

# Calvary Connection

## Pastor's Pen



We all know that Valentine's Day is associated with love, but not many of us know why. The man known as Saint Valentine was a Roman bishop born around the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. He was a clergyman who ministered to Christians who were persecuted in the Roman Empire and was martyred for his Christianity. Valentine's association with love and couples stems from being known as a man who defied the order of the Roman Emperor and married young Christians in secret so the men could avoid conscription in the Roman army. Soldiers at this time were few and the Emperor decreed that married men must serve, so Valentine fought against the pagan Emperor and married these men and women in secret. It was Valentine's love for God and not his Emperor that started the tradition of St. Valentine's Day. There is even a legend that says that Valen-

tines cut hearts from paper and gave them to persecuted Christians to remind them of the love of God!

Nowadays, we celebrate Valentine's Day as a secular holiday, and very few of us remember its religious origins. When we think of love around February 14<sup>th</sup>, we think of love for a wife or significant other, but it is for the love of God that the entire holiday began in the first place. It's actually not so strange if you think of it, because it is the love of God that is at the root of Christianity and indeed the creation of the world. **John 3:16 tells us plainly, "For God so loved the World, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."** Love is at the center of everything that He does for us. The creation of the world, the salvation of mankind, the death and resur-

rection of Jesus Christ. All done for us, with love.

Our God is one of love and redemption. As you go about your day, no matter what you do, know that the love of Christ is with you, always. And it is that love that we as Christians are called to show to others. A heart without love is a heart without God. Just like Valentine himself, may the love that you show for your fellow man and woman be but a reflection of the love that you have for God and may we show the love that God so willingly gives to us in all that we say and do.

God Bless.  
Pastor Jeremy

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor's Pen	1
Update from Long Range Planning	1
News from Youth	2
From the Deacons	2
News from AWANA	2
A Love Letter from God	3
Bible Verses for February	4
February Birthdays	4

## Update for Long-Range Planning

The last two planned meetings for the Long Range Planning Committee meeting have been cancelled due to holidays or weather.

However, the last few meetings that have happened have been very productive. The Committee has been working through the Signs of Health and Strength in the life and

ministry of Calvary Baptist Church". Also, the plan is to examine our weaknesses or areas of improvement. Please pray for the committee and the work they are doing.

## News from Emily & the Youth



Wow! It seems like time has flown by since Christmas. Our youth have been busy getting back into the swing of things with the second semester of school starting in January.

Our students have been really enjoying small groups on Wednesday nights after our time of worship.

The youth Sunday School class is beginning a study on the book of Revelation.

Our mission team is preparing for Ecuador and working on setting up fundraisers to help with project costs and travel expenses.

Please begin praying for our team and for the

people we will encounter in Ecuador. We are so excited at all the amazing things God is doing through our youth program and we thank you for your support!



“...due to recent welcome additions to our congregation that we needed to initiate an update to our church directory.”

## From the Deacons

The Deacons, at our monthly meeting decided that due to recent welcome additions to our congregation that we needed to initiate an update to our church directory.

It was also decided to re-new our annual Senior Appreciation Dinner. This fun event had been suspended for

the last two years due to COVID, but we look forward to scheduling this evening event sometime in late April or early May—once the weather warms up and the days are longer? Stay tuned for upcoming details and invitation.

Deacons have also been assisting the Pas-

tor with visitation of both sick and home-bound members. Please keep these members in your prayers.

The Deacons also will be sponsoring our 2nd Annual Youth Fishing Tournament at Lake Nelson in May.

Board of Deacons

## AWANA News



Awana is a Bible Club that meets each Wednesday evening. In addition to learning Bible verses and hearing Bible stories, the children have special events and projects throughout the school year. Most events take place during the children's Game Time.

January 18<sup>th</sup> was our annual movie night for Awana. The children

(and adults!) enjoyed Horton Hears a Who, complete with popcorn and treats.

February 8<sup>th</sup> will be Hearts for Missions Night. The children will be creating valentines to be shared in the community.

February 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup> will be Awana Grand Prix Car Workshops.

**We are in need of individuals to help with these workshops. The children will need assistance in preparing their wooden cars for the Grand Prix races, which will take place in March. Individual help is needed with tasks such as sanding, assembly and decorative work.**



God  
Loves  
Me!

## A Love Letter from God to You

### My Child,

You may not know me, but I know everything about you. ([Psalm 139:1](#))  
 I know when you sit down and when you rise up. ([Psalm 139:2](#))  
 I am familiar with all your ways. ([Psalm 139:3](#))  
 Even the very hairs on your head are numbered. ([Matthew 10:29-31](#))  
 For you were made in my image. ([Genesis 1:27](#))  
 In me you live and move and have your being. ([Acts 17:28](#))  
 For you are my offspring. ([Acts 17:28](#))  
 I knew you even before you were conceived. ([Jeremiah 1:4-5](#))  
 I chose you when I planned creation. ([Ephesians 1:11-12](#))  
 You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book. ([Psalm 139:15-16](#))  
 I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live. ([Acts 17:26](#))  
 You are fearfully and wonderfully made. ([Psalm 139:14](#))  
 I knit you together in your mother's womb. ([Psalm 139:13](#))  
 And brought you forth on the day you were born. ([Psalm 71:6](#))  
 I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me. ([John 8:41-44](#))  
 I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love. ([1 John 4:16](#))  
 And it is my desire to lavish my love on you. ([1 John 3:1](#))  
 Simply because you are my child and I am your Father. ([1 John 3:1](#))  
 I offer you more than your earthly father ever could. ([Matthew 7:11](#))  
 For I am the perfect father. ([Matthew 5:48](#))  
 Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand. ([James 1:17](#))  
 For I am your provider and I meet all your needs. ([Matthew 6:31-33](#))  
 My plan for your future has always been filled with hope. ([Jeremiah 29:11](#))  
 Because I love you with an everlasting love. ([Jeremiah 31:3](#))  
 My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore. ([Psalm 139:17-18](#))  
 And I rejoice over you with singing. ([Zephaniah 3:17](#))  
 I will never stop doing good to you. ([Jeremiah 32:40](#))  
 For you are my treasured possession. ([Exodus 19:5](#))  
 I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul. ([Jeremiah 32:41](#))  
 And I want to show you great and marvelous things. ([Jeremiah 33:3](#))  
 If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me. ([Deuteronomy 4:29](#))  
 Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart. ([Psalm 37:4](#))  
 For it is I who gave you those desires. ([Philippians 2:13](#))  
 I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine. ([Ephesians 3:20](#))  
 For I am your greatest encourager. ([2 Thessalonians 2:16-17](#))  
 I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles. ([2 Corinthians 1:3-4](#))  
 When you are brokenhearted, I am close to you. ([Psalm 34:18](#))  
 As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart. ([Isaiah 40:11](#))  
 One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes. ([Revelation 21:3-4](#))  
 And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth. ([Revelation 21:3-4](#))  
 I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus. ([John 17:23](#))  
 For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed. ([John 17:26](#))  
 He is the exact representation of my being. ([Hebrews 1:3](#))  
 He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you. ([Romans 8:31](#))  
 And to tell you that I am not counting your sins. ([2 Corinthians 5:18-19](#))  
 Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled. ([2 Corinthians 5:18-19](#))  
 His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you. ([1 John 4:10](#))  
 I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love. ([Romans 8:31-32](#))  
 If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me. ([1 John 2:23](#))  
 And nothing will ever separate you from my love again. ([Romans 8:38-39](#))  
 Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen. ([Luke 15:7](#))  
 I have always been Father, and will always be Father. ([Ephesians 3:14-15](#))  
 My question is ... Will you be my child? ([John 1:12-13](#))  
 I am waiting for you. ([Luke 15:11-32](#))

### Love, Your Dad. Almighty God

Borrowed from: [Love letter from God: Bible verses showing God's love for you \(activechristianity.org\)](http://Love letter from God: Bible verses showing God's love for you (activechristianity.org))

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**“Gather to Worship  
 Scatter to Serve”**

**Bible Verses for February**

- *“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.”  
 1 Corinthians 13:4*
- *“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.”  
 1 Peter 4:8*
- *“Do everything in love”  
 1 Corinthians 16:14*
- *“Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good.”  
 Romans 12:9*

**February Birthdays**



Feb. 1	Karen Drumheller	Feb. 19	Courtney Harlow-Humphreys
Feb. 1	Josh Turpin	Feb. 20	Grayson Bradley
Feb. 2	Joe Lee McClellan	Feb. 20	Doris Rutherford
Feb. 6	Sharon Adcock	Feb. 22	David Bradley
Feb. 9	Brandon Ponton	Feb. 24	Hunter Harlow
Feb. 10	Florence Joachim	Feb. 25	Karis Tucker
Feb. 11	Chase Thacker	Feb. 25	Kim Tucker
Feb. 11	Dreama Williams	Feb. 26	Trevor Bradley
Feb. 13	Starlet Stevens	Feb. 26	Barbara Morris
Feb. 17	Christine Snead	Feb. 27	Cody Harlow
Feb. 17	Steve Giles	Feb. 28	Whitney White
Feb. 18	Eli Aldridge		