

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.
- ◆ There will be a Voters' Meeting this morning, downstairs in the church hall following coffee & refreshments. Members of Emmaus are encouraged to remain, and to participate in this way also in the life of our congregation. Family Bible Class will proceed with our study of Leviticus next Sunday.
- ◆ Ladies, Please Note: LWML Mites will be collected next Sunday the 14th of September, and donations for the Emmaus Food Pantry on the 21st.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ Emmaus Picnic! The pavilion at Rum Village has been reserved for a picnic on Sunday the 21st of September, beginning at 12:30 p.m. Meat to grill, chips, table service, soft drinks, and water will be provided; please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Rob Rhein will have his camera ready as we work towards updating the photo directory. Our second annual 5K race will take place after lunch. If possible, racers should wear Emmaus t-shirts!
- ◆ College students: You are cordially invited to Deaconess Rhein's home (546 Altgeld Street, South Bend) for a meal and fellowship on Sunday the 28th of September, beginning at Noon. Undergrads, grad students, part time college students, and spouses of college students are all welcome. Please RSVP by the 21st (sandrarhein@comcast.net).
- ◆ The Altar flowers this morning are provided by Marilyn Dulmatch to the glory of God, in loving memory of the Reinking and Dumlatch families.

◆ COLLECTIONS FOR 24 AUGUST 2014: \$ 1,677.25

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) Eldon Knepp; (USHERS) Nathaniel Rhein & Rick Saenz;
(ACOLYTE) Frederick Stuckwisch; (ORGANIST) Dcs. Sandra Rhein;
(GREETERS) Marilyn Dulmatch & Betty Saenz

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

From the Lutheran Confessions

“Article XV. Human Traditions in the Church: They accept the first part, where we say that we should observe those ecclesiastical rites which can be observed without sin and which are conducive to tranquillity and good order in the church. They completely condemn the second part, where we say that human traditions instituted to appease God, to merit grace, and to make satisfaction for sin are contrary to the Gospel. Although we have discussed traditions at length in Article XXVI of the Confession, we must repeat a few things here.

“We expected our opponents to defend human traditions on other grounds. We did not think that they would actually condemn the doctrine that we do not merit grace or the forgiveness of sins by the observance of human traditions. Now that they have condemned this doctrine, we have an easy and simple case. Here our opponents are openly Judaizing; they are openly replacing the Gospel with doctrines of demons. Scripture call traditions ‘doctrines of demons’ when someone teaches that religious rites are helpful in gaining grace and the forgiveness of sins (I Tim. 4:1). This obscures the Gospel, the blessing of Christ, and the righteousness of faith. The Gospel teaches that by faith, for Christ’s sake, we freely receive the forgiveness of sins and are reconciled to God. Our opponents, however, set up these traditions as another mediator through which they seek to gain the forgiveness of sins and appease the wrath of God. But Christ says, ‘In vain do they worship Me with the precepts of men’ (Matt. 15:9).

“We have previously shown at length that men are justified by the faith that they have a gracious God not because of works but freely for Christ’s sake. This is definitely the teaching of the Gospel, for Paul clearly teaches, ‘By grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God’ and not of men (Eph. 2:8).

“They say that men merit the forgiveness of sins by these human observances. What is this but to set up another justifier and mediator instead of Christ? Paul says to the Galatians (5:4), ‘You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law.’ That is, if by the observance of the law you think you deserve to be accounted righteous before God, then Christ is of no use to you, for why does anyone need Christ if he believes he is righteous by his own observance of the law? God has appointed Christ as the Mediator; He wants to be gracious to us through Him, not through our own righteousness. These men believe that God is reconciled and gracious because of the traditions and not because of Christ. Thus they rob Christ of His honor as the Mediator.

“From this point of view there is no difference between our traditions and the ceremonies of Moses. Paul condemns the ceremonies of Moses as well as traditions because they were thought of as works meriting righteousness before God and therefore they obscured the work of Christ and the righteousness of faith. With the removal of the law and of the traditions, he therefore contends that the forgiveness of sins has been promised, not because of our works but freely because of Christ, provided that we accept it by faith; for only faith can accept a promise. Since it is by faith that we accept the forgiveness of sins and by faith that we have a gracious God for Christ’s sake, it is an ungodly error to maintain that we merit the forgiveness of sins by these observances. Someone might say in this connection that though we do not merit the forgiveness of sins,, those who are already justified do merit grace by observing these traditions. To this Paul replies that Christ would be ‘an agent of sins’ (Gal. 2:17) if we were to believe that after justification we are not accounted righteous for his sake but must first merit this by other observances. ‘No one adds even to a man’s covenant’ (Gal. 3:15). In other words, to the Covenant of God, promising that He will be gracious to us for Christ’s sake, we dare not add the condition that we must first earn our acceptance and justification through these observances.

“What need is there of a long discussion? The holy Fathers did not institute any traditions for the purpose of meriting the forgiveness of sins or righteousness. They instituted them for the sake of good order and tranquillity in the church. If somebody wants to institute certain works to merit the forgiveness of sins or righteousness, how will he know that these works please God since they do not have support in God’s Word? How will he inform men of God’s will without the command and Word of God? Does not God throughout the Prophets forbid the establishment of additional ceremonies without His command? In Ezekiel (20:18–19) is written, ‘Do not walk in the statutes of your fathers, nor observe their ordinances, nor defile yourselves with their idols.’”

(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.
 Voters' Mtg / Catechesis Class 10:45 a.m.

MONDAY **Vespers** **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.
 Evening Prayer **7:00 p.m.**

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

FRIDAY *Pr. Stuckwisch traveling to Florida for
an ordination anniversary celebration*

SATURDAY *Confessing Christ in a Contrary Culture:
Worship & Spiritual Care Workshop, Avon, Ind.*

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

*Pr. Stuckwisch preaching for an ordination
anniversary in St. Petersburg, Florida*

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

*The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Sixth in Martyrs' Tide:
Genesis 50:15–21; Romans 14:1–12; and St. Matthew 18:21–35*