



You can watch this program on Sunday morning at 10:30 AM on Direct TV Channel 377

**December 4, 2022** – Second Sunday in Advent Psalm 105:4-8 and Isaiah 40:3b; Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 3:1-12 “Repent!” - Sermon Text: Matthew 3:2 - Rev. Shayne Jonker

**December 11, 2022** – Third Sunday in Advent Psalm 146; Isaiah 35:1-10; Matthew 11:2-15 “Confused About Jesus?” - Sermon Text: Matthew 11:2-11 - Rev. Paul Shoemaker

**December 18, 2022** – Fourth Sunday in Advent Psalm 24; Isaiah 7:10-17; Matthew 1:18-25 “A Sign of the Times” - Sermon Text: Isaiah 7:10-17 - Rev. William Mueller

**December 25, 2022** – Fourth Sunday in Advent Psalm 98; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20 “How Will You Return?” - Sermon Text: Luke 2:20 - Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

### 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** and **SARA KNEA** for organizing the effort. We collected 17 boxes from Trinity, 603 boxes at our drop off location, and 13,797 boxes as the regional collection point for southwest Indiana. We had 18 volunteers for a total of 125.5 hours worked.

### RETIREMENT DINNER FOR PASTOR MARK MOOG

Trinity Henderson. All are invited

The date: Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Reception: 2:00-4:00 PM

Appetizers: 5:00 PM-5:30 PM (will be provided)

Potluck Dinner: 5:30 PM-8:00 PM

Meat, dessert & drinks will be provided

Please bring: a salad, vegetable and/or casserole

The Venue: The Lumberyard

512 Barrett Blvd. Suite B

Henderson Ky

During the month of November, the following people were in the hospital, had surgery, recovering at home or our shut-ins – **PAULA REININGA, ROGER DENNIS, MIKE & KULA WATHEN, KARON WATHEN, MEVELYN FEAGLEY, GARY GANN, AL & GLORIA ARENDT, ARLENE HARTMANN, DON & ALICE KECK and HELEN MARIE WORTMANN.**

<u>CHURCH ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>BIBLE CLASS/SUNDAY SCHOOL</u>	
Saturday, November 5.....12		
Sunday, November 6.....58	25	
Saturday, November 12.....16		
Sunday, November 13.....63	20	
Saturday, November 19.....16		
Sunday, November 20.....57	Voter's Meeting	3 in SS

## 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)

**BIBLE CLASS:** In December, **PASTOR TEMME'S CLASS** will continue the study of the Gospel of Luke where Jesus heals two women, sends out the apostles, and feeds five thousand. **ALAN LETTERMAN'S CLASS** is studying the book of Daniel.

**CHRISTMAS MUSIC CONCERT AND DINNER:** Join us as we celebrate the Christmas season with a music concert and dinner on Sunday, December 18, beginning at 3:30 PM. Invite your friends and neighbors to hear and sing sacred music of the season with our choir, bells, and orchestra of brass, strings, and woodwinds, followed by a dinner in the parish hall. Pick up free tickets for your family and friends and sign up in the narthex to make reservations for the dinner.

**LLL CHRISTMAS DINNER:** Everyone is welcome to attend the LLL Christmas Dinner at Haub's Steak House in Haubstadt on Monday, December 5, at 6:00 PM. Let **RAY LAUGHBAUM** know if you plan to attend.

**SCRIP CARDS:** If you would like to order Scrip Cards for Christmas, please have all orders in by **Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>** to ensure getting cards by Christmas. Thank you!

**CHEER BUCKETS FOR THE SHUT-INS:** The Shut-ins genuinely enjoy receiving these buckets. We are not going to be able to put baked goodies in these buckets this year again. If you would like to donate monetarily to these, please give it to Trisha in the office by November 30<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING:** Please join us for caroling to our shut-ins and some of our elderly on Saturday, December 10, at 2:00 PM. We will also distribute cheer baskets.

**SUNDAY, DEC. 11, 5:00 PM - YOUTH OF ALL AGES** are invited to Gingerbread House Making. Bring a box of graham crackers, (or pre-made gingerbread walls) a foil covered pan to build on & a bag of candy for decorating to share. Let **LINDA TEMME** know if you'd like a bag of cement icing for attaching decorations.

**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS:** All church officers and board members will be installed for the coming year during the Sunday morning service on January 8.

**ORGANIST POSITION:** **KEVIN ELLERBUSCH** will be retiring from his position as our organist on January 8. Please thank Kevin for serving our congregation with his wonderful playing and musical talents these past 8 years. As we seek another organist, the congregation is welcome to share the below advertisement for the position.

Trinity Lutheran Church in Darmstadt (1401 W. Boonville-New Harmony Road, Evansville, Indiana) is seeking an organist to play liturgical and sacred music for Sunday morning and special services. The organist would also accompany the vocal choir and conduct the handbell choir for one rehearsal per week and on Sunday morning. The organ is a 3-manual digital Rodgers Infinity 361-II, purchased in 2018. The position is available at the beginning of 2023. Salary follows the *Guidelines for the Employment of Musicians in the Lutheran Church*. Please inquire to **PASTOR STAN TEMME**, 812-470-5007, [pastor@tldarm.org](mailto:pastor@tldarm.org).

### **A MAGI ADVENT ADVENTURE**

Travel through the Christmas story with the three Wise Men in this fun-filled family adventure. Discover that the good news of Jesus' birth is everywhere you look during this Advent. We have family kits available. Please see Pastor and Sara Knea for your kit.

### **PRESCHOOL**

Thank you to everyone that bought Christmas greenery from the preschool! Orders will arrive December 5-7.

Thank you to those that brought in bottle caps. With the help of all the caps, the preschool was able to purchase a new bench for the playground.

Our annual Christmas Program is on Wednesday December 14 at 6:30 PM. Everyone is invited to join us as we watch our preschoolers tell the story of Jesus' birth. If you are unable to attend in person, the program will be live streamed on the church and preschool Facebook pages.

The preschool will be on Christmas Break December 19-January 2.

### **MISSION OPPORTUNITY-SOCK TREE**

Cold temperatures have certainly moved into our area. This cold weather brings a lot of needs to our community. Shelters go through socks very quickly, as they are one of the most sought-after items in these facilities. You can help someone in need replace an extremely worn pair of socks by donating fresh socks. We are asking for donations of men's new, warm socks, t-shirts and underwear. Our Sock Tree will be up after Thanksgiving, so start watching for the holiday sales!

### **SARAH BIBLE CLASS BRUNCH**

An invitation

to: All Ladies of the Church  
from: The Sarah Bible Class  
for: Their Christmas Brunch  
to be held: In the Fellowship Hall  
when: December 15, beginning at 9:00 AM

*Overwhelming jollity on offer:*

Enjoy good food...and even finer fellowship;

Sing carols...and learn more about them;

Play Pass-the-Parcel: (please bring a \$5.00 item, wrapped or sacked)

Non-class members please RSVP to Trisha at the church office by December 7.

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

DARMSTADT

## NEWSLETTER

Rev. Stan Temme

[pastor@tldarm.org](mailto:pastor@tldarm.org)

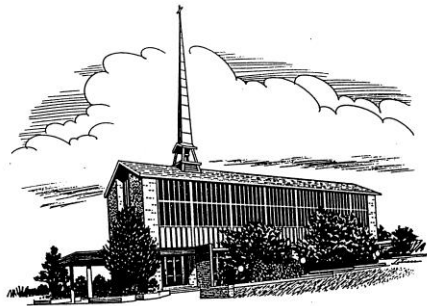
Cell Phone: 470-5007

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### GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In the last two newsletter articles we talked about the Holy Spirit, his person and his work. Today we want to review some of His spiritual gifts. For Christmas and birthdays we often give gifts to our children. These gifts often come wrapped in beautiful packages decorated with colored wrapping paper. God the Holy Spirit also gives gifts to us, his children. He gives us these gifts at our baptism and during His Divine Service. These gifts come to us in the beautiful packages of His Word and Sacraments. But just what are some of these gifts of the Holy Spirit?

Through His Word and Sacraments, the Holy Spirit freely gives to all Christians the gifts of faith in Christ, the forgiveness of sins, and eternal life. When you were baptized or when you first heard the Word of the Gospel, the Holy Spirit was there handing you the package of faith in Christ. Your belief in Jesus your Savior, whether as infant or an adult, is a gift of the Holy Spirit. Through this faith in Christ, the Holy Spirit also gives you hands to receive His next gift, the forgiveness of sins. Through faith in Christ, you receive the gift of forgiveness of sins when you hear Christ's word of absolution and when you receive His body and blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. And because your sins are forgiven, the Holy Spirit hands you the next gift of eternal life. As Luther says in our catechism, "For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation." The Holy Spirit gives all these gifts of faith, forgiveness, and life to all Christians through the packages of His Word and Sacraments.

But besides these gifts which the Holy Spirit gives to all Christians, there are also special gifts of the Holy Spirit which He gives to some Christians at certain times and places. In the days of the prophets and during apostolic times, the Holy Spirit also gave some Christians the gift to perform miraculous signs and wonders, for example, healings, speaking in tongues, and raising the dead. These are gifts, however, which always accompanied the preaching of the Word of God. They gave God's testimony or stamp of approval that the prophet or apostle was speaking the truth of God's Word. The Holy Spirit sometimes gave prophets in the Old Testament and apostles in the New Testament the gifts to heal others, to prophecy in other languages, and even to raise the dead. These gifts marked them as one sent from God to speak His Word. "The things that *mark an apostle* – signs, wonders, and miracles – were done among you with great perseverance." (2 Corinthians 12:12) But God gives the warning that we should not follow after a prophet who does miraculous signs but who does not preach the true Word of God. "If a prophet . . . gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, 'Let us go after other gods' . . . you shall not listen to the words of that prophet . . . for the Lord your God is testing you." (Deuteronomy 13:1-3) It is easy for a person to get caught up in the excitement of the miracle and disregard the preaching of the one who performed it. The miracle always accompanies and supports the true preaching of the Word of God.

We must remember, however, that the Scriptures do not teach that God will necessarily give all Christians in every time and place special miraculous gifts. The Holy Spirit bestows His blessings according to His good pleasure. Today there are many Pentecostal or Charismatic churches (charisma means "gift") which only focus on these special gifts of the Holy Spirit, these miracle of healing and speaking in tongues, and not God's salvation in Jesus Christ. However these healings have often been staged and later discovered to be false. Speaking in tongues in the Bible always meant speaking a human language, but this new speaking in tongues, only popular in the last century, is only gibberish. Some people claim to have the gift to interpret this gibberish, but there are as many interpretations as there are interpreters. Some people later confess that they simply faked speaking in tongues because of the peer pressure from their church to do so. There are reports of the Holy Spirit giving some missionaries the gifts of healing and signs in order to crack a pagan culture and give credibility to their preaching of the Gospel. God can indeed work supernatural miracles when and where he chooses. However, we find that these signs and wonders in the church ceased with the time of the prophets and apostles when God was recording his written Word through them. If you ever run into a preacher who claims that he has these special gifts of healing and tongues, ask him if he has raised anyone from the dead lately, because that's what the prophets and apostles also did through the Holy Spirit.

Besides special supernatural gifts, the apostle Paul also speaks about special natural gifts which God gives to individual Christians. "Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them; if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness." (Romans 12:6-8) Besides faith, forgiveness, and life, the Holy Spirit has also given you natural talents and abilities to use in serving his church and serving your neighbor in your daily vocation. Let us also use them.

Pastor Temme