

Living Word *Christian Church*

JULY 2022 NEWSLETTER |
LANGLEY B.C. |

What's Happening at LWCC

July 16

Annual Church Picnic
Walnut Grove Community Park at 10 am
Potluck, games and fellowship. Invite your friends and family!

July 17

Combined Worship Service with Willoughby Church
NO 1:30pm service.
We will be meeting at 10 am, see you bright and early!

July 31

Midyear Congregational Meeting
After our worship service
Get updated on LWCC's ministries for the first half of 2022!

August 12-14

Annual Church Family Camp
It's that time of year again so mark your calendar!

Exodus 20:1-3
And God spoke all these words saying, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me..."

Want to know what's happening in LWCC's ministry groups?

Check out our socials!

Instagram: [lwchurch_](#)

Facebook: [Living Word Christian Church](#)

Website: [lwchurch.ca](#)

Youtube: [Living Word Christian Church Langley](#)

Pastor's Corner

No Love Like It by Pastor Brad

There are many kinds of love, or expressions of love. Think of people who experience *puppy love*; or people who *love* their cars; or *love* money; or *love* food; or *love* themselves. These kinds of love are popular, but ultimately they are not very profound, noble, or satisfying. There are better kinds of love and expressions of love.

A group of children were once asked, "What does 'love' mean?" Here are some sample answers:

- Rebekah, 8, said, "When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time – even when his hands got arthritis, too. That's love."
- Bobby, 7, said, "Love is what's in the room at Christmas, if you stop opening presents and listen."
- Tommy, 6, said, "Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well."
- Cindy, 8, said, "During my piano recital, I was on a stage, and I was scared. I looked at all the people watching me, and I saw my daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that. And I wasn't scared anymore."
- Billy, 4, said, "When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth."

Even at four years of age, Billy knows that when someone really loves you, that is a special kind of love and you just know that you are safe. Everyone us is deeply loved by God and there is no love like God's love. God's love is incredible, faithful, invincible, unconditional, and real. The Apostle John says in 1 John 4.8 and 16 that "God is love." There is no god like God and there is no love like God's love. He doesn't have to be motivated to love. God doesn't have to learn how to love. He doesn't have to work at maintaining or keeping love. Love is the very substance and nature of God. To say that God is love implies that all his activity is loving activity. If he creates, he creates in love. If he rules, he rules in love. If he disciplines, he disciplines in love. If he judges, he judges in love. If he helps, he helps in love. If he protects, he protects in love. If he says your name he says it with love.

You and I have to learn how to love. You and I have to practice loving others. But God simply loves. His nature is to love. This means that he loves every girl and boy, every woman and man. He just does. You don't need to and you can't earn his love by being good or holy. You can't destroy his love by being bad or sinful. God just loves you and there is no love like it. In Jeremiah 31.3 we read "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with lovingkindness."

Even though God loves us with an everlasting love, we often miss out on experiencing that love because we commit sinful deeds or have bad attitudes or evil thoughts that make us run away and hide from God. When we do wrong things, our pride, or our shame, or our embarrassment prevents us from experiencing God and his love. King David knew this, and so in Psalm 51.1-2 he prayed: "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin."

Thankfully, and wonderfully, God responds to this kind of prayer. God loves us so much that he made a way to blot out all of our mistakes, all of our transgressions, all of our sins. God loved the world; he loved you and me so much that he sent Jesus. Jesus died on the cross and took the penalty for our sins. If we believe on him and ask forgiveness for our sins, we will be forgiven and we will experience God's love. God's love is like no other. It is incredible, faithful, invincible, unconditional, and real. When you ask for forgiveness, you become a friend or a child of God. When you become a friend of God through a relationship with Jesus, you can trust God to be with you and to help you every day of your life, revealing and confirming his love for you.

A few weeks ago I used this illustration in my sermon. I think it's worth repeating. A man is walking along a narrow path somewhat haphazardly. He suddenly slipped over the edge of a cliff, but luckily, as he was falling he grabbed a branch growing from the side of the cliff. Realizing he couldn't hang on for long, he cried out "Help! Is anybody up there?"

"Yes, I'm here!" "Who's that?" "It's God." "God, please help me!" "Do you trust me?" "I trust you." "How much?" "I trust you completely God." "Good. Let go of the branch." "What???" "I said, 'let go of the branch.'" After a long pause, "Hey, is anybody else up there?"

Do you trust God when you are hanging on for dear life? Do you trust God when facing precarious circumstances? Do you trust God in the middle of uncertainty? Do you trust God when you are filled with doubt? If you will remember that God loves you with a love like no other kind of love then you will be able to trust him completely. Are you willing to let go and trust him with your life? Or are you still looking for a different way of escape from the trouble, uncertainty or unhappiness in life? Are you ignoring God's love for you? Do you trust in an inferior love – such as love of money, or love of power, or love of self – to lift you to a seemingly more secure foothold? These will not ultimately save you or satisfy you.

Trust God and give your life over to him daily because he loves you with an incredible, faithful, invincible, unconditional, and real love. There is no love like it. If you are facing difficulties or doubts in life, just let go. God loves you. Trust God and ask him to surround you with his love because there is no love like God's love. Your name, your life is safe with him.

