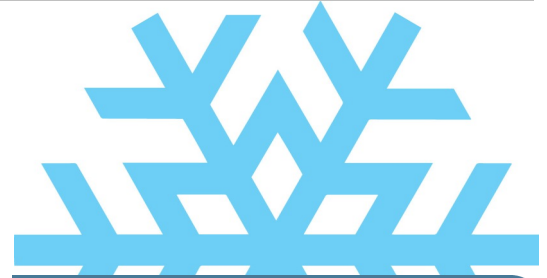


FEBRUARY, 2024

Reflections

A Publication of Ascension Lutheran Church

THE SEASON OF LENT



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February is a time we see a lot of decorations in stores for Valentine's Day, lots of hearts and



flowers, candy and pudgy little Cupids, and things like that. That day has become associated with love,

particularly the romantic kind. We certainly find romance in the Bible and see an important place for it in our own relationships – the Song of Solomon is one example of this. Of course, as Christians we want to celebrate and strengthen marriages, seeing in them a reflection of Christ's love and relationship to the Church, and if something like Valentine's Day helps do that we can definitely support it.

But this year, our church calendar brings us to reflect on a different kind of love on Valentine's Day:



February the 14th this year marks Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Repentance and sackcloth and ashes aren't exactly a romantic way to celebrate, maybe giving up chocolate and candy for a Lenten fast instead of indulging

in merriment. But Ash Wednesday and Lent do point us to love, just like Valentine's Day does: marriage and romance is one reflection of Christ's love for the Church, pointing us to how he ultimately gave himself up for her.

There's an old American spiritual song that came to my mind, hymn number 543 in our current hymnal, *What Wondrous Love Is This*: "What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul! When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing his love for me, and through eternity I'll sing on."



Those are two very different expressions of love, but both are ultimately from God and help us understand God's attitude towards us: Ephesians chapter five shows us that these two kinds of love aren't totally unrelated, but are deeply connected. Marriage and becoming one flesh refers to Christ and the Church, just as husbands are told to love their wives as Christ loves the Church, giving himself up for her. Is there true romance without some kind of self-sacrifice, putting him or her before yourself? Is there sacrificial love without some passion to motivate it?

Maybe it's surprisingly appropriate that Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day are the same this year. In the words with which Paul closes 2 Corinthians, "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all," grace and love and fellowship this Valentine Ash Wednesday and Lenten season.



ASH WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 14
12:00 NOON & 6:30 PM

MIDWEEK LENT - FEBRUARY 21
5:30 PM - SUPPER
6:30 PM - SERVICE

MIDWEEK LENT - FEBRUARY 28
5:30 PM - MEAL
6:30 PM - SERVICE

MIDWEEK LENT - MARCH 6
5:30 PM - MEAL
6:30 PM - SERVICE

MIDWEEK LENT - MARCH 13
5:30 PM - MEAL
6:30 PM - SERVICE

MIDWEEK LENT - MARCH 20
5:30 PM - MEAL
6:30 PM - SERVICE

We observed National Lutheran Schools' Week last week. Spirit Week has been low key this year because most of the build-up comes the week proceeding the event. We even missed the first day.



Our theme for this week, and this year is "Connected," taken from John 15:1-5: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."* The theme "Connected" emphasizes the importance of staying connected to God and to one another when we face challenges and difficulties and when we share in joys and triumphs!

Did you know that by using your Kroger Loyalty cards you cannot only get product discounts, but you can also give money to the CDC? Kroger has a program where a percentage of every dollar can go to a charitable organization of your choice.

To make the CDC your charitable organization please use the following steps:

- ♦ Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com
- ♦ Create an account.
- ♦ Add your Kroger Plus card number or Alternate ID to our account.
- ♦ Look at your account summary and go to Community Rewards.
- ♦ Click enroll and enter your information.
- ♦ Enter organization number – **17197** and select Ascension Lutheran Preschool and Child Development Center.

Your contributions are much appreciated!

Did everyone enjoy the feel of winter we had? I think we "southerners" were a bit unnerved by the longevity of the event.

February can be a hard month, can't it? Now that the cheerful hustle and bustle of Christmas is over and cold, dark days seem to stretch endlessly ahead of us, many of us become susceptible to the winter blues, leaving us feeling sad, lonely, or lethargic.

Lord, sometimes during this bleak month, we feel discouraged. Life is hard enough as it is, but the frigid air and the dusky mornings seem to make everything more difficult. When we're sad or frustrated, help us search for the beauty You've put around us. Help us remember that this beauty is an expression of Your care for us, and as we encounter it, may our hearts be buoyed by the warmth of Your love.

Lord, long nights seem to make us more prone to feeling lonely. When these feelings come, help us

find comfort in the community of friends, family, and faithful Christ-followers that You've put around us. Most of all, help us seek and find communion with You. Thank You that no matter what, we always have You as our constant Companion.

Lord, sometimes during this season, our stamina seems as fleeting as the winter sun. Sometimes, we wonder how we'll make it through another day. When we feel weak and weary, help us lean on You. Thank You that You are our strength.

Lord, we know You have good plans for us, but sometimes we lack the motivation to pursue our goals. Please give us grace to accept the slower pace of this winter month and help us remember that Your plans will not be accomplished through our human striving but through the power of Your Spirit.

Thank You, Lord, that though these winter days are dark, Your light shines bright. Help us remember that there is no darkness Your light cannot overcome. As we dwell in Your light, rest in Your strength, and bask in Your warmth, help us become beacons of hope and love to those around us. In Jesus' name, Amen.



The LWML met on January 6 and planned the upcoming chili lunch at Rose of Sharon for Thursday, January 25. There was no baked potato meal served in December;



however, for this month, in lieu of homemade items, chili will be bought. The cost of the chili will be paid for by the Board of Social Services. Volunteers will donate 60 pounds of potatoes, as well as other items, to be paid for by the volunteers.

The LWML joined the Adopt-A-Student program at St. Louis Seminary using the proceeds from the Rummage Sale, from which \$1000 was sent in. Financial Aid will match us with the student that is in need of help the most. A request will be made for a pastoral student or a deaconess from the local area. There is a \$1000 minimum required for a donation to a student during the calendar year from August to May.

The LWML was asked to provide the lunch for the Evangelism Training, involving Ascension, Grace and possibly

other churches. It will be held on a Saturday, the date to be announced. This will be organized by the Evangelism Committee headed by Stephanie Lee.

The Gulf States District Convention will be held April 26, 2024. Registration is to be sent in by March 22. It will be held at the Montgomery Marriott in Prattville. Marsha Carden suggested taking the church bus for travel or to travel with Grace Lutheran.

A motion was made by Marcia Pate for the group to think of forming a fund-raising committee to organize sales of donated items online with Spotify, Amazon, Facebook Marketplace, etc. A second to the motion was made by Marsha Carden. Marcia would be willing to store and ship the item(s). It was suggested the fundraising be done for a certain length of time as a test run. This would be a way to raise funds for God's work. Another method of fundraising would be to register with Amazon Smile, Kroger and other similar organizations to receive funds/benefits.

When Pastor's Waffel's family is settled in a home, a "Pounding" (collection of a pound of sugar, etc.) will be promoted for items to assist the Pastor's family in setting up housekeeping. Gift cards will also be welcome from

Walmart, Home Goods, etc. They can then purchase what they need when they need it.

If you are interested in joining LWML, we meet at 10:00 AM every second Saturday of the month in the Fellowship Hall. Also, if anyone wishes to participate in The Prayer Chain, please call me at 256-520-0928 or email me at lhirschbuehler@gmail.com and I will include you when we send out Prayer Requests.





Outreach Ministry

Barring any more snow or ice, our Outreach Ministry continues in Huntsville once a week, split between two venues. For February we have:

February 1, 15 & 29 at 10:45 AM at Regency, 4th Floor

February 7 & 21 at 10:15 AM at HHR.

The worship consists of:

Welcome - Pastor or Elder

Song 1

Song 2

OT Reading

Song 3

Song 4

NT Reading

Song 5

Song 6

Gospel

Song 7

Message

Song 8

Song 9

Birthdays

Clarissa Golden	02/02
Chardae Golden	02/02
Linda Hirschbuehler	02/03
Tim Hurst	02/03
Allison Engel	02/08
Leslie Hurst	02/08
Jennifer Hartwig	02/08
Emma Yates	02/12
Bernard Ansorge	02/13
Laura Ballentine	02/14
Andrea Hirschbuehler	02/19
Cynthia McCullam	02/19
Morgan Engel	02/23
Lauren Levenhagen	02/26
Jake Holmes	02/27
Mary Engel	02/28

Anniversaries

Bob & Linda Hirschbuehler	02/07/1976	(48 years)
Al & Marg Ogles	02/14/1970	(54 years)
Dhan & Rhonda Abello	02/20/1993	(31 years)
Sam & Domina Mwakabumbila	02/25/2006	(18 years)
Adam & Anna Grott	02/20/2021	(14 years)



WHAT IS OUR CHURCH “SELLING” AND HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you.” (Luke 14:28-29)

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?” (Matthew 16:24-26)

Since my retirement at the end of last year, I have been thinking a lot about web sites in general and Ascension’s web site in particular. This thinking has led me down a path that I had not, and probably you have not either, seriously contemplated before. What is our church “selling” and how much does it cost? When someone is contemplating entering our doors, what are they looking for? What are they looking to acquire?

Most church web sites are similar. Here are a few pictures, here is a brief statement of what we believe, here are our worship times, here are the activities going on at our church, here are pictures and brief bios of our staff, and here are some links you can follow if you want to find out more. Is that what the church is “selling”? A worship service, perhaps with a praise band, that is more entertainment than participation? A youth program? Lots of social opportunities? A staff of attractive people? What exactly is that church offering,

what is it “selling” and what is its cost?

Switching to the more general topic of non-church web sites, when I visit a web site, I am typically looking for something specific. If a bookstore, I am looking for a specific book or perhaps a book of a particular genre or by a favorite author. If an electronics store, I am looking for a television or some other electronic device. If Home Depot or Lowes, I am looking for outdoor equipment, outdoor plants, paint, or hardware of some other type. In other words, when I frequent a web site there is typically something specific that I am looking to acquire. For each of the items I am looking to acquire, I want to know certain information such as specs, cost, reviews, etc.

But what about a church? What is a church “selling” that I am looking to acquire and what does it cost? An hour of entertainment on Sunday morning? A group of people that could become friends? Something to occupy my kids to keep them out of trouble? Counseling? An opportunity to put a check mark inside the “I attended church” check box or the “I’ve done my part so I’m good with God” check box?

A true Christian church should be “selling” a belief system, an ideology, a world view. The cost to acquire this belief system is free, but the cost after acquisition is very high. Yet the benefits, forgiveness of sins, peace with God, eternal salvation, etc., of this belief system far outweigh the costs (taking up your cross and following Jesus). Therefore, what the true Christian church is “selling” is far more valuable than anything else but also far more expensive.

Our church web site, since this is now the façade more so than the building itself, that is presented to the outside world, should reflect what our church is “selling.” Are we “selling” worship times, a staff of individuals, a calendar of activities? Are we doing false advertising trying to make our church attractive to the outside world? Or are we “selling” Jesus Christ crucified, our Lord and Savior? Are we offering forgiveness of sins, peace with God, and eternal life? Are we offering answers to life’s truly important questions? Are we offering a support system of believers who will help with whatever struggles need to be faced? And, on the other hand, are we presenting a true picture of the cost of admission? Are we giving the web site viewer a true cost/benefit picture?

If someone is already a member of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, then maybe pictures of the building and staff and a church calendar of activities are what they want to know. Therefore, these items should be readily available via the web site, but they shouldn’t be the focus. The thrust of our church website should be what we are offering and what it costs.

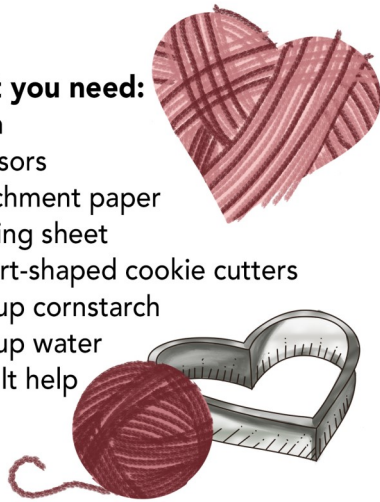
Note: Each week, there is a full service uploaded that teaches/preaches what we believe and what God’s Word offers. This is in addition to the rest of the website that is updated on a regular basis.

HEART strings

Make this heartfelt craft as a decoration or gift.

What you need:

- Yarn
- Scissors
- Parchment paper
- Baking sheet
- Heart-shaped cookie cutters
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- ½ cup water
- Adult help



What you do:

1. Cut yarn into 12-inch pieces.
2. Place cookie cutters atop a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
3. Combine cornstarch and water in a saucepan. Heat mixture over medium heat, stirring until thick and smooth. Remove from heat and cool to form a "glue."
4. Dip each piece of yarn into the mixture to coat completely. Squeeze off any excess.
5. Place yarn in the cookie cutters, allowing pieces to cross and loop within the heart. Add more until the cookie cutter is filled and the yarn looks like a heart.
6. Remove cookie cutters and bake the sheet for two hours at 150°F, or until hearts are dry and hard.

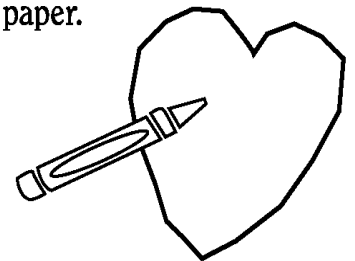
Send an Invisible Valentine to Someone You Love!

Here's what you'll need:

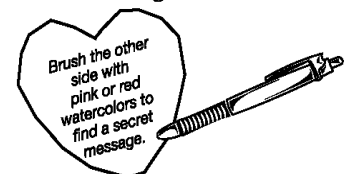
- Scissors
- White construction paper
- White crayon
- Pen
- Pink or red watercolor

Here's how to make an invisible Valentine:

1. Cut a heart shape out of the white construction paper.



2. Use the white crayon to decorate the heart with designs and a message. Press hard!
3. On the back, use the pen to write: "Brush the other side with pink or red watercolor to find a secret message."



4. Give the valentine to someone you love. When the person paints the "blank" side, your secret message will be revealed!

THE PERFECT LOVE STORY

This time of year, love became a popular word. Hearts and red decorations fill stores and commercials with the aim to make profit. But how much do we really know about love at all? Some of us shy away from the word because of its frequent misuse.

1 John 4:7-11: "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

Everyone believes that love is important, but love is usually thought of as a feeling.

In reality, love is a choice and an action, as in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, which shows God to be the source of our love: *"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."*

He loved us enough to sacrifice His Son for us. Jesus is our example for what it means to love; everything He did in life and death was supremely loving. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to love; he lives in our hearts and makes us more and more like Christ. God's

love always involves a choice and an action and our love should be like His. How well do you display your love for God in the choices you make and the actions you take?

This month, let us take some time to truly meditate on the theme of love through the perspective of the author of love, our Triune God.

If no one has ever seen God, how can we ever know him? John, in his Gospel said, "God, the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made Him known." Jesus is the complete expression of God in human form and He has revealed God to us. When we love one another, the invisible God reveals Himself to others through us, and His love is made complete.

When we become Christians, we receive the Holy Spirit. God's presence in our lives is proof that we really belong to Him. He also gives us the power to love. Rely on that power as you reach out to others. As you do so, you will gain confidence.

The day of judgment is that time when all people will appear before Christ and be held accountable for their actions. With God living in us through Christ, we have no reason to fear this day because we have been saved from punishment. Instead, we can look forward to the day of judgment because it will mean the end of sin and the beginning of a face-to-face relationship with Jesus Christ.

If we ever are afraid of the future eternity, or God's judgment, we can remind ourselves of God's love. We know that He loves us perfectly. We can resolve our fear first by focusing on His

immeasurable love for us, and that by allowing Him to love others through us. His love will quiet our fears and give us confidence.

God's love is the source of human love. It spreads fire. In loving His children, God kindles a flame in the hearts. In turn, they love others, who are warmed by God's love through them.

1 John 4:1-21: "No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us."

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love."

We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother or sister who they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen."

And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister...."

It is easy to say we love God when that love doesn't cost us any more than weekly attendance at religious services. But the real test of our love for God is how we treat the people right in front of us - our family members and fellow believers. We cannot really love God while neglecting to love those who are created in His image.

Psalm 31:

*"In you, LORD, I have taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.
Turn your ear to me,
come quickly to my rescue;
be my rock of refuge,
a strong fortress to save me.*

*Since you are my rock and my fortress,
for the sake of your name lead and guide me.
Keep me free from the trap that is set for me,
for you are my refuge.
Into your hands I commit my spirit;
deliver me, LORD, my faithful God.*

*I hate those who cling to worthless idols;
as for me, I trust in the LORD.
I will be glad and rejoice in your love,
for you saw my affliction
and knew the anguish of my soul.*

*You have not given me into the hands of the enemy
but have set my feet in a spacious place.*

*Be merciful to me, LORD, for I am in distress;
my eyes grow weak with sorrow,
my soul and body with grief.
My life is consumed by anguish
and my years by groaning;
my strength fails because of my affliction,
and my bones grow weak.*

*Because of all my enemies,
I am the utter contempt of my neighbors
and an object of dread to my closest friends—
those who see me on the street flee from me.
I am forgotten as though I were dead;
I have become like broken pottery.
For I hear many whispering,
"Terror on every side!"
They conspire against me
and plot to take my life.*

*But I trust in you, LORD;
I say, "You are my God."
My times are in your hands;
deliver me from the hands of my
enemies,
from those who pursue me.
Let your face shine on your servant;
save me in your unfailing love.
Let me not be put to shame, LORD,
for I have cried out to you;
but let the wicked be put to shame
and be silent in the realm of the dead.
Let their lying lips be silenced,
for with pride and contempt
they speak arrogantly against the
righteous*

*How abundant are the good things
that you have stored up for those who
fear you,
that you bestow in the sight of all,
on those who take refuge in you.
In the shelter of your presence you
hide them
from all human intrigues;
you keep them safe in your dwelling
from accusing tongues.*

*Praise be to the LORD,
for he showed me the wonders of his
love
when I was in a city under siege.
In my alarm I said,
"I am cut off from your sight!"
Yet you heard my cry for mercy
when I called to you for help.*

*Love
the LORD, all
his faithful
people!*

*The Lord
preserves the
faithful, but
the proud he
pays back in
full. Be strong
and take
heart, all you
who hope in
the Lord."*



FROM STEWARDSHIP (Continued):

We say we have faith in God, but do we really trust Him? David's words, "into your hands I commit my spirit," convey complete trust in God. Jesus used this phrase as He was dying on the cross, showing His absolute dependence on God the Father (Luke 23:46). Stephen repeated these words as he was being stoned to death (Acts 7:59), confident that in death, he was simply passing from God's earthly care to God's eternal care.

Why did David suddenly bring up the subject of idol worship? He wanted to contrast his total devotion to God with the diluted worship offered by many Israelites. Pagan religious rituals were never completely banished from Israel and Judah, despite the efforts of David and a few other kinds. Obviously, those who cling to idols (wealth, material possessions, success) cannot expect God's Spirit to guide them. God is our highest authority and requires our first allegiance. To do this, we will examine God's Word, the ultimate and perfect love story. No, this is not a folktale, but the true love story that began before the dawn of time and is still being written, today.



"Thou shalt
not make
unto thee any
graven image...."

Exodus 20:4

As we follow the Bible narrative of God's love for us and for all of creation, we might be encouraged and even awestruck. No matter how many times we've heard the truth of God's love, it can still leave us in wonder at how deeply the love of God pervades our story from beginning to end.

We might notice something else as we delve into the love of God for us. We might remember that "we love because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19). We might remember why we love one another.



Lord, Your love is vast and deep, but ours is shallow and unfaithful. We rebel against You and betray You in what we think, say and do, and by what we fail to think, say and do. Forgive us for our lovelessness. Turn our hearts back to You. Cleanse us from our sin and lead us in Your ways. Guide and keep us as we enter the season of Lent and contemplate Your immense love for us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

FROM EVANGELISM

Stephanie Lee

This past summer, I had the privilege to listen to a dear friend deliver a talk to our kids. I do not remember the topic, but she made a statement which I have spent many hours pondering. "For a believer, these days are the only hell we will ever know." Having grown up in the church, this is not a particularly new concept to me. I believe Jesus is The Way, The Truth, and The Life. Heaven and eternity are my present and future realities. Maybe it was the way in which she bluntly stated it, or the station I find myself in life, or simply the Holy Spirit willed it to, but this statement hit me hard. Since 2017, our household has had our share of difficult moments; deaths of loved one, car accidents, housing disasters, illnesses, etc. It hasn't been a ton of fun. But this is as bad as it will get for us. Not even the most horrific death can change that. Have you ever really thought about that?

So if the above statement is true, then this statement is also true: For the non-believer, these days are the only heaven they will know. This statement hits even harder. For people who do not know the love and grace of Christ, this is as good as it gets, and it promises to get much worse. Here on earth, even non-believers are in the presence of God at times because He lives in you and me. He is in His creation. At the end, they will be forever separated from God. Think on that for a moment.

I cannot think of a single person I would wish that fate on. This is a call to arms, we have work to do. When God called you to be His child in your baptism, He called you to a higher purpose, helping spread His gospel message.



ASH Wednesday

Every year, our denomination celebrates Ash Wednesday. It's the time when we do a service of repentance, have a sign of the cross marked on our foreheads from the ashes of last year's palm branches, and then partake of the Lord's Supper as a sign of our Savior's love and forgiveness to us, His redeemed people. We do not sit in sackcloth or ashes, nor do we tear our clothing off to show our deep sorrow for the sins we have committed. Perhaps it's because our sorrow is not very deep.

In the time of Joel, the prophet, whose time frame is in the early part of the 9th century before Christ, it was a very different environment than here in 2024. There was a draught, the likes of which had never been seen before, not even the draught in Joseph's time was as bad.

God sent an army of insects as a precursor of His own righteous anger because of His people's lifestyle and blatant disregard of His will. He sent palmer-worms to gnaw off the fresh green plants' foliage; what the palmer-worms didn't eat, the locust devastated; what the locust left behind, which wasn't much, the canker-worms destroyed; and if there were anything left, the caterpillars finished it off. By the time this succession of insects was through, every orchard, vineyard, vegetable, fruits, every tree and green thing was destroyed. The bark of the trees was eaten and the limbs were unable to live. The animals had no grass to graze, no pasture to settle in. Those who imbibed the wine found no grapes. Those who offered sacrifices on the altars had no animals to offer.

It was a nation brought to its knees, seeing the hand, perhaps even anger, of God because of their unrepentant sins.

Then, there was Joel, God's mouthpiece for that very time (2:12-14):

"Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God?"

How could God even consider undoing all the devastation that He had done to show His people He was not pleased with them?

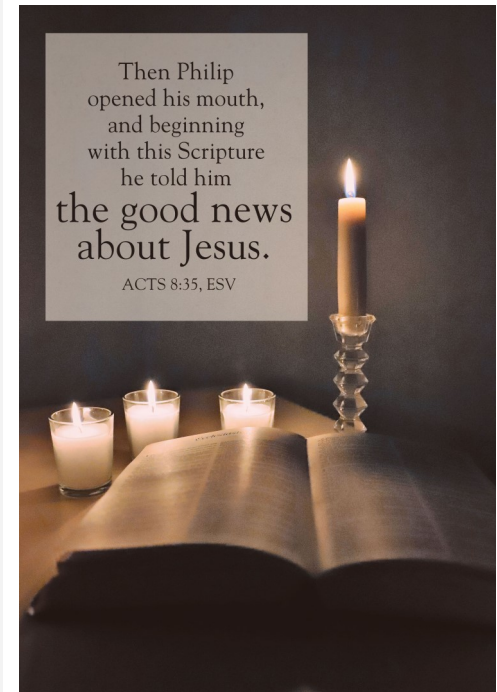
Joel 2:15-17: *"Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep and say, 'Spare your people, O Lord, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"*

The call to assemble as a people, to repent - truly repent - was heeded by the nation and God, in His mercy, saw their hearts were truly repentant and restored them and called them His own, once again.



FROM EVANGELISM (Continued)

The evangelism board needs you! We welcome anyone who would like to join, young and old. We appreciate any ideas, thoughts, and prayers.



Here are a few activities in the near future:

- ♦ 23 March 2024 - Easter hunt and "Experience"
- ♦ 13 April 2024 - Evangelism Training Day

More information is forthcoming. Please be in prayer now for good weather for both events, for growth and outreach to happen as God wills, and please also consider where you can help.

Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow!

February, 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10:45 AM - Regency	2	3
4 8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship 9:30 AM - Classes 9:45 AM - Regency 10:45 AM - Baptism	5 6:00 PM - Worship	6 10:00 AM - Women's Bible Study	7 10:15 AM - HHR 6:00 PM - Choir	8	9	10 10:00 AM - LWML
11 8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship 9:30 AM - Classes 9:45 AM - Regency	12 6:00 PM - Worship	13 10:00 AM - Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM - Board of Directors	14 12:00 & 6:30 PM - Ash Wednesday Services 7:15 PM - Choir	15 10:45 AM - Regency	16	17
18 8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship 9:30 AM - Classes 9:45 AM - Regency	19 6:00 PM - Worship	20 10:00 AM - Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM - Board of Elders	21 10:15 AM - HHR 5:30 PM - Meal 6:30 PM - Service 7:15 AM - Choir	22	23	24 8:30 AM - Men's Prayer Breakfast
25 8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship 9:30 AM - Classes 9:45 AM - Regency	26 6:00 PM - Worship 7:00 PM - Chinese Food	27 10:00 AM - Women's Bible Study	28 5:30 PM - Meal 6:30 PM - Service 7:15 AM - Choir	29 10:45 AM - Regency		