



## MARCH 2018

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## “GUARDIANS” OF MORALITY

Lori and I were out somewhere eating and we were discussing the recently held and heavily reported upon Golden Globe awards. Mostly we were musing over how ridiculous it is; an industry devoted to the promotion of immorality is so self-deluded as to not recognize how preposterous it is for them to be posturing themselves as crusaders for morality. For ridiculous sums of money the Hollywood guardians of society undress onscreen and then lecture us on the topic of sexual exploitation.

During the discussion the waitress passes by, says something friendly, and - just for a second - touches me ever so slightly on the shoulder.

It felt like a shock! My initial instinct was to begin shouting - "Hash-tag....me too! Hash-tag....me too!" But - I don't know what a hash-tag is...so I didn't. I felt this burning impulse to run out and buy a black dress in order to demonstrate my indignation. But then I realized that I already own a black dress and wear it every Sunday.

Actually...I was surprised...but pleasantly so. The touch was a warm, friendly gesture. That's all. Nothing more. But we are so conditioned to be so wary that something so ordinary seemed weird.

It then occurred to me that we really do need to be careful. I don't mean be careful about not laying a finger on anyone, but careful about becoming so careful that we end up treating one another like sculpture in an art museum - don't touch.

Obviously prudence and caution are good and wise. The great mistake made by our culture via the "sexual revolution" was the radical underestimation made in terms of the power of human sexuality. We spoke as though we were letting a gentle and benevolent genie out of the bottle, which had been too long repressed by a tight-corsetted, Victorian sensibility. The genie, it turns out, is a demonic fury. Play with matches and you will get burned. We are living the repercussions of that naive mistake.

But - as with everything - you can fall off the road into the opposite ditch. You can try to correct your steering and end up over-correcting and crash up in the other ditch.

All of that to say, we can't lose contact with one another. There is that peril too. We're too tied up with electronic toys. Our care for others is often very clinically isolating. Human touch is vital and desirable. Jesus touched people. He laid his hands on the sick.

There is good touch and bad touch. But you don't want to throw the baby out with the bath water. You have to think about what you are doing. Be aware of the power of human sexuality. Never underestimate it. Be wary. But don't discount the value of tenderness either. Think about what you are doing. **But - most importantly - don't let Hollywood and the media do your thinking for you because that would be the same thing as not thinking at all.**

*Pastor Peck*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Confessing Christ in a Hostile World:  
Lessons from the Early Church*

Join us here at Wheat Ridge Lutheran on Saturday, April 7th for this year's Spring Conference "Confessing Christ in a Hostile World: Lessons from the Early Church." Dr. James Bushur from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, will be presenting on the Early Church martyrs who died to testify to Christ in a pagan world. As the Church in America prepares to engage with an ever more hostile culture, there are many lessons we can learn from the Saints who have gone before us. Feel free to invite any friends or relatives you think might enjoy learning about the theology and history of martyrdom in the Early Church. There is no charge, just come ready to learn. Opening service will begin at 9:00AM, and we will wrap everything up around 3:30PM. Lunch will be provided. Please register for the conference online at our website [www.wrlutheran.org](http://www.wrlutheran.org)

**STEWARDSHIP TODAY:**

God must be especially pleased when we are glad to help supply and provide the churches well with ministers; for, in the first place, this work furthers the glory of God and exalts His name. In the second place, people are thereby helped to be rid of the tyranny of the devil and to be saved. (from: What Luther Says #2976 CPH) *And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. (Matt.2:11)*

**Daylight Savings Time Begins**

**MARCH 11**

**Be sure to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night, March 10 so you are on time for church!**



**March 29**



**Worship**  
With Holy Communion  
7:00 pm



**March 30**



**Worship 7:00 pm**



**March 31**



**Worship 7:00 pm**



**April 1**

**EASTER FLOWERS**

Would you like to provide lilies at the altar for Easter April 1? Please place your check or cash of \$13.00 in an envelope either in the offering plate, or on the secretary's desk by March 15. Thank you!

*Lutheran Women In Mission*



Welcome to all women of the congregation!

**Lutheran Chorale**

The Lutheran Chorale invites you to the next concert **“Come and See”**, to focus on three important composers of some of our most beloved hymns and their life stories...Phillip Nicolai, Johann Hermann, and Paul Gerhardt. Through their words and stories we come to know these composers and the poems they left us in a new way. We will be performing on Sunday, **March 18, at 3 pm, at King of Glory Lutheran Church, 10001 W 58<sup>th</sup> Ave., Arvada**, and again on Sunday, **March 18, at 7:30 pm at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 2300 S. Patton Ct., Denver**. We will gladly accept a free will donation instead of selling tickets at the door. For more information or to make a donation online, please check out our website at [www.thelutheranchorale.org](http://www.thelutheranchorale.org) or email us at [thelutheranchorale@comcast.net](mailto:thelutheranchorale@comcast.net)

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Begin your day in the Word.

Won't you join us for a daily Matins service during Lent? Mon.-Thurs. 9:30-9:50 a.m.

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**HEBREW CLASS**

Now that we have several students who are becoming proficient in Greek, we will now jump into HEBREW!

We will hold Hebrew class on Sunday afternoons at 2:00 pm, as well as Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. If this is something you would like to learn, please join us.

**The next meeting of the LWML will be Saturday, March 10 at the church at 9:00 a.m. We will select a delegate to attend the District Convention in Boulder June 8-10, 2018. We will also hold election of officers. All women of the congregation are invited to join us.**

**The North Central Zone Prayer service/Spring workshop will be on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at Bethlehem Lutheran, Lakewood beginning at 8:30 a.m. The ingathering for the workshop will be layette items to make layette kits for the District convention. More information to come.**

**Mite Sunday at Wheat Ridge will be on March 18<sup>th</sup>. The featured mission grant for March is Lutheran Hour Ministries.**

**2017–2019 Mission Grant 7**

**Christian Hope Through Mass Media in Egypt**

**Lutheran Hour Ministries  
\$100,000**

Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) has over 60 years of experience proclaiming the Gospel via mass media in the Middle East. Fortunately, the political climate in Egypt provides a new opportunity to expand ministry in the region. Other parts of the Middle East, however, are experiencing great turmoil with war and, as a result, refugees, mainly women and children, are fleeing to safety. There is urgency to expand their proclamation of the Gospel in these areas, especially refugee camps in Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey. LHM will reach families, refugees, and citizens of the region through a new television program broadcast in Cairo, Egypt. This new television broadcast has the potential to reach millions of people throughout the Middle East, refugees and citizens alike, with the message of faith and the true love of Christ and to be a strong Christian voice and witness through Arabic satellite television programming.