

# RELIGION

PASTOR’S COLUMN

## Our Father’s love



JAMES  
KESSLER  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH, LAKE PARK

Jeremiah: 31-3 I have loved you with everlasting love, therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. Let me tell you a story of a father's love, a secret that my father told me just between us, a father's love is not just every now and then, it's a love that never ends, Amen. (an unconditional love).

How awesome is that line? This line is in a song we quite often hear on the radio, not till I decided to write this article did the meaning of these words come to life within me.

As I write this article, I think back to the time of growing up through my school years, my time in service and in my lifetime of wedded bliss, always knowing my father's love was with me.

A father's love is shown in many ways through discipline, play-

ing, work, mealtime (taking time to be together) and family time.

My time working alongside my father was a joy of sharing love for each other, learning the importance of working hard, enjoying what you are doing and doing an honest day's work for the person who employed you.

Honesty, integrity, and character were taught and shared as well. My father's faith played an important part of my youth and still does today. His actions told me the story of his faith, praying before mealtime was important — no questions asked.

As those song lyrics stated, so true is God's love for all, no matter our sex or the color of our skin, God is Father to all of us, and his love is unconditional to each no strings attached.

Throughout the Bible we read of God's love for all, for God's love is of the Spirit, our love is of the flesh, so the question is: Do we of the flesh love with unconditional love? Or are there strings attached with the love we say we have for each other?

There are many meanings and expressions of the word love in our world today, however the true meaning of love comes from our Heavenly Father to love one another as you would want to be loved plain and simple.

To love one another is to love God in heaven, who is our Heavenly Father. When I think of my earthly father and our Heavenly Father these song titles come to mind:

- How Great Thou Art
- Faith of Our Fathers
- Our Fathers Love
- God of our Fathers
- (PS 22:4 — In Thee our fathers trusted, they trusted and thou didst deliver them)

As my father and God shared and demonstrated their love and patience for me, I pray the same was demonstrated to my son and to others likewise.

AREA CHURCH LISTINGS

ASSEMBLY OF GOD			PENTECOSTAL		
<b>Foundation Church, Spencer</b> Rev. Nicholas Hanges, Senior Pastor 1410 W. 18th St. 712-262-6292 foundationspencer.com • Sunday School K-12, 9 a.m. • Sunday Prayer/Fellowship, 9 a.m. • Sunday Worship, 10 a.m. • Kids Church Sunday, 10 a.m. • Wednesday All Ages, 6:30 p.m.			<b>Maple Grove Church of God, Sutherland</b> Rev. Michael Hyde • Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m. • Sunday Fellowship, 10:30 a.m. • Sunday School, 11 a.m.		
BAPTIST			REFORMED		
<b>Baptist Church, Sioux Rapids</b> Rev. James Marshall • Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m. • Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.			<b>Faith Pentecostal Church, Spencer</b> 1700 11th Ave. SW 712-262-3368 fpcspencer.com Rev. Brad Wallace Rev. Dale Hodges • Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m. • Wednesday Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.		
<b>First Baptist Church, Spencer</b> Rev. Tim Smith 1200 Grand Ave. 712-262-1325 firstbaptistspencer.com • Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. • Sunday Upward Look — KICD 1240 AM, 10 a.m. • Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m. • Sunday AWANA, 4 p.m. • Sunday FBC Youth Group, 6 p.m.			<b>Good News Community Church, Okoboji</b> Rev. Brandon Morrow 1010 Julia St. 712-332-5698 • Sunday Worship Services, 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. • Fellowship. 10:15 a.m.		
CALVARY CHAPEL			METHODIST		
<b>New Life Worship Center, Spencer</b> Rev. Tracy Baugh 1217 Fourth Ave. W. 712-262-3125 • Sunday Bible Church, 10 a.m. • Wednesday Prayer, 6:30 p.m.			<b>Hope Church, Spencer</b> Pastor James Runcorn 919 Grand Ave. 712-262-3016 • Sunday Worship, 8:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m. • Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.		
CATHOLIC			NONDENOMINATIONAL		
<b>St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Hartley</b> Rev. Kevin Richter 260 N. Fourth Ave. W. 712-928-2626 • Primghar St. Athony, Sunday, 8 a.m. • Hartley St. Joseph, Sunday, 9:30 a.m.			<b>Faith Community Church, Milford</b> 805 Okoboji Ave. Rev. Jennifer Hesebeck faithcommunitymilford.com fcc@milfordcomm.net • Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.		
<b>St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Milford</b> Rev. Brian Hughes 1305 Okoboji Ave. 712-338-2274			<b>The New Light of the Lakes Friends Church, Okoboji</b> • Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. • Sunday Service, 10:30 a.m. • Group Bible Study, 5 p.m.		
<b>Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Ruthven</b> Rev. Paul Kelly 1801 Rolling St. 712-852-3187			<b>Living Word Outreach Ministries, Spencer</b> Rev. Barb Dean, Lead Pastor Rev. Mark Feauto, Associate Pastor 905 10th Ave SE 712-262-9545 livingwordspencer.org • Sunday Worship, 10 a.m. • Livestream id also available on the website, Facebook and YouTube.		
<b>Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Spencer</b> Rev. Kevin Richter 1111 Fourth Ave. W. 712-262-3047			<b>Spirit Life Fellowship, Spirit Lake</b> Rev. Eric Holdeman 2504 Enterprise Ave. 712-336-0114 • Sunday School, 9 a.m. • Sunday Worship, 10 a.m.		
<b>Church of Christ</b>			<b>United Methodist Church, Hartley</b> 361 Eighth Ave. 712-928-2649 • Sunday Church School/Confirmation Classes, 9:30 a.m. • Sunday Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.		
<b>Trinity United Church of Christ, Hartley</b> 140 N. Fifth Ave. 712-728-2889			<b>United Methodist Church, Langdon</b> Rev. Chris St. Clair • Sunday in-house and Facebook Live Worship, 11 a.m.		
<b>Church of the Nazarene</b>			<b>First United Church, Sioux Rapids</b> Rev. Dr. Mike Currier Rev. Karen Currier • Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m. Church of Christ, Spencer Contact Jeff Cookinham 1304 St. Luke Drive 712-262-2294 • Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m. • Sunday Bible Study, 11:15 a.m.		
<b>Spencer Family Church, Spencer</b> Rev. Larry Neiderhiser 905 Fifth St. SW 712-262-7298 spencerfamilychurch.org • Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m. • Sunday Kid's Church, 10:30 a.m. • Wednesday Life Group, 7 p.m.			<b>First United Methodist Church, Peterson</b> Rev. Tyler Thomsen 103 E. Third St. • Sunday Worship, 9:15 a.m. • Sunday Fellowship, 10.15 a.m. • Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.		
<b>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Spencer</b> 1701 W. 11th St. 712-262-6172 • Sunday Sacrament Meeting, 10 a.m. • Sunday School; Primary and Youth Meetings, 11:10 a.m. • Sunday Men's Priesthood Meeting and Women's Relief Society, 12:10 p.m.			<b>First United Methodist Church, Royal</b> Rev. John Battern 408 Church St. 712-933-2489 • Sunday Worship, 9 a.m.		
CONGREGATIONAL			UNITED METHODIST		
<b>Grace Congregational Church, Greenville</b> Rev. Tonna Parsons • Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.			<b>Calvary United Methodist Church, Arnolds Park</b> Rev. Chris St. Clair 209 N. Okoboji Grove Road 712-332-2447 • Saturday Sabbath School, 9:45 a.m. • Saturday Worship, 11 a.m.		
EPISCOPAL			<b>United Methodist Church, Everly</b> Rev. Michael Eeten 301 N. Ocheyedan 712-834-2501 • Sunday Worship, 9 a.m.		
<b>The Way Station, Spencer</b> Rev. Beth Preston 120 W. Fourth St. 712-580-5463 revbethpreston@gmail.com • Sunday Service, 3 p.m.			<b>United Methodist Church, Terill</b> Rev. Terry Luiken 302 S. State St. 712-853-6549 • Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.		
<b>St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Spirit Lake</b> Rev. Carolyn Tuttle 23rd and Zenith 712-336-1117 • Sunday Mass/Eucharist, 10 a.m.			<b>Community United Methodist Church, Gillett Grove</b> Rev. Donna Gray • Sunday Worship, 10:15 a.m.		
<b>All Saints Episcopal Church, Storm Lake</b> Rev. Stacey Gerhart 121 W. Marina Road 712-202-6624 • Sunday Eucharist, 10 a.m.			<b>Trinity United Methodist Church, Webb</b> Rev. Kari A. Etherington • Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m. • Fellowship, 10:30 a.m.		
EVANGELICAL FREE					
<b>Riverside Evangelical Free Church, Linn Grove</b> • Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m.					
<b>Ignite: 6:30 p.m.</b> <b>Salt Youth: 7:15 p.m.</b>					
<b>CrossWinds Church, Spencer</b> Campus Rev. Jordan Gowing Rev. Dr. Kurt Trucksess 1900 Grand Ave, Suite A 712-584-3151 spencer@crosswinds.tv • Sunday Worship, 8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.					
FIRST CHRISTIAN					
<b>First Christian Church, Spencer</b> (Disciples of Christ) Pastor Interim 915 Fourth Ave. SW 712-262-2945 • Sunday Service, 9:30 a.m. In-House and Facebook Live • Wednesday Kids Sunday School: 4:30 p.m.					
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL					
<b>First Congregational Church, Peterson</b> 712-295-7150 • Sunday Worship, 8:45 a.m. • Sunday School, 10 a.m.					
<b>First Congregational Church, Spencer</b> Rev. Shazzy Britz 1212 First Ave. W. 712-262-4392 • Worship, 10:30 a.m. Livestream on YouTube					
LUTHERAN					
<b>Hope Lutheran Church, Everly</b> Rev. Dan Taylor 206 N. Washington St. 712-834-2767 • Sunday Worship 10 a.m. • Sunday School and Adult Education, 9 a.m. Services livestreamed on YouTube at "Hope Lutheran Church — Everly, IA"					
<b>Lost Island Lutheran Church, Graettinger</b> Rev. Peter Morlock • Sunday Service, 8:45 a.m. • Fellowship, 9:45 a.m. • Sunday School, 10 a.m.					
<b>St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran, Hartley</b> Rev. Christopher Nitzel 60 N. Central Ave. 712-728-2711 • Sunday Worship, 9 a.m. • Sunday School 10 a.m. • Fellowship, 10:30 a.m. • Confirmation, 11 a.m. • Choir Practice, 11 a.m.					
<b>Harbor of Joy Lutheran Church, Milford</b> Rev. Tim Voth 1204 L Ave. 712-338-2355 • Sunday Fellowship,					
9:30 a.m.					
• Sunday School, 8:30 a.m.					
• Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m.					
<b>First Lutheran Church, Milford</b> 1525 Threer Cross Road Rev. Perry Aalgard, Senior Pastor Rev. Brian Jack, Associate Pastor 712-338-4514 3cross.org • Sunday Worship, 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. • Sunday Fellowship, 9:30 a.m. • Education/Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.					
<b>Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Royal</b> Rev. Dr. Mark F. Wilms 207 Church St. 712-933-2229 • Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m.					
<b>Zion Lutheran Church, Ruthven</b> Rev. Eric Patten • Sunday Service, 9:30 a.m. • Sunday Fellowship, 10:30 a.m.					
<b>First Lutheran Church, Sioux Rapids</b> Rev. Tonna Parsons • Sunday Worship, 9 a.m.					
<b>Bethany Lutheran Church-ELCA, Spencer</b> 15 W. 14th St. 712-262-2327 bethluthspencer.com • Worship, 9 a.m.					
<b>Christ the King Lutheran Church, Spencer</b> Rev. Michael McGinley 500 Fourth Ave. SW 712-262-2244 • Sunday Worship, 9 a.m. • Bible Study and Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. • Services on Facebook, 9 a.m. Podcast" released Sundays					
<b>Faith Lutheran Church, Spencer</b> Rev. Ben Unseth 2912 Highway Blvd. 712-580-4316 • Sunday Worship, 9 a.m. • Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. Services are streamed on YouTube flcspencer.org					
<b>First English Lutheran Church, Spencer</b> Rev. Paul Kaldahl 1311 E. 18th St. 712-262-5598 spencer-church.com • Divine Worship, also broadcast on 1240 AM and 102.5 FM, 8 a.m. • Fellowship, 9 a.m. • Child care in the nursery, 9:15 a.m. to Noon					

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