

Announcements

- ◆ A warm welcome to all our visitors and guests, friends both old and new. We pray that God has blessed your time among us with His Word and Holy Spirit. We cordially invite you to join us this morning for coffee & donuts downstairs following the Divine Service; and we ask that you please sign the guest book at the back of the church.

- ◆ Pastor Stuckwisch is teaching this week, yet, at the Lutheran Seminary in Novosibirsk (Siberia, Russia). He'll conclude his course on the early church fathers this Friday, and is expected to arrive back in South Bend late this Saturday night, the 3rd of May. Please remember him in your prayers as he teaches this week, and as he then travels homeward this weekend.

☞ *If you or your loved ones are in need of pastoral care while Pastor Stuckwisch is in Siberia, please call Pastor Grobien at 231-9572.*

- ◆ Following coffee & donuts, our Family Bible Class will continue discussing a Christian ethical approach to human life decisions.

Care for the younger children (under four years of age) is provided in the nursery downstairs, so their parents and families are able to attend the class.

- ◆ If you haven't already done so, please sign up with Debbie Smith to have your picture taken for the new directory that we'll be doing this spring. The photography will take place on Tuesday the 13th and Wednesday the 14th of May. If you have questions, please talk to Debbie (258-0639).

Also, if you have pictures of recent Emmaus activities, or if you have a camera and a good eye for photography, we also want to gather pictures of life around Emmaus to be included in the pictorial directory. Electronic photos would be most convenient, but we can use regular photographs, too.

- ◆ Monday and Wednesday catechesis classes will not be meeting while Pastor Stuckwisch is in Russia. However, catechumens are strongly encouraged to maintain their memory work and keep up with the scheduled Bible stories.

Please note that Children's Choir rehearsal and the Order of Vespers will continue on Monday evenings at the usual times while Pastor is away.

- ◆ Members of Emmaus are cordially invited and strongly encouraged to celebrate **the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord *this Thursday, the 1st of May***, at **St. Paul Lutheran Church** in South Bend (*on the north side of town, at the corner of Laurel and Auten*). **The Service begins at 10:00 a.m.**

- ◆ The flowers on the Altar this morning have been provided by the Mary-Martha Altar Circle to the glory of God, in thanksgiving for all His gifts.
- ◆ **IN THE LORD'S SERVICE THIS MORNING:**
 (ELDER) Dave Smith & Robert Rhein; (USHERS) Nathaniel Rhein & Rick Saenz; (ACOLYTE) Caleb Smith; (ORGANIST) Sandra Rhein; (GREETERS) Robert & Herta Johnston.
- ◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574
- ◆ Rev. Gifford Grobien, Assistant Pastor Home Phone: (574) 231 – 9572

On the Epistle to the Galatians

“With this allegory (Galatians 4:21–27), Paul shows the distinction between the Law and the Gospel very clearly: first, when he calls Hagar the old covenant and Sarah the new; next, when he calls the former a slave and the latter a free woman; finally, when he says that the one who has a husband and is prolific will grow ill and will be cast out of the house with her children, but that the one who is barren and desolate will become prolific and will produce an infinite number of children, all of whom will be heirs. These are the essential differences between the people of faith and the people of the Law. The people of faith does not have the Law as its husband; it is not in slavery; it was not born of the present Jerusalem as its mother. But it has the promise; it is free; and it is born of Sarah, the free woman.

“Therefore Paul separates the spiritual people of the new covenant from the Law when he says that this people is not the child of Hagar, who had a husband, but of Sarah, the free woman, who does not know the Law. In this way he sets the people of faith far above and beyond the Law. But if it is above and beyond the Law, then it is justified, not by the Law and works but solely by its spiritual birth, that is, by faith. For spiritual birth is nothing other than faith. Now just as the people of grace neither has the Law nor can have it, so the people of the Law neither has grace nor can have it; for it is impossible for Law and grace to exist together. Either we must be justified by faith and lose the righteousness of the Law, or we must be justified by the Law and lose grace and the righteousness of faith. It is a bitter and tragic loss when we keep the Law and lose grace. On the other hand, it is a fortunate and saving loss when we keep grace and lose the Law.

“Seeing that Paul sets this forth with the greatest care, we are very careful to show the difference between the Law and the Gospel clearly. This is very easy so far as the words themselves are concerned. For who does not see that Hagar is not Sarah and that Sarah is not Hagar, or that Ishmael neither is nor has what Isaac is and has? This can be determined easily. But in profound terrors and in the agony of death, when the conscience struggles with the judgment of God, to be able to say with firm confidence: ‘The Law does not apply to me at all, because my mother is Sarah, who gives birth, not to slaves but to free children and heirs’ — that is the most difficult thing there is.

“With his quotation from Isaiah, Paul proved that Sarah is the true mother, who gives birth to free children and heirs; and, on the other hand, that Hagar does indeed give birth to many children, but that they are slaves, who must be cast out of the house. Besides, since this passage speaks about the abrogation of the Law and about Christian liberty, it must be considered carefully. For just as it is our highest and most important doctrine to know that we are justified and saved through Christ, so, by antithesis, it is very important to have the correct understanding of the abrogation of the Law. The knowledge that the Law has been abrogated is of great value for confirming our teaching about faith and for providing a sure comfort for consciences, especially in their deep anxiety.

“I have said several times before, and I repeat now — for this is a thing that cannot be emphasized enough — that the Christian who by faith takes hold of the benefits of Christ has no Law at all but is free of it. The passage in Isaiah about the free mother who gives birth to free children teaches the same thing, namely, that for those who believe in Christ the entire Law, with all its terrors and troubles, has been abrogated. Therefore it is a truly outstanding and comforting passage, urging that the barren and desolate one rejoice, even though, according to the Law, she should rather be ridiculed or pitied. For according to the law barren women were accursed. But the Holy Spirit reverses this sentence and pronounces the barren one praiseworthy and blessed, but the prolific one who has children He pronounces accursed. Regardless of how desolate and barren Sarah, that is, the church, may appear to be in the eyes of the world because she does not have Law and works, she is, according to the testimony of the Prophet, the prolific mother of an infinite number of children in the eyes of God. By contrast, regardless of how great and abundant the fertility and bearing may be under Hagar, there are no children left; for the children of the slave woman are cast out of the house together with their mother, and they do not receive the inheritance with the children of the free woman, as Paul says below (Gal. 4:30).

(From Dr. Martin Luther’s Lectures on Galatians, A.D. 1535)

Walking with Our Savior this Week

TODAY	Divine Service of Communion	9:00 a.m.
	Coffee & Donuts Downstairs	10:30 a.m.
	Family Bible Class	10:45 a.m.

Pastor Stuckwisch teaching at the Lutheran Seminary in Novosibirsk (Siberia, Russia) until this Friday, May the 3rd.

MONDAY	Children's Choir	6:10 p.m.
	<i>Vespers</i>	7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY	THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD	
	Service at St. Paul, South Bend	10:00 a.m.

SATURDAY	<i>Pastor Stuckwisch traveling home to South Bend</i>	
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NEXT SUNDAY	Divine Service of Communion	9:00 a.m.
	Coffee & Donuts Downstairs	10:30 a.m.
	Family Bible Class	10:45 a.m.

You may also want to keep in mind, in your observance of daily prayer at home:

*This Thursday (1 May) is the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord
Readings: Acts 1:1–11; Ephesians 1:15–23; and St. Luke 24:44–53*

*The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Seventh Sunday of Easter:
Acts of the Apostles 1:12–26; 1 Peter 4:12–5:11; and St. John 17:1–11*