



With Relationship Comes Responsibility

Hear this word the Lord has spoken against you, O people of Israel, against the whole family I brought up out of Egypt: “You only have I chosen of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your sins.” (Amos 3:1-2)

Amos proclaims the Word of God to the people of Israel ... the people who God called up out of the land of Egypt [and made his own]. This salvation/rescue/deliverance reminds them of their covenantal relationship with the LORD their God. They are his chosen people. As chosen people in a covenant with God, they are empowered to show compassion upon the little people in their land (see Amos 7:1-6).

God initiates the relationship. He doesn't say: “If you want to be my people, then you will follow my commandments.” No, instead he promises: “You *are* my people, and my grace will enable you to live a life of love.” Put another way, from this forgiven relationship flows **responsibility**. Forget the mercy-based relationship, and what happens to the responsibility? We only need to read a few verses of Amos to find out. The “movers and shakers” sell the righteous, trample the needy and turn aside the afflicted (Amos 2:7). They commit sexual sin and defile the house of God (Amos 2:8). And there is more. Just keep reading!

Yet God in his mercy calls them back to a loving relationship. Look at Amos 4:6-11. Five times the LORD sends plagues and disasters to awaken Israel from spiritual slumber, but in divine anguish five times he says, “You did not return to me” (Amos 4: 6, 8, 9, 10, 11).

The Lenten verse in the Divine Service is taken from Joel 2:13. It says, “Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.” These are words for the children of Israel of yesteryear and words for us today. God invites all people to return to him in repentance and faith.

The Father's slowness to anger moves him to send Jesus to die in our place for the forgiveness of all our sins. While the blood of Abel calls for vengeance (Gen 4:10), Christ's blood calls for pardon. And his steadfast love is poured out on us daily as we receive his gifts of life and salvation. Based upon this loving relationship we are delighted to live responsibly, especially towards the least, the lost and the last!

“The Lord roars from Zion
and from Jerusalem he utters his voice” (*Amos 1:2*)

This Lent, we not only hear the Lion's roar ... we continue to respond to it in faith ... in love and service to the least, the lost, and the last.

Shalom,
Pastor Schatte

From Disciples of the Way in thanks for a gift of \$480.00

On behalf of Disciples of the Way and its staff, we would like to thank you for your continued support. Your commitment to helping us share the Gospel to our neighbors in our community is sincerely appreciated. Our mission of "Reaching, Teaching and Living among our neighbors of all nations and making disciples of All Nations" continues. It is because of faithful believers like you that we continue to make this statement a reality in the mission field. We thank the Lord for your partnership in the Gospel and for your faithfulness to His Great Commission. Please pray that the Lord of the harvest will send more laborers into the ripe fields as *"the fields are ripe and ready to harvest"* (John 4:35)



From the Texas District in thanks for a gift of \$4,730.00

Dear Friends at Our Savior—

Greetings in the Name of our risen and victorious Savior, Jesus!

On behalf of the Texas District, I give thanks for the generosity and concern that your gift represents following the devastation of Hurricane Harvey. Your financial assistance allows us to support people whose property has been damaged as well as providing supplies to clean-up or even re-build homes, schools and churches.

Your timely gift gives great witness to God's love and provision. God's continued blessings on you.



Brock Mueller	3/2	Michelle Meswarb	3/21
David Townsend	3/2	Wes Robinson	3/25
Ken Brassie	3/3	Tim Woods	3/27
Martin Shupe	3/5	Vickie Ervin	3/30
Cohen Cunningham	3/10	Alex Meswarb	3/30
Mark Jackson	3/10	Abby Shupe	3/30
Laurance Munsell	3/17		

Trail Life Annual Pancake Dinner

Thursday
March 1
5:30-7:30



- March 7
Christian Ed/Youth and Stewardship
- March 14
Trustees and Evangelism
- March 21
Elders and CrossTown



Martin & Lori Shupe	3/13
Bill & Sue Voss	3/16
Marvin & Barbara Doberenz	3/24
Ken & Jerry Meier	3/24
Hiram & Rachel Nunez	3/27
Marty & Shirley Griffith	3/29

Dave Huett began the Council meeting with a prayer.

The Boards were dismissed for their meetings.

Dave Huett called the Council meeting to order.

There being no corrections or changes to the minutes of the last meeting, they were approved as published in the newsletter.

Financial Secretary report (Diane Myers)

We had another good month for giving.

Treasurer's report (Diane Myers)

Total income was \$48,746.87; total expenses were \$50,172.17.

Billy asked why the preschool was \$2000 over budget. There was some discussion as to why this had happened. Diane noted that several dedicated accounts had been inactivated in order to clean up the Treasurer's report.

The Council discussed the monies carried over from 2017. It was noted that the money was given to be spent, not to hoard. The excess from last year will allow us to make a large payment to the smaller mortgage; if we then increase the payment each month by \$1000, we will have the mortgage paid off in 2019. This suggestion will be presented to the voters at the meeting on February 25. This will require a line item revision. Dave Huett will write a resolution to take to the meeting.

Diane Myers suggested taking the \$30,000 still remaining and splitting it among our boards. This would give each ministry approximately \$3000 extra in their budget for special projects. It was suggested that each board should have a plan for spending this money by May of this year; the project (or the startup if it is an ongoing plan) must be completed in 2018.

Also discussed using these funds to support a missionary or the local school summer lunch program. There will be approximately \$35,000 available.

The Standing Reports were accepted into the record.

The Boards presented their reports.

Stewardship—Cheryl Lindsay

Stewardship and Christian Education will sponsor a Lent dinner; they will serve baked potatoes, salad, and dessert. Stephen Ministry brochures have been ordered. Planning to show a CD about the ministry at the Voters' meeting on February 28. Still working on the Time and Talent survey.

Youth—no report

Christian Education—Shirley Griffith

VBS will be held with Crosstown on Monday-Wednesday the second week of June. There will be a graduation reception on May 20. Two girls will be graduating; they will receive Bibles from the church.

Crosstown—Steve Barber

Enrollment is up one over last month. Teachers are fully staffed. They will have a training in Fort Worth on February 17.

Mary will be attending a Director's training here in Granbury. School pictures will be taken February 22 and 23. Lent meal will be hot dogs and chili on February 17.

Evangelism—Toya Unger

Looked at more evangelism projects. Received a note of thanks from the preschool for the teacher gifts at Christmas. Wednesday evening Lent projects are all lined up.

Fellowship—Diane Schumann

No meeting; written report supplied to secretary. Lenten meals schedule and menu are as follows:

February 14—Trustees and Evangelism—soup, salad, dessert

February 21—Elders and CrossTown—hot dogs, chili, dessert

February 28—Fellowship—lasagna, bread, salad, dessert

March 7—Christian Ed/Youth and Stewardship—baked potatoes, dessert

March 14—Trustees and Evangelism—soup, salad, dessert

March 21—Elders and CrossTown—hot dogs, chili, dessert

Trustees—Mike Case

Storage building complete; moving storage items in. Sign is up; tweaking being done. Video cameras installed both inside and outside for monitoring. Second safety meeting held last week. Making good headway.

Elders—Billy Winters

Lent series is based on Amos; theme is *Restore the Roar*.

Services will be at 7:00 pm. Fischers and Loretta Anne will be received into membership before Easter. Pastor's vacation scheduled for February 21-27. Pastor Autry will sub for him. Received a request to host court-ordered supervised visitations; decided against it. Discussed the absentee situation with ushers. Looking to maybe have teams that work for a month at a time. Gus is working on that. Elder lists have been updated.

Old Business

The Constitution updates are complete. Copies will be available to new members and to anyone else who wants one. Billy suggested we get a signature sheet, since all members are supposed to sign.

Other Business

Nominating Committee is being planned. Currently have three members. Volunteers will be accepted. Steve Barber volunteered.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. Passed unanimously. Pastor closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel E. Nunez

Congregational Secretary



Bits and Pieces

Bible Studies in Pecan Plantation

Miracles: Join us to study about the miracles of Jesus. We meet at Benson's (9815 Ravenswood) on the first and third Saturdays of the month at 7:00 pm. Each session is independent of the others, so come for one or come for all.

Phone: 701-640-8133

Pecan Life Group: meets March 11 and 25 at 7:00 p.m.



The Altar Guild will be putting out lilies and preparing the sanctuary for Easter on Saturday, March 31, at 9:00 a.m. Please mark your calendars. Many hands make lighter work and mean we get to go home quicker!

Please continue to pray for the young ladies that God will bring our way for Embrace Grace. God knows who they are, and He is leading them toward us. You might also pray for patience for the people working on this program and, when the girls arrive, for church members to be as welcoming as we know you can be. God bless you all.



Into what? You might well ask!

Seriously, though, we will set our clocks ahead an hour at 2:00 am on Sunday, March 11—or before bedtime on March 10, if that's easier!

If that throws your schedule off and makes you late for Bible study, you can still come to church.

You might even privately consider it a way to give up your “self” for Lent.

Dave Huett opened the meeting with a prayer and called the meeting to order.

There being no corrections or changes to the minutes of the last meeting, they were approved as published in the newsletter.

Financial Secretary report (Mike Olszewski)
2017 was a very good year for giving. 2018 is off to a good start.

Treasurer's report (Diane Myers)
Reported 2017 income and expenses. Had significant excess income in 2017. Very blessed by this amount. Dedicated accounts stand funded at \$71,276. Reported on assets, which include the checking account, the three dedicated accounts; reported on the liabilities for 2017. There were no questions.

Reported on 2018; we are at 8.3% of the year. Went over income, expense, income vs. expense. Sign is finished and paid for; this made us appear to go "over budget" for the month, but the expense was previously covered. Went over assets and liabilities. Explained why dedicated accounts appear to be overfunded—money is currently not needed in the checking account.

The Standing Reports were accepted into the record.

The Boards presented their reports.

Stewardship—Cheryl Lindsay
Moving forward with Stephen Ministry. Time and Talent survey nearly complete.

Teresa showed a short video about starting Stephen Ministry.

Youth—no report

Christian Education—Shirley Griffith
Graduates reception will be held on May 20. VBS will be held on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday the second week in June.

Crosstown—Steve Barber
We are in good shape on teachers. Mary is working hard on opening a new 2-year old room, which is greatly needed.

Evangelism—Diane Myers
Neighbors in Need program is working well. Braille Bible Builders continues on the second Tuesday of the month. Have coordinated the Lent ministry which happens between the meal and worship. Will be preparing Easter bags for the CrossTown and Sunday school kids; also to share with the neighbors at Chandler Place. Little Pantry is going well; Gus has found an additional source of food; we can get 2 boxes of food for \$15. Embrace Grace, Ronald McDonald House, and the Blood Drive are all coming up soon.

Fellowship—Diane Schumann
Since the last Voters' meeting, Fellowship has overseen the Christmas Party and coordinated the Lent meals. For March, they are as follows:

March 7—Christian Ed/Youth and Stewardship—baked potatoes, dessert

March 14—Trustees and Evangelism—soup, salad, dessert

March 21—Elders and CrossTown—hot dogs, chili, dessert

We have also ordered 4 new coffee pots and a new warmer.

Trustees—Mike Case

Three sizeable projects (playground shed, storage building, sign) are all complete. Continue working on the Security ministry; Steve Myers is working on the outline of the plan. Video camera installation is about half completed. Also looking at medical needs—defibrillator will be available.

Elders—Billy Winters

Lent series is based on Amos; theme is *Restore the Roar*. Meals are served at 5:45 pm; Services are at 7:00 pm. Other services will be: Maundy Thursday and Good Friday—7:00 pm; Easter Sunrise 7:30 am. Pastor attended the last circuit meeting. We denied a request to allow supervised visitation on-site. Gus working on a plan re: the usher absentee situation. Elder lists are complete and available on the bulletin board in the Family Faith Center. Postcards were sent out, advising members of Lent/Easter schedule.

Old Business

Discussed accelerated payoff of smaller mortgage loan. At current rate of payment, loan will be retired in October 2021. Acceleration will allow the mortgage to be paid off in April, 2019. Pastor Benson asked about a larger one-time payment; response was that the Council has a different way to use those funds.

Moved and seconded that the congregation adopt the Council's recommendation to accelerate payment of the smaller mortgage. Passed.

Other Business

Went over plans for allocation of remaining excess funds. Pastor Benson asked if missions would be an acceptable use of these funds and if suggestions would be allowable from someone who is not on a board. He was told that he could certainly forward any suggestions to the appropriate board. There was some discussion. The Council clarified for the voters that the purpose of this recommendation is to start projects which the boards may want to do but not have the funds, or to increase projects they already have going.

Carol Benson asked how we determine what we send to the district. We send 10% of donations.

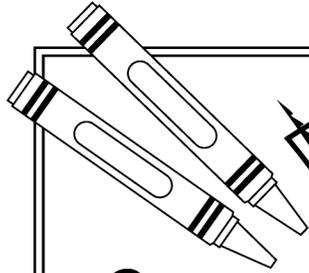
Moved and seconded to accept this recommendation from the Council. Clarified that the Council will manage the funds; we will not need to return to the voters to move funds from one board to another if a board should choose not to use these funds. Passed.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. Passed unanimously. Pastor Autry closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel E. Nunez
Congregational Secretary



Kid's Corner



PUZZLE

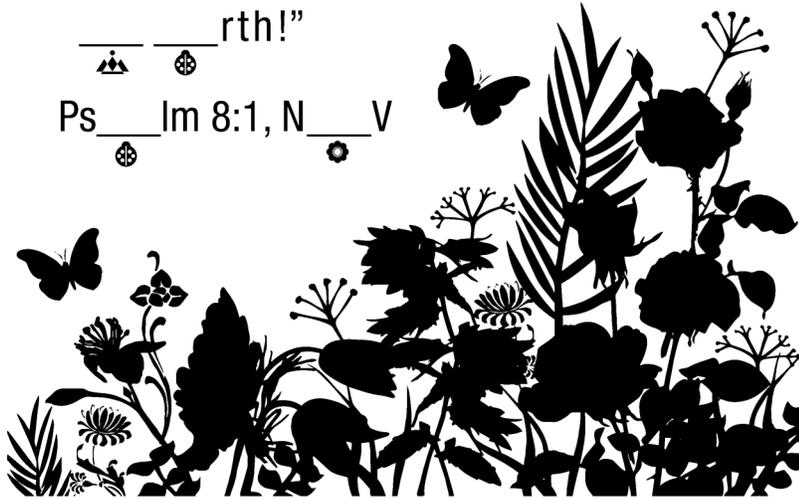
Spring's Beauty

During springtime, the beauty of God's creation emerges in many ways.

Directions: Use the vowel code below to complete Psalm 8:1, NIV.

A = E = I = O = U =

"L RD, r L rd, h w
m j st c s y r
n m n ll th
 rth!"
Ps lm 8:1, N V



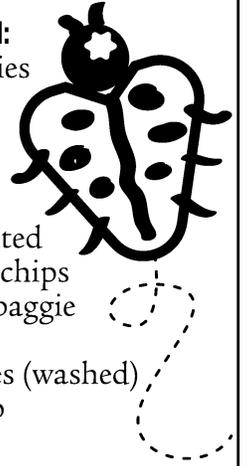
Answer: "LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"
 Psalms 8:1, NIV

FRUIT LADYBUGS

Get creative in the kitchen with this sweet springtime snack.

What you need:

- Strawberries (washed)
- Knife
- Plate or wax paper
- ½ cup melted chocolate chips
- Zippered baggie
- Scissors
- Blueberries (washed)
- Adult help



What you do:

1. De-stem the strawberries. Cut in half and then cut a small V atop each half to make the ladybug body. Set them on a plate or wax paper.
2. Place the melted chocolate in a baggie and cut off the tip of a bottom corner.
3. Pipe a dividing line and "spots" on each strawberry. Also use the chocolate to attach a blueberry "head" by the V shape.
4. Pipe chocolate antennas and legs onto ladybugs.
5. Let harden. Enjoy!

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Serving Our Lord and Each Other



Pastor: The Rev. David Schatte
Altar: Rachel Nunez
Sound Booth: Kurt Stenberg
Organist: Kathleen Black

Special Lenten Services

Our Servants for March 7
Elder: Gus Schumann
Acolyte: Sean Brown

Our Servants for March 14
Elder: Bill Voss
Acolyte: Sean Brown

Our Servants for March 21
Elder: Mark Jackson
Acolyte: Aedan Jackson

Our Servants for March 29
(Maundy Thursday)
Elder: Gus Schumann
Acolyte: Sean Brown

Our Servants for March 30
(Good Friday)
Elder: David Townsend
Acolyte: Aedan Jackson

Sundays in March

Our Servants for March 4 (Communion Sunday)

Elder: Chris Ellis
Acolyte: Savannah Solsbery
Greeter: Lisa Ellis
Ushers: Mark Jackson, Tom Jenson, Bart May & Frank Novak
Cookies: Joan Tucker
Counters: Gus & Diane Schumann

Our Servants for March 11

Elder: Doug Knippa
Acolyte: Aedan Jackson
Greeter: Charlotte Winters
Ushers: David Townsend, Mark Milburn, Russ Meyer & Frank Novak
Cookies: Karen Warren
Counters: Darlys Meswarb and Bill Schneider

Our Servants for March 18 (Communion Sunday)

Elder: Billy Winters
Acolyte: Logan Hall
Greeter: Barbara Townsend
Ushers: Bill Voss, Phil Boleng, Mike O'Toole & Frank Novak
Cookies: Barb Boleng
Counters: Darlys Meswarb and Bill Schneider

Our Servants for March 25

Elder: Chris Ellis
Acolyte: Savannah Solsbery
Greeter: Unknown at time of publication
Ushers: Billy Winters, Tom Wuensche, Cecil Wimberly & Frank Novak
Cookies: Diane Myers
Counters: Rachel Nunez and Karen Britton



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Granbury, TX 76048

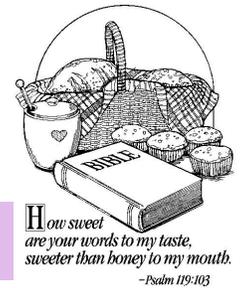
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E-mail: office@oursavior.us

*... making disciples who know,
live, and share the love of Christ!*

We're on the Web!
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Our Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 25	8:45a	Bible Study
	10:00a	Worship
Maundy Thursday, March 29	7:00p	Worship with Communion
Good Friday, March 30	7:30p	Tenebrae Service
Easter, April 1	7:30a	Sunrise Service
	8:15a	Easter Breakfast
	9:15a	Restore the Roar
	10:00a	Easter Festival Service



Lectionary Readings for March

	First Reading	Epistle	Gospel
March 4 Third Sunday in Lent	Exodus 20:1-17	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	John 2:13-25
March 11 Fourth Sunday in Lent	Numbers 21:4-9	Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
March 18 Fifth Sunday in Lent	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Hebrews 5:1-10	Mark 10:32-45
March 25 Palm Sunday	Zechariah 9:9-12	Philippians 2:5-11	Mark 14:1–15:47
March 29 Maundy Thursday	Exodus 24:3-11	1 Corinthians 10:16-17	Mark 14:12-26
March 30 Good Friday	Isaiah 52:13–53:12	Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9	John 18:1–19:42