



Formally Worship for Shut-ins  
 Can be seen at 9:00 AM Sunday WEVV-TV Fox 44.2  
 Daily 7:30 AM & 7:30 PM WOW Channel 9

**December 1, 2019 – First Sunday in Advent**

Psalm 118:25-28, Zechariah 9:9b (Antiphon); Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 21:1-11  
 “Your King’s Coming!” - Sermon Text: Zechariah 9:9b - Rev. Shayne Jonker

**December 8, 2019 – Second Sunday in Advent**

Psalm 72:1-7; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12  
 “Band of Brothers” - Sermon Text: Romans 15:4-13 - Rev. Paul Shoemaker

**December 15, 2019 – Third Sunday in Advent**

Psalm 146; Isaiah 35:1-10; Matthew 11:2-15  
 “A Blooming Desert” - Sermon Text: Isaiah 35:1-10 - Rev. Bill Mueller

**December 22, 2019 – Fourth Sunday in Advent \*The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas**

**Day Observed**

Psalm 98; Isaiah 52:7-10; John 1:1-18  
 “The Bare Truth” - Sermon Text: Isaiah 52:7-10 - Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

**December 29, 2019 – First Sunday after Christmas**

Psalm 111; Galatians 4:4-7; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23  
 “Nothing Stops God” - Sermon Text: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 - Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III

During the month of November, the following people were in the hospital, had surgery, recovering at home or our shut-ins – **DIANA DUNKELBARGER, DAVID COOMER, ROGER DENNIS, KEN FEHD, LISA KECK, GARY GANN, CLYDE BRODERHAUSEN, HELEN MARIE WORTMANN, IVAN WORTMANN, MARTY KOCH, GAYLE O’RISKY, WALT SOMERS, DONNA SENSMEIER, NEAL WATHEN, NINA THURMAN, GIL KAHRE, PAUL SCHNUTE, MARGARET CHEANEY, LOIS KAHRE, KERRY KECK, ROBERT KRON, and WANDA KAHRE.**

**CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

Saturday, November 2 .....	8
Sunday, November 3 .....	70
Saturday, November 9 .....	10
Saturday, November 10 .....	73
Saturday, November 16 .....	12
Sunday, November 17.....	79
Saturday, November 23.....	8
Sunday, November 24.....	82

**SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

	<u>Nov 3</u>	<u>Nov 10</u>
Nursery – High School (plus teachers & parents)	6	5
Adult Bible Classes	17	20
Music & Office	2	2
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 25	<hr/> 27

# 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:** During Advent, the Sarah Bible Class plans a “detour” from their regular studies, to explore prophecies of the coming of the Messiah found in the Old Testament and their fulfillment as recorded in the Gospels. Class sessions begin at 9:30 AM on Thursdays in the Christian Fellowship Room; all ladies are most welcome, bearing whatever translation of the Bible you find most helpful. Coffee, treats and fellowship available beginning at 9:00 AM.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:** We thank all those who served this past month in collecting, packing, and loading Christmas boxes for impoverished children in the world. We especially thank **PASTOR & SARA KNEA** for organizing the effort.

**ADVENT MUSIC CONCERT AND DINNER:** Join us as we celebrate Advent with a music concert and dinner on Sunday, December 15, beginning at 3:30 PM. Invite your friends and neighbors to hear and sing sacred music of the season with our choir, bells, and instrumentalists followed by a catered banquet. Pick up free tickets for your family and friends and sign up in the narthex to make reservations for the dinner.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING:** Join us for caroling to our shut-ins on Sunday, December 22, at 3:00 PM. Afterwards, we will enjoy a pizza supper and fellowship.

**CHEER BASKETS FOR THE SHUT-INS:** The Shut-ins truly enjoy receiving a cheer bucket from the carolers. If you would like to donate cookies and/or fruit for these buckets, please have the items here by December 15<sup>th</sup> and if you would like to give a monetary donation please give to Trisha in the office by December 8<sup>th</sup>.

**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS:** All church officers and board members will be installed for the coming year during the Sunday morning service on December 29.

**ALL BOARDS MEETING:** All officers and board members are asked to attend the annual All Boards Meeting on Saturday, January 11, beginning at 9:00 AM in the parish hall.

**YES IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR!** We will be having the Pancake Breakfast and Nativity display on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 AM to 10:00 AM. Live Sacred & Secular Music will begin at 8:00 AM. The Nativities will be on display from 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM on December 7<sup>th</sup> during the Pancake Breakfast and Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. You can start bringing your displays to the New Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> to church and 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM or Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

**LUTHERAN WITNESS:** It's time to reorder the Lutheran Witness. If you would like to reorder or start a subscription, the cost is \$19.00. Please Trisha know by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:** **RICHARD & MARY DENNIS** will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at the Antique Steam & Gas Engine Club at the Fregal Building from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. This is located at 2144 New Harmony Road in Boonville IN. No gifts please. Donations can be made to the Steam Engine Club. All are welcome.



## “CHEERS & TEARS”

Cheers to **JOHN TERRY** for making the crossing that will be hung on the outside of the church building in place of the wreaths.

Cheers to **ALAN LETTERMAN** for making new benches that sit outside of the church.

Cheers to all who helped or participated in the **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD BOXES.**

Cheers to **WILMA FEHD**, who celebrated her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### LWML COLLECTION

The LWML will be collecting can goods and non-perishable items for needy families in our church congregation. If you wish to participate, please bring any of these items and place them in the Vestibule Entry Way. They will also take monetary donations to buy perishable items for these families. Please give that to Trisha in the office. God has blessed us all in many ways.... let's share with others. Deadline is December 8.

### PRESCHOOL NOTES

Thank you to those that ordered wreaths from the preschool fundraiser. We were able to make \$375! Wreaths will be delivered between December 4-6. All wreaths will be available for pick up after church on December 8.

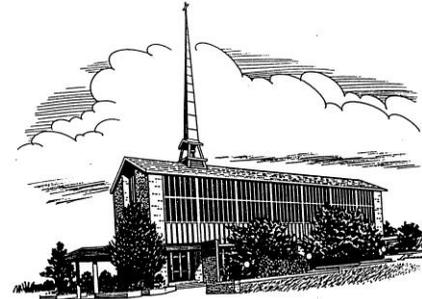
The congregation is invited to the Preschool Christmas Program "Someone Has a Birthday" on Wednesday December 18 @ 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. We would love to have your support as our students tell the story of Jesus' birth.

The preschool will be on Christmas Break from December 23-January 3.

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

DARMSTADT

## NEWSLETTER



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### Natural Knowledge of God by Conscience

Last month we looked at the beginning statement of the Apostles' Creed, "I believe in God . . ." Though some people doubt there is a God and scoff at the Bible, we found proof of the existence of God in his creation. For every design there must be a designer, and for every creation there must be a creator. Every person has this *natural knowledge of God* by looking around at creation. But there is another way we have knowledge of God besides the Bible.

Suppose a young boy is standing in the lunch line at his first day of school. A girl cuts in front of him. The boy immediately complains about her intrusion. Nobody has yet told him the rule not to cut in line, but the boy already knows it is wrong. Likewise, you always knew in school that it was wrong to cheat off another student's paper even before the teacher told you, "Don't cheat!" Whether you were caught or not, you felt guilty. Even people who have not been told and explained the Ten Commandments know that it is wrong to steal, lie, or hurt another person. And when they do, they feel guilty. Why is this? It is because they have morals. But where did this knowledge of right and wrong come from?

In the story of Pinocchio, the fairy gives life to the wooden puppet Pinocchio. But Pinocchio still lacks one thing to be a real boy. He does not have a conscience. So the fairy assigns Jeremy Cricket to act as his conscience. But when Jeremy is left behind, Pinocchio gets into all sorts of trouble because he does not know right from wrong. He does not even know if he is lying except when his nose grows. In a sense,

Pinocchio is like an animal. He has life, but he has no built in morals. Animals act only by instinct to survive. A lion kills without remorse in order to eat. Pigs bully the weaker ones aside to get food first. Your dog chews up your slippers and eats your homework without any guilt. He only whimpers and puts his tail between his legs after you yell at him.

But God made human beings differently. God created Adam and Eve in his image. They were holy and righteous, doing his will. God gave man a *conscience*. Even after the fall into sin, man still has this inherent knowledge of right and wrong even though it is blurred by sin. The apostle Paul writes in Romans chapter two, "When Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by *nature* things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are *written on their hearts*, their *consciences* also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them." We have the Law of God written on our hearts. Unlike the animals, God has given us a conscience. Even if we have not read the Bible or heard the Ten Commandments, this conscience directs us to keep the Law. It accuses us and makes us feel guilty when we do wrong and excuses us and defends us when we do right.

But more importantly, our conscience, with this natural knowledge of God's Law, tells us inside that there is a God and we are accountable to his Laws. The natural knowledge of God is one of the ways for us to know about God and what He is like. From creation we know that God is omnipotent (all powerful), omniscient (all knowing), omnipresent (present everywhere), eternal (existing before creation, no beginning or end), and immutable (unchanging). But from our conscience we also know that God is holy (without sin and hating sin) and just (defending the innocent but punishing the guilty).

All of this natural knowledge of God from creation and conscience leads man to do something that animals do not. Man worships. Even without the revelation of the true God in the Bible, man knows there is God and he worships him. Throughout all the ages, man has built altars, temples, cathedrals, mosques, and idols in which to worship God. Unfortunately, without the Bible, this is false worship. The prophet Isaiah pokes fun at this false worship of man when he writes, "Half of the wood he burns in the fire; over it he prepares his meal, he roasts his meat and eats his fill. He also warms himself and says, "Ah! I am warm; I see the fire." From the rest he makes a god, his idol; he bows down to it and worships. He prays to it and says, "Save me; you are my god." How silly to use half a piece of wood to cook your dinner and warm yourself while using the other half to carve an idol and bow down to it!

If anyone wants proof other than the Bible that there is a God in whom to believe, he may simply look at all the ways that man tries to worship God from his natural knowledge of God in creation and his own conscience. But it is only through the Bible that we learn that God is not only almighty, holy, and just but also loving, gracious, and merciful through Jesus Christ. The Bible reveals to us the true God and right worship which recognizes him as not only our Creator and Judge but also our Redeemer and Savior. It is this true God whom we confess when we say, "I believe in God."

Pastor Temme

**2019 HIGHER THINGS YOUTH CONFERENCE - JULY 21-24** Contact Pastor or Linda to register youth for "Watermarked" Calvin U., Grand Rapids, MI.

*"In a wat'ry grave are buried*

*All our sins that Jesus carried;*

*Christ, the Ark of Life, has ferried*

*Us across death's raging flood."*

("Water, Blood, and Spirit Crying", LSB 597, stanza 2)

**YOUTH AGED 2 TO 92:** Meet in the fellowship hall **Sunday, Dec. 8, at 6pm** for Graham Cracker (or Gingerbread) House Making. Each person should bring a bag of **candy** to share, a foil covered **pan**, a box of **graham crackers** (or pre-baked gingerbread walls & roof). We'll build our houses first, then enjoy pizza for supper, and then add decorations to the houses. Come and enjoy the creativity and fellowship. RSVP to Linda Temme by Dec. 4, and she will bring a bag of cement icing for you.

**LUTHERAN CEMETERY:** The 2019 year is almost over and it has been a good year for the Cemetery, as far as years go. We met our average funeral count and are continuing our efforts to improve the grounds. The Board of Trustees is searching for more and new members to assist in the planning and decision making for 2020 season so we may keep improving the Cemetery and all aspects of the services we provide. One afternoon, every other month is all that's needed to be a member, along with being a member of a Lutheran Church. Contact any Trustee of the Cemetery and see what you are missing by not being a part of the Lutheran Cemetery. Meetings are normally at 4:30 PM on the second Tuesday of alternating months starting in January.

Our cemetery lot prices and columbarium prices are the lowest in the area. Think about purchasing graves or niches before the need arises when emotions and the stress of losing a love one are high.

I would like to thank all those that helped spruce up the Cemetery on our fall work day. Your help is greatly appreciated especially the assistance of the Saturday morning bible study.