

## E-DEVOTION FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

As I mentioned a few devotionals back, we have been doing a bit of sorting through things. As I was going through some old photos recently, I came across some pictures of my grandfather and my grandmother. They were Norwegian immigrants who settled in central North Dakota.

The photos were of the home farm where my father and eventually, myself and my siblings grew up. These were some of the very first photos ever taken of that farm site. After my parents died, we made the hard decision to sell the land and this farm site. Last summer on a trip back to North Dakota we decided to drive by the farm, which we knew was now deserted. As I drove into the old driveway, overridden with grass, I was shocked to see the farmhouse gone. It had burned down and little remained.

There was so much history in that place. Of course, I was sad but then I noticed some new trees had sprouted up where the driveway used to be. I saw some growth there... and maybe, possibilities for a new home, sheltered by the trees my father and grandfather had planted.

In Isaiah 43:19, we read... *"Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth... I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert."*

There are times in life when the 'old things' just don't work any longer. And we need to see a 'new thing.' I think particularly of family and friends who have found that the time comes for a new adventure. Some of those decisions are exceedingly difficult and some come easily. But Isaiah is so filled with hope in times of change. It always gives me courage to read those words. Hopefully, for you too.

As we move through these months of change as a church, we need to focus on those profound words of Isaiah... *"Behold, I will do a new thing!"* NEW isn't always easy, it isn't always fun, but it can be renewing, refreshing and a time for spiritual growth. Read on in Isaiah... as we make our way.

And please, keep on washing your hands. Fold them, bow your heads, and ask God for direction. If you have not had your vaccinations, I urge you to get them. I am fortunate to have had my second shot and am excited to begin worshipping with you in person this weekend. Please wear your masks. For all of us.

Pray with me: "Dear Lord, we are so timid when it comes to new things. We like things to stay the way they were. But sometimes change just happens. Help us to face our future with courage as you direct our ways. Amen. In Jesus' Name, Amen."