

Dear beloved in the Lord:

Do you know the story of Valentine? Valentine was a doctor and a pastor living in Rome during the rule of Emperor Claudius and he became one of the most noted martyrs in the Church in the third century. The commemoration of his death, which took place in 270 AD, became part of the calendar of remembrance in the Early Church. Tradition suggests that on the day of his execution for his Christian faith, Valentine left a note of encouragement for a child of his jailer. The note was written on an irregularly shaped piece of paper, perhaps resembling a heart. This greeting has become the pattern for millions of written expressions of love and caring that are now the highlight of the celebration of Valentine's Day around the world.

What a great opportunity to remember that on Valentine's Day, as we pass out notes to our family and friends telling of our love for them, God has sent a Valentine to each of us. His name is Jesus. For God so loved you that He sent His One and only Son, that by believing in Jesus you will have life in His name. And we have the opportunity as His children to share the love of Jesus with everyone we know. So as you make plans to send out Valentines to your family and friends, why not take the opportunity to invite your unchurched family and friends to come to church with you, all so that they might know the love of Jesus?

Happy Valentine's Day!

Pastor Davidson

