

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).

- ◆ Pr. Stuckwisch will be traveling to Kewanee, Illinois, this afternoon, for the Gottesdienst Oktoberfest at St. Paul Lutheran Church. He'll be returning to South Bend on Tuesday. Please remember him in your prayers as he travels, and note that we will not be gathered for Vespers on Monday of this week.

- ◆ Photography Updates: The weather at the picnic prohibited us from getting any family photos, so the project will continue at church. Rob Rhein will be set up to take pictures on October 19 & 26. If your picture isn't on the lounge wall at church, or if you'd like an updated picture there, please take advantage of the opportunity after Bible Class on one of those two Sundays.

- ◆ Be looking ahead and plan accordingly for the Circuit Reformation Service that we'll be hosting at Emmaus on Sunday the 26th of October, beginning at 4:00 p.m. Deaconess Rhein is working on putting together a joint choir of adults and older youth from the congregations of the South Bend Circuit, and Betty Shankle is coordinating refreshments for the occasion.

- ◆ The flowers on the Altar this morning have been provided by Robert Juday to the glory of God, in loving memory of his wife, Elaine, and in honor of their wedding anniversary this month.

- ◆ **COLLECTIONS FOR 5 OCTOBER 2014: \$ 1,626.00**

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; (USHERS) Matthew Horner & Tobias Tribble; (ACOLYTE) Lucas Jindra; (ORGANIST) Dcs. Sandra Rhein; (GREETERS) Robert & Herta Johnston.
- ◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574

From the Lutheran Confessions

“Article XVI. Political Order: Julian the Apostate, Celsus, and many others opposed the Christians on the grounds that their Gospel would destroy the commonwealth by its prohibition of legal redress and by other teachings that were not suited to civil relationships. These questions were very disturbing to Origen, Nazianzus, and others, though they are very easy to answer if we keep certain things in mind. The Gospel does not legislate for the civil estate but is the forgiveness of sins and the beginning of eternal life in the hearts of believers. It not only approves governments but subjects us to them, just as we are necessarily subjected to the laws of the seasons and to the change of winter and summer as ordinances of God. The Gospel forbids private revenge, and Christ stresses this so often lest the Apostles think that they should usurp the government from those who hold it, as in the Jewish dream of the messianic kingdom; instead, He would have them know their duty to teach that the spiritual kingdom does not change the civil government. Thus private revenge is forbidden not as an evangelical counsel but as a command (Matt. 5:38; Rom. 12:19). Public redress through a judge is not forbidden but expressly commanded, and it is a work of God according to Paul (Rom. 13:1ff.). Now the various kinds of public redress are court decisions, punishments, wars, military service. How poor the judgment of many writers in these matters has been is evident from their erroneous view that the Gospel is something external, a new and monastic form of government. Thus they failed to see that the Gospel brings eternal righteousness to hearts, while it approves the civil government.

“It is also false to claim that Christian perfection consists in not holding property. What makes for Christian perfection is not contempt of civil ordinances but attitudes of the heart, like a deep fear of God and a strong faith. Though they were wealthy and held high positions, Abraham, David, and Daniel were no less perfect than any hermit. The monks impressed men with this outward hypocrisy and blinded them to the essence of real perfection. How they have praised the theory that the Gospel requires us to hold property in common! Such praise is dangerous, especially because it is so out of harmony with the Scriptures. Scripture does not command holding property in common, but by its command, ‘You shall not steal,’ the Decalogue recognizes the right of ownership

and commands everyone to possess his own. Wycliffe was obviously out of his mind in claiming that priests were not allowed to own property. Endless discussions about contracts will never satisfy good consciences unless they keep the rule in mind, that a Christian may legitimately make use of civil ordinances and laws. This rule safeguards consciences, for it teaches that if contracts have the approval of magistrates or of laws, they are legitimate in the sight of God as well.

“Our theologians have explained this whole matter of political affairs so clearly that many good men involved in politics and in business have testified how they were helped after the theories of the monks had troubled them and put them in doubt whether the Gospel permitted such public and private business. We have repeated our position here so that those outside our group may understand that our doctrine does not weaken but rather strengthens the authority of magistrates and the value of civil ordinances generally. The importance of this had been obscured by foolish monastic theories which put a hypocritical poverty and humility far above the state and the family, even though these have God’s command while the Platonic commune does not have God’s command.

“Article XVII. Christ’s Return to Judgment: *Our opponents accept Article XVII without exception. There we confess that at the consummation of the world Christ will appear and raise all the dead, granting eternal life and eternal joys to the godly but condemning the ungodly to endless torment with the devil.*

“Article XVIII. Free Will: *Our opponents accept Article XVIII on free will, but they add several proofs which are hardly applicable in this matter. They also add a caution, lest too much be conceded to free will, as in Pelagianism, or all liberty be denied it, as in Manichaeism. Well and good; but what is the difference between the Pelagians and our opponents, since both believe that without the Holy Spirit men can love God and perform ‘the essence of the acts’ required by His commandments and that without the Holy Spirit men can merit grace and justification by works that reason produces on its own? How many absurdities follow from these Pelagian notions which the schools teach with great authority! In the article on justification we quoted Augustine’s emphatic refutation of these notions, based on Paul.*

“We are not denying freedom to the human will. The human will has freedom to choose among the works and things which reason by itself can grasp. To some extent it can achieve civil righteousness or the righteousness of works. It can talk about God and express its worship of him in outward works. It can obey rulers and parents. . . .”

(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.

MONDAY—TUESDAY *Pr. Stuckwisch attending the Gottesdienst
 Oktoberfest St. Paul in Kewanee, Illinois*

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.

SATURDAY *Dcs. Rhein speaking on the theology of church music
 for a Women’s Retreat at Our Redeemer, South Bend*

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 Saturday (18 October) is the Feast of Saint Luke the Evangelist
 Readings: Isaiah 35:5–8; 2 Timothy 4:5–18; and St. Luke 10:1–9*

*The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Fourth in Angels’ Tide:
 Isaiah 45:1–7; 1 Thessalonians 1:1–10; and St. Matthew 22:15–22*