

HERALD

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And when they came to the place which is called the Skull, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right, and one on the left.” (Luke 23:33)

Recently, I overheard a woman at the store comment, “Lent, what is that?” She was of course reflecting a general attitude of many who have heard of the term but do not know what it means.

For a Christian not to understand the significance of Lent is little like a person headed out on a journey not knowing where they are going or why they are making the trip. Such a journey would be both frustrating and fruitless.

Our word “Lent” comes from the Anglo-Saxon word “lencthen,” meaning “the time of the lengthening days” or simply “spring.” Lent as we know it now extends for forty days, excluding the Sundays, beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Saturday, the Saturday before Easter.

The last week before Easter is called Holy Saturday, the Saturday before Easter. The last week before Easter is called Holy Week and is set apart for special emphasis (i.e. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday). The season actually grew by extension backward from Easter.

The beginnings of Lent are first mentioned in Christian writings about 100A.D. It started as a brief period of strict fasting and prayer, observed by all, in preparation for receiving the Lord’s Supper. Around 313A.D. the Roman Emperor, Constantine, became a convert to Christianity and declared Christianity a legal religion, and made

Sunday the official day of worship and a holiday. Converts to the newly popular faith increased quickly, now that it was safe and acceptable, but many only partly understood it. And now that secrecy was no longer necessary, devotion tended to relax among the faithful. Now the necessity for extensive teaching and increased discipline influenced the development of even longer periods of preparation, which was to include both the candidate for baptism and those already initiated.

Lent in the Western Church (i.e. centered in Rome vs. Eastern Church centered in Constantinople) became a six-week span, excluding Sundays, and in the Eastern Church became (and remains) a seven-week season, excluding Saturdays as well as Sundays. In 325 A.D. at the Council of Nicea, the Church word for Lent – “Quadragesima,” meaning forty-day period – first appeared and was understood as the season of six-weeks, beginning on what is now the First Sunday in Lent.

Here, it is important to realize that for both the Western and Eastern Churches, Sundays are always feast days (Communion is celebrated), since they were early set apart to be the Lord’s days to celebrate the redemption and resurrection. Obviously, then, they cannot be turned into “fast days” even during the season of fasting. This is why the Sundays during the sea-

son of Lent are entitled “Sundays in Lent,” to emphasize that they are within the compass of the season but do not share the theme of the season.

The purpose of Lent is to renew and strengthen our spiritual lives. It is a time for serious personal reflection. We are to take special stock of the direction our lives are currently heading. We should also reflect on how on our sins caused the Son of God to die the Cross as a ransom for them. “Personal repentance” is than a key theme of Lent symbolized by the color purple. The Church provides many worship opportunities to accomplish this.

This year our mid-week Lenten services will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 25, 2009, with two services: 10:30a.m. and 7:00 p.m. There will not be a soup supper offered on Ash Wednesday. However, each of our following five mid-week services will have a soup supper with them.

I would therefore invite you, in the Name of our Savior, to join with us of Wheat Ridge Lutheran Church in the observance of Holy Lent. For you and your family, immeasurable is the worth of such an undertaking. Remember, the purpose of our pilgrimage is to draw closer to our Lord; our destination is the glorious resurrection of our Savior on Easter morning.

Pastor Knapp

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Ash Wednesday is February 25 and, as we approach the penitential season of Lent, the Sunday School lessons for our students in grades K-8 will focus on Jesus' miracles and His calling and preparation of the disciples for His suffering and death. Our hearts overflow with love for the gentle carpenter and kind teacher who was also the All Powerful God who sacrificed His life for us.

MISSION OFFERINGS

Our Sunday School and Adult Bible Class mission offerings goal of \$500 to support **Tom and Debi Going** as teacher/missionaries in Jakarta, Indonesia, was reached on December 21, 2008, and a check has been sent to the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod office for this "Together in Mission" project.

The Board of Christian Education has chosen the **Orphan Grain Train** as our next project and we hope to collect \$300 to support this outreach program based in the Denver area. The **Orphan Grain Train** team will be holding a "fish boil" at our church sometime in May of this year so watch for more information.

BLOOPER:

For those of you have children and don't know it, we have a nursery in the basement.

Hey Kids! Listen up!

A **Valentine Party** for you and your friends will be held Saturday morning, February 14, from 10:00 until Noon. This will be an exciting opportunity for you and your pals to create some craft projects, eat some yummy treats, and enjoy a recreation and fellowship time together. Mark your calendars now and plan to come and join the fun!



Ringin' & Singin'!

The Sunday School children in grades K-8 will be ringin' bells and singing songs several times in the next few months. Families are asked to add these dates to their calendars.

Friday February 13
6:00 pm Dinner and Talent Fair (The kids will be ringin' the bells for the talent show.)

Wednesday March 18
7:00 pm Lenten service (The kids will ring the bells as an anthem during the service.)

Sunday April 5
10:30 am Palm Sunday service (The kids will process with palm branches and sing a Palm Sunday anthem.)

Practices for all these occasions will be held during Sunday School Openings at 9:10 on Sunday mornings so students are encouraged to attend class.

"I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this book."

-Abraham Lincoln

THANK YOU

The many prayers, cards and visits during my hospitalization and long recovery are so greatly appreciated. I am truly blessed to be part of God's family at Wheat Ridge. May you all be as blessed as I have been.

Virginia Bennett

CHRIST PLATES

The lovely plates on the wall in restroom hallway are a gift from the Mike Dast estate given to the church by Shirley Vincent. We Thank You for these wonderful depictions of our Lord's ministry and life.



LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION IN THE WORD

What does it mean to be a Lutheran Woman in Mission who is in the Word? A woman who is in the Word is reading and studying God's Word on a regular basis; she is nurtured by the

Word. Being "in the Word" suggests an intimacy and oneness, knowing the heart of God. "God dies to speak to us. The Holy Scriptures are also His personal love letter to you, His child, and an individual Christian believer."

Today's light Jan/Feb 2006 CPH used by permission

LWML SUNDAY
February 8

Bring your items for the Armed Forces CARE Boxes to Worship services.



The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.

LOOK! Look at the year!

It is time to plan to attend the LWML 33rd biennial convention, June 25-28, 2009, in Portland, Oregon, where you can gather with your LWML sisters and *Look to the Hills... God Reigns*. Come join this activity-filled and action-packed weekend, complete with worship, Bible study, and fellowship with other sisters and brothers in Christ.

Registration opens March 2. Registration information is now available in the winter issue of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* and at www.lwml.org.



Mite Update

As of November 30, 2008, the LWML had received \$1,263,815 toward our total mission goal of \$1,700,000. Praise the Lord! However, with just four months left in our biennium, more than \$400,000 is still needed to complete this journey. LWML Treasurer Helen Miller remarked, "We pray that we will meet our goal and encourage all to send in their Mites."

Mite Sunday
February 8, 2009

Philippians 2:29-30
"Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men like him, because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me."

NEXT MEETING
February 10
5:30 pm

Bible Study
Psalm 49
"A New Song"

Our support through prayer is needed daily to ask God's blessings and protection for our missionaries, their work, and their families.

ARMED FORCES CARE BOXES

We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God's fellow worker in spreading the Gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. 1

Thessalonians 3:2-3

Because of war and the threat of war, our nation has thousands of men and women, serving in the armed forces. These people need our prayer and concern as they are separated from their families and their homeland.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League will sponsor a Gifts From the Heart project by sending care packages to men and women serving in the Armed Forces. The list below is items soldiers have requested and/or greatly appreciate.



We are asking that you bring your donations for the care packages on **Sunday, February 8**. We will have a special dedication of the Gifts From The Heart in each worship service.

THINK SMALL

DRINKS:

- Lipton Tea Mixes
- Gourmet Coffee
- Powdered pre-sweetened cold drink mixes
- Sweetened Kool-aid packets

FOOD:

- Beef Jerky
- Hard Candy
- Regular/sugar free gum
- Cracker
- Sweet Tarts
- Life Savers
- Red Licorice

HEALTH and HYGIENE:

- Aspirin
- Q-tips
- Antacids
- Soap (bar)
- Band-Aids
- Shampoo/conditioner (small size)
- Chap stick
- Toilet paper
- Cough Drops
- Toothbrushes
- Dental Floss
- Toothpaste
- Disposable razors
- Wet Wipes
- Foot powder
- Shaving cream
- Hand sanitizer
- After shave gel or lotion

- Hair brush/comb
- Kleenex
- Mouth wash
- Neosporin

FUN STUFF:

- Books (new or used)
- Card games
- Playing Cards
- Poker chips
- Puzzles
- Word Puzzles
- Nerf balls
- Stationery/black pens

You can meet their needs by staying in touch with those "out of sight" but "close in spirit."



TALENT SHOW AND DINNER

Reserve the date -
February 13
6:00 pm



A night you won't want to miss. It will be filled with fun, foolishness and fellowship. A nice dinner will be served at 6:00 pm followed by the program. The entertainment will give you laughs, music, enjoyment for all ages by all ages.

Tickets are available each Sunday at church or call Russ Erbstoesser. Adults \$5 Families \$10

If you would like to be part of the program contact Judy Kugler.

SENIORS NEWS

SEMINAR FOR OLDER ADULTS

On Saturday, February 21, the Rocky Mountain District-LCMS Older Adult Committee will host a one day seminar at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Lakewood. The seminar will consist of four one hour presentations. The tentative presentations are medi-

cal and health care fraud, helping to empower seniors in tracking prescriptions and other health issues, the basics of FICA credit score; how the fire department and paramedics do their work and entertainment provided by Optimal Homecare, "Laugh at the Days to Come."

Registration is at 9:00am. The \$7.50 per person registration fee covers the program, lunch and coffee breaks. Registration is limited to the first 150 people so contact the church office for materials. Deadline is February 14

SOWRs

Seniors Of Wheat Ridge

There is nothing sweeter than a Valentine surprise. This month the Seniors of Wheat Ridge outing will be a surprise. So watch for the details in your church mail box and the Sunday bulletin announcements

Did you get great new household items for Christmas – wondering what to do with your old stuff? Lutheran Family Services needs gently used household items for refugee families. Each refugee family we help needs kitchen utensils, pots and pans, furniture, etc. Small items can be taken directly to the refugee office at 1600 Downing St. Suite 600. If you have furniture and larger items, call **303.980.5400** and schedule a pick-up.

Church Chuckles

"The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility."



The rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing "Break Forth Into Joy."



The youth will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the fellowship hall Friday at 7pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy..



The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the church basement on Friday afternoon.

HYMN OF THE MONTH

A Changed Poet

Lenten Season will begin the end of February, and so our hymn this month is a Lenten Hymn, #420 LSB, "Christ, the Life of All the Living." Ernst Christoph Homburg (1605 – 1681), the author, was born in Mihla, Thuringia, Germany. His occupation was a clerk of the Assizes and Counselor in Naumburg, Germany. His earlier poems (1638 – 1653) were secular, including many love and drinking songs. Illnesses of himself and his wife and other afflictions, led him to seek the Lord, and his deliverance from the problems led him to place all his confidence in God. He wrote more than 150 hymns, and many are still used in our churches today, but #420 is the only one in LSB. Homburg speaks of his hymns as "Sunday Labors," and was especially induced and compelled in their composition by the anxious and sore domestic affliction from which God had delivered him. His hymns are distinguished for simplicity, firm faith, and liveliness, but often lack poetic vigor and are too somber.

Our hymn has a familiar refrain for each of 6 verses, "Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee," with the 7th verse ending "For that last triumphant cry, And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high." That last triumphant cry was Jesus' final cry from the cross of "It is finished," when He finished His work of redemption for us.

When you read the words of our hymn, remember not to stop at the end of a phrase unless there is a colon, semi-colon, or period at the end. Read it more as a sentence, i.e. verse 2, Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee bonds and stripes, a cruel rod. Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee, O Thou sinless Son of God! Two sentences with direct address in the second sentence, calling Him the sinless Son of God.

Blessings on your Lenten meditation.

Valetha Smith

Christ, the life of all the living,
 Christ, the death of death, our foe,
 Who, Thyself for me once giving
 To the darkest depths of woe:
 Through Thy sufferings, death, and merit
 I eternal life inherit
 Refrain:
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
 Dearest Jesus, unto Thee

Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee
 Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
 Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee
 O Thou sinless Son of God!
 Thus didst Thou my soul deliver
 From the bonds of sin forever. Refrain

Thou hast borne the smiting only
 That my wounds might all be whole;
 Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely
 Rest to give my weary soul;
 Yea, the curse of God enduring,
 Blessing unto me securing. Refrain

Heartless scoffers did surround Thee,
 Treating Thee with shameful scorn
 And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee,
 All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne,
 That as Thine Thou mightiest own me
 And with heavenly glory crown me. Refrain

Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee,
 That from pain I might be free;
 Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee:
 Thence I gain security;
 Comfortless Thy soul did languish
 Me to comfort in my anguish. Refrain

Thou hast suffered great affliction
 And hast borne it patiently.
 Even death by crucifixion,
 Fully to atone for me;
 Thou didst choose to be tormented
 That my doom should be prevented. Refrain

Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
 For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
 For Thine anguish in the garden,
 I will thank Thee evermore,
 Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,
 For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
 For that last triumphant cry,
 And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

LENT SEASON - CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST

Our Lenten series explores the image of the glorified Christ to which we are predestined to be conformed. We get glimpses of what that will be like when we behold Him on the Mount of Transfiguration, and the dazzling splendor of His person that temporarily blinded Saul of Tarsus. The beloved Apostle John “fell at His feet as dead” when he beheld Him. He has promised us that “where I am

there you may be also” (John 14:3), “in order that they may behold My glory, which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world!(John 17:24).



Ash Wednesday February 25th

Title: “Conformed to the Image of Christ’s Holiness”

Text: I Peter 1:13-16

Worship 10:30 am and 7:00 pm

With Holy Communion

NO SOUP MEALS

MID WEEK WORSIP SCHEDULE Wednesday 10:30 am and ****6:30 pm****
Soup Meals— 11:15 am and ****5:30 pm**** **** NEW TIME ****

March 4th
Title: “Conformed to the Image of Love”
Text: John 13:34-35

March 25th
Title: “Conformed to the Image of Prophet”
Text: Matthew 10:24-33

April 12th
Maundy Thursday
Title: “Conformed to the Image of Servanthood”
Text: John 13:1ff

March 11th
Title: “Conformed to the Image of Fishers of Men”
Text: Matthew 4:18-20

April 4th
Title: “Conformed to the Image of Priest”
Text: 2 Peter 2:9-10

April 13th
Good Friday
Title: “Conformed to the Image of Suffering”
Text: Romans 6:6

March 18th
Title: “Conformed to the Image of Forgiveness”
Text: I John 2:1ff

April 8th (Palm Sunday)
Title: “Conformed to the Image of King”
Text: Matthew 21:1-11

April 15th Easter
Title: “Conformed to the Image of Christ’s Resurrection”
Text: Colossians 3:1;
John 5:21-27

Romans 8:29 “...for those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren.”

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

First of all, here is a huge "Thank You" to all the members. You have given Wheat Ridge Lutheran Church the best fiscal year of the century to this point. For the first time in at least 10 years, we have actually received more money than we spent!

You will see that our total income for use on budgeted expenses exceeded those expenses by over \$3000.00. If you are interested in seeing just how this money was spent, contact George Harper to request a print-out of any one of the Board expenditures report.

The Financial Secretaries will have the 2008 offering statements in your mailboxes at church during the third week of January. To make this possible, however, no contributions received after January 4th will be credited to 2008. Please contact George Harper if there are discrepancies.

Christians practice stewardship by sharing their God given time, talents, and treasures, as an act of thanks to God for all His gifts to them.

YEAR END 2008

Month	Gen'l Funds Rcp'ts Treasurer's Records	Budgeted Expenses	Balance Available	BTK Funds
January	\$16,429.47	\$20,809.35	(\$4,379.88)	\$0.00
February	\$16,674.86	\$18,972.51	(\$2,297.65)	\$0.00
March	\$19,514.11	\$16,456.50	\$3,057.61	\$83,388.48
April	\$12,930.98	\$17,081.53	(\$4,150.55)	\$47,150.44
May	\$14,524.83	\$14,719.20	(\$194.37)	\$6,087.84
June	\$16,705.60	\$14,728.42	\$1,977.18	\$16,333.17
July	\$14,354.68	\$13,924.92	\$429.76	\$2,663.00
August	\$16,555.67	\$16,304.05	\$251.62	\$3,369.00
September	\$14,037.25	\$13,187.83	\$849.42	\$1,868.00
October	\$12,962.11	\$15,717.35	(\$2,755.24)	\$2,960.00
November	\$21,676.94	\$15,773.87	\$5,903.07	\$2,870.75
December	\$23,784.25	\$19,337.55	\$4,446.70	\$3,778.00
YTD Totals	\$200,150.75	\$197,013.08	\$3,137.67	\$170,468.68

Board

	Approved	Expenses	Balance
LAY MINISTRY	\$127,935.00	\$121,896.40	\$6,038.60
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$11,300.00	\$6,657.27	\$4,642.73
SOCIAL MINISTRY	\$4,500.00	\$1,703.37	\$2,796.63
STEWARDSHIP	\$18,500.00	\$17,520.66	\$979.34
EVANGELISM	\$4,000.00	\$144.40	\$3,855.60
PARISH FELLOWSHIP	\$600.00	\$70.00	\$530.00
PUBLIC RELATIONS	\$4,400.00	\$3,523.67	\$876.33
CHURCH PROPERTIES	\$50,150.00	\$45,453.96	\$4,696.04
YOUTH FELLOWSHIP	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
BUDGET TOTALS	\$221,835.00	\$196,969.73	\$24,865.27

