



HERALD

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missouri synod
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rev. eli lietzaui, pastor

From the Pastor

What Does God's Name Bring?

**“[Jesus said,] ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”—
Matthew 28:18-20**

Jesus lays out for His Church how He desires to give His blessings of the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation, everything that He has won and accomplished on the cross, to you. And that is through His name. When you are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, God places His name upon you. And He does so for your ultimate blessing. All that He is, all that He has, is now given to you. In baptism, God has made you His child and has declared in front of all the world that He is your Father. This gift is for your ultimate good and benefit. He steals you away from the evils of this world and places you forever in His loving Fatherly arms. And the promise for you is that nothing can take you out of His hands; nothing, neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus your Lord because His name is now upon you until the end of eternity.

And we need this; goodness how we need this! For unless God places His name upon us, unless He makes us to be His own, unless He declares us to be His children, that He is our Father, that Christ Jesus is our brother, unless this takes place we have nothing of the good that is God's to give. If His name is not given to us, placed upon us, then we have another name, we belong to someone else. If we aren't God's child then we are children of the world, children of sin, children of the devil. And, needless to say, this is not good. Without God's name upon us we only have our sin upon us; and our name is not holy, but evil. Without the name of God to bring to us life and salvation, the forgiveness of sins and the righteousness of Jesus, we have nothing less than eternal death and damnation, with our sins still hanging around our necks and our own filthy deeds that account for no righteousness before God. ... The name of God is important. In fact, it is the most important thing that you can ever receive.

And so what better way for Jesus to commission His disciples than to tell them to go and place His name upon all the world? What better gift can be given, what better gift could we ever ask for, than to have the name of God, the creator of the world, the Savior of mankind, the Lord of the Church, placed upon us? What more identity do we need than to know for certain that we are children of the Heavenly Father, that we have been buried into the death and resurrection of Jesus, that we have been washed clean from all evil, that we have been given life and salvation and the forgiveness of sins?

God's name is for blessing. It is for good. And more than that, it is for your blessing and your good. His name is your name. All that He has is yours; free and clear. He is your Father. You are His child. Christ Jesus is your brother. The Holy Spirit is your Comforter. He is your God. And it has all been given to you in your baptism...Thanks be to God!

In the name of Jesus,
Pastor Eli

JULY
2020

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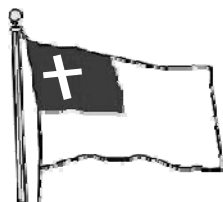
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What We Believe—The Augsburg Confession

Article XI—Confession

Note: By the time of the Reformation, the practice of confessing sins privately and confidentially to a pastor had been a well-accepted church practice for more than a thousand years. Private Confession and Absolution was never something Lutherans wanted to get rid of. As time went on, the practice fell into disuse, but clearly Article XI assumes that private Confession and Absolution will take place in the Lutheran Church. The problem addressed by this article is that the Roman Church demanded every sin be recalled and confessed. Clearly, this is humanly impossible and makes our forgiveness dependent on our work. Such a teaching is certainly dangerous to repentant consciences, which need firm assurance that Christ forgives all sin. (See also Ap. XI; SA III VIII; Appendix B, Brief Exhortation to Confession.)

Our churches teach that private Absolution should be retained in churches, although listing all sins is not necessary for Confession. For, according to the Psalm it is impossible. “Who can discern his errors?” (Psalm 19:12).

For Further Personal Study

Statement on the death of George Floyd and the ensuing riots—Matthew Harrison

Discriminatory treatment of human beings on the basis of race is irrational evil and results in evil. It is folly, which can produce only anger and hatred. “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.” America’s original sin of legal racism, the denial of human rights based on race, has reaped the whirlwind.

God’s Word rejects racism. “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). “No one is righteous, no, not one” (Romans 3:10). “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). All are equally created by God. All are equally accountable to God. The sins of all are equally atoned for by Christ. All are equally precious to God. Racial animosity is the result of sin and is sin in itself. Racism is not acceptable in the church. Jesus Himself bids us love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:31) and did so precisely while rejecting racial preference (cf. Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25–37).

Unity in the church according to the Augsburg Confession is defined by Article VII: “For it is sufficient for the true unity of the Christian church that the Gospel be preached . . . and that the sacraments be administered in accordance with the divine Word.” Christ and His gifts bring unity and equity in the church. Racial discrimination in or by the church is sin. Racial conflict in our nation calls every Christian to introspection. “It is time for judgment to begin at the household of God” (1 Peter 4:17). “Righteous indignation” without self-reflection and repentance is meaningless, or worse, hypocrisy.

The one who grievously and unjustly took the sacred gift of life from George Floyd — resulting in a charge of 3rd-degree murder — will, ironically, be given the very thing he denied his victim, due process of the law. Justice must be meted out according to the law. Others may be charged.

We weep for George Floyd, for his family and loved ones because he was robbed of life. We weep for our nation. We weep for those across our nation who believe their only recourse is destruction. We weep for police officers everywhere, who carry out their honorable vocations with courage and goodwill but find their task infinitely more challenging and dangerous in the wake of the sad events in Minneapolis. We pray for the safety of all and the welfare of those who have lost property and livelihood. We pray for the police who must stand against mayhem. We support the First Amendment rights of the peaceful protestors.

We deplore injustice. We deplore destruction, robbery and doing physical harm to others. That, too, is injustice. We plead to citizens and governments of this nation for communities beset by poverty, crime and injustice. We plead for rational and unifying policies that will end injustices and address social breakdown, lack of economic access, and other factors that fuel anger, hatred and dissension.

We shall pray, but we shall do even more. We shall follow the ancient mandate of the prophet of Yahweh: “He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8).

And we shall proclaim Christ, “in season and out of season” (2 Timothy 4:2). “For one will scarcely die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die – but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:7-8).

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, devil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Colossians 3:1–17 ESV).

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison

President

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

STEWARDSHIP TODAY: God's Word is a treasure. It has such great value because of what it can do. The world was created by it, the Word became flesh and redeemed us, the Word claimed us as His own in the waters of Holy Baptism. God's ultimate goal for faithful stewards is to use their simple gifts in such a way that souls are rescued from death and given an eternal life that has great value and reward that is literally out of this world. (from: Simple Gifts; a series of devotions on stewardship: LCMS)

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
(Colossians 3:16 ESV)

Did You Know?

When you shop at King Soopers and use your loyalty card and/or 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 reports to us quarterly. For the period January 1st through March 31, 2020, 23 households participated for a donations to our church of \$297.39

DUE DATE TOO LATE is the effort to END LATE-TERM ABORTION IN CO.

The question will be put to the voters on the ballot in November 2020. The initiative (#120) would prohibit abortion in CO after 22 weeks, with an exception for the life of the mother. 153,204 verified signatures were obtained in 2 different collecting periods, starting last October 2019. By signing the petition last November, many of you helped to accomplish this goal.

THANK YOU.

Look for some educational materials from me, and begin to let your friends and neighbors know about this opportunity to ensure life for the unborn baby.

PLEASE TAKE COLORADO OFF THE LIST OF ONLY 7 STATES WHO ALLOW LATE TERM ABORTIONS.

The other states are: Oregon, Alaska, New Mexico, Vermont, New Hampshire and New Jersey – and Virginia (unofficially).

Submitted by Patty Wulf



Lutheran Women’s Missionary League

Welcome to all women of the congregation!

“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.
(1Chronicles 16:23-24a)

The **LWML Rocky Mountain District** celebrated its 50th biennial convention through its first-ever virtual convention on Saturday, June 6, 2020. Convention attendees, about 125 signed on via Zoom and carried out their theme, “Be Still” based on *Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations (Psalm 46:10a)*. Attendees were able to take part in a Bible study and hear the countdown of the 13 mission grants for the 2020-2022 biennium. Two-thirds of the Mission Grants are in the Rocky Mountain District. They also heard a report about the national 2019-2021 Mission Grant Music Outreach, Classes, and Resources on the Border from Mites in Action speaker Rev. Stephen Heimer. Although the women and men of the Rocky Mountain District were not able to gather and “Be Still,” they are grateful that God provided a different way to gather.

2020 - 2022 District Mission Grants

Kingdom Kids’ Camp at Lutheran
Valley Retreat, Woodland Park, CO: \$5,000

Filling Haitian Tummies Opens Ears
to the Gospel - Trinity HOPE: \$5,000

Concordia Theological Seminary
Food & Co-op Financial Assistance, IN:
\$8,000

Bringing Christ’s Light to Those Living
in Darkness - Lutheran Braille Workers:
\$8,000

God Cares About You - “Children’s
Weekend Food Bag Ministry”
Albuquerque, NM : \$8,000

the Table at Bethlehem Lutheran, Lakewood, CO:
\$5,000

Mercy Meals of Colorado Springs:
\$5,000

Faith Connections & Resources for
People with Disabilities - Bethesda:
\$6,000

Interns at Shepherd of the Valley
Lutheran Church, Navajo, NM:
\$9,000

Reaching the Hispanic Community of
Commerce City, CO: \$7,996

Support for University Lutheran
Chapel, Boulder, CO: \$8,000

LWML Global Bible Studies by Donna
Pyle: \$3,964.28

Introducing Muslims to the Savior
Lutheran Heritage Foundation: \$5,000

Pray for our missions throughout our District and the world!
The Mite Box is available in the narthex for your Mites. Thank You!