

# The Messenger

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## Getting Ready for Lent – A Focus on the Sacrament of the Altar

...and announcing another upcoming event in this 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the Reformation

This year's midweek services for Lent—as well as the special services of Holy Week—will follow the theme “The Salutory Gift,” concerning the Sacrament of the Altar. While Lent may seem a ways off yet, it is actually less than four weeks away, beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. So, it's not too early to start getting ready. Since my readings from the Lutheran Confessions in the past several days have come from the Large Catechism on the Sacrament of the Altar, I have had this theme on my mind recently. Martin Luther in the Large Catechism offers very helpful insights for Christians who want to receive the Sacrament as the Lord Jesus intended. Luther shows how this holy Sacrament instituted by Christ richly consoles our consciences and nourishes and strengthens us for Christian living.

This month, before Lent gets underway, I want to offer you the chance to reflect with Dr. Luther on the nature and purpose and benefit of the Lord's Supper for us. I am announcing the start of a weekly “Lunch with Luther” event in which we will gather at 12:00 noon every Wednesday (beginning February 8, in the fellowship hall, with the possibility of moving to a different location) for an informal brown bag lunch while reading and discussing a portion of Luther's writings. The theme for February will be the Sacrament of the Altar in the Large Catechism. We will move to a different theme in future months, leading up to our October 31<sup>st</sup> observance of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. After some time with his Large Catechism we will explore Luther's own informal theological musings in his *Table Talk*—remarks Luther made at mealtime, which were recorded by some of his students and admirers who heard him.

Make note also of another event: On Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, and again the next Sunday, we will use the Adult Bible Class hour to watch a new video Bible study about Martin Luther from Lutheran Hour Ministries, prepared specially for this 500<sup>th</sup> Reformation Anniversary year. (February 19<sup>th</sup> will also be our Lutheran Hour Ministries emphasis Sunday at Beautiful Savior.) The Bible study is entitled “A Man Named Luther: Part 1: The Man”. (We will view the next installment, “Part 2: The Moment,” in the spring.)

And now, to whet your appetite for Luther's thoughts on the holy Supper we so cherish, here is a snippet from his Large Catechism (Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, © CPH, p. 622):

*“Now, what is the Sacrament of the Altar?”*

*Answer, “It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, in and under the bread and wine, which we Christians are commanded by Christ's Word to eat and to drink” ...*

*It is the Word, I say, that makes and sets this Sacrament apart. So it is not mere bread and wine, but is, and is called, Christ's body and blood [1 Corinthians 11:23-27] ... The Word must make a Sacrament out of the element, or else it remains a mere element. Now, it is not the word or ordinance of a prince or emperor. But it is the Word of the grand Majesty, at whose feet all creatures should fall and affirm it is as He says, and accept it with all reverence, fear, and humility [Isaiah 45:23; Philippians 2:10].*

*With this Word you can strengthen your conscience and say, “If a hundred thousand devils, together with all fanatics, should rush forward, crying, ‘How can bread and wine be Christ's body and blood?’ and such, I know that all spirits and scholars together are not as wise as is the Divine Majesty in His little finger” [see 1 Corinthians 1:25].*

Pastor Groth



## THOSE SERVING IN FEBRUARY

### Ushers

Dave Esslinger  
Craig Ludwig

Mike Brown  
Domino Mbise

Rick Mericle  
Wayne Mericle

### Elders

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<u>2/5</u>	<u>Cliff Evans &amp; Mike Brown</u>
<u>2/12</u>	<u>Rick Mericle &amp; Cal Meisner</u>
<u>2/19</u>	<u>Cliff Evans &amp; Mike Brown</u>
<u>2/26</u>	<u>Cal Meisner &amp; Rick Mericle</u>

### Acolytes

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<u>2/5</u>	<u>Joey Weinstock</u>
<u>2/12</u>	<u>Henry Pawlak III</u>
<u>2/19</u>	<u>Damien Dittrich</u>
<u>2/26</u>	<u>Nicholas Little</u>

### Altar Guild

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Twila Toliver and Sue Evans



## Live Boldly

The word “boldness” appears throughout the New Testament. English translations often have it as “openness” or “confidence.” We tend to associate boldness with the latter definition. But we see that the apostles preached the Good News with candor. They told it like it is. “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and perceived that they were uneducated common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. Acts 4:13

There is boldness toward man, but there is also boldness toward God. Paul writes that we have boldness and confidence toward God through faith in Jesus. “Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus...” Hebrews 10:19

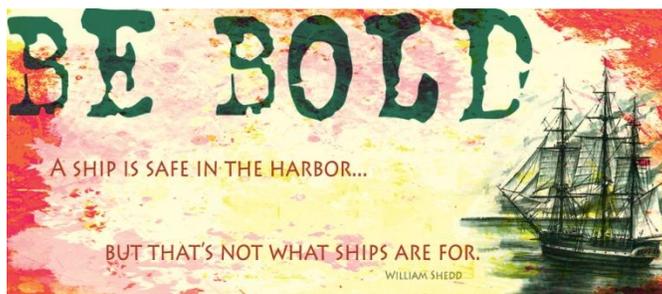
The key to boldness toward men is boldness before God. In Christ, you have boldness toward God through the forgiveness of sins. Your baptism unites you to Christ’s death and resurrection. You have peace with God, hope of everlasting life and the promise that God will bless you even as the world curses you.

Boldness and Luther go together, because the Gospel and Luther go together. He confessed that all teaching and practice of the church depends upon the chief doctrine, justification of the sinner on account of faith in Christ’s death and resurrection. Luther boldly asserted that if the church should compromise the chief article, then all would be lost. And so he bravely clung to the pure Gospel even when the powerful demanded otherwise.

Boldness and the Gospel go together today just as in the days of the apostles or Luther. More often than not the world will disagree with aspects of the Christian faith. But, we must still be bold. We must dive into the Word of God and study it. We need to attend church and Bible class. Pray for boldness, it is part of our daily bread. In church, Jesus makes us bold toward the Father through preaching and the Lord’s Supper.

In the last month, a member told me he is becoming more bold. He is reaching out to family and church members, during his contacts. At the end of each contact, he is going to wish them God’s peace and God’s blessings. This is a good way to be bold toward our fellow man and bring boldness to those we are led to Christ by the Spirit. So then, **LIVE BOLDLY BY THE SPIRIT IN THE WORD.**

Taken from the Lutheran Witness  
Elder, Cliff Evans





### February Birthdays

- Feb. 2 Scott Davidson  
Gayle Phillips
- 3 David Vogel
- 5 Pastor Groth
- 7 Austyn Acker
- 8 Steve Hayden
- 12 Leona Bonder
- 14 Karl Duchrow
- 15 Linda Duchrow
- 16 Morgan Smith
- 18 Chriss Hammerschmidt
- 19 Mani Boniek
- 20 Melva Anderson  
Vee Rotvold
- 21 Angus MacDonald  
Jackie Ruck
- 23 Art Groth
- 28 Matt Jurischk

### Needed: Baptism Birthdays

Pastor Groth is seeking Baptism dates for all our members in order to begin praying for members on their Baptism anniversaries. If you do not know the date when you were baptized, this might be a great time to pull down that memory box out of the closet and locate your baptismal certificate. If you are unable to locate the information, inquire in the church office, as your records may include the date when you were baptized. Thank you very much!



### Hymns from *Lutheran Service Book*

Here's a little tidbit for all you statistics lovers. Our hymnal, *Lutheran Service Book*, includes 636 hymns. In our limited time of using *LSB* here at Beautiful Savior (about five years) we have sung over 400—or nearly two thirds of the hymns. That means more than one in three hymns in *LSB* have *not* yet been sung. A small number of the “un-sung” hymns are old familiar ones which until now have been overlooked. (Please contact Pastor if there is a beloved hymn you would like to have sung.) The vast majority, however, are newer hymns which need first to be learned. From time to time our choir has introduced new tunes to us, such as they did so well a few years ago when we learned the new liturgy, Divine Service, Setting Four. We will be looking to the choir again for help going forward. In the coming years as we learn new hymns, and sometimes those hymns feel strange and awkward at first, please bear in mind that even the “old favorites” were once new and had to be learned!



### February Anniversaries

- Feb. 11 Dan & Jackie Adams



Listed below are the names and addresses of some of our members that are either homebound or due to distance and/or lack of transportation are not able to worship with us on a regular basis. I'm sure they would enjoy receiving a Valentine's Day card from anyone wishing to send them.

Mrs. Melva Anderson, 1055 Adams Circle, #228, Boulder, CO 80303

Mrs. Dixie Cassily, 12919 Lafayette Street, Unit G, Thornton, CO 80241

Mrs. Maxine Craiger, 269 Garnet Street, Broomfield, CO 80020

Mrs. Gerd Crandall, 1171 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., Apt 1702, Broomfield, CO 80020

Mrs. Wilda Davenport 1232 Tipperary, Boulder, CO 80303

Mrs. Rowena Davis, 10190 Wadsworth Blvd., Apt 114, Westminster, CO 80021

Karl & Linda Duchrow, 10044 Lee Street, Broomfield, CO 80021

Mrs. Linda Frederking, 225 Waneka Pkwy, Room 108, Lafayette, CO 80026

Mrs. Pat Hanket, 1603 Daphne Street, Broomfield, CO 80020

Mrs. Doris Hintz, Clear Creek Care Center, 7481 Knox Place, Westminster, CO 80030

Mrs. Patricia Kubat, 12431 King Court, #243, Broomfield, CO 80020

Mrs. Roberta Nigon, 1213 Jefferson, Louisville, CO 80027

Mr. James Nuoffer, 9160 W. 64<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Apt. 1, Arvada, CO 80004

Mrs. Wanda Renzelman, 760 Marble Street, Broomfield, CO 80020

Mrs. Vee Rotvold, 7700 W. 101<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Apt. 126, Westminster, CO 80021

Mr. & Mrs. Don Sall, 12610 Hudson Street, Apt. 322, Thornton, CO 80241

Mrs. Ruby Stolz, 10300 Sheridan, Suite 103, Westminster, CO 80020

Mr. & Mrs. Gene Sylvester, 2425 W. Miller Court, Lakewood, CO 80227

Mrs. Julie Vogel, 12322 Clayton Court, Thornton, CO 80241

## *our Stewardship Message*

(February 2017)



We've all heard that stewardship is giving to the church of our time, talents, and treasure. This alliterative trinity helps us see that giving is not just about money, but about our whole lives. For God has given us everything we have and enjoy as we confess in the meaning to the First Article of the Apostle's Creed. And what we confess first among those is that God gives us "our body and soul, our eyes, ears, and all our members, our reason and all our senses." Only then do we confess that He gives us material things. Thus the time, talents, and treasure trinity places before our eyes the fact that we are to give something of all of these things toward the mission of the church in thanksgiving for what God has provided. For everything we have and indeed everything we are comes from God's fatherly divine goodness and mercy.

The problem with this alliterative Trinity comes when we replace one little word with another little word—when we replace the word *and* with the word *or*. It is always written with the *and*, but when we read it, we read it with the *or*. Thus this quite helpful Trinity, which extolled that everything that we have and are is a gift from God and which is to be pressed into the service of God in His church, turns into a Trinity that we can pick and choose which of the Trinity we use into the service of God. The giving of our time, talents, *and* treasure turns into the giving of our time, talents, *or* treasure.

Then the question arises: Can we give of our time and talents instead of our treasures? Or perhaps it is the other way round: Can we give our treasure and not of our time and our talents? But these are the wrong questions. The right question is, can we give of our time and our talents in addition to our treasure? Yes, indeed, we are called to give of all three. The things that God gives us are not to be pitted against one another. They are given to us and we are to press them all into God's service for benefit of His church and our neighbors in need.

Thus we give all three. We give our treasure in the form of a generous, first-fruits, proportion of our income. We give of our time in generosity for the benefit of Christ's holy church. We give of our talents in the same manner. Since God gave us all these things, we are called to give generously of all these things in faith toward Him and in fervent love to our neighbors.

For God has provided all these things to us. Out of His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, He gives us each time, talents, *AND* treasures as a means to bless those around us. We serve our neighbors with these things, blessing them with the blessings in which God has blessed us. We give of our time, talents, and treasures to our families, our society, and to our church, our local congregations. And we do this because we know that we are not our own. Rather, we belong to God. We have been bought with a price—with the holy precious blood and innocent suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. He gave everything—His time, His talents, and His treasure,—to have us as His own and to live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness. We have these things as gifts and blessings from God. Let us then press them all into service for the sake of His love—time, talents, and treasures together.

*We are "Consecrated Stewards" to the Glory of God!*



***“The Lutheran Hour”***  
**Sermon Schedule for February 2017**

LHM produces and airs radio and TV programming around the world in more than 80 languages. *“The Lutheran Hour”* began in 1930 and is the world’s longest-running, continually broadcast Gospel radio program. It proclaims the message of Jesus Christ to more than 1 million people every week on 1400+ North American radio stations! Please tune to **850 KOA (AM)** at **6:00 a.m.** on **Sunday mornings** OR go on-line to hear and/or download the current or any of the previous messages at: **[www.lutheranhour.org](http://www.lutheranhour.org)**

- Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>** ***“Nothing But Jesus!”*** (1 Corinthians 2:1-16)  
Amid life’s commotion and clamor, what will give us peace? Nothing but Jesus!  
(Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz**)
- Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>** ***“Here’s to Life!”*** (Deuteronomy 30:15-20)  
Even as the world becomes a meaner, angrier place, God calls us to share His life with others.  
(Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz**)
- Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>** ***“Love Your Enemies - - Jesus Does!”*** (Matthew 5:38-48)  
God calls us to love and forgive our enemies the way He loves and forgives us.  
(Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz**)
- Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>** ***“Guilt’s Gone”*** (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)  
A guilty conscience accuses; a forgiving Savior brings peace to troubled hearts.  
(Lutheran Hour Speaker Emeritus: **Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus**)

Please contact Mike Brown at (303) 438-5766 or [mbrown\\_llrmd@comcast.net](mailto:mbrown_llrmd@comcast.net) with any questions you may have about *“The Lutheran Hour”* or any of the numerous **Outreach Resources** available from **LHM**.

***Please Note: LHM Sunday is on Feb. 19, 2017***

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***Lutheran Hour Ministries*** is a congregational outreach ministry supporting The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and partnering churches worldwide. It is independently funded by generous Christians who want to spread the pure and powerful message of our Savior’s love in their own communities and throughout the world. For more information, please visit **[www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org)** or call **1-800-876-9880**. **THANK YOU**



**(Over - LHM’s Lenten Devotions for 2017)**

## Lenten Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries

### *“From the Cradle to the Empty Grave”*

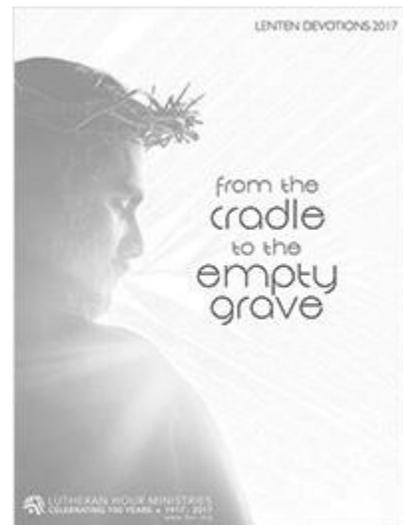
The season of Lent is one of thoughtful reflection. During this time of the church calendar, Christians ponder the unfolding events that led to Jesus’ condemnation and crucifixion: His triumphal march into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday; His firm words of warning about the events to come; His sham trial, brutal scourging, and horrific crucifixion. No day could be any darker; no travesty more calamitous than the slaying of God’s own Beloved Son. And yet, that’s what we find on Golgotha: our sins demanding His death on a cross to satisfy the Father’s righteous judgment.

Taken from the cross, the lifeless form of Christ was placed in another man’s tomb. With that action the world thought the ordeal complete, the savagery it had witnessed something it could now put behind it. But God’s work wasn’t quite done. Three days later, out of a sealed tomb—guarded to prevent theft—Jesus rose from the dead. And with that thunderous crescendo, mankind’s disgrace and ruin, which had destined it for eternal slaughter, is forgiven through the blood of Christ.

Lent is when we turn our eyes to the cross. It is there where Jesus, the sinless Son of God, suffered the indignity and shame of dying for our sins. And it is there where God’s wrath was satisfied by His Beloved Son’s supreme sacrifice, winning salvation for all who call Him their Savior.

The [audio versions](#) or to read online will begin on **Ash Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017**. “*From the Cradle to the Empty Grave*” can also be received as an [e-mail subscription](#) throughout the Lenten season. Individuals and congregations can also [download, personalize and print](#) them for use as an [outreach resource](#) with family, friends, guests and visitors.

LHM’s Lenten Devotions will be available at: [www.lhm.org/lent](http://www.lhm.org/lent)



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

[www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org)



## ***In Christ, for the Church and the World***

*“In grateful response to God’s grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through the Word and Sacraments, the mission of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is to vigorously make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities and the world.”* (LCMS Mission Statement – 2010)

### **Dear Family in Christ:**

Greetings in Christ! In reference to the elder’s article in last month’s newsletter, I would like to piggy-back and expand a bit upon that very informative message about who we are called to be within the Body of Christ. May the love of Christ continue to lead us and bless us in our daily lives of ***Witness, Mercy and Life Together***.

### ***Standing with the Fallen***

(Re: Walk in the Word – Rev. James MacDonald)

*“We all stumble in many ways”* (James 3:2a) Maybe you’ve noticed one or two flaws in a few of the Christians around you. (Just maybe) But that’s not really so surprising, right? After all, we’ve got a few flaws ourselves. If the church is supposed to be a place where hope abounds – even with sin hanging around as an all too frequent visitor – our responses to one another in these inevitable moments of unworthiness are crucially important. If all we do is stand back and register our critique, criticism and frustration, rather than apply ourselves to our brother or sister’s needs, we only cause more damage in an already destructive situation.

Scripture counsels us to take a more constructive approach:

**1) See the person in process.** God isn’t finished with anybody. **“He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ”**. (Phil. 1:6) And since Jesus hasn’t come back yet, that’s all the proof we need that He hasn’t abandoned the job of completing this **“good work”** He started. He hasn’t decided that the one who stumbles is a lost cause – and if He hasn’t, we certainly shouldn’t. Allow one who’s struggling the room for being a work in progress!

**2) Cover them.** Notice I didn’t say cover for them. Enabling people to escape consequences or feel entitled to their sin is not a functional equivalent of love. But to cover the *individual* – being discreet about the matter, keeping to a minimum the people who need to know what’s going on – is a loving expression of both grace and protection. **“Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends”**. (Prov. 17:9) This doesn’t keep us from perhaps needing to talk straight with the person in private, but it does keep us from widening their public exposure to unhelpful rumor and ridicule.

**3) Give mercy.** Grace means getting what we don’t deserve (the forgiving favor of God); mercy means *not* getting what we *do* deserve (an eternity separated from Him in hell). Our most logical, reflexive response to someone whose ways are running counter to the faith they profess – especially someone close to us – is to bring down the hammer with heavy authority. But be wary of such a quick-strike approach, even if for no other reason than your own self-protection. **“For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment”** (James 2:13)

(OVER)

**4) Examine yourself. “Brothers, if someone is caught in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual should restore such a person with a gentle spirit, watching out for yourselves so you also won’t be tempted”.**

(Gal. 6:1) Even if we’re not the one stumbling at the moment, we’ve stumbled before and we’ll stumble again. That’s why every Christian, when noticing a brother or sister struggling, always needs to know where to find the nearest mirror. Examining ourselves first will help us watch more carefully what we do and say to them.

As long as we’re in close proximity to other believers – and they with us – there will be ample opportunity to notice each other’s flaws. But let’s take these opportunities to help make each other better, spreading hope instead of gossip.

**Let us Pray:**

Lord God, You alone are perfectly good, holy and blameless. You have set high standards, knowing our fullest blessing will only come from being totally surrendered to Your will and Your Word. But You are “**rich in mercy**”. (Eph. 2:4) You have shown us Your love “**in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us**” (Rom. 5:8) Help me, O Lord, to be an example of Your patience, gentleness and perspective toward those who, like me, are prone to fall short of what You’ve called us to be and do. In Jesus’ merciful name, I pray. Amen

Your fellow servant in the Lord;

Mike Brown, President

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church & School

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*“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7)*