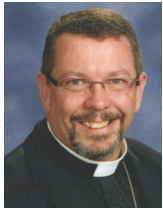


August 2023 News & Updates



From the Pastor's Pen

"I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my strong hold. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies." (Psalm 18:1-3)

Wow! Our country and our society are in such turmoil. There used to be a time when we could, to some extent, rely on our leaders to lead with some sort of integrity and that mindset that the citizens of our country were of chief importance. But it doesn't work like that anymore. Instead of our government being "by the people and for the people" the government has now been weaponized against its citizens, especially those who want to make America great again.

As we cannot take refuge in our country anymore with the lack of true justice, where do we run? The Psalmist knew thousands of years ago, and his words remain true for us today. "The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer..." It is a good thing that the Lord has allowed our government to go its wayward way. Far too many of us have made an idol out of our government and its individual leaders.

Our loving Father in heaven knows what is best for us, and often times that means trial and tribulation for us as we are forced to let go of our idols and trophies and our lives are permanently changed into what our Lord desires most: *"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me."* (Exodus 20:2-3)

It is so easy to get caught up in stuff we don't have and dearly desire. Yet our Lord always makes a way for us to repent and turn to Him in ALL things. May we take a lesson from history, ancient history, as the Lord sent His own people, Israel, into exile because they had turned to other gods for what our almighty God can supply. But let us also focus on another ancient history fact: God sent forth His Son, Jesus to be the Christ, to take upon Himself all our sins and iniquities. He died for you and for me who get easily caught up in worldly ways. Our sins are forgiven and we live under the Kingship of Jesus. We have the kingdom of heaven, that is who we are citizens of.

With all this trial and tribulation we must endure, let us ever fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Let us take refuge, even in these times, in our Lord who is our strength, rock, fortress and deliverer. He is our stronghold, and the salvation of our lives.

In the name of Jesus – Come quickly Lord. Amen.



From the President's Corner

I would like to remind everyone that the Annual Voter's Assembly is only a couple of months away. I know you are asking why is it important that I tell you this. We need everyone to look at themselves and see how they can help keep Ascension running smoothly. We need people to volunteer for the various boards and officers. All of the positions are available. If you have questions about a particular board or officer position please contact a current member and they will be glad to help you. We need your help.



From the Deacon's Desk

BIBLICAL TRUTHS

Genesis 6-9

"The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." (Genesis 6:5). "But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord." (Genesis 6:8). Noah was 500 years old when he had three sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Shem was the heir to the promise. God instructed Noah to build an ark for himself out of gopher wood and pitch. It was to be 300 cubits long, 30 cubits high, and 50 cubits wide. It was to have a roof, a window, and a door on the side. It had rooms on three decks.

Adam was 130 years old when he had Seth; Seth was 105 years old when he had Enosh; Enosh was 90 years old when he had Kenan; Kenan was 70 years old when he had Mahalalel; Mahalalel was 65 years old when he had Jared; Jared was 162 years old when he had Enoch; Enoch was 65 years old when he had Methuselah; Methuselah was 187 years old when he had Lamech; and Lamech was 182 years old when he had Noah; Noah was 600 years old when the flood came. The earth was 1776 years old.

Noah loaded the Ark with 7 pairs of every clean animal and bird, and one pair of every unclean animal and bird with food for each kind. "Then the Lord said to Noah, 'Come into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation.' The Lord shut him in" (Genesis 7:1). Now the ark sat there for seven days. The number 7 means completeness. Then the rains came from the sky, from the reservoirs in the ground, and sideways as the wind blew. It rained for forty days and forty nights. The number 40 also means completeness. Every drop of

moisture was on the surface of the earth. "The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep" (Genesis 7:20). Everyone who died in the faith before the flood will be saved eternally and those who were alive during the flood will be dammed eternally.

"At the end of 150 days the waters had abated, and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat" (Genesis 8:3-4). At the end of forty days, Noah opened the window of the ark and sent out a raven which did not return. Then he sent out a dove which returned. He waited seven days and sent the dove out again and she returned with a freshly plucked olive leaf. He waited seven days and sent the dove out again but it did not return.

After releasing every living thing from the ark, Noah built an altar and made an offering of some clean animals and birds to God. (Genesis 8:20)

"And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth" (Genesis 9:1).

"And God said, this is the sign of covenant that I make between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and the earth." (Genesis 9:11-13). God still loves and cares for His creation. What we call a rainbow in the sky when it rains is God's sign of His promise never again to destroy every living creature on the face of the earth. It was not the birds in the sky or the animals on and in the ground that provoked God's wrath but sinful man. God had had enough and only a remnant of people who were righteous in His sight were saved.

Bible Trivia Question: Which book traces the genealogy of Jesus back to Adam? Answer next month.

In Christ,
Deacon Nick DeRose



From the Trustee's Bench

Bev Fuhrman and Mark and Vendy Amer helped remove weeds in the field, trimmed shrubs and trimmed mulberry trees. Thank you – much appreciated by the trustees.

New computer installed in counting room for Financial Secretary.

The issue with Church AC not cooling sufficiently has been repaired.

We have been working on improving sound for streaming and downloading the Sunday services.

Bless you all!

Trustees
Dennis Coburn



News From the Kitchen

Thank you Diane Staff for covering the kitchen duties during my absence.

Thank you all for donations of cookies, and donations towards coffee and other necessary supplies.

Bless you
Jean



Stewardship News

Define Your Life by How You Give

Winston Churchill reportedly said that "we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." According to Churchill, our lives are defined not by what we have gotten, but by what we give away.

Our Lord's life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God's Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserved for our sins. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death and hell. And so it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got for Himself us, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it also is for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. For giving softens our hearts and frees us from the grip which the worries of this world and making a living has on us. For when we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get. That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives — our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers, and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking the question, "How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor and servant to others," to asking the question, "What have they done for me lately?" We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But when we give, we do not have less, we do not become less; rather, we have more and become more. When we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the divine nature. As Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

Elders

By Member's Last Name:

A-I: Rick Ferrell	760-694-3309
J-R Mark Amer	602-619-2232
S-Z: Ken Porter	760-792-1069



August Birthdays

Ashley Hanson	3
Joshua Harris	3
David Stumbaugh	3
Ken Porter	5
Bobby Nelson, Jr.	8
Bob Stowe	12
Parker Turner	14
George Armstrong	19
Ora Thomas	19
Mike Stewart	20
Sharon Waters	25
Luis Carrillo	27
Nick DeRose	29



Victor Valley School District—August 7

Apple Valley School District—August 9

August Anniversaries

Rick & Alicia Ferrell	8/8/1970
Marty & Cindy Holtgreffe	8/30/1975
Ron & Judy Winkler	8/20/1977
Bob & Debbie Stowe	8/10/1985
David & Charmaine Murphy	8/19/1993

