



## JUNE 2015

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## *Explaining the Liturgy (Part 1)*

One day, Hans invited his friend, Fritz, to church. Fritz had never been to church before and was a bit intimidated by the liturgical service, so he had all kinds of questions for Hans. The pastor opened with the Trinitarian invocation, and Fritz asked, “What does that mean?” Hans explained in a simple way. This continued throughout the many parts of the first half of the service. When the pastor stepped into the pulpit to begin his sermon, he glanced at his watch before preaching. Fritz turned to Hans and asked, “What does that mean?” Hans rolled his eyes and replied, “Absolutely nothing.”

Have you ever felt like Fritz, going through the service without much understanding of what’s actually going on in the service? We use a lot of “jargon” and don’t always explain everything, and if you missed confirmation that day because the fish were biting, you might be unclear as to why we do what we do.

I’d like to use this space to walk you through the Divine Service to help you understand what it all means. And yeah, glancing at the watch doesn’t necessarily mean anything.

## *The Divine Service*

To begin, in 1982 when *Lutheran Worship* (“The Blue Hymnal”) was introduced, we saw the term “Divine Service.” While this term was nothing new, it was placed here deliberately to emphasize our understanding of what happens when people gather around God’s Word and Sacraments. Other hymnals will often use terms like “Worship Service.” That silly term puts the focus firmly on *our* actions. *We* do the worshipping. But the term “Divine Service” implies that *God* (The Divine Being) does the primary action in the service. *God* gives us His Word. *God* forgives our sin. *God* makes us His own. *God* gives us eternal life. It’s called “*Divine Service*” because the Divine Being *serves us*. You will see that the primary focus of the service emphasizes just a few themes throughout, what we believe to be the primary points of Christianity (And note that this emphasis dates back to the services of the early church—we walk in their footsteps.):

- First, the service is *Christocentric*. In other words, Jesus Christ is at the center of our service. Everything that happens in the service has something to do with Jesus. Even the Old Testament reading gives us insight into God’s plan of salvation through Jesus.
- But we don’t focus just on Jesus in general, but specifically in what He has done for us on the cross. God’s greatest gift to us is forgiveness of sins and eternal life, and by hearing of His love for us, the Holy Spirit increases our faith. Every Christian sermon should refer to Jesus’ suffering in our place, and every service should center on God’s love, given to us on the cross to bring us to the empty tomb.
- And Jesus forgave our sin by being *transcendent*. He came to be one of us and to be with us. He still comes to us through His Word and Sacraments, so the other major focus of the service is on how He comes to us, from beginning to end.

No matter which hymnal we use, or even with no hymnal, those points should come through in any service.

## Invocation

We begin our lives as Christians with the words, “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen,” in our Baptism. In the same way, we call on God by His name as we begin the Divine Service. In doing so, we confess that we believe that God is with us in the service.

We don't deserve to have God with us, but we believe that He is with us because of His love for us. Because we are His own children through our Baptisms, He has promised to be with us and bless us "whenever two or more are gathered in My name."

Many people also make the sign of the cross at this time as a reminder of their own Baptisms and the sacrifice God made for us by sending His Son to pay for our sin on the cross.

## *Confession and Absolution*

Confession and absolution are in many ways a reflection of the entire life of the church and of every Christian, both between God and us and between each other and us.

The first step is confession, which means literally, "Same saying." Essentially, it's saying what God already says. When we confess our sin to God, it does not come as news to Him. He knows our sin before we commit it, so in confession, we admit to God what He already knows—that we have rebelled and fallen far short of His expectations for us. But in a Christian church, confession must always be followed by absolution, that is, a complete removal of the sin. When you confess your sin to God, He doesn't say, "Whoa! You're in trouble now!" Rather, the perfect holy God says to you, "I have already paid for your sin with the blood of My Son. Your sin was forgiven before you committed it, in fact, before you were even born." When the pastor, as God's representative, proclaims God's forgiveness, He speaks on God's behalf: "As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I forgive you all of your sin." These words come not from the pastor, but from God Himself through the mouth of the pastor as the pastor speaks God's Word.

Many people also make the sign of the cross again at this time as a personal reminder that our forgiveness comes on Jesus' behalf because of His death on the cross in our place.

**To be continued.....**

*Pastor Peck*

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### **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**"God's Word is the tool to teach His  
children" (Timothy 3:16)**

### **SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

I think that many folks believe that all Christian denominations are basically the same, and that the only differences are in style of worship or in how they are organized. Boy, are those folks wrong! There are vast differences in theology and practice between denominations. Now that we have walked through the Christian doctrine as expressed in the book of Romans these last several Sundays, we will, this summer, take what we have learned and apply it by taking a look at other Christian Confessions. We will look at what they believe, teach, and confess and see if it jives with the Scriptures. Come on Sunday mornings and see what your non-Lutheran relatives are really being taught and how damaging it can be!

Pastor



## **CONGRATULATIONS to the High School Class of 2015**

**Nikki Ehrmann**

### **AS YOU GRADUATE REMEMBER TO FOLLOW YOUR FAITH**

- ✝ I will do more than belong....  
I will participate.
- ✝ I will do more than care.....  
I will help.
- ✝ I will do more than believe...  
I will share the faith.
- ✝ I will do more than live.....  
I will serve.

**Think on this, pray about this, and then act.**

## ATTENTION VOTERS



### Constitution Update:

The Constitution Committee has finished review of the constitution and has a draft ready for review by the voters. We will be breaking this up into 2 sessions as the document is lengthy. The 1st review will be in the regular June Voters Assembly on June 28th and the 2nd review will conclude with a Special Voters Meeting on July 12th. We are going to be sensitive to the environment and we will not be printing copies for everyone to have. We will be visually projecting the document and walking through the changes. If you have any questions prior to June 28th, please talk to a member of the committee: Pastor Peck, James Broscheit, Joe Broscheit, Judy Kugler. Thanks.

## SUMMER MUSIC

From the Board of Lay Ministry



### Choir Director

On a low note (pun intended) Debbie Bridle has announced her resignation as the Adult Choir Director. Debbie has served in this position for 4 years and has determined that life is currently leading her in a different direction. Debbie has shown a deep commitment and passion for the worship of our church and we are truly thankful and we have been truly blessed that she has shared that God given gift with us. Starting in June, the Board of Lay Ministry will begin the process of looking for someone to serve in this position. If you have any interest in serving the church as Choir Director, please contact the Pastor or someone on the Board of Lay Ministry.

### Special Music

On a high note (pun intended)  
Due to the resignation of our Adult Choir Director, the choir will be taking the summer months off and this is your opportunity to provide special music to the church during worship. The Board of Lay Ministry is looking for anyone who would like to share their gift of music, whether it is in song or instrumental, during our worship services. If you have any interest in singing or playing your praises to the Lord as part of our worship, please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex, contact the Pastor, or someone on the Board of Lay Ministry. All music selections will need to be shared and approved by the Pastor.



## STEPHEN MINISTRY

**One-to-One Ministry  
by a Trained,  
Caring Friend**

### “Christ Caring for People through People”

Is life more than you can handle alone right now?

Are you adjusting to a new job, a change in marital status, a serious illness, the death of a loved one, a recent move – or just experiencing a lonely or difficult time in your life?

Could you benefit from having someone who would listen and care and walk with you through this difficult time?

### **There Is No Need To Struggle Alone!**

Everyone goes through difficult times. Having someone to care, to listen, to share God’s love with you can help you get through the confusion, stress, or loneliness you may be experiencing. God does not intend for you to struggle alone.

### **Consider allowing a Stephen Minister to walk with you on your journey to wholeness.**

Contact one of our Stephen Leaders listed below. They can tell you more about our Stephen Ministry and how you can be matched with a Stephen Minister.

Judy Kugler – 303-421-5408, Eady Broscheit, 303-424-4249 or Joe Broscheit, 303-424-4249.

MADE HOLY

"For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ". – Galatians 3:27  
Lutheran Women in Mission is for all women. We focus on our mission to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God.

WELCOME TO ALL WOMEN OF THE CONGREGATION!

Shhh... Can You Hear It?

The headlines and news stations are filled with reports of devastating earthquakes, floods, and tornadoes. Spring storms bring torrents of rain and window-rattling thunder. The news on your Internet homepage flashes yet another urgent message of threats and instability. Loud debates aired on television pit candidates and parties against one another. A teen screams hateful words at her parents before storming out of the house. Anger over impending layoffs fills the office with rancor. A husband rages over skyrocketing gas prices. A sobbing friend sits on your sofa pouring out news of a loved one killed in combat. Wasn't it just recently that we celebrated the joy of Easter? How quickly the noise and pain of the world can drown out the hope-filled words that we shared, "**He is risen.**" But the Good News has not changed. Find a quiet place. Listen for the echo. Then praise the Lord. **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**Mite Sunday – June 14**  
**We invite you to support our Mission Grants with your gifts at the Fellowship Coffee Table. Thank You!**



**NORTH CENTRAL ZONE NEWS**

Fall Rally – September 19, 2015  
**Wheat Ridge Lutheran Church**  
9:00 a.m.  
Registration/Fellowship 8:30 a.m.

As believers in Christ we are Made Holy through baptism and have been given eternal life.



*Thanks for the happy memories, for the hard lessons lovingly given, for strength when we needed it, and for sometimes showing your softer side ; but most importantly for sharing Christ with us through your life.*

**Happy Father's Day!!**

**Lutheran Family Services**

is proud of its Lutheran heritage in community service. We have been extending a healing hand to people for 67 years. Summer is the busy time of year for refugee arrivals, and we have a need for dressers, tables/chairs, sheets, blankets, dishes/silverware and other household items. Contact Jaime at 303.217.5181 to see if your furniture is eligible for a pick up or if you have questions.

**Words of advice for LHS Parker Graduating Class of 2015**

**Dear Seniors,**

"My advice is the exact same advice my dad gave me after I received my diploma: Be sure to talk to God every day. That was it. Best advice I've ever gotten." - Mr. Ryan Bredow

"Mondays are 1/7 of your entire life. Learn to like them." -Mr. Matthew Zoeller

"As Christians, no matter what your earthly circumstances, DO NOT FORGET that the best is yet to come." -Mr. Dave Black

# **“Giddy-Up For God”**

## **Vacation Bible School**

**9:00am-Noon**

**June 8-12, 2015**

**Wheat Ridge Lutheran Church  
8600 West 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue Wheat Ridge  
303-424-3161 [www.wrlutheran.org](http://www.wrlutheran.org)**

One form per child, please.

### **Vacation Bible School Registration**

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade completed \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_  
Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Parents' names \_\_\_\_\_  
Home address \_\_\_\_\_  
Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E Mail address \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency contact person \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to student \_\_\_\_\_  
Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Food allergies Y N (List:) \_\_\_\_\_  
Medical concerns Y N (Explain:) \_\_\_\_\_  
Family doctor \_\_\_\_\_ Doctor's phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Siblings attending VBS (names and ages) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Church affiliation \_\_\_\_\_ Church membership at \_\_\_\_\_  
People who may pick up the child \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Transportation needed? Y N Attendance 1 2 3 4 5

VBS leaders have permission to photograph/film the minor (s) designated above in any manner or form for any lawful purpose associated with this VBS program.

Parent's signature \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_