

RELIGION

PASTOR’S COLUMN

Love one another



CINDY FINN

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, SPIRT LAKE

When my daughter, Miranda, was young, she had four dear friends. These five girls grew up together as best friends. However, at about 8 years of age, they had an argument that devastated my daughter. I don't remember what the argument was about, but I do remember Miranda coming home after school upset and saying her friends

didn't like her anymore.

We talked about what had happen and she concluded that she wanted to force them to like her. So, she wished for magic fairy dust to sprinkle on them so they would do as she wanted.

Thinking about it now, I believe this came from watching too many Disney films. As we talked, I asked her, if she sprinkled fairy dust,

how would she know if her friends really liked her or if they were being forced to like her? By the end of the week, as young friends do, they made up quickly and she didn't have to force them to like her after all.

And she reported later, "I didn't need fairy dust at all. They love me for who I am, and I love them for who they are."

One of my favorite scripture passages comes from the Gospel of John.

"When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (John 13:31-35)'"

Jesus called the disciples "little children," not

to belittle them but to remind them that they are God's children, precious and loved. Jesus knew that he would be with the disciples only a short time. In preparing for when he would return to heaven, he no doubt reflected on his ministry and teaching. The meaning of his parables were often difficult for people to grasp. Above all, Jesus needed the disciples to know and live ...

"love one another."

In following Jesus' life, we know that great troubles challenged the disciples. The disciples struggled with concerns over who was the greatest, being in competition with each other, having doubts about their faith and the power of God and having wondered what will happen in the future. Jesus taught them, guided them and needed them to be strong and in all of it he knew love would prevail.

The commandment to "love one another" seems so simple. You can easily memorize it and tell others about it. However, it is much more difficult to put into practice. How one loves another starts with the love we have for ourselves and

the love that others have shown to us. Often that love is taught by the way a parent, grandparent or guardian loved and loves us. Loving another comes through trial and error. Our experiences teach us how to love.

Jesus said, "They will know you are my disciples if you love one another as I have loved you."

Are you up to loving one another as Christ has loved us?

My daughter graduated from high school in 2010. The love and friendship she had with her best friends is just as strong as it was when they were in elementary school. Two of the friends have moved out of state. All have children who know each other and are friends. It has taken effort for them to stay in contact with each other, just as it takes effort for us to love and be lovable.

I challenge and implore you to love as Jesus loved with grace, mercy, justice, and forgiveness not just with close family and friends but all of God's children.

May you be filled with love, and may you offer love to all you meet!

AREA CHURCH LISTINGS

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Foundation Church, Spencer
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.

BAPTIST

Baptist Church, Sioux Rapids
Rev. James Marshall
• Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m.
• Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.

First Baptist Church, Spencer
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.

CALVARY CHAPEL

New Life Worship Center, Spencer
Rev. Tracy Baugh
1217 Fourth Ave. W.
712-262-3125
• Sunday Bible Church, 10 a.m.
• Wednesday Prayer, 6:30 p.m.

CATHOLIC

St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Hartley
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.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Milford
Rev. Brian Hughes
1305 Okoboji Ave.
712-338-2274

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Ruthven
Rev. Paul Kelly
1801 Rolling St.
712-852-3187

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Spencer
Rev. Kevin Richter
1111 Fourth Ave. W.
712-262-3047
• Saturday Service, 4:30 p.m.
• Sunday Service, 11 a.m.

Livestreamed at:
spencersacredheart.com/
onlinemass

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Trinity United Church of Christ, Hartley
140 N. Fifth Ave.
712-728-2889

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Spencer Family Church, Spencer
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.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Spencer
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.

CONGREGATIONAL

Grace Congregational Church, Greenville
Rev. Tonna Parsons
• Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.

EPISCOPAL

The Way Station, Spencer
Rev. Beth Preston
120 W. Fourth St.
712-580-5463
revbethpreston@gmail.com
• Sunday Service, 3 p.m.

St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Spirit Lake
Rev. Carolyn Tuttle
23rd and Zenith
712-336-1117
• Sunday Mass/Eucharist, 10 a.m.

All Saints Episcopal Church, Storm Lake
Rev. Stacey Gerhart
121 W. Marina Road
712-202-6624
• Sunday Eucharist, 10 a.m.

EVANGELICAL FREE

Riverside Evangelical Free Church, Linn Grove
• Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m.
• Ignite: 6:30 p.m.
• Salt Youth: 7:15 p.m.

CrossWinds Church, Spencer
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

First Christian Church, Spencer
(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

First Congregational Church, Peterson
712-295-7150
• Sunday Worship, 8:45 a.m.
• Sunday School, 10 a.m.

First Congregational Church, Spencer
Rev. Dr. Shazzy Britz
DCYM Katie Baltis
1212 First Ave. W.
712-262-4392
• Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.
• Adult Sunday School, 9 a.m.
• Sunday School, 4 years old to fifth grade, 9:30 a.m.
• Adult Bible Study Tuesday, 10 a.m., Wednesday 7 p.m.
• Spencer Congo Youth Wednesday's, Middle School, 6-7 p.m., High School, 7-8 p.m.
Livestream on YouTube
All are welcome

LUTHERAN

Hope Lutheran Church, Everly
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"

Lost Island Lutheran Church, Graettinger
Rev. Peter Morlock
• Sunday Service, 8:45 a.m.
• Fellowship, 9:45 a.m.
• Sunday School, 10 a.m.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran, Hartley
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.

Harbor of Joy Lutheran Church, Milford
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.

First Lutheran Church, Milford
1525 Three 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.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Royal
Rev. Dr. Mark F. Wilms
207 Church St.
712-933-2229
• Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m.
• Sunday Fellowship, 10:30 a.m.

Zion Lutheran Church, Ruthven
Rev. Eric Patten
• Sunday Service, 9:30 a.m.
• Sunday Fellowship, 10:30 a.m.

First Lutheran Church, Sioux Rapids
Rev. Tonna Parsons
• Sunday Worship, 9 a.m.

Bethany Lutheran Church-ELCA, Spencer
15 W. 14th St.
712-262-2327
bethluthspencer.com
• Worship, 9 a.m.

Christ the King Lutheran Church, Spencer
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

Faith Lutheran Church, Spencer
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

First English Lutheran Church, Spencer
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
• Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
• Bible Class, 9:40 a.m.
• Divine Worship, 10:45 a.m.
• Communion on first and third Sundays.
Services & Bible Class livestreamed via website

Riverview Terrace Chapel, Spencer
1501 St. Luke Drive
712-262-5932
• Sunday Worship, 10:45 a.m.

St. Luke Home and Services, Spencer
Rev. Perry DeGroot
1301 St. Luke Drive
712-262-5931
• St. Luke Lutheran Home Worship, 10 a.m.
• Riverview Terrace Worship, 10:45 a.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Spencer
Rev. Renae Behrends
900 11th Ave. W.
712-262-1287
• Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m.

NONDENOMINATIONAL

Faith Community Church, Milford
805 Okoboji Ave.
Rev. Jennifer Hesebeck
faithcommunitymilford.com
fcc@milfordcomm.net
• Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.

The New Light of the Lakes Friends Church, Okoboji
• Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
• Sunday Service, 10:30 a.m.
• Group Bible Study, 5 p.m.

Living Word Outreach Ministries, Spencer
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 also available on the website, Facebook and YouTube.

River's Edge Church, Spencer
Rev. Tim B. Frasher
Pastor Joseph Leggett
701 E. 18th St.
712-580-3013
• Sunday School, 9 a.m.
• Sunday Worship, 10 a.m.

Spirit Life Fellowship, Spirit Lake
Rev. Eric Holdeman
2504 Enterprise Ave.
712-336-0114
• Sunday School, 9 a.m.
• Sunday Worship, 10 a.m.

Maple Grove Church of God, Sutherland
Rev. Michael Hyde
• Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m.
• Sunday Fellowship, 10:30 a.m.
• Sunday School, 11 a.m.

PENTECOSTAL

Faith Pentecostal Church, Spencer
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.

REFORMED

Good News Community Church, Okoboji
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.

Hope Church, Spencer
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.

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Seventh Day Adventist Church, Spencer
1910 10th Ave. E.
712-262-5766
• Saturday Sabbath School, 9:45 a.m.
• Saturday Worship, 11 a.m.

UNITED METHODIST

Calvary United Methodist Church, Arnolds Park
Rev. Chris St. Clair
209 N. Okoboji Grove Road
712-332-2447
• Saturday Worship, 6 p.m.
• Sunday Lakeshore Worship, 7:30 a.m.
• Sunday Worship, 9 a.m.

United Methodist Church, Everly
Rev. Michael Eeten
301 N. Ocheyedon
712-834-2501
• Sunday Worship, 9 a.m.

Community United Methodist Church, Gillett Grove
Rev. Donna Gray
• Sunday Worship, 10:15 a.m.

United Methodist Church, Hartley
361 Eighth Ave.
712-928-2649
• Sunday Church School/Confirmation Classes, 9:30 a.m.
• Sunday Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.

United Methodist Church, Langdon
Rev. Chris St. Clair
• Sunday in-house and Facebook Live Worship, 11 a.m.

First United Church, Sioux Rapids
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.

First United Methodist Church, Peterson
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.

First United Methodist Church, Royal
Rev. John Battarn
408 Church St.
712-933-2489
• Sunday Worship, 9 a.m.

United Methodist Church, Ruthven
Rev. Kathy Kluis
• Sunday Worship, 9 a.m.

First United Church, Sioux Rapids
• Sunday Worship, 10 a.m.

Grace United Methodist Church, Spencer
Rev. Michael Slininger
311 Second Ave. W.
712-262-5970
• Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m.

Zion United Methodist Church, Spencer
Rev. Michael Eeten
• Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
• Sunday Worship, 10:45 a.m.

United Methodist Church, Terril
Rev. Terry Luiken
302 S. State St.
712-853-6549
• Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Trinity United Methodist Church, Webb
Rev. Kari A. Etherington
• Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m.
• Fellowship, 10:30 a.m.

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