

## Your Best Friend

Wayne Fancher, Jr Lindale church of Christ Lindale, TX

Proverbs 17:17 A friend loves at all times,

Proverbs 18:24 But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

One of the great blessing in life are our friends. I have been blessed in my life with having many friends. There are certain characteristics and actions that make it where a person is defined as being my friend. For friendship to exist there has to be a knowledge of each other. I sometimes joke with people that I have new friends just around the corner in my life. I just have not met them yet. To be counted as one of my friends, actually knowing you is required. However, just because we know each other, does not mean we are friends. There are people who know me, but do not care about me or love me. A friend not only knows you, but love you. Not everyone knows me to the same degree. The more I know and trust someone, the more I let them in to who I really am. I let them know about my weaknesses, my fears, my problems, my joys, and my dreams. In our lives we all have friends, but among our friends we have those whom we count as our really good friends, and some we count as our best friends. Those whom we count as our really good friends and our best friends, know us better than others, and yet they still love and accept us for who we are. They love you in spite of all your weaknesses and flaws.

Proverbs 27:10 Do not forsake your own friend or your father's friend,

Another characteristic of a really good friend, it that they can be counted on. They will not forsake you when you are weak or times are difficult. A sunshine friend will only be there for you when everything is going good in your life. As soon as problems arise the sunshine friend is gone. A true friend will be there for you in the good times and the bad. Your best friends will stick closer than a brother and be there for you in times of adversity.

Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpens iron,  
So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

Another blessing of having real friends, is that they will tell you the truth about yourself even when the truth may not be something you want to hear. A friend will admonish, and if necessary rebuke you to try and help you go in the right directions in life because they truly care about you. True friendship does not fall apart with the blows of words of reproof.

Now my question for all of us is this. Who is your best friend? Who knows you the best and yet still loves you the most? Who will stick closer to you than anyone and never forsake you? Who will tell you the truth about yourself always, because they love you and want what is best for you? You man answer, my wife, or my husband, or some other person. The truth is, your very best friend in life is Jesus Christ. He knows you better than anyone, loves you more than anyone, will never forsake you, and will tell you the truth to help you get to heaven. Jesus Christ is your best friend.

## NEWSLETTER

July 01, 2018

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## Schedule of Services

Sunday AM Bible Study	9:45 AM
Sunday AM Worship	11:00 AM
No Sunday PM Service	
Wednesday PM Bible Study	7:00 PM

## La Salle church of Christ

*A place of worship and healing.*

1121 N. Military Rd.  
Niagara Falls, NY 14304  
(716) 283-1214

lasallechurchofchrist.org



### We welcome all who are here today.

If you are a visitor we are honored to have you with us. Please fill out a *Visitor Card* (on the back of the pew in front of you) so we may have a record of your visit. Later in the service we will pass around a collection plate. As a visitor you are obviously not expected to give but we would like for you to place the *Visitor Card* in the collection plate. Thanks.

*There is a nursery at the rear of the auditorium up the stairs for infant care.*

**Please keep cell phones and other noise making devices silent during worship.**



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**Prayer List** *In our prayers let's praise God, recognize His greatness, and thank Him for His blessings.*

***Those that attend:*** Mildred Lynum, Bill Flanagan, Anna Brink, Frank Marsden, Bill Kinney, Pat Hazlett, David Alcorn, Darlene Reed, Butts & Edie Sumner, Chris Highway, Candi Butcher, Cheryl Mellott, Joyce Cameron, Willow McFarland, Tahlia Willis, Logan Bennett, Kyra Kyle, Bev McArthur, Maria Swindlehurst, Jean Cameron, Sonny Stine, Brenda Nelson, Diane Mellott, Dennis Reed, Marge Reed, and Cheryl Mellott.

***People in other places:*** Renee Kinney, Tim Mellott and family, T.J., Wednesday Rahelich, Jack Openshaw, Betty & Dennis Leistner, Denise Garlitz' grandchildren and her son Jeff, Mary Lou, Frank's niece, Tony & Eglar Grana, Susan Barrett & family, Karen Anstee, George Beckwith, Cindy, Doris & Mary Jane Mess, Andrea, Red & Goldie Crow, Samantha Allee, Cheryl Wheeler, Levi, Jeanne Johns, Loretta Gorito, Kay Ables, Gloria, Dorothea Johnson, Tammy, Rita D, Jenna, Irene Jurek, Billie Jo Potter, Debbie Curry, Jaye Boyle, Barry Mitchell, Martha, Andrew, Vanessa Lewis, Williams family, Mary, Jean Fitzgerald, Mary Lou & Louise (Anna Brink's sisters), Malissa Layton, Th'alise Robinson, Ashley, Noreen Andrews, John - Maria Swindlehurst's brother in law, Emily Sestack, Keith Marten, Debbie, Paul (Becky Torres' father), and Paul Orton.

**Let's pray as we continue our preacher search process.**

**Updates:**

**Linda and Sonny Stine** are both dealing with health issues. Linda is now at home recuperating.

**Tha'Lise Robinson**, Wilma Patterson's great granddaughter, had a surgical procedure recently.

**Minne**, a friend of Candi Butcher, has MS and is also dealing with acute medical problems . Let's pray for Minne and her mother Esther as she takes care of her.

**Gary**, a college friend of Heather Bennett, has ALS. Let's pray for him and his wife Tina.

**Betty Leistner** is in the hospital with blood clots in her lungs.

**Holly Leistner**, Denise Garlitz daughter, has melanoma on her ear and had a piece of her ear removed.

**Renee Kinney**, Diane Mellott's daughter, is not doing well.

**Leonard Amantey** ..... Let' keep him in our prayers.

A request from Lisa Nichols.... **Rogers family** ... prayers for strength and healing. Friends of Lisa's Aunt. Premature baby in hospital 3 months named Breleigh.

Prayers requested for **Denise & Darlene's brother Dale** as he is undergoing tests.

**Upcoming Events** *(Lord willing)*

**Jul. 04** Independence Day

**Jul. 15** Men's Business Meeting

**Jul. 22-28** Camp Agape

**Jul. 29** Area Wide 5th Sunday Singing hosted by Sardinia church of Christ  
Also at Sardinia, "*Mortgage Burning*" celebration.

**Aug. 05 Potluck** Groups 1, 2, & 3 to setup and cleanup.

**Aug. 5-11** Potter Mission Trip

Sun. AM Adult Bible Study: James

**Sermon Topic Today:** *Modern Lessons From An Old Book, Part 2*

**Scripture Reading:** *Ecclesiastes 3:9-14*

No Sun. PM Bible Study

Wed. PM Bible Study 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel

**TODAY**

**Announcements** Marvis Garrett

**Song Leader** Rodney Jones

**Direct Communion** Ray McArthur

**Serve** Marvis Garrett

**Serve** Doug Flanagan

**Serve** Richard Wheeler

**Clean Trays** Joan Campbell-Cook



***Another issue of House to House Heart to Heart was mailed to over 1,000 homes around the LaSalle church building this past week. Make sure you pick up a copy of the new brochure, share one with a friend and continue to pray for open hearts in the LaSalle community.***

**Differing Paths**

by Gregory Alan Tidwell Editor, the *Gospel Advocate*

Often, when traveling through the Appalachians, I have noted the markers indicating the Eastern Continental Divide. This line denotes the watershed between streams that feed into the Atlantic Ocean and those that feed into the Gulf of Mexico. Two drops of rain, falling only inches apart on the ground, will end up separated by hundreds of miles before they reach the end of their journeys.

As we consider, personally, the choices we make day by day, we should recall the words of our Lord, "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much." (Luke 16:10) The small things in our lives can well lead to big changes, either for good or for evil. This principle extends to congregations, as well.

Frequently, an emphasis on doctrinal exactness is greeted with a roll of the eyes. Why should we, after all, be concerned over small departures here and there? Isn't it just nit-picking to question everything that doesn't measure up to the truths we understand from Scripture?

We should be concerned about apostasy, even in the smallest measure, because it is a step down a path which will end in destruction. Every heresy that has divided the church began with a small departure from the truth, which lead to greater and greater departures over time.

Our fellowship must stand firm on the inerrancy of Scripture, the total truth and authority of God's word. We must stand firm in attempting to understand and follow the pattern of faith and practice outlined in the Bible. Most centrally, we must stand firm in teaching the exclusive truth of God's way of salvation through Jesus Christ. Even the slightest deviation in our commitment to these basic truths will plunge the church quickly into all manner of false teaching.

When Christian teachers and preachers depart from a complete confidence in Scripture, they stand in danger of losing their faith altogether. When congregations begin introducing unauthorized elements into the worship and work of the church, there is no end to the changes which will occur. When the church begins fellowshiping outsiders as if they were members of the Lord's church, soon the very heart of the gospel is laid aside. Constant vigilance is needed to keep the Lord's church true to the Lord's way.