



APRIL 2017

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Case in point, I saw a  
Jesus with question marks

## *The Resurrection is NOT a Question Mark!*

In Lent we heard again Pilate ask, "What is truth?" Truth for those outside the faith may have a question mark but for the Christian, truth has a name, a face, and an exclamation point. We are not those who content ourselves with opinions, guesses, or suggestions. As St. Paul put it in 1 Corinthians 15, ".if Christ be not raised, then..." The character of the preaching of the early church was not in question marks or possibilities, but in the facts of Christ whom you crucified and God raised. What distinguishes us from other eras in Christian history is that Christians themselves and certainly the academics as a group believe that Easter is a question mark and that truth itself cannot either be known with certainty or in its fullness. All we have is the murky haze of our skepticism, at least according to many. This contributes also to the mistaken idea that all religions are true enough for those who adhere to them, and every religion has some component of truth to their doctrine. Christians are the ones who are also saying these things. It is no wonder that we are not making headway with the world.

Easter is not a question mark. Scripture is not filled with questions; it is filled with answers. Our hope is not built upon pious myth or legend, suggestion or opinion, but upon historical fact. If the preachers cannot say this, it is no wonder why the folks in the pews do not believe it. If the Church has no confidence or certainty in the things which we believe and confess, it is no wonder why we are impotent before the world. The grand success of Christian missions in places like Africa did not occur because the missionary communicated his thoughts or wishes, but because Christ was proclaimed as the one and only truth for every person.

There is great romance in the idea of the faithful gathered to await tidbits of wisdom from the Lord but it is a completely false image. God has not called, gathered, or sent forth a church wrestling with her doubts, but a church confident of the Word of God and the message of Christ crucified. We have wasted the imagination of our people on such things as what would Jesus do when we have the facts of what Jesus did and does through the means of grace. It may be polite to act as if ours was merely a version of the truth but it is a lie. There is the catholic faith except one confess one will not be saved. There is a history anchoring this Gospel and there is a history of those who believe it. There is Christian practice which conforms to this divine Word. If a question mark is added to any of it, it is not because the Lord has placed it there. It is because we presume ourselves too wise to believe what is said and too sophisticated to be captive to that Word. That is not a problem with the faith but with the faithful, or should I say, faithless. If we are only confident that we have questions, doubt, or uncertainties, then we have no confidence at all.

When our Lord complained of those with little faith, He was not speaking strictly of the size of it -- as if faith came in sizes. He was complaining about the lack of faith, the question marks placed where God has put an exclamation point. What distinguishes too much of Christian witness today are not the confident confessions of what we believe but the hesitant suggestions of what might be true. It is not only unhealthy for those within the faith but it makes it impossible to speak to the world.

(Continued on pg. 2)

promised humility for those who had questions and an open venue for the exploration of answers so that all might grow. They did not believe they were called to claim or hold the truth but to love, that every denomination sees God through their own glasses, and that Scripture has been used to inflict pain and suffering...but all they are trying to do is love. GAG! **It is a fact and it is the truth that Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor Peck



## Mite Sunday is April 16

Thank you for your continued support!



### North Central Zone Spring Workshop

Saturday, April 22, 2017

Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Northglenn  
**Registration** at 8:30 a.m.

**Speaker:** Sue Hart of Bethesda Lutheran Communities, lunch, then assemble birthday boxes to give to residents of Bethesda Homes  
All women of the congregation are invited to attend.  
We can car pool from church.



The next regular meeting of the LWML will be held Saturday, May 13 at 9:00 am at the church. We would love to have you join us for Bible Study and fellowship.



## "Jesus Christ Above All"

The 2017 LWML National Convention will be held in Albuquerque, NM on June 22-24, 2017, for all LWML Women. It is being hosted by women of the Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, and Rocky Mountain Districts. Those attending will attend Worship, Bible Studies, enjoy great fellowship, and plan to hear humorous and inspirational Speaker Elaine Bickel. There will be a Gifts from the Heart gathering, LWML HUGS, Shopping, and more.



## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

In addition to our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, we will also have an **Easter Vigil Service on Saturday evening, April 15, at 7 pm.** The Vigil of Easter which is celebrated at the end of Holy Saturday as the conclusion to the sacred Triduum (three days, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday), ushers in the celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord on Easter Sunday. The Vigil of Easter connects the days of Holy Week, especially Holy Thursday and Good Friday, with the culminating celebration of the resurrection of Christ from the dead.

In some places throughout the early centuries of the Church's life, the people of God would hold vigil, which means "keep watch," through the night in expectation of Christ's return. The vigil consisted of prayer, psalms and hymns, and readings, especially from the Old Testament, culminating in celebration of the resurrection at dawn with the Lord's Supper. While making a vigil through the night may not be common today, Christians nonetheless gather on Holy Saturday to wait in expectation for the news of Christ's resurrection and for His second coming. And because the Vigil of Easter marks the final day in the sacred Triduum, the service ends with the Benediction, which has not been heard since the beginning of the Triduum, and the Easter Acclamation: *Christ is Risen!*

**STEWARDSHIP TODAY:** **WHY ?** The WHY of stewardship starts in a very basic place. It is rooted in creation and the cross, Baptism, and the Christian Life. It is the Gospel that serves as the WHY for our stewardship. *For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.* John 3:16 Easter demonstrates that we have a God who loves us, a God who provides for us, a God who presses us into His service, a God who has made us new in the death and resurrection of His Son. (from: StewardCAST-LCMS)

# Reformation in the Home

April 29, 2017 at 8:00am



## Wheat Ridge Lutheran Church

[www.wrlutheran.org](http://www.wrlutheran.org)

“REFORMATION IN THE HOME” is the theme to this year’s Lutheran Lay Conference, hosted by the ACTS group. Please mark your calendars to join us here at the church for a wonderful presentation by Rev. John Pless, assistant professor of pastoral ministry and missions at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. His presentation on Praying Luther’s Small Catechism returns us to the riches of this treasure.

Registration is now open on our church website, or contact Janet in the church office. **Registration fee is \$5** and can be made any time from now until April 29, 2017. The registration fee includes the presentation by Rev. Pless, morning goodies, lunch, and a folder with supplies.

In keeping with our Reformation theme, we will be serving traditional German foods for lunch. We are asking congregation members to bring salads and desserts (potluck-style), as the ACTS group will provide Brats, hotdogs, and cabbage burgers (aka, Runzas or Beirocks). There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church along with recipe suggestions, but all ideas are welcome. We thank you for your help and support for this event.

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**Instead of lilies on Easter Sunday**, vases of cut flowers will be placed in the church. If you would like to help decorate the church for that special day, place money in an envelope, mark it “*Easter flowers*”, and put in the collection plate or leave in the church office. The flowers may be taken home after the late service, without the vases.

Theme for April: Christ’s Resurrection Victory

“And it happened that while they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling apparel; and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, ‘Why do you seek the living One among the dead? He is not here, but He has risen...’” (Luke 24:4-6)

# Faster Celebration

**Sunday**  
**April 16, 2017**

7:00 am

SONrise worship

8:00 am Breakfast  
served by the Youth Group

9:00 am Sunday School  
activities and egg hunt

10:00 am

Celebration worship



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*Palm Sunday, April 9*

*Worship with Holy Communion*

*10:00 am with Sunday School 8:45am*



*Maundy Thursday, April 13*

*Worship with Holy Communion 7:00 pm*

*Good Friday, April 14*

*Worship 7:00 pm*



*Service of Light, April 15*

*Worship 7:00 pm*

**Board of Lay Ministry  
Wheat Ridge Lutheran Church**

**Attendance/Communion Count  
January 2017**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Communion</b>
1/1/17	96	86
1/6/17 (Epiphany)	55	50
1/8/17	120	65?
1/15/17	88	83
1/22/17	98	83
1/29/17	100	88
Total for January 2017	557	455

**Attendance/Communion Count  
February 2017**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Communion</b>
2/5/17	112	94
2/12/17	97	85
2/19/17	93	81
2/26/17	98	87
Total for February 2017	400	347

**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.



# TRAVELING BACK IN TIME

## To Pastors and churches of the Rocky Mountain District:

Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Fort Morgan, Colorado, is offering a taste of what the Children of Israel experienced as they worshiped God after they left Egypt. It's called "The Tabernacle Experience", and it truly is what the name implies: an experience. This is a full-size (according to Bible dimensions) recreation of the Tabernacle and its furnishings, just as they were explained to Moses in the book of Exodus.

You will be ushered out of the ordinary and into God's extraordinary presence to experience a day in the life of a priest as he attends his duties in The Tabernacle. The experience is simple, yet utterly profound, private, and intimate. The Lord's compassion, mercy, and love toward us is shown in every aspect of the tabernacle. His plan for our redemption is revealed, and His desire to live among us is evident.

The Opening Day is Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> and is specifically open for free to all Pastors and their families. Sign up now for the 50-minute tour May 5 so you can share your experience and encourage your congregation members to join us on any day from **May 5<sup>th</sup> through May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017**. Everyone will travel through in pairs to avoid distractions of too many people at one time. Each person will wear headphones (or your own ear buds) as a narrator explains the tabernacle and its contents as you proceed on your journey.

The Tabernacle opens to the public at 11:00 each day, so large groups are asked to schedule their time before 11:00 so they can experience the tour together as a group. The cost is \$3.00 per child, and \$5.00 for adults, or a maximum of \$20.00 per immediate family.

Portable restrooms will be available; school restrooms can be used by the handicapped or in emergencies. A short explanation of the tour can be found on YouTube, The Tabernacle Experience. The location for this event is: **Trinity Lutheran School**

**1215 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Fort Morgan, CO 80701**

Please sign up on our website at [trinitylutheranfortmorgan.com](http://trinitylutheranfortmorgan.com), or on the internet. Go to: The Tabernacle Experience, Locations, then Trinity Lutheran. Address any questions to: Ann Stivers at [bastivers@wigginstel.com](mailto:bastivers@wigginstel.com)

Sponsored by:

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Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church & School

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1215 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
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*"The Word of the Lord endures forever"*