

LUTZ

Love Letter

February, 2019



lutzcommunitychurch.org



NO GREATER LOVE

With Valentines Day fast approaching, many thoughts turn to love. It reminds me of a story where the wife asks her husband why he never tells her he loves her. The husband replies; “that’s not true. Thirty two years ago when we got married I told you I loved you and if that ever changes I’ll let you know!”

We smile at this story because we know the underlying truth; it is more important for a husband and wife to daily show their love for each other, than it is to say “I love you” every day, and then fail to demonstrate that love via tangible actions.

Similarly, it is the consistent outward demonstration of love that makes Christianity unique among religions, and Christians unique among people. Christianity is a religion of love. God demonstrates His love daily! He revealed His love to us by assuming human form, giving himself as a sacrifice. Still, today, He reveals His love by reconciling us to Him and extending His saving grace to all who are willing to accept it!

There is no other religion whose God is so willing to demonstrate His love, which He did by handing Himself, via His Son, over to His creatures as an example of that love. The heart of Christianity is the heart of Jesus Christ, both human and divine. Jesus is not a theoretical being; He is not an impersonal idol made of stone; nor is He a far-away divine being, casually observing the trivial lives of earthlings. He remains front and center as a demonstration of the transcendent love of God. He is the doorway that allows us to enter into an intimate relationship with God the Father.

Jesus took it upon Himself to show us the mercy of God by taking on the punishment each of us has brought on ourselves because of the sinful lives we lead. Jesus lived as we live, walked as we walk, suffered as we suffer, and was tempted as we’re tempted, yet remained sinless. Everything He taught He lived. He was and is the perfect example for us.

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the expiation for our sins. (1 John 4:9-10) Jesus's sacrifice, His life and death on Calvary, exemplify love. By this we know love, that He laid down his life for us (1 John 3:16). He gave his life for us freely: "No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again; this charge I have received from my Father." (John 10:18)

There are some who will tell you they love you a thousand times, but their words will never match the single greatest demonstration of love in the history of the world: For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son! (John 3:16)

Blessings,

Pastor Jody



Current Series

Traditional - 9:00am
ELEVATE - 10:30am

A painting of a large, leafy tree against a dramatic, cloudy sky. The tree is on the left side of the image, and the sky is filled with swirling clouds in shades of green, yellow, and blue. The text 'The THREE Trees' is written in a large, stylized font on the right side of the image. Below the title, the text 'THE NEWEST LUTZCC THEATRE PRODUCTION REHEARSALS EVERY SUNDAY 10:30AM YOUTH OF ALL AGES WELCOME!' is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

The
THREE
Trees

**THE NEWEST LUTZCC
THEATRE PRODUCTION
REHEARSALS EVERY SUNDAY
10:30AM
YOUTH OF ALL AGES
WELCOME!**



YOUTH MINISTRIES



9TH-12TH GRADE

MONDAYS

BLISS CENTER

This month's

meetings:

February 4

February 11

February 25

7-9pm



wyldlife

6TH-8TH GRADE

FRIDAYS

BLISS CENTER

This month's

meetings:

February 1

February 15

February 22

6-8pm



January has been extra cold and rainy as we begin this new year, but for the garden, it has been great for the plants. Our cool season plants have produced well and have been watered every couple of days. We have had more produce to donate without any frost damage.

When we picked the last Sunday in January in October for our fund raiser, Soup on Sunday event, we didn't expect it to be so cold but it was! However, the soup was hot and it was enjoyed by many. All soup varieties had something from the garden in the ingredients. As one of the two main fund raisers for the garden (Strawberry Sunday in March), we use funds donated for the repair of the garden beds.

When you support these fundraiser's, we want you to know that you are helping to grow this ministry in many unexpected ways. And here is the exciting news! The garden has expanded its reach in ministry to our nearby neighborhoods. Harvesting produce in the garden occurs several times a week and we have partnered with food pantry's and other church's to help feed good food to God's people.

We give produce on different days to Faith in Action, Christian Social Service, Life Church in Wesley Chapel, Community Pantry at Village Presbyterian, and Caring for Others at First Baptist in Lutz.

All are excited with the fresh, organic food often picked and delivered the same day by our volunteers. This is one of our non-dirt duties that volunteers can do. We have lots of these small ways to make a big difference in our world! Want to know more? We would love to share our ideas with you.

THANK YOU to all who cooked,
served, stood in the cold, and
made the Soup on Sunday a
success. May God bless those
who enjoyed the homemade love
that we shared with a bowl of
soup!





Save the Date! JULY 14-21, 2019

This is a very special opportunity for an enlightening and life-changing experience in a developing country. Every day you will be with ordinary people who are joyful in their faith and daily life. Although they have material poverty, they have spiritual wealth. If we have an opportunity to worship with them you will experience unbelievable joyful noise that will warm your heart and soul.

Do you not speak Spanish? No worries, there are translators available and even the most rudimentary knowledge of Spanish helps. Do you think you're too old or your child is too young? We have had ages from 11 to 90 join us on our mission. All ages and abilities are welcome! The opportunities are endless. The Hondurans are most appreciative that you cared enough to come to their village. Don't miss out!

There are many ways you can participate in the Mission Trip:

- 1) Join the Mission Team
- 2) Sponsor someone who will join the Mission Team
- 3) Make a donation to provide funds which will be used to provide assistance for those who cannot afford the full cost of the Mission Trip or cover costs of unexpected or unknown needs that arise or we become aware of while on the Mission Trip



PARENTS OF YOUTH: WE NEED YOU!

Join us Thursday,
February 7 at 6pm in the
Bliss Youth Center for an
important meeting for
raising money for this
year's YoungLife summer
camp scholarships. You
can also learn how to get
involved in camp events!
Please come out and help
us send kids to camp for a
life-changing experience!



Featuring the book of Colossians
6-Week series starting on February 28
11:30-1pm
Bliss Center
For more info call Jeanette Moon
813-765-8989

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR CHURCH

Sunday, February 10 — 5pm — Leo Emy Hall

All ladies are welcome!

For more info call Ellie Karp 813-760-4808 or

Denise Beaird 813-843-0433

WOMEN'S SOCIAL

FRANKY D'S

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

6:30PM

Next outing:
Thursday, February 21

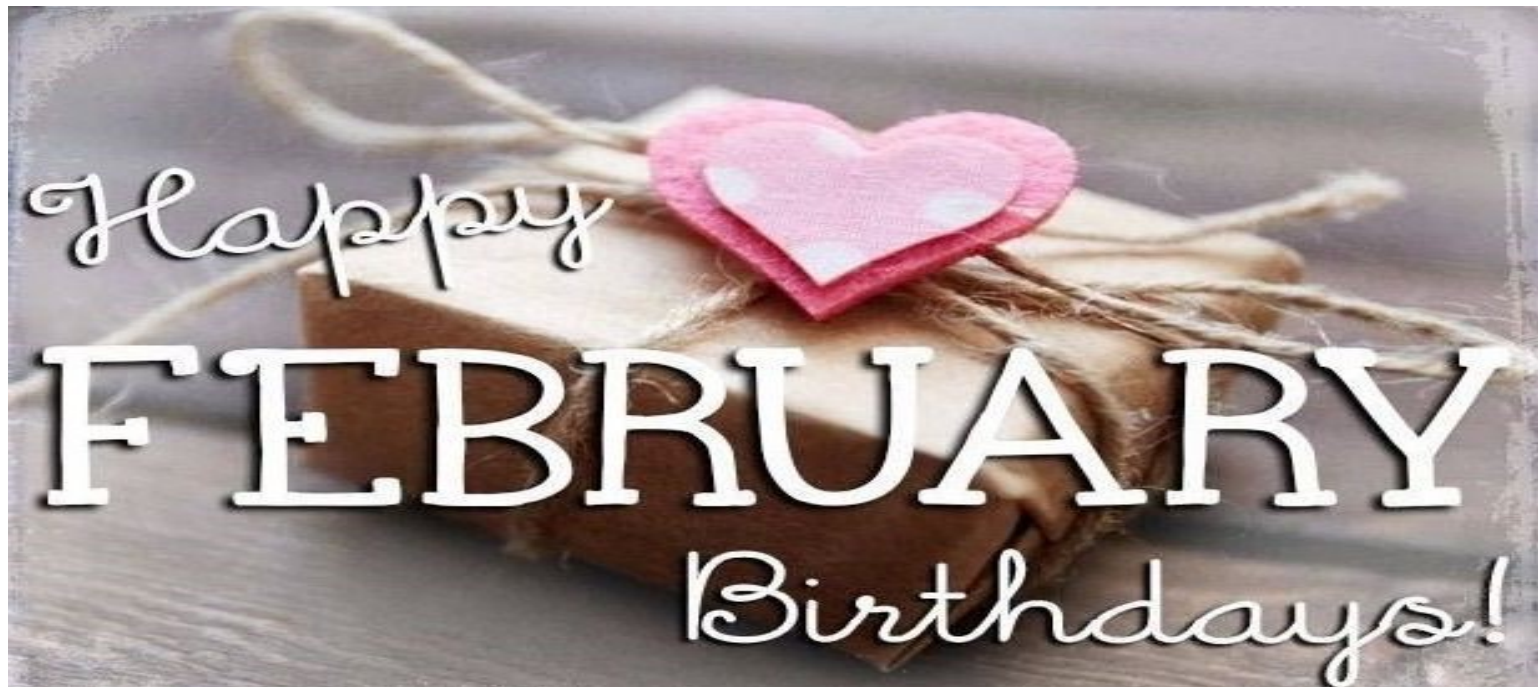
The Lunch Bunch



Franky D's

Third Thursday of the month

11:30am



Sandy Kinnaman 2/6

Maggie Gibson 2/8

Barbara Hansen 2/8

Bob Ackart 2/9

Johnnie Huneycutt 2/13

John Brashear 2/16

Lori Walker 2/18

Chip Whitmore 2/18

Jan Varda 2/21

Linda Shanks 2/24



STAY
UP TO DATE

Check out what's going on around the church with our live time calendar!

<http://lutzcommunitychurch.org/calendar>

