

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.

- ◆ 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. And Dave Smith is teaching a catechesis class for teenagers, and for others who are interested.

- ◆ Weekday catechesis classes are resuming for a new academic year over the next couple of weeks. The Friday class will begin meeting this Friday, the 5th of September, from 4:30 until 5:30 p.m. The Wednesday class will begin meeting, not this week but next, on the 10th of September, 4:30 p.m.

- ◆ This Saturday (6 September), Rev. Michael Mueller will be installed as the new pastor of our sister congregation, Redeemer in Warsaw, in the Order of Vespers beginning at 4:00 p.m. President Daniel May will be preaching and officiating the Installation, and Pr. Stuckwisch will be serving as liturgist. Please remember Rev. Mueller and his family and our brothers and sisters in Christ at Redeemer in your prayers and intercessions this week.

- ◆ **CONFESSING CHRIST IN A CONTRARY CULTURE:** The Church finds herself surrounded by an increasingly anti-Christian culture and society. This workshop of the Indiana District Worship & Spiritual Care Committee hosted at Our Shepherd, Avon, will address how Christian congregations, families, college students, pastors, teachers, and other individuals meet the challenge of confessing the faith clearly and with conviction. Cost: \$20.00 per person or \$30.00 per vehicle. A sign-up sheet for the conference and for the car pool is on bulletin board outside Pastor's study.

- ◆ Looking ahead a few weeks, please note that our Emmaus family will be having a Church Picnic at Rum Village on Sunday the 21st of September, beginning at 12:30 p.m. Hot dogs, brats, and hamburgers will be provided; bring a dish or dessert and beverages to share. There will also be a 5K race!

- ◆ The Altar flowers this morning are provided by Walter Sanders to the glory of God, in loving memory of his son David.
- ◆ COLLECTIONS FOR 24 AUGUST 2014: \$ 1,474.73
In order to meet our financial obligations and commitments, an average of \$2240 is needed each week.
- ◆ IN THE LORD'S SERVICE THIS LORD'S DAY:
(ELDER) Robert Rhein; (USHERS) Matthew Horner & Tobias Tribble;
(ACOLYTE) Justinian Stuckwisch; (ORGANIST) Deaconess Sandra Rhein;
(GREETERS) Carrol McCarty & Pat Nering
- ◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574

From the Lutheran Confessions

“Article XIII. The Number and Use of the Sacraments: No intelligent person will quibble about the number of Sacraments or the terminology, so long as those things are kept which have God’s command and promises.

“It is much more necessary to know how to use the Sacraments. Here we condemn the whole crowd of scholastic doctors who teach that unless there is some obstacle, the Sacraments confer grace ex opere operato [that is, by the working of the work], without a good disposition in the one using them. It is sheer Judaism to believe that we are justified by a ceremony without a good disposition in our heart, that is, without faith. Yet this ungodly and wicked notion is taught with great authority throughout the papal realm. In opposition to this, Paul denies that Abraham was justified by circumcision, but says that circumcision was a sign given to exercise faith.

“Thus we teach that in using the Sacraments there must be a faith which believes these promises and accepts that which is promised and offered in the Sacrament. The reason for this is clear and well founded. A promise is useless unless faith accepts it. The Sacraments are signs of the promises. When they are used, therefore, there must be faith, so that anyone who uses the Lord’s Supper uses it this way. Because this is a Sacrament of the New Testament, as Christ clearly says (I Cor. 11:25), the communicant should be certain that the free forgiveness of sins, promised in the New Testament, is being offered to him. He should accept this by faith, comfort his troubled conscience, and believe that the testimonies are not false but as certain as though God, by a new miracle, promised His will to forgive. For that matter, what good would such miracles or promises do an unbeliever?

“Here we are talking about personal faith, which accepts the promise as a present reality and believes that the forgiveness of sins is actually being offered, not about a faith which believes in a general way that God exists. Such use of the Sacrament comforts devout and troubled minds.

“Words cannot describe the abuses which this fanatical notion, about the sacraments ex opere operato without a good disposition in the one using them, has spawned in the church. From it has come the endless desecration of Masses, which we shall discuss a little later. No one can produce a single word from the Fathers that supports the scholastics on this question. In fact, Augustine says the opposite: that faith in the Sacrament, and not the Sacrament, justifies. And Paul’s statement is familiar, ‘Man believes with his heart and so is justified’ (Rom. 10:10).

*“**Article XIV. Ecclesiastical Order:** With the proviso that we employ canonical ordination, they accept Article XIV, where we say that no one should be allowed to administer the Word and Sacraments in the church unless he is duly called. On this matter we have given frequent testimony in the assembly to our deep desire to maintain the church polity and various ranks of the ecclesiastical hierarchy, although they were created by human authority. We know that the Fathers had good and useful reasons for instituting ecclesiastical discipline in the manner described by the ancient canons. But the bishops either force our priests to forsake and condemn the sort of doctrine we have confessed, or else, in their unheard of cruelty, they kill the unfortunate and innocent men. This keeps our priests from acknowledging such bishops. Thus the cruelty of the bishops is the reason for the abolition of canonical government in some places, despite our earnest desire to keep it. Let them see to it how they will answer to God for disrupting the church.*

“In this issue our consciences are clear and we dare not approve the cruelty of those who persecute this teaching, for we know that our confession is true, godly, and catholic. We know that the church is present among those who rightly teach the Word of God and rightly administer the Sacraments. It is not present among those who seek to destroy the Word of God with their edicts, who even butcher anyone who teaches what is right and true, though the canons themselves are gentler with those who violate them. Furthermore, we want at this point to declare our willingness to keep the ecclesiastical and canonical polity, provided that the bishops stop raging against our churches. This willingness will be our defense, both before God and among all nations, present and future, against the charge that we have undermined the authority of the bishops. Thus men may read that, despite our protest against the unjust cruelty of the bishops, we could not obtain justice.”

(From the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, 1530)

Walking with Our Savior this Week

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

MONDAY **Vespers** **6:00 p.m.**

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

WEDNESDAY **Evening Prayer** **6:00 p.m.**

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

FRIDAY Catechesis Class 4:30 p.m.

SATURDAY *Installation at Redeemer, Warsaw* 4:00 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY Divine Service of Communion 9:00 a.m.
 Coffee & Refreshment Downstairs 10:30 a.m.
 Voters' Mtg / Catechesis 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 Fifth in Martyrs' Tide:
Ezekiel 33:7-9; Romans 13:1-10; and Saint Matthew 18:1-20***