

ANNOUNCEMENTS – MARCH 8, 2015

DATES TO REMEMBER THIS WEEK

Tuesday: 5:30PM First Choice Clinic Meeting, Board of Directors
Wednesday: 4:30PM 5th/6th Grade Confirmation
5:30PM 7th/8th Grade Confirmation
7:00PM Lenten Midweek Worship
7:45PM Choir
Thursday: 11:00AM Seminary Home Chapel Service
7:30PM Women's Bible Class
Friday: 2:00PM Plaza Service
7:30PM Board of Elders
Next Sunday: Fourth Sunday in Lent
9:00AM Sunday School and Bible Class
9:45AM Fellowship Time
10:00AM Worship with Holy Communion

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Monday - Fred Stumpf
Tuesday - Sarah McCarthy
Wednesday - Megan Bartel, Nathan Voth

IN OUR PRAYERS

Willard Holst, Jeanette Falkner, Bill Langhans, Hermann von Knobelsdorff, Leonard Dicke, Kari Janssen, and Melissa Barbey.

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES

Midweek services are being held on the Wednesday evenings of Lent at 7:00 PM. Pastor is featuring a series entitled: "The Battle Within." We are exploring the warfare that goes on in the Christian life between the spirit and the flesh. The remaining dates and topics are as follows:

March 11: The Double Servant (Romans 7:21-23, 25b)
March 18: The Wretched Saint (Romans 7:24)
March 25: The Hopeful Victor (Romans 7:24-25)

YOUTH EVENT

On Saturday, March 21, the youth group will visit Shoreview Tropics Waterpark for an afternoon of water-sliding and swimming. The youth fund will pay for admission, but food and beverages at the snack bar will be your responsibility. We will leave from church at 1:00 PM. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend.

"THE LUTHERAN HOUR" – Sunday, March 15, 2015

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

"The Power of God's Enduring Forgiveness and Grace"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

Jesus offers reconciliation and restoration to those overcome by trouble and regret. (John 16:33)

LIFE QUOTES

March 8 "Christians do not permit the lifestyle modeled by the world to limit their compassion, but rather they imitate Christ, who willingly gave of Himself to serve others. When the world cries, 'Inconvenience—not now, that's not my job, no, not for me,' imitators of Christ say, 'Heavenly Father, not my will, but Thine be done.'" *Ryan C. MacPherson, Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, Minnesota – A "Life Quote" from Lutherans For Life •*

www.lutheransforlife.org

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4H PLEDGE DRIVE/ALICIA HOFFMAN

Alicia Hoffman is seeking to help raise funds for the 2015 4-H Youth Service-Learning Trip scheduled for June 20-27, 2015. A pledge drive is currently underway to help 20 youth and adults in Buffalo, Pepin, and Pierce County 4-H to volunteer and complete service-learning projects for those living in poverty in Hawaii. For every \$100 pledged, one or more of our 4-H youth leaders will complete community service for 2 hours in our local communities. Each young person has a goal to gain fifty \$10 pledges for a total of \$500 and 10 hours of community service. There are two ways you can pledge:

- 1) Complete a pledge form at <http://goo.gl/forms/ii2PRlqggV>, make a check out in the amount of your pledge payable to Buffalo County 4-H Service Trip, and send it to UW-Extension, 407 S. 2nd St., Alma, WI 54610.
(OR)
- 2) Pledge by credit card by using the online fundraising account: www.gofundsme.com/4-Hservicetrip. Note: A small percentage of funds raised by this account are deducted for processing fees.

Help us get to our \$10,000 goal so that we can help others!

REVIEW: THE DOCTRINAL POSITION OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD Of The Election Of Grace (From "The Brief Statement" - continued from last week)

Christians can and should be assured of their eternal election. This is evident from the fact that Scripture addresses them as the chosen ones and comforts them with their election, Eph. 1:4; 2 Thess. 2:13. This assurance of one's personal election, however, springs only from faith in the Gospel, from the assurance that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; on the contrary, through the life, suffering, and death of His Son He fully reconciled the whole world of sinner unto Himself. Faith in this truth leaves no room for the fear that God might still harbor thoughts of wrath and damnation concerning us. Scripture inculcates that in Rom. 8:32, 33: "He that spared not His own Son, but gave Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth." Luther's pastoral advice is therefore in accord with Scripture: "Gaze upon the wounds of Christ and the blood shed for you; there predestination will shine forth." (St. Louis ed., II, 181; on Gen. 26:9) That the Christian obtains the personal assurance of his eternal election in this way is taught also by our Lutheran Confessions (Formula of Concord, Triglot, p. 1071, Paragraph 26, M. 709): "Of this we should not judge according to our reason nor according to the Law or from any external appearance. Neither should we attempt to investigate the secret, concealed abyss of divine predestination, but should give heed to the revealed will of God. For He has made known unto us the mystery of His will and made it manifest through Christ that it might be preached, Eph. 1:9ff.; 2 Tim. 1:9f." -- In order to insure the proper method of viewing eternal election and the Christian's assurance of it, the Lutheran Confessions set forth at length the principle that election is not to be considered "in a bare manner (nude), as though God only held a muster, thus: 'This one shall be saved, that one shall be damned'" (Formula of Concord, Triglot, p. 1065, Paragraph 9; M., p. 706); but "the Scriptures teach this doctrine in no other way than to direct us thereby to the Word, Eph. 1:13; 1 Cor. 1:7; exhort to repentance, 2 Tim. 3:16; urge to godliness, Eph. 1:14; John 15:3; strengthen faith and assure us of our salvation, Eph. 1:13; John 10:27f.; 2 Thess. 2:13f." (Formula of Concord, Triglot, p. 1067, Paragraph 12; M., p. 707). -- To sum up, just as God in time draws the Christian unto Himself through the Gospel, so He has already in His eternal election endowed them with "sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth," 2 Thess. 2:13. Therefore: If, by the grace of God, you believe in the Gospel of the forgiveness of your sins for Christ's sake, you are to be certain that you also belong to the number of God's elect, even as Scripture, 2 Thess. 2:13, addresses the believing Thessalonians as the chosen of God and gives thanks to God for their election.