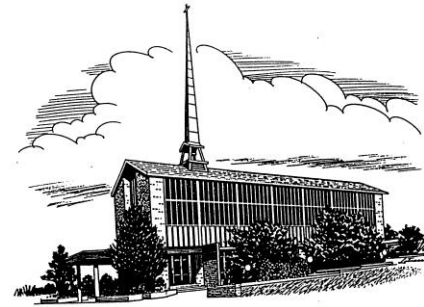


TRINITY LUTHERAN - DARMSTADT



NEWSLETTER

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VOLUME 38

SEPTEMBER 2025

NO. 9

There are obviously many other songs—many good songs—written by Christians, and many of them are used in churches. The first thing to say is that there is no rule or law about this. It is a matter of what best builds up the congregation “until we all attain to **the unity of the faith** and of **the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine**” (Ephesians 4:12-14).

This is the goal of all the public teaching of the Church for the sake of those who have been joined to Christ: unity in the Faith, an increasing knowledge of the Son of God and His work for us, to maturity in Christ. And all of this is for the purpose that we be increasingly grounded in Christ so that no believer would be moved from that sure foundation. There are many teachings floating around, and we do not want to be like children in this sense: that we believe everything anyone tells us. We want to be those who listen only to the voice of our Good Shepherd, Jesus.

Hymns, like the liturgy and the sermon, are public teaching that we sing to one another. In other environments, such as in our individual devotions, other songs can and may be beneficial. But in the worship of the Church as one Body, with one Lord, one Faith, and one Baptism, not everything is beneficial for "corporate" (literally, as the Body) worship. So, for example, the hymns are very often going to be sung in the plural: "we," "our," "us." More individualistic songs are not bad, and can be very meaningful, but in our worship together they are not the best. Especially in a society that is individualistic to the extreme, we all need to be reminded that the Church isn't

simply a bunch of individuals collected in one place, but the Body of Christ called together and joined together by the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

This is also why we are very careful about using hymns and songs from other traditions: because the services of the Lord's House shape and form us toward the attaining of full unity in the Faith (the teaching Jesus has given us). We will never attain that full unity here on earth because sin interferes, but that doesn't mean we give up on or despair of unity altogether. The hymns that teach what we confess and believe from the Scriptures should be front and center, because melodies help us remember words that we might otherwise forget. Therefore, we do our best to make sure that the words that stick in our brains (because of the music) confess the full counsel of God in the Scriptures concerning Christ.

Here are some other aspects of the Church's song that we consider as we are gathered in the Lord's House as one Body; the criteria for Lutheran Hymns is summarized well by Chad L. Bird in his book "Why Lutherans Sing What They Sing: An Apology for Lutheran Hymnody." The following are excerpts that explain the criteria:

1. A Lutheran hymn aims not to create the right atmosphere or mood for worship, but serves as a vehicle for the Spirit-filled Word of God.

The singing of [Lutheran hymns] may well alter moods or create atmospheres, but that is not their goal. Their aim is to plant the Chosen Seed, Jesus Christ, in the ear and in the heart. They bear the resemblance of a sermon, shrunk in length, rhymed, and set to music. Many a hymn preaches more in four stanzas than a pastor struggles to say in six pages of sermon text. And in the preaching of the hymn, the Spirit is at work through the Word to rebuke and console, to pierce and heal through the law and the Gospel. (19)

2. A Lutheran hymn is not entertainment but proclamation.

"The purpose of Evangelical-Lutheran hymnody is not to amuse the crowd or to put on such a grand performance that the congregation jumps to its feet with feverish hand-clapping. The hymns proclaim a divine message which is not entertaining but sustaining, given to feed the sojourning Church as she makes her way through the world, but is not of the world. ... The music and song of entertainment aim to gratify the emotions of man but the music and song of the Church aim for something far, far more important: to give voice to the Gospel of salvation which alone satisfies man's deepest need: communion with the incarnate God."

3. A Lutheran hymn is shaped by the theology of the cross.

"The God who hides and reveals Himself in His crucified Son also hides and reveals Himself in the ways and means whereby this crucified Son comes to us. ...The God who is hidden in the 'foolishness' of the cross is hidden in the 'foolishness' of Baptism's water, the Eucharist's bread and wine, the Absolution's human voice and touch. The offense of the cross now rests within the pulpit, upon the altar, in the font, at the confessional chair. Everything that belongs to God must be crucified, that is, it

must hide God so that only those who heed His Word will find Him there, revealing and giving Himself. ... Whatever the given subject of the Lutheran hymn—be it the Epiphany, the Church, missions, prayer, or praise—the singer will hear *who God really is*: the God who reveals Himself and gives Himself to us in His Son. Such hymnody, like the cross itself, will always be a stumbling block to those who seek God apart from where He hides, reveals, and gives Himself. But to those with eyes of faith, eyes enlightened by the Gospel of a crucified Christ, Evangelical-Lutheran hymnody will not be a stumbling block, but an immovable rock of refuge."

4. A Lutheran hymn is not bound merely to paraphrase the biblical text; rather, it interprets the Scriptures in reference to Christ.

"[The] primary purpose of hymnody [is] that it is by nature a preaching-song, a poem that proclaims the Word of God to man, and only secondarily prays to or praises God. ... Christ-centered exegesis fathered Christ-centered hymnody. There was no hesitation to preach poetically what was likewise preached in prose. The Word made flesh became the poetic flesh wrapped around the skeleton of any biblical text, whether or not it contained an explicit reference to the Messiah."

5. A Lutheran hymn is bound to no culture save the culture of the Church catholic (i.e. of all times and of all places.)

Rather than filling sacred space with "the kinds of music people listen to all week long," the Church fills that space with her own music, a melody of beauty and dignity that mirrors her own beauty and dignity as the Bride of Christ. Rather than constantly marrying and divorcing one musical style after another in the ever-changing secular culture, the church has nurtured her own music in her own culture. Perhaps in days long gone, when Holy Mother Church held great sway over her surrounding culture, her sounds and the world's sounds were not in such disharmony. But today, the sway has vanished. The Church's culture is a counterculture, a culture whose ideals, beliefs, and purposes are at loggerheads with the vast array of secular cultures in which she sojourns. But be not misled: this is not a static and stagnant culture, but vivacious, throbbing with life, for hers is the culture of real abiding life in the living God. Each generation carefully adds a few fresh strokes to the portrait she has been painting for millennia, but they do not scrap it all to begin anew. (41)

As we gather each week, the hymns chosen are not random but flow directly from the lectionary readings, that is, the Scripture assigned for that Sunday. Together, they help weave a cohesive theme, letting God's Word shape not only what we hear but also what we sing. At times, a hymn tune may feel unfamiliar at first. Yet even then, the text draws us more deeply into the message of the day, allowing the words of Scripture to dwell richly in our hearts. And with each repetition, those new tunes become familiar companions in our worship, making it easier for all of us to lift our voices together and "make a joyful noise to Yahweh" (Psalm 100:1) in praise.

ALLELUIA! LET PRAISES RING

Thank you to the **BOARD of PARISH FELLOWSHIP** for hosting the Church Picnic. We all had a great time!

Thank you to **EVERYONE** who attended the Church Picnic. We all have to agree – We had a great time!

Thank you to **EVERYONE**(you know who your are) who helped with setting up, serving and cleaning up.

Thank you to our Preschool Teachers & Aides: **BREENNA SMITH, ASHLEY HEIDT, DIANIA BRIDGEMAN, LAURA HESS, KENDRA WADE & TRISHA LETTERMAN.**

Thanks to the **ELDERS**, who filled in for Pastor Glowinski the weekend of the July 26/27.

THANK YOU for all the cards, calls and hospital visits from church members during my husband, Lyle's illness. A special thank you to Pastor Glowinski for preaching during Lyle's funeral service in New Palestine, IN.

Blessings to you all, Cynthia Plank

O SING TO THE LORD

Congratulations to the following people who celebrated their milestone birthday/anniversary in AUGUST

WAYNE & KARON WATHEN – 65th

During the month of August, the following people were in the hospital, had surgery, recovering at home or our shut-ins – **ELLJEAN NICHOLS, ROGER DENNIS, DON & MEVELYN FEAGLEY, SHIRLEY ZINN, TODD KORFF, RICHARD & MARY DENNIS, WAYNE WATHEN, NEAL WATHEN, AL & GLORIA**(Heritage room 112) **ARENDT, ARLENE HARTMAN**(North River room 209), **MARGE DAVID,** and **ALICE KECK**(Heritage room 145)

| <u>CHURCH ATTENDANCE</u> | <u>BIBLE CLASS/SUNDAY SCHOOL</u> | <u>WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS</u> |
|----------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Saturday, August 2.....12 | | |
| Sunday, August 3.....54 | 30 | |
| Saturday, August 9.....10 | | |
| Sunday, August 10.....57 | 30 | 16 |
| Saturday, August 16.....16 | | |
| Sunday, August 17.....64 | 32 | 10 |
| Saturday, August 23.....15 | | |
| Sunday, August 24.....67 | Church Picnic | |

CHURCH SERVICE LIVE STREAM

We now live stream the Sunday church service on YouTube.

YouTube does not require an account to view.

The YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/@TrinityLutheranDarmstadt>

PRESCHOOL

The preschool school year has begun! We currently have 30 students enrolled in our program. Please pray for a good school year for our students and staff.

During the month of September we will be doing a fill the calendar fundraiser. If you would like to participate, there will be a calendar on the back table. We are raising funds in order to provide new experiences for our students. If you'd like to know more about the experiences we are trying to offer, just ask Breenna.

The preschool is now enrolling for the 2025-2026 school year.

We have openings for Jr. Preschool only.

Visit www.trinitylutheranpreschooldarmstadt.com for more information. Schedule a tour today! Please help us spread the word.

God's Blessings,
Breenna Smith, Director
Trinity Lutheran Preschool

WHAT'S COMING UP

NEW ADDRESSES: If you or someone you know from the church has a new address or phone number, please let the church office know. Thanks Trisha

CALENDAR IN THE OFFICE: There is a calendar in the office for all the events that are happening at the church this year. If you know when things are happening during the year, they need to be put on that calendar.

ATTENTION ALL HANDBELL RINGERS AND WANT-TO- BE RINGERS!!: We will be starting practice on Thursday, September 25 at 6:30 PM. If you are interested in learning to play, please let me know and I will teach you how to make beautiful music! Thanks, Paula Reininga (812483 5988)

FOR SARAH'S AND ALL SARAH-ELIGIBLE LADIES: The Sarah Bible Class will meet on Thursday, September 4 at 10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. The topic will be on Isaiah 45. Fellowship, Coffee and Treats begin at 10:00 AM. All Ladies are invited to attend. Bring a Friend.

LLL MEN'S BREAKFAST AND BIBLE STUDY: All men of the congregation are invited to join us on Saturday, September 6, at 8:30 AM in the parish hall for breakfast and Bible study. Invite your friends and neighbors.

ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH: in Evanston IN will be celebrating 175 years of God' Grace on Sunday, September 14. Their festivities start at 8:30 AM with a walk down memory lane. Worship Service will start at 9:30 AM. Their guest speaker will be their former pastor, Rev. Jeffrey Stuckwisch. A catered meal by Schnitzelbank will follow the service. Everyone is welcome to attend. RSVP by September 6th by calling 812/547-2007.

BABY SHOWER: We will be celebrating the birth and baptism of **BABY GIRL GLOWINSKI**. There will be a table set up in the Fellowship Hall beginning August 30 through September 14. You may place a gift or gift card at this time. They are registered at Amazon.

JOINT REFORMATION SERVICE: Save the date – The Joint Reformation Service will be held here at Trinity on October 26th. Volunteers will be needed to help set up and to clean up. More information to follow in the bulletins and the October newsletter.



Can watch on DirectTV Channel 377 Sunday Mornings at 10:30 AM

September 7

Being Totally Committed – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Scott Zeckzer

Sermon Text: Luke 14:26 Readings: Psalm 1; Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 14:25-35

Featured Choirs: St. Paul Lutheran School, Munster, Ind.; Lincoln Lutheran High School, Lincoln, Neb.; Holy Cross Men's Chorus, Fort Wayne, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: Rivercliff Lutheran Church, Sandy Springs, Ga.

September 14

Zealous for Your Salvation – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III

Sermon Text: Ezekiel 34:11-16 Readings: Psalm 119:169-176; Ezekiel 34:11-16;
Luke 15:1-10

Featured Choirs: St. Paul Lutheran School, Concordia, Mo.; Concordia Lutheran High School, Fort Wayne, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Gainesville, Ga.

September 21

The Buck Stops Here – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

Sermon Text: Luke 16:10-13 Readings: Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

Featured Choirs: St. Paul Lutheran School, Munster, Ind.; Holy Cross Junior Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: All Saints Lutheran Church, Blairsville, Ga.

September 27

Heaven and Hell – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Shayne Jonker

Sermon Text: Luke 16:31 Readings: Psalm 146; Amos 6:1-7; Luke 16:19-31

Featured Choirs: St. Paul Choristers, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Holy Cross Men's Chorus, Fort Wayne, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Dahlonega, Ga.



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|--------------------|----------------------|
| 4- JOHN BROCK | |
| 5- ALYSSA JOHNSON | 20- DANIEL HOFFHERR |
| 6- JOSHUAH KORFF | 24- THERESA HOFFHERR |
| 11- ANDREW HARTMAN | 27- KATHLEEN GILKEY |
| 16- STEVE KAHRE | 29- BENJAMIN KORFF |
| 17- KELLY KORFF | |

LEAH VANDERGRIFF'S COOKBOOKS – NOW AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE

Leah was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church and was the mother of past children in our school and was a grandmother of current children in our preschool.

She passed away suddenly in 2023. Her family and friends have put together a cookbook in her memory of all her favorite recipes including some from Trinity Lutheran School. All proceeds will be going to her Memorial Scholarship at Murray State University. The cost is \$25.00 per book. If you would like one, Trisha has some in the office.