

HEAVEN'S HERALD

NJLC Weekly Newsletter

Lectionary Readings

- Genesis 1:1—2:4a
- 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13
- Matthew 28:16-20
- Psalms 8

“To be is to do” – Socrates

“To do is to be” – Jean-Paul Sartre
“Do be do be do” – Frank Sinatra

Pastor Carl's sermon for Trinity Sunday will examine the relationship between DO-ing and BE-lieving.

Mark your Calendars for July 2nd

Come celebrate the 4th of July at the NJLC potluck picnic. Details coming soon!

Prayers for our NJLC Community

**new names added this week (NJLC connection)
Dean Fox and Peggy Glascock (Judy Fox);
**Mack and Greg Keister (NJLC Members)



1765 Elector's Bible

Mike Zapf

New Jerusalem has several very large Bibles, sometimes referred to as pulpit or lectern bibles. These bibles were purposefully large, symbolic of the Word of the Lord in the midst of the congregation. It was from this bible that the lessons, psalms and Gospel were read or sung. Martin Luther held that the Word of God is essentially oral in character; it is a living voice. For the church holds that faith is planted and nurtured in the *hearing* of the Word of the Lord.

In former years the custom was to leave the Bible open either on the altar or the lectern. Only at the conclusion of the Maundy Thursday service, when the altar had been stripped of everything and the sanctuary shrouded in darkness, would the Bible be slammed shut to mark the beginning of the passion and crucifixion of Christ.

Our oldest Bible is a massive tome, known as the Elector's Bible or *Kurfuerstenbibel*, that was printed by Johann Andrea Endter of Nuernberg in 1765.

The Bible is also known as a Luther Bible because it is based on Martin Luther's translation (1521-22 New Testament) (Old Testament completed 1535) of the scriptures from the original Hebrew and Greek. Besides the Old and New Testaments and the books of the Apocrypha,

"God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does"

- Martin Luther

it includes several prefaces, biographies of 11 prince electors of Saxony who were instrumental in authorizing the publication, glossaries, woodcut and engraved illustrations, chronological register, indexes and the text of the unaltered Augsburg Confession. We discovered it several years ago during Spring cleaning the choir loft.

Dated 1765, the year of the founding of this congregation, this Bible may have been brought by Pastor Schwerdtfeger during his tenure (1765-1767).

250 years have not been kind to this book. The covers are missing. The sections containing the preface and the biographies of the prince electors have fallen away. The rag-based paper pages of these early books were ideal as wadding for muzzleloading guns.



I suspect that the congregation stopped using this Bible in the 1830s when more and more parishioners preferred English as the language of worship.

What has remained intact through years of revolution, war, military occupation, fires, storms and indifference has been the Word of the Lord.

Bulletin for June 4 is attached.

