

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 twelve 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.

- ◆ Emmaus is hosting a Circuit Reformation Service this afternoon, beginning at 4:00 p.m. We'll praying and singing the Order of Vespers with Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs appropriate to the occasion. The Reverend Gregory Fiechtner of St. Paul, South Bend, will be preaching. A choir of youth and adults will be singing, accompanied by various instrumentalists. Refreshments will be served afterwards during a time of social fellowship.
- ◆ Four of our Emmaus catechumens — Luke Harrison, and Caleb, Noah, and Jesse Smith — will be confessing the faith at the Order of Vespers this Friday the 31st of October (Reformation Day), in anticipation of the Lutheran Rite of Confirmation on the Sunday of All Saints (2 November). Members of Emmaus are encouraged to attend the Vespers, especially in support of the confirmands, and so also to remember them in prayer.
- ◆ 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 this morning (26 Oct). If your picture isn't on the lounge wall at church, or if you'd like an updated picture there, please take advantage of this opportunity after Bible Class this morning.

- ◆ Pr. Stuckwisch will be in Fort Wayne on Monday and Tuesday of this week for a meeting of the Circuit Visitors of the Indiana District. Please keep him and the other Circuit Visitors in your prayers as they travel to and fro, and as they work together to serve the pastors and congregations of our district.
- ◆ The Altar flowers this morning have been provided by Sharon Makowski to the glory of God.
- ◆ COLLECTIONS FOR 19 OCTOBER 2014: \$ 1,345.84
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) Nathaniel Rhein & Nicholai Stuckwisch; (ACOLYTE) Benjamin Horner; (ORGANIST) Dcs. Sandra Rhein; (GREETERS) Carrol McCarty & Pat Nering.
- ◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574

From the Lutheran Confessions

“Article XX. Good Works: In Article XX they expressly state their rejection and condemnation of our statement that men do not merit the forgiveness of sins by good works. This article they explicitly reject and condemn. What can we say about an issue that is so clear? Here the framers of the Confutation have shown their true spirit. For what is more certain in the church than that the forgiveness of sins is given freely for Christ’s sake, that not our works but Christ is the propitiation for sin? As Peter says, ‘To Him all the prophets bear witness that every one who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name’ (Acts 10:43). We would rather agree with this church of the prophets than with those damnable writers of the Confutation who so impudently blaspheme Christ. There have indeed been theologians who held that after the forgiveness of sins men are righteous before God not through faith but through their own works; nevertheless, they did not mean to say that we receive the forgiveness of sins itself on account of our works and not freely on account of Christ.

“Therefore the blasphemy of attributing the honor of Christ to our works is intolerable. These theologians have lost all sense of shame if they dare to smuggle such a notion into the church. We are sure that His Most Excellent Imperial Majesty and many of the princes would have refused to let this statement of the Confutation stand if their attention had been called to it.

“Here we could quote endless passages from Scripture and the Fathers, but we have already said enough on this subject. There is no need for proofs to anyone who knows that Christ was given to us to be a propitiation for our sins. Isaiah says, ‘The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all’ (Is. 53:6). Our opponents, on the other hand, teach that God has laid our iniquities on our works and not on Christ. We are not inclined to mention here the type of works they require.

“We see that a horrible decree has been drawn up against us; this would frighten us more if we were arguing about dubious or trivial matters. Now that we see in our conscience that our opponents are condemning the obvious truth — truth which the church must defend and which increases the glory of Christ — we can easily ignore the terrors of the world and bravely bear whatever we have to suffer for Christ and the advancement of the church. Who would not gladly die in the confession of the article that we receive the forgiveness of sins freely for Christ’s sake and that our works do not merit the forgiveness of sins? Pious consciences will have no sure foundation when sin and death terrify them and the devil tempts them to despair unless they know that they must believe in the forgiveness of sins freely given for Christ’s sake. This faith gives support and life to the heart in its hardest struggle against despair.

“This issue is so weighty that we shrink from no danger on account of it. ‘Do not yield to the wicked, but go on still more boldly,’ every one of you who has agreed to our Confession, when our opponents use their terrors, tortures, and punishments to try to drive you away from the consolation which this article of ours offers to the universal church. Anyone who looks will find many passages in Scripture to set his mind at ease, for Paul fairly screams, as it were, that sins are freely forgiven for Christ’s sake. He says, ‘We are justified by His grace as a gift’ (Rom. 3:24) ‘in order that the promise may be guaranteed’ (Rom. 4:16). That is, if the promise were conditional on our works, it would not be guaranteed. If the forgiveness of sins were given on account of our works, when would we know that we had attained it, when would a terrified conscience find a work that it thought adequate to placate the wrath of God?

“The reader can find our proofs in our earlier discussion of this whole issue. The shameful way in which our opponents have treated this issue has compelled us to register a complaint rather than compose a point-by-point refutation. They have gone on record as rejecting our doctrine that we obtain the forgiveness of sins not on account of our works but freely for Christ’s sake.

“Our opponents quote many Scripture passages to show why they have condemned our article, and it is worthwhile to examine some of these. . . .”

(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.
	Circuit Reformation Service	4:00 p.m.

MONDAY—TUESDAY *Pr. Stuckwisch at Circuit Visitors' Meeting*

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.
	Vespers with Catechetical Exam	6:00 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY	Divine Service of Communion	9:00 a.m.
	— with the Rite of Confirmation and the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed	
	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 Tuesday (28 October) is the Feast of St. Simon & St. Jude, the Apostles
Readings: Jeremiah 26:1–16; 1 Peter 1:3–9; and St. John 15:12–21*

*This Saturday (1 November) is the Feast of All Saints:
Readings: Rev. 7:2–17; 1 John 3:1–3; and St. Matt. 5:1–12*

*The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Sunday of All Saints:
Micah 3:5–12; 1 Thess. 4:1–12; and St. Matthew 23:1–12*