

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.
- ◆ Pastor and Nicholai Stuckwisch are in Florida this weekend, celebrating the 20th ordination anniversary of the Reverend Kevin Loughran, long-time friend and colleague of Pastor Stuckwisch, as well as Nicholai's godfather. Pastor Stuckwisch is preaching for the anniversary celebration this morning, then he and Nicholai will be traveling home to South Bend this evening.
- ◆ Following coffee & refreshments this morning, in place of our usual Family Bible Class, Deaconess Rhein will lead a discussion of *Text, Music, Context*, an LCMS resource that she'll be using in her work on the Ethiopian hymnal.

Catechesis class for younger and beginning catechumens will meet at the same time. Also, Mike Jindra is teaching a catechesis class for children of approximately eight through twelve years of age. And Dave Smith is teaching a catechesis class for teenagers (and others interested).
- ◆ Ladies, Please Note: LWML Mites are being collected this morning, and donations for our own Emmaus Food Pantry will be gathered next Sunday.
- ◆ Pastor Stuckwisch will be vested and available in the Emmaus Sanctuary for Individual Confession and Absolution this Saturday (20 September) from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. This means of grace and forgiveness, by the authority of Christ our Lord, is freely offered to be freely received in repentant faith. Those with questions concerning this Christian practice are encouraged to review the "Office of the Keys and Confession" in the Small Catechism, and are invited to speak with either of our pastors about it.
- ◆ Emmaus Picnic! The pavilion at Rum Village has been reserved for a picnic next 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 (sandrarin@comcast.net).
- ◆ COLLECTIONS FOR 7 SEPTEMBER 2014: \$ 1,449.00
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; (DEACON) Rev. Josh Osbun; (USHERS) Caleb Smith & Nicholai Stuckwisch; (ACOLYTE) Lucas Jindra; (ORGANIST) Deaconess Sandra Rhein; (GREETERS) Robert & Herta Johnston
- ◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574

From the Lutheran Confessions

“Article XV. Human Traditions in the Church: 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. I the Lord am you God; walk in My statutes, and be careful to observe My ordinances.’ If men are allowed to establish new rites and if by such rites they merit grace, we shall have to approve the religious rites of all the heathen, as well as the rites established by Jeroboam and others over and above the law. Where is the difference? If we are permitted to establish rites that serve to merit grace or righteousness, why did not the heathen and Israelites have the same privilege? Yet the rites of the heathen and the Israelites were condemned precisely because, in their ignorance of the righteousness of faith, they believed that by these they merited the forgiveness of sins and righteousness. Finally, what assurance do we have that religious rites established by men without God's command can justify since we can affirm nothing about the will of God without the Word of God? What if God does not approve these acts of worship? How,

then, can our opponents maintain that they justify? They cannot maintain this without the Word and testimony of God, and Paul says, ‘Whatever does not proceed from faith is sin’ (Rom. 14:23). Since these rites have no testimony in the Word of God, the conscience must doubt whether they please God.

“What need is there for words in a matter so clear? If our opponents defend the notion that these human rites merit justification, grace, and the forgiveness of sins, they are simply establishing the kingdom of Antichrist. The kingdom of Antichrist is a new kind of worship of God, devised by human authority in opposition to Christ. Thus the kingdom of Mohammed has rites and works by which it seeks to be justified before God, denying that men are freely justified before God by faith for Christ’s sake. So the papacy will also be a part of the kingdom of Antichrist if it maintains that human rites justify. They take honor away from Christ when they teach that we are not justified freely for His sake but by such rites, and especially when they teach that for justification such rites are not only useful but necessary. The Confutation condemns our statement in the article on the church that for the true unity of the church it is not necessary that rites instituted by men be everywhere alike. In his eleventh chapter Daniel says that the invention of human rites will be the very form and constitution of the kingdom of Antichrist. This is what he says: ‘He shall honor the god of fortresses instead of these: a god whom his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts’ (Dan. 11:38). Here he is describing the invention of rites, for he says that a god will be worshiped whom the fathers did not know.

“Although the holy Fathers themselves had rites and traditions, they did not regard them as useful or necessary for justification. They did not obscure the glory or work of Christ but taught that we are justified by faith for Christ’s sake, not for the sake of these human rites. They observed these human rites because they were profitable for good order, because they gave the people a set time to assemble, because they provided an example of how all things could be done decently and in order in the churches, and finally because they helped instruct the common folk. Different seasons and various rites serve as reminders for the common folk. For these reasons the Fathers kept ceremonies, and for the same reasons we also believe in keeping traditions. We are amazed when our opponents maintain that traditions have another purpose, namely, to merit the forgiveness of sins, grace and justification. What is this but honoring God ‘with gold and silver and precious stones,’ believing that He is reconciled by a variety of vestments, ornaments, and innumerable similar observances in the human traditions. . . .”

(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 / Bible Class	10:45 a.m.

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

MONDAY	Vespers	6:00 p.m.
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TUESDAY	<i>Pastor's Writing Day (but <u>do call</u> in cases of emergency)</i>	
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WEDNESDAY	Catechesis Class	4:30 p.m.
	Children's Choir Rehearsal	6:10 p.m.
	Evening Prayer	7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY	<i>Pastor's Family Day (but <u>do call</u> in cases of emergency)</i>	
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FRIDAY	Catechesis Class	4:30 p.m.
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SATURDAY	Individual Confession & Absolution	5:00—7:00
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NEXT SUNDAY	Divine Service of Communion	9:00 a.m.
	Coffee & Refreshment Downstairs	10:30 a.m.
	Catechesis / Bible Class	10:45 a.m.
	Church Picnic at Rum Village	12:30 p.m.

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

*The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Seventh in Martyrs' Tide:
Isaiah 55:6–9; Philippians 1:12–30; and Saint Matthew 20:1–16*