



MAY 2016

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Pastor, the Athanasian Creed is Wrong!

On Trinity Sunday we usually confess the Athanasian Creed. At the end of the Creed it states, *“At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds. And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire. This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved.”* It is also on Trinity Sunday every year that I get accosted by folks asking me more about the Trinity and asking, “How can we say that only those who do good works will go to heaven when we also say that it is only by grace that people are saved?”

I’ll touch on both, starting with the doctrine of the Holy Trinity.

To begin with, Christianity has constantly struggled to keep the Faith free from false philosophies. In the fourth-century Greek culture of Alexandria, Egypt, a persuasive preacher with a logical mind used a philosophy foreign to the Scriptures in order to explain the connection between Jesus and His Father. Arius borrowed from the popular Greek concept that a “god,” by nature, had to be high, distant and almighty; and that humans, consequently, had to be low, spacial and inferior.

Arius taught that only the Father was really a proper God. Because Jesus was human, He was therefore only a creature (created by God) and therefore did not really possess any divine qualities. The problem was basic: When Arius denied the divinity of Christ, he destroyed God’s role in accomplishing our salvation. If Jesus were not really God, then He could not possibly have saved us from our sins.

Orthodox Christianity declared the Scriptural teaching of the two natures in Christ — that He was both “true God,” and “true man.” The Athanasian Creed proclaims over and over that Jesus is “equal with the Father.” Affirming Jesus’ divinity, this creed confesses that God was the originator of our salvation — He did it for us.

Affirming His humanity, it confesses that Jesus died for every part of us — He was a Savior who was completely human. Excerpts from this creed, named for Saint Athanasius, show how the Church has traditionally expressed the Biblical doctrine of the Trinity.

“The catholic faith is this, that we worship one God in Three Persons and Three Persons in one God, neither confusing the Persons nor dividing the substance. For there is One Person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Spirit. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit is all one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal. Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit.”

Still, while there is one God, the Persons of the Trinity are not to be confused: *“The Father is made of none, neither created nor begotten. The Son is of the Father alone, not made nor created but begotten. The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten but proceeding.”*

The Athanasian Creed goes on to clearly confess the divine and human natures of Christ, concluding by saying of Him, "At whose coming all men will rise again with their bodies and will give an account of their own works. And they that have done good will go into life everlasting; and they that have done evil, into everlasting fire. This is the catholic faith which, except a man believe faithfully and firmly, he cannot be saved." This mention of works and salvation often bothers those who understand from Scriptures such as Ephesians 2 that we are saved by grace, not by works. This passage from the Athanasian Creed echoes Christ's Judgment Day prophecies in Matthew, especially 25:31-46.

It is important to note that the Athanasian Creed does not here say that certain people will "enter eternal life" **BECAUSE** they "have done good." It says that "those who **HAVE DONE** good" (and only those who believe in Jesus alone for salvation are able to "do good" in God's sight) "will enter eternal life." On Judgment Day, God will point to our good works **NOT AS THE CAUSE** of our salvation but as the evidence of the faith through which we have been saved and which enabled us to do that which was well-pleasing in his sight. There are numerous Bible passages that make the same point and use the same language (e.g., Matthew 25:31-46, Romans 2:6-10, James 2:14-16). The confession of these sentences in the Athanasian Creed in our churches is, in fact, a helpful reminder of the relation of faith and good works as taught in the Bible.

So there you go. You can rest easily again as a Lutheran and confess this wonderful Creed.

Pastor Peck



Stephen
Ministry

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WIN - WIN - WIN
FOR

Pastors, Caregivers, & Care Receivers

Stephen Ministry is a lay caring ministry being used by thousands of congregations to increase care and outreach to hurting people.

Through Stephen Ministry, congregations are able to equip and empower a team of lay-people-called Stephen Ministers- who provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people experiencing grief, unemployment, hospitalization, loneliness, divorce, financial stress, a terminal illness, or other life difficulties.

To learn more about Stephen Ministry contact one of our Stephen Leaders: Judy Kugler, Eady Broscheit, or Joe Broscheit.

Lutheran Women In Mission

Welcome to all women of the congregation!



“Great is the Harvest”

Luke 2:10 And He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

Be a Missionary with your Mite Box!

As of March 1, 2016 we have paid all the Rocky Mountain District mission grants (\$78,500) in full! Praise the Lord! ROADRUNNER FOR CHRIST, INC.

Feeding the soul, feeding the body and paying some bills is a quick summary of the first \$2,500 of our \$5,000 grant to Roadrunner for Christ was spent. Two deliveries of goods were made in 2015, one to the Hopi tribe in Arizona and the other to Ysleta Lutheran Mission in El Paso, Texas. Our mites helped fund two donations to Ysleta Lutheran Mission, \$1,000 to purchase Bibles for their prison ministry and \$1,000 to purchase food for their food bank. Our grant assisted in paying the rental unit used for storage. They anticipate using the next \$2,500 in similar ways this year.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DEBT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Rocky Mountain Debt Assistance Program was formed to address our new pastors’ high educational debt loads. The average debt for each pastor is \$35,000. Debt relief grants are awarded to pastors each December. One of the recipients responded, “I am writing to express my deep gratitude and appreciation for the District’s debt relief of \$819.00 – nearly 5 months of loan payments. Your support over the past years has cut more than 2 years of payments off our loan!! May God richly bless you and your service to his Kingdom in all the work you do!” Let’s keep our pastors in our prayers as we give our mites to support this \$7500 grant. As of March 1, 2016 we have paid all the grants in full! Praise the Lord!

We invite you to support our many mission grants left to be paid on the national level and new mission grants to be selected at the District Convention. Give your Mites at the fellowship coffee table. Thank you!



MITE SUNDAY IS MAY 15



Thank you for your support at the Bake Sale to help with funds for Emily Peck to attend the District LWML Convention in Colorado Springs as a teen representative this June. We appreciate your monetary gifts, as well as the donated baked items.

Also, thank you for all the items donated to be sent to our US military soldiers. Keep it up!



LWML RMD Convention

June 10-12, 2016

Colorado Springs, CO

We will gather under the theme: **God – Our Fortress and Refuge**

Those attending the convention will:

- Be** fed by God’s Word and Sacrament,
- Be** nurtured through worship and fellowship,
- Learn** your place in the mission field,
- Be** refreshed by the Word,
- Be** an encouragement to others!

*LWML Meeting
Saturday, May 14 at 9:00 am
We’ll also be working on quilts for the
convention. All women are welcome!*



THE GOOD SHEPHERD

By Kay Hoffman

The Lord is my Shepherd
And I am His lamb;
He keeps watch over me,
Wherever I am.

He leads me to pastures
Where all is serene.
Beside still waters of prayer,
My sins are washed clean.

Should I stray from the fold
On pathway unknown,
He leaves the ninety-nine
And carries me home.

With patience as gentle
As that from a dove,
He forgives and restores me
With mercy and love.

Through all of life's pathways
No harm will I fear,
For I know my Shepherd
He ever walks near.

A DEEPER MEANING

The celebration of Mother's Day is usually credited to Anna Jarvis who, in 1906, began to remember other mothers on the anniversary of her own mother's death. She succeeded in making this nationally recognized in 1914. The modern **Mother's Day** is celebrated on various days in many parts of the world, most commonly in March, April, or May as a day to honor mothers and motherhood.

But Mother's Day was first celebrated in Boston in 1872. It was organized by Julia Ward Howe, a poet, reformer, scholar, mother of six children, author of the words to the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and founder of the Women's Peace Conference in 1870. She began to promote Mother's Day in 1872 as a festival for advocacy of peace.



VOTERS MEETING

Sunday, June 5, 2016

All communicant members of the congregation age 18 years and older are encouraged to attend.

**BE SURE TO JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
ON THESE SPECIAL DAYS.**

**ASCENSION DAY SERVICE
WITH COMMUNION**

Thursday, May 5 6:30 p.m.

**PENTECOST SUNDAY
WITH COMMUNION**

May 15

**TRINITY SUNDAY
WITH COMMUNION**

May 22

A mother's touch....

-is as constant as her love.
-fills hearts with hope and homes with love.
-inspires her children to be even better than they are.
-teaches that prayer changes things.
-shows that a Bible never needs dusting when read daily.

THE LUTHERAN CHORALE



The Lutheran Chorale will be singing their final concerts for the 2015-2016 season "**Soli Deo Gloria**" on **Sunday, May 15, 2016**. We sing to the glory of God with joyful and thoughtful music, including F. Melius Christiansen's "Celestial Spring II Exaltation", "The Peace of God" by John Rutter, and Morten Lauridsen's "Sure On This Shining Night".

We will be performing at **3 pm at Hosanna Lutheran Church, 10304 W. Belleview Avenue, Littleton** and at **7:30 pm at St Philip Lutheran Church, 7531 S. Kendall Street, Littleton.**

No tickets will be sold, but we appreciate your support in a free will offering.

For more information feel free to contact, Linda Thompson, 303-666-6642, or email us at thelutheranchorage@comcast.net, or visit our website at thelutheranchorage.org.



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LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL PARKER ANNUAL GOLF CLUB CLASSIC



Date: Tuesday, May 31, 2016

Time: Registration starts 11:30 a.m.; Shotgun start 1:00 p.m.

Location: The Pinery Country Club, 6900 N. Pinery Parkway, Parker, CO 80134

The tournament will be followed by an awards dinner. Entries are due by Friday, May 20.

For tickets and more information, contact Mark Duitsman at Mark.Duitsman@lhsparker.com.

Each entry includes a pre-round bucket of balls, a round of golf, dinner, a chance at some awesome prizes, and more!

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HUMOR:

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car. His father said he'd make a deal with his son—"You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car."

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks, his father said, "Son, you've brought your grades up, and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut."

The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair."

(You're going to love Dad's reply!)

"Did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went?"

Friday, May 6, 2016
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
4785 Elm Ct., Denver
(just off I-70 & Federal Blvd.)
\$9.00 Adults
\$5.00 Children
(ages 5-12)
To be held in the Fellowship Hall
5:30-7:30 p.m.
R.S.V.P 303-455-5878