

**BLESSINGS ALWAYS**  
**January 29, 2025**  
**Association Minister Message**  
**Rev. Daniel L. BUSCH**

*LOVE*. One of the most familiar chapters of the Bible is First Corinthians 13, the chapter of *LOVE*. Paul writes, *“If I speak in tongues of human beings and of angels but I don’t have LOVE, I’m a clanging gong or a clashing cymbal.”* (vs. 1). Words and actions need to have consistency about them. *“I do what I say. I say what I mean.”* There is so much *“political speech”* today that offers contradicting words depending upon the group that is being spoken to. There are others who do and say things for their own advantage as narcissistic people.

Saint Paul’s remind us that our call to mission is a *“LOVE”* action to the honor and glory of God for others, not for self-gratification. Each one of us has been called to *LOVE* God, *LOVE* one another as we would want to be *LOVED*, and *LOVE* who we are as children of God. What we do is to the honor and glory, yet God honors us as entrusted stewards. Gifts and graces cannot be hoarded. *LOVE* cannot be hoarded. Faith cannot be hoarded. We may do all kinds of amazing deeds, but without *LOVE*, Paul reminds us, it is done in vain. As Jesus’ followers, we are called into ministry to bring good news to the poor. We are to set captives and oppressed free from sins, blindness, and possessions to share God’s future. It is not just for our glory, but for restoration, reconciliation, and renewal of relationships with one another and God in a community of faith.

The Gospel is not just about the *“me, myself, and I,”* for it offers *LOVE* for *“us”* as the family of God. *LOVE “for me”* is stretched so much that it embraces *“ALL”* and replaces privilege and advantage with extravagant welcome and hospitality. *LOVE* plants seeds of justice and peace to change society so that the consistency of our *LOVE* will reflect Jesus in us, around us, through us, and with us in all that we do. We are all called into a *LOVE* ministry that is an opportunity to share with others what has been so generously given to us by a *LOVING* God. *“Now faith, hope, and LOVE remain—these three things---and the greatest of these is LOVE.”*  
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