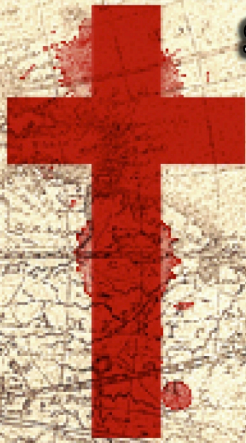


The Pen & Praise

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church



Seeking every day to love God with our whole heart,
mind, and soul, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

February 2021

From the Rector's Desk

Our Covenant has been nominated by the Diocese to apply for a new Lily Grant-funded project at Iona called "Thriving Bi-Vocational Congregations." This program has been developed in order to support and empower bi-vocational congregations to embrace their unique call and to thrive in it. Bi-vocational congregations are diverse. They can be led by laity, non-stipendiary clergy, or clergy serving multiple calls. That last one is us!

As I said in my Rector's Annual Report, our model of church as a Covenant between multiple parishes is an exciting re-imagining of what a church can be. Bi-vocational congregations are one of the fastest growing segments of the church right now.

This program includes workshops and conversation over Zoom, one-on-one mentoring, and work on some projects within the congregation to implement what we are learning in the program. The three prongs of learning are spiritual formation, vocational discernment as a congregation, and asset-based community development to deepen our relationships with our local contexts.

The program is a three-year commitment. They ask that the entire congregation commits to this work together. The meetings are attended by a team of three people from the congregation, including me as the rector. That team can be made up of a bench of volunteers who rotate attending the meetings. That team of volunteers would share our learnings with the Covenant and work with both churches to develop any projects we do.

Right now we are in the phase of discerning whether we do feel called to apply for this program. The application is due April 16. I believe that this is an exciting possibility for our covenant. The program goals are precisely the questions that your Leadership Council has been beginning to explore. I believe that having partners on that exploration and gifted leaders helping us to discern how we thrive as who we are as a Covenant would be a gift to the council, me, and to both of our churches.

You are invited to a Covenant-wide discussion about this program on Sunday, February 21 at 1:00 pm. The conversation will take place on Zoom, at the same link we use for our services. I hope that you will bring your hopes for our Covenant and your questions about the program. I hope you will join us!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mtr. Radha". The script is cursive and elegant, with the "M" and "R" being particularly prominent.

Covenant Newsletter

Mother Radha has begun sending out a weekly Covenant e-newsletter, which contains information on upcoming services and ministries, news from both parishes, and news from the Diocese! Please remember to check your email each week to stay up-to-date on additional information not included in the monthly Pen & Praise.

Re-opening Plan
Isabel Kempton, Senior Warden

1. In-person services at St. Andrew's Church will not be held until clearance is received from the Bishop. Prior to opening, the sanctuary, parish hall and the offices will be cleaned and disinfected by a commercial cleaner.
2. The CDC and Diocesan guidelines in regard to social distancing will be followed.
 - a. Masks must be worn and will be provided for those who do not have them.
 - b. There should be no physical contact – hugging, kissing, hand-shaking
 - c. Social congregating will be highly discouraged within the building.
 - d. Singing is not permitted but there will be instrumental music.
 - e. Family groups will be seated 6 feet apart in all directions. Approved seats will be indicated.
 - f. Hymnals, prayer books and Bibles will be removed from the pews. The service will be printed in the bulletin as usual including hymns when singing is no longer prohibited.
 - g. The service will be morning prayer.
3. Hand sanitizer and masks will be available at the entrances.
4. Parish members will enter through the front doors and leave through the courtyard doors. Only those with a physical handicap shall use the door accessible from the ramp.
5. The ushers will keep a log of visitors and their contact information.
6. Parishioners will pick up the bulletin as they enter. The usher will not hand it to them.
7. There will not be a collection during the service. Collection plates will be placed at each door so that we can continue our support of the church.
8. Outside groups will not be permitted to use the church until social distancing guidelines have been lifted.
9. There will not be a coffee hour following the service.
10. Signs about masks and no-contact greetings will be posted. Announcements will remind parishioners not to congregate at the end of the service.
11. The ushers will wipe down door handles as part of the closing process.
12. The sexton will clean and disinfect the building weekly.
13. Children's activity bags and nursery services will not be available.
14. Efforts will be made to stream the services to those who cannot attend.

Manna Pantry News

Manna Pantry is continuing operations with curbside pick-up to serve clients during the Covid-19 situation, but with many older volunteers staying home to protect their health, the pantry is down to a skeleton crew. Hours are 1 to 4 pm Monday through Friday. If you or anyone you know is willing to help out, please call the pantry (408-2940), Executive Director Bonnie Clark (796-0644), or Geri Hanna (796-8376) for more information.

Thank you to the following people!

- Janie Shepherd and Marlene Shinn for their service on Vestry
- Coleen Dice and Betty Stolarek for joining Vestry
- Isabel Kempton for continuing in her role as Senior Warden
- Betty Stolarek for volunteering for the role of Junior Warden

Contact the Parish Office if there is someone you believe deserves acknowledgement in the next Pen & Praise!

Birthdays

February 1st—Julia Reges

February 11th—Marga Weiss

February 17th—Beth Hamelund

February 19th—Chuch Harmon

Anniversaries

February 5th—Arnie and Isabel Kempton

Meetings/Events

Saturday, February 6th—Funeral for Lucille Bulson at 3 pm, livestreamed on the St. Andrew's Facebook page

Sunday, February 7th—Morning Prayer at 10:15 am on Zoom

Sunday, February 7th—Worship Conversation at 1:30 pm on Zoom

Monday, February 8th—Deadline to contact Mother Radha if interested in participating in recording of Ash Wednesday service

Sunday, February 14th—Morning Prayer at 10:15 am on Zoom

Tuesday, February 16th—Vestry meeting at 6:30 pm on Zoom

Wednesday, February 17th—Ash Wednesday service (video will be uploaded to parish website); ashes may be picked up from the church parking lot between 4 pm and 7 pm

Sunday, February 21st—Holy Eucharist at 10:15 am on Zoom (communion to be distributed from the St. Mary's parking lot)

Wednesday, February 24th—Lenten program at 7 pm on Zoom

Sunday, February 28th—Holy Eucharist at 10:15 am on Zoom (communion to be distributed from the St. Andrew's parking lot)

Please keep the following individuals, churches, and groups in prayer:

The Church: Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Bishops of Michigan, Bonnie and Rayford; Moisés, the Bishop of the Dominican Republic; Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Craig, Bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod of the ELCA; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Big Rapids, and Jack, their Preacher; St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Cadillac, and Nancy, their Senior Warden; and for St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Isabel, our Senior Warden, and Radha, our Deacon-in-Charge.

All those in our Diocese who are discerning calls to ministry, both lay and ordained. In particular, we pray for those in our Diocese who are preparing for the Sacred Order of Priests, including Radha, Derek, Eileen, Philip, Paul, Tom, and Harold. We pray also for those in our Diocese who are preparing for the Sacred Order of Deacons, including Michael, Elizabeth, Wendy, and Trish. We give gratitude for all retired clergy and pray for St. John's, Alma, and Doug, their Senior Warden; and for St. James, Albion, and Jocelyn, their Senior Warden.

Comfort and Healing: Doug, Kevin, and Kim; Bill; Lucille; Troy; Marga; Doug, Jodi, Marty, and Rachel; Chris; Mary; Wesley; Brook; Michael; Krystal, Mekail, and Karleigh; Melissa, Justin, and Matthew; Eileen; Sharon; Sharyn; Jim; Tina; Kevin; Mark and Kim; Jason and family; Alex and Carolyn; Jan; Matt; Schuyler "Pete;" Sherry; Helen; Bleu; Julia and family; Mary and family; Julie and family; Howie; Whayne and Dana; Kristopher; the Beattie family; Kevin; Jim and Mary; Chuck; Judy; Lilah, Aishah, Yusuf, and family; Phil and Ann; Troy; Berniece; Maurissa; Carol; Suzy; Beth; Jerry; Jack; Arnie and Isabel; Julane; Nancy; Kason; Scott; Edna; Jens; Sonya; and Rivka.

For all who have died: especially Lucille, and all who mourn their passing.

Government: our local, state, and national legislatures.

Those serving in harm's way: Corey, all members of our armed forces, all first responders, and all veterans.

Community: Our outreach ministries; Manna Pantry, WISE, Our Brother's Keeper, DSAGA, AEGIS, and AA.

Please pray for the Standing Committees and Canons of the Episcopal Dioceses of Western Michigan and Eastern Michigan as they provide leadership in these troubling times. Let us remember that we are a church of forgiveness and love as we try to deal with the aftermath of the suspension of our Bishop.

Please pray for public school feeding programs, Angels of Action, Project Starburst, Manna Pantry, and volunteers of these organizations.

If you wish to have yourself or a loved one added to the Prayer List, contact the Parish Office at (231) 796-5473 or standrewsbr@gmail.com. Please provide the first and last names of the person you are requesting prayer for, as well as the category they should be listed under.

A Prayer for Health Care and Essential Workers

Lord, please place a shield of protection around our families and friends, especially those working in health care facilities:

John, a physician's assistant
Suzy, a nurse in a nursing home
Tony, a physician's assistant
Anjum, a doctor
Liz, a nurse in a hospital
Jeff, a doctor
Kim, working in a doctor's office
Lindsay, a cancer nurse
Angie, a nursing home receptionist
Ashley, a nurse

as well as those working in essential businesses:

Mark, a postal service worker
Heidi, a bank worker
Corey, a state policeman
Eileen, a grocery store worker
Mandy, a postal service worker
Lily, a grocery store worker
Zachery, a retail pharmacy manager

Let no harm come to them. Bless them as they go about their days in this time of pandemic. Amen.

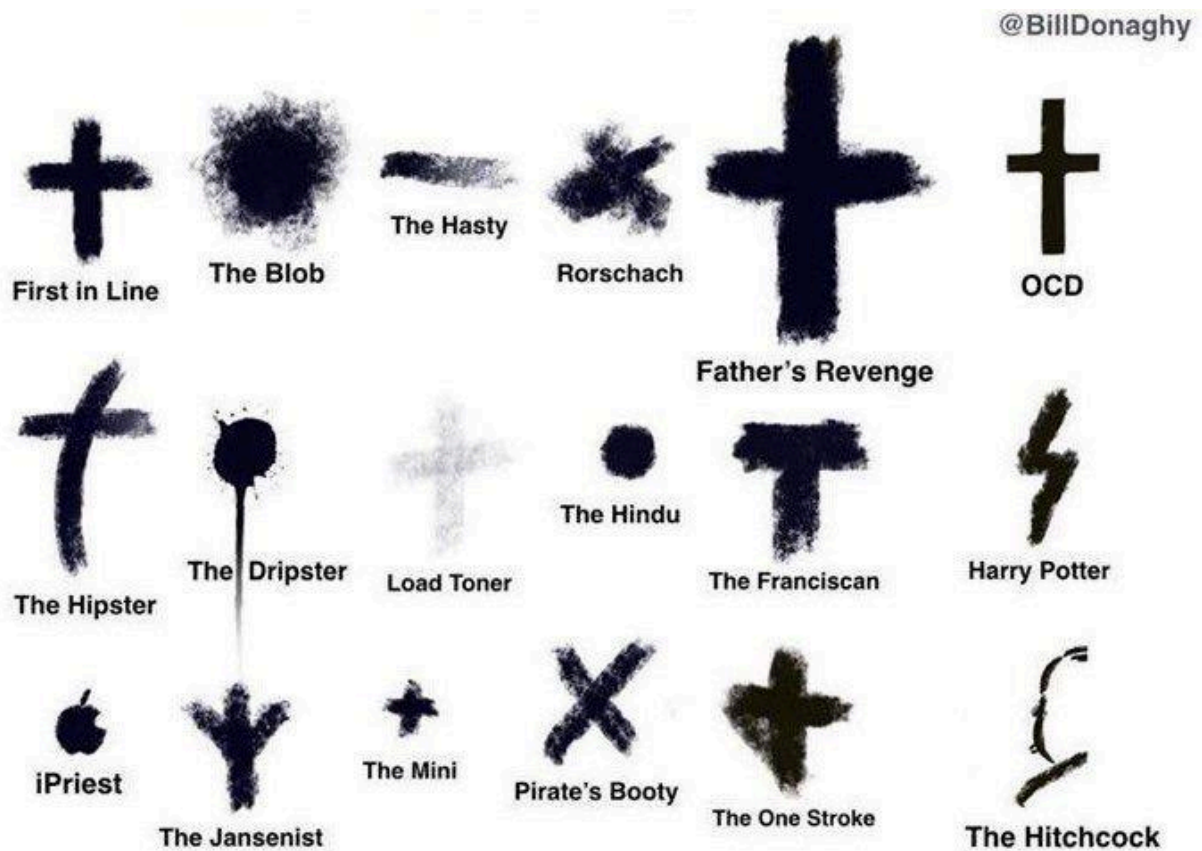
Bible Quiz

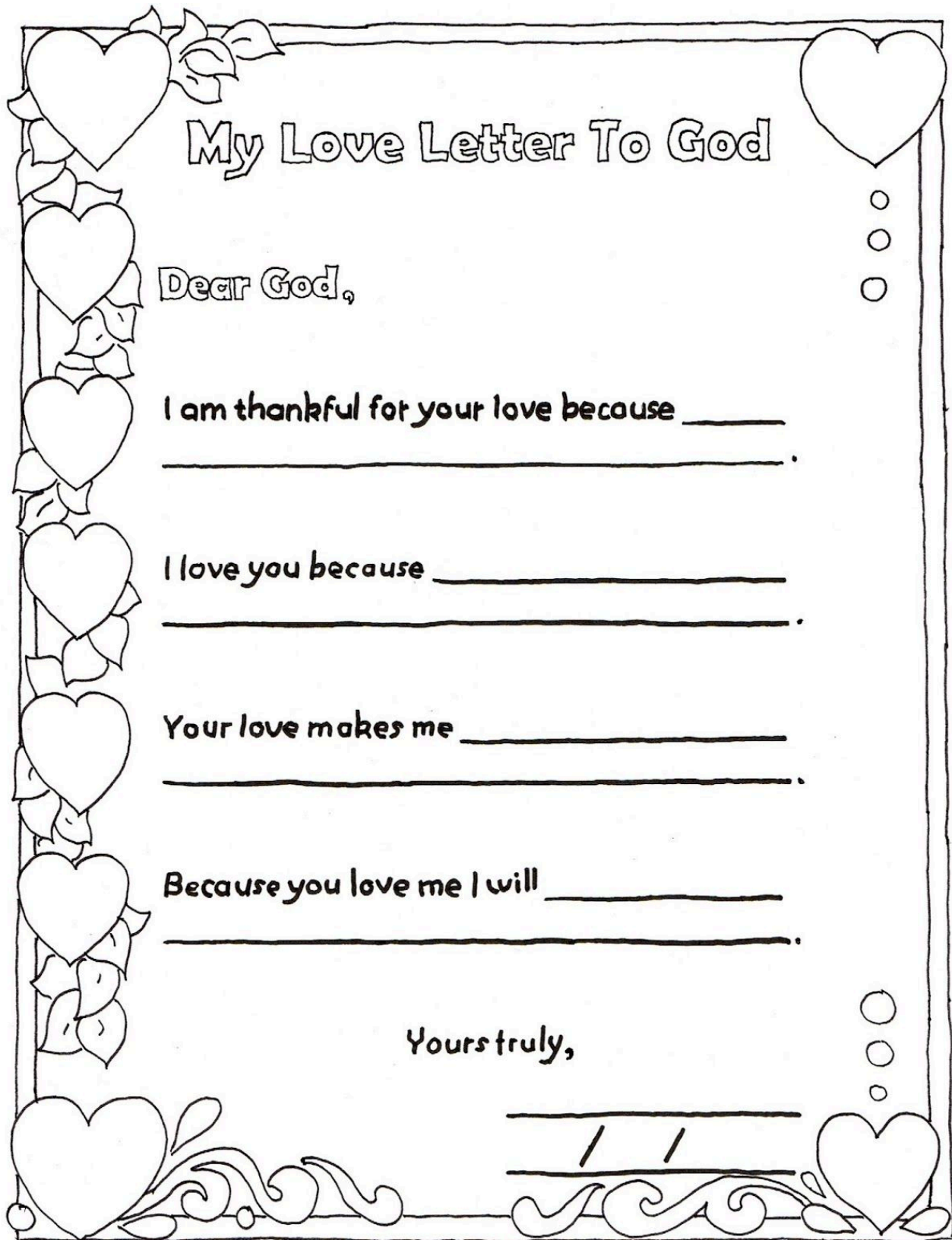
In what year did Christians first observe the Feast of St. Valentine?

The answer will be in next month's Pen & Praise!

In January, you were asked, *"What did John the Baptist dress in?"* The correct answer is *clothing made of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist.*

Cartoon of the Month





My Love Letter To God

Dear God,

I am thankful for your love because _____
_____.

I love you because _____
_____.

Your love makes me _____
_____.

Because you love me I will _____
_____.

Yours truly,



The ashes remind us that one day, when God calls us to Heaven, our bodies will return to ash. The ash also reminds us that our hearts are stained by sin. The beginning of Lent helps us think about our actions. During Lent we pray, "God, if I am doing anything to make You sad, please show me and help me to change."

For God 
SO LO**V**ED THE WORLD
THA**A**T HE GAVE HIS
ON**L**Y
BEGOTT**E**N
SON **N** SO 
THA**T** WHOEVER 
BEL**I**EVES 
IN HIM SHALL
HAV**E** EVERLASTING
Life 

If you ever feel unloved, remember God thinks you're to die for!

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Isabel Kempton, Senior Warden
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Betty Stolarek, Junior Warden
bettystolarek@gmail.com
(231) 580-7879

The Rev. Robert Garrels
Director of Music

St. Andrew's Vestry

Coleen Dice, 2024
Beth Hamelund, 2023
Isabel Kempton, 2022
Dianne Lauzon, 2022
Chris Lisuzzo, 2023
Betty Stolarek, 2024