



Jeremy Pellum
Lead Pastor

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"Aslan is on the Move"

In C.S. Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, four children—Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie—find themselves lost in a frozen, snow-covered wood under the cruel reign of an evil White Witch. She despises these lost children and orders a savage wolf pack to destroy them on sight. The wolves close in, jaws snapping, and for a moment, it seems like the Pevensies will be torn apart. But a good and kind creature named Mr. Beaver comes to their rescue and guides them to safety.

As they journey together, Mr. Beaver, seeing the children trembling in fear and uncertainty, speaks five powerful words that change everything: **"Aslan is on the move."**

Lewis describes the impact of these words upon the children: "Now a very curious thing happened. None of the children knew who Aslan was any more than you do; but the moment Beaver had spoken these words everyone felt quite different... At the name of Aslan each one of the children felt something jump inside them."

What "jumped" inside of them? Hope – expressed (as usual) in a noble curiosity and in the warmth of wholesome wonder. Lucy began to bombard Mr. Beaver with questions. "Who is he?" "Is he a man?" "Shall we see him?"

Mr. Beaver answered with a blend of joy and gentle correction: "Aslan a man! Certainly not. I tell you he is the King of the wood and the son of the great Emperor-beyond-the-Sea... Aslan is a lion—the Lion, the great Lion."

We (the readers) later discover that Aslan is the unmistakable Christ-figure in the Narnia books — the great savior who sacrifices his own life to rescue his creatures and destroy the evil White Witch.

The Hiddenness of God

I've come to love that simple, powerful phrase: **"Aslan is on the move."** It reminds me of a powerful biblical truth — that God is always at work, even when life feels dark, frozen or hopeless.

- Right now, Christ reigns.
- Right now, the Holy Spirit is strategically advancing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our world.
- And right now, God is working all things together for the good of us who love Him.

On **January 25**, we're starting a new study through the Book of Esther, and one of the great themes we'll explore is **"The Hiddenness of God."**

Remarkably, the name of God appears none in the Book of Esther. Not even once. God appears to be totally absent from the story. Meanwhile, the Jewish people are facing the horrifying threat of genocide, orchestrated by the ruthless and hateful Haman.

From a purely human perspective, the fate of the nation hangs on one fragile thread – a young Jewish orphan named Esther, who has morally compromised herself in every way in order to survive.

At the start of the book, all feels godless.

But midway through the story, Gospel themes begin to surface. Esther displays an extraordinary courage and willingness to die for her people in a way that unmistakably points us to our greater Savior—Jesus, who gave Himself completely to rescue His people from their destruction.

From a narrow perspective, God appears nowhere in the Book of Esther, and all seems hopeless. But from a broader Gospel perspective, **"Aslan is on the Move"** to save His people.

—Pastor Jeremy

February Birthdays

February 1: Chris Hatcher, Sandis Parks
February 2: Shirley Butler, John Shaw
February 3: Chase Grubb, Heather
Harrington, Madison Haden, Michael
Swart
February 4: Laurie Weeks
February 7: Andrew Tavelli
February 8: B.J. Watts
February 9: Judy Embry, Keith
Spaulding, Rachel Christopher, Milena
Mitrovic
February 12: Timothy Sharp
February 13: Beth Tingle
February 14: Jeannie Laffoon, Vanessa
Davis, Martha Bazzell
February 15: Gwen Nelson, Venessa Lo
Campbell, Keonte Hampton
February 17: Roger Haley
February 18: Joe Hagley
February 19: Jeff Smith, Brittany Bates
February 20: Andy Weeks, Sherry
Bouchillon
February 21: Joe Feldpausch
February 22: Agnes Cooksey, Aaron
Wright
February 24: George Owens, Candice
Owens
February 25: Lydia Sprinkle
February 27: Joe Schweiner, Sawyer
Billings
February 28: Chuck Deaton, Emily
Baltzley, Kaya Baker
February 29: Vickie Norvell

March Birthdays

March 2: Nora Grace Coleman
March 3: Jolynn Pybas, Jim Pybas, Jon
Blankenbaker
March 4: Joseph Hooker, Sherry
Brockman
March 6: Harry Kahne, Paul Cowden,
Nathan Monroe, Martha Kincheloe
March 7: Barbara Hancock
March 8: Teresa Scarbrough, Gloria Treon,
Jen Milano
March 10: Terry Miller, Charlotte Grant
March 11: Olivia Coffman
March 12: Glenn Veltman
March 13: Kaye Jones
March 14: Kathy McMicheal, Anna Halford
March 15: McKinley Butler, Kara Slone
March 17: Lisa Gibbs
March 18: Sandra Petrey, Joseph
McDonald
March 19: Jeremiah Johnson
March 21: Alana Treon, Ben Collings
March 23: Joshua Neher
March 24: Lilly Kramer, Flora Grace
Baltzley, Joyce Hicks
March 25: Anna Mary Byrdwell
March 26: Jonatris Barjolo
March 27: George Owens, Shirleen
McFadden, Ruth Davis, Mary Brock
March 28: Gale Parsons, Jared Hatter
March 30: Dan Bouchillon

Giving Updates as of 1/22/26

Year to Date Budget: \$732,413

Received to Date: \$746,093

Lottie Moon Offering: \$35,579