

# LOVE ONE ANOTHER

JOHN 13:34



## The Deceptive Simplicity of Love

As the Gospel of John portrays Jesus, the rabbi often speaks in cryptic terms, and his teachings in today's reading are no exception. "The Son of Man has been glorified"? "Where I am going, you cannot come"? (John 13:31, 33). The disciples must have heard Jesus' instructions about love with a sigh of relief—finally, clear words. They are given a new commandment, to love one another, just as Jesus has loved them. All they must do is love each other, and everyone will know they're Jesus' disciples.

One wonders how long it took before the disciples realized just how complicated this was going to be. If we're honest, we have to ask, Have we figured it out in the past 2,000-plus years? After all, Jesus' love often mystifies us. Whom does he love? The leper. The tax collector. The outcast. The rich young man. The person living with addiction. The collections agent. The teen who just tagged your wall with spray paint. The wealthy CEO. Suddenly, this loving doesn't look so easy.

The context of this week's passage makes it clear that Jesus isn't averse to speaking truth in love. Just before today's exchange, Jesus signals to Judas that he knows what he's up to. Just after, he cautions overeager Peter that despite his best intentions, he too will betray Jesus. Love isn't syrupy and bland, slathered across our world in rosy hues that cover up injustice or hard times.

Love is a commitment. Love extends outward from Jesus, through us, to bring everyone whom Jesus loves into the communion of saints. That means Judas, and Peter, and the graffiti tagger, and the CEO—and you. Us. Every person, in every pew, and every child of God who couldn't identify a pew if they skinned their shin on one.

Each of our communities is a little different. Our everyday "each others" are different too. But the good news is, "each other" always includes everyone—even us.

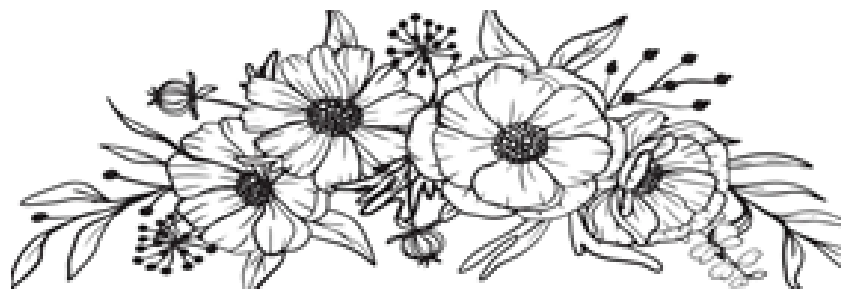
Millcreek Lutheran Church  
Fifth Sunday of Easter  
May 18, 2025

A warm welcome to our church! We appreciate your presence here today and enjoy the new and the familiar faces as we gather together. If you are a visitor, we hope you will consider joining us- knowing that you can expect to find people who love God and who want to know and love you. Visitors, please sign our guest book or fill out a visitor's card in the pew rack. We're glad you're here!

Prayer: Compassionate Father, whose Son gave himself unselfishly to his followers and commanded his followers to love one another in the same way: Instill in us a genuine love for each other, that our world may be convinced we are disciples of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

**Serving you this morning:**

<b>Lay Leader,</b>	Jennifer Rosengrant
<b>Organist/Pianist,</b>	Debbie Tice
<b>Lay Reader,</b>	David Staaby
<b>Ushers/Audio,</b>	Scott Johnson & Frank Hoffman



The flowers are given in honor & glory to God and in  
loving memory of Donald & Donna Cullins.

~Love, their family

## The Service

Prelude of Entrance

Announcements

Prelude of Preparation

\*Opening Hymn: **LBW (green) #135, The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done**

\*Hymn of Praise: *Glory to God*. Page 58

\*Prayer of the Day: (On the lesson insert, read in unison)

Joyful Noise collection

Children's Anthem

The First Reading

The Psalmody: On the lesson insert (read responsively)

The Second Reading

\*The Gospel

Hymn of the Day: **LBW (green) #315, Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

\*Departing Hymn: **NCH (red) #114, Jesus Paid it All**

Postlude

**\*Please stand**

When we are baptized, we are baptized into the body of Christ. We understand this body to be the communion of saints, a diverse witness of men and women across time and space. Throughout its history, the church has sought to lift up Christians who have been unique, exemplary people of faith.

Today we commemorate Erik, King of Sweden, martyr, who died in 1160. Erik is considered the patron saint of Sweden. As king of that nation, he tried to bring peace in the region, and to spread Christianity in Scandinavia. He was also known for his attempts to make fair laws and to protect those who were poor or sick.





# Today's Readings

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2025

## Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Acts 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup>saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" <sup>4</sup>Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup>"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup>As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' <sup>8</sup>But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' <sup>9</sup>But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' <sup>10</sup>This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup>At that very moment three men, sent

to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup>The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. <sup>13</sup>He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup>he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' <sup>15</sup>And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>17</sup>If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" <sup>18</sup>When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

## Psalm

Psalm 148; tone 10



Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD <sup>1</sup> from the heavens;  
praise God <sup>1</sup> in the heights.

<sup>2</sup>Praise the LORD, <sup>1</sup> all you angels;  
sing praise, all you <sup>1</sup> hosts of heaven.

<sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, <sup>1</sup> sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you <sup>1</sup> shining stars.

<sup>4</sup>Praise the LORD, heav- <sup>1</sup> en of heavens,  
and you waters a- <sup>1</sup> bove the heavens.

*continued*

*Psalm, continued*

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name <sup>1</sup> of the LORD,  
who commanded,  
and they <sup>1</sup> were created,  
<sup>6</sup>who made them stand fast  
forev- <sup>1</sup> er and ever,  
giving them a law  
that shall not <sup>1</sup> pass away.  
<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD <sup>1</sup> from the earth,  
you sea monsters <sup>1</sup> and all deeps;  
<sup>8</sup>fire and hail, <sup>1</sup> snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind,  
do- <sup>1</sup> ing God's will;  
<sup>9</sup>mountains <sup>1</sup> and all hills,  
fruit trees <sup>1</sup> and all cedars;  
<sup>10</sup>wild beasts <sup>1</sup> and all cattle,  
creeping things and <sup>1</sup> flying birds;

<sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth <sup>1</sup> and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers <sup>1</sup> of the world;  
<sup>12</sup>young <sup>1</sup> men and maidens,  
old and <sup>1</sup> young together.  
<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name  
<sup>1</sup> of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted,  
whose splendor  
is over <sup>1</sup> earth and heaven.  
<sup>14</sup>The LORD has raised up  
strength for the people  
and praise for all <sup>1</sup> faithful servants,  
the children of Israel,  
a people who are near the LORD.  
<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah!

## Second Reading

## Revelation 21:1-6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,  
"See, the home of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell with them;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them;  
<sup>4</sup>he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will  
be no more,  
for the first things have passed away."  
<sup>5</sup>And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." <sup>6</sup>Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

## Gospel

## John 13:31-35

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>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.' <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

TODAY'S READINGS May 18, 2025

Volume 56, Number 2

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5; John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9.

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15 of 15  
ITEM013779 Tracks 1 and 2

## The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

135

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; Now is the vic - tor's  
 2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst, But Christ their le - gions  
 3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped, He ris - es glo - rious  
 4 He broke the age - bound chains of hell; The bars from heav'n's high

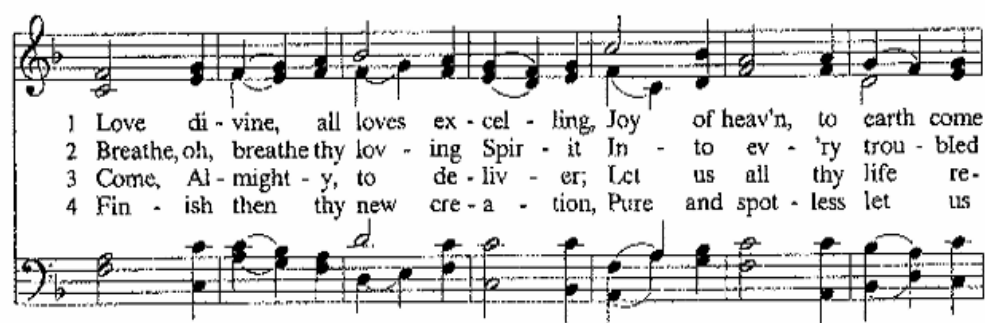
tri - umph won! Now be the song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 has dis - persed. Let shouts of ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 from the dead. All glo - ry to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 por - tals fell. Let hymns of praise his tri - umph tell. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

- 5 Lord, by the stripes which wounded you,  
 From death's sting free your servants too,  
 That we may live and sing to you.  
 Alleluia!



## Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come  
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to ev - 'ry trou - bled  
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; Let us all thy life re -  
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and spot - less let us



down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, All thy faith - ful  
 breast; Let us all in thee in - her - it; Let us find thy  
 ceive; Sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more thy  
 be; Let us see thy great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re -



mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
 prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
 tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
 stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



Pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; Vis - it us with  
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as  
 Serve thee as thy hosts a - hove, Pray, and praise thee  
 Till in heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise!

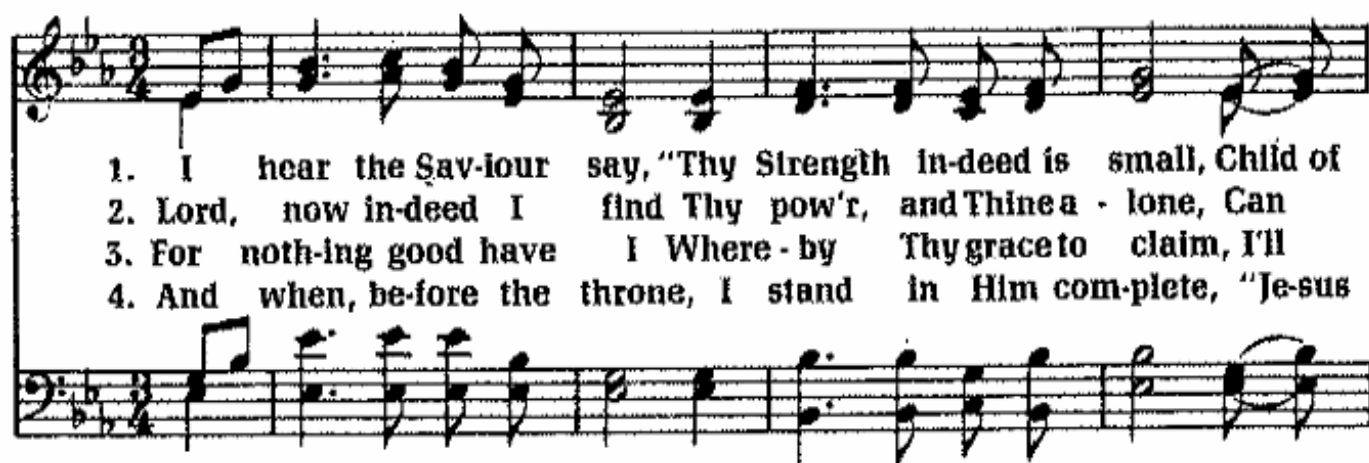


# Jesus Paid It All

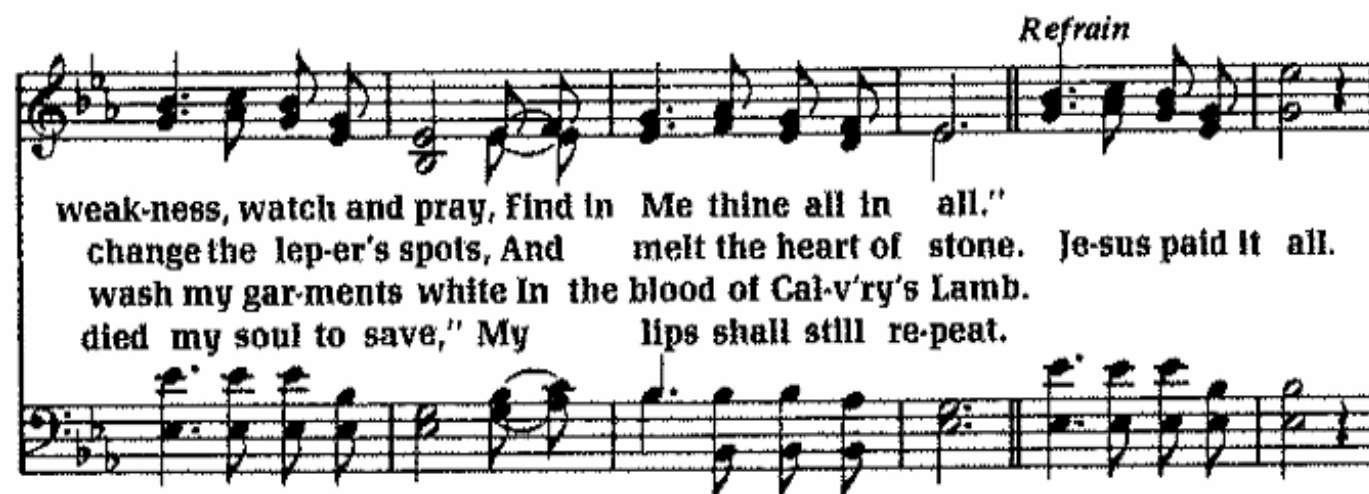
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Elvina M. Hall

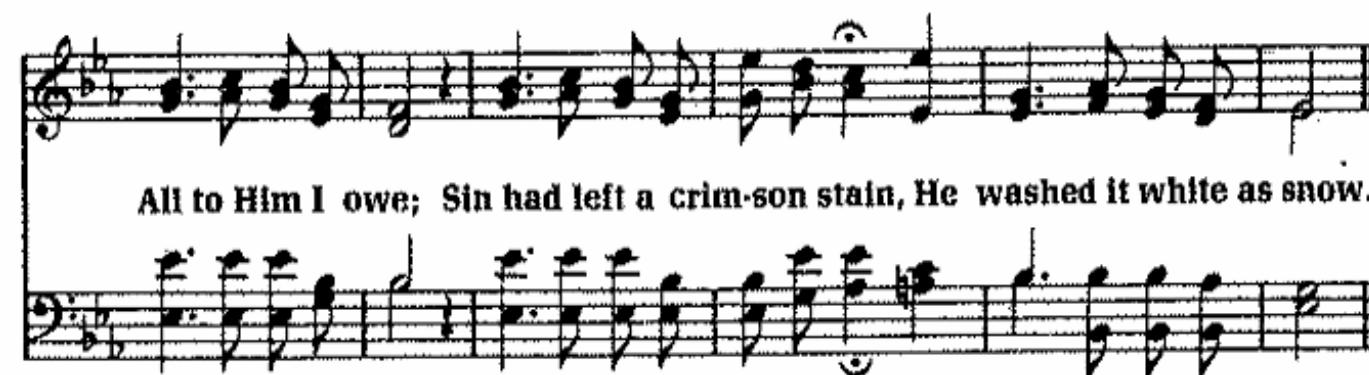
John T. Grape



1. I hear the Sav-iour say, "Thy Strength in-deed is small, Child of  
2. Lord, now in-deed I find Thy pow'r, and Thine a-lone, Can  
3. For noth-ing good have I Where-by Thy grace to claim, I'll  
4. And when, be-fore the throne, I stand in Him com-plete, "Je-sus



*Refrain*  
weak-ness, watch and pray, find in Me thine all in all."  
change the lep-er's spots, And melt the heart of stone. Je-sus paid it all.  
wash my gar-ments white in the blood of Cal-v'ry's Lamb.  
died my soul to save," My lips shall still re-peat.



All to Him I owe; Sin had left a crim-son stain, He washed it white as snow.



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For pastoral emergencies, please contact  
Jennifer Rosengrant, 717-228-8857

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## Our Mission

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Helping God restore and renew our community, our congregation, and ourselves.

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**Sunday, May 18, 2025**

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You can **listen to the worship service** over the phone patch at **10:15 AM**. Just dial **717-628-0125**. You will hear a message welcoming you to Millcreek. At that point you are connected to our church sound system, so just stay on the line. You may also watch the service later, on You Tube.



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## Helping God Restore and Renew our Community

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**MAY BLOOD DRIVE CANCELLED:** The May Blood Drive has been cancelled. The next blood drive will be July 17.

**FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCH** will be celebrating 50 Years of Ordination for the Rev. Parris Beckhardt on June 29, 2025 at 10:30AM. A luncheon will follow at 11:45AM. Cards will be collected here at the church or can be mailed to Frieden's Office with "Ordination Anniversary" in the bottom left corner. If you are interested in attending the luncheon, see the signup sheet in the Narthex. Nancy Deiter will coordinate the luncheon reservation.

**SUMMER CAMP** registration is open at Camp Kirchenwald! If your children are interested please see Jen Rosengrant as we have scholarships available to reduce the cost.

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## Helping God Restore and Renew our Congregation

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**TREASURER'S REPORT: Sunday, May 11, 2025,** Current Offerings- \$1,225, Plate-\$170, Flowers- \$30, Coffee- \$11 **Total-\$1,436** Attendance- 59 Sunday School- 6

**FLOWER AND BULLETIN SIGNUP SHEETS FOR 2025** are available on the bulletin board in the narthex. Flowers-\$30, Bulletins- \$10

## UPCOMING SERVICES:

May 25<sup>th</sup>- Church Sing Along

June 1<sup>st</sup>- Service with guest preacher Sister Marianne Brock

June 8<sup>th</sup>- Richland Express will be playing in the multipurpose room in lieu of service.

June 15<sup>th</sup>- Service with communion and guest Pastor Bonnie Oplinger

## CHURCH SURVEY

To help our church family as we move into the process of calling a new pastor, we will be distributing an information sheet and survey after the service today. Please complete and return to the box in the Narthex by June 1st. Extra copies are available in the Narthex. If you are unable to attend, we can mail or email it to you.

**GRADUATION:** If you have a student graduating from high school or college and wish to have their future plans posted in the yearbook/bulletin, please inform Jen M. by June 1.

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## Helping God Restore and Renew Our Selves

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### THIS WEEK WE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) WITH CARDS & PRAYERS:

Elaine Hemperly  
Linden Village  
100 Tuck St.  
Lebanon, PA 17042

**PRAYER LIST:** If you asked for someone to be put on the prayer list, please tell the church secretary when our prayers have been answered so this list can be kept current. For non-member requests, please contact Jen M. with your requests by noon Wednesday each week.

[secretary@millcreeklutheran.com](mailto:secretary@millcreeklutheran.com) or call: 610-589-2570.

### MILLCREEK MEMBERS:

Chub & Peg Auman, Bryan Breidigam, Debbie Hartman, Violet Hepler, Frank Hoffman, Abbie Keath, The Leibig Family, Barbara Potteiger, Brian Ream, Norm Sharp, Stewart Wolf, Aaron Yiengst, Michael Yiengst, Jr., Greer Zellers

**NON-MEMBERS:** Mike Nelson (friend of Kristin Bender), Gary Beatty, (friend of Debbie Hartman), JoAnn Deahl (Brandy Gahres' mother), Linda McMullan (sister in law of Greta McMullan)



**LUMINARIA ORDERS** can be taken anytime. Check with Deb for details. There are times when they are on sale for \$5 each instead of the normal \$10. Lanterns are also available for \$30.

As always, thanks to all supporting Relay for Life as the American Cancer Society strives to find a cure. **See Debbie Buffington or Debbie Tice for more Relay details.**

# Jesus Loves Us All

"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:35 (NIV)

Based on John 13:31-35



D W A J E W S C C N T O I F C  
F L N P I P F L O O K O A A D  
X O E Y J P N R X S J C L Y Q  
K N M E W H E N J Y T H P D E  
I G C X I H A X F G K N O W J  
B E M E T P J I B Q T B R B E  
D R V O P A R C H I L D R E N  
E I N V Z O V C N E T T E N Y  
G A N T L H I E O O J L B B L  
B E P G P O M Q N M Z Z T D I  
G V L X Y C V G O W M E Q E T  
I V N A J E S U S I M A V V T  
I Q C R H X G L L D P O N P L  
S Q T O D I S C I P L E S D E  
Q H N J O E G Y J G V J C H F

DISCIPLES  
COMMAND  
ANOTHER

LOOK  
LITTLE  
JESUS

CHILDREN  
MEN  
LONGER

GLORIFY  
JEWS  
TOLD

LOVE  
GIVE  
KNOW