

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.
- ◆ In the Divine Service this morning, the new and returning officers of our congregation will be inducted into office for this Year of Our Lord 2015. Our sincere thanks to those who have served so faithfully in the past, and to those who begin or continue to serve us in this new year. Christ be praised!
- ◆ There will be a Voters' Meeting this morning, downstairs in the church hall following refreshments. As always, members of Emmaus are encouraged to remain and to participate in this way, also, in the life of our congregation. Family Bible Class will proceed with our study of Genesis next Sunday.
- ◆ Pastor Stuckwisch will be in Fort Wayne this week for the Symposia at the Seminary. *Please note that we will not be gathered for our usual activities and services on Monday and Wednesday evenings.*
- ◆ There will be catechesis class on Friday afternoon, from 4:30 until 5:30 p.m. Catechumens from both the Wednesday and Friday classes are welcome and encouraged to attend this class, as they are able.
- ◆ Next Sunday (25 January) there will be a Pampered Chef wedding shower for Margaret Rhein, engaged to be married this spring to Jonathan Casey of Fort Wayne, Indiana. We are looking forward to blessing her future kitchen with many supplies. Friends from the area, church family, and her own family will be among those joining us. Party will begin at 12:30 p.m. in the parish hall at Emmaus. It is not necessary to bring a gift to the party as Nancy, the Pampered Chef representative will have Margaret's wish list and the items included on her list will be available at the party for you to see and order. Nancy Nalepinski can assist anyone with questions via the phone at 574-234-1974, or by e-mail at: chefnancyN@comcast.net. Or call Karin Horner (323-4340) or Anna Hart (323-0994) with any further questions.
- ◆ Also next Sunday, the 25th of January, Emmaus will be hosting the South Bend Circuit Forum beginning at 4:00 p.m. This will be a meeting of the Circuit for purposes of electing the Circuit Visitor for the coming triennium.

- ◆ The Altar flowers this morning are provided by Robert & Herta Johnston to the glory of God, in celebration of their 66th Wedding Anniversary.
- ◆ COLLECTIONS FOR 11 JANUARY 2014: \$ 1,433.00
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) Nicholai Stuckwisch & Tobias Tribble; (ACOLYTE) Lucas Jindra; (ORGANIST) Monica Stuckwisch; (GREETERS) Carrol McCarty & Pat Nering.
- ◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574

From the Lutheran Confessions

“Article XXIII. The Marriage of Priests: If purity means that something has God’s permission and approval, then marriages are pure since they are approved by the Word of God. Paul says about lawful things, ‘To the pure all things are pure’ (Titus 1:15), that is, to believers in Christ who are righteous by faith. As virginity is impure in the ungodly, therefore, so marriage is pure in the godly, through the Word of God and faith.

“In the second place, the proper contrast is between lust and purity understood as the purity of the heart and the mortification of lust; it is not marriage that the law forbids, but lust, adultery, and promiscuity. Therefore celibacy is not necessarily pure. There may be greater purity of heart in a married man like Abraham or Jacob than in many others who are truly continent.

“Finally, if they interpret celibacy as a purity that merits justification more than marriage does, we shall really object. Neither by virginity nor by marriage are we justified, but freely for Christ’s sake when we believe that for His sake God is gracious to us. Here they may cry out that we put marriage on the same level with virginity, as Jovinian did. But no such outcry will make us surrender the truth of the righteousness of faith, as we have expounded it above. We do not put marriage on the same level with virginity. One gift surpasses another. Thus prophecy surpasses eloquence, military science surpasses agriculture, and eloquence surpasses architecture. So also virginity is a gift that surpasses marriage. But as eloquence does not make an orator more righteous before God than building makes an architect, so the virgin does not merit justification by virginity any more than the married person does by performing the duties of

marriage. Each should serve faithfully in what he has been given to do, believing that for Christ's sake he obtains the forgiveness of sins and that through faith he is accounted righteous before God.

“Neither Christ nor Paul commends virginity because it justifies but because it gives more time for praying, teaching, and serving and is not so distracted by household chores. This is why Paul says, ‘The unmarried man is anxious about the affairs of the Lord’ (1 Cor. 7:23). He commends virginity for the sake of meditation and study. Thus Christ does not simply commend those who make themselves eunuchs, but He adds, ‘for the sake of the kingdom of heaven’ (Matt. 19:12), that is, to make room for hearing or teaching the Gospel. He does not say that virginity merits salvation or the forgiveness of sins.

“As for the analogy with the Levitical priests, we have already answered that this does not make it necessary to impose perpetual celibacy on priests. In addition, the Levitical laws about uncleanness do not apply to us. Intercourse contrary to these laws was uncleanness; now it is not, for Paul says, ‘To the pure all things are pure’ (Titus 1:15). The Gospel frees us from these Levitical regulations about impurity. If anybody supports the law of celibacy in order to burden consciences with these Levitical observances, we must definitely resist him as the Apostles in Acts 15 resisted those who required circumcision and tried to impose the law of Moses on Christians.

“At the same time good men will know how to use marriage moderately, especially when they are occupied with public service, which is often so burdensome to good men that domestic problems are excluded from their minds. Good men know, too, that Paul commands each one to possess his vessel in holiness (1 Thess. 4:4). They know that sometimes they must withdraw to have opportunity for prayer, but Paul does not want this to be perpetual (1 Cor. 7:5). Such continence is easy for the godly and busy. But it is all too evident that the great crowd of lazy priests in the confraternities, where they can live voluptuously, cannot even keep this Levitical continence. We all know the verse, ‘The boy who is used to being lazy hates those who are busy.’

“Many heretics have misunderstood the law of Moses; therefore they have spoken contemptuously about marriage and admiringly about celibacy. Epiphanius complains that this characteristic among the Encratites captured the imagination of the unwary. They abstained from wine, even in the Lord's Supper; they abstained from the meat of all animals, thus surpassing the Dominican friars, who eat fish. They also abstained from marriage, and this called forth the most admiration. They thought they would merit grace by performing these works and services instead of using wine or meat or marriage.”

(From the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, 1530)

Walking with Our Savior this Week

TODAY **Divine Service of Communion** **9:00 a.m.**
with induction of congregation officers for 2015

Coffee & Refreshments Downstairs 10:30 a.m.

Voters' Meeting / Catechesis 10:45 a.m.

MONDAY—THURSDAY *Pastor Stuckwisch in Fort Wayne for
the annual Symposia at the Seminary*

FRIDAY Catechesis Class 4:30 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY **Divine Service of Communion** **9:00 a.m.**

Coffee & Refreshments Downstairs 10:30 a.m.

Bible Class / Catechesis 10:45 a.m.

Wedding Shower for Margaret Rhein 12:30 p.m.

South Bend Circuit Forum at Emmaus 4:00 p.m.

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

*Today (18 January) is also the Feast of the Confession of Saint Peter:
Readings: Acts 4:8–13; 2 Peter 1:1–15; and St. Mark 8:27—9:1*

*This Saturday (24 January) is the Feast of St. Timothy, Pastor & Confessor
Readings: Acts 16:1–5; 1 Timothy 6:11–16; and St. Matt. 24:42–47*

*The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Third after the Epiphany:
Jonah 3:1–10; 1 Corinthians 7:29–35; and Saint Mark 1:14–20*