



PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*A Congregation in Mission, Community and Service*

# *PILGRIM'S PROGRESS*

**MAY 2020**

PASTOR: Rev. Ben Eder

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

EDITOR: Mary Werth

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY: 9:30 AM

ASSOC. EDITOR:

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM



## **The wine of the Spirit**

“No one puts new wine into old wineskins,” said Jesus (Luke 5:37). Drawing on this statement, a preacher in sixth-century Africa proclaimed in a Pentecost homily:

“It was with good reason, then, that some people, when they heard the apostles speaking in every tongue, said, ‘They are filled with the new wine.’ For they had become fresh wineskins, they had been renewed by the grace of holiness, so that when they were filled with the new wine, that is, with the Holy Spirit, they spoke with fervor in every tongue. . . . Celebrate, then, this day as members of the one body of Christ. Your celebration will not be in vain if you are what you celebrate, if you hold fast to the church which the Lord filled with his Holy Spirit.”

Fifteen centuries later, may that call still resonate with us. May we be so renewed by God’s grace as to be worthy vessels of the new wine of the Holy Spirit — and to share it with the world.

## **Ministry in daily life**

Thomas Dreier (1884-1976) was on the path to ministry, according to a biographer, but then decided to “preach broadly, free from orthodox limitations.” During successful careers in publishing and business, Dreier offered much inspiration — including these words to which we all can aspire:

“To greet the day with reverence for the opportunities it contains . . . to hold ever before me, even in the doing of little things, the Ultimate Purpose toward which I am working; to meet men and women with laughter on my lips and love in my heart; to be gentle, kind and courteous through all the hours; to approach the night with . . . the joy that comes from work well done, this is how I desire to spend wisely my days.”

## **Adopted by God**

Anecdotes abound of couples who become pregnant soon after finalizing a long-awaited adoption. A *Reader’s Digest* contributor recounts how one such mother later handled well-meaning inquiries about which child was “hers” (biologically). She replied: “I’ve forgotten.”

That mindset, perhaps, is why John Piper calls adoption “a picture of the Gospel.” God, through his Son Jesus, makes us his very own eternally beloved children.

Max Lucado writes: “If anybody understands God’s ardor for his children, it’s someone who has rescued an orphan from despair, for that is what God has done for us. God has adopted you. God sought you, found you, signed the papers and took you home.”



<b>Carolyn Alessi</b>	<b>May 8</b>
<b>Tyrone Bryant</b>	<b>May 9</b>
<b>Jim Miller</b>	<b>May 16</b>
<b>Mark Eder</b>	<b>May 18</b>



**May 17**                      **Frank & Carolyn Alessi**

## **Special dates**

- National Day of Prayer, *May 7, 2020*
  - Mother's Day, *May 10, 2020*
- Armed Forces Day, *May 16, 2020*
- Victoria Day (Canada), *May 18, 2020*
  - Ascension Day, *May 21, 2020*
  - Memorial Day, *May 25, 2020*
  - Pentecost, *May 31, 2020*



## **UPDATE ON “THE SOUTH SUDAN RELIEF”**

I am pleased to inform the members of Pilgrim that we reached over the initial goal and collected \$1700 for the “South Sudan Relief Effort”. Akuor wants to extend a sincere thank you and praise for the love and prayers that have been given to her homeland. Bless you all!

Carol Obot & Akuor Amanyia



## **ESTHER CIRCLE**

The May meeting at 12:30 pm on 5/11 is cancelled. The Pot Faith scheduled for Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, will depend on whether there will be church services resuming by then.

**REMINDER!** Continue to collect these items and once we meet again, give to the designated person: your loose change for mites to Karen Smith, used stamps and printer cartridges to Pat Watkins and Dash’s receipts to Sue Holway. Thank you!

It’s true our current circumstance comes with challenges. It’s also true that we have the power to choose how we respond. We can see them as setbacks that are causing pain or opportunities to draw us closer together and strengthen our relationship with GOD. We can reach out to one another and still keep 6 feet apart!

God bless you and keep you healthy & safe!

Carol Obot & Sue Holway



If you would like a new way to serve your Lord, we have a suggestion. You can serve God by preparing Pilgrim's altar for worship services. We are badly in need of several more Altar Guild members.

The purpose of the Altar Guild is 3-fold: to serve, to further spiritual commitment, and to accomplish spiritual goals. First, we serve by making sure the church is maintained and set up for the times and seasons of the church year. This includes setting up the Communion service and then washing and putting away the vessels after the service. It also includes changing the altar cloths and banners, checking envelopes and pencils in the pews, dusting the windowsills and pews, and listing the hymns on the board. We can all participate—young and old, men and women.

Secondly, commitment is a requirement. We are serving God's people so we need to be reliable, devoted to the tasks, humble and reverent in this work, and joyful for the privilege.

Thirdly, this work is done for the glory of our Lord: to communicate the Gospel and glorify God, to strengthen the worshippers in faith and love, and to maintain ceremonies and practices that preserve good order in the church.

Please pray about this and consider whether you could serve in this way. Currently 5 people make up Pilgrim's Altar Guild. You may contact Mary Werth or Sue Holway. We will show you what we do, work WITH you, and accommodate a flexible schedule.





# A MUSIC NOTE

## Hymns of the Church: He's Risen, He's Risen

The hymn I selected for Pilgrim's May *Pilgrim's Progress*, ***He's Risen, He's Risen***, was written by C. F.W. Walther (1811-1887), first President of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. He is credited in Hymnary.org as having written the text and melody of two hymns, but hymn 480 is the sole contribution to our **Lutheran Service Book**. Since he was composer of both text and melody, I will share a little about the hymn's translator, Anna M. Meyer (1867-1941) at the end of the piece.

### **The Hymn: He's Risen, He's Risen:**

He's risen, He's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord; He opened death's prison, the incarnate, true Word.  
Break forth hosts of heaven, in jubilant song And earth, sea and mountain their praises prolong.

The foe was triumphant, when on Calvary The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.  
In Satan's domain did the hosts shout and jeer, For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.

But short was their triumph; the Savior Arose, And death, hell and Satan, He vanquished His foes.  
The conquering Lord lifts His banner on high; He lives, yes, He lives, and will never more die.

O, where is your sting death? We fear you no more; Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.  
For all our transgressions His blood does atone; Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.

Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice; Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.  
Laud, honor and praise to the Lamb that was slain; *\*Who sitteth in glory and ever shall reign.*

- *These words were Walther's original*      LSB With father and Spirit He ever shall reign.

### **The Writer's Story:**

Walther, who is commemorated by the church *Calendar of Saints* on, May 7<sup>th</sup>, was born in Langenchursdorf, Germany, in what was the Kingdom of Saxony. His father was a minister. Jon Vieker, narrator of a YouTube presentation about Walther shares: "Walther's first love was music. He played piano. At the age of 18, he wrote in his diary, 'I feel that my whole life is meant for nothing but music.'" But he soon realized he would never aspire to become the musician he hoped, and his life took a new direction. His father "gave him a dollar a week" to join his brother, Otto, and study theology at the University of Leipzig.

In Leipzig, the first crisis of Walther's life occurred. He contracted a near fatal lung disease and had to postpone his studies for six months to recuperate. It is also during this time, at Leipzig, that he met Martin Stephan and began to read the works of Martin Luther. Germany's academic and political culture at the time was influenced by Rationalism. In contrast, as Walther read Luther, he became convinced that Luther's theology clearly taught the pure doctrine of God's Word and opposed the teachings of Rational Theology. As Walther and other conservative Lutherans began to see the importance of a firm confessional position, both for the Church and for each individual believer, their dissention eventually led to the emigration of 800 Saxon Lutherans, under the leadership of Martin Stephan, to America. The settlers arrived in New Orleans on January 5, 1839 and then traveled on to Missouri, settling in St. Louis, or Perry County, Missouri.

At this time, a second series of trials began for Walther. While settled in Perry County and pastor of a dual parish there, his friend and mentor, Martin Stephan, was accused of financial and sexual misconduct causing his expulsion from the settlement. Stephan's departure left Walther and the other clergy to deal with the deeply disturbed group of settlers. Then in April of 1841, Ferdinand Walther's brother, Otto, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Louis, died. Again, the new settlement was shaken. They began to question if they were still a church. They had come from a country with a State Church. How did they fit in as a group of congregations in this new land? Walther stepped out in faith to lead a series of debates, now known as the Altenburg Debates, where he convinced the community that they could validly consider themselves to be a church. He then accepted the call to his brother's congregation, Trinity Lutheran Church, in St. Louis, where he served from 1841 until his death. So, we see evident in his life, Walther's bold confessional faith.

Walther worked tirelessly for the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, founding the log cabin college in 1839, which eventually became Concordia Seminary. Walther became the college's first president and held that position for the rest of his life. When the LCMS was founded in 1847, Walther became its first president, serving from 1847 to 1850. (He also served as synodical president from 1864-1878.) By 1860, completely exhausted from the responsibilities of his congregation, school and the new synod, Walther took a trip back to Germany for a much-deserved rest. Biographers mention that on the voyage back to Germany, he was so exhausted he wondered if his death was eminent. But on Easter morning 1860, traveling in this place of weakness, Walther's heart was open to write the glorious hymn, *He's Risen, He's Risen!*

Please take a minute to read the stanzas of the hymn again and let them become a "sermon" proclaimed by C. F. W. Walther to you.

### **The Hymn's Message:**

The texts used for the hymn are from 1 Corinthians 15:35- 58; Romans 5:9-11 and Revelation 5:12-13 *He's Risen, He's Risen* begins with a glorious proclamation! Christ the Lord, the incarnate Word of God has opened death's prison! During this, or any time of suffering in our life, or the life of the Church, this Word is our Promise, Assurance and Hope. It is sealed by the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. The end of the first verse takes us to Revelation 5:13 where the apostle John writes, "Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them singing, 'to Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power forever!'"

Verses two and three do exactly what C.F. W. Walther believed every hymn should do, preach both Law and Gospel. In verses two and three we hear of Jesus's sacrificial love for us and our own sin which "nailed the Lord of creation to the tree." We are reminded that Jesus's death was also heard in Satan's domain when the "triumphant, Son of God arose" and "vanquished death, hell and Satan," the very foes he came to destroy. Verse concludes with words that bring joy to every believer's heart, "he lives, yes, he lives, and will never more die!"

Verse four begins with a paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 15: 54-57 where Paul connects our "victory through Jesus Christ our Lord" with the Old Testament prophecy of Hosea 13:14, "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" Walther continues the paraphrase with preaching the truth that Jesus's blood atones for all our transgressions; therefore, we are redeemed and forgiven - God's own!

Verse five is a song of praise and again takes us to the throne of God where, in Revelation 5, thousand upon thousand angels sing, "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" I personally like Walther's original wording at the close of the hymn, *Who sitteth in glory and ever shall reign*" because to me it continues the song of the angels in Revelations 5:12. But the conclusion of the hymn as presented in the **Lutheran Service Book**, the doxology, is also beautiful.

### **Translator of the hymn: Anna M Meyer (1867-1941)**

Because Walther composed the music of the hymn, I wanted to share a few words about the translator of the hymn. Although the Lutheran Church –Missouri Synod was founded in the United States, the German language was spoken in most Lutheran Churches until WWI. So Anna M. Meyer, a Lutheran School teacher translated this, and other hymns, into English. Anna's Father was a Lutheran teacher who emigrated from Poland. After

he moved to the United States, he became a pastor in the LCMS. Anna grew up in parsonages in Michigan and Wisconsin. In 1893, Anna married Pastor Christian Meyer of Howard, SD. In addition to translating hymns, Anna served many congregations in the Midwest as a teacher and pastor's wife.

**Ways You Can Learn More about C.F.W. Walther:**

In 2011 the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod celebrated C. F. W. Walther's bicentennial. You can very easily access several short and informative videos by typing C.F.W. Walther on You Tube.

Concordia Publishing House offers many books on Walther and you can also order the first LCMS Hymnal edited by Walther: **Kirchen Gesang Buch** or **Walther's Hymnal** in English from Concordia Publishing House.org.

**Acknowledgements:**

Information regarding the hymn **He's Risen, He's Risen: Lutheran Service Book**, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO 2006.

Information regarding C.F.W. Walther: [www.Hymnary.org/person/C.F.W.Walther](http://www.Hymnary.org/person/C.F.W.Walther); [www.wikipedia/C.F.W.Walther](http://www.wikipedia/C.F.W.Walther); You Tube/C. F. W. Walther/bicentennial.

Information regarding Anna M. Meyer: [blog.cph.org/worship/the-women-of-the-lutheran-church](http://blog.cph.org/worship/the-women-of-the-lutheran-church) "*The Women of the Lutheran Service Book You Might not Know.*"

Scripture Verses: **Today's Light Bible: A Two-year Journey Through the Bible, LWML, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Missouri, 1999.**

Submitted by Sharon L. McGuan April 29, 2020



## **A hymn's long journey**

The beloved hymn "How Great Thou Art" came together across many years and miles. In 1885, when Swedish preacher Carl Boberg wrote a poem titled "O, Great God," he probably never dreamed he would hear it performed years later to an old Swedish tune. Or that a Russian version would impact Stuart Hine, an English missionary to Poland, several decades later. Hine penned his own English version, resulting in the now-familiar lyrics.

From "the rolling thunder" echoing off the Carpathian Mountains, to the "woods and forest glades" of Romania, to powerful conversions to Christianity, Hine was inspired to craft each verse. Sometimes the Holy Spirit takes time to complete a work, and that journey is as important as the destination.





## John's Gospel the Focus of Latest LHM Learn Course

Sign up now to explore the Gospel of John, the newest four-session course from LHM Learn. In *The Sent Life: A Study of Sending in the Gospel of John*, you will see how God has sent each of us into the world to share His Good News. The course was created in partnership with Concordia Bible Institute and was written by Dr. Brian German, assistant professor of theology at Concordia University Wisconsin and director of the Concordia Bible Institute. Downloadable resources for *The Sent Life* include a printable journal, discussion guide, video transcript, and tip sheet for use with small groups.

All LHM Learn online courses are FREE and need only your registration to use. To check out this course and the others at LHM Learn, you can [click here](#). Don't forget too that you can start and stop courses mid-stream, returning later to where you left off, so they are ideal for people with busy schedules. They're also excellent to use in small groups and to share with those who have questions on topics they address.

Online courses from LHM Learn fall into five different faith-strengthening categories. Here they are:

- \* Christian Foundations (the basics of Christianity from biblical, theological, and historical perspectives)
- \* Cultural Concepts (resources to understand the different demographics, cultures, and religions in our world today)
- \* Everyday Insights (thoughts about the good and bad that life throws our way)
- \* Outreach Essentials (personal evangelism and tools to reach others with the Gospel)
- \* Spiritual Reflections (devotional thoughts meant to strengthen and encourage)

## We Get Together When Speaking of Jesus

This new podcast from LHM lets listeners tune into what others are saying about following Jesus. Inspired by **The Lutheran Hour** sermon for that Sunday, Speaker Rev. Mike Zeigler and co-host Jessica Bordeleau exchange views with panel guests on the message and what it means to them.

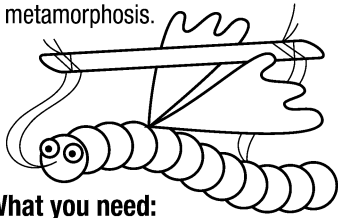
For each of us, faith is expressed in different ways, especially as it plays out in our day-to-day lives. "Speaking of Jesus" captures this group dynamic. It shows how God works in our lives through our personal contexts and relationships. The conversation is unscripted, but the dialogue is focused and on point.

You can find the podcast by [clicking here](#).

When you listen to LHM podcasts, be sure to share these ministry resources with others you know, too. We want to hear your feedback. After you subscribe, please leave us a review, and rate the podcast.

# CHANGED!

Make this cute puppet to show and tell the amazing story of metamorphosis.



## What you need:

- Needle and string
- 12 small pom-poms
- Wooden craft stick
- Scissors
- Googly eyes
- Glue
- Coffee filter
- Markers

## What you do:

1. Sew pom-poms together to make a caterpillar body. Tie off that string.
2. Thread another string up through the first pom-pom, leaving 12 inches to dangle. Repeat with the ninth pom-pom, leaving two dangling strings.
3. Wrap those strings around opposite ends of the stick, adjusting their length to about 6 inches. Tie in place.
4. Glue on eyes.
5. Flatten the coffee filter and draw a symmetrical design on it. Pleat in the center to create wings.
6. Move the caterpillar puppet by holding the stick. Glue on the wings as you describe the transformation into a butterfly.



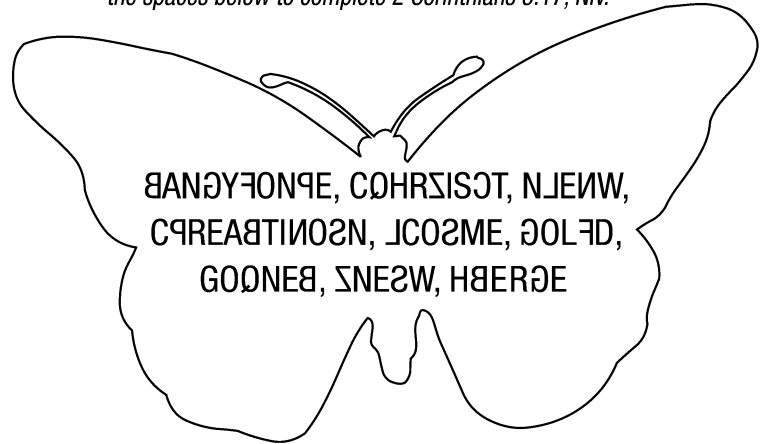
# Transformation POWER



Just as the caterpillar becomes a butterfly, God transforms us from old to new.



*Directions: Cross out the backward letters. Write the remaining letters in order in the spaces below to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.*



Therefore, if \_\_\_\_\_ is in \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
the \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_ :

The \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_ ,

the \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ !

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: anyone, Christ, new, creation, come, old, gone, new, here

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE JUNE NEWSLETTER IS MAY 24<sup>TH</sup> (subject to change).**