

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).

With the variety of options provided, it is intended that everyone would be in attendance at one or another of these classes, in order to hear and learn God's Word. A nursery is provided for the youngest children (under four), and we ask that older children not occupy that room during catechesis. We do also ask that anyone not participating in one of the classes be considerate of those who are teaching and learning, so as not to disturb or distract them.

- ◆ Pastor Stuckwisch will be vested and available in the Emmaus Sanctuary this Saturday (25 October) for Individual Confession & Absolution from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. This means of grace and forgiveness, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, is freely offered to be freely received in repentant faith. Those who may have questions concerning this Christian practice are encouraged to review the Small Catechism on "The Office of the Keys and Confession," and are invited to speak with either of our pastors about it.

- ◆ Be looking ahead and plan to join us 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.

- ◆ Note that a number of our young Emmaus catechumens will be confessing the faith at the Order of Vespers on Friday the 31st of October, in anticipation of the Lutheran Rite of Confirmation on the Sunday of All Saints (2 November).

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ COLLECTIONS FOR 12 OCTOBER 2014: \$ 2,084.00
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) Dave Smith; (USHERS) Caleb Smith & Rick Saenz; (ACOLYTE) Joshua Jordan; (ORGANIST) Monica Stuckwisch; (GREETERS) Marilyn Dulmatch.
- ◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574

From the Lutheran Confessions

“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. Externally, it can choose to keep the hands from murder, adultery, or theft. Since human nature still has reason and judgment about the things that the senses can grasp, it also retains a choice in these things, as well as the liberty and ability to achieve civil righteousness. This righteousness which the carnal nature — that is, the reason — can achieve on its own without the Holy Spirit, Scripture calls the righteousness of the flesh. But so great is the power of concupiscence that men obey their evil impulses more often than their sound judgment, while the devil, who as Paul says (Eph. 2:2) is at work in the

ungodly, never stops inciting this feeble nature to various offenses. For these reasons even civil righteousness is *rara* among men, as we see from the fact that ever philosophers who seem to have wanted this righteousness did not achieve it. Moreover, it is false to say that a man does not sin if, outside the state of grace, he does the works prescribed in the commandments; to this they add that such works, by the merit of congruity, earn the forgiveness of sins and justification. Without the Holy Spirit human hearts have neither the fear of God nor trust in God nor the faith that God hears, forgives, helps, or saves them. Therefore they are ungodly; for ‘a bad tree cannot bear good fruit’ (Matt. 7:18) and ‘without faith it is impossible to please’ God (Heb. 11:6).

“Although we concede to free will the liberty and ability to do the outward works of the law, we do not ascribe to it the spiritual capacity for true fear of God, true faith in God, true knowledge and trust that God considers, hears, and forgives us. These are the real works of the first table, which the human heart cannot perform without the Holy Spirit. As Paul says, ‘The natural man,’ that is, the man who uses only his natural powers, ‘does not perceive the things of God’ (1 Cor. 2:14). Men can easily determine this if they consider what their hearts believe about God’s will, whether they really believe that God regards and hears them. Even for the saints it is hard to keep this faith; for the ungodly it is impossible. As we have said before, it comes into being when terrified hearts hear the Gospel and receive consolation.

“Therefore we may profitably distinguish between civil righteousness and spiritual righteousness, attributing the former to the free will and the latter to the operation of the Holy Spirit in the regenerate. This safeguards outward discipline, because all men ought to know that God requires this civil righteousness and that, to some extent, we can achieve it. At the same time it shows the difference between human righteousness and spiritual righteousness, between philosophical teaching and the teaching of the Holy Spirit; and it points out the need for the Holy Spirit. This distinction is not our invention but the clear teaching of the Scriptures. Augustine discusses it too, and more recently William of Pairs has discussed it very well. But it have been criminally suppressed by those who dream that men can obey the law of God without the Holy Spirit and that the Holy Spirit is given to them out of regard for the merit of this obedience.

“Article XIX. The Cause of Sin: Our opponents accept Article XIX. There we confess that God alone has established all of nature and preserves everything that exists. Nevertheless, the cause of sin is the will of the devil and of men turning away from God, as Christ said about the devil, ‘When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature’ (John 8:44).”

(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 **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 Catechesis Class 4:30 p.m.

SATURDAY Individual Confession & Absolution 5:00—7:00

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 Thursday (18 October) is the Feast of Saint James of Jerusalem
Readings: Acts 15:12–22a; James 1:1–12; and St. Matt. 13:54–58*

*The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Fifth in Angels' Tide:
Leviticus 19:1–18; 1 Thess. 2:1–13; and St. Matthew 22:34–46*