



# HERALD

wheat ridge evangelical lutheran church  
missouri synod  
8600 WEST 38<sup>th</sup> AVENUE WHEAT RIDGE CO 80033  
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REV. ELI LETZAU, PASTOR

## JUNE 2019

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### FROM THE PASTOR

Christ is victorious! He has conquered all things through His death on the cross. He has drawn all sin and all consequences of sin to Himself and nailed them to the tree. In death He defeated them all! And then He took every single last one of them down from the cross and laid them in the grave next to His dead body. Stone rolled in front, tomb sealed and shut. ... All of that pain and agony, suffering and despair, buried with Christ; His victory over them all. In the grave He locked them away. All their power drained out of them. All their strength withered away like dusty old bones. To the grave He even brought the power of death to be buried forever. Never to rise again. Never to see the light of day. In His death is the death of death.

And to all of these things, to sin and death and dying and suffering and the power of Satan, we do not say, "Rest in peace!" For their rest is not peaceful. They have been defeated by the Son of God, by the Son of man, by the God of creation and salvation and life, by the God who became flesh and dwelt among us, by the God who was made man and did the very things that man could not do for himself. He conquered these enemies of His, of ours, and cast them into the grave with Him. And then He burst out of it; leaving all of them to waste away in the tomb. The victory is His! Victory over everything. And today we celebrate that!

Today is a day of jubilation; not just because Jesus is risen, but because of what that resurrection means for us. In this Vale of Tears as we sit in sackcloth and ashes, as we deal with this suffering and that, as we watch our wealth vanish in thin air, our temporal security gone in the blink of an eye, as terror strikes at the heart of Europe and the fear of that terror comes home to us, as diseases make sick and disasters strike all over the world, as we watch our loved ones waste away in hospital beds and place them in the ground, as we face the impending demise of our own fragile lives, wondering when death will come for us; amidst all of these things the grave stands empty, Jesus is risen, the victory is won!

Easter sunrise means life. When death comes knocking at the door, it does not come as a conquering enemy, but as a weak and pitiful vanquished foe. Its power is gone; locked forever in the tomb of Jesus! "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another."

Yes, we bury our dead. But we bury the dead only to mock the grave; not because they are dead, but because they live, because they are with Jesus, and their bodies sleep while they wait for the resurrection to come. We bury our dead because they have been sanctified and sealed for the resurrection through the risen body and blood poured out on them in Holy Communion. They go into the grave only that they might follow Jesus out of it and defeat it.

Where is the grave's victory? Where is death's sting? It is gone. Jesus lives. And Jesus, alive out of the grave, is here for us—living, risen, in His holy body and His precious blood, the seal of the new life, the forgiveness of sins, the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, given to us to eat and to drink that we would never die and never suffer the endless torment of the grave.

**Easter means the grave is empty and that means life for you! He is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!**

In the name of Jesus,  
Rev. Eli

## What We Believe

### **The Augsburg Confession, Article I: God**

*Note: Martin Luther never intended to start a new church, but rather to purify the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. The Augsburg Confession strongly affirms the doctrine of the Trinity confessed at the Council of Nicaea (325), and later affirmed by the Council of Constantinople (381). God is one divine essence in three distinct persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Scriptures reveal this great mystery, confessed by all Christians. During the Reformation, radical groups espoused various forms of earlier heresies. The Augsburg Confession condemns the ancient heresies concerning God. Article I proves that Lutheranism is deeply anchored in the historic doctrine of biblical Christianity. It embraces the faith of the Church through the ages and rejects all the errors the Church has rejected.*

Our churches teach with common consent that the decree of the Council of Nicaea about the unity of the divine essence and the three persons is true. It is to be believed without any doubt. God is one divine essence who is eternal, without a body, without parts, of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness. He is the maker and preserver of all things, visible and invisible [Nehemiah 9:6]. Yet there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit [Matthew 28:19]. These three persons are of the same essence and power. Our churches use the term *person* as the Fathers have used it. We use it to signify, not a part or quality in another, but that which subsists of itself.

Our churches condemn all heresies [Titus 3:10-11] that arose against this article, such as the Manichaeans, who assumed that there are two “principles,” one Good and the other Evil. They also condemn the Valentinians, Arians, Eunomians, Muslims, and all heresies such as these. Our churches also condemn the Samosatenes, old and new, who contend that God is but one person. Through sophistry they impiously argue that the Word and the Holy Spirit are not distinct persons. They say that *Word* signifies a spoken word, and *Spirit* signifies motion created in things.

CONCORDIA  
The Lutheran Confessions  
A Reader’s Edition of the Book of Concord  
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### For Further Personal Study

They had thought Him the One. They had thought He would save them, that He would redeem Israel. And now, they thought Him dead. The third day had come. The women had announced strange things. But they were troubled, afraid to believe. They didn’t want to get their hopes up again.

And how does our Lord respond to their hedging hope, their carefully pessimistic belief? What does He say to their defense mechanisms that make them slow of heart to believe? He takes them through the Scriptures. Their hearts burn within them. Smoldering faith is rekindled in love, both by a rebuke—“O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe,” which is also a call to repentance—and by the uncovering of the promise. The prophets reveal to them who the Messiah is and what His office is. Our Lord uses the Scriptures to show the unchanging description of the suffering sacrifice of the Messiah to make men free and alive. This is not a new idea, a change of plan. Then He takes the bread, gives thanks, blesses it, and gives it to them. Their eyes are opened. They recognize the One crucified and raised, the One who has made atonement for them, the One who has loved them to the end and who feeds them with Himself in the bread, the One foretold and promised in Holy Writ. He disappears from the sight of their eyes. They know Him now by faith, faith that is born and lives in Word and in Sacrament.

It is the same for us. Do not be afraid to believe in the resurrection and all that implies for this dying life in which we still suffer. Be confident that God loves you, and that He hears your prayers and answers them. Find comfort in the sure and certain Word of God, in the presence of the risen Savior in bread and wine. For He who gave His life for you on the cross gives His life to you, here and now, in His body and blood. These are the blessings, the forgiveness, the joy He pours out upon His children—then, and now, and forever.

**He is risen!**

*(Thy Kingdom Come: Lent and Easter Sermons by David H. Petersen—Sermon for Easter Monday)*

# CONGRATULATIONS!

**KAI BICKNER** – Graduated from Lakewood High School in May 2019. He will attend Louisiana State University in the fall.

**JORDAN DAVIDEK** – Graduated from Colorado Mesa University, Durango in December 2018. He received a Master of Arts in Education.

**DANIEL DAVIDEK** – Graduated from Colorado Mesa University, Durango in May 2019. His degree was in Theatre Design/Technology.

**LORA DAVIDEK** – Graduated from the University of Iowa in December 2018. She received a Bachelor’s degree in Applied Studies.

**NOAH DeLAET** – Graduated from Colorado Film School/Community College of Aurora in May 2019 with an Associate’s degree in Applied Science – Post Production.

**EMI ITO-MORSCH** – Graduated December 2018 from Arapahoe Community College with an Associate’s degree in Architectural Engineering Technician.

**MAKI DeLAET** – for becoming a U.S. citizen in March 2019.

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## **STEWARDSHIP TODAY:**

While it is true that each steward is unique and distinct from others, it is not true that they are independent of one another. Individual stewards are joined to the body that is the Church of which Christ is the Head. (from StewardCAST – LCMS)

*For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, Jews or Greeks, slaves or free, and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. (1 Corinthians 12:13-14 ESV)*

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**Did You Know?** When you shop at King Soopers and use your loyalty card and Safeway’s reloadable gift card, a percentage of your purchase costs will be given to Wheat Ridge Lutheran Church. Your purchases made at the stores of the usual grocery store items goes into their rewards program which returns money to our church.

King Soopers Community Rewards Program based upon their Loyalty Card is new as of April 1<sup>st</sup>. Make sure your loyalty card is registered through Kingsoopers.Com. See Mel Furgeson if you have questions on how to use this program when shopping at King Soopers.

The Safeway reloadable gift card program continues with no changes.

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## **Church Library News**

We are blessed to be able to process and add materials weekly thanks to the many donations by our members. Check out our Bible commentaries, children’s books, biographies, writings from our founding theologians, Christian history, Christian fiction, devotionals and much more. We use a self check-out system. Remove the card from the book, write your name and the due date on the card and place it in the holder provided. There will be someone in the Library on Sunday mornings after the church service if you have any questions.



**“Bold in Christ”**

*Since we have such a hope, we are very bold.*

2 Corinthians 3:12

## **ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT LWML MITE UPDATE**

**\$44,514 is the amount that has been applied toward our \$82,314 Rocky Mountain District Mission Goal.**

Your prayerful support of the LWML Mite Goal and your generosity are vital to helping us meet our goal for the 2018-2020 biennium. One of the Grants we are supporting is **Trinity Hope - \$5,000**

Through this program the Lutheran Churches in Haiti have a reputable and long-standing history (1999) of feeding children hot lunches during the school day in the Lutheran schools there. As their physical nourishment is provided through this program, the children and some of their families are coming to faith in Jesus through the teaching in the schools. It is hoped that someday the schools will be self-supporting. Until then, this grant would provide a noon meal for 110 souls for a whole year. 100% of funds are appropriated for this program, to one specific school assigned to the LWML RMD.

### **MITE SUNDAY – JUNE 16**

**Your Mite Offerings will help support this Mission Grant**

**The MITE BOX will be available in the narthex at the fellowship table**

**Thank you for your continued support!**

### **LWML Officers for 2019-2020**

**President: Shared Responsibility**

**Vice President: Judy Kugler**

**Secretary: Joyce Wonnacott**

**Treasurer: Emi Ito-Morsch**

**Next LWML Meeting will be Saturday, July 13 at 9:00 am.**

**All women of the congregation are invited to attend.**

## **LWML 38<sup>th</sup> Biennial National Convention**

*June 20-23, 2019*

*Mobile, Alabama*

**Theme: “In Praise to the LORD!”**

*“Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Tell of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations.”*

*(1 Chronicles 16:23-24a)*

**The Convention in Mobile will be live streamed on the LWML website...[lwml.org](http://lwml.org)**

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**THANK YOU** – to the Wheat Ridge Lutheran Prayer Chain for your special prayers for my niece, Haley Troyer, who was hospitalized, but is now home. Your prayers are much appreciated!

*Colleen McGowan*



- *Worship with us* -  
*Sunday, June 9*  
*PENTECOST*  
*50 days after Easter*



Icon of the Trinity (Rublev)

*Sunday, June 16*  
*TRINITY SUNDAY*

