

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.
- ◆ We rejoice this morning in the Holy Baptism of Harlan Ignacio Esparza Pacheco, the infant son of Erika Pacheco (born the 14th of June). As the Lord our God has given Harlan His own divine Name in this Sacrament, and has adopted Him as a beloved son in Christ Jesus, so may He guard and keep him in the one true faith through the ongoing catechesis of His Word, unto the life everlasting. Let us also be daily returned to the significance of our own Baptism into Christ, that we may live by faith as His disciples.
- ◆ Following coffee & donuts, our Family Bible Class continues a study of First Samuel. Parents and children, youth and adults are welcome and encouraged to attend and participate in this class together.

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.
- ◆ There *will be* Vespers and Bible Class as usual on Monday evening this week, and Evening Prayer on Wednesday.
- ◆ Pastor Stuckwisch will be vested and available in the Emmaus Sanctuary this Saturday (19 July), from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m., for Individual Confession and Holy Absolution. This means of grace and forgiveness, instituted by Christ our Lord Himself, is freely offered to be freely received in repentant faith. Those with questions concerning this Christian practice are urged to review the Fifth Chief Part of the Catechism and are also invited and encouraged to visit with Pastor Stuckwisch or Pastor Grobien about it.
- ◆ Not this week, but next, there will be Divine Service on Tuesday the 22nd and on Friday the 25th, in celebration of the Feasts of St. Mary Magdalene and St. James the Elder, respectively, each beginning at 7:00 p.m. Come, avail yourself of the Gospel in Word and Sacrament, unto the glory of God in Christ Jesus our Savior, with thanksgiving for the gift of His saints.
- ◆ Please note that we will be gathered for a Baccalaureate Matins at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday the 26th of July, in order to celebrate the graduation from high school of Sarah Harrison and Nathaniel Rhein, and to support these two young people with our prayers and fellowship as they anticipate college.

- ◆ There will be a meeting on Monday the 28th of July, beginning at 6:00 p.m. (prior to Vespers and Bible class) for the parents of children in choir and/or catechesis classes. The primary purpose of the meeting will be to determine the most accommodating schedule of things in this academic. Thank you.
- ◆ Members of Emmaus are cordially invited to the wedding of Mr. Zachary Stuckwisch and Miss Rebekah Theiss on Friday the 8th of August at Zion Lutheran Church in Tomball, Texas. Those who are unable to attend the wedding are asked to remember this young couple in their prayers.
- ◆ The Altar flowers this morning are provided by Walter Sanders to the glory of God, in loving memory of his brother Cecil.
- ◆ COLLECTIONS FOR 29 JUNE: \$1782.50
- ◆ COLLECTIONS FOR 6 JULY: \$2121.02
- ◆ IN THE LORD'S SERVICE THIS MORNING: (ELDER) Eldon Knepp; (USHERS) Nathaniel Rhein & Erik Horner; (ACOLYTE) Martin Horner; (CRUCIFER) Arthur Araya; (ORGANIST) Sandra Rhein; (GREETERS) Dorothy Rummel & Marilyn Dulmatch.
- ◆ 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

“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore’ (Galatians 5:1). That is: ‘Be firm!’ Thus Peter says: ‘Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith’ (1 Peter 5:8–9). ‘Do not be smug,’ he says, ‘but be firm. Do not lie down or sleep, but stand.’ It is as though he were saying: ‘Vigilance and steadiness are necessary if you are to keep the freedom for which Christ has set us free. Those who are smug and sleepy are not able to keep it.’ For Satan violently hates the light of the Gospel, that is, the teaching of grace, freedom, comfort, and life. Therefore as soon as he sees it arise, he immediately strives to obliterate it with all his winds and storms. For this reason Paul urges godly persons not to be drowsy and smug in their behavior but to stand bravely in the battle against Satan, lest he take away the freedom achieved for them by Christ.

“Every word is emphatic. ‘Stand fast,’ he says, ‘in freedom.’ In what freedom? Not in the freedom for which the Roman emperor has set us free but in the freedom for which Christ has set us free. The Roman emperor gave — indeed, was forced to give — the Roman pontiff a free city and other lands, as well as certain immunities, privileges, and concessions [or, so it was supposed in Luther’s day; the so-called ‘Donation of Constantine’ has since been shown to be a forgery of the 15th century]. This, too, is freedom; but it is a political freedom, according to which the Roman pontiff with all his clergy is free of all public burdens. In addition, there is the freedom of the flesh, which is chiefly prevalent in the world. Those who have this obey neither God nor the laws but do what they please. This is the freedom which the rabble pursues today; so do the fanatical spirits, who want to be free in their opinions and actions, in order that they may teach and do with impunity what they imagine to be right. This is a demonic freedom, by which the devil sets the wicked free to sin against God and men. We are not dealing with this here although it is the most widespread and is the only goal and objective of the entire world. Nor are we dealing with political freedom. No, we are dealing with another kind, which the devil hates and attacks most bitterly.

“This is the freedom with which Christ has set us free, not from some human slavery or tyrannical authority but from the eternal wrath of God. Where? In the conscience. This is where our freedom comes to a halt; it goes no further. For Christ has set us free, not for a political freedom or a freedom of the flesh but for a theological or spiritual freedom, that is, to make our conscience free and joyful, unafraid of the wrath to come (Matt. 3:7). This is the most genuine freedom; it is immeasurable. When the other kinds of freedom — political freedom and the freedom of the flesh — are compared with the greatness and the glory of this kind of freedom, they hardly amount to one little drop. For who can express what a great gift it is for someone to be able to declare for certain that God neither is nor ever will be wrathful but will forever be a gracious and merciful Father for the sake of Christ? It is surely a great and incomprehensible freedom to have this Supreme Majesty kindly disposed toward us, protecting and helping us, and finally even setting us free physically in such a way that our body, which is sown in perishability, in dishonor, and in weakness, is raised in imperishability, in honor, and in power (1 Cor. 15:42–43). Therefore the freedom by which we are free of the wrath of God forever is greater than heaven and earth and all creation.

“From this there follows the other freedom, by which we are made safe and free through Christ from the Law, from sin, death, the power of the devil, hell, etc. Just as the wrath of God cannot terrify us, so the Law cannot accuse us.”

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

Walking with Our Savior this Week

TODAY	Divine Service of Communion with the Rite of Holy Baptism	9:00 a.m.
	Coffee & Donuts Downstairs	10:30 a.m.
	Family Bible Class	10:45 a.m.
MONDAY	<i>Vespers</i>	7:00 p.m.
	Bible Class	7:30 p.m.
TUESDAY	<i>Pastor's Writing Day (but <u>do call</u> in cases of emergency)</i>	
WEDNESDAY	<i>Evening Prayer</i>	7:00 p.m.
THURSDAY	<i>Pastor's Family Day (but <u>do call</u> in cases of emergency)</i>	
SATURDAY	Individual Confession & Absolution 5:00—7:00 p.m.	
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:

*The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Fourth in Apostles' Tide
Isaiah 44:6–8; Romans 8:18–27; and St. Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43*