

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.
- ◆ Following coffee & donuts, our Family Bible Class resumes our study of the stories of David in First Samuel. Parents and children, youth and adults are 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.
- ◆ **LADIES, PLEASE NOTE:** The Women's Service League is receiving donations for the Seminary Food Bank this morning. Thank you for your generosity.
- ◆ The **EMMAUS YOUTH** are having a **BAKE SALE THIS MORNING**, as part of their efforts to raise funds for the Higher Things conference this summer.
- ◆ Pastor Grobien and family are returning from vacation early this week. Please keep them in your prayers as they travel homeward.
- ◆ Pastor Stuckwisch and Pastor Grobien and a number of the members of Emmaus will be attending the annual Concordia Catechetical Academy in Sussex, Wisconsin, on Wednesday through Friday of this week.
- ◆ God-willing, Pastor Stuckwisch and family will be at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Lockport, Illinois, next Sunday (21 June) for the installation of his son-in-law, Sam Wirgau, as vicar at St. Paul for this coming year.
- ◆ Looking ahead a couple weeks: Emmaus will be gathered on Wednesday the 24th of June, to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist in the Divine Service, beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ The Altar flowers this morning have been provided by Pastor Stuckwisch to the glory of God, in thanksgiving for his wife, LaRena, on the occasion of their twenty-fourth wedding anniversary (15 June).
- ◆ **COLLECTIONS FOR 7 JUNE 2009:** \$1248.84

In order to meet our financial obligations and commitments, an average of \$1940 is needed each week.

- ◆ **IN THE LORD'S SERVICE THIS MORNING:**
(ELDER) Robert Rhein; (USHERS) Nathaniel Rhein & Rick Saenz;
(ACOLYTE) Luke Harrison; (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

“We declare it as a certainty that Christ is our principal, complete, and perfect righteousness. If there is nothing on which we can depend, still, as Paul says, ‘these three abide: faith, hope, love’ (1 Cor. 13:13). Thus we must always believe and love, and we must always take hold of Christ as the Head and the Source of our righteousness. ‘He who believes in Him will not be put to shame’ (Rom. 9:33). In addition, we should take pains to be righteous outwardly as well, that is, not to yield to our flesh, which is always suggesting something evil, but to resist it through the Spirit. We must not be broken up with impatience at the ingratitude and contempt of the rabble, who abuse Christian freedom; but by the Spirit we must overcome these and all other trials. To the extent that by the Spirit we struggle against the flesh, to that extent we are outwardly righteous, even though it is not this righteousness that makes us acceptable in the sight of God.

“Therefore let no one despair when he feels his flesh begin another battle against the Spirit, or if he does not succeed immediately in forcing his flesh to be subject to the Spirit. I, too, wish that I had a firmer and more steadfast spirit, one that could not only despise the threats of tyrants, the heresies planted by the fanatical spirits, and other offenses and tumults which they stir up, but could quickly shake off the fears and sorrows of the mind and could even get rid of its fears of the sharpness of death to receive it as a most welcome guest instead. ‘But I see in the members of my body [that is, in my flesh] another law at war with the law of my mind’ (Rom. 7:23). Other men struggle with lesser trials, such as poverty, dishonor, impatience, and the like.

“No one should be surprised or frightened when he feels this conflict of the flesh against the Spirit in his body, but he should fortify himself with these words of Paul: ‘The desires of the flesh are against the Spirit,’ and ‘These are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you would’ (Galatians 5:17).

“With these statements Paul is comforting those who are undergoing trials, as though he were saying: ‘It is impossible for you to follow the Spirit as your guide through everything without some awareness of hindrance by the flesh. Your flesh will be an obstacle, the sort of obstacle that will prevent you from doing what you would. Here it is sufficient if you resist the flesh and do not gratify its desires, that is, if you follow the Spirit rather than the flesh, which is easily disturbed by impatience, which seeks revenge, grumbles, hates, bites back, etc.’ When someone becomes aware of this battle of the flesh, he should not lose heart on this account; but by the Spirit he should fight back and say: ‘I am a sinner, and I am aware of my sin; for I have not yet put off my flesh, to which sin will cling as long as it lives. But I will obey the Spirit rather than the flesh. That is, by faith and hope I will take hold of Christ. I will fortify myself with His Word, and thereby I will refuse to gratify the desires of the flesh.’

“It is very useful to the faithful to know this doctrine of Paul well and to meditate on it, because it gives wonderful comfort to them in their trial. When I was a monk, I used to think that my salvation was undone when I felt any desires of the flesh, that is, any malice or sexual desire or anger or envy against any of my brothers. I tried many methods. I made confession every day, etc. But none of this did any good, because the desires of the flesh kept coming back. Therefore I could not find peace, but I was constantly crucified by thoughts such as these: ‘You have committed this or that sin; you are guilty of envy, impatience, etc. Therefore it was useless for you to enter this holy order, and all your good works are to no avail.’ If I had properly understood Paul’s statements, ‘The desires of the flesh are against the Spirit,’ and ‘These are opposed to each other,’ I would not have tortured myself to such a point but would have thought to myself, as I do nowadays: ‘Martin, you will never be completely without sin, because you still have the flesh. Therefore you will always be aware of its conflict, according to the statement of Paul: “The desires of the flesh are against the Spirit.” Do not despair, therefore, but fight back, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. Then you will not be under the Law.’

“I remember that Staupitz [Luther’s father confessor] used to say: ‘More than a thousand times I have vowed to God that I would improve, but I have never performed what I have vowed. Hereafter I shall not make such vows, because I know perfectly well that I shall not live up to them. Unless God is gracious and merciful to me for the sake of Christ and grants me a blessed final hour when the time comes for me to depart this miserable life, I shall not be able to stand before Him with all my vows and good works.’ This despair is not only truthful but is godly and holy. Whoever wants to be saved must make this confession with his mouth and with his heart.”

(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.
	• EMMAUS YOUTH BAKE SALE	
	Family Bible Class	10:45 a.m.

Pastor Grobien and family returning from their vacation

MONDAY	<i>Vespers</i>	7:00 p.m.
	Bible Class	7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY—FRIDAY Concordia Catechetical Academy
in Sussex, Wisconsin

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

*Pastor Stuckwisch and family in Lockport, Illinois
for the installation of his son-in-law, Sam Wirgau,
as the Vicar of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lockport*

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

*The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Second after Holy Trinity
Job 38:1–11; 2 Corinthians 6:1–13; and Saint Mark 4:35–41*