It's hard to believe that St. Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday are on the same day this year. I don't remember that happening in my years of serving in the church, but what a great way to begin the season of Lent.

The season of Lent offers us the opportunity to make dramatic changes in the practice of our faith as Christians. Making ourselves more disciplined, for example, especially in our spiritual life.

Self-disciplined Christians learn as much as they can about the Holy Bible, the "owner's manual", which helps them understand what God requires of them. Self-disciplined Christians see to it that they pray regularly. Self-disciplined Christians grow in their knowledge of God's love for them and learn to walk in that love toward others.

My challenge for the month of February is to be disciplined and read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 13 every day, putting Jesus' name in the place of the word *love*. Then reading it again putting your name in the place of *love*.

Throughout the month ask yourself, how has this changed the way I understand the love of Jesus? How has it changed the way I love others?

In *The Life You've Always Wanted*, Pastor John Ortberg writes, "Disciplined people can do the right thing at the right time in the right way for the right reason."

Let's strive to be a disciplined people who walk in Love!

"Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love."

1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 13 (NLT)

A message ^{from our} Pastor

