

ANNOUNCEMENTS – JULY 5, 2015

DATES TO REMEMBER THIS WEEK

Tuesday: 7:30PM Adult Softball vs. St. John's, Field 1
Friday: 10:30AM KWNG Recording Session
2:00PM Plaza Service
Next Sunday: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
9:30AM Outdoor Worship
10:30AM Brief Board of Elders' Meeting

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Today - Mike Rehder, Larry Stumpf
Tuesday - Pat Banitt
Thursday - Brian Scheele, Wayne Voth

IN OUR PRAYERS

Willard Holst, Jeanette Falkner, Bill Langhans, Hermann von Knobelsdorff, Leonard Dicke, Kari Janssen, Melissa Barbey, DaWayne Wichern (lung cancer), Jomar Dicke (lung cancer), Neil Stemmann (recovering from surgery), Barb Kelm (struggling with cancer), Colleen Kahn, and Christians suffering persecution and death in the Middle East, Africa, and around the world.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP - NEXT SUNDAY

We will gather, God-willing, behind the church building next Sunday for a morning of outdoor worship. You are welcome to bring your most comfortable lawn chair for the experience! If weather is challenging, the service will be held in the fellowship hall.

"THE LUTHERAN HOUR" – Sunday, July 12, 2015

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

"In Him!"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

In Christ, we find rescue, forgiveness, and new life. Outside of Christ, all is still broken, dying, or dead.
(Ephesians 1:3-14)

LIFE QUOTE

July 5 "All law is enacted morality. Every criminal law says that a certain thing is right, and another wrong. Every law is thus a piece of legislated morality. Moreover, all morality represents a religion, as every system of law is an establishment of religion. Thus, there can be a separation of church and state, but there cannot be a separation of religion and the state because every system of law is a religion and a morality in action." *R. J. Rushdoony, philosopher, historian, and theologian* – A "Life Quote" from *Lutherans For Life* • www.lutheransforlife.org

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

Of Conversion (From "The Brief Statement")

Our refusal to go beyond what is revealed in these two Scriptural truths (if we are saved it is by God's grace; 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 (Triglot, 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.