

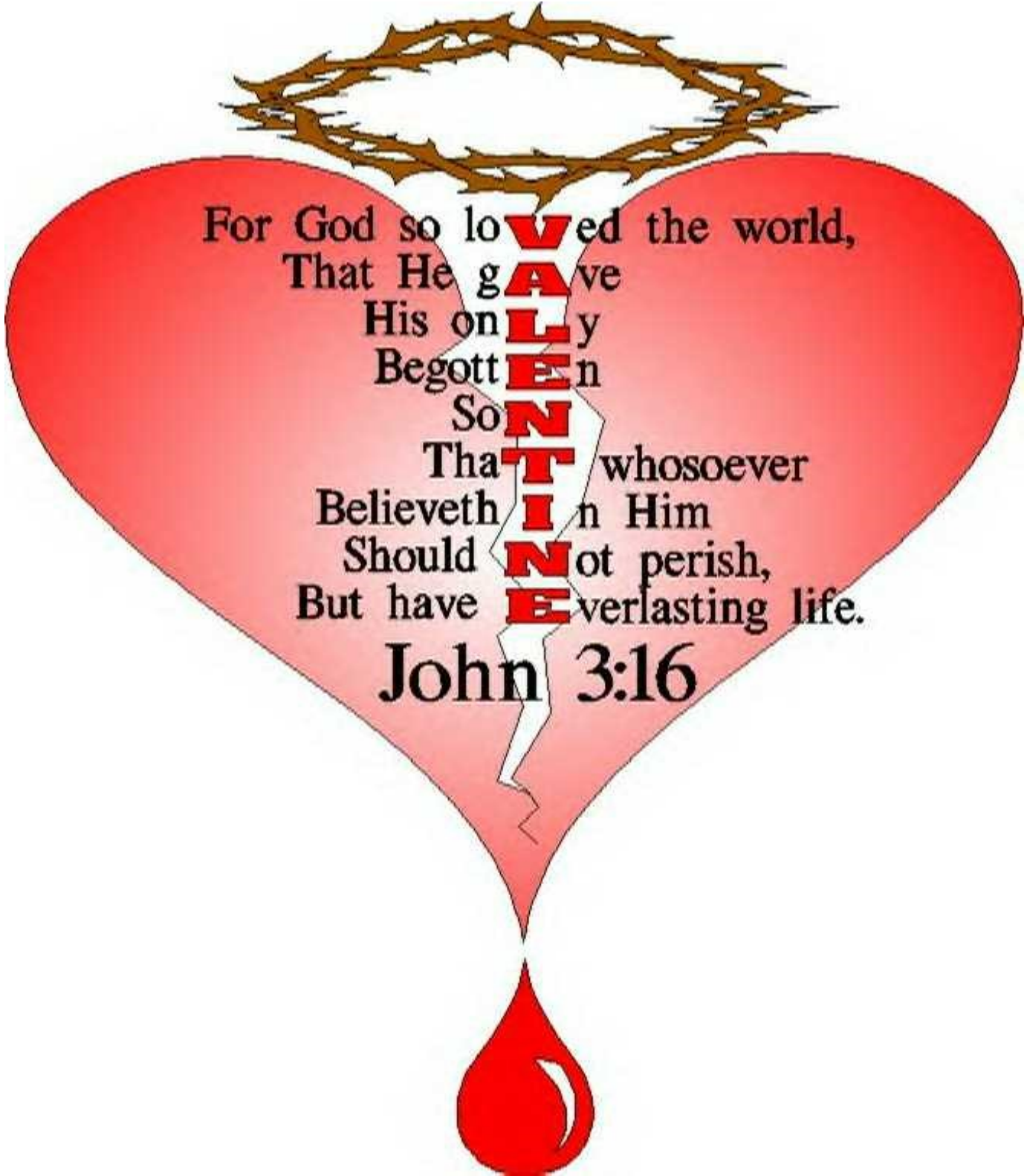
Zion Lutheran Church
349 Lindy Lane NW
North Canton, OH 44720
An ELCA Congregation

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The Zion Herald

Proclaiming Good News

February 2019

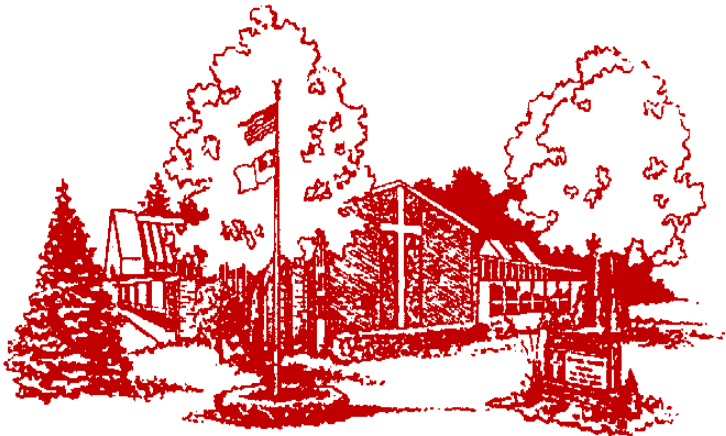


Worship Services
Sunday Morning: 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
Sunday Morning: 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service

Sunday School Classes
(Adult Discussion) 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.
(Classes: All Ages) 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

Church Office Hours
Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Church Office Secretary: Vicki Givler 330-499-3909
Church Office Secretary E-Mail: vicki.givler@yahoo.com
Praise Team Leader: Suzanne Walters 330-497-8996
Christian Ed. Director: Debbie Fox 330-966-2433
Chancel Flowers: Vicki Givler 330-499-3909
Church Office Fax Number 330-499-0801
Prayer Chain: Kay Davis 330-494-6267
Prayer Chain: Email stitchandsewk810@sbcglobal.net
www.ZionEvangelicalLutheranChurch.org



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

This is the month of Valentine’s Day, when our society has us spending high prices on flowers, candies, and cards for us to show our loved ones how much we love them. We need to show how much we love Jesus. We can do this in many ways. We can do outreach programs, give to the less fortunate, and do little things for our neighbors. We are being great stewards in taking care of our church, Jesus’ house. We have changed the lighting in the back Sunday school halls. We have redone the lights in the parking lot, making it safer for everyone. Our new custodian has the inside looking good. The floor in Memorial Hall has been refinished, with the wonderful help of Clarence Givler, Linda Smith, and our custodian, Dick Seeton.

Now we need to work on us. Zion Lutheran Church on Lindy Lane is a great facility, and it has a great family. As they say, “little but mighty”. But we need to grow our family. I know not having a permanent pastor is hard. We are not going to be able to bring in new members without having a permanent pastor. But maybe we can get some of our original family members back. I know there are some who haven’t been coming for different reasons. No matter what the reason we want and need you back. We are on our own, but we have great supply pastors for Sunday morning services. We worked together and had some really nice Advent services. Now we have Lenten season coming upon us.

It would be so nice to see more faces in the pews. We miss having our whole family together. We need more help to keep Zion going, not so much financially, but with members. Having less than 80-90 people for two services is hard. It may be harder to get a future pastor to look at our church with our numbers declining so much. This is not the main reason for wanting our members back, we miss you all. It just isn’t the same if the whole family is not at the table. We are reaching out to you, please come home!

We are starting 2019 with a \$10,000 advance giving. Worship and Music Ministry is planning some really good things for our Lenten Services. We could use some help in reaching out to our shut-ins and members that are ill. We would like to start a ministry that would send cards, call these people, and visit them. If you would be interested in helping with this, please contact me at 330-412-4336 or let Vicki in the office know.

God’s Peace and Blessings be with you all,
Darlene Milavickas

CARING MINISTRY

The dates for the February Food Pantry and Clothing Closet are the 5th and the 19th. Set up time is at 9:00 am with the doors opening at 1:00 pm.

FOOD PANTRY needs spaghetti sauce, crunchy peanut butter, jelly (any flavor except grape), canned fruit, variety pack of flavored instant oatmeal, and creamed soups of all kinds.

CLOTHING CLOSET is in need of household items such as; bath towels, hand towels, tea towels, dishes, pots, pans, etc.

Remember to contact Kay Davis, stitchandsewk810@sbsglobal.net, if you have any prayer requests.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.
Ron Tvorik

RESOURCE MINISTRY

Zion Lutheran finished the year 2018 in the black! In December, 2018, revenues totaled \$27,512.48. Expenses for the month totaled \$18,000.94. The monthly surplus (fourth in a row) of \$9,511.54 enabled us to wipe out the deficit and finish the year with a surplus of \$13.48.

Our ability to once again have a yearly surplus is a tribute to good stewardship, improvements in our infrastructure which have eliminated recurring maintenance expenses, a strong investment portfolio which expands our financial options, and prudent decisions as to which activities best enable Zion Lutheran to pursue its Mission.

Our current situation enables us to look forward to 2019 with confidence that finances will not be an inhibiting factor in our decision-making as to what

News from the Mission Field

In the past I have told you about Lutheran Disaster Response and the World Hunger Appeal. I have another story from that realm. Meet Esmirelda. She is 10 years old. She lives in the mountains about 100 miles east of Alcapulco. In her community the World Hunger Appeal works with **AMEXTRA**. This is an organization that works in rural communities to improve living conditions.

These folks are “Teach a man to fish” people. They build sustainable communities by helping rural folks to build new income streams. According to their website (www.amextra.org) they have served more than 200,000 folks over the last 33 years, in 548 rural communities.

In Esmirelda’s case they gave her dad seeds and a garden hose so he could raise new crops and improve yields. He now has produce that he can sell at market to buy things he cannot grow or make. The family was also given six chickens. The eggs mean protein every day for Esmirelda and her sister rather than only two or three times a week. Chickens also provide a measure of financial security, a nest egg if you will, as they can be sold to raise money in case of an emergency.

The Chickens came from the **ELCA GOOD GIFTS program**. Individuals and congregations can “purchase” livestock for folks in poor rural parts of the world, clean drinking water, and scholarships for aspiring pastors.

I will make sure there is a catalog in the literature rack in the nathax.



Mission Means Many Things

In the course of researching these articles, I lean heavily on the ELCA website. I can tell you that the national church is busy trying to be a light for the world. I have been in tears watching Bishop Eaton talk about inclusion and how we can closer walk with Jesus Christ. I have been impressed with the power a bunch of little communities of faith can muster.

There are folks fighting against discrimination in every form, lifting people up, and being the hands of God.

Take some time to explore www.elca.org. it is the website for the national church. You will be pleased with the things your church is doing. It is worth your time.

Reach out your hand and invite the Holy Spirit work through you. Make some body smile and you will feel God smile back,

Yours in Christ,
Mark Votaw

How to give	
Online	ELCA.org/hunger/donate
Phone	800-638-3522
Mail	Make checks payable to “ELCA World Hunger” and mail to: ELCA, P.O. Box 1809 Merrifield, VA 22116-8009
Good Gifts	www.ELCA.org/products-ELCA_Good_gifts.html



Pastor Ben Colohan Chico California distributing masks to volunteers and victims of the Camp Fire.

in the sacrament of matrimony. And thus he secretly performed many marriages for young lovers. But such things cannot remain hidden for long. It was only a matter of time before Claudius came to know of this "friend of lovers," and had him arrested.

While awaiting his sentence in prison, Valentine was approached by his jailor, Asterius. It was said that Valentine had some saintly abilities and one of them granted him the power to heal people. Asterius had a blind daughter and knowing of the miraculous powers of Valentine he requested the latter to restore the sight of his blind daughter. The Catholic legend has it that Valentine did this through the vehicle of his strong faith, a phenomenon refuted by the Protestant version which agrees otherwise with the Catholic one. Whatever the fact, it appears that when Claudius II met Valentine, he was said to have been impressed by the dignity and conviction of the latter. However, Valentine refused to agree with the emperor regarding the ban on marriage. It is also said that the emperor tried to convert Valentine to the Roman gods but was unsuccessful in his efforts. Valentine refused to recognize Roman Gods and even attempted to convert the emperor, knowing the consequences fully. This angered Claudius II who gave the order of execution of Valentine.

Meanwhile, a deep friendship had been formed between Valentine and Asterius' daughter. It caused great grief to the young girl to hear of his friend's imminent death. It is said that just before his execution, Valentine asked for a pen and paper from his jailor, and signed a farewell message to her "From Your Valentine," a phrase that lived ever after. As per another legend, Valentine fell in love with the daughter of his jailer during his imprisonment. However, this legend is not given much importance by historians. The most plausible story surrounding St. Valentine is one not centered on Eros (passionate love) but on agape (Christian love): he was martyred for refusing to renounce his religion. Valentine is believed to have been executed on February 14, 270 AD.

Thus 14th February became a day for all lovers and Valentine became its Patron Saint. It began to be annually observed by young Romans who offered handwritten greetings of affection, known as Valentines, on this day to the women they admired. With the coming of Christianity, the day came to be known as St. Valentine's Day.

But it was only during the 14th century that St. Valentine's Day became definitively associated with love. UCLA medieval scholar Henry Ansgar Kelly, author of "Chaucer and the Cult of Saint Valentine", credits Chaucer as the one who first linked St. Valentine's Day with romance. In medieval France and England it was believed that birds mated on February 14. Hence, Chaucer used the image of birds as the symbol of lovers in poems dedicated to the day. In Chaucer's "The Parliament of Fowls," the royal engagement, the mating season of birds, and St. Valentine's Day are related:

"For this was on St. Valentine's Day, When every fowl cometh there to choose his mate."

By the Middle Ages, Valentine became as popular as to become one of the most popular saints in England and France. Despite attempts by the Christian church to sanctify the holiday, the association of Valentine’s Day with romance and courtship continued through the Middle Ages. The holiday evolved over the centuries. By the 18th century, gift-giving and exchanging hand-made cards on Valentine's Day had become common in England. Hand-made valentine cards made of lace, ribbons, and featuring cupids and hearts began to be created on this day and handed over to the man or woman one loved. This tradition eventually spread to the American colonies. It was not until the 1840s that Valentine's Day greeting cards began to be commercially produced in the U.S. The first American Valentine's Day greeting cards were created by Esther A. Howlanda Mount Holyoke, a graduate and native of Worcester. Mass. Howland, known as the Mother of the Valentine, made elaborate creations with real lace, ribbons and colorful pictures known as "scrap". It was when Howland began Valentine's cards in a large scale that the tradition really caught on in the United States.

Today, Valentine's Day is one of the major holidays in the U.S. and has become a booming commercial success. According to the Greeting Card Association, 25% of all cards sent each year are “valentine’s”. The "valentines", as Valentine's Day cards are better known as, are often designed with hearts to symbolize love. The Valentine's Day card spread with Christianity, and is now celebrated all over the world. One of the earliest valentines was sent in 1415 AD by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife during his imprisonment in the Tower of London. The card is now preserved in the British Museum.

There may be doubts regarding the actual identity of Valentine, but we know that he really existed because archaeologists have recently unearthed a Roman catacomb and an ancient church dedicated to a Saint Valentine.

is in the best interests of Zion and will have no adverse impact on our ability to contribute to philanthropic, humanitarian and outreach efforts.

Jim Fidler
Resource Elder

THE CALL PROCESS

As we proceed into the wintery months of the New Year, the Call Process must contend with the problems created by inclement weather, which affects travel plans by Pastors seeking a Call.

As we continue in the extremely competitive Call Process, we will continue to work with the Northeastern Ohio Synod to identify those individuals whose temperament, intellectual perspective and experience make them suitable candidates for establishing a Pastoral Partnership with Zion.

We will, as always, proceed diligently, expeditiously, and carefully.

Faithfully,

Your Call Committee:
Laura Thompson (Chairperson)
Rob Frock
Cathy Harvey
Marissa Keating
John Long
Brian Walters
Jim Fidler (Council Representative)

LEARNING MINISTRY

In case you hadn’t heard, Adult Sunday School is back in session. A sincere “Welcome Back” to Jeff Hissong after his surgery. Your class has missed you!

Janet Slease
Learning Ministry

PARISH LIFE

Zion was represented at the NEO Synod Youth Gathering by our two board members, Mallory Rhodes and Chrissy Nicholson. They did a great job assisting with the worship services, workshops, dance, and coffeehouse. It was both educational and inspiring as well as a lot of fun. I attended as chaperone.

This year's Youth Gathering theme was

C.O.F.F.E.E., "Christ Offers Forgiveness For Everyone, Everywhere". Friday opened with mixers, family groups, music by *Mass Anthem*, and speaker, Cedric Gegel, actor and film writer and director who shared his personal story about forgiveness.

Saturday was a full day with more music, keynote speaker, Brent Scarpo, who has "over thirty year's experience as a national transformations speaker, educator, movie producer, writer, director, and casting director" in Palm Springs (and who is my new 'bud', along with his therapy dog, Sophie,) family groups, workshops, board elections, service projects, pizza dinner, and a dance and coffeehouse (emceed by Zion's own Mallory Rhodes) in the evening.

Sunday morning worship was led by the board members. *Mass Anthem* again provided the music and Reverend Karl Bierman gave the sermon.

Thank you Zion for sponsoring us!

Miriam Keating

WITNESS MINISTRY

The North Canton Heritage Society is putting together an exhibit on historic churches of North Canton in April. They would like to collect oral histories from members as well as borrow documents or pictures for the display. Information and any materials are due by March 1st. If you would like to contribute, please contact Executive Director, Amanda Sedlak-Hevener at 330-494-4791.

Heather Hoffman

ZION’S FINANCIAL FACTS IN DECEMBER 2018	
December Income	\$ 27,512.48
Income through December	\$201,553.43
December Expenses	\$ 18,000.94
Expenses through December	\$201,539.95

December Surplus \$9,511.54
2018 YTD Surplus \$ 13.48

We thank you for your generous support!

THANK YOU - We would like to thank everyone who attended the Celebration of Life for our son and brother, Don Roan. Many thanks to Debbie Lanca-

shire for the beautiful eulogy. The church ladies that served a wonderful luncheon afterward and to all that donated food. The flowers, the cards and the messages all touched our hearts. Thank you for helping us get through this difficult time. Also, thank you all for the well wishes and cards and phone calls for my recovery after surviving a stroke last Friday. As painful as this last month has been, you all have made it much better with your love and concern for our family. Thank you all so much.

God's blessings to all of you.

Donna Roan and Cathy Harvey

News from Zion's Youth

Upcoming Events – Mark your calendars!

Wednesday, March 6th: Ash Wednesday

Sunday, April 21st (Easter): Children's Easter Egg Hunt for all ages during Sunday School

Sunday School

Sunday School will continue on its normal schedule in February. As a reminder, Sunday School begins at 9:15 am each Sunday and ends at 10:15 am. Our classes will continue to learn important lessons from the Bible along with crafts, puzzles, games and snacks. Please join us!

Confirmation class will continue their lessons in the Resource Room at 9:15 am each Sunday, and the High School class will meet in the High School room to work on service projects and lessons.

A Service Project for February – A Tree of Love for The Stark County Humane Society

We need your help this month! The youth will be sponsoring a service project for the Stark County Humane Society during the month of February. There will be a "Tree of Love" in the Narthex with heart tags and sweet treats. The tags will have items that are needed most at this time for the Humane Society, and the sweet treat is a small thank you for your love of pets. Please take a treat and tag or two from the tree and place the item you will purchase under the tree. There will also be heart tags with monetary amounts for those who are not able to shop. The following is a list of the items that will be included on the heart tags:

1. Canned Cat Food
2. Blue Dawn Dish Soap
3. Bleach
4. Laundry Detergent
5. Dry Dog or Cat Food
6. Garden Hoses and Nozzles

Please help us help the animals! You can look up more information about the Stark County Humane Society on their website at www.starkhumane.org where there is a list of additional items they need and volunteer opportunities. Thank you in advance for everyone's support!

Acme Receipts

Thank you to everyone for all of the Acme receipts that were left in the jar in the Narthex. We are currently in the process of tallying things up. Look for totals in next month's Newsletter. We truly appreciate everyone's support of our youth.

The Origins of Valentine's Day



Every year, the fourteenth day of the month of February has millions across the world presenting their loved ones with candy, flowers, chocolates and other lovely gifts. In many countries, restaurants and eateries are seen to be filled with couples who are eager to celebrate their relationship and the joy of their togetherness through delicious cuisines. There hardly seems to be a young man or woman who is not keen to make the most of the day. The reason behind all of this is a kindly cleric named Valentine who died more than a thousand years ago.

It is not exactly known why the 14th of February is known as Valentine's Day or if the noble Valentine really had any relation to this day. The history of Valentine's Day is impossible to be obtained from any archive and the veil of centuries gone by has made the origin behind this day more difficult to trace. It is only some legends that are our source for the history of Valentine's Day.



The modern St. Valentine's Day celebrations are said to have been derived from both ancient Christian and Roman tradition. As per one legend, the holiday has originated from the ancient Roman festival of Lupercalis/Lupercalia, a fertility celebration that used to be observed annually on February 15. But the rise of Christianity in Europe saw many pagan holidays being renamed for and dedicated to the early Christian martyrs. Lupercalia was no exception. In 496 AD, Pope Gelasius turned Lupercalia into a Christian feast day and set its observance a day earlier, on February 14. He proclaimed February 14 to be the feast day in honor of Saint Valentine, a Roman martyr who lived in the 3rd century. It is this St. Valentine whom the modern Valentine's Day honors.

According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, there were at least three early Christian saints by the name of Valentine. While one was a priest in Rome, another was a bishop in Terni. Nothing is known about the third St. Valentine except that he met his end in Africa. Surprisingly, all three of them were said to have been martyred on 14th February.

It is clear that Pope Gelasius intended to honor the first of these three aforementioned men. Most scholars believe that this St. Valentine was a priest who lived around 270 AD in Rome and attracted the disfavor of the Roman emperor Claudius II who ruled during this time.

The story of St. Valentine has two different versions - the Protestant and the Catholic one. Both versions agree upon Saint Valentine being a bishop who held secret marriage ceremonies of soldiers in opposition to Claudius II who had prohibited marriage for young men and was executed by the latter. During the lifetime of Valentine, the golden era of the Roman empire had almost come to an end. Lack of quality administrators led to frequent civil strife. Education declined, taxation increased and trade witnessed a very bad time. The Roman empire faced crisis from all sides, from the Gauls, Slavs, Huns, Turks and Mongolians from Northern Europe and Asia. The empire had grown too large to be shielded from external aggression and internal chaos with existing forces. Naturally, more and more capable men were required to be recruited as soldiers and officers to protect the nation from takeover. When Claudius became the emperor, he felt that married men were more emotionally attached to their families, and thus, will not make good soldiers. He believed that marriage made the men weak. So he issued an edict forbidding marriage to assure quality soldiers. The ban on marriage was a great shock for the Romans. But they dared not voice their protest against the mighty emperor.

The kindly bishop Valentine also realized the injustice of the decree. He saw the trauma of young lovers who gave up all hopes of being united in marriage. He planned to counter the monarch's orders in secrecy. Whenever lovers thought of marrying, they went to Valentine who met them afterwards in a secret place, and joined them