

ANNOUNCEMENTS – FEBRUARY 22, 2015

DATES TO REMEMBER THIS WEEK

Tuesday: St. Matthias, Apostle: Isa. 66:1-2; Acts 1:15-26; Matt. 11:25-30
Wednesday: 4:30PM 5th/6th Grade Confirmation
5:30PM 7th/8th Grade Confirmation
7:00PM Lenten Midweek Worship
7:45PM Choir
Thursday: 7:30PM Women's Bible Study
Saturday: 9AM-5PM Stampin' with the Spirit
11:00AM First Choice Clinic Annual Meeting and Potluck
Next Sunday: Second Sunday in Lent
9:00AM Sunday School and Bible Class
9:45AM Fellowship Time
10:00AM Worship with Holy Communion

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEK

Today - Derek Banitt, Dean Holden
Monday - Carson Callstrom
Tuesday - Alicia Hoffman, Haley Rupe
Wednesday - Kevin Hoffman
Thursday - Hermann & Sue von Knobelsdorff

IN OUR PRAYERS

Willard Holst, Jeanette Falkner, Bill Langhans, Hermann von Knobelsdorff, Leonard Dicke, Kari Janssen, Melissa Barbey and the family and friends of John Schafer (as they mourn his passing).

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES

Midweek services are again being held this year 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:

February 25: The Spiritual Heart (Romans 7:14)
March 4: The Conflicted Christian (Romans 7:15-20)
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)

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

Of The Election Of Grace (From "The Brief Statement" - continued from last week)

But as earnestly as we maintain that there is an election of grace, or a predestination to salvation, so decidedly do we teach, on the other hand, that there is no election of wrath, or predestination to damnation. Scripture plainly reveals the truth that the love of God for the world of lost sinners is universal, that is, that it embraces all men without exception, that Christ has fully reconciled all men unto God, and that God earnestly desires to bring all men to faith, to preserve them therein, and thus to save them, as Scripture testifies, 1 Tim. 2:4: "God will have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." No man is lost because God has predestined him to eternal damnation. -- Eternal election is a cause why the elect are brought to faith in time, Acts 13:48; but election is not a cause why men remain unbelievers when they hear the Word of God. The reason assigned by Scripture for this sad fact is that these men judge themselves unworthy of everlasting life, putting the Word of God from them and obstinately resisting the Holy Ghost, whose earnest will it is to bring also them to repentance and faith by means of the Word, Act 13:46; 7:51; Matt. 23:37.

(OVER)

To be sure, it is necessary to observe the Scriptural distinction between the election of grace and the universal will of grace. This universal gracious will of God embraces all men; the election of grace, however, does not embrace all, but only a definite number, whom "God hat from the beginning chosen to salvation," 2 Thess. 2:13, the "remnant," the "seed" which "the Lord left," Rom. 9:27-29, the "election," Rom. 11:7; and while the universal will of grace is frustrated in the case of most men, Matt. 22:14; Luke 7:30, the election of grace attains its end with all whom it embraces, Rom. 8:28-30. Scripture, however, while distinguishing between the universal will of grace and the election of grace, does not place the two in opposition to each other. On the contrary, it teaches that the grace dealing with those who are lost is altogether earnest and fully efficacious for conversion. Blind reason indeed declares these two truths to be contradictory; but we impose silence on our reason. The seeming disharmony will disappear in the light of heaven, 1 Cor. 13:12.

LIFE QUOTES

February 22 "Be strong and courageous, the Lord goes before you every day. Be strong and courageous, the Lord went before you, even before you were you. His For Life work through you becomes clearer every day. Hearts and minds are changed. Our life-affirming younger generation inspires us all. More pastors connect the Gospel to the life issues. More educators teach our children to value every life. We have the most powerful and positive For Life message in the universe and nothing can stand against it! Be strong and courageous!" Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, executive director of Lutherans For Life – A "Life Quote" from Lutherans For Life •

www.lutheransforlife.org