



Oh, Happy St. Valentine's Day!

The Events Committee of LuMinHoS is trying to keep our organization fresh on your mind. We cannot have in-person gatherings but we can suggest activities. Hence here is looking at St. Valentine's Day!

Searching for the origin of St. Valentine's Day I came upon www.history.com. The St. Valentine, who we think inspired the holiday, may have been two different men; the one we celebrate on Valentine's Day is known officially as St. Valentine one of a dozen or so other Valentines on the list. View the following with a Lutheran perspective.

Saints are certainly expected to keep busy in the afterlife. Their holy duties include interceding in earthly affairs and entertaining petitions from living souls. In this respect, St. Valentine has wide-ranging spiritual responsibilities. People call on him to watch over the lives of lovers, of course, but also for interventions regarding beekeeping and epilepsy, as well as the plague, fainting and traveling. As you might expect, he's also the patron saint of engaged couples and happy marriages.

The English poet Geoffrey Chaucer may have invented our current Valentine's Day. This medieval poet often took liberties with history, placing his poetic characters into fictitious historical contexts that he represented as real. No record exists of romantic celebrations on Valentine's Day prior to a poem Chaucer wrote around 1375. In his work "Parliament of Foules," he links a tradition of courtly love with the celebration of St. Valentine's feast day—an association that didn't exist until after his poem received widespread attention. The poem refers to February 14 as the day birds (and humans) come together to find a mate. When Chaucer wrote, "For this was sent on Seynt Valentyne's day / Whan every foul cometh ther to choose his mate," he may have invented the holiday we know today.

Because of the abundance of saintly Valentines on the Roman Catholic roster, you can choose to celebrate the saint multiple times each year. Besides February 14, you might decide to celebrate St. Valentine of Viterbo on November 3. ***I am surprised industry hasn't found that out yet.*** Women might choose to honor the only female St. Valentine (Valentina), a virgin martyred in Palestine on July 25, A.D. 308. The Eastern Orthodox Church officially already celebrates St. Valentine twice, once as an elder of the church on July 6 and once as a martyr on July 30.

We've commercialized St. Val with glamorizing ideas and romantic gifts but what we don't celebrate is that St. Valentine was also a merciful figure who cared for the poor, prisoner and the sick. This is the one we want to embrace.

Why not consider venerating St. Valentine by sending a donation to LuMinHoS in his "honour"? This year we may not be able to have that romantic dinner with a cherished someone so perhaps it's cost could go to LuMinHoS. As well as the overpriced, yet stunning bouquet of red roses or the gorgeous box of decadent chocolates that might also be an idea

for a gift. Let your loved ones know you are honouring them and maybe next year...??? Have fun with this as it is a virtual world right now!

LuMinHos is always grateful for any donations. Our chaplain has visited faithfully, often being the only non-medical person someone in a hospital bed can see. As he put it: there are a lot of lonely Lutherans...

For the Events Committee,
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