

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 Leviticus, looking at the rites and ceremonies of the Old Testament means of grace. Parents and children, youth and adults are all welcome.

Catechesis class for younger and beginning catechumens will meet at the same time. Also, Mike Jindra and Ian Walsh 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).
- ◆ College students: You are cordially invited to Deaconess Rhein's home at 546 Altgeld Street, South Bend, for a meal and fellowship today, beginning at Noon. Undergrads, grad students, part time college students, and spouses of college students are all welcome to come.
- ◆ Pastor Stuckwisch will be presenting on the pastoral care of catechumens and communicants at the St. Michael's Liturgical Conference in Detroit on Monday of this week. He'll be returning to South Bend on Tuesday. Please keep him in your prayers as he travels, and as he speaks at the conference.
- ◆ The Altar flowers this morning have been provided by Randy & Diana Fish to the glory of God, in celebration of their 48th wedding anniversary.
- ◆ **COLLECTIONS FOR 21 SEPTEMBER 2014: \$ 1,644.02**
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 & Rick Saenz;
(ACOLYTE) Benjamin Horner; (ORGANIST) Deaconess Sandra Rhein;
(GREETERS) Carrol McCarty & Pat Nering
- ◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574

From the Lutheran Confessions

“Article XV. Human Traditions in the Church: Bishops do not have the power to institute rites as though they justified or were necessary for justification. In the apostolic statement in Acts 15:10, ‘Why do you make a trial of God by putting a yoke,’ etc., Peter charges that to put this burden on the church is a great sin. In Gal. 5:1 Paul forbids them to ‘submit again to slavery.’ True, in the Old Testament ceremonies were necessary for the time being. But the Apostles insisted that Christian liberty remain in the church, lest the observances of the law or traditions be regarded as necessary. If men believe that these observances merit justification or are necessary for justification, they obscure the righteousness of faith. Many look for loopholes in the traditions to ease their consciences, yet they do not find any sure standards by which to free themselves from these fetters. When Alexander could not untie the Gordian knot, he solved it for good by cutting it with his sword. Just so the Apostles have freed consciences from traditions for good, especially from the notion that they merit justification. By precept and example the Apostles compel us to oppose this teaching. They compel us to teach that traditions do not justify; that they are not necessary for justification; that no one ought to create or accept traditions with the idea that they merit justification. Then if anybody observes them, let him do so without claiming any value before God for them, just as there is no value before God in observing secular customs, if soldiers wear one kind of uniform and scholars another. The Apostles violated traditions, and Christ excused them, for this was to serve as an example to the Pharisees of the uselessness of these acts of worship. If our people drop certain useless traditions, they have excuse enough now that these are being required as a means of meriting justification. For such an idea of traditions is wicked.

“We gladly keep the old traditions set up in the church because they are useful and promote tranquillity, and we interpret them in an evangelical way, excluding the opinion which holds that they justify. Our enemies falsely accuse us of abolishing good ordinances and church discipline. We can truthfully claim that in our churches the public liturgy is more decent than in theirs, and if you look at it correctly we are more faithful to the canons than our opponents are. Among our opponents, unwilling celebrants and hirelings perform Mass, and they often do so only for the money. When they chant the Psalms, it is not to learn or pray but for the sake of the rite, as if this work were an act of worship or at least worth some reward. Every Lord’s Day many in our circles use the Lord’s Supper, but only after they have been instructed, examined, and absolved. The children chant the Psalms in order to learn; the people sing, too, in order to learn or to worship.

“Among our opponents there is no catechization of the children at all, though even the canons give prescriptions about it. In our circles the pastors and ministers of the churches are required to instruct and examine the youth publicly, a custom that produces very good results. Among our opponents, there are many regions where no sermons are preached during the whole year, except in Lent. But the chief worship of God is the preaching of the Gospel.

“When our opponents do preach, they talk about human traditions, the worship of the saints, and similar trifles. This the people rightly despise and walk out on them after the reading of the Gospel. A few of the better ones are now beginning to talk about good works, but they say nothing about the righteousness of faith or about faith in Christ or about comfort for the conscience. In their polemics they even attack this most salutary part of the Gospel. In our churches, on the other hand, all sermons deal with topics like these: penitence, the fear of God, faith in Christ, the righteousness of faith, comfort for the conscience through faith, the exercise of faith, prayer and our assurance that it is efficacious and is heard, the cross, respect for rulers and for all civil ordinances, the distinction between the kingdom of Christ (or the spiritual kingdom) and political affairs, marriage, the education and instruction of children, chastity, and all the works of love. From this description of the state of our churches it is evident that we diligently maintain church discipline, pious ceremonies, and the good customs of the church.

“With regard to the mortifying of the body and the discipline of the flesh we teach exactly what we said in the Augsburg Confession, that the cross and the troubles with which God disciplines us effect a genuine and not a counterfeit mortification. When this comes, we must obey God’s will, as Paul says, ‘Present your bodies as a sacrifice’ (Rom.12:1). This is the spiritual exercise of fear and faith. Besides this mortification brought on by the cross, a voluntary kind of exercise is also necessary. Of this Christ says, ‘Take heed to yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation’ (Luke 21:34), and Paul says, ‘I pommel my body and subdue it’ (1 Cor. 9:27). We should undertake these exercises not as services that justify but as restraints on our flesh, lest we be overcome by satiety and become complacent and idle with the result that we indulge and pamper the desires of our flesh. In this we must be diligent at all times because God commands it at all times. But their prescription of certain foods and seasons contributes nothing to the subjection of the flesh. Their fasts are more luxurious and sumptuous than others’ feasts, and our opponents do not even observe the canonical prescriptions.”

(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.
	<i>College Students at the Rhein's</i>	<i>12:00 Noon</i>

MONDAY—TUESDAY *Pastor Stuckwisch presenting at the St. Michael's Conference in Detroit*

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 Catechesis Class 4:30 p.m.

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

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

*This Monday (29 September) is the Feast of Saint Michael & All Angels
Readings: Dan. 10:10–14; 12:1–3; Rev. 12:7–12; St. Luke 10:17–20*

*The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Second in Angels' Tide:
Isaiah 5:1–7; Philippians 3:4–14; and Saint Matthew 21:33–46*