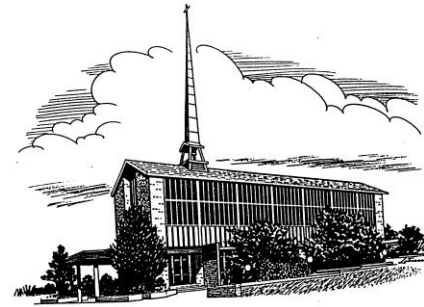


TRINITY LUTHERAN - DARMSTADT



NEWSLETTER

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VOLUME 1

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This summer we once again celebrate the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth. Let us look at some words from Martin Luther on this text.

“39 Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, 40 and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. 45 Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.” 46 And Mary said: “My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.” (NKJV)

Luther’s Explanatory Notes:

The visit of Mary to Elisabeth. This history is simple in appearance, because there is nothing more described in it than the action of Mary; namely, that she went to visit her cousin Elisabeth. But rightly considered, it includes nothing but miracles of love. This is a very great miracle that the dear Virgin believed the words of the angel and by faith became the mother of God, and in this faith went to see her pregnant cousin Elisabeth. To this great miracle comes yet another, which is also a great miracle. Elisabeth did not know beforehand that Mary was with child; and yet when Mary comes to her she recognizes that she is with child. This is a great wonder, because Mary had been pregnant but a short time. But this is a still greater miracle, that she recognizes that Christ is in the womb of the Virgin, and the child John leaps in the womb when Elisabeth hears the salutation of Mary, and the Holy Ghost, with whom John is filled in the womb, goes forth from the babe and fills the mother also. By this the manner and nature of Christian faith is indicated, and that nature can never perceive an article of faith; the Holy Ghost alone must do this and work it in the heart.

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The salutation of Mary to Elisabeth was doubtless after the manner of the Hebrew language, "Peace be with thee!" In this salutation the Gospel is really preached; namely, the forgiveness of sins and peace of heart. When this word comes to one's heart, if indeed there is a pious heart there, and a thirst for peace, then the Holy Ghost enters also; he makes the word strong in the heart and teaches us to know Christ aright.

Luke seems to have taken special pleasure in this history, because he describes it so diligently, and depicts to us so beautifully, especially to the women folks, the dear Virgin, adorned with a wreath of three beautiful and lovely roses. For he praises three notable virtues, to which we should diligently attend. Where a woman or virgin has such an adornment, she far excels all queens and empresses in all their gold, jewels, pearls, velvets and silks.

The first virtue is *faith*. "Blessed art thou, who hast believed." The second virtue is a very great and high one; namely, *humility*. The young maiden, although she is honored, is not proud, but humbly herself like a pious child. It would not have been astonishing (as the women folks are prone to pride) if she had also become haughty. Yet she desires to serve the aged Elisabeth, and says, "God hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden." But here we must nevertheless also warn against a false humility, which we see in young maidens, who, when called beautiful, deny it, and yet they are not sincere. This is no humility, but a double pride, a conscious untruth, which also dishonors God. For what God has given, we should not deny. So Mary says: It is all true, "For he that is mighty hath done to me great things, and holy is his name." But when and for what purpose do I have this? I do not magnify myself therewith, but "My soul doth magnify the Lord." Thus she turns the salutation towards heaven and says, I am exceedingly glad that I am the mother of God, but not for the sake of my person (for I am not worthy of it,) but because God hath looked upon my low estate.

The third virtue is fine and chaste behavior before the people; for Luke says she went finally to the hill country; that is, modestly and not from forwardness and vanity.

[Notes on the Magnificat up to v 47]

This is the song of the holy Virgin and prophetess Mary, which the Christians should daily sing and also understand; for it is such a song which the Holy Ghost has composed, of which it was impossible for man thus to compose a single word. But this is the sum and substance, that God cannot endure pride and high-mindedness; but that he will be gracious to those who fear him and are humble.

My soul doth magnify the Lord. Here the tender mother of Christ teaches us by the example of her own experience and by words, how one shall know, love and praise God. No one can, indeed, praise God, unless he has first loved him. So also no one can love him unless he has known him most lovingly and acceptably. So also we cannot know him, except through his works, wrought, felt and experienced by us. Where one experiences that he is such a God, who looks into the depths and helps only the poor, despised, miserable, distressed and forsaken, who are regarded as nothing; there he becomes so very dear, the heart is filled with joy, and leaps for the great delight which it enjoys in God. And there is the Holy Ghost, who in one moment has inspired by experience such a super abundant art and pleasure.

And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord. Mind or spirit is the noblest part of man, whereby he is fitted to grasp inconceivable, invisible, eternal things; it is, in short, the house which faith and the word of God inhabit. (Psalm 51:12; 78:37) The "soul" is the same spirit according to nature, yet in another work; namely, in vivifying the body and working through it (=life.) The spirit is God's habitation, in the dark faith without light, as the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle; there are seven lights; that is, all kinds of reason, discernments, knowledge and cognition of bodily, visible things. Therefore, she says: "My soul," as if she would say, All my life and all my senses are exercised in God's love, praise and highest joy; so that I, not being master of myself, am more lifted up than I lift myself up to God's praise. As, indeed, happens to all who are permeated with divine sweetness and spirit, so that they feel more than they can express. For it is no work of man to praise God with joy.

But she does not say, My soul magnifies itself, or thinks much of me, but she magnifies God only. And she gives the word "magnify" a very fine meaning, e'er whoever, [be it] magnifier, or another submits and humbles himself.

And my spirit hath rejoiced in God, my Savior. She begins in an orderly way, mentioning God her "Lord" sooner than her "Savior," and her "Savior" sooner than she relates his works; not like the selfish people, who praise God as long as he sensibly shows them his goodness; but when God hides himself, then their love and praise also cease at the same time, thus proving that they had more pleasure in the salvation than in the Savior.

(Luther's Explanatory Notes on the Gospels, pp. 181-183.)

PRESCHOOL

The preschool is now enrolling for the 2026-2027 school year.

We have openings for ages 2-5.

Visit www.trinitylutheranpreschooldarmstadt.com for more information.

Schedule a tour today! Please help us spread the word.

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

O SING TO THE LORD

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

- JERRY & ELLJEAN – 62**
JOHN & LINDA BROCK – 55
DON & MEVELYN FEAGLEY – 69
ED & WILMA MCCOY – 63
ALAN & PAULA REININGA – 52
RON KORFF – 90

FLOWER CHART: The Flower Chart has been posted in the Narthex of the church. This is where you may sign up to put flowers by the altar during certain times of the year. The first person signing up for a particular date, selects the color and type of flowers. The cost is **\$35.00**, and the Altar Circle will take care of the ordering of the flowers and announcement in the bulletin of the significance of the flowers. When your month approaches that you selected, the member of the Altar Circle for that month will contact you for your information. Questions?? See **LINDA RAE KORFF** or call at (812) 477-4078 or cell (812)459-4078.

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

Thank you to **DAN & BRENT HOFFHERR, (Long Valley Landscape & Nursery)** who redid the landscaping in front of the school and in front of the fellowship hall. We greatly appreciate it. It looks fantastic!

Thank you to **PAULA REININGA, KATHY GILKEY, LINDA BROCK, & BARB FENDRICH** who came and helped clean the kitchen. It looks great!

Congratulations to Our Preschool Graduates: **AINSLEY, ALANNAH, BECKHAM, BLAIRE, CASEY, CORALEE, JANAYAH, JOLIE, MARCHELLE, PERRY, TUCKER, & VICTOR**

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

During the month of April/May, the following people were in the hospital, had surgery, recovering at home or our shut-ins – **JERRY NICHOLS, GLORIA CLARK, LISA KECK, ROGER DENNIS, DON & MEVELYN FEAGLEY, TODD KORFF, RICHARD & MARY DENNIS, WAYNE & NEAL WATHEN, AL ARENDT, MARGE DAVID(Envive-Good Samaritan), and ALICE KECK(Heritage room 145)**

<u>CHURCH ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>BIBLE CLASS/SUNDAY SCHOOL</u>
Maundy Thursday.....36	
Good Friday.....36	
Saturday, April 4.....52	
Sunday, April 5.....75	
Saturday, April 11.....16	
Sunday, April 12.....58	25
Saturday, April 18.....7	
Sunday, April 19.....51	26
Saturday, April 25.....13	
Sunday, April 26.....56	25
Saturday, May 2.....13	
Sunday, May 3.....49	27
Saturday, May 9.....13	
Sunday, May 10.....52	22
Ascension.....19	
Saturday, May 16.....6	
Sunday, May 17.....47	27

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.

FOR SARAH'S AND ALL SARAH-ELIGIBLE LADIES: The Sarah Bible Class will meet once a month until after Labor Day on Thursdays at 10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall – June 18, July 16 & August 13. Fellowship, Coffee and Treats begin at 10:00 AM. All Ladies are invited to attend. Bring a Friend.

TECH: Want to learn how to run the video and computer during the services? It is as easy as getting up in the morning. Anyone can do it. If you are interested in learning and would like to help during the services, let **ALAN LETTERMAN** know.

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>

LWML INGATHERING: The LWML Indiana District Convention will be held here in Evansville on June 26-28. We are collecting items for the Food Pantry. They need Peanut Butter, Rice, Pasta, Tomato Sauce, Spaghetti Sauce and for Jacob's Village. They need AA and AAA batteries and puzzles. There is a box in the foyer for these items. Thanks for all your help.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE LUTHERAN CEMETERY would like to say thank you to everyone who contributed to our annual Memorial Day celebration. Flags were flown the week of Memorial Day and a sign at the Bismark Avenue entrance included the names of loved ones being remembered. God's blessings to all!

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, located ½ mile west of New Boston, will be hosting their Annual Chicken & Ham Buffet on Saturday June 13th. Serving begins at 4:00 PM CST. We will be serving fried chicken and ham dinners, along with green beans, corn, dressing, german and american potato salad and veggies. Homemade pie, desserts and freshly baked bread are included with the meal. Take out dinners are also available. The Country Store will have baked goods, fresh produce, plants and more. All are welcome to come and enjoy the great food and fellowship!

LWML LOVE THE HUNGRY

If you would like to help with the packaging of the meals on Friday, June 26, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway. There are 2 sessions. You can work both sessions if you want.

LWML DISTRICT CONVENTION OPENING WORSHIP SERVICE

Everyone is invited to attend the Opening Worship Service of the LWML District Convention. It will be held here at Trinity beginning at 6:45 PM on Friday, June 26. There will be communion, choir and the handbells.

EVANSVILLE SYMPHONIC BAND

The Evansville Symphonic Band will be performing on the following dates in the Central High School Auditorium:

Sunday, June 14, 2026 - 4:00 PM

Sunday, June 121, 2026 - 4:00 PM

Sunday, June 28, 2026 - 4:00 PM

Admission is free. Several of our regular church musicians including **DANA MEYER** will be performing, so you might recognize a few familiar faces!

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 2- DEAN KAHRE | 17- JON MAASBERG |
| 10- DUSTIN MAASBERG
YVONNE MANS | 21- ELLJEAN NICHOLS |
| 13- BRODY MAASBERG
LEVI MAASBERG | 22- SETH GANN |
| 14- AL ARENDT | 23- KAY HOFFHERR |
| 16- TARA SCHNUR | 28- TERRY REININGA |

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 5- LIZ KRIETEMEYER | 21- ROSA DAVIDSON |
| 6- JACOB LETTERMAN | 23- LYNN STEPHENS |
| 14- LINDA ORR
JEANNINE STEVENS | 26- RAY LAUGHBAUM |
| 18- DAVID KAHRE | |

June

June 7

Insiders and Outsiders
Second Sunday after Pentecost
Rev. Shayne Jonker

Sermon Text: Matthew 9:13 Readings: Psalm 119:65-72; Hosea 5:15-6:6; Matthew 9:9-13
Featured Choirs: Lincoln Lutheran High School, Lincoln, Neb.; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Decatur, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: St. John Amelith Lutheran Church, Bay City, Mich.

June 14

Our New Heritage
Third Sunday after Pentecost
Rev. Paul Shoemaker

Sermon Text: Romans 5:6-15 Readings: Psalm 100; Romans 5:6-15; Matthew 9:35-10:8
Featured Choirs: Concordia Lutheran High School Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. Paul Lutheran School, Munster, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: Zion Lutheran Church, Bay City, Mich.

June 21

Be a Tool
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Rev. William Mueller

Sermon Text: Romans 6:12-23 Readings: Psalm 91:1-10; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:5a, 21-33
Featured Choir: Holy Cross Lutheran School Junior Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bay City, Mich.

June 28

The Elephant in the Room
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Rev. Scott Zeckzer

Sermon Text: Jeremiah 28:5-9 Readings: Psalm 119:153-160; Jeremiah 28:5-9; Matthew 10:34-42
Featured Choirs: Holy Cross Lutheran School, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. John Lutheran School, Plymouth, Wis.; Indiana District LWML Choir
Featured Art and Architecture: Trinity Lutheran Church, Rochester, Minn.