MEDITATION



Lutheran Church

Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holv Spirit of God, with which you were

marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 4:29-5:2

Grace to you and peace in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Last week in our study of Ephesians, we looked at how the author shares a difficult truth with his hearers in that we should allow our old selves, our old habits, to die and make room for the blooming of a new self in Christ Jesus. This week, we see what that new self looks like. Paul encourages us as new people in Christ to be imitators of Christ so that all may know of his love. As beloved children in Christ, we are encouraged with such words and actions, which guide us to live in this way: grace, forgiveness, imitators, building up, live in love, and being useful. As disciples of Christ, we are called to say and do things that support and encourage one another. We are called to offer grace and forgiveness to each other so that our care and kindness for one another many shine forth.

Living in such a way boils down to love. By speaking and acting as Christ

wants us to, we convey what Jesus means when he commands us to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves. Living this way we put away the evil and sin that was a part of our old life without Christ and we take on love, as it is the center of our new lives in Christ.

I'm reminded of the refrain in the popular Christian camp song, "They'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes they'll know we are Christians by our love." According to Paul, to live as love means that we are imitators of Christ, for Christ is love. We are called to live as Jesus lived, walk as Jesus walked and do as Jesus did. When we do that we embrace our new life in Jesus by loving God and loving others but always remembering that it was God that first loved us, through Jesus Christ. The good news is this: God is love and he gives us his love through Jesus Christ so that we may share his love with others. Let us go and love this day just as Jesus loves.

Final Lenten service today

What are you giving up for Lent? That was the question posed by Rev. James Lochridge, pastor of Second Baptist Church, to worshipers attending the community-wide Lenten service last Wednesday at noon at East Gold Street Wesleyan Church.

The next question was "what are you taking up for Lent?" Basing his remarks on scripture from the Book of Zechariah, Lochridge suggested that religiosity and rebelliousness are two things to give up while examining yourself on your relationship with God. "Do you go to church to honor God or is it a habit?" Instead of rebelling, he suggested that Christians should be a witness in the community. "Repent and take up the cross," he added. Lochridge and Bill McMurrey closed the service by signing the duet, "He Lives Within My

The closing service in the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association-sponsored series of services will be held today (Wednesday) at 12 noon at Second Baptist Church. Rev. Ron Caulder, pastor of Eastside Baptist Church, will deliver the mes-

Fellowship & Faith

Church Service Directory

KINGS MOUNTAIN

Advent Lutheran Church, **NALC** Member KM Senior Center 909 E. Kings St.

Anew Beginning Baptist Church 415 Dixon School Rd. 704-473-1372

Ardent Life Church 420 Branch Street 704-739-7700

Arise Church Kings Mountain YMCA 211 Cleveland Ave.

Bethlehem Baptist Church 1017 Bethlehem Road 704-739-7487

Boyce Memorial ARP Church Edgemont Drive 704-739-4917

Burning Bush House of God 310 Long Branch Rd (KM) Calvary Way Holiness Church

1017 Second Street Pastor Clifton Morgan

Carson Memorial Baptist 262 Sparrow Springs Road 704-739-2247

Central United Methodist Church 113 S. Piedmont Avenue

704-739-2471 Cherokee St. Baptist Church 421 S. Cherokee Street 704-739-7697

Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church 618 Chestnut Ridge Road 704-739-4015

Christian Freedom Southern Baptist Church 246 Range Road 704-739-4152

Christ The King Catholic Church 714 Stone Street 704-487-7697

Church at Kings Mountain 108 E. Mountain St. (KM Women's Club Bldg.) 704-739-1323

Cornerstone Church Of God 202 Margrace Road 704-739-3773

Cornerstone Independent Baptist 107 Range Road 704-737-0477

Crowders Mountain Baptist 125 Mayberry Lane 704-739-0310

David Baptist Church 2300 David Baptist Church 704-739-4555

Dixon Presbyterian Church 602 Dixon School Road dixonpresbyterian.com

East Gold Street Wesleyan Church 701 E. Gold Street 704-739-3215

East Kings Mountain Church of God Hwy 161, Bessemer City/KM

704-739-7367 **Eastside Baptist Church** 308 York Road 704-739-8055

Hwy.

Ebenezer Baptist Church 1621 County Line Road 704-739-8331



Featured Church of the Week: True Gospel Holiness Church

El Bethel United Methodist Church 122 El-bethel Road 704-739-9174

Emmanuel Independent Baptist Church 602 Canterbury Road 704-739-9939

Faith Ablaze Church 1128 S. York Road 704-739-8496

Faith Baptist Church 1009 Linwood Road 704-739-8396

Faith Holiness Church Hwy. 161/Bessemer City Rd. 704-739-1997

Family Worship Center 1818 Shelby Road 704-739-7206

First Baptist Church 605 W. King Street 704-739-3651

First Church of the Nazarene 121 Countryside Road 704-734-1143

First Presbyterian Church 111 E. King Street 704-739-8072 First Wesleyan Church

505 N. Piedmont Avenue 104-139-4266 Galilee United Methodist

117 Galilee Church Road 704-739-7011 Gospel Assembly Church 202 S. Railroad Avenue

Good Hope Presbyterian Church 105 N. Cansler Street 704-739-1062

704-739-5351

Grace Fellowship 144 West Mountain Street 704-481-8888

Grace United Methodist Church 830 Church Street 704-739-6000

Harvest Baptist Church 144 Ware Road 704-734-0714

Kings Mountain Baptist Church 101 W. Mountain Street 704-739-2516

Life of Worship Ministries 405 S. Cherokee St. 704-777-2927

Notice: In order to accommodate the number of churches in our communities, we will print two alternating lists of churches each week. If you don't see the church you're looking for, be sure to check next week.



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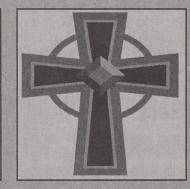
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