

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.
- ◆ Thanks to all those who worked and helped with cleaning yesterday, and to all those who quietly contribute in various other ways and at other times.
- ◆ Following coffee & refreshments, our Family Bible Class continues our study of the Old Testament Liturgy in Leviticus, looking at the rites and ceremonies of the means of grace, as well as the life of holiness that is to be lived by God's people. Parents and children, youth and adults are welcome.

Catechesis class for younger and beginning catechumens meets at the same time. 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).
- ◆ Throughout Lent, there are Vespers each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m., as well as a brief, spoken Divine Service each Friday at 9:00 a.m.

Lenten soup suppers are served prior to the Wednesday evening Vespers, from 5:30 until 6:30 p.m. One and all are welcome to enjoy the good soup and to share that opportunity for fraternal fellowship.
- ◆ This Saturday (12 April), Pastor Stuckwisch will be vested and available in the Emmaus Sanctuary for Individual Confession and Absolution from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. This means of grace and forgiveness, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, is freely offered to be freely received in repentant faith. Those who may have questions concerning this practice are encouraged to review the "Office of the Keys and Confession" in the Small Catechism, and are also welcome to visit with either of our pastors about it at any time.
- ◆ Next Sunday (13 April), the Sunday of the Passion, the Divine Service will begin with the procession of Palms, remembering our Lord's entry into Jerusalem. The children of the congregation are invited to participate in that procession, as in the past. They should be here, ready to go, by 8:50 a.m.

- ◆ Please note the following Services throughout Holy Week: On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week, there will be Matins each morning (at 9:00 a.m.) and a brief Divine Service each evening (at 6:00 p.m.). On Maundy Thursday, there will be a service of Confession and Absolution in the morning (9:00 a.m.), and the Divine Service that evening (6:00 p.m.). On Good Friday, the most solemn day of the Church Year, we will then be gathered at Emmaus for the Divine Service, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

There will also then be Services on Holy Saturday (the 19th of April): Matins at 9:00 a.m., and the Great Vigil of Easter, beginning at 8:00 p.m.

- ◆ Those who may be willing and able to lend or donate Easter lilies or other spring flowers for the adornment of the Sanctuary on the Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord, please have those to the Church by the morning of Saturday the 19th of April. Thank you in advance for your assistance!

- ◆ COLLECTIONS FOR 30 MARCH 2014: \$ 2,392.26

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: (ELDER) Eldon Knepp; (USHERS) Matthew Horner & Nathaniel Rhein; (ACOLYTE) Frederick Stuckwisch; (ORGANIST) Dcs. Sandra Rhein; (GREETERS) Dorothy Rummel & Marilyn Dulmatch.

- ◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574

From the Lutheran Confessions

“Articles VII & VIII. The Church: Many examples can be gathered from the histories in which it appears that a difference in human observances does not harm the unity of the faith. But why discuss it? Our opponents completely misunderstand the meaning of the righteousness of faith and of the kingdom of God id they regard as necessary a uniformity of observances in food, days, clothing, and similar matters without divine command. But see what religious men our opponents are! They require uniform human ceremonies for the unity of the church while they themselves have changed the ordinance of Christ in the use of the Lord’s Supper, which certainly was previously a universal ordinance. But if universal ordinances are necessary, why do they change the ordinance of Christ’s Supper, which is not human but divine? But on this whole controversy we shall have a few things to say later.

“They have approved the entire eighth article. There we confess that hypocrites and evil men have been mingled with the church and that the Sacraments are efficacious even when evil men administer them, for ministers act in Christ’s stead and do not represent their own persons, according to the word, ‘He who hears you hears me’ (Luke 10:16). We should forsake wicked teachers because they no longer function in the place of Christ, but are antichrists. Christ says, ‘Beware of false prophets’ (Matt. 7:15); Paul says, ‘If anyone is preaching a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed’ (Gal. 1:9).

Christ has also warned us in His parables on the church that when we are offended by the personal conduct of priests or people, we should not incite schisms, as the Donatists wickedly did. We regard as utterly seditious those who have incited schisms because they denied to priests the right to hold property or other possessions. The right to hold property is a civil ordinance. It is legitimate for Christians to use civil ordinances just as it is legitimate for them to use air, light, food, and drink. For as this universe and the fixed movements of the stars are truly ordinances of God and are preserved by God, so lawful governments are ordinances of God, preserved and defended by God against the devil.

“Articles IX. Holy Baptism: They approve the ninth article where we confess that Baptism is necessary for salvation; children are to be baptized; the Baptism of children is not useless but is necessary and efficacious for salvation. Among us, the Gospel is taught purely and diligently. We have therefore received this fruit from it, by God’s favor, that no Anabaptists have arisen in our churches since our people have been armed by God’s Word against the wicked and seditious faction of these robbers. Among the many errors of the Anabaptists that we condemn is also their assertion that the Baptism of children is useless. It is most certain that the promise of salvation also applies to little children. It does not apply to those who are outside of Christ’s church, where there is neither Word nor Sacrament, because Christ regenerates through Word and Sacrament. Therefore it is necessary to baptize children, so that the promise of salvation might be applied to them according to Christ’s command, ‘Baptize all nations’ (Matt. 28:19). Just as there salvation is offered to all, so Baptism is offered to all — men, women, children, and infants. Therefore it clearly follows that infants should be baptized because salvation is offered with Baptism.

“Second, since it is evident that God approves the Baptism of little children, the Anabaptists teach wickedly when they condemn the Baptism of little children. That God does approve the Baptism of little children is shown by the fact that God gives the Holy Spirit to those who were baptized this way. For if this Baptism were useless, the Holy Spirit would be given to none, none would be saved, and ultimately there would be no church. . . .”

(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.

MONDAY *Vespers* **7:00 p.m.**
Bible Class 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY Board of Elders 6:00 p.m.
Church Council 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY Soup Supper 5:30—6:30
Children's Choir 6:00 p.m.
Lenten Vespers **7:00 p.m.**

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

FRIDAY *Brief Spoken Divine Service* **9:00 a.m.**

SATURDAY Individual Confession & Absolution 5:00—7:00

NEXT SUNDAY **PALM SUNDAY / SUNDAY OF THE PASSION**
Divine Service of Communion **9:00 a.m.**
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:

*The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Sunday of the Passion:
Isaiah 50:4–9a; Philippians 2:5–11; and Saint John 12:12–19*