



HERALD

wheat ridge evangelical lutheran church
missouri synod
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rev. eli letzau, pastor

NOVEMBER 2020

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From the Pastor: The Unity of the Church

The unimaginable thing about Jesus is what He does, what He accomplishes, and what He gives to His Church. These are the things that logic and reason can't comprehend because they are outside of us. They are the 1 + 1 + 1 = 1 type things of the Trinity: things beyond our human understanding. They are the things of bread that is still bread and yet the flesh of the living God and wine that is still wine and yet the blood poured out for us on the cross. They are the things of baptism that washes away sin and buries us in the tomb with Jesus, only to be raised in newness of life as He bursts forth from the grave. They are the things too irrational to be real and yet are real because God says so. His Word creates reality just like it created everything in all the universe. And it doesn't matter if we don't "get" it. It doesn't matter if we can't fully comprehend it. It doesn't matter if our feelings and emotions tell us different. All of these things are true because God promises them to be true. And so they are: True, true for you and me and all the Church!

And so here we sit, on this earth. And everything screams at us that there is a chasm, a separation, between us and God. By faith we know that that is not true, but are brains and our emotions want to tell us something different. ... But there is no separation with God. We have what the Church Triumphant in heaven has. We have Jesus, right here and right now. He gives Himself to us. You are one with Christ! That is what the Lord's Supper gives to you, to the Church, to Christ's body. No separation, no relationship, only true unity, a oneness unlike anything else in all of creation. Here you partake of the foretaste of the feast to come: a feast of Christ's body broken for you, a feast of His blood poured out for you. ... This feast makes you one with God and one with each other. It unifies the Church as His body, with Christ Jesus as the head. No separation. Just unity! ... What the Church Triumphant has, so does the Church Militant.

That is why the liturgy that we say and sing and pray together is so amazing. We get to sing the very song that the saints in heaven sing before the throne of God. "Blessing and honor and wisdom of strength, be to God and the Lamb, forever, amen!" Those words we sing are ripped right out of Revelation, and they are the very words that John heard the Church in heaven singing before the throne of the Lamb. Their words are our words. Their song is our song!

But it is so much more than that we are just copying their words. Jesus unifies His Church. Not just the Church here on earth, but the Church in heaven as well! The Church is not separated. There are not two different Churches. There is only one Church, The Church, The Body of Christ. It matters not where that Church is, it only matters where Jesus is. And if Jesus is here, which He really and truly is, and if He is in heaven with the all the saints who have died in the faith, and if His presence makes the Church one with Him then it also makes it one with itself! The saints in heaven are one with the saints on earth; one with the saints of Wheat Ridge Evangelical Lutheran. ... How is this possible? ... Because Christ our Lord says it is!

In Christ,
Rev. Eli

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“Be Still”

Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations,

I will be exalted in the earth. Psalm 46:10

Welcome to all Women of the Congregation!

ANGEL TREE

Christmas is going to begin a little earlier than usual at Wheat Ridge this year. The LWML has chosen the Family Tree to be the recipients of our Angel Tree gifts. They have the need to have the gifts by December 9th. The Angel Tree will be up and ready with gift tags on Sunday, November 15th. **All unwrapped gifts are to be returned to the church by Sunday, December 6th.** Year after year the staff at Family Tree find that the teenagers receive minimal support. Everyone likes babies and small children. Our members decided that we would take on the gifting for the teenagers. On the Angel Tree will be specific items to buy. As you know, teenagers like and need to “fit in”-- thus a very specific list has been given to us. They normally help 200 families during the holidays. **Thank you in advance for your support!**

Family Tree’s Mission Statement:

To help people overcome child abuse, domestic violence and homelessness to become safe strong and self-reliant.

“Family Tree works with vulnerable populations located in the seven-county Denver metro region. Clients have a history of poverty, trauma and/or crisis and internal data identifies the most common client demographic across all programs are family units. We have a total of 10 integrated programs that provide individualized support to help move a client toward self-sufficiency and economic success.

We also have an educational component aimed at prevention. Our Domestic Violence Outreach group works with teens to help them understand what a good relationship looks like, and our Safecare program trains parents of 0-5 year olds in the areas of parenting, child safety, and child health. Other programs offer financial classes, parenting classes, case management, counseling, employment help etc.

Lastly we have Treasure Trunk, our thrift store that distributes goods free of charge to our clients but the public can purchase items and that money rolls back into Family Tree. We really appreciate Wheat Ridge Lutheran Church’s on-going support. **THANK YOU!**

MISSION NEWS

Mission Grant - The Table at Bethlehem Lutheran - \$5,000

The Table ministers to the working poor and homeless in Lakewood, through the serving of a weekly meal, then followed with church services and Christian fellowship. Meals are served with volunteers serving the meals and leading the services. There is no financial assistance and it is currently funded by attendees and donations. This \$5,000 grant would be used to purchase food for this ministry.



November 15th - Mite Sunday

The MITE BOX will be available for the congregation’s donations in support of the mission grants of our district and national organization.

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THANK YOU to everyone who brought groceries to help the Action Center during October. Many families will be helped with your generous support.

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All women of the congregation are invited to join the women of **LWML on Saturday, November 14th at 9:00 am. Please join us!** “The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) is an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. For over 77 years, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman’s relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to support global missions.”

Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute

By God’s grace and through the generous donation of a former member, we were able to give support to this online ministry (headquartered in El Paso, Texas) which offers theological classes to Spanish-speaking men, in preparation for entrance into seminary at either St. Louis or Fort Wayne. The Institute thanks us for our gift, the support is encouraging as they prepare leaders among Hispanics.

SUPPORT A STUDENT!!!

The LWML of Wheat Ridge Evangelical Lutheran Church has voted to support a Concordia Theological Seminary student on a monthly basis for the remainder of his seminary enrollment. Each month, Isaiah and Audrey Armbrecht will receive a check for \$50. Recently, a letter and check were sent to the Armbrechts. The following is a letter received by Isaiah in return:

Thanks for your letter and the kind generosity of the church to support my pastoral education. Audrey and I certainly appreciate any and every help we get. Here's a letter for your newsletter.

My name is Isaiah Armbrecht, recently married as of this July to my dear Audrey. I am from Iowa and she is from Nebraska; we met at Concordia Nebraska and our friendship grew through our time together in the A Capella choir. She has begun pharmacy school here in Ft. Wayne, as I'm starting my second year at the seminary. I'm looking forward to vicarage next year as we hope we can get a local vicarage so Audrey can continue her schooling. Seminary is an enjoyable time, reading and discussing God's Word with fellow brothers hoping to serve the Lord in His Church. Right now I'm taking a class on Genesis and seeing how the promise of Christ runs throughout the whole book. It's edifying and encouraging to hear the Word of God with my brothers and be able to discuss issues of theology together. We are looking forward to life wherever the Lord will send us. Thanks again for your prayers and support!

I've attached a wedding picture if you'd like to put that in the newsletter also. Thanks again for your help in getting this together. Let me know if you want anything else from me; I'm happy to oblige! God's richest blessings be you and your family in Christ Jesus!

In Christ,

Isaiah Armbrecht



Church Library News

The following acquisitions have recently been prepared for checkout in the Library.

1. *Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?* by Matthew Richard (this book “not only reminds us who the real Jesus of the Bible is, but it also reveals to us twelve false christs who are embraced, loved, promoted, and revered—even by well-meaning Christians.”)
2. *Thank, Praise, Serve and Obey* by William Chancellor Weedon
3. *What More Is There to Say but Amen*, The autobiography of Dr. Oswald C. J. Hoffmann
4. *Arch Books Treasury—Life of Jesus*, a collection of stories about Jesus
5. *The Love Bridge* by Jonathan Schkade, a children’s picture book

The Library is maintained by the ladies of our LWML, and it is based on a self-checkout system. Take the card out of the pocket just inside the cover, put the due date (two weeks from the date you check it out) on the card along with your name, then place the card in the holder next to the book drop box.

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Your Grocery Cards at Work!

THANKS for using the loyalty card: King Soopers has sent us \$392.76 from their Loyalty Card Program for the period July 1st through September 30, 2020. Altogether 29 households participated.

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GIVE

THANKS

Thanksgiving Worship/Communion
Wednesday Evening
November 25, 2020
6:30 pm.

Pastor's article continued.....

What We Believe—Augsburg Confession

Article XV—Church Ceremonies

Note: Lutheranism embraces the good historic traditions of the Church, especially those of the Western Church. These include such things as following the pattern of the Church year, lectionary readings from the Bible, a liturgical order of worship, various festival days, vestments worn by clergy, and the use of candles, crucifixes, and other objects. As this article makes very clear, in the Lutheran Church, rites, decorations, or traditions are never used or followed to appease God's wrath or to earn the forgiveness of sins. Lutheranism removed from the Church useless and harmful traditions such as monastic vows and inviting on certain foods on certain days.. (See also AP XV; SA III XV; FC Ep X and SD X.)

Our churches teach that ceremonies ought to be observed that may be observed without sin. Also, ceremonies and other practices that are profitable for tranquility and good order in the Church (in particular, holy days, festivals, and the like) ought to be observed.

Yet, the people are taught that consciences are not to be burdened as though observing such things was necessary for salvation [Colossians 2:16-17]. They are also thought that human traditions instituted to make atonement with God, to merit grace, and to make satisfaction for sins are opposed to the Gospel and the doctrine of faith. So vows and traditions concerning meats and days, and so forth, instituted to merit grace and to make satisfaction for sins, are useless and contrary to the Gospel.

Something Worth Reading

“What Is Marriage? Man Woman: A Defense”—Sherif Girgis, Ryan T Anderson, Robert George

Marriage is, of its essence, a comprehensive union: a union of will (by consent) and body (by sexual union; inherently ordered to procreation and thus the broad sharing of family life; and calling for permanent and exclusive commitment, whatever the spouses' preferences. It has long been and remains a personal and social reality, sought and prized by individuals, couples, and whole societies. But it is also a moral reality: a human good with an objective structure, which it is inherently good for us to live out.

Marriages have always been the main and most effective means of rearing healthy, happy, and well-integrated children. The health and order of society depend on the rearing of healthy, happy, and well-integrated children. That is why law, though it may take no notice of ordinary friendships, should recognize and support marriages.

There can thus be no right for non-marital relationships to be recognized *as marriages*. There can indeed be much harm, if recognizing them would obscure the shape, and so weaken the special norms, of an institution on which social order depends. So it is not the conferral of benefits on same-sex relationships itself but *redefining marriage in the public mind* that bodes ill for the common good. Indeed, societies mindful of this fact need deprive no same-sex attracted people of practical goods, social equality, or personal fulfillment.

Here then is the heart of our argument against redefinition. If the law defines marriage to include same-sex partners, many will come to misunderstand marriage. They will not see it as essentially comprehensive, or thus (among other things) as ordered to procreation and family life—but essentially an emotional union.



Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ His Son.
And now let the weak say "I am strong,"
Let the poor say "I am rich,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
GIVE THANKS, GIVE THANKS!

thanksgiving
gather
thankful family
blessed grateful
together blessings
november