

ANNOUNCEMENTS – NOVEMBER 9, 2014

DATES TO REMEMBER THIS WEEK

Monday: Martin Luther's Birthday, 1483
Tuesday: Veterans' Day
9:00AM LWML Executive Committee Meeting, Mankato
5:30PM First Choice Clinic Board of Directors' Meeting
Wednesday: 5:30PM 7th/8th Grade Confirmation
7:30PM Choir
Thursday: 10AM-2:30PM Adjustment to Blindness Class
11:00AM Seminary Home Chapel with Pastor Sorenson
7:30PM Midweek Bible Class
Friday: 10:30AM KWNG Recording Session
2:00PM Plaza Service
7:30PM Board of Elders
Next Sunday: 23rd Sunday after Pentecost
9:00AM Sunday School and Bible Class
9:45AM Fellowship Time
10:00AM Worship with Holy Communion
Acolyte Cody Callstrom

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEK

Today - Margie Augustin, Greg & Pam Germann
Monday - Tony Von Bargaen
Tuesday - Tanner Smith, Carter Dicke
Thursday - Bobbi Langhans

IN OUR PRAYERS

Willard Holst, Jeanette Falkner, Richard Diercks, Bill Langhans, Hermann von Knobelsdorff, Leonard Dicke, Dolores Cedar, Kari Janssen (cancer treatments), Melissa Barbey (brain tumor), and Evan Smith (as he serves our country amidst the ISIS threat).

BAPTISMS TODAY

We rejoice in God's house this morning as two infants receive the Kingdom of God through Holy Baptism. Jay William Frederick Boyer was born October 1st to Bill and Sheila Boyer. Leslie Germann-Hutter serves as Jay's sponsor; Corey Hutter is present as a witness that Jay is baptized in the Name of the Triune God. Virgil Robert Dicke, the baby son of Mark and Allison Dicke, was born on August 1st. Micah Dicke and Aaron Scripture serve as his baptismal sponsors. May God bless Jay and Virgil and their families with God's Holy Word and Sacraments!

BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER

During the months of November and December, you are invited to participate in a Baby Bottle Fundraiser to help support women facing crisis pregnancies and families who need assistance obtaining supplies to care for their babies. What you do is to take a baby bottle home and fill it with coins at your convenience. When you come home with some spare change, drop it in! Then return the bottles to church at the end of December. If you would prefer, you may also write a check and place it in a bottle. The bottles are located in the narthex. Thank you!

PAPA MURPHY'S COUPON CARDS

Would you like to spend \$10 and get \$30 worth in coupons for Papa Murphy's take and bake pizza? Not only do you get a great deal, but your purchase helps support services to families in need through First Choice Clinic. Pastor Sorenson has the coupons. See him today to buy your Papa Murphy coupon card. And there is more good news: these coupons have no expiration date!

"THE LUTHERAN HOUR" – Sunday, November 16, 2014

8:30AM on KCUE-AM; 6:00PM on KDHL-Faribault (920)

"S.O.S. ... Call Upon Jesus"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

God's SOS brings real lasting hope and rescue, an SOS that shows us our Savior. (1 Thessalonians 5:9-11)

40TH ANNUAL HAMMOND CHURCH BAZAAR

You are welcome to attend the bazaar to be held at St. John's (LCMS) in Hammond on November 22nd between the hours of 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM. Lunch will be served from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. The bazaar will feature crafts, plants, produce, holiday items, and loads of great baked goods. Cookies, breads, jellies and jams will all be available for you to purchase for your holiday enjoyment!

THANKSGIVING DINNER

A Thanksgiving Dinner is being served at First United Methodist Church in Red Wing on Thanksgiving Day (November 7th) between 11:30 AM and 1:00 PM. The meal will be served in the fellowship hall, which is accessible for those with physical challenges. The dinner is for anyone who may not have a family gathering to attend and would like to get out among people. There is no charge, but a free-will offering will be taken. Call the church office at 388-3262 to make a reservation.

REVIEW: THE DOCTRINAL POSITION OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

Of Conversion (continued from last week)

Our refusal to go beyond what is revealed in these two Scriptural truths (If we are saved it is due entirely to God's work; if we are lost it is our own fault) is not "masked Calvinism" ("Crypto- Calvinism") but precisely the Scriptural teaching of the Lutheran Church as it is presented in detail in the Formula of Concord (Triglott, p. 1081, paragraphs 57-59, 60b, 62, 63; M. p. 716f.): "That one is hardened, blinded, given over to a reprobate mind, while another, who is indeed in the same guilt, is converted again, etc. -- in these and similar questions Paul fixes a certain limit to us how far we should go, namely, that in the one part we should recognize God's judgment. For they are well-deserved penalties of sins when God so punished a land or nation for despising His Word that the punishment extends also to their posterity, as is to be seen in the Jews. And thereby God in some lands and persons exhibits His severity to those that are His in order to indicate what we all would have well deserved and would be worthy and worth, since we act wickedly in opposition to God's Word and often grieve the Holy Ghost sorely; in order that we may live in the fear of God and acknowledge and praise God's goodness, to the exclusion of, and contrary to, our merit in and with us, to whom He gives His Word and with whom He leaves it and whom He does not harden and reject...And this His righteous, well-deserved judgment He displays in some countries, nations and persons in order that, when we are placed alongside of them and compared with them (*quam simillimi illis deprehensi*, i.e., and found to be most similar to them), we may learn the more diligently to recognize and praise God's pure, unmerited grace in the vessels of mercy...When we proceed thus far in this article, we remain on the right way, as it is written, Hos. 13:9: 'O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in Me is thy help.' However, as regards these things in this disputation which would soar too high and beyond these limits, we should with Paul place the finger upon our lips and remember and say, Rom. 9:20: 'O man, who art thou that repliest against God?'" The Formula of Concord describes the mystery which confronts us here not as a mystery in man's heart (a "psychological" mystery), but teaches that, when we try to understand why "one is hardened, blinded, given over to a reprobate mind, while another, who is indeed in the same guilt, is converted again," we enter the domain of the unsearchable judgments of God and ways past finding out, which are not revealed to us in His Word, but which we shall know in eternal life. 1 Cor. 13:12.

Calvinists solve this mystery, which God has not revealed in His Word, by denying the universality of grace; synergists, by denying that salvation is by grace alone. Both solutions are utterly vicious, since they contradict Scripture and since every poor sinner stands in need of, and must cling to, both the unrestricted universal grace and the unrestricted "by grace alone," lest he despair and perish.