



DECEMBER 2017

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A MERCIFUL CAROL

A few weeks ago our gospel reading presented us with the parable of the unmerciful servant, recorded in Matthew 18. Another aspect of this text that is easily overlooked is that our own failings at showing mercy to others in proportion to God's mercy toward us does not nullify our Lord's mercy. He doesn't pull the rug out from under us due to our spiritual sluggishness. Were our Lord to do so we would all be in a great deal of trouble.

And there is another concern that this parable raises which I did not directly address but I would like to do so now because you might be surprised at how many people talk to me about their pasts, particularly about their own difficulty in forgiving others. Enough of you are hobbled by this to merit a response.

First, if you have difficulty forgiving someone else in your life - welcome to the club. You are not alone. And, while such an observation is not exactly the gospel, it is worth-while to know that you are not alone or unique in having such a difficulty. It is too easy to wrongly assume that everyone else around you is skating effortlessly through life and that you alone find such things challenging. Everyone struggles with forgiveness.

Secondly, the fact that you recognize and are troubled by your own inability to forgive someone that, in itself, is actually a good sign. You take seriously your Lord's injunction. A lot of folks don't.

Thirdly, please be aware - it's not about how you feel. Somebody may have hurt you in a way that you cannot forget. You can't be around that person. Every time you see them the ancient injury creeps up again and takes possession of you. You can't control how you feel.

What you can do is be aware of the fact that Jesus' blood-bought forgiveness is as much for that person as it is for you. But knowing is not the same as feeling. Don't allow yourself to be dominated by your feelings. That doesn't mean that you deny how you feel. It means that you choose to believe even what you cannot yet feel or experience. You know better.

When something in life scares you - you know better. You know that your Lord is in charge and is gracious and merciful. That awareness might not instantly take away the scare. But belief is deeper than how you feel at any given moment. Emotionally, life is a roller-coaster; one minute you are up and the next you are down. Your moods are affected by the weather and how much sleep you get.

Your faith and trust are in Jesus, not in your responses to Him and everything else around you. Don't trust in how you feel. Trust Jesus. Don't even trust your trust in Him. He is trustworthy even when you are weak on trust.

We human beings waver. Jesus doesn't. When you find it hard to forgive, Jesus still does forgive. That's all you need know. The rest will take care of itself.

A blessed Christmas!
Pastor Peck

Lutheran Women In Mission



Welcome to all women of the congregation!

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.

Basic Facts of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League is the official women's auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS).

It has as its "mission heart" thousands of volunteers who are daily dedicating their lives to making a difference in this world.

"Lutheran Women in Mission" describes in spoken and written form who we are and what we do. It is women who are finding avenues to use their God-given talents as they meet the challenges to share the Gospel message.

It is composed of individual women and women's groups within congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, on campuses, in resident homes, or in other settings. Individual membership is available to women in LCMS congregations with or without a society affiliated with the LWML. Women may have an interest in the mission and ministry of the LWML — and wish to be a part of the organization; but cannot for a variety of reasons belong to a local group.

The LWML seeks to develop and maintain a greater mission consciousness among women of the LCMS through education, inspiration, and service.

A major emphasis is the support of mission and ministry throughout the world by means of Mite Box offerings. These Mite Box offerings have funded tens of millions of dollars in mission grants since the organization's inception in 1942. What's a biennium? It's a two-year period; plural is biennia, adjective is biennial. LWML conventions mark the end of one biennium and the beginning of the next. Ex. The 2015–2017 biennium began at the 2015 Des Moines convention and concluded at the 2017 Albuquerque convention. New Mission grants were voted on in Albuquerque, and will continue till 2019 in Mobile, AL.

JESUS CHRIST ABOVE ALL!

Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name. Philippians 2:9



CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK

December 10 is your opportunity to get your baked cookies for the holidays. Buy a tin and fill it with holiday cookies following the worship service.

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 6th

Advent by Candlelight @ 6:30 p.m. The ladies will decorate the meeting hall with candles and Christmas décor and host a dessert social. Pastor will conduct the Advent Celebrations with Doctrine and Song.

December 10th

LWML Annual Cookie Walk.

December 17th

LWML Mite Sunday. Bring your Mites and enjoy fellowship.

The Angel Tree

We are collecting new items for teen moms for Hope House of Colorado. Please take a tag from the tree and purchase your gift. Gift and Angel tag are to be returned to the church by December 17. Do not wrap the gifts, but a gift bag is appreciated.



Board of Lay Ministry Wheat Ridge Lutheran Church

Attendance/Communion Count
September 2017

Date	Attendance	Communion
9/3/17	93	78
9/10/17	104	94
9/17/17	102	96
9/24/17	104	87
Total for September 2017	403	355

October 2017

Date	Attendance	Communion
10/1/17	113	100
10/8/17	105	100
10/15/17	105	106??
10/22/17	104	91
10/22/17 Vespers @Lutheran	76	n/a
10/29/17 Reformation	121	102
Total for October 2017	624	499

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.

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LUTHERAN CHORALE

The Lutheran Chorale would like to invite you to join them in celebrating the birth of our Lord. They will be presenting three concerts: one on December 10, 2017 at 3 pm, and two concerts on December 11, 2017 at noon and 3 pm.

Rejoice! Our Light Has Come will be performed on Saturday, December 10 at 3 pm at **The Sanctuary, Denver**, 3101 W. 31st Ave., Denver, CO, 80211. This will be a free concert, with the annual **Silent auction /Bake sale** being held prior to the concert with doors opening at 1:30 pm. Please join them for some very special items.

Joyous Carols of the Season, their third concert, will be held on Sunday, December 10, at noon at **Exempla Lutheran Hospital**, 8300 W. 38th Ave., Wheat Ridge, CO. They will be singing in the lobby and around the hospital.

The second **Rejoice! Our Lord Has Come** concert will be held on Sunday, December 11, at 3 pm at **Lutheran Hospital's Chapel of the Good Samaritan**, 8300 W 38th Ave., Wheat Ridge, CO, 80033. This will also be a free concert, with a free will offering accepted.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Linda Thompson: 303-666-6642, e-mail us at thelutheranchorale@comcast.net, or visit their web site at www.thelutheranchorale.org.



Wheat Ridge Lutheran Church
Christmas Program

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

6:30 p.m.

Featuring:

Adult Choir

Youth Choir

Mini Choir

Men's Choir

And Congregational Singing

More Thoughts from Pastor!!

I thought about starting a book club-type thing here at church in January. People ask me about books and reading materials for themselves and there are books I would love to go through with folks, but that is not something that can be accomplished in a Bible Study setting. We can read a book or essay by Luther, Walther, or any of the Church Fathers ancient or modern, the Apocrypha, the Pseudopigraphal writings, etc. They can be books, essays, presented papers, whatever. I envision this as something that people can drop in and out of as they desire.

There would be caveats, though, to this study:

1. No drinking...many book clubs end up being wine clubs.
2. No dinners or expectation of food....don't want it to be social hour or take up too much time.
3. We would meet at the church. I don't want this to be a traveling small/cell group that cannot be accessible to everyone in the congregation.
4. I would lead the discussion, but really, really, really.....really try hard not to dominate it.
5. I would approve/disapprove of books for study. In other words, keep the Max Lucado, The Shack, Heaven Is For Real, or Amish romance novels at home. And by the way, if you have any of those books, REPENT! Then burn them and never speak of them again.

As far as when we meet -- I thought every other week might work best. That would be a long enough time to read the material and a short enough time to not forget it.

For those interested, please talk to me about what day/evening might work best for you....Thanks, Pastor



Poinsettias

Would you like to provide a Christmas Poinsettia to decorate the altar area? Put \$10 in an envelope and drop in the offering plate, or leave on the church office desk by Dec. 15. Please add a note if it's a memorial or celebration.

Thank You!

A BIG thank you to everyone from Wheat Ridge Lutheran for your cards and well-wishes for my 90th birthday. Each one is appreciated.

I have now moved into assisted living at the same street address, but my apartment number is now #214. Everything else is the same.

Marietta Stephenson

Jesus Is Born!

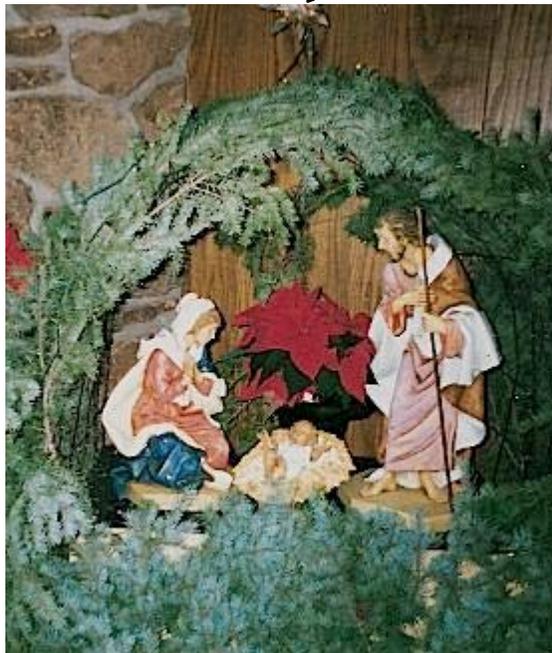
Christmas Eve

sunday worship
with communion

10:00 a.m.

candlelight worship

10:00 p.m.



Christmas Day

10:00 a.m.

worship with communion