



MAY 2017

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Private Confession and Absolution

Martin Luther stated in his first thesis of the 95 Theses he nailed to the door in Wittenberg, "Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ in saying 'Repent ye', willed that the whole life of believers should be repentance." As believers in the crucified and risen Lord we are constantly aware of our sinful nature. We daily struggle against it and often fail in that struggle and succumb to sin. We also do not just sin in word and deed but in thought as well. How are we supposed to control our thoughts?! The point is, we sin daily and we sin much.

Confronted by all this sin all our lives, what are we to do? Well, the Lord in His mercy has given us several avenues of receiving forgiveness for these very sins. When the Scriptures are read, proclaimed, studied, and 'inwardly digested', forgiveness is given those who apprehend and believe the Gospel, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Our Lord Jesus also instituted the Lord's Supper as a means of distributing His grace. Another means Christ has instituted to grant forgiveness is in Confession and Absolution.

Christ established the Office of the Keys for the Church to use to relieve those sinners who are particularly burdened by sin (John 20:21-23). During our Divine Liturgy we begin each service with a General Confession that we confess together and before each other. What a comfort to know that we aren't the only sinners in Church, huh? We are all in the same boat. We are all beggars before our Lord. This General Confession is a great equalizer and begins the movement from the world into the heavenly realms that we will experience in the Supper when heaven and earth are joined together in the physical presence of Christ.

But frankly, sometimes the general confession is not enough to relieve the burden of specific sins. For centuries the Church has had the practice of individual confession and absolution to forgive and relieve this burden. Like anything our sinful hands touch, misuses and abuses of this gift became prevalent and it fell into disuse around a century ago. With the Roman Catholic abuses, Lutherans often resist Private Confession/Absolution because it is 'too Catholic.' But just because man had corrupted a gift from God does not mean that it should be done away with and ignored.

Private Confession and Absolution is an opportunity for believers to unburden themselves of their sin. When the confession is spoken, it is expelled from us via our mouths and placed upon the pastor. The pastor, as Christ for the confessor, in the stead and by the command of Christ, then announces that "[name], YOU are forgiven ALL your sins, in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." The pastor's absolution is Christ's absolution. Your sin is no more.

What a great gift! To hear personally that this or that sin that has weighed you down for days, months, or even years are gone; as far as the East is from the West. Let us thank God for this wonderful gift and may it become a part of the regular rhythm of our lives as we live out our Baptism.

Pastor Peck

JESUS CHRIST – ABOVE ALL Philippians 2:9

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.

Mission Goal Reaches New Heights!



The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) announced the LWML 2015-2017 Mission Goal of \$2 million was met and surpassed!

President Patti Ross shared, "Praise and thanksgiving to God! Through Mite Box offerings and generous responses to our Lord's blessings, LWML will be able to fund all 19 grants chosen by the Des Moines Convention in 2015. In humble adoration and with praise to our faithful God, we dedicate these dollars to Him for the work of missionaries and ministries around the world who work to spread the saving message of Christ's love and forgiveness."

MISSION GRANT for Rocky Mt. District - Pastor Debt Assistance, LCMS Rocky Mountain District - \$10,000

Educated Christian pastors are a means of propagating Christ and His Word to future generations. Rocky Mountain District pastors, especially recent graduates from the two LCMS seminaries, commonly have high levels of education debt. The Rocky Mountain District has established the Debt Assistance Program endowment fund specifically to assist pastors with their education debt repayment.

**Please help fund this project
by dropping your money
into the Mite box.**

MITE SUNDAY is May 14

**We invite you to support our many mission
projects with your gift at the coffee table.**

Thank you!

*And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, **but** has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise."*

The women journeyed to the tomb with the understanding that they were going to complete what was left undone. The spices were for the anointing of Jesus because He had died. That morning, things didn't seem right. The stone was rolled away and there was no body of Jesus. *Perplexed* is probably a mild word to reflect what was going on in their minds. It was the message they were given that changed everything; "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, **but** has risen." Not being in the tomb is one thing; being risen is completely another. The reality of our lives changes with one simple: **but**. A change, a transition, a reflection of new truth. Death no longer has power over us because of this victory by Jesus the Christ. If you read the Gospel of Luke concerning the resurrection of our Lord you will find a point of transition.

We express it still today with a historic proclamation: **Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

May God's grace bring you joy today and always!
Rev. Robert Mundahl, National LWML Junior Counselor

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Remember, our next LWML meeting is Saturday, May 13 at 9:00 a.m. We will have election of officers. ALL women are encouraged to please join us!

NORTH CENTRAL ZONE NEWS

Fall Rally – October 23, 2017 @ Risen Savior 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.

SOUP SUPPERS DURING LENT

Thank you to all who donated at the Wednesday night Lenten soup suppers. A total of \$210 was added by your donations to the Matthew 25 fund. (Read Matthew 25). The fund is used by the pastor, at his discretion, to help not only members of the congregation, but people in need from the community.

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HAVE YOU NOTICED?

There is new lettering on the northwest corner of the church building. You must look up to see it. It will help let the community know just who we are. Thanks to Jeff Lundin who worked on this project. The money came from the memorial for Ramona Monroe.

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SAVE THE DATE!!

Vacation Bible School will be Monday, June 19 through Friday, June 23.

Recruiting and advertising are underway; The Leaders have volunteered and have begun work. A Planning meeting will be scheduled. Please pray for this outreach effort and ask God how you can be a part of this ministry.

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STEWARDSHIP TODAY

Stewardship of trust: Trust is a major component of stewardship. It is a gift from God to be guarded by the individual Christian. When trust falters, the work of the gospel is impaired. When it is restored by God's grace, it leads to amazing results. On this you can trust! (from Steward CAST – LCMS) Where our trust is, there is our God; where the treasure, there the heart is. The chief part of Christian doctrine is to learn to trust in God, not to ignore Him. (from What Luther Says (#4471 & 4472 CPH))

Grocery Gift Cards

We all buy groceries, right? Why not buy a grocery gift card for yourself. *Remember:* A great source of *Income* to our church is by way of your grocery shopping. If you don't already have reloadable gift cards for King Soopers and Safeway, see Mel Furgeson to purchase one.

THANK YOU

Thank you for the cards, food, flowers, and words of sympathy at the passing of my brother Carl Girardin. Your kindness meant so much to us.
Mel and Donna Furgeson

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COUNTERS FOR STEWARDSHIP

We are still looking for Counters for Sunday Morning Offering. This would be a commitment for once a week for 1 month perhaps 2-3 times a year. Please see Carol or Megan Harper if you have questions.

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The Lutheran Choral

The Lutheran Choral invites you to join them for “**A Timeless Message, By Grace You Have Been Saved**” on Sunday, May 7, 2017. At this final concert of our season not only do we perform many of the songs we love to sing – including, “*Give me Jesus*”, Ferguson’s “*Jesus Loves Me*”, “*Here I am, Lord*”, “*The Lord is My Shepherd*” from the Rutter Requiem and “*How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place*” from the Brahms Requiem, but also include a tribute to those who 40 years ago envisioned and established The Lutheran Choral. We will be having 2 concerts: **Peace Lutheran Church 5675 Field Street, Arvada at 3:00 pm and King of Glory Lutheran Church, 10001 W 58th Street, Arvada, 7:00 pm.** We do not sell tickets, but will appreciate your support in free will offering. For more information or questions, visit our website at www.thelutheranchorage.org, email, thelutheranchorage@comcast.net, or phone, Linda Thompson [303-666-6642](tel:303-666-6642).

500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION



The most enduring symbol of the Lutheran Reformation is the seal that Luther himself designed to represent his theology. By the early 1520s, this seal begins to appear on the title page of Luther's works.

Here is how Luther himself explained its meaning:

First, there is a black cross in a heart that remains its natural color. This is to remind me that it is faith in the Crucified One that saves us. Anyone who believes from the heart will be justified (Romans 10:10). It is a black cross, which mortifies and causes pain, but it leaves the heart its natural color. It doesn't destroy nature, that is to say, it does not kill us but keeps us alive, for the just shall live by faith in the Crucified One (Romans 1:17). The heart should stand in the middle of a white rose. This is to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace—it puts the believer into a white, joyous rose. Faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). This is why the rose must be white, not red. White is the color of the spirits and angels (cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12). This rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that a joyful spirit and faith is a beginning of heavenly, future joy, which begins now, but is grasped in hope, not yet fully revealed. Around the field of blue is a golden ring to symbolize that blessedness in heaven lasts forever and has no end. Heavenly blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and better than any possessions, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal.

The first version was used in Luther's writings in the 1520s for the first time, and was in black and white, with Luther's initials.



A colorized rendition of the seal began appearing as printers began to include color images in Luther's works. Each one was laboriously painted by hand.

