

FEBRUARY 2015

Pastor's Pondering

Dear Berlin Center and LeValley UMC,

Like it or not every believer in Christ is faced with spiritual warfare. This Lenten journey with God's help, let us focus on gaining a greater victory over the works of the devil that affect us and the works of our own carnal nature that wars against the things of God. The Bible says, **Eph. 6:10-20**

The Whole Armor of God

"A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike.

I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should." HBNLT

Yes, the devil is a powerful foe and this fallen angel and his demonic army attacks believers in many ways. We should never underestimate what the devil is up to as far as thinking that because we have faith in Christ we are free and clear of all the unspiritual attacks of the enemy. The Apostle Peter says, **1 Peter 5:8-11**
"Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are. In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation. All power to him forever! Amen."

Standing firm in the faith means that we do not waffle in our faith in Christ when our lives are under attack by our enemy that comes to kill, steal and destroy. Jesus warned us in **Mt 10:28** **"Don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell."**

Continued....

Church Service Times

Berlin Center Church

9:00 AM

LeValley Church

11:00 AM

Check out our websites:

Levalleychurch.org

Berlincenterchurch.org/

Our Purpose:

To **TRANSFORM**
the world by
REACHING OUT
to lost people in
JESUS NAME and
DEVELOPING
them into
MATURE
FOLLOWERS of
JESUS CHRIST.

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Berlin Center

& LeValley

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Pastor's Pondering Continued

The enemy likes to try to place a spirit of fear upon people that puffs up the devil's work to make it look greater and more powerful than God's work in the world and in the believer. Keep in mind that God is always greater within us than the devil or spirit of the anti-Christ at work in the world. **1 John 4:4 "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."** NKJV

The good news for us is that the Apostle Paul wrote about three essential tools of spiritual warfare that go along with our spiritual armor. In **2 Timothy 1:7, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline."**

Yes, all the disciples according to legend died terrible deaths following Christ with perhaps one exception the Apostle John who many believe died from old age. However; along their spiritual journeys they demonstrated a faith in Christ that revealed God's power, God's love and God's self-discipline. It was their fearless hope in Christ based in the deep love of God that helped them sow seeds that captured the hearts and minds of the entire Roman world. Non-believers saw in believers in Christ that faced terrible

persecution and death a power over fear that they could never gain on their own.

The Apostle John reminds us in **1 John 4:16-19** that the more we grow in God's love the more victory we will gain over fear. **"God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. We love each other because he loved us first."**

I believe that it is the great love of God that allows us the privilege to serve Christ in the world by opposing evil of every form. I believe that the more we grow in God's love the more we will demonstrate the power of the Holy Spirit along with greater self-discipline. Jesus said in **Luke 10:17-20, "When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to**

him, "Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!" "Yes," he told them, "I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning! Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you. But don't rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven."

John 3:16-17 "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him."

All Scripture used in this article except 1 John 4:4 are from: Holy Bible, New Living Translation ©, copyright © 1996, 2004 by Tyndale Charitable Trust. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers. All rights reserved.

Pastor Ray & Jen

*Keep in mind that
God is always greater
within us than the
devil or spirit of the
anti-Christ at work in
the world.*

General Church Office
hours

Monday-Thursday

9:00-4:00 pm



If you would like to see
Pastor Ray, please call
for an appointment.

**Pastor's regular day
off is Saturday,** unless
you make prior
arrangements with
Pastor Ray or Jen, they
will not be attending
Saturday events.

LeValley and Berlin Center February Celebrations

LeValley Birthdays

01 Lyndsee Cerny

05 Jerry Krausz

07 Sydney Cody

08 Ned Kuhlman

17 Ezabella Redmond

17 Jayden Gerrity

20 Rick Sprague Jr

20 Caelan Wittenbach

24 Linn Plett

25 Sue Chipman

Anniversaries

14 Fred & Darlene Lange

Berlin Center Birthdays

20 Evelyn Hecht

21 Jarrod Rudd

22 Deanna Leslie



"It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the gospel of [Jesus Christ](#). For this very reason peoples of other faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity, and freedom of worship here."

*-The Trumpet Voice of Freedom: Patrick Henry
of Virginia, p. iii.*

HOLY LAND TRIP 2015

The trip to Israel and Jordan with Pastor Ray is still a go in 2015.

EO is still running
tours to the Holy

Our trip sponsor EO
will give a full refund
less \$100.00 for an
airline fee if the trip is
cancelled for
danger/war.

Make sure you do
purchase the trip
insurance in case of a
normal emergency
and you can't travel
for health reasons or
family issues.

Berlin Center Ladies Bible Study

Linda Dingerson is
leading our Beth
Moore Bible Study.

We meet on
Thursday evenings
at church at
6:30 pm.



Ladies' Meetings

LeValley Ladies' Fellowship meet Monday, Feb 4
11:30 @ Lumbermill Inn

Church Women United
Feb 6 SS Peter & Paul
Church

Berlin Center UMW
Feb 17 @ Kim Denny's
7 pm

LV UMW
7 pm Feb 19 @ church

Ladies' Bible Study every
Tuesday @ parsonage
9:30 am

Berlin Center Ladies
Bible Study Thursdays @
6:30 pm @ BC

Emmaus Ladies 4th Day
Group Feb 2,9,23 @ 6pm
Ladie's Monday Bible
Study@ Barbara Peter-
mans Feb 2,9,23 @ 7 pm.
All women are welcome
whether or not you have
been to an Emmaus
Walk.

"Without religion, this
world would be some-
thing not fit to be
mentioned in polite
company: I mean
hell."

— **John Adams**, second
President of the United
States

Ionia Area Mission Fields

Ionia Food Pantry

Wednesdays 2-4:30pm at Zion
UMC

Soup Kitchen Thursday Feb 12

Berlin Center
serves this month

Feeding America Truck

Tuesday, Feb 10
9-4:00 pm
at the Ionia
Fairgrounds

Ionia Christian Service Center

Wednesday, Feb 4

BC 9-12:00

LV 1-4:00

Saturday, Feb 7

LeValley 9-12 pm

A Gentle Reminder...

On Sundays if you have a last
minute announcement or prayer
concern,

please keep it brief.

We want to honor our worship,
and not run over on time.

Please give your prayer written
request to an usher, early in the
service, so that we can remember
them at prayer time.

It is best to call or email the
church office (by Wednesday)
with announcements so that they
can be put into the bulletin.

Ladie's Tuesday Morning Bible

We will begin a new
10 week study "God's
Shelter" by Sheila
Walsh. (It is a video
driven study.) It be-
gins on Tuesday,
March 10th at the
parsonage.

All ladies welcome.
Questions please call
Jen @ 527-9656



Thank You Notes

Thanks for all the prayers, and cards, also calls, they meant a lot to me. I'm doing much better, and home now, still not quite up to full strength.

Phyllis Frith

LeValley Church,

Your partnership with this ministry is greatly appreciated.

Deb Hall

Dear Rev. Sundell & UMW,

On behalf of Clark's residents, staff and board, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your generous \$200 gift to our Benevolent Care Fund.

Each of our residents planned carefully and thoughtfully for retirement. However, sometimes the circumstances of life are simply not what they expected. No one ever wants to rely upon Benevolent Care because their funds are depleted. However, knowing that safety net is there provides our residents with the precious gift called "peace of mind."

Your gift lent confidence to each resident and the family members who love them. Each dollar given for Benevolent Care is deeply significant. Our joint commitment to a lifetime of care allows residents to live the latter chapters of life with vibrancy and joy.

In that spirit of joy, we offer deep and abiding thanks for your gift.

With gratitude,
Joanna Hogan,
VP of Development



My wish would be for all kids to be safe~warm~healthy~ and well fed. BUT~since this isn't always possible I've got to say that because of your great generosity we are a little bit closer. Thank you so much for all the beautiful hats and gloves you gave to our students. What a wonderful and thoughtful gift. I'm always amazed at how many students come to school not properly dressed for the cold weather. I often wonder what parents are thinking. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for helping to keep our little heads and fingers warm.

With much appreciation,
Deb Marshall & the Rather
Elementary Staff

"My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God."

Proverbs 2:1-5 (NIV)

"Until a man has found God and been found by God, he begins at no beginning, he works to no end. He may have his friendship, his partial loyalties, his scraps of honor. But all these things fall into place, and life falls into place, only with God."

H.G. Wells

Spring 2015 Lay Speaking

April 24-25, 2015 at Lake Michigan Camp in Pentwater (5807 Ridge Road, Pentwater, MI 49449)

Classes offered:

Basic (required for all LS? LS)

Spiritual Gifts (Advanced)

Prayer (Advanced)

You may pre-register via email to:

Prattgji@Hughes.net



FEBRUARY LIBRARY NEWS

Happy February! For the shortest month of the year, it is chock-full of good things...Valentine's Day and honoring Presidents Washington and Lincoln. Hope you are enjoying the new-to-us items on the Library Cart. I have put the following between the bookends at the top of the Cart.

In fiction, there is *Chicken Soup for the Romantic Soul*...inspirational stories about love and romance by a variety of great authors.

There are three stories under the title *How Do I Love Thee* all written by Lurlene McDaniel—three great lessons on love.

The Way to a Man's Heart written by Mary Eller is a captivating story that lovingly looks at how faith in God and connection with family can fill every open, waiting heart to overflowing.

Roses for Mama is written by Janette Oke. After moving out west for her mother's health, Angela Peterson's family set about to build a new farm. Angela was just 14 at the time when it became clear the mother had only months to live. Her mother tried to prepare her for the responsibility of raising the 3 younger siblings, but no one dreamed they would also lose their father.

A few years later, Angela now 17 and her older brother Thomas set about trying to meet the questions and challenges that have reshaped their lives.

And last there is Irene Brand's *Love Finds You in Valentine, Nebraska*. Kennedy Blaine has inherited a ranch in the small western-style town of Valentine. At first, her only thought was to arrange the selling of it, but decided to at least spend the summer there and reconnect with family members. When incidents of harassment start, she sets out to discover who is behind the offense...and soon learns painful details about her family. Will Kennedy still want to learn the truth?

The three non-fiction books are all small, but great reads. We have *The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn. It's all about a secret wrapped in giving!!!

There is *The Art of Listening with Love* by Abraham Schmitt. This is a very special kind of listening in which one cares so much for another person that the ultimate welfare of the other person becomes the listener's final concern.

Someone Cares by Helen Steiner Rice shares some of the loving testimony and living reality of God's action in human life. Her mission has been to reassure readers of God's presence and love, and to provide comfort and inspiration. All of the above can be found in this beautiful collection of her poems.

The DVD's chosen for this month are Max Lucado's *The Book and the Rose*; *The Touch* which assures us that God is more than able to turn any situation around; *The Courage to Love* telling the inspirational and true story of the heroism and love of Henrietta Dalille, the first African-American saint; and *The Velveteen Rabbit*, bringing to film the beloved story written by Margery Williams about how to bring things we love to life.

Barbara Peterman
Librarian

FEBRUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion 9 BC Worship 10 LV SS 11 LV Worship	2 11:30 LV Ladies meet @ Lumbermill Inn 6:15 BC Prayer Group 7 BC 4th day 6 LV 4th day 7 LV Bible Study @ Barbara Peterman's 7 Boy Scouts	3 9:30 Ladies Bible Study @ parsonage 5:45 LV Prayer Group 7 Cubs	4 9-12 BC Service Center 1-4 LV Service Center	5 6:30 BC Ladie's Bible Study 7 Trustees	6 6 Potluck @ BC w/Darcy & Anup Rai & family	7 9-12 LV Service Center
8 9 BC Worship 10 LV SS 11 LV Worship LV Kids Noisy offering 4 Cubs Committee meeting	9 6:15 BC Prayer Group 7 BC 4th day 6 LV 4th day 7 LV Bible Study @ Barbara Peterman's 7 Boy Scouts	10 9:30 Ladies Bible Study @ parsonage 4 Feeding America truck @ fairgrounds 5:45 LV Prayer Group 7 Cubs 7 BC Ad Bd	11	12 BC @ Soup Kitchen 6:30 BC Ladie's Bible Study	13 6 Emmaus Potluck gathering @ Pilgrim UMC	14  7 LV Fellowship
15 9 BC Worship 10 LV SS 11 LV Worship	16 6:15 BC Prayer Group 7 BC 4th day 6 LV 4th day 7 LV Ad Bd 7 Boy Scouts	17 9:30 Ladies Bible Study @ parsonage Pastor on WTLJ 5:45 LV Prayer Group 7 Cubs 7 BC UMW @ Kim Denny's	18 7 ASH WEDNESDAY service @ LV	19 6:30 BC Ladie's Bible Study	20	21 9-12:30 Pastor @ Conference mtg in Carson City
22 9 BC Worship 10 LV SS 11 LV Worship BC Kids offering	23 6:15 BC Prayer Group 7 BC 4th day 6 LV 4th day 7 LV Bible Study @ Barbara Peterman's 7 Boy Scouts	24 9:30 Ladies Bible Study @ parsonage 5:45 LV Prayer Group 7 Cubs	25	26 6:30 BC Ladie's Bible Study	27	28 1 Cub Scouts Blue & Gold Banquet

February Helpers

LeValley

Nursery

Feb 1 Jen Sundell
Feb 8 Judy Lange
Feb 15 Ashlee Redmond
Feb 22 Karla Wittenbach

Acolytes

Feb 1 Anissah
Redmond
Feb 8 Keith Heyboer
Feb 15 Robby Brigham
Feb 22 Ezabella
Redmond

Greeters

Feb 1 Sandi Heyboer
Feb 8 Tim & Connie
Heyboer
Feb 15 Bill & Kelly
Carlton
Feb 22 Todd & Sue
Chipman

Berlin Center

Ushers

Feb 1 Linda & Denny
Dingerson
Feb 8 Marilyn Palmer & Craig
Harder
Feb 15 Jim & Marilyn Clover
Feb 22 Leon & Janet Rudd

Greeters

Feb 1 Ron & Laurie Crosby
Feb 8 Jim & Marilyn Clover
Feb 15 Leon & Janet Rudd
Feb 22 Burton Taylor & Julie
Kilcherman

Flowers

Feb 1 Melanie Bennett
Feb 8 & 15 Ruth Benjamin
Feb 22 Deanna Leslie

Sanctuary Cleanup

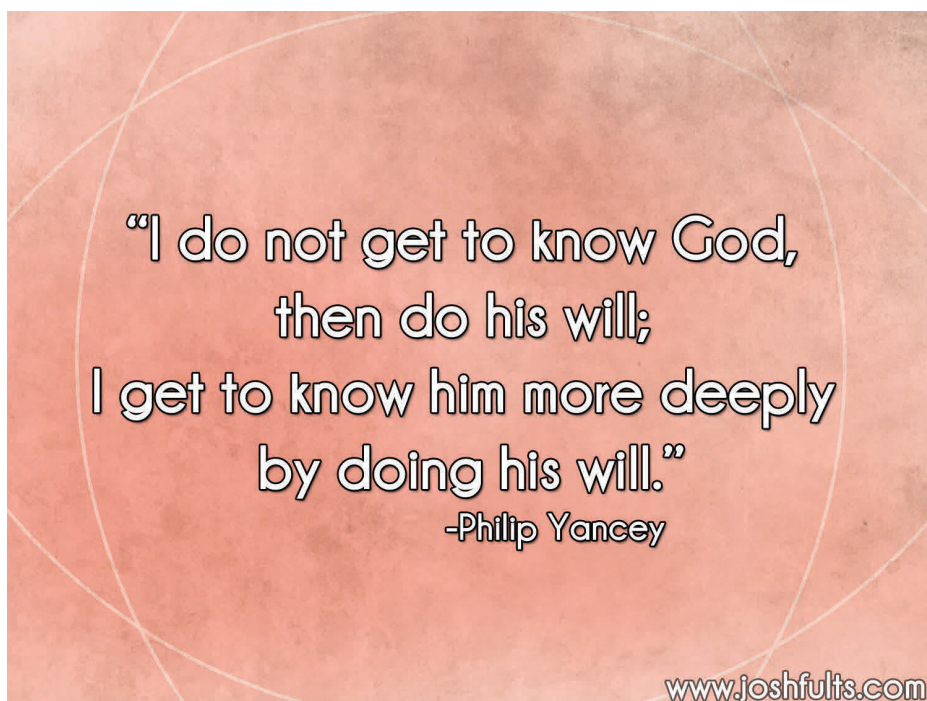
Feb 1 Judi Cody
Feb 8 Plett's
Feb 15 Carol Braun
Feb 22 Han Huynh

Coffee Hour

Feb 1 Soup Dinner
Feb 8 Connie Nash
Feb 15 Plett's
Feb 22 Chipman's

Children's Church

We need
someone to
coordinate the
Children's
Church
volunteer
schedule.



[Love] does not delight in evil
but *rejoices* with THE TRUTH. It
1 Corinthians 13:6-7
always | protects |, *always* trusts.
always hopes. *always* perseveres.
CommentsJunkie.com

School Prayer:

~~~~~

Now I sit me down in school  
Where praying is against the  
rule For this great nation under  
God Finds mention of Him very  
odd.

If scripture now the class  
recites, It violates the Bill of  
Rights. And anytime my head I  
bow Becomes a Federal matter  
now.

Our hair can be purple, orange  
or green, That's no offense; it's  
a freedom scene.. The law is  
specific, the law is precise.  
Prayers spoken aloud are a  
serious vice.

For praying in a public hall  
Might offend someone with no  
faith at all..  
In silence alone we must  
meditate, God's name is  
prohibited by the State..

We're allowed to cuss and dress  
like freaks, And pierce our nos-  
es, tongues and cheeks...  
They've outlawed guns, but  
FIRST the Bible.  
To quote the Good Book makes  
me liable.

We can elect a pregnant Senior  
Queen, And the 'unwed daddy,'  
our Senior King.  
It's 'inappropriate' to teach  
right from wrong,  
We're taught that such  
'judgments' do not belong..

We can get our condoms and  
birth controls, Study witchcraft,  
vampires and totem poles...  
But the Ten Commandments

are not allowed, No word of God  
must reach this crowd.

It's scary here I must confess,  
When chaos reigns the school's a  
mess.

So, Lord, this silent plea I make:  
Should I be shot; My soul please  
take!  
Amen

~ Anonymous



**Joy does not simply happen  
to us. We have to choose joy  
and keep choosing it every  
day.**

Henri Nouwen

**Whenever you do not understand  
what's happening in our life,  
just close your eyes,  
take a  
deep breath  
and say...  
"God,  
I know  
it is  
your plan.  
Just help  
me  
through it....."**

