



HERALD

wheat ridge evangelical lutheran church

missouri synod

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rev. eli lietza, pastor

MARCH 2021

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From the Pastor

Bernard of Clairvaux writes in his famous Lenten hymn, "How pale Thou art with anguish, With sore abuse and scorn! How doth Thy face now languish That once was bright as morn! Grim death, with cruel rigor, Hath robbed Thee of Thy life; thus Thou hast lost Thy vigor, Thy strength, in this sad strife." ... He sings about the death of Jesus. The bright Light of creation, from which all light and life have their beginning, now hangs derelict on the cross. Death has gripped Him and it is a gruesome sight. Gruesome, not only because death by crucifixion is a horrible and nasty thing, but also, and more importantly, because the death of God is unimaginable.

It is all but impossible to fully comprehend this awful fact that God died on that cross. This is not some sort of Greek mythology where gods wrestle and fight with each other, where some gods die at the hands of another and sometimes at the hands of man. Those are all stories, made up fairy tales to entertain and amuse. No, instead, here is God in the flesh, a thing impossible to comprehend in itself, now hanging lifeless by the hands of sinners like you and me. God's strength is now gone, drained out of Him, and all that is left is the weakness of a dead man, the weakness of the cross.

Lent is for repentance. But repentance is more than just an outward turning from sin. Who among us can truly do that, in a perfect way, so that we never sin again? If that were repentance then we would all be lost. No, repentance has two parts. First it is contrition. That is, true sorrow for our sin. But this sorrow is not just because of fear of punishment. Contrition is sorrow for sin out of an understanding of who God is and who we are in Him. That is why we freely admit that we deserve nothing but temporal and eternal punishment. ... But even this contrition is not enough.

That is why repentance does not stand alone. What always comes after repentance is to hear and believe God's Word of promise for you. It is grasping onto the truth that the weakness of a dead Jesus on the cross is the very Gospel which gives you life. Yes, your sin put Him there; but He joyfully and willingly went to that cross so that through it you might have the forgiveness of that sin, so that you might have life and salvation in the death of God for you.

That is why Zechariah says "**On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.**" ... Christ's death is not just the proclamation of the Law. It is not so that God can say, "Look at what you did. I hope you are happy." It is not so that we leave service on Sundays, church on Good Friday, with tears of shame in our eyes and guilt upon our hearts. ... No, the death of Jesus proclaims the Gospel and the Gospel, while it might in fact bring tears, brings tears of joy and thanksgiving that salvation is ours through a gift given that we do not deserve.

In Lent we cry out with a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy that the death of Jesus might be for our gain; that the gifts of the cross would not be won in vain. We cry out for forgiveness and life and salvation; trusting in the promise of the Gospel, in the promise of the cross, in the promise of Jesus dead for us. ... And then we know for certain that our cries are heard by our Heavenly Father, for the sake of His Son, our Lord; that a fountain has been opened, and that fountain cleanses us from all sin and uncleanness.

This is no mystical or imaginary fountain. But it is one that flows from the crucified body of your Lord. John tells us that in His Gospel "**But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.**" ... There is your fountain of salvation. It isn't made-up or imagined, it really did flow from the side of your Lord, from the side of your God, from the side of your Jesus for you. ... Blood and water to cleanse you

from all your sin.

The death of Jesus wasn't just to put you back at the starting line with another chance to do things right the next time, so that you could fulfill the Law on your own in order to obtain salvation for yourselves. It was, it is, the very fulfillment of the Law and it is given to you. Christ's death becomes your death; dead to sin, so that you would never have to die to sin again. ... You are already dead to sin, and you are now alive in Christ. Alive through Him; through that fountain that flowed from His side into the font where you are baptized, into the chalice where you drink the blood of the New Covenant shed for you.

This Lent you are called to repent, but that is nothing more than believing that the death of God is for you. It is nothing more than believing that you are baptized into the death and resurrection of Jesus. It is nothing more than believing that you are forgiven by the weakness of the cross, by the weakness of Jesus, by the weakness of God which is strong enough to cleanse you from all of your sin and uncleanness.

In the name of Jesus.

Rev. Eli

Something Worth Reading (or singing)
 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (LSB 450)
 Written by Bernard of Clairvaux

Copy write for Text: 1941 Concordia Publishing House

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|---|--|
| <p>1. O sacred Head, now wounded,
 With grief and shame weighed down,
 Now scornfully surrounded
 With thorns, Thine only crown.
 O sacred Head, what glory,
 What bliss, till now was Thine~!
 Yet, though despised and gory,
 I joy to call Thee mine</p> | <p>2. How pale Thou art with anguish,
 With sore abuse and scorn!
 How doth Thy face now languish
 That once was bright as morn!
 Grim death, with cruel rigor,
 Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;
 Thus Thou hast lost Thy vigor,
 Thy strength in this sad strife.</p> |
| <p>3. What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered
 Was all for sinners' gain;
 Mine, mine was the transgression,
 But Thine the deadly pain.
 Lo, here I fall, my Savior!
 'Tis I deserve Thy place;
 Look on me with Thy favor,
 And grant to me Thy grace.</p> | <p>4. My Shepherd, now receive me;
 My Guardian, own me Thine.
 Great blessings Thou didst give me,
 O Source of gifts divine.
 Thy lips have often fed me
 With words of truth and love;
 Thy Spirit oft hath led me
 To heav'nly joys above.</p> |
| <p>5. What language shall I borrow
 To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
 For this Thy dying sorrow,
 Thy pity without end?
 O make me Thine forever!
 And should I fainting be,
 Lord, let me never, never,
 Outlive my love for Thee.</p> | <p>6. My Savior, be Thou near me
 When death is at my door;
 Then let Thy presence cheer me,
 Forsake me nevermore!
 When should and body languish,
 O leave me not alone,
 But take away mine anguish
 By virtue of Thine own!</p> |
| <p>7. Be Thou my consolation,
 My shield, when I must die;
 Remind me of Thy passion
 When my last hour draws nigh.
 Mine eyes shall then behold Thee,
 Upon Thy cross shall dwell,
 My heart by faith enfold Thee.
 Who dieth thus dies well.</p> | |

What We Believe—Augsburg Confession

Article XIX—The Cause of Sin

Note: The blame for sin rests solely with the devil and with us, not with God. Apart from God's mercy in Christ, there is no hope for the wicked. Years after the Augsburg Confession was written, in order to accentuate the depth of mankind's sinful condition, some Lutherans would imply that sin is of the very essence of people. The result of this faulty teaching is that God becomes responsible for, indeed the Creator of, sin. Sin is a deep corruption of that which God created, and is entirely mankind's fault. (See also Ap XIX; SA III I.)

Our churches teach that although God creates and preserves nature, the cause of sin is located in the will of the wicked, that is, the devil and ungodly people. Without God's help, this will turns itself away from God, as Christ says, "When he lies, he speaks out of his own character" (John8:44).



The Property Board just received a very generous donation in the form of a Home Depot gift card. We wish to thank the anonymous donor for their thoughtfulness. The card will contribute towards the upcoming repairs to our stain glass windows. We have always been very blessed with our efforts to serve the Lord.

PARISH PLANNING COMMITTEE NEWS

Minutes from the February 10th PPC meeting were placed in the mailboxes. Full copies with the attachments are available in the narthex. PDF copies can be emailed if needed.

The next PPC meeting will be held Thursday, March 18th. Some anticipated agenda items include the use of the church by a home school organization, Covid updates (Jeffco is dial blue now), church properties report on Stain Glass Windows repairs and Roof repairs, revisions to the handling of the memorial fund, appointment of Nominating Committee members, determination of board sizes for 2021, and prepare for the April voter's meeting.

Just a reminder that our church election of officers and boards will take place at the June Voter's meeting. Please take a moment to consider how you would like to participate in the operations of our congregation. We have many opportunities to serve in the Lord's work.



**LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION
“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

LWML Reaches 2019-2021 Mission Goal!

“Sing the Doxology, “Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!” The LWML, by God’s grace, has reached the national mission goal of \$2.1 million set for the 2019-2021 biennium. This means that all mission grants selected for this biennium can be funded! God has great plans for spreading His Gospel story through those ministries. LWML Treasurer Karla Koehler wrote, “We thank God for the many women and men who have generously shared their material blessings so that the LWML can share the love and forgiveness of Christ!” Let the trumpets sound and the cymbals crash, in praise to the Lord!”

District Mission of the Month

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

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Navajo, New Mexico, has been blessed by summer interns the past two summers and wants to continue this ministry. Interns have participated with other volunteer teams from across the country to lead VBS, re-roof the parsonage, and hold sports camps. In 2019, 57 children participated in VBS - that’s 9 more than the previous summer. Without the leadership of interns and volunteers, those needy children would have missed out on this life-changing event. This year the intern program expanded to include Prison Ministry, where the interns witnessed to the inmates by sharing a devotion. This \$9,000 grant will help continue this important ministry.



Dates to Remember

March 13th - LWML meeting at 9:00 am. All women are invited!

March 14th - Mite Sunday - Bring your filled Miite Box

April 17th - LWML Zone Spring Rally - 10-12noon - Gethsemane Lutheran Church



LWML Gifts of Love Ministry

You see an ad asking for volunteers to deliver to needy families some coats, hats, and gloves that have been purchased by a local charity. You volunteer to make six deliveries. At each home, the families shower you with praise for these thoughtful gifts. All day long you keep reminding them that you are only the messenger, and that the gifts really came from the charity.

In a way, this story is a true parallel to our lives as we dispense God's gifts, whether that be caring for our families, supporting ministries that share Jesus or sharing something with a neighbor who lives next door.

Since all the gifts in our lives are God's gifts, we find ourselves constantly reminding those who thank us that we are simply sharing God's things with them. We are not really being generous. We are not leaving a personal legacy. We are simply being faithful stewards with God's gifts, following through on the good works He prepared in advance for us to do, for which He prepared us with His gifts.

St. Paul wrote in Galatians 3, "So whatever you do, whether in word or deed, DO IT ALL in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." That perspective reflects a heart captured by God's grace, intent on sharing that grace with everyone. Through His gifts God's saves with His Gospel.

If you would like to talk about giving perspectives, your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact... Email: Carol.vonSoosten@lfnd.org, Phone: 800-741-4138, lwmlgiftplan.org or LWML RMD GOL Advocate Elizabeth Weber by email: weber4342@acsol.net, or on her Cell Phone at (970) 361-0794



40 DAYS OF LIFE IN DENVER: February 17 - March 28, 2021. This is Ash Wednesday - Palm Sunday. The location is outside Planned Parenthood at 7155 E. 38th Ave. We will be praying for parents who are considering an abortion and praying for their pre-born baby. We love them both, mother & child. Individuals may participate along with church sponsored groups. Go to 40daysforlife.com follow the prompts to get all the information. The idea is to cover each day in prayer & presence from opening to closing. There is a calendar to choose dates & hours. Please consider this outreach to be a voice and a presence for the Sanctity of Life! **If there is interest in choosing a time (or times) to go as a group from Wheat Ridge Lutheran Church, please contact Deaconess Sara Smith, dcs.sara3@gmail.com or 513-509-8108.**

40 Days for Life is an international Christian not-for-profit organization that organizes campaigns against abortion in more than 60 nations worldwide. It was originally started in 2004 by members of the Brazos Valley Coalition for Life. The name refers to a repeated pattern of events lasting for 40 days in the Bible, such as Noah's Ark, Moses's 40 days on Mount Sinai, and Jesus's 40 days in the desert. This Life campaign consists of 40 days of prayer and fasting in shifts outside of a clinic or hospital that performs abortions or which is an abortion referral center. The campaign also involves outreach to the community to promote awareness about abortion and outreach directly to women considering abortion.

STEWARDSHIP TODAY: As Christian stewards joyfully use the greatest gift of all, the Gospel given through Word and sacrament, they will find that priorities in their life change and take on a new perspective. No longer do they find themselves living only for themselves. Rather, they recognize they are part of the most dramatic, exciting, and wonderful life possible, life with God and life in service to Him for the sake of others. (from: What About... Pamphlet by Rev. A.I. Barry former president of the LCMS)

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and give Himself up for me. Galatians 2:20 (ESV)



UPCOMING LENTEN SERVICES

THIRD MIDWEEK OF LENT – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10TH – 9:15AM AND 6:30PM

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT – SUNDAY, MARCH 14TH – 9AM AND 11AM

FOURTH MIDWEEK OF LENT – ST. JOSEPH, GUARDIAN OF JESUS
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17TH – 9:15AM AND 6:30PM

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT – SUNDAY, MARCH 21ST – 9AM AND 11AM

FIFTH MIDWEEK OF LENT – THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24TH – 9:15AM AND 6:30PM

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY – SUNDAY, MARCH 28TH – 9AM AND 11AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY – THURSDAY, APRIL 1ST - 6:30PM

GOOD FRIDAY – FRIDAY, APRIL 2ND - 6:30PM

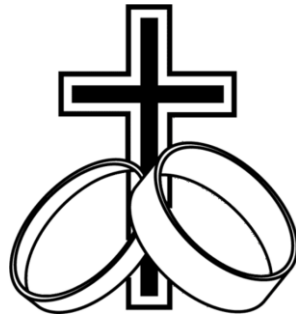
EASTER VIGIL – SATURDAY, APRIL 3RD - 7PM

EASTER SUNRISE – SUNDAY, APRIL 4TH - 7AM

EASTER SUNDAY – SUNDAY APRIL 4TH - 9AM AND 11AM

Happy Birthday

- 12 Abby Hess
- 13 Jeremiah Bolduc
- 17 Sue Hinz
- 18 Don Kugler
- 18 Matthew Maag
- 25 Violet Crocker
- 25 Shalon St. John
- 26 Addison Griego
- 27 Joy Lietzau
- 28 Rev. Eli Lietzau
- 29 Jeffrey Lundin
- 31 Caleb DeLaet



Happy Anniversary

- 21 - Ray & Mamiko Bickner
- 22 - John and Teressa Rolf



Baptism Birthdays

- Elsie Bisping
- Kaitlyn Bolduc
- Joe Broscheit
- Sandra Clark
- Joseph Davidek
- Daniel Davidek
- Sheila Fornall
- Gavin Glynn
- Kristopher Koeltzow
- Buck Nelson
- Lucy Simons
- Sara Smith
- James Winsor
- Wayne Woolery

