



JANUARY 2017

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"A NEW YEAR OF TRADITION"

It is common to think of tradition as being the domain of the old. Those who are rigid and unbending, who long for the memory of what was and is now gone, reminisce and tradition becomes their comfort and their peace as the pace of change continues to swallow them up. Even Pope Francis equated the Latin Mass with the desire for rigidity and the occasional fond remembrance of the past, the way we think about yesterday. And although I do not dispute that the old find comfort in the past, tradition is not for the sake of them. Tradition is for the sake of the young.

Tradition is what we hand down to those who come after us, the most treasured possession of youth. It is the record not only of accomplishment and nobility but of failure and shame. It is the sacred deposit of the constant -- that which does not change from age to age, both of the lies we tell ourselves and the truth we cannot ignore.

Youth has freshness and a certain innocence, perhaps naiveté, that allows them to see things without the constraints of disappointment, doubt, and despair. That is a good thing. But it is dangerous and even fatal without the solid ground of tradition that protects and guides youth's newness. Youth has energy but that energy quickly fades to disillusionment without tradition to direct it from its failure to try anew -- even when it appears hopeless. Youth has impatience and this is a good thing but without tradition this impetuosity will lead them to rush in where the brave and wise dare not go.

Tradition is often portrayed as the domain of the curmudgeon who resents youth, who is embittered over the loss of youth, and who insists upon spoiling the happiness, hope, and hubris of youth with negativity and complaint. For some, those who have felt too much the sting of disappointment and despair without the hope that is also resonant within tradition, it may be so. But only for a few. The more universal domain of tradition is a benevolent and patient tutor to guide youth and to provide a solid ground on which to begin to build anew the dreams and hopes of a fresh generation.

Nowhere is this more true than in the Church. What is true in general for most situations is even more true for the Church and no one recognizes this more than St. Paul. Read his words to Timothy and Titus, the voice of a guardian of tradition addressing those who will carry it forth to those yet to come after St. Paul has finished his race. Guard the sacred deposit, keep away from those who depart from the tradition... the word "tradition" is "παράδοσιν" and it occurs some 13 times in the New Testament. Half in the Gospels; half of them in Paul. While in the Gospels tradition is more often a negative thing -- the tradition of men contrasted with the Word and Commands of the Lord, in St. Paul it is positive.

1 Cor. 11:2, *"Now I praise you because you remember me in everything, and hold firmly to the traditions, just as I delivered them to you."*

Gal. 1:14, *"and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions."*

Col. 2:8, *"See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ."*

2 Thess 2:15, *"so then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us."*

2 Thess. 3:6, *"Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep aloof from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us."*

Certainly, as the Reformation shows, there is great danger in equating tradition with the same force and authority as Scripture but it is equally dangerous to rip Scripture out of its context, out of the believing community to whom the Word was addressed and who passed on not only the words but the faith to those who followed.

Now more than ever we see the great value of tradition. In the midst of a world quickly disposing of the created order of male and female and marriage and family, in the midst of a culture obsessed with desire and personal preference and treating gender as if it were a whim, and in the midst of a society in which it is socially acceptable to kill the unborn and the aged and allow individuals to end their lives not worth living, tradition is essential. In a world where shallow entertainment and DIY tips for life pass for worship and preaching, tradition is essential to Christians whose piety and faith are given birth and sustained within the liturgical tradition of the ordo, baptism, and Eucharist.

Some think tradition is the domain of the aged and curmudgeonly. I believe it is the gift of those who went before us in the faith, the living faith of the dead, who continue to witness to us even in death, that we may not depart from Him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Pastor Peck

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Happy New Year! This is a time to rejoice in the blessings of the past year and to renew our faith in the loving God who promises to shower us with His grace in this new year.



SAVE THE DATE

The ACTS (Adults, Children, Teens, and Seniors) group will be hosting its second Lutheran Lay Conference at Wheat Ridge Lutheran Church on **Saturday, April 29, 2017.**

2017 marks the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation! In celebration of this milestone our theme for the Conference will be "Reformation In The Home." Luther created the Small Catechism to be used for instruction in the home. Many times after confirmation this book finds its place on the shelf collecting dust never to be opened again. Rev. John Pless will be presenting on how we can use Luther's Small Catechism for our family devotions and return us to the riches of this treasure.

Rev. John Pless is assistant professor of pastoral ministry and missions at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He is also one of the most sought-after speakers and teachers, not just in the US, but overseas, as well. Please mark your calendars now for this incredible event. (More details to follow in the months leading up to the event!)

Board of Lay Ministry

Wheat Ridge Lutheran Church

NOTE:

The Board of Lay Ministry is committed to providing information about our Worship Services. It is our intention to publish this information each month into the future.

Attendance/Communion Count
September 2016

Date	Attendance	Communion
9/4/16	90	81
9/11/16	102	96
9/18/16	100	90
9/25/16	84	74
Total for SEPTEMBER 2016	376	341

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Attendance/Communion Count
October 2016

Date	Attendance	Communion
10/2/16	99	81
10/9/16	98	88
10/16/16	100	89
10/23/16	105	92
10/30/16	110	98
Total for OCTOBER 2016	512	448

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LabelsForEducation.com

THE LABELS FOR EDUCATION PROGRAM WILL BE COMING TO AN
END.

As of August 1, 2016, only UPCs with the *Labels for Education*® logo will be accepted and redeemed for points into registered schools' bank account (such as Bethlehem Lutheran School). We have begun the process of removing the logo and expect there will be a limited number of products that contain these labels in stores through August 1, 2017. Once all *Labels for Education* logos have been removed from the products, UPCs will no longer be accepted. The banked points schools have accumulated will not be affected.

Betty Crocker coupons are still being accepted.



Mission Statement of LWML

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.

Thank you very much for your continued support of our LWML mission grants both in the Rocky Mountain District and National.

May God continue to bless our **Mites**.

YOU have been a big part of the ministry outreach through your contributions on Mite Sundays each month this past year. THANK YOU!

MISSION GRANT - \$100,000

International Student Scholarship at St. Paul High School, Concordia, Missouri. St. Paul Lutheran in Concordia, Missouri is a boarding school with their student body being 45% international students. These students are from impoverished countries across the globe. By assisting with funds for these students, who intend to prepare for ministry and return to their country of origin as leaders, they will declare Christ "to the ends of the earth." Many of these students go to study at St. Paul in preparation for post-secondary education at a Concordia University.

Please continue to bring your Mite Boxes and Mites --- **MITE SUNDAY January 15, 2017**



The **Cookie Walk** on December 11 was also well supported, with many cookies being donated, and then returning to fill your cookie tins. If you would like to see a 12th Annual Cookie Walk, please return your cookie tins to the church kitchen.

With the funds raised throughout the year, we disbursed monies to support the **Siberian Lutheran Mission Society**, as well as **Pastor Craig and Paula Donofrio**, LCMS missionaries through **The LCMS in Eurasia, based in the Czech Republic**.

Your support helps assist us in our mission to reach out to individuals and groups.

THE NEXT MEETING of LWML will be Saturday, January 14th at 9:00 am
ALL women of the congregation are invited to join us.

Serve the Lord with Gladness!

Announcements from the Pastor

1. **Sunday morning Adult Bible Class** will begin a study on the Book of Leviticus. This book is often ignored and considered irrelevant to the Church because Christ has fulfilled all of the ceremonies instituted through Moses and the rest of the laws are just plain weird. But the Book of Leviticus shows in particular the holiness of God. It gives us a vision of who God is and how He not only relates to us, but dwells with us. This study will perhaps also inform us how we deal with God's holiness and our sinfulness that is, how He approaches us and how we approach Him, even in light of Christ. We will begin the study on Sunday, January 8 at 8:45 a.m.

2. Last month our **Tuesday morning Bible Class** wrapped up our study of Galatians and so we had an open question and answer session on whatever topic people had questions on. The questions were many and varied but I did notice that many of the questions asked in the class and even privately to me, dealt with questions in Genesis. So there you go! On January 3, the beginning of the new year, we will go back to The Beginning and start a study of Genesis. If you are able, come join us. We begin class around 10:00 a.m.

Looking ahead to January and Bacon!

3. We will again have an **Epiphany** Service on Friday, Jan 6, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

The day of **Epiphany** is often called the Gentile Christmas since it is the day that the Magi, Gentiles, came to worship Jesus and give their gifts, thus revealing that this Jesus was born to redeem all mankind. In celebration of this Gentile Christmas we are going to have a Gentile dinner before the service, starting at 5:30 p.m. It will be a potluck dinner and the one qualification is that you have to have pork in it somehow. I strongly suggest bacon. If you want to make a dessert and adding bacon causes you to be triggered, then just bring a regular dessert and we will find you a safe space.

4. For those tenacious students of **Greek**, we will also resume that class on Tuesday, January 3 at 7:00 p.m.

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On November 10, 1483, a son was born to Hans and Margarethe Luder (Luther). Following Catholic tradition, they named him after the famous saint — Martin of Tours. Hans wanted the best for his son and sent him to school despite the financial hardships it caused for the copper miner. As typical parents, Hans and Margrethe Luder were critical players in forming the reformer, their son Martin. Both home and school were places of high expectations and strict punishments, customary for the time. His lesson was learned: all transgressions must be atoned for.