



## FEBRUARY 2018

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### A BRIDGE ACROSS TIME

There is little rush to claim the past these days. Oh, to be sure, Rome has its warriors and Lutherans, too, who fight over whose position the past supports. Perhaps you have read it right here. But the truth is that we are rather offended by the past. We find its language archaic, its values out of step with modern sensibilities, its images of women and men stereotypical at best and offensive at worst. We seem to delight in dredging up the worst moments of our history and then painting modern day folks with the sins of those who went before them.

Theologically, it does not seem that many want to be informed by the past, much less shaped by its witness, legacy, tradition, and faithfulness. We live too much in the present to give much more than scant glance at the past. Arguments which dredge up what was believed, confessed, and taught by our theological ancestors bear little weight in determining what we believe, confess, and teach today. Witness how quickly we went from the millennia of conviction that same sex marriage and the GLBTQ (or whatever the hell it is today) agenda conflicted with the moral vision of Scripture and tradition to the present moment in which most of Protestantism, most of Lutheranism, and a goodly number of Roman Catholics seem intent to disconnect with this catholic past and find accommodation with those who insist what feels good, is good.

In many respects the same could be said of the future. We seem to wear blinders for the future and can only see into the foreseeable tomorrow, without much care or concern for the eternal one. Business and industry seem to pay more attention to immediate profits rather than financial security for the future. Our technology has made the present so rich and interesting that we can hardly turn away from the next cuddly puppy video on Facebook or wait for the next cute Instagram post. We are so hungry for conspiracy theories and easy explanations of why things are as they are that we are easy targets for fake news. If it cannot be said in 140 characters, excuse me, 280 characters, we presume it is not worth the extra time it takes to read the Twitter version of a long novel. We have fast food, fast shopping, fast internet, and fast relationships. Today is too busy to worry about tomorrow.

Strangely, even death does not seem to confound us anymore. We have made our peace with life -- as long as we get enough today's, we do not need a tomorrow. Give us a good laugh at the expense of the dead or a tearful moment of remembrance and we are good to go. Let the dead bury the dead. We have more important things to do. So theologically we do not desire or crave the promise of the risen Lord. We want our best lives today and we are not sure we want to pin much hope on an eternal future floating in the clouds. In fact, the resurrection and life everlasting have become the stuff of sitcoms in our age.

So it is no wonder that the Lutheranism of the Augsburg Confession (that would be us folks) sits strangely upon the river of today. It is the bridge between the past and its catholic heritage of faithfulness and its catholic witness to eternal truth and it is the herald of an eternal future prepared for those who have loved His appearing. We claim the past in our Confessions.

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But we claim the future as well. It is the present we are not so worried about. As long as we are faithful in preserving and proclaiming the abiding faith and eternal truth of Christ and Him crucified, we do not harbor the angst of those who impatiently complain about the pace of progress nor do we give into hysteria about the world coming to an end with an out of control person in the White House and a kook in North Korea. We believe that God has entered history and, indeed, that all history looked to the moment when the eternal Son of the Father was incarnate of the Blessed Virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit. We believe that the future is not some aimless and fearful tomorrow but the one prepared by this Christ for those for whom He came and comes still in Word and Sacrament. It is this that the echo of our forefathers in the liturgy recalls and it is this that we teach to our children who will outlive us. The dead are not dead but live in Christ and we await with them the dawn of the eternal day.

Perhaps this is why we cannot marry the spirit of the age nor attempt to reinstate a golden moment in the past. We are those who rejoice in the legacy of the faithful and whose faithfulness passes on a legacy to those who follow us, ever more moving toward the outcome of the faith, the salvation of our souls, and never content to glance around us and say "this is enough."

This is what it means to be a catholic -- not only do we connect to our past and rejoice in the rich and joyful legacy of those who went before us, we also pass on the abiding and eternal Gospel to those who will come after us. Truth matters. The Word endures. We shall not die but live in Him and soon with them who went before. This is the great and grand mystery of that precious word catholic.

"To the so-called Lutheran, that is the true catholic Christian, belongs the entire past, before and after Luther. The future must belong to him as well. All things true and scriptural are his, when and where they are spoken." (Wilhelm Loehe, *The Pastor*, p. 157)

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Peck*

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## MORE NEWS

There will be a free conference at Calvary Lutheran Church in Wray, CO on Saturday, Feb 17, 2018. Each year they bring in a Doctor of the Church to speak on various topics, much like we try to do here every April. For those interested, Calvary Lutheran Church will welcome Dr. Peter Scaer. His topic will be, "*Christ in the Public Square.*"

### Itinerary:

08:00 a.m. Registration/Refreshments  
08:40 a.m. Matins  
09:00 a.m. Session I  
10:15 a.m. Break  
10:30 a.m. Session II  
11:45 a.m. Q & A  
12:00 p.m. Lunch (free will)  
01:00 p.m. Session III  
02:15 p.m. Break  
02:30 p.m. Session IV  
03:30 p.m. Q & A  
03:45 p.m. Vespers/Departure

The cost is free! But please contact 970-630-5191 (text) or 970-332-4630 (voice) to pre-register so that we can have an accurate count for lunch.

## L.W.M.L.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League/Lutheran Women in Mission



Through the offerings of the LWML, hundreds and hundreds of projects in our districts, in the Synod, in our partner churches, and all around the globe, have been funded so that the Gospel of free forgiveness in Jesus is shared everywhere. We give thanks to God for His many blessings given through LWML, and pray the Lord's continued blessings on the LWML as they *Serve the Lord with Gladness*. Psalm 100:2.



*Your Support is needed!*

Pick up your Mite box and place your change in the box with a prayer for World Missions. Return your filled Mite box at the February 18<sup>th</sup> worship service, and **MAKE SOME NOISE** for missions as we dedicate your gifts. Help us reach the \$2,075,000 Mite goal for this biennium.

### LAYETTE KITS

Can you please help? On April 28, LWML ladies are going to be putting together Layette Kits for new moms with their new babies in the Rocky Mountain District. One distribution place will be at Mother House in Boulder, a safe haven for pregnant women who are at risk, protecting unborn children, providing a nurturing and loving home, and encouraging them to build the confidence and skills necessary for a successful future. Other places will be to Orphan Grain Train, Ysleta Lutheran Mission in El Paso, TX, and Lutheran Indian Ministries in New Mexico. We are collecting baby quilts, receiving blankets, onesies, sleepers, new bottles, new pacifiers, baby wipes, and diapers for Newborns to 6 months old. These completed kits will then be taken to the Rocky Mountain District Convention in Boulder June 8-10, 2018, for distribution. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!**

*MISSION GRANT for \$100,000*

### **Lutheran Children's Books for Families Worldwide**

As any parent or Sunday school teacher knows, teaching children about Jesus through oral storytelling is one way, but teaching them with a book with brightly colored illustrations is a most precious and lasting way. Lutheran churches, missionaries, and new Christian families around the world will be provided with Bible story books, translated into their languages that teach children about Jesus. These books, such as A Child's Garden of Bible Stories and Bible Stories in Pictures, are given free of charge to the parents and missionaries who need them through the Lutheran Heritage Foundation.

For more questions, or to learn more about us---1-800-252-5965 or go to [www.LWML.org](http://www.LWML.org)



## ash wednesday february 14, 2018

worship 6:30 pm  
with holy communion

### six weeks of lent

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and continues for five more Wednesdays. There will be soup suppers at 5:30 pm with Lenten services at 6:30 pm starting Feb. 21 through Mar. 22. Thank you to those people who sign up to serve these suppers!

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## LOOK TO THE CROSS

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Begin your day in the Word.  
Won't you join us for a daily  
Matins service during Lent?

Monday-Thursday 9:30-9:50 a.m.

## LOVE

*"Jesus, knowing that God had given all things into His hands...took a towel..."* He washed the disciples' feet. He could have taken a throne, or a scepter, or a crown; but He took a towel.

Love always does what it does not have to do. People do not have to go to foreign fields and become missionaries. Love sends them there. Paul did not have to go to prison and spend nights in dark dungeons with a bleeding back and with his feet in stocks. Love sent him there. A mother does not have to watch her baby through long days and weary nights, but love makes her do it. Yes, love always does what it does not have to do, yet love has to do what it does because it is love.

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## SEMINAR for ACTIVE ADULTS – S.O.A.R.

*"Enhancing One's Quality of Life"*

The Rocky Mountain District Active Adult Ministry Committee is sponsoring a one-day seminar at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Saturday, February 10, 2018, 9 am-3:30 pm. Lunch and coffee breaks will be provided as well as four presentations:

- "Delivering Dignity to the Homeless Community" – Pastor Drew Ross
- "Red Flags for Back and Neck Pain" – Jolene Webb-Hammond, PA-C
- "Mile High Ministries" – Virginia Ortiz, Director of Development
- Entertainment – Golden Brass – Univ. of Northern Colorado

Only \$15 per person!

REGISTRATION DEADLINE is FEBRUARY 3

Register a friend who has not previously attended at no cost!

Registration forms are available on the narthex bulletin board.

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### FOR SALE

*King of Kings Lutheran Church has 3 cemetery lots for sale at the NW corner of Crown Hill Cemetery—*

*Block 46, Lot 21, Unit C, Section 1*

*" " Unit D, Sections 1 & 2*

Interested? Please call Pastor Miller for details  
- 303-868-0117

Dear Wheat Ridge Lutheran Church,  
We are overwhelmed by your generosity and love.  
Thank you for making Christmas a time of hope and  
joy for our teen moms and their kids at Hope House of  
Colorado. We appreciate every single one of you.

Sincerely,

Theresa Mazza / Volunteer Coordinator



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## Board of Lay Ministry Wheat Ridge Lutheran Church

Attendance/Communion Count  
November 2017

Date	Attendance	Communion
11/5/17	121	99
11/12/17	122	104
11/19/17	132	119
11/22/17 (Thanksgiving Eve)	58	50???
11/26/17	114	98
Total for November 2017	547	470

Attendance/Communion Count  
December 2017

Date	Attendance	Communion
12/3/17	123	99
12/6/17 (Advent)	56	None
12/10/17	129	112
12/13/17 (Advent)	60?	None
12/17/17	109	93
12/20/17 (Advent)	43	None
12/24/17 (AM)	120	107
12/24/17 (Christmas Eve)	70	None
12/25/17 (Christmas Day)	71	65
12/31/17	88	78
Total for December 2017	869	554

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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## ATTENTION!!

SAFEWAY has relaunched their reloadable gift card program, and gift cards are now available! *EVERYONE NEEDS GROCERIES!* This is a wonderful source of *Income* to our church by way of your grocery shopping. So why not let a percentage of the grocery bill benefit us? Reloadable Gift cards of this type bring financial support to our church through your everyday activities. If you don't already have one for either King Soopers or Safeway, or if you have questions about their use or purchase, see Mel Furgeson.

### Reaching High School Kids

The Concordia Association brings doctrinally sound Lutheran Bible classes to the students at Faith Christian High School. Pastor Langewisch, President of TCA, is looking for a volunteer to do 1-2 hrs. a week of administrative support for this ministry. Contact him at: [david.langewisch@theconcordiaassociation.org](mailto:david.langewisch@theconcordiaassociation.org), 303-238-7676 x103.



## DEVOTIONS BASED ON THE HYMNS OF MARTIN LUTHER

### THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

### "THESE ARE THE HOLY TEN COMMANDS"

LSB 581/The Hymns of Martin Luther (HML) 62

Do you want to live a happy life? Martin Luther once offered a suggestion on the topic. In his short hymn focused on the Ten Commandments, Luther wrote: "Wilt thou, O man, live happily, And dwell with God eternally? The Ten Commandments keep, for thus Our God Himself biddeth us. Lord, have mercy" (HML 82, st. 1).

It sounds so easy! Keeping the Commandments equals happy living. If only keeping the Commandments was so simple! Yes, we try to keep the Commandments, but by our own fault the opposite often occurs: we break them. So, instead of happiness, we experience sadness—sadness over what we've done to others, sadness over what people have done to us. We also experience terror—terror because we know how God should treat us because of our commandment breaking. He should give us endless pain! Endless pain wouldn't bring a happy life.

Both "Wilt Thou, O Man, Live Happily" and "These Are the Holy Ten Commands" review the Ten Commandments, with the latter hymn giving a more thorough instruction on each commandment. Unlike the former, however, the final stanza of "These Are the Holy Ten Commands" points us to Jesus, "who pleads for us endlessly" (st. 12).

Do you want to live a happy life? If so, you need Jesus. Without Jesus, no happiness would exist. Instead of happiness, your works would "merit only endless pain" (st. 12). But with Jesus, forgiveness exists. The Father forgives because your ascended Lord continues to plead to the Father on your behalf, pleading for your forgiveness on the basis of His once-shed blood (Hebrews 9:24).

The Father's forgiveness allows you to live each day happily, loving God and loving your neighbors. Because of God's grace freely given to you, you are set free to thank and praise, serve and obey your Lord and to live out a life in accordance with the Ten Commandments as a guide for your behavior and the standard of life as God's child.