

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 and other refreshments downstairs following the Divine Service; and we ask that you please sign the guest book at the back of the church.
- ◆ Pr. Stuckwisch is making a regular Circuit Visit to Trinity Lutheran Church in Elkhart this morning. Please remember him in your prayers as he serves the congregations of our South Bend Circuit; and pray also for our sister congregations and for their pastors, teachers, and other workers.
- ◆ Following coffee & refreshments this morning, in place of our usual Family Bible Class, Deaconess Rhein will be giving a presentation on “God’s Gift of Music for Body, Mind, and Soul.” As she describes: “Music, as a good gift of God’s creation, permeates our lives and shapes our worship. When music is connected to God’s Word, it has the ability to carry that Word deep into our soul and to proclaim the Gospel in a living, active way. Its very expression is beneficial and good for the body. In the words of Marin Luther: ‘Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise.’”

Catechesis class for younger and beginning catechumens will meet as usual. Also, Mike Jindra and Kirsten Block are teaching a catechesis class for children of approximately eight through twelves years of age. And Dave Smith is teaching a catechesis class for teenagers (and others interested).

- ◆ As we continue to pray and intercede for those couples among our extended Emmaus family and friends who are expecting babies in the coming months, let us also do whatever we can to support them in our midst. For example, please consider “sprinkling” Sarah Rhein with gifts to assist her and Nathaniel in welcoming and caring for a daughter.

Also, this morning, join us for a “potluck” lunch, and take the opportunity to visit with Anna Hart, who is “back home” at Emmaus for the weekend. Cards and gifts for Anna and Ben are welcome in these coming months, as they look forward to the birth of their first child in May.

- ◆ Tomorrow (Monday the 24th), Emmaus will be gathered to celebrate the Feast of St. Matthias, the Apostle, in the Divine Service at 6:00 p.m.

- ◆ **Ladies of Emmaus, PLEASE NOTE:** The Women's Service League will be collecting LWML Mites this coming Sunday (2 March), and contributions for our own Emmaus Food Pantry the following week (9 March). Thanks!
- ◆ The Sacred Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March the 5th (not this week but next). There will be opportunities for the imposition of ashes on that day, either in the morning or shortly before the Divine Service that evening. There will also be opportunities, throughout the Season, for the Word of God and prayer, and for the celebration of the Sacrament. See the upcoming Announcements and the monthly calendar for days and times.
- ◆ The flowers on the Altar this morning are provided by Walter Sanders to the glory of God, in honor of his brother Leslie.
- ◆ **COLLECTIONS FOR 16 FEBRUARY 2014:** \$ 1,335.00
In order to meet our financial obligations and commitments, an average of \$2190 is needed each week.
- ◆ **IN THE LORD'S SERVICE THIS LORD'S DAY:**
(ELDERS) Phil Bergt & Robert Rhein; (USHERS) Nathaniel Rhein & Caleb Smith; (ACOLYTE) Lucas Jindra; (ORGANIST) Deaconess Sandra Rhein; (GREETERS) Marilyn Dulmatch & Betty Saenz.
- ◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574

From the Lutheran Confessions

“Article IV. Justification: By nature men judge that God ought to be appeased by works. The only righteousness that reason can see is the righteousness of the law, understood as civic uprightness. So there have always been some in the world who taught only this outward righteousness to the exclusion of the righteousness of faith, and such teachers there will always be. The same thing happened among the people of Israel. The majority of the people believed that they merited the forgiveness of sins by their works, and so they multiplied sacrifices and devotions. The prophets, on the contrary, condemned this opinion and taught the righteousness of faith. The history of the people of Israel is a type of what was to happen in the church of the future.”

“Therefore let not pious minds be troubled by the crowd of adversaries who condemn our teaching. It is easy to evaluate their spirit, for in some doctrines they have condemned a truth so manifest and clear that their ungodliness comes out into the open. The Papal Bull of Leo X has condemned a very necessary doctrine that all Christians should hold and believe, namely, ‘We ought to trust that we have been absolved, not because of our contrition but because of the Word of Christ, “Whatever you bind,” etc. (Matt. 16:19).’ Now in this very gathering the authors of the Confutation have condemned us in clear words for saying faith is part of penance, by which we obtain forgiveness of sin, conquer the terrors of sin, and receive peace for our conscience.

“Who does not see that this doctrine — that by faith we obtain the forgiveness of sin — is most true and certain and indispensable for all Christians? When future generations hear that such a doctrine was condemned, how can they ascribe any knowledge of Christ to those who condemned it?

“One can also judge their spirit from the unheard of cruelty which, as everyone knows, they have hitherto shown toward many godly men. We have heard in this assembly that when opinions were being expressed about our Confession, a reverend father said that no plan seemed better to him than to give an answer written in blood to our Confession written in ink. What would Phalaris say that was more cruel? Some of the princes regarded this expression as unworthy of being spoken in such an assembly.

“Although our opponents arrogate to themselves the name of the church, therefore, we know that the Church of Christ is among those who teach the Gospel of Christ, not among those who defend wicked opinions against the Gospel, as the Lord says, ‘My sheep hear my voice’ (John 10:27).

“Augustine says, ‘The question is, where is the church? What then shall we do? Shall we seek it in our own words or in the Words of its Head, our Lord Jesus Christ? I think we should seek it in the Words of Him who is the Truth and who knows His Body best.’ The judgments of our opponents will not bother us since they defend human opinions contrary to the Gospel, contrary to the authority of the holy Fathers, and contrary to the testimony of pious minds.”

(From the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, 1530)

Walking with Our Savior this Week

TODAY	Divine Service of Communion	9:00 a.m.
	Coffee & Refreshments Downstairs	10:30 a.m.
	Catechesis / Family Bible Class	10:45 a.m.
	Carry-in Lunch / Visit with Anna	12:00 Noon

Pastor Stuckwisch making a Circuit Visit to Trinity in Elkhart

MONDAY	THE FEAST OF SAINT MATTHIAS, THE APOSTLE	
	Divine Service of Communion	6:00 p.m.

TUESDAY *Pastor's Writing Day (but do call in cases of emergency)*

WEDNESDAY	Catechesis Class	4:30 p.m.
	Children's Choir Rehearsal	6:10 p.m.
	<i>Evening Prayer</i>	7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY *Pastor's Family Day (but do call in cases of emergency)*

FRIDAY	Catechesis Class	4:30 p.m.
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NEXT SUNDAY	THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD	
	Divine Service of Communion	9:00 a.m.
	—with the Rite of Holy Baptism	
	Coffee & Refreshments Downstairs	10:30 a.m.
	Catechesis / Family Bible Class	10:45 a.m.

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

*This Monday (24 February) is the Feast of St. Matthias, the Apostle
Readings: Isaiah 66:1–2; Acts 1:15–26; and St. Matt. 11:25–30*

*The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Transfiguration of Our Lord:
Exodus 24:8–18; 2 Peter 1:16–21; and Saint Matthew 17:1–9*