

Sermon-February 9th and 10th – Love Service – Our Saviors Lutheran Church.

Comments Before and After the Video- “Letter From God”

Comments Before

This Love Service was created by your Worship and Music Team to remind us that we have been given much Love by God. You might have noticed that the timing of this service is near a day that all of us focus on the concept of Love, namely, Valentines Day. The service was designed so that the preacher didn't have to preach. A video is to be shown instead. But because this particular preacher likes to preach, I will share some comments after the video.

First, let's see the video- Letter From God

*** Video plays.

Comments after the video

You will see that I included two Gospels for this day - both rather short. The first one was John 3:16. Occasionally at football games you will see someone holding up a sign that says John 3:16. It doesn't mean that a guy by the name of John is sitting in the 3rd row, 16th seat. No, the person is trying to remind us of a theological concept. One that many of us memorized from Sunday School Days. Say it with me.

“For God so Loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, so that whoever believes in him will not die but have eternal life.”

It is the foundation of our faith. The Big One. The phrase that speaks of grace. The phrase that says it is not what we do, but what's in our heart that is paramount. That we believe in him.

I like to change the passage just a little bit when I read it. What it really says and means is For God So Loved You. Yes. YOU! He loves YOU so much that he sent Jesus. Who came to care for you, forgive you, and to love you and to be with you forever. Wow. It doesn't get any better than that.

The second Gospel lesson is from John as well. Actually John 21:15-17. I alluded to it last week when we had our 'Souper Bowl of Caring'. Jesus appears to his disciples after the resurrection and has a dialogue with Peter. Three times Jesus asks Peter, Do you Love Me? Three times Peter says 'of course I love you'. Three times Jesus says 'then feed my sheep, feed my lambs, feed my sheep'. Not very different from what he has always told us. Feed them with your care, love and forgiveness. "If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love. This is my commandment that you love one another." Not the easiest of tasks. Even when we want to be loving, we are not always up to the task. But Jesus remains rather hard nosed in his insistence that we love one another, the sheep and the lambs, all of them, whatever their color, or language. The crazy thing is that Jesus is hard nosed for a reason. Our own good. Jesus says that he gives us this commandment in order to make our joy complete.

Beautiful – we are better and happier people by loving others.

Christ saves the world by loving us.

And his extraordinary plan for saving the world includes having us love others with that same extraordinary love.

Amen

Let it be so.