

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

IN OUR PRAYERS: Jim & Penny Cleveland; Jack & Lureen Vaught; Tony Sikora; Darlene Welsh; Brenda LeFever; Walt Trier

DEVOTIONAL READINGS will be posted on our website every Monday thru Friday. Thank you for your patience as I work out the best way to post them!

MONDAY DISCUSSIONS: join Pr. Mullet and Vicar Woodhouse every Monday at 8:30am to discuss the readings for the following Sunday (connections, Greek & Hebrew odds & ends, preaching ideas, and so on). We'd love to have you!

THE MEN'S GROUP: meets this coming Saturday, September 24, at 8:00am.

CHURCH MAINTENANCE WORK DAYS: Saturday, October 1, and Saturday, October 8. See the tables for a list of the various projects our trustees are looking to work on. Are you able to help? Sign up and let us know what materials you need! Thanks in advance for your help in the upkeep of our building!

COLUMBIA CITY LIFE CHAIN: Right to Life of North Central Indiana is sponsoring the annual Life Chain on Sunday, October 2, from 1:45-3:00pm. Participants will stand along Main Street in downtown CC holding the provided signs. You are welcome to bring a chair, too. Signs can be picked up beginning at 1:30 on the east side of the courthouse. For more information, talk to Vicar Woodhouse or visit www.nci4life.org.

CALENDAR

Sun. Sep. 18 (Trinity 14)	8:00 & 10:00am Worship 9:00am Bible Study / Sunday School 11:30am Confirmation
Mon. Sep. 19	8:30am Discussion of next Sunday's readings
Wed. Sep. 21	8:30am Matins 9:00am Book of Concord Study (Lg. Catechism) 7:00pm Divine Service
Thu. Sep. 22	7:00pm Bible Study (Genesis)
Sat. Sep. 24	8:00am Men's Group
Sun. Sep. 25 (Trinity 15)	8:00 & 10:00am Worship 9:00am Bible Study / Sunday School 11:30am Confirmation 6:00pm Youth Group

THE BACK PAGE

The Hymn of the Day, “From God Can Nothing Move Me,” is among those hymns well worth your time to sing and sing again, to read over, even to learn by heart. It was written by Ludwig Helmbold in 1563. At the time, a tragic plague had struck the city of Erfurt in central Germany. Two of Helmbold’s friends, Pancratius and Regine Helbich, were fleeing the city to avoid the deadly disease. In an effort to comfort them and strengthen them on their uncertain journey away from home and work (Pancratius was the rector at the University in Erfurt!), Helmbold wrote this hymn on the basis of Psalm 73:23: “Nevertheless, I am continually with You; You hold my right hand.” It is easy to see, especially in stanza 1, how this verse inspired the hymn!

But the whole hymn is one of great comfort for us, imparting a sense of trust that, though we may be apart from one another, yet God will never part from us. Stanza 1 sets the tone of the whole hymn, revealing a sense of wandering and anxiety about the journey ahead. Perhaps a familiar feeling to all of us, at some time or another! Stanza 2 reflects how, time and time again, earthly supports fail us.

There is a strong emphasis on Christ’s redemptive work and atonement throughout. Indeed, no matter what assails us, we can trust that God will sustain us in “body, soul, and spirit” (stanza 3), which also echoes Luther’s explanation of the First Article of the Apostles’ Creed in the Small Catechism. The hymn’s latter stanzas point to the source of our confidence in God’s abiding presence, and remind us that God in His grace wants only the best for us—so much so that He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to save us! We need not fear any plague or pandemic, leprosy, nor indeed even death, for God in Christ is with us always, even to the end of the age.

This information and much more (as well as much corresponding information on all the other hymns) can be found in the *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Hymns* (CPH, 2019). For this information on hymn 713, “From God Can Nothing Move Me,” see especially volume 1, pages 985-986.