

LEA Weekly Devotion

Eyes, Minds & Hearts series for 2019

Week of February 10, 2019

Read this first: [Psalm 34](#)

Candy Hearts

“The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit” (Ps. 34:18).

Heart-breaking news! You can anticipate getting fewer candy hearts from the kids in your class. The original candy heart maker [shut down](#). But don't be too downhearted. Another [company came to the rescue](#) just in time to resuscitate this dying Valentine's Day favorite.* So, you can look forward to the usual, sometimes finger smudged, chalky renditions of *Be Mine*, *QTPie*, *Love Me*, and *Go Away*.

What? You never got one of those? My childhood friend—well, acquaintance—had a big enough collection to put them in a bottle and hold a guess-how-many contest. Poor Milton sought retribution by stomping on them at recess after the winner had been verified. The winner, justifiably won a liberal application of the heart dust. Which my mother said was very hard to remove from my woolen coat. (Okay, so maybe I was just dreaming.)

No dreams needed when it comes to God's Valentine to you. You never uttered *Love Me* pleas (or please?) because He did that all on His divine, unconditional own. In fact, God had His own *Love Me* originally posted in stone. You probably have a paper copy of it somewhere in your catechism.

Then there was the *Be Mine*, created not by Hallmark but by Jesus “the Savior” Christ and delivered by none other than the Holy Spirit. Baptism's warm washing was far better than any confectionary morsel. As for *QTPie*, that's what you are with sins forgiven and forgotten.

Of course, Valentine's comes and goes with no assurance that it or its trappings will ever come back. And many days find believers like you and me a bit crushed by the *Go Aways*, delivered in abundance. Oh, don't be fooled by the heart shape. Satan would like you to believe in God's rejection or the Savior's inadequacy or the Spirit's flightiness. Truth is, Satan wants you to be his too. And he gets mighty irritated when you crumple his advances under the sometimes heavy soles of your faith-filled soul. (Remember [God's first promise](#)?)

Enjoy your Valentine's hearts—both those that tickle your tongue and those that tickle your heart and soul. And isn't it comforting to know that your Supplier will never go out of business?

Questions for Reflection:

- If you could choose a slice of Scripture to write on a candy heart, what would it be?
- Who do you know whose heart is broken or crushed this day? What can you do?
- Will you take a moment to [celebrate](#)?

*Thanks to Kathy Slupik for the lead on this story.

Written by Edward Grube, LL.D.
Director of Publications & Communications
© 2019 Lutheran Education Association

Quoted Scripture: [ESV®](#)

[Read this devotion in PDF.](#)

[Access the library of devotions](#)

*Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! (Ps. 34:8).*