

During the month of September, the following people were in the hospital, had surgery, recovering at home or our shut-ins – **LINDA SUE KORFF, ALAN REININGA, RAY LAUGHBUAM, JIM RUFF, TIM ROBBINS, CHARLIE VANSTONE, GAYLE O’RISKY, TOM & DORIS TURPIN, 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, September 1 .....	7
Sunday, September 2 .....	88
Saturday, September 8 .....	7
Saturday, September 9.....	94
Saturday, September 15.....	9
Sunday, September 16.....	91
Saturday, September 22.....	11
Sunday, September 23.....	79

**SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

	<u>Sept 2</u>	<u>Sept 9</u>	<u>Sept 16</u>	<u>Sept 23</u>
Nursery – High School (plus teachers & parents)	10	9	7	7
Adult Bible Classes	26	24	26	26
Music & Office	3	3	3	3
<hr/> Total	39	36	36	36

# 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:** The Sarah Bible Class continues its study of the reign of King Solomon over Israel, as it is recorded in I Kings. Classes begin at 9:30 AM on Thursdays; coffee, treats and fellowship available in the CFR beginning at 9:00 AM. All ladies of the church are most cordially invited to bring their Bibles – and a friend – to join in this study.

**TRUNK OR TREAT**

Come and participate in our Trunk or Treat at Trinity Lutheran Church. It will be both indoor and outdoor(weather permitting). If you want it outside, decorate your trunk or if indoor, can decorate a full table or share a table. Please let **SUE LAUGHBAUM OR the OFFICE** know if you plan on participating and if you want inside or outside. If you can't participate but want to contribute candy or a monetary donation please do so in the office. We will start at 5:00 PM and go until 7:00 PM on Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. This is a great way to get us involved with the community. Hope to see you there.

**YOUTH OF ALL AGES 0-99...**: Mark your calendars: **Sunday, October 14**, after church – **pizza & service project**. We'll wash down the folding chairs and tables in the gym – just in time for the Loyalty Banquet the following Sunday. Bring your own squirt gun for a little fun afterwards. Balloons will be provided.

**LWML LADIES BREAKFAST & BIBLE STUDY** at Holiday Retirement Village dining room (1200 W Buena Vista Rd.) October 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM. The breakfast is \$6 (cash only). We will continue our Bible Study on "Balance" afterwards. Come and enjoy the fellowship! Let Trisha know if you can make it.

**STEWARDSHIP**: In connection with the October 21<sup>st</sup> visit of our executive director of Lutherans for Life, the Rev. Mr. Michael W. Saleminck, to our Loyalty Sunday Banquet, we are throwing a Baby Shower! The proceeds are destined for the Evansville Christian Life Center, where they are to be distributed through a "Parenting Rewards" program. As parents attend classes and receive parenting coaching, they are awarded "baby bucks" which can then be exchanged for such things as Baby wash – Baby lotion – Fragrance-free wipes – Bibs – Baby bottles – Baby towels – Pacifiers – Baby sox(newborn size) – Small baby rattles/toys – Pack n play sheets – Receiving blankets – Baby hats – Newborn onesies(boy or girl) – Newborn diapers – and Diapers(size 5 or 6) or items especially desired but all donations will be appreciated. There will be a cradle in the Narthex to collect this items for several weeks

## “CHEERS & TEARS”



Cheers to the following couples, who celebrated an anniversary in September:

**Al & Gloria Arendt**, who celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on September 6

**Jim & Vivian Ruff**, who celebrated their 61<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary on September 8

**Ken & Wilma Fehd**, who celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on September 11

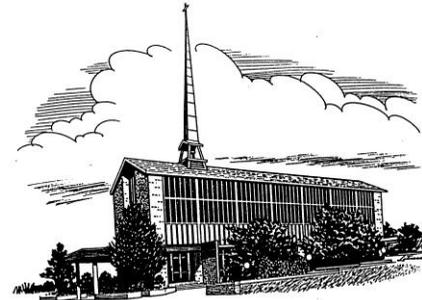
**Jim & Dottie Kahre**, who celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on September 13

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

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

DARMSTADT

## NEWSLETTER



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### The Political Law

Last month's newsletter discussed the Law of God, specifically the three types of law which God gave in the Scriptures: the moral law, the political law, and the ceremonial law. While the moral law summarized in the Ten Commandments stands for all time for all people, the political law and ceremonial law applied only to the Jews during the Old Testament period. The political law was the civil law or state law of the Israelites. These laws have been superseded by the current civil laws of each nation, but since they were based on God's moral law, they provide an interesting model of government and justice for us to consider today.

The political law of the Israelites acted in three ways. It provided justice for the victim, punishment for the wrongdoer, and a deterrent to future crimes. The political law provided justice to the victim by righting the wrong. If someone stole or damaged a neighbor's property, the perpetrator was required to make restitution. He had to pay back, usually at least twice as much, for what he took or damaged. If he hurt someone physically, he had to pay back with the same injury to himself: eye for eye, tooth for tooth, life for life. In this way the punishment fit the crime. It's interesting that incarceration or imprisonment is never mentioned as punishment in the Old Testament political law. Either the wrongdoer made restitution and in this way helped the victim, or he received some physical impairment or flogging as punishment. Either way, the wrongdoer paid his dues relatively quickly and then got on with life. If he did something quite heinous, capital punishment was enforced. God said, "You must purge the evil from among you." No one lingered for decades in an expensive prison system. These punishments also acted as a deterrent to crime. "The rest of the people will hear of this and be *afraid*, and never again will such an evil thing be done among you."

The Jewish political law established a court system. If someone accidentally killed another without malice aforethought, he could flee to a designated city of refuge where he would await trial without fear of family vengeance. One witness was not enough to convict a man accused of any crime he may have committed. A matter had to be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. Those committing perjury were given the same punishment as their lie would have inflicted on the defendant. In any case the defendant and plaintiff had to accept the verdict of innocence or guilt passed by the judges and make the necessary restitution or pay the required punishment. Anyone who failed to follow the ruling was held in contempt, punishable by death.

While capital punishment is hotly debated today, it was used most liberally in the Jewish political law. Capital punishment applied to deliberate murder, infanticide (sacrificing infants to other gods), kidnapping, adultery, promiscuity, homosexual acts, bestiality, idolatry, blaspheming God's name, sorcery, breaking the Sabbath, cursing or attacking one's parents, and even stubborn and rebellious sons who refuse parental discipline. Rape of a betrothed woman was also a capital offense. But if a man raped a woman who was not betrothed, his punishment was to pay the girl's father fifty shekels of silver and marry the girl for life. (I'm not sure if the marriage was to free the girl of dishonor or was part of the punishment.) While the crime of abortion is not directly mentioned, the political law did consider unborn children to be human beings with the same rights as the mother. "When men strive together and hit a pregnant woman, so that her children come out, but there is no harm, the one who hit her shall surely be fined . . . But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth . . ." The Scriptures never distinguish between children inside or outside the womb. The same word is used for both. Capital punishment would have been enforced if either the mother or child had died.

The political law saw to the public health and safety of the country's citizens. Infectious diseases were quarantined outside the community. Houses with spreading mildew were condemned and demolished. Building codes enforced homes to have parapets on their roofs to keep guests from falling off during summer parties. The political law also condemned usury, marriages between close relatives, and uncalibrated weights and measures (no cheating in the market place).

The Jewish political law was certainly more strict than our own civil law here in America. However, where our laws are lax or even absent, we can see a corresponding increase in immorality in our society. Perhaps the political law God gave directly to the Israelites through Moses is wiser and more effective than our 200 years of legislation and judicial review. But the real problem is the sinfulness of man. One of our forefather's once said, "You can control man either through the heart or with the bayonet." More laws will not make our society more moral, but more Gospel, which changes the hearts of men through faith in Jesus Christ.

Pastor Temme

Capital punishment for murder

EX 21:12 "Anyone who strikes a man and kills him shall surely be put to death. <sup>13</sup> However, if he does not do it intentionally, but God lets it happen, he is to flee to a place I will designate. <sup>14</sup> But if a man schemes and kills another man deliberately, take him away from my altar and put him to death.

Capital punishment for dishonoring parents and kidnapping

EX 21:15 "Anyone who attacks his father or his mother must be put to death.

EX 21:16 "Anyone who kidnaps another and either sells him or still has him when he is caught must be put to death.

EX 21:17 "Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.

Punishment for harming a pregnant woman or her child

EX 21:22 "If men who are fighting hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman's husband demands and the court allows. <sup>23</sup> But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, <sup>24</sup> eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, <sup>25</sup> burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.

Restitution for stealing property or damage

EX 22:1 "If a man steals an ox or a sheep and slaughters it or sells it, he must pay back five head of cattle for the ox and four sheep for the sheep.

EX 22:2 "If a thief is caught breaking in and is struck so that he dies, the defender is not guilty of bloodshed; <sup>3</sup> but if it happens after sunrise, he is guilty of bloodshed.

"A thief must certainly make restitution, but if he has nothing, he must be sold to pay for his theft.

EX 22:4 "If the stolen animal is found alive in his possession--whether ox or donkey or sheep--he must pay back double.

EX 22:5 "If a man grazes his livestock in a field or vineyard and lets them stray and they graze in another man's field, he must make restitution from the best of his own field or vineyard.

EX 22:6 "If a fire breaks out and spreads into thornbushes so that it burns shocks of grain or standing grain or the whole field, the one who started the fire must make restitution.

Against Usury

EX 22:25 "If you lend money to one of my people among you who is needy, do not be like a moneylender; charge him no interest. <sup>26</sup> If you take your neighbor's cloak as a pledge, return it to him by sunset, <sup>27</sup> because his cloak is the only covering he has for his body. What else will he sleep in? When he cries out to me, I will hear, for I am compassionate.

DT 23:19 Do not charge your brother interest, whether on money or food or anything else that may earn interest. <sup>20</sup> You may charge a foreigner interest, but not a brother Israelite, so that the LORD your God may bless you in everything you put your hand to in the land you are entering to possess.

Capital punishment for idolatry

EX 22:20 "Whoever sacrifices to any god other than the LORD must be destroyed.

Capital punishment for breaking the Sabbath

EX 31:14 " `Observe the Sabbath, because it is holy to you. Anyone who desecrates it must be put to death; whoever does any work on that day must be cut off from his people. <sup>15</sup> For six days, work is to be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day must be put to death.

Quarantine for infectious skin disease Lev 13

Condemning homes with mildew Lev 14

Unlawful sexual relations

LEV 18:21 " `Do not give any of your children to be sacrificed to Molech, for you must not profane the name of your God. I am the LORD.

LEV 18:22 " `Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable.

LEV 18:23 " `Do not have sexual relations with an animal and defile yourself with it. A woman must not present herself to an animal to have sexual relations with it; that is a perversion.

LEV 18:24 " `Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, because this is how the nations that I am going to drive out before you became defiled. <sup>25</sup> Even the land was defiled; so I punished it for its sin, and the land vomited out its inhabitants. <sup>26</sup> But you must keep my decrees and my laws. The native-born and the aliens living among you must not do any of these detestable things, <sup>27</sup> for all these things were done by the people who lived in the land before you, and the land became defiled. <sup>28</sup> And if you defile the land, it will vomit you out as it vomited out the nations that were before you.

LEV 18:29 " `Everyone who does any of these detestable things--such persons must be cut off from their people. <sup>30</sup> Keep my requirements and do not follow any of the detestable customs that were practiced before you came and do not defile yourselves with them. I am the LORD your God.' "

#### Capital punishment for infanticide

LEV 20:1 The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> "Say to the Israelites: `Any Israelite or any alien living in Israel who gives any of his children to Molech must be put to death. The people of the community are to stone him. <sup>3</sup> I will set my face against that man and I will cut him off from his people; for by giving his children to Molech, he has defiled my sanctuary and profaned my holy name. <sup>4</sup> If the people of the community close their eyes when that man gives one of his children to Molech and they fail to put him to death, <sup>5</sup> I will set my face against that man and his family and will cut off from their people both him and all who follow him in prostituting themselves to Molech.

#### Capital punishment for improper sexual relations

LEV 20:10 " `If a man commits adultery with another man's wife--with the wife of his neighbor--both the adulterer and the adulteress must be put to death.

LEV 20:11 " `If a man sleeps with his father's wife, he has dishonored his father. Both the man and the woman must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.

LEV 20:12 " `If a man sleeps with his daughter-in-law, both of them must be put to death. What they have done is a perversion; their blood will be on their own heads.

LEV 20:13 " `If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.

#### Capital punishment for sorcery

LEV 20:27 " `A man or woman who is a medium or spiritist among you must be put to death. You are to stone them; their blood will be on their own heads.' "

#### Capital punishment for blaspheming

LEV 24:13 Then the LORD said to Moses: <sup>14</sup> "Take the blasphemer outside the camp. All those who heard him are to lay their hands on his head, and the entire assembly is to stone him. <sup>15</sup> Say to the Israelites: `If anyone curses his God, he will be held responsible; <sup>16</sup> anyone who blasphemes the name of the LORD must be put to death. The entire assembly must stone him. Whether an alien or native-born, when he blasphemes the Name, he must be put to death.

#### Capital punishment for taking life

LEV 24:17 " `If anyone takes the life of a human being, he must be put to death. <sup>18</sup> Anyone who takes the life of someone's animal must make restitution--life for life. <sup>19</sup> If anyone injures his neighbor, whatever he has done must be done to him: <sup>20</sup> fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth. As he has injured the other, so he is to be injured. <sup>21</sup> Whoever kills an animal must make restitution, but whoever kills a man must be put to death. <sup>22</sup> You are to have the same law for the alien and the native-born. I am the LORD your God.' "

#### Law about tithing

LEV 27:30 " `A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD. <sup>31</sup> If a man redeems any of his tithe, he must add a fifth of the value to it. <sup>32</sup> The entire tithe of the herd and flock--every tenth animal that passes under the shepherd's rod--will be holy to the LORD. <sup>33</sup> He must not pick out the good from the bad or make any substitution. If he does make a substitution, both the animal and its substitute become holy and cannot be redeemed.' "

#### Laws for murder and manslaughter

NU 35:16 " `If a man strikes someone with an iron object so that he dies, he is a murderer; the murderer shall be put to death. <sup>17</sup> Or if anyone has a stone in his hand that could kill, and he strikes someone so that he dies, he is a murderer; the murderer shall be put to death. <sup>18</sup> Or if anyone has a wooden object in his hand that could kill, and he hits someone so that he dies, he is a murderer; the murderer shall be put to death. <sup>19</sup> The avenger of blood shall put the murderer to death; when he meets him, he shall put him to death. <sup>20</sup> If anyone with malice aforethought shoves another or throws something at him intentionally so that he dies <sup>21</sup> or if in hostility he hits him with his fist so that he dies, that person shall be put to death; he is a murderer. The avenger of blood shall put the murderer to death when he meets him.

NU 35:22 " `But if without hostility someone suddenly shoves another or throws something at him unintentionally <sup>23</sup> or, without seeing him, drops a stone on him that could kill him, and he dies, then since he was not his enemy and he did not intend to harm him, <sup>24</sup> the assembly must judge between him and the avenger of blood according to these regulations. <sup>25</sup> The assembly must protect the one accused of murder from the avenger of blood and send him back to the city of refuge to which he fled. He must stay there until the death of the high priest, who was anointed with the holy oil.

DT 19:4 This is the rule concerning the man who kills another and flees there to save his life--one who kills his neighbor unintentionally, without malice aforethought. <sup>5</sup> For instance, a man may go into the forest with his neighbor to cut wood, and as he swings his ax to fell a tree, the head may fly off and hit his neighbor and kill him. That man may flee to one of these cities and save his life. <sup>6</sup> Otherwise, the avenger of blood might pursue him in a rage, overtake him if the distance is too great, and kill him even though he is not deserving of death, since he did it to his neighbor without malice aforethought. <sup>7</sup> This is why I command you to set aside for yourselves three cities.

#### Laws about courts and contempt, deterrent

DT 17:8 If cases come before your courts that are too difficult for you to judge--whether bloodshed, lawsuits or assaults--take them to the place the LORD your God will choose. <sup>9</sup> Go to the priests, who are Levites, and to the judge who is in office at that time. Inquire of them and they will give you the verdict. <sup>10</sup> You must act according to the decisions they give you at the place the LORD will choose. Be careful to do everything they direct you to do. <sup>11</sup> Act according to the law they teach you and the decisions they give you. Do not turn aside from what they tell you, to the right or to the left. <sup>12</sup> The man who shows contempt for the judge or for the priest who stands ministering there to the LORD your God must be put to death. You must purge the evil from Israel. <sup>13</sup> All the people will hear and be afraid, and will not be contemptuous again.

#### Two or Three witnesses, deterrent

DT 19:15 One witness is not enough to convict a man accused of any crime or offense he may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

DT 19:16 If a malicious witness takes the stand to accuse a man of a crime, <sup>17</sup> the two men involved in the dispute must stand in the presence of the LORD before the priests and the judges who are in office at the time. <sup>18</sup> The judges must make a thorough investigation, and if the witness proves to be a liar, giving false testimony against his brother, <sup>19</sup> then do to him as he intended to do to his brother. You must purge the evil from among you. <sup>20</sup> The rest of the people will hear of this and be afraid, and never again will such an evil thing be done among you. <sup>21</sup> Show no pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

### Capital punishment for a rebellious son

<sup>DT 21:18</sup> If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who does not obey his father and mother and will not listen to them when they discipline him, <sup>19</sup> his father and mother shall take hold of him and bring him to the elders at the gate of his town. <sup>20</sup> They shall say to the elders, "This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious. He will not obey us. He is a profligate and a drunkard." <sup>21</sup> Then all the men of his town shall stone him to death. You must purge the evil from among you. All Israel will hear of it and be afraid.

### Lost and Found, not finders keepers

<sup>DT 22:1</sup> If you see your brother's ox or sheep straying, do not ignore it but be sure to take it back to him. <sup>2</sup> If the brother does not live near you or if you do not know who he is, take it home with you and keep it until he comes looking for it. Then give it back to him. <sup>3</sup> Do the same if you find your brother's donkey or his cloak or anything he loses. Do not ignore it.

### Public safety

<sup>DT 22:8</sup> When you build a new house, make a parapet around your roof so that you may not bring the guilt of bloodshed on your house if someone falls from the roof.

### Capital punishment for promiscuity, adultery, rape

<sup>DT 22:20</sup> If, however, the charge is true and no proof of the girl's virginity can be found, <sup>21</sup> she shall be brought to the door of her father's house and there the men of her town shall stone her to death. She has done a disgraceful thing in Israel by being promiscuous while still in her father's house. You must purge the evil from among you.

<sup>DT 22:22</sup> If a man is found sleeping with another man's wife, both the man who slept with her and the woman must die. You must purge the evil from Israel.

<sup>DT 22:23</sup> If a man happens to meet in a town a virgin pledged to be married and he sleeps with her, <sup>24</sup> you shall take both of them to the gate of that town and stone them to death--the girl because she was in a town and did not scream for help, and the man because he violated another man's wife. You must purge the evil from among you.

<sup>DT 22:25</sup> But if out in the country a man happens to meet a girl pledged to be married and rapes her, only the man who has done this shall die. <sup>26</sup> Do nothing to the girl; she has committed no sin deserving death. This case is like that of someone who attacks and murders his neighbor, <sup>27</sup> for the man found the girl out in the country, and though the betrothed girl screamed, there was no one to rescue her.

<sup>DT 22:28</sup> If a man happens to meet a virgin who is not pledged to be married and rapes her and they are discovered, <sup>29</sup> he shall pay the girl's father fifty shekels of silver. He must marry the girl, for he has violated her. He can never divorce her as long as he lives.

### Punishment for a guilty crime

<sup>DT 25:1</sup> When men have a dispute, they are to take it to court and the judges will decide the case, acquitting the innocent and condemning the guilty. <sup>2</sup> If the guilty man deserves to be beaten, the judge shall make him lie down and have him flogged in his presence with the number of lashes his crime deserves, <sup>3</sup> but he must not give him more than forty lashes. If he is flogged more than that, your brother will be degraded in your eyes.

### Laws against cheating

<sup>DT 25:13</sup> Do not have two differing weights in your bag--one heavy, one light. <sup>14</sup> Do not have two differing measures in your house--one large, one small. <sup>15</sup> You must have accurate and honest weights and measures, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. <sup>16</sup> For the LORD your God detests anyone who does these things, anyone who deals dishonestly.

## PRESCHOOL UPDATE

Progress is being made in the preschool and each day is a new adventure here at Trinity. Items that will not be needed for the preschool have been moved into the hallways. Feel free to take any items sitting on the pew outside of the office, more items are being added all the time. Thank you to the people who have donated puzzles, toys, and activities! We are preparing the building to have an open house in January 2019, if you can help us on our first work day on October 20th, we would be grateful.

On a personal note, thank you for welcoming my family into your church community. We are excited to be here.

**THE EVANSVILLE EAST/WEST ZONE RALLY** will be held on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at St John's Lutheran Church in Evanston IN, from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM CST. Registration cost will be a freewill offering to help cover the cost of the meal. A representative from CASA in Evansville will be the guest speaker. The ingathering will be children's hygiene items – tooth paste, shampoo, soap, cob/brush. We will be making 35 child blankets that will be used to wrap the hygiene items and a teddy bear to be given to CASA. Please register no later than October 17<sup>th</sup> by contacting Trisha in the office.

**EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN TELL CITY** invites everyone to their Annual Soup Supper on October 13<sup>th</sup> beginning at 4:00 PM. We will serve our "Classic Soup", BBQ Chicken, Creek Fried Potatoes, Green Beans, Homemade Slaw, and Desserts. Carry-outs will be available beginning at 2:00 PM. Emmanuel's Women's Guild will sponsor a Country Store and Bake Sale.

**ST JOHN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN DAYLIGHT** invites everyone to their Chicken or Beef Dinner on Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM. The menu will consist of Fried Chicken or Beef, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Homemade Chicken & Dumplings, Homemade Slaw, Vegetables, Dessert & Drink. Carry-outs are available. Cost is \$10.00 for Adults and \$5.00 for Children 12 & younger. There will also be a Country Store with Baked Goods.