

Are You Ready to L.O.L.?

“Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

1 John 4:8

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! Wow! Can you believe it? What a wonderful gift that the Lord has given us...a new year full of new possibilities, opportunities and, yes, even challenges. What a blessing! So, what do you plan to do with this gift that God has given you? Although 2015 is God’s gift to us, what we do with it is our gift to God. While you may have many goals and resolutions you want to pursue this year, I’d like to invite you to join me and our congregation in a spiritual challenge this year...a love challenge. The goal of this challenge is to get each of us to truly know, experience and live out what Christ says is God’s “greatest” commandment (Matthew 22:36-40). Are you ready to L.O.L. (Love Out Loud)?

This year, our focus is to allow our hearts, minds, lives and actions to be overtaken and driven by the love of God. Why “love”? Well, not only is it a scriptural command from God, but, when we love as God desires us to, we are demonstrating the very essence of God. Love is the identifying mark of the followers of Christ (John 13:34-35); it is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22); and it is the trait that God desires for us to reflect the most (1 Corinthians 13:1-3,13). The love of God is powerful. It will transform your life, your family, our church, and the world.

To help us in our love challenge, each quarter, we will focus on different aspects of our lives where we must love out loud:

- January-February: Loving My God Out Loud
- March-May: Loving Myself Out Loud
- June-August: Loving My Family Out Loud
- September-November: Loving My Neighbors Out Loud

Every Sunday and Wednesday, the sermon and lesson focus will be related to the theme for that quarter. In our Wednesday night class, we will be taking a closer look at “love” itself and how to demonstrate it in our daily lives.

So, if you want to make 2015 a great year, accept the love challenge and get on the “love train”. Make a commitment to be in each worship service and class and strive to apply God’s love lessons every day. It is my hope and prayer that, by the end of 2015, all of us will be able to know, receive and share the love of God. Let’s go!