

## “CHEERS & TEARS”



Cheers to **CHASE GANN** who place 3<sup>rd</sup> in his division in weapons at the ATA world competition. Way to go Chase!

Cheers to everyone who has been helping take down the chambers and cleaning the choir loft.

Cheers to **ALAN LETTERMAN** who fixed the drain in the kitchenette in the choir room and the men's bathroom in the CFR. Thanks!

Cheers to **DONNA SENSMEIER**, who celebrated her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

Cheers to **KEN FEHD**, who celebrated his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on July 26<sup>th</sup>.



Tears to the Family and Friends of:  
**RUTH MANS** who died on June 17<sup>th</sup>  
**KEN TEMME** who died on June 20<sup>th</sup>

If anyone has a thank you of appreciation, please let Trisha know and she will put them in the next newsletter.

## THANK YOU

Thanks for all the thoughts and prayers while I was laid up.

Ray Laughbaum

Just a note to communicate that your patronage with our company is recognized. We truly appreciate you allowing us to partner with you for your building material needs. Thank you very much!

Kurt Kirchner – Kirchner Building Center



Formally Worship for Shut-ins  
Can be seen Daily 7:30 AM & 7:30 PM WOW Channel 9  
Direct TV Channel 377 Sunday Mornings at 11:30 AM

### August 5, 2018 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 145:10-21; Old Testament: Exodus 16:2-15; Gospel: John 6:22-35  
“The Bread of Life” - Sermon Text: John 6:22-35 - *Rev. Dr. Daniel Brege*

### August 12, 2018 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 34:1-8; Epistle: Ephesians 4:31-5:2; Gospel: John 6:35-40  
“Try It! You’ll Like It!” - Sermon Text: Psalm 34:8 - *Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer*

### August 19, 2018 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 111:1-5, 9-10; Old Testament: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Gospel: John 6:51, 60-69  
“Those Difficult Places” - Sermon Text: John 6:51, 60-69 - *Rev. James Elsner*

### August 26, 2018 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 14; Old Testament: Isaiah 29:11-19; Gospel: Mark 7:1-13  
“Lip Service or Heart Service?” - Sermon Text: Isaiah 29:11-19 - *Rev. William Mueller*

**PICTURE DIRECTORY:** The Stewardship Committee has decided it is time for an updated picture directory! Since no one likes to be pressured to buy photos you don't need, we have decided to take a more informal approach. Summer is a time for family gatherings and pictures. We are asking that you share one of those photos to be used in the directory. An electronic photo can be e-mailed or a hard copy can be placed in the Stewardship box in the office. Please be sure to completely label all individuals. Electronic photos can be e-mailed to: [valeberhart@yahoo.com](mailto:valeberhart@yahoo.com). We will be accepting these until Sept. 1, 2018.

**STEWARDSHIP:** Following our Loyalty Dinner on October 21<sup>st</sup>, we are to hear from the **REV. MICHAEL W. SALEMINK**, executive director of our Lutheran for Life. The Rev. Mr. Salemink has served in this position since January 1, 2016. He has also served as pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Webster, Minnesota and as associate pastor of St. James Lutheran Church in Lafayette, Indiana. **SAVE THE DATE** to hear this enlightening and encouraging address!

# CHURCH PICNIC AUGUST 19<sup>th</sup>

Fun for the whole Family Games

Clabber Tournament

Attendance Prizes

Ice Cream Floats

Food—Fun—Fellowship

Uncle Tom's Fried Chicken, Grandma's Lemonade, Aunt Millie's Iced Tea and Tableware will be provided.

Bring a Covered Dish, Salad and/or Dessert to share.

Casual Dress for church.

**NEW ADDRESSES:**

**Walt Somers** - 6521 Greendale Drive Room 115; 47711; 812-228-7545

**Nina Thurman** - 1200 W Buena Vista Road Apt 124; 47710; 812/550-1181

During the month of July, the following people were in the hospital, had surgery, recovering at home or our shut-ins – **JIM RUFF, RAY LAUGHBAUM, ROGER DENNIS, CHARLIE VANSTONE, DOT TEMME, GLORIA CLARK, KEN FEHD, JEFF SENSMEIER, TOM & DORIS TURPIN, AL ARENDT, WALT SOMERS, DONNA SENSMEIER, NEAL WATHEN, NINA THURMAN, GIL KAHRE, PAUL SCHNUTE, ALTON REININGA, MARGARET CHEANEY, LOIS KAHRE, KERRY KECK, ROBERT KRON, and WANDA MILLER.**

**CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

Saturday, July 30.....	14
Sunday, July 1.....	65
Saturday, July 7.....	13
Sunday July 8.....	84
Saturday, July 21.....	6
Sunday, July 22.....	65

**SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

	<u>July 1</u>	<u>July 8</u>	<u>July 15</u>	<u>July 22</u>
Nursery – High School (plus teachers & parents)	0	2	7	5
Adult Bible Classes	25	31	27	18
Music & Office	2	2	3	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>25</b>

## WHAT'S COMING UP

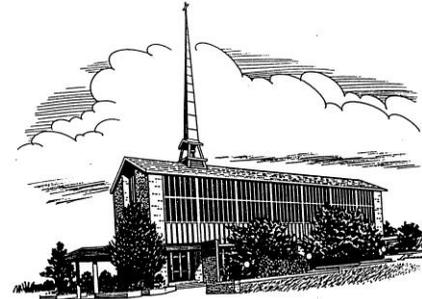
**NEWSLETTER ITEMS:** If you have an item for the monthly newsletter it must be in no later than the 20<sup>th</sup> of every month! Nothing will be accepted after business hours on the 20<sup>th</sup>. You can also submit items by emailing them to: [trisha@tldarm.org](mailto:trisha@tldarm.org)

**SARAH BIBLE CLASS** to consider Luther's Small catechism – “Old” & “New” on August 16<sup>th</sup> in the CFR. Last year, our Concordia Publishing House brought out a new edition of “Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation”. Why? Certainly not because any of the six chief parts of Dr. Luther's Small Catechism required revision. However, as was noted in a resolution voted by our Synod in convention in 2013, there have been “many changes in the understanding and society” since the Explanation was last revised in 1991. To deal with these changes in understanding, a more comprehensive Explanation has been developed. Accordingly, the August 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Sarah Bible Class is to focus on “Dr. Luther's Small Catechism – ‘Old’ & ‘New’.” Please bring the Catechism used in your Confirmation preparation to the CFR to begin study at 9:30 AM. Coffee, treats and fellowship available beginning at 9:00 AM.

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

DARMSTADT

## NEWSLETTER



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### Formula of Concord Article 11 - God's Eternal Election

Maybe you have thought to yourself at some time, “How *lucky* I am to be a Christian. Wasn't it fortunate that by some *chance* I was born in a Christian country, or had Christian parents, or a Christian friend or spouse that told me about Jesus. If I had been born in a Muslim country or into a family that was Hindu or Buddhist, I would have likely remained in that false religion. I may have never heard the good news of Jesus Christ and been saved. Wasn't I *lucky*?” You breathe a sigh of relief. Or maybe you have thought, “It's a good thing that when I heard the Gospel I had the *sense* to accept it and the *determination* to remain steadfast while others around me heard the same message but rejected it.” You give yourself a pat on the back.

But my dear Christian friend, your salvation is no luck, nor did it result from your good sense and fervent determination. Rather your salvation is all part of God's eternal plan and work through his Son Jesus Christ and his Holy Spirit. And it is all by his grace. We understand this truth from the many passages of Scripture which teach about God's eternal election of grace. You see, before you were born, even before the beginning of the world, God *chose* you, he *electe*d you, he *predestine*d you to eternal life. The apostle Paul writes, “For [God the Father] *chose* us in [Christ] before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he *predestine*d us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will--to the praise of his glorious *grace*, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.” (Eph. 1:4-6) But God's election of you to salvation was not just a lone decree from the beginning of time. God also had a plan to bring this about. First, he sent his Son Jesus to die and redeem us from our sins. “In [Christ] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's *grace*.” (Eph. 1:7) Remember, God chose us *in Christ*. But then God also had a plan to bring this good news to you and bring you to faith. Again, Paul writes, “From the beginning God

chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel.” (2 Thes. 2:13-14) God had a plan, whether it was through your parents, a pastor, a friend, a tract, or radio broadcast, to bring the message of the Gospel to you. The Holy Spirit worked through this message to create faith in you that you might believe the truth. Even if you had been born in a pagan nation or brought up in an unchristian home, God would have found a way to bring this message to you. And the Holy Spirit continues to work through his means of grace, Word and Sacrament, to keep you and all the elect in the faith so that “no one can snatch them out of my hand.” (John 10:28)

Of course, there are false teachings associated with this doctrine of God’s election. The theologian John Calvin argued that since some are saved and some are not, and since God’s will is always done, that while God predestined some to salvation, he must have also predestined some to damnation. God loved some but hated others. Therefore, Jesus didn’t die for all people, and the Holy Spirit isn’t really trying to convert those who eventually perish. But this horrid teaching denies the Scriptural teaching of universal grace. “For God so loved *the world* that he gave his only Son.” “God would have *all men* to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Tim. 2:4) God desires all people to be saved, but the reason why many are not is not because God predestines them to hell but because they resist the Holy Spirit and reject God’s plan of salvation. “They perish because they *refused* to love the truth and so be saved.” (2 Thes. 2:10) “But the Pharisees and experts in the law *rejected* God’s purpose for themselves.” (Luke 7:30) “You stiff-necked people . . . You always *resist* the Holy Spirit!” (Acts 7:51) “All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and *obstinate* people.” God is long suffering in his desire that all people come to repentance, but many do not because they reject him.

But the theologian James Arminius fell off the horse on the other side. He argued that if some perish because they reject God, then others live because they accept God. God’s election was that he looked into the future and saw something good in you, something better than others, that you would accept the message of the Gospel and not reject it. But this denies the Scriptural teaching of salvation by grace alone apart from our works or any merit of our own. “So too, at the present time there is a remnant *chosen by grace*. And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.” (Rom. 11:5-6) “[God] has saved us and called us to a holy life--*not because of anything we have done* but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time.” And so we can rightly say that if we are saved, it is by God’s grace alone, but if not, it is our own fault.

But the purpose of this doctrine of election is not to look into the mysteries of God to try to determine why some are saved and some not, nor to make us worry about whether God has elected us to salvation. The purpose of this teaching of God’s election is to give us Christians comfort. First by assuring us that our salvation is all God’s doing and doesn’t depend in any way on us sinful human beings. How could it depend on us if God elected us before we were born? In this way, the doctrine of election also reinforces grace alone. And second, you can be sure of your election to salvation because you believe the Gospel. “All who were appointed for eternal life believed.” (Acts 13:48) God’s plan for you has been carried out through his Son Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit working through the Word. And no one, not even the devil himself, can snatch you out of God’s hand.

Pastor Temme

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1- TYLER CASHEN                                      | 15- TIM KORFF  |
| 3- TIM ROBBINS                                       | 17- LINDA RAE KORFF                                    |
| 5- EILEEN KAHRE<br>DANA MEYER<br>DORIS TURPIN        | 19- MARTY KOCH   |
| 6- KENDALL ENGLISH                                   | 21- KAROL ROBBINS                                      |
| 7- LYDIA CONNER                                      | 23- MILDRED ISAACS – 94 <sup>th</sup>                  |
| 10- KATHRYN COOMER<br>STEPHEN HEEGER<br>SHIRLEY ZINN | 26- MELAINA RAMSEY                                     |
|  | 27- GINGER RAMSEY<br>JONATHAN TEMME<br>REV. STAN TEMME |