



## JUNE 2021

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## From the Pastor

Why do we do what we do? Why do we wake up every Sunday morning and drag ourselves and our families to church on our day off? Wouldn't we all like to rest a little bit more, get a few more hours of sleep, spend some more "family time" together? What makes church, church and why do we come?

The third commandment tells us that we should, 'Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.' And this means that, "We should fear and love God so that we may not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred, and gladly hear and learn it." The Sabbath was made for man. Man was not made for the Sabbath. God set up the Sabbath, He established His Church, in order to provide for us the gifts of the cross. And the gifts of the cross are the forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation. That is the sole purpose for the Gospel to be proclaimed; the only real reason that the Church exists.

And this is important for us to remember. This is important for us to teach to our children. Church is not entertainment. It is not meant to provide us with amusement or to make us feel happy and giddy. The hymns that we sing are not meant to make us feel the same way that a pop song on the radio does. The sermon is not supposed to provide for us tips to take into our daily lives so that we can know how to be "better" people. The sermon is not a TED talk and the pastor is not a motivational speaker. The liturgy that we follow is not intended to excite us in the same way that a movie or a television show would. And the Lord's Supper is not simply something that we do so that we can remember Jesus and show Him how much we love Him.

In the 20th chapter of John the resurrected Christ appears to His disciples, breathes on them, and gives them the Holy Spirit. That is, He gives them, gives the Church, authority to forgive sins. He lays into the hands of sinners like you and me the authority to unlock the kingdom of heaven. And this is an objective truth. It is a real thing. The Church was instituted so that God could give the gifts of the cross to sinners; and so that we sinners could receive them.

And all of this trumps our subjective thoughts or feelings. All of this is the undeniable, objective fact that within the Church you and I receive the forgiveness of our sins. That is the purpose of the Church, the liturgy, the hymnody, the sermon, the Lord's Supper. Anything else that we might get out of our Sunday morning church services is secondary to the objective fact of the forgiveness of sins.

And so yes, the liturgy might seem old and dull, the hymns that we sing might seem slow and outdated, the pastor's sermon might be a little bit boring and you might walk away afterward not being able to remember a single thing that was said. We very well might walk up to the Lord's Table, receive His body and blood, sit down and not feel any differently. We might leave church in the same exact depressed mood that we entered it. But none of that matters...

None of that matters because God still gives to us the gifts of the cross in the liturgy, the hymnody, the sermon, and His Supper whether we feel like it or not. Because none of that is contingent upon us. It is all contingent upon the Word of God. And He has promised that in these ways He will give to us the victory of the cross. In these very specific ways God gives to you the forgiveness of sins, whether you are happy or sad or elated or overjoyed or angry or bitter or depressed. It is Jesus for you, right where you are. That is the promise of your Lord.

The question might be asked, “Do I feel better after church?” That is the wrong question. The question that should be asked is, “Did I receive Jesus and His forgiveness?” And the answer to that is a resounding, “YES!!!” Because Christ your Lord promised that you would.

In the Name of Jesus,  
**Rev. Eli Lietzau**



## WHAT WE BELIEVE—AUGSBURG CONFESSION

### **Article XX—Good Works (Part 3, Paragraphs 23-40)**

*Note: This is another key article in the Augsburg Confession. Article XX offers more details about faith and works than what was previously written. Lutherans insist on the biblical truth that our good works do not save us. So they are sometimes accused of opposing good works. This article sets forth the Bible’s clear teach that good works are the fruit of faith, not the cause of our salvation. Rome continues to insist that people are saved by God’s grace, but not through faith alone. This teaching dangerously encourages people to believe they are able, even in some small way, to contribute toward their salvation. This diverts their focus from Christ and His merits to their own works. It also leads to despair, doubt, and uncertainty when people come to realize the enormity of their sin and wonder if in fact they have done “enough” to merit or deserve God’s favor. After setting forth the proper biblical distinction between faith and good works, the Augsburg Confession asserts very clearly that our good works are necessary, not to merit grace, but because this is God’s will for our lives. God’s gift of saving faith enables us to do good works. (See also Ap XX; SA III XIII; FC Ep IV and SD IV.)*

People are also warned that the term *faith* does not mean simply a knowledge of a history, such as the ungodly and devil have [James 2:19]. Rather, it means a faith that believes, not merely the history, but also the effect of the history. In other words, it believes this article: the forgiveness of sins. We have grace, righteousness, and forgiveness of sins through Christ.

The person who knows that he has a Father who is gracious to him through Christ truly knows God [John 14:7]. He also knows that God cares for him [1 Peter 5:7], and he calls upon God [Romans 10:13]. In a word, he is not without God, as are the heathen. For devils and the ungodly are not able to believe this article: the forgiveness of sins. Hence, they hate God as an enemy [Romans 8:7] and do not call Him [Romans 3:11-12] and expect no good from Him. Augustine also warns about the word *faith* and teaches that the term is used in the Scriptures, not for the knowledge that is in the ungodly, but for the confidence that consoles and encourages the terrified mind.

Furthermore, we teach that it is necessary to do good works. This does not mean that we merit grace by doing good works, but because it is God's will [Ephesians 2:10]. It is only by faith, and nothing else, that forgiveness of sins is apprehended. The Holy Spirit is received through faith, hearts are renewed and given new affections, and then they are able to bring forth good works. Ambrose says: "Faith is the mother of a good will and doing what is right." Without the Holy Spirit people are full of ungodly desires. They are too weak to do works that are good in God's sight [John 15:5]. Besides, they are in the power of the devil, who pushes human beings into various sins, ungodly opinions, and open crimes. We see this in the philosophers, who, although they tried to live an honest life could not succeed, but were defiled with many open crimes. Such is human weakness, without faith and without the Holy Spirit, when governed only by human strength.

Therefore, it is easy to see that this doctrine is not to be accused of banning good works. Instead, it is to be commended all the more because it shows how we are enabled to do good works. For without faith, human nature cannot in any way, do the works of the First or Second Commandment [1 Corinthians 2:14]. Without faith, human nature does not call upon God, nor expect anything from Him, not bear the cross [Matthew 16:24]. Instead, human nature seeks and trusts in human help. So when there is no faith and trust in God, all kinds of lusts and human intentions rule in the heart [Genesis 6:5]. This is why Christ says, "Apart from Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). That is why the Church sings: "Lacking Your divine favor, there is nothing in man. Nothing in him is harmless."



### SOMETHING WORTH READING

#### A Small Catechism on Human Life—John T. Pless

At the heart of Lutheran Theology is the biblical truth that we are justified by faith alone apart from the works of the Law (see Rom. 3:21-28; Gal. 2:16). In his exposition of the First Article, Luther sees the gifts of creation in light of this truth, so he confesses, "*All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me.*" The worth and merit of life are not determined by anything in us—not our physical appearance, our mental capacity, our bodily abilities or the quality of our life. God's fatherly, divine goodness and mercy alone give human life its worth and value.

## *Lutheran Worship 101*

### OVERVIEW

After the last months, gathering for worship will not be taken for granted, at least for the foreseeable future. But why do we gather as the body of Christ in the first place? Why was it so important a year ago that we could once again gather?

As a bit of normalcy returns, it is a good time to think about worship. What makes our gathering “worship”? What are the characteristics of worship and what are the Biblical foundations of our worship? In the next issues, these will be examined so that the members of Wheat Ridge Lutheran Church might gain or re-gain insight into the worship life of the church and strengthen their faith in the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

The articles will examine the Biblical teachings regarding worship as well as the Divine Service in detail. The physical worship setting, the music of the pastor and the people, vestments, the posture of the people and the pastor in worship and other items that may come to mind will be explored (if time and eternity allow!)

As an introduction to Lutheran worship, the Introduction to the Lutheran Worship hymnal comes to mind. These words succinctly describe the theology of worship for Lutherans and are very memorable (possibly one of the only things memorable about Lutheran Worship!) Rather than send you off to find a copy of this, it is quoted below:

*“Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. Music is drawn into this thankfulness and praise, enlarging and elevating the adoration of our gracious give God. Saying back to him what he has said to us, we repeat what is most true and sure. Most true and sure is his name, which he put upon us with the water of our Baptism. We are his. This we acknowledge at the beginning of the Divine Service. Where his name is, there is he. Before him we acknowledge that we are sinners, and we plead for forgiveness. His forgiveness is given us, and we, freed and forgiven, acclaim him as our great and gracious God as we apply to ourselves the words he has used to make himself known to us. The rhythm of our worship is from him to us, and then from us back to him. He gives his gifts, and together we receive and extol them. We build one another up as we speak to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Our Lord gives us his body to eat and his blood to drink. Finally his blessing moves us out into our calling, where his gifts have their fruition. How best to do this we may learn from his Word and from the way his Word has prompted his worship through the centuries. We are heirs of an astonishingly rich tradition. Each generation receives from those who went before and, in making that tradition of the Divine Service its own, adds what best may serve in its own day – the living heritage and something new.”* (Lutheran Worship, Concordia Publishing House, 1982, p. 6)

To get the full impact of these words they need to be read carefully several times and maybe even spoken aloud! These words form the basis of the articles which will follow in the following months. Hopefully, these words will give the members of Wheat Ridge a new or renewed ardor and appreciation for Lutheran Worship. *SDG*



**June 13<sup>th</sup> 2021 WRL Voter's Meeting and Election:** Our bi-annual church election will be held Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 after the second service. New members will be invited to sign in and become part of the voting assembly. Agenda items will include our bi-annual church election and discussion on our covid-19 survey. We welcome and encourage all members to attend. The following outline shows the recommendations for offices submitted by the nominating committee at the last PPC meeting.

### **Wheat Ridge Lutheran Church 2021 Nominations for Election**

1. Officers:
  - a. Executive Director:
    - i. Larry Mathews
  - b. Assistant Executive Director:
    - i. Harold Smith
  - c. Treasurer:
    - i. Lori Maag
2. Directors & Boards:
  - a. Lay Ministry:
    - i. Board Members:
      1. Joel Broscheit (D)
      2. Dan Maag
      3. Dan Robinson
      4. Brian Echtenkamp
  - b. Christian Education:
    - i. Board Members:
      1. Dan Robinson (D)
      2. Sherry DuValle
      3. Martha Schwartz
      4. Harold Smith
      5. Pr. Wayne Woolery
  - c. Church Relations:
    - i. Board Members:
      1. Carol Mathews (D)
      2. Jolene Weddingfeld

3. Carol Harper
4. Pat Proell
5. Sara Smith
- d. Youth Fellowship: (No minimum or maximum members)
  - i. Board Members:
    1. Steve Morsch
    2. Seth Schneider
- e. Stewardship:
  - i. Board Members:
    1. Dennis Nelson (D)
    2. Eady Broscheit
    3. Steve Morsch
    4. Mel Furgeson
- f. Church Properties:
  - i. Board Members:
    1. Larry Mathews (D)
    2. Brian DeLaet
    3. Jon Hendricks
    4. Lisa Cort
  - ii. Volunteers:
    1. Neil Bisping
    2. Dennis Nelson
    3. Shirley Nelson
    4. Allen Wulf
    5. Dan Robinson
    6. Carol Mathews
    7. Roger Osterberg
    8. Don Kugler
- g. ACTS:
  - i. Board Members (No minimum or maximum members)
    1. Danielle Robinson (D)
    2. Dan Robinson

### **3. Endowment Trust:**

- a. Separate Election By Voters Assembly
  - i. Trustees:
    1. Executive Director
    2. Pastor
    3. Joel Broscheit (Lay Ministry)
    4. Dan Clark (At Large Trustee)
    5. Steve Morsch (Stewardship)

### **4. LWML:**

- a. Internal Elections for LWML offices.
  - i. Member Officers:



*Welcome to all women of the congregation!*

*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*

#### **Mission of the Month**

##### **Preparing Leaders for Tomorrow, LCMS School Ministries - \$80,000**

The need for well-trained leaders for our Lutheran school is already great and increasing. To address the critical shortage of school administrators, the School Leadership Development Program (SLED) has been redesigned to better equip educators with the tools needed to lead Lutheran schools in the 21st century. God's children are well served, and His kingdom is expanded, with the help of knowledgeable educators. **These grant funds will provide training to equip 30 qualified candidates for placement as administrators in LCMS schools who will directly impact thousands of students, helping them grow as disciples of Christ.**



#### **MITE SUNDAY - June 13**

##### **Be a missionary and Share Jesus' Love!**

Each of you, giving and praying for our Mission Grants both national and district, brings the Mission Goals closer and brings the hope of Jesus to others.

We invite you to support our many Mission Grants with your gift of Mites at the fellowship table.

Thank You!

**The LWML Thanks you and the Orphan Grain Train Thanks you for the support of the LWML Spring Ingathering of Layette Kits for Orphan Grain Train.** The OGT movement encourages and enables God's people to share personal and material resources in bringing Christ's name to needy people both far and near.

The May meeting of the LWML of Wheat Ridge was held on May 8th. The main order of business was the election of officers for the 2021-2022 year.

Officers elected are:

- President, Joy Lietzau
- Vice President, Lucy Simons
- Secretary, Joyce Wonnacot
- Treasurer, Emi Morsch

Thank you all for serving.

**The next LWML meeting will be Saturday, July 10 at 9:00 am. This will be a planning meeting for the coming year. All women of the congregation are invited!**



The ladies of the Wheat Ridge LWML have adopted a seminarian, Isaiah Ambrecht. Below is an update from Isaiah:

Audrey and I have been diligently completing our final homework and tasks to reach the end of the school year. Audrey will complete her first year of pharmacy school this Friday (5/21) and will have the summer off while continuing her job at a pharmacy to polish her skills. I just finished my second year at the seminary and will begin my vicarage year on July 1. Vicarage is something like a pastoral internship, following around a pastor for a year to learn what life in a congregation looks like from the pastor's perspective and having the opportunity to practice some of the pastor's tasks. I was placed at my fieldwork church (where I've already been doing some practice on Sunday mornings), St. John Lutheran Church in Decatur, IN. I'm excited to have my vicarage there, as I'll also get some work at the Geneva, IN mission, the beginnings of another Lutheran church in a town south of Decatur. The opportunity for doing domestic evangelism and mission work is exciting and outside of my comfort zone, and I pray that I can learn and grow in my skills this next year, as the Lord keeps me faithful to His Word. Audrey and I will be moving to the parsonage in the middle of June, so our new address is: 11545 N. US Hwy 27 Decatur, IN 46733.

This summer on July 25 we will celebrate our first wedding anniversary, the first of what we hope are many, if the Lord so wills it. We have a little time to visit family after school gets out, so that will be a nice relaxing break. Audrey's birthday is April 3 and mine is November 13.

Thanks for your continued and constant support! Audrey and I appreciate the help and encouragement you have given us. Please keep us in your prayers as we begin this vicarage year, that it might be a time of growth and joy in the Lord's Word and working in His Church. God's richest blessings be yours in Christ!

In Christ,  
Isaiah and Audrey Ambrecht



**STEWARDSHIP TODAY:** Stewardship that is faithful and God-pleasing is found in everyday life. It is the husband loving his wife because she is a gift from God. It is a mom feeding her baby in the middle of the night because she has been given this new life to steward. It is a child doing their level best because their talents are gifts from God. This happens every day. You

have been doing it. Simple gifts have been entrusted to you. Your faithful presence in worship, your generosity for the Gospel, the investment in your family with the message of the Gospel and so many other mundane efforts are stewardship. It is your faithfulness to the callings you have been given. (From: Simple Gifts: A series of devotions on stewardship - LCMS)

*Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased" (Luke 3:21-22 ESV)*





**Multi Family Sale**  
**Wheat Ridge Lutheran Church**  
**8600 West 38th Ave, Wheat Ridge**

**August 12-14**

**LWML Fundraiser for Playground  
Equipment Update**

**Save the Date!**

**Donate your Stuff !**



The Adult Summer Reading Program started May 16

We have some new books and will soon get more new books. **24 volumes of Luther's Works** came from Redeemer Lutheran when they closed. This is about a third of all of Luther's Works. You may wonder how Luther was able to write so much and still maintain his busy life. The answer, according to Pastor, is that people took lots of notes and compiled them later. The first **8 volumes is an analysis of Genesis**. I found Noah in Volume 2. The rest include **lectures and sermons on the Psalms, Isaiah, the Gospel of John, Galatians** and many more books of the Bible and other topics. Don't let these books intimidate you. Just be curious, and read what interests you now.

I will report on several more books. The first is a book of **Josephus' writing**. He was the secular historian who wrote about Biblical events and thus verified a lot of scripture. This book an abridgment of Josephus' work. **Paul Maier** chose what to include and then translated it. The last 2 may sound a little sensational but they are really quite informative. Their titles are: **Gory Deaths** and **Master Criminals** with a subtitle of "not-so-nice" Bible stories. Both are interesting reads.

The library is offering an **Adult Summer Reading program** this year. It **started Sunday, May 16**. We hope you will participate in this game! We have devised 3 levels. There is a level and a summer reading card for everyone.

**Level 1 :** Walk across the narthex – not down the hallway - lean right instead and look for the open door. That room is our library. Choose a book. Check it out. Take it home. Check out the Table of Contents. **You do NOT have to read the book.** Just bring it back in 1-2 weeks and record the book's title on your summer reading card.

**Level 2:** Walk into the library. Choose a book. Check it out. Take it home. **Read part of the book.** It doesn't matter how much or how little you read. In 2 weeks bring it back to the library and record the book's title on your summer reading card.

**Level 3:** Walk into the library. Choose a book. (It may be a children's book). Check it out. Take it home. **READ THE WHOLE BOOK !!** It may take you longer than 2 weeks. That's OK. When you are finished, bring it back and record the book's title on your summer reading card.

Only 3 entries are required. (ie only 3 times checking out a book.) Summer's end is August 18.

**Everyone will get a prize!**

The library project is sponsored by our LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) and is for the benefit of our congregation.

If you have any questions or comments or want to suggest ways in which the library can better serve your needs, please don't hesitate to call or text either Donna Furgeson @ 303-232-8785 or Patty Wulf @ 303-506-5104.

## A.C.T.S. Group Up-coming Events:

Family Game Night: Second Friday of every Month at 6:30pm here at church. Bring a snack to share and a game to play (Board game, card game, or anything of the sort). Enjoy Fun, Food, and Fellowship. Mark your Calendars for the following Friday nights:

June 11

July 9

Aug 13



**SAVE THE DATE:** Lutheran Lay Conference September 11, 2021, 9am-3pm, lunch provided. Title for 2021's Conference is "Hindsight Isn't Always 20/20: A look at the state of the Church in the year 2020."

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## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Matthew Maag who graduated from Lakewood High School where he was awarded the International Baccalaureate Diploma. He will be attending South Dakota State University in the fall and will pursue a major in Civil Engineering. God's blessings to you as you embark on this new adventure!







*Welcome New Members*

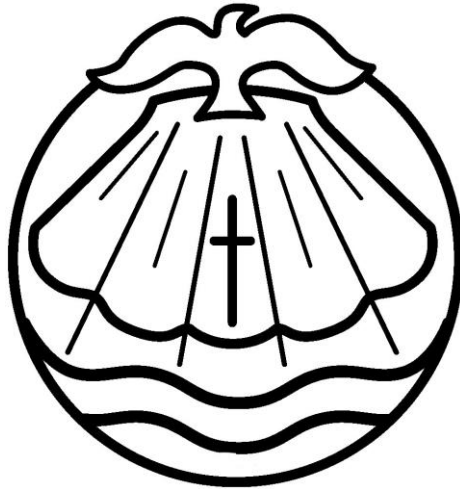
On Sunday, May 23, 2021 Wheat Ridge welcomed  
26 new members into our church family!  
Thanks be to God!



# Happy Birthday!

June 5 – Lora Davidek  
June 7 – Mila Thompson  
June 9 – Marjorie Gaide  
June 13 - Brian Thompson  
June 14 – Britni Teresi  
June 16 – Mina Bickner  
June 18 – Kimberly Eman  
June 18 – Donna Furgeson  
June 19 – Carol Mathews  
June 22 – Shirley Nelson  
June 29 – Tucker Wonnacott

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## Baptism Birthdays

Catherine Bell  
Ronald Benson  
Preston Brown  
Lora Davidek  
Bradley Echtenkamp  
Trevor Griego  
Dennis Hofts  
Don Kugler  
Lou Nelson  
Elizabeth Schwartz  
Alan Simons  
Kay Stefan  
Patricia Wulf

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# Happy Anniversary

June 2 – Mel & Donna Furgeson  
June 3 – Jim & Cheryl Winsor  
June 8 – Brian & Diane Echtenkamp  
June 9 – Steve & Emi Morsch  
June 10 – Wayne & Jeannette Woolery  
June 16 – Don & Judy Kugler  
June 16 – Kenneth & Glenda Ranum  
June 25 – Joe & Eady Broscheit  
June 26 – Tom & Joyce Wonnacott  
June 30 – Larry & Elaine Dyslin