and Mother's Day are sacred opportunities to remember the women who have given us the gift of love, whether for a moment or a lifetime. Perhaps you're one of those women who has given that gift to others. If so, thank you for your generosity of spirit and the way you have modeled Divine Love for others.

My mom passed away six years ago, so I won't be able to bring her geraniums this year, but I can pass along her gift of love to the people in my life, and for that I am grateful. Happy Mother's Day to all the women who have nurtured the life of others. I hope you take a moment to be kind to yourself and rest in the love of God.

*Peace in Christ,
Pastor Dan Robinson*

Sunday, May 4 Pastor Dan/No Brad/Pastor Dan will play the guitar!
Sunday May 12 Pastor Dan/Hebe Soares, Pianist
Sunday, May 19 Pastor Dan/Hebe Soares, Pianist
Sunday, May 26 Pastor Dan on Vacation.
NO WORSHIP SERVICE! Potluck Picnic (inside) at the church! 11AM



MEMORIAL DAY POTLUCK CELEBRATION

**Sunday, May 26
11 AM**

THERE WILL NOT BE WORSHIP SERVICE THIS DAY.
(Pastor Dan will be on vacation.)

Picnic style! Please bring a dish to pass.
Hot dogs, condiments, beverages
and serving ware provided.

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS



PRAYERS FOR HEALTH:

OUR CHURCH FAMILY— Prayers for Chris Ashley, Glenn Chapman, and Ken Stover.

Please continue to keep Frank and his family in your prayers.

PRAYERS FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY:

- Chris Ashley's daughter, Jackie, as she continues to battle cancer.
- Fred Wagoner, June Stover's brother.
- Dale's friend from Niles Harding's who has breast cancer.
- Tom's friend, Abe, who has liver disease.
- Continued prayers for Dan's sister-in-law Anna who had surgery.
- Dale's sister-in-law, Sherry, who recently had a liver transplant.
- Dale's friend Emily who's dealing with seizures.
- For the mother of a co-worker of Tom Brady, who has leukemia and dementia.
- For all who are grieving.
- In celebration of Hunter on his recent graduation!
- Prayers for the family of Nicole, a friend of Kay's who lost her battle with cancer.
- Prayers for Kay's beloved pet.
- For all the victims of the tornadoes this weekend in Nebraska, Oklahoma, Iowa, and throughout the U.S.
- Continued prayers for peace in Gaza, Israel and throughout the Middle East.

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped out with the Memorial Service for our beloved Peggy Alsup...

Happy Birthday!

Tom Brady May 30

Chuck Gustine May 31



Happy Anniversary!

Scott and Kathy Karsten May 14



Accompanying the Struggling and Hurting

by Global Ministries | published on Apr 5, 2024

Written by: Rev. Victor Makari and Sara Makari, who serve the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land

Dear Friends,

We hope you are doing well and are fulfilled in your lives and work.

Since the 7th of October 2023 we are living a surreal existence. The Israeli assault on Palestinians in Gaza, now in its fifth month, amounts to ethnic cleansing. Israel and the US continue to reject international efforts to bring about a ceasefire. With the world's attention focused primarily on Gaza, violence across the occupied West Bank and in the region is spreading and intensifying weekly. Beyond the Gaza Strip, which is devastated and destroyed, and whose remaining population is in dire need of food and all manner of humanitarian assistance, the crisis has reached most of the West Bank, as well as Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Yemen.

Despite occasional suggestions to tone things down, the U.S. has made it clear that it supports Israel unconditionally. The U.S. has given it full backing diplomatically and with funding to conduct its military campaign at will. While we are still largely safe in Bethlehem, multifaceted tragedy abounds.

The general atmosphere around us is depressed. There is no tourism and no talk of it returning in the near future. Those Palestinians who used to have permission to work in Israel are now at home idle living on ever dwindling savings, if they had them. Nothing on the horizon looks hopeful or promising and Israel's far-right government keeps tightening restrictions on Palestinians although for years a percentage of them have been part of the workforce that has kept Israel's economy going. Understandably, in the face of all these factors, there is much despair.

Our own ministry with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) remains one primarily of accompaniment to buttress and support its work; there are six congregations in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Jordan.



Although daily life is greatly constricted by the current circumstances and we are largely confined (as foreigners however, we can get in and out of Jerusalem again, 8 kilometers away, albeit with some difficulty). We perceive our call to walk alongside those who are struggling and hurting.

With this letter we request you, our readers, to pray first for the cessation of warring confrontation and for finding and pursuing a path of peace toward a just and permanent resolution to a decades-long conflict. Pray for the faithful witness of the Church, for the courage of our neighbors and friends, and for all the peoples of both Israel and Palestine to discover a way forward of mutual and beneficial coexistence.

We thank you for your prayers and support for our work with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land over the years.

Cordially, in Christ,

Victor and Sara Makari



LIVING FULL *by Danielle Sherman-Lazar*

A mom will always love you more—
than your partner,
than your closest friends,
than you love her,
than anyone.

Because those people, yes, they do love you a lot,
maybe even “so much,”

but a mother’s love is incomparable.
Because it’s a different kind of love.

It’s a love that prioritizes your well-being above her own,
a love that’s loud and so strong that, at times, she aches,
a love that changes with your needs, but it’s always there.
It’s a love that protects and supports.

Because she fell in love with you when you were just a thought
before she even met you, before, you were a small baby who fit on
her chest.

And that kind of love that loves unconditionally is powerful.

Because no one else in this entire world will love you like that.

So, you can’t love more than a mom, and you won’t understand
until you become one.



“Your loving *Spirit* helped me find my own.”

CONTACT US!

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WORSHIP: Sun., 10:30am **EMAIL:** riverviewparkchristianchurch@gmail.com

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