



March 2025 - "The DW Digest" Newsletter

"A new commandment I give you: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, so also you are to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35 EHV)

On the night before Jesus' crucifixion, He gave His disciples a new commandment that is emphasized throughout the New Testament: to love one another. He called this command "new" not because God's people in the Old Testament did not have to love others (they did!), but because Christians have a new reason to keep this command: His self-sacrificing love that saved us.

"Just as I have loved you, so also you are to love one another." This invites the question: what is love, and how did Jesus exemplify it? Jesus defined love this way: *No one has greater love than this: that someone lays down his life for his friends.* (John 15:13) That is precisely the love Jesus was about to show His disciples a few hours later when He offered Himself on the cross for the sins of the world.

Just think: *While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* (Romans 6:8) We did nothing to earn His love. Still worse, we lived in hostility with God. Yet, the amazing truth is that while we were enemies, God reconciled us to Himself through the death of His Son.

Before His crucifixion, Jesus provided His disciples with a perpetual reminder of His love by instituting Holy Communion. In this sacred meal, we receive the very body and blood that Jesus offered up as payment for our sins to remind us of His sacrifice for us. In this meal, He not only expresses His love for us individually, but He also unites us together as a family through faith. Therefore, it's no coincidence that on the same night He instituted Holy Communion, He also commanded us to love one another as He loved us.

On top of this, Jesus' love for us is demonstrated not only in how He died for us but also in how He continues to live for us now. He is patient and forgiving. When we sin, He lovingly calls us to repent. He listens to us, provides for us, prays for us, and cares for us. In all things, Jesus is working for our good – not because we deserve it, but for His mercy's sake.

Having reflected on the love Jesus has shown us, I ask you: how well have you kept Jesus' command to show that same love to one another? Have you been as patient and kind as Jesus has been to you? Do you forgive others for their wrongs, even before they ask? Do you pray for them and put their needs ahead of your own? When people observe how you express love to others, would they be able to see Jesus and glorify Him for it?

Sadly, I must confess that I have not even come close to loving others as Jesus loved me. So where does that leave me? At the foot of the cross in repentance! Jesus lived a life of perfect love for you and me. He died in payment for all our sins. He rose again to proclaim us forgiven.

When we confess our sins to Jesus, He is faithful and forgives us all our sins. The more we meditate on His love for us, the more that love transforms us. We begin to see others as Jesus sees them, and we show them the same love He shows us.

Praise the LORD for the love Jesus shows you every day. In the peace of His forgiveness, show the same love to others that Jesus showed you so that many more might be drawn to repentance and faith in Him, all to the glory of His name. Amen.

Voters' Meeting on Sunday, March 23, 2025

Our next quarterly voter's meeting is scheduled for after next Sunday's worship/fellowship (at about noon). Physical attendance is highly encouraged. Please let me (pastor) know before the meeting if you need to attend via Google Meet so I can set it up.

Holy Week Schedule at Divine Word

April 17

7:00 PM - Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion

April 18

10:30 AM – Good Friday Service (no Communion)

April 20

8:00 AM – Easter Sunrise Service with Holy Communion

9:00 AM – Easter Breakfast

10:30 AM – Easter Late Service (no Communion)

Easter Schedule at Our Shepherd in Poltimore

April

3:00 PM – Easter Service with Holy Communion

Sunday Bible Class

We finished our study of John this past weekend and have started studying Proverbs, which we hope to continue through Easter. Please join us for Chapter 1, this coming Sunday (March 23).

Friday Fellowship Bible Class

We'd love for you to join us for supper and Bible Study at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Fridays of the month. We are studying the profound things Jesus said during his earthly ministry and exploring their meaning for us. For instance, have you ever wondered why he compared himself to the temple? Or what he meant when he said you can't sew new cloth on an old garment? Come and find out!

In-person Worship Attendance

December – An average of 42 for Sunday worship and 30 for communion (64 for Christmas Eve and 30 for Christmas Day)

January - An average of 44 for Sunday worship and 32 for communion

February – An average of 41 for Sunday worship and 24 for communion

Daily Prayers

I continue sending out daily devotions, links to other devotional sites (included in Monday's messages), Bible classes, Communion registration reminders, and announcements.

If you or someone you know is not receiving the daily prayers and would like them, please let me know their email address, and I will add them to our email list.

Note: Please let me know before unsubscribing if you do not wish to receive the Daily Prayer. The 'Unsubscribe' feature at the bottom of the daily email would remove your name from all congregational emails, including urgent ones.

Evangelism Notes

By: Jordan Alves

The Evangelism committee is currently planning events for this year. We met with Councillor David Hill to discuss opportunities to spread the word of events with the community including his weekly newsletter. We plan submit a post about the Easter breakfast for an upcoming Councillor update.

The next Evangelism meeting is April 13, all are welcome to attend.

Trustee Notes

By: Karl Mallon

Trustee report March 2025

Site Updates
Interior / Exterior: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Investigating possibility of future elevator... working with ??? on prelim info.- Should we mention this? See bottom row - table below.
General updates: Jeremy pls add any info you deem necessary -
Note: Elevator at early stages of discussion. Prelim discussions are draft design has been reviewed and possible options, and questions of concern have been addressed. go-ahead is received (no IOCs of concern)

Items / Actions	Lead	Status	Date
Child safe latches - for under counter doors in both washroom areas have been installed.	Mike	Complete	2025-02-18
Change table - Prelim work to purchase & install infant change table for families with young children has begun. Suitable location & table to be determined based on measurements / dimensions	Ken	In Progress	2025-02-22

Church cleaning – Team schedule has been established and sent out for 3 mth period covering (April 6 to June 29).	Ken	Complete	2025-03-18
Interior doors to be assessed for possible installation of small window. Aim to prevent bumping into someone on other side when opening. Currently some doors do not have this feature with Trustee's to check / consider as part of site review.	Ken, Karl	In Progress	2025-02-22
Exterior Cross lights – to be checked for suitable operation. On / Off function using remote control seems to work intermittently. Check remote device & batteries.	Karl	In Progress	2025-03-16
Other: Follow up with Jeremy on related items as necessary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weather stripping – Main Frt doors - Exterior railing – remove rust / paint black - Parking lot – re: with new sealant / paint lines 	Team	In Progress	Summer 2025
Site accessibility – Elevator & ramp early discussion phase.	Jeremy, Adrian	In Progress	2025-03-13

Youth Education Report

By: Jason Pfothauer

The Divine Word Sunday School has been blessed with some additional students this quarter. As many as six children have attended recently. We are thankful to God. Plans are still underway to address the teen demographic, another growing group in the congregation.

Elders' Notes

By: Jeremy Doherty

Review of our lists to update accuracy and attendance categories.
 Shifted to using hymnals on non-communion Sundays.
 Pastor's vacation in June will result in a lay led service on June 8.
 Letters of encouragement will be sent out soon to delinquent members.

Updates from the Board of Stewardship and Treasurer / Financial Secretary.

By: Jim Neubauer

Unavailable at the moment. Should be ready for Sunday's Voter's Meeting.

“Easter for Kids” at Abiding Word in Orleans

Dear brothers and sisters, we invite you to register your children for our “Easter for Kids” programme being held on Saturday, April 12th. It will run from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and will include many fun activities. Your children will hear the Easter story, participate in crafts and cookie decorating, as well as learn a special Easter song. There will be a brief closing where children will sing the song for their parents.

Your children may also bring friends if they like. There is a maximum of 45 spaces to be filled. The event is free.

You can register online at www.abidingword.ca or use this QR code. Hope you will take the opportunity to have your children attend.



Thank you

I want to thank all the volunteers quietly working in the background at church by doing things like helping with the social media, setting up the altar, watching over our finances and member offerings, keeping on top of administrative paperwork, teaching our children, providing dinners and snacks, making necessary facility repairs, maintaining the property in order, beautifying the sanctuary, helping me organize for services, giving fellow members an encouraging note or call, inviting people to worship, and upholding DW’s ministry in prayer. Know that your work is not in vain. I thank God for all of you and all that you do.

Are You Struggling?

Are you or someone you know struggling spiritually? If so, do not hesitate to contact me (Pastor). *Our conversation will be kept confidential.*

Pastor Sullivan’s Contact Information

Home address: 81 Upminster Way, Ottawa, ON, K2J5G2

Email: pastor@divinewordottawa.ca

Primary (Mobile) Phone Number: (613) 255-2317

Home “Internet” Phone: (512) 887-8982

Feel free to use my mobile phone number as the primary way of contacting me. If you see “Texas Caller” or a number with a “512” area code on your Caller ID, it is probably me calling from my home Internet number. Do not be afraid to answer the phone.

May the LORD continue to bless you.

In Christian love,
Pastor Michael Sullivan