

# The Messenger

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## 2018: A Year of Marriage MARCH: Teaching Our Children about Marriage

In an age-appropriate fashion, Christian children need to be taught about marriage. As Christian parents and as a Christian congregation, we should remember the serious responsibility and solemn duty that we have to teach our children God's Word. Marriage is one of the most basic and fundamental teachings of God's Word (just read the opening pages of the Bible, Genesis 1 and 2, which we covered in February); so, there is no question that we should be teaching marriage—in an age-appropriate manner, to be sure. Let's never forget that if we do not teach our children, the world will. (On our responsibility to teach our children God's Word, see Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Proverbs 1:8; Ephesians 6:4; Large Catechism I, 173-174)

When it comes to marriage, **what** should we teach our children? What points should we emphasize? Many points, certainly, but I think one stands out above the rest: *God's children should learn to think about marriage as something very good, as something they should desire.* We often ask children what they want to be when they grow up, and we expect and encourage answers like a doctor, a fireman, or an astronaut. Why don't we encourage children with equal enthusiasm to want to be married? Marriage is a good gift from God! As we said last month, marriage according to our Creator's design provides many benefits, including companionship, God-pleasing sexual fulfillment, and help and support in life's challenges. Marriage provides the environment in which two people can practice sacrificially loving each other (and any children God may be pleased to give them). (This does not diminish the fact that according to the Bible it is good to remain single. It merely acknowledges the reality that God has given relatively few people the gift of remaining contentedly single, and so for them marriage will be God's plan. A future pastor's article will say more on this.)

So, children should be taught to regard marriage as something very good. And **how** do we go about teaching this truth? In two ways: by our words and by our example. First, we should consciously and deliberately talk about marriage as being God's good gift, the lifelong union of a man and a woman in faithful and committed love. We should read Genesis 1 and 2 often, as well as portions of the epistles like Ephesians 5 and 1 Corinthians 13 ("Love is patient, love is kind, etc."). We should also teach our children the 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment and Martin Luther's explanation of it: "We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other." That's the first part, our words.



The second way we should teach our children is by our example. Let's remember that kids learn at least as much from what they see as from what we say. We may be saying all the right things, our doctrine may be as pure as the spring rain, but if the marriage we model for our children is devoid of love, care, and tenderness, what will the children finally learn? All of us Christian husbands and wives will need to run to God daily and confess our weakness and our sin, and beg for His grace and forgiveness. We will want to ask God to grant us His Holy Spirit for an increase of love and kindness in our marriage, so that our children can see the beauty of the marital bond when God blesses it. This is especially the case if our marriage has ended in divorce. Then we must exhibit special humility to our children as well as sincerity, acknowledging to them that we made mistakes in our marriage and we are sorry for them. Then, even though they may not have not seen a successful marriage, they *will have seen* parents who fear God and live by faith in the Gospel.

This month is Confirmation for our 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Among the doctrines these three young men have learned is the doctrine of creation, including sexuality and marriage. Join me in prayer for Damien, Nicholas, and Joey, not only that they would remain faithful to the triune God all the days of their lives (which is the most important thing), but also that with regard to marriage they would experience God's abundant blessing within a Christian marriage some day. While they wait for that day, may God grant them to be maturing as young Christian gentlemen, respectful and honoring of the opposite sex. May we as a congregation support their families in teaching them, in word and example, God's beautiful truth about sexuality and marriage. May God richly bless all the children of Beautiful Savior to know and experience God's gift of marriage.

*Pastor Groth*



### **Lenten Opportunities for Individual Confession & Absolution**

During Lent we take a careful look at our hearts and repent of the sin we find dwelling there. If you would like the ministry of individual confession and absolution to assist you in finding peace, comfort of conscience, and strength to live a holy life, take note of two special times before Easter that you may meet privately with Pastor Groth: Saturday, March 17 and Saturday, March 24, both days from 10-noon.

# What to give up for Lent

by David H. Petersen

Giving up some small pleasure for Lent, like chocolate or coffee, can be a nice way to remind ourselves throughout Lent that it is Lent. When we reach out for those things we remember that we are denying ourselves in commemoration of Our Lord's suffering.

This isn't meant to please God or gain His favor. Nor can such a small denial make Lent more meaningful or increase faith. It is simply an attempt to keep ourselves mindful throughout the day that it is Lent. That is a valid Christian desire and discipline.

Curbing the flesh is always good. Cutting calories is probably appropriate for almost everyone reading this, and (though I hate to admit it) cutting caffeine would probably hurt few of us either.

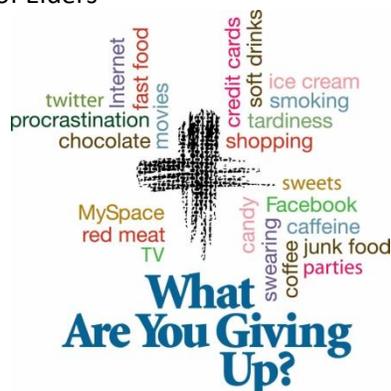
But Lent isn't ultimately about giving things up. Its purpose is not self-improvement in the conventional sense. Instead Lent is a season of preparation. We are preparing to celebrate Easter and the Church is always prepared in the same way: by repentance.

True repentance is not simply feeling sorry, and it certainly isn't an emotional frenzy of despair. Nor is it merely an outward discipline for the world to see. True repentance means turning away from sin in sorrow and also turning toward God in joy. That is to say, that true repentance is faith. It expects forgiveness. It trusts in Christ to give it. Judas was not truly repentant (Matthew 27:3-5). He was only remorseful. He did not think he could be forgiven. He did not trust Jesus to love him. In contrast, St. Peter was repentant (Mark 14:66-72). He was more than remorseful. He was sorry for his sins and ashamed of what he had done, but even more than this, he trusted in Christ to be merciful.

Lent is therefore not so much a time of "giving things up" as it is a time for adding things that increase our awareness of God's mercy in Christ Jesus. When Lent leads us to repentance, it isn't to make us sad or to somehow get God's attention. It is to strengthen our faith. Part of that strengthening includes an increased awareness of our great need — and yes, that often means a stern preaching of the Law. But that is not the real mark or purpose of Lent. For Lent also includes, and is mostly focused on, the solution to that need: the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our redemption. Nearly all of our churches will add midweek services during Lent and also Holy Week services, not for the primary purpose of preaching the Law but rather that we might have more opportunities to receive God's forgiveness, hear His Word and receive His Sacrament.

So if you're looking for something to give up this Lent, I suggest you give up a few hours each Wednesday evening and go to Church. Don't do it to make yourself sad. Do it for the joy of hearing God's Word and receiving His gifts. There, by the means of Grace, repentance is educated and edified and faith is fed. That is what Lent is meant for.

The Rev. David H. Petersen is the pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Ft. Wayne, Ind.  
Submitted by Calvin Meisner for the Board of Elders



## THOSE SERVING IN MARCH

### Ushers

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Dan Adams

Scott Davidson

Roger Ruff

Fred Brechbuhl

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### Elders

3/4 Cliff Evans & Mike Brown

3/7 7 pm Mike Brown

3/11 Cal Meisner & Rick Mericle

3/14 7 pm Cliff Evans & Mike Brown

3/18 Cliff Evans & Mike Brown

3/21 7 pm Cliff Evans

3/25 Cal Meisner & Rick Mericle

3/29 7 pm Cal Meisner & Rick Mericle

3/30 7 pm Rick Mericle

### Acolytes

3/4 Joey Weinstock

3/11 Damien & Bradley Dittrich

3/14 7 pm Nicholas Little

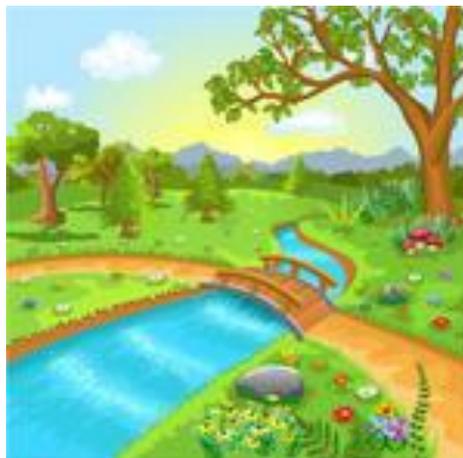
3/18 Joey Weinstock

3/25 Bradley Dittrich

3/29 7 pm Nicholas Little

### Altar Guild

Jeanne Mericle and Sandy Akmenkalns





### March Birthdays

- Mar. 5 Corrie Rose
- 11 Juno Benson
- 12 Michele Robey
- 15 Jackie Adams  
Bill Wheeler
- 16 Don Johnson  
Wyonne Sylvester
- 20 Ron Wolff
- 21 Nancy Ruckman
- 28 Ahren Davenport  
Ron Savage
- 29 Cindy Hein



### March Anniversaries

- Mar. 9 Gary and Nancy Ruckman
- 10 Charlie and Dawn Weinstock



### “Fifty Days of Easter” Catechism Reading Plan

The Easter season begins April 1<sup>st</sup> (and that’s no joke). As Easter is a church season of 50 days, consider trying out a 50 day reading plan for the new edition of Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation. The reading plan is available from the church office.

## Participate in 40 Days for Life ~ March 16



Lutherans For Life Denver invites you to join in the prayer-focused program of compassion called Forty Days for Life. Come together to stand up for the dignity and worth of unborn children, their mothers, those currently employed in abortion clinics, and all of our neighbors. On Friday, March 16, at the Planned Parenthood clinic near the old Stapleton airport, Pastor Groth and family will be manning the 9AM time slot; we will be walking along the sidewalk and singing hymns and praying. It is a simple ministry of presence and prayer. Talk to Pastor if you are interested in coming along on the 16<sup>th</sup>. At all events, please keep Forty Days for Life in your prayers this Lent, that women would be supported to choose life for their unborn babies. Thank you.



### Miss Matins? Don’t Miss the Sunday Service on March 11.

Since moving to one Sunday morning worship service, and offering Holy Communion every Sunday, we have pretty much lost the chance to worship God using the order of Matins (which many of our members love). Good News: On the Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 11<sup>th</sup>, we will use Matins within a larger service starting with Confession and Absolution and concluding with the Service of the Sacrament. Don’t miss it.



## ***“The Lutheran Hour”*** **Sermon Schedule for March 2018**

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 more than 1600 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)**

- March 4<sup>th</sup>**     **“When God's Darkness Surrounds You”** (Exodus 20:1-17)  
When times are darkest, God wants you to know how close He really is. It's in those threatening times that you can especially learn and live in His love.  
(Lutheran Hour Guest Speaker: **Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer**)
- March 11<sup>th</sup>**   **“Condemned Already”** (John 3:19-21)  
Some things just work better in the dark. You know, things like watching for shooting stars and getting a good night's sleep or dreaming about the future. People love the darkness for a lot of reasons, and not all of them are good.  
(Lutheran Hour Guest Speaker: **Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus**)
- March 18<sup>th</sup>**   **“Thrown into the Arms of God”** (Mark 10:32-45)  
The desire to advance your own interests can alienate you from others and God. Serving others without thought of reward is God's way forward for followers of Jesus.  
(Lutheran Hour Guest Speaker: **Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer**)
- March 25<sup>th</sup>**   **“And They Crucified Him”** (Mark 14:24a)  
Next week The Lutheran Hour celebrates the Savior's resurrection. Today we mourn the unjust murder of the Savior by considering the text: “And they crucified Him.”  
(Lutheran Hour Guest Speaker: **Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus**)

**NOW AVAILABLE!**  
**FREE “Outreach Training Resources” at Your Fingertips**  
[www.lhm.org/learn](http://www.lhm.org/learn)

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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**



## *Our Stewardship Message*

(March 2018)

Hudson Taylor, a Nineteenth Century British missionary to China, is reported to have said, “God’s work, done in God’s way, will not lack God’s supply.” To know God’s way, we need to know His Holy Word. Or to say it another way: you need to know your Bible.

St. Paul, before he spends two chapters on giving, wrote that every thought is to be taken captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor. 10:5).

Doctrine matters. And doctrine matters because the Scriptures matter. And the Scriptures matter because this is where we learn the teaching of Christ. Our thoughts must be brought into line with the teaching of Scripture so that our work is what God wants done and so that we do this work in His way.

A good tree bears good fruit. A bad tree bears bad fruit. We have been made good trees in holy baptism. We are fertilized and pruned for bearing good fruit by constantly hearing God’s Word preached and taught in sermon and Bible Class and in receiving the life-giving, faith-sustaining food of the Lord’s Supper. Remember your doctrine, hold on to the Lord’s teaching, and your thoughts will be taken captive to the obedience of Christ.

Bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ is recognizing that God does provide. The Lord’s Prayer teaches us to pray for daily bread. Praying this day in and day out reminds us that the Lord is the giver of our daily bread, and that we are to give thanks for His daily provision of it.

God is rarely early and never late in His work, as Abraham learned, “on the mount of the Lord it will be provided” (Gen. 22:14). The Lord’s generosity forms our generosity in return. Thus, we set aside for the work of God a generous, first-fruits, proportion of the daily bread that God has given to us. This act of trust in the Lord’s provision is the working out of our faith in Him.

When budgetary discussions pop up, our natural reaction is to point fingers. But remember your doctrine, and what your mother taught about pointing fingers. Our first natural reaction is not always right. In fact, when our thoughts are brought into captivity of Christ, our first reaction should be repentance.

It should raise questions in our own lives. As good trees in Christ who are to bear good fruit, we should ask whether our thoughts are taken captive by obedience to Christ. Have we given generously? Have we given our first-fruits? You know. And God knows. “For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him” (2 Chron. 16:9).

God will provide. He always has and He always will. He gives His meat in due season. He has not left you as orphans, but has grafted you into His own family. You belong to Him. Remember this, letting this thought dwell in you richly. And you will then be rich toward others.

*We are “Consecrated Stewards” to the Glory of God!*



**Easter is April 1<sup>st</sup> this year.** 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 Easter cards from anyone wishing to send them.

- Mr. & Mrs. John (Elaine) Brinkey, 11121 Dahlia Way, Thornton, CO 80233  
Mrs. Dixie Cassily, 12919 Lafayette Street, Unit G, Thornton, CO 80241  
Mrs. Maxine Craiger, 269 Garnet Street, Broomfield, CO 80020  
Mrs. Gerd Crandall, 500 W. 123<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Apt. 3418, Westminster, CO 80234  
Mrs. Wilda Davenport 1232 Tipperary, Boulder, CO 80303  
Mr. Hubert Diedrichs, The Argyle, 4115 W. 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Room 213, Denver, CO 80212  
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  
Mr. & Mrs. John (Kitty) McDaniel, 15 Carla Circle, 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. Iola Park, 323 Eaton St., Apt. 414, Lakewood, CO 80226  
Mrs. Don Sall, 12610 Hudson Street, Apt. 317, Thornton, CO 80241  
Mr. & Mrs. Ron (Jeanie) Savage, 2001 W. 92<sup>nd</sup> Ave, #766, Federal Heights, CO 80260  
Mr. Bill Schierkolk, 11150 Irving Drive, Apt. 102, Westminster, CO 80031  
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  
Mrs. Verna Walsh, 12975 Sheridan Blvd., Room 231, Broomfield, CO 80020

