



# Herald

Wheat Ridge Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Missouri Synod  
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Rev. Eli Lietzau, Pastor

JUNE 2023

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## From the Pastor

*(The Catechism) teaches what every Christian must know. ... Therefore, it is the duty of every father of a family to question and examine his children and servants at least once a week and see what they know or are learning from the catechism. And if they do not know the catechism, he should keep them learning it faithfully.*—Martin Luther in his “*Short Preface*” to the Large Catechism

These are some strong words by Martin Luther; words in which the entire Church falls helplessly short. From the pulpit to the pew, it would appear as if every member within the Church fails to do what is set before us. Now some may say, “But these are only words of a man. Why should we feel guilty for not living up to his standards?” That may be true, and if you can show why these words are false and unchristian then feel free to disregard the rest of this message.

So what is it that we are falling short on? What have I as a pastor neglected to press upon your hearts? What have you as individuals and families neglected to take to heart: The Six Chief Parts of the Catechism. And if you’re staring blankly at this page with absolutely no clue as to what I am referring, then I am most certainly talking to you.

Martin Luther lays out for us in a very simple and easy to understand way the meaning behind the foundation of our Biblical faith. He takes the 10 Commandments, the Apostle’s Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, Baptism, Confession, and the Lord’s Supper and he lays forth what they are, what they mean, and how God uses them to strengthen our faith in Him.

Within these 33 short pages we are given the answers to many of the foundational questions of our faith. “You shall have no other gods. *What does this mean?*” “I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. *What does this mean?*” “Give us this day our daily bread.” *What does this mean?*” “What benefits does Baptism give?” “What sins should we confess?” “What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?”

The Catechism is a rich treasure that has sadly gone by the wayside in many Christian homes. Far be it from father and mother to make sure their children are learning the catechism; unfortunately, most parents don’t even know it themselves. “That was something I *had* to do in confirmation. But I paid my dues. I don’t need to open that book ever again.” No matter who you are; each of us has felt like this before.

That is why I encourage the members of Wheat Ridge Evangelical Lutheran Church to take the time this summer to once again, as a family or as an individual, learn the Catechism. Twelve weeks of summer and Six Chief parts... you do the math. I'm not asking for hours upon hours of your time; only five minutes to read a question, contemplate the answer, and close in prayer. (If you can't dig up your old confirmation catechism from decades gone by, ask me for a new one; we have plenty.)

I pray that the Lord bless and keep each and every one of you this summer in His unwavering Word. Amen.

**In the name of Jesus,**

**Pastor Eli**

### **What We Believe—Smalcald Articles**

#### **The First Part: The Awe-Inspiring Articles on the Divine Majesty (1-4)**

*Note: Luther repeats the historic creedal formulas that confess God the Holy Trinity and the two natures in Christ. He concludes by indication how these articles are the historic confession of the Christian Church. When Luther uses the word "catechism" he is not referring to his Small Catechism but to the historic teaching of the faith in the Western Church: the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed. The Romanists and Lutherans agreed on these points of biblical, orthodox Christianity, so there was no need for Further to elaborate on them. (See also the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds; AC I; SC II; LC II.)*

1. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three distinct persons in one divine essence and nature [Matthew 28:19], are one God, who has created heaven and earth [1 Corinthians 8:6].
2. The Father is begotten of no one; the Son is begotten of the Father [John 1:14] ; the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son [John 15:26].
3. Neither the Father nor the Holy Spirit, but the Son became man [John 1:14].
4. The Son became man in this manner: He was conceived, without the cooperation of man, by the Holy Spirit [:Luke 1:34-35], and was born of the pure, holy Virgin Mary. Afterward, He suffered, died, was buried, descended to hell, rose from the dead [1 Corinthians 15:3-4], ascended to heaven [Acts 1:9-11], will come to judge the quick and the dead, and so on, as the Apostles' and Athanasian Creeds and our children's catechism teach.

Concerning these articles, there is no argument or dispute. Both sides confess them. Therefore, it is not necessary now to discuss them further.

#### **The Second Part: The Articles That Refer to the Office and Work of Jesus Christ; That IS; Our Redemption**

##### ***Article 1: The Chief Article***

*Note: Agreeing on the content of the historic Christian Creed is one thing. Agreeing on what it means is quite another. Luther launches immediately into the "chief article" of the Christian faith: Christ's saving work can never be given up, or compromised, for the sake of peace and unity in the Church. This teaching*

*is the very heart of the Gospel itself; therefore, it must be kept pure and free from error and proclaimed bold and thoroughly. Luther returns to this chief article over and over again throughout the rest of the Smalcald Articles, demonstrating how the various errors and abuses in the Church of his day originate from false teaching about justification by grace through faith (See the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds; AC III; SC II; LC II: FC ep VIII and FC SD VIII).*

The first and chief article is this:

Jesus Christ, our God and Lord, died for our sins and was raised again for our justification (Romans 4:24-25).

He alone is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29), and God has laid upon Him the iniquities of us all (Isaiah 53:6).

All have sinned and are justified freely, without their own works or merits, by His grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, in His blood (Romans 3:23-25).

This is necessary to believe. This cannot be otherwise acquired or grasped by any work, law, or merit. Therefore, it is clear and certain that this faith alone justifies us. As St. Paul says: "For we hold that on his justified by faith apart from the works of the law (Romans 3:28)." "That He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus [Romans 3:26]."

Nothing of this article can be yielded or surrendered, even though heaven and earth and everything else falls [Mark 13:31]. "For there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12) "And with His stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5)

Upon this article everything that we teach and practice depends, in opposition to the pope, the devil, and the whole world. Therefore, we must be certain and not doubt this doctrine. Otherwise, all is lost, and the pope, the devil, and all adversaries win the victory and the right over us.

### **For Further Personal Study**

The Small Catechism: The Sacrament of the Altar

Martin Luther

### **What is the Sacrament of the Altar?**

It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and the wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.

### **Where is this written?**

The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

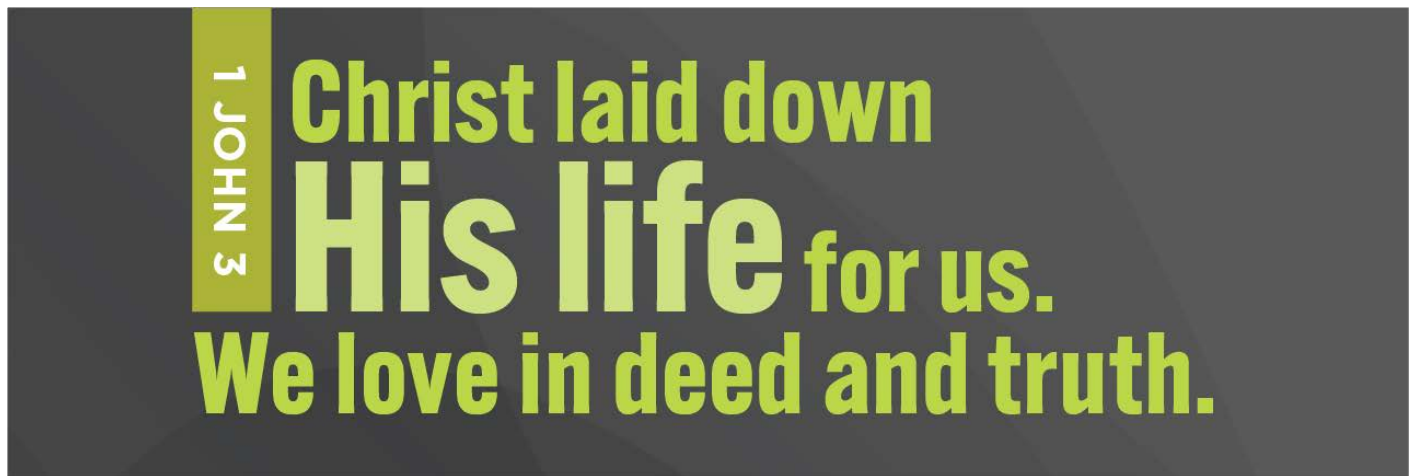
1. **Voters' Meeting:** Our next voters' meeting is scheduled for June 25<sup>th</sup> after the service. The major event will be the election of new officers and directors. Please come and participate in the operations of our great congregation.



2. **Property Education Day:** We are inviting all interested members to meet with the Property Board on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 AM to have a tour of the building and property to see what makes it tick. This will be a great opportunity for all interested parties to investigate all the nooks and crannies of our physical plant. Have you been curious to see what the pipe loft looks like? How many HVAC units are on the roof? Come on down and find out more about the church and property board! Pizza and a Lutheran Beverage will be served for a light lunch.
3. **New Light Pole:** The new replacement pole for our north parking lot was scheduled for June. Watch the bulletin for the latest updates.
4. **New Church Sign:** There was a glitch with the sign company, Artcraft, and they did not proceed as scheduled with our sign upgrade. Our original sales rep is no longer with them. We are now in contact with one of the company's owners. They reversed their field and are now claiming we need to scrap our current pedestal foundation and replace it with caissons and poles at significant additional cost. I met with a structural engineer on-site on May 28th. He said he has done dozens of these pedestals and will work with us. Watch the bulletins for updates.
5. **Basketball Equipment:** We removed the basketball poles and backboards from the south parking lot. The site looks much cleaner, and we gained four parking spaces.
6. **Back 40:** We are looking for a few good men or women, small boys or girls, or other interested parties to run the lawn tractor twice a month and mow the back forty. We restored the irrigation and will now make the effort to keep the site looking nice. We pruned the low hanging branches to make the work easier. It takes 45 minutes to an hour to mow the area between the ditches and the areas east and south of the parking lot.
7. **Gardeners Needed!** We are looking for volunteers to help keep the church gardens in shape. They really add to the beauty of our property.

Thanks,

Larry



## ***Life Ministry***

**The Life Ministry Committee exists to contribute time and talent to impacting the spiritual and physical life issues from womb to tomb of our congregation and community.**

Our next Life Ministry meeting is at church on Monday, July 17, at 7:30 pm and is open to anyone who would like to attend. For more information, contact Sara Smith, [dcs.sara3@gmail.com](mailto:dcs.sara3@gmail.com) or 513-509-8108.

### **Baby Bottle Campaign**

WRELC collected over \$1000 for the My Choice Pregnancy Resource Center. Thank you everyone for your donations!

### **Save the Date!**

The inaugural **Colorado March for Life** will be on **April 12, 2024**. (Date changed from April 4.) Please save the date and plan on participating! This is the same organization that does the National March for Life in Washington, DC every January. We hope to have a large LCMS presence at this event. For more information, contact Sara Smith, [dcs.sara3@gmail.com](mailto:dcs.sara3@gmail.com) or 513-509-8108.

### **Event Cancelled:**

Celebrate Life Colorado, which was scheduled for June 24, has been cancelled.



**As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions,  
and equip women to honor God by serving others.**

## **ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT**

### **LBW Bringing Spanish Braille Bibles to Central and South America**

This grant will fund the Lutheran Braille Workers so over 1,600 Spanish Braille volumes of the Bible can be produced and distributed to Central and South America. Grant amount: \$8,000

### **Support for University Lutheran Chapel, Boulder**

This grants supports the campus ministry of ULC which serves young adults with Word and Sacrament and speaking to the truths of God's Word through worship, Bible study, counseling, prayer, and encouragement, so that our youth of tomorrow may become a city set upon a hill. Grant amount: \$5,000

For more information: [www.lwmlrmd.org/missions/](http://www.lwmlrmd.org/missions/).

### **AN EXPLANATION OF THE MITE COLLECTION**

Based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1–4), the Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of "mites" — offerings above and beyond the support given to congregations and the LCMS. Mite Box contributions amount to millions of dollars that fund district and national mission grants. On Mite Sunday, we highlight one national mission grant and one district grant so our congregation will see what missions our mites are funding. We also place the large Mite Box near the hospitality table to collect mite offerings.

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**Our next LWML meeting is Saturday, July 14 at 9:00 am.**

**Please join us!**

**ALL WOMEN OF THE CONGREGATION ARE INVITED TO ATTEND!**





### **Orphan Grain Train - Relief for Human Need Worldwide**

Your generosity keeps the Orphan Grain Train ministry going. We continue to be amazed at the outpouring of used clothing for all ages, shoes, sheets, blankets, towels and eyeglasses that we are receiving. All of these items are sorted and made sure that they are in good condition, folded and packed by volunteers who work tirelessly for all the many boxes to be sent worldwide to those who are in need.

Orphan Grain Train continues to send aid, food and clothing supplies and most importantly, prayers to Ukraine for safety for those helping those in need and for an end to this horrific humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. Many of the Ukraine people are hiding in fear and are so grateful for what is given to them to bring hope and a smile. Bibles are included in every care package to give hope.

### **Additional Needs of the Colorado West Orphan Grain Train**

All collection sights are now having to pay for boxes they pack and the labels that identify what is included in each box. When we delivered the last load of clothing their second room (the size of a classroom) was full of boxes. A truck comes to collect these boxes and take them to the Orphan Grain Train headquarters in Norfolk, Nebraska. The Colorado West group also pays Gethsemane Lutheran Church \$400.00 a month for the use of two classrooms.

**If you would like to contribute for the ongoing expenses that the Colorado West group has, you are welcome to do so. Make checks out to Orphan Grain Train and earmark on the check for Colorado West. Send to Orphan Grain Train P.O. Box 1466 Norfolk, NE 68702-9915 To God be all the Glory!**



## **Library News**

### **On the Library Cart**

**Concordia Commentary Vol. 1-- Mark 1:1—8:26**, by James W. Voelz and **Vol. 2, Mark 8:27—16:8**, by James W. Voelz and **Mark 16:9—20**, by Christopher W. Mitchell. Exciting insight into the Gospel of Mark.

**Take Courage, Encouraging Words for Discouraging Times**, by Rev. Matthew C. Harrison, President of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod for more than a decade has some encouragement for you in the words of Jesus: "Take courage, I have overcome the world."

**Recommended by Pastor Lietzau—A Little Book on Joy, The Secret of Living a Good News Life in a Bad News World**, by Rev. Matthew C. Harrison

Stop by the Library Cart and take a look.

### **Library Committee:**

Donna Furgeson, Patty Wulf, Connie Cordova, Joy Lietzau

**Thank you for your interest in and patronage of the library.**

Our library is on a self-checkout system: take the checkout card from the book or DVD, put your name and the return date on it, put the card in the holder next to the BOOK RETURN BOX.

**ENJOY!**



## **New Member Potluck**

After service on Sunday, July 9th. We will welcome the newest members of our church family with a potluck picnic. It will be held in the backyard of the church with some tables inside. Please bring a favorite dish to share with all.



## Happy Birthday!

5 – Lora Davidek	16 – Mina Bickner
7 – Mila Thompson	16 – Kim Eman
7 – Inez Yox	18 – Donna Furgeson
11 – Molly Thompson	19 – Carol Mathews
12 – Kathy Einspahr	22 – Shirley Nelson
13 – Brian Thompson	25 – Fred Seyffert
14 – Britni Teresi	29 – Tucker Wonnacott

## Baptism Birthdays

Cathy Bell	Alan Simons
Lora Davidek	Kay Stefan
Don Kugler	Patty Wulf
Lou Nelson	Inez Yox


## Happy Anniversary!

2 – Mel & Donna Furgeson
8 – Brian & Diane Echtenkamp
9 – Steve & Emi Morsch
9 – Philip & Alison Yox
10 – Rev. Wayne & Jeannette Woolery
16 – Don & Judy Kugler
25 – Joe & Eady Broscheit
26 – Tom & Joyce Wonnacott



# JUNE 2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 Trinity Sunday  Confirmation	5	6 10 a.m. Bible Study	7	8	9	10 9 a.m. Property Education Day 
11 MITE Sunday	12	13 10 a.m. Bible Study	14	15	16	17
<div> <div></div> <div>VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL June 12-16 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.</div> <div></div> </div>						
18  Father's Day	19	20	21  First Day of Summer	22	23	24
25  Voter's Meeting	26	27	28	29	30	