

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.
- ◆ Pr. Stuckwisch is visiting our sister congregation, St. Paul, South Bend, this Lord's Day, as per his office and duties as Circuit Visitor. Please keep him in your prayers and intercessions as he serves and cares for the pastors and congregations of our South Bend Circuit. Our thanks to Pr. Seyboldt for his preaching and presiding at the Divine Service at Emmaus this morning, and to Pr. Josh Osburn for serving and assisting as Deacon.
- ◆ Following coffee & refreshments this morning, during the usual Bible Class hour, Dr. Donna Harrison and Pr. Josh Osburn will be discussing the recent LCMS Life Conference and March for Life that took place in Washington, D.C., which they and others from Emmaus were able to attend. One and all are invited and encouraged to come hear what they have to say, and to learn what the Missouri Synod and others are doing in defense of human life.

Catechesis class for younger and beginning catechumens meets 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).
- ◆ The Sacred Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February the 18th (not this week but next). There will be opportunities for the imposition of ashes on that day, both in the morning and prior to the Divine Service that evening. There will also be opportunities, throughout the Season, for the Word of God and prayer, and for the celebration of the Sacrament. See the upcoming Announcements and the monthly calendar for days and times.
- ◆ Linda Levine extends her thanks to all who sent Christmas and Get Well cards to her, and to all who have kept her in their prayers and intercessions.
- ◆ **COLLECTIONS FOR 1 FEBRUARY 2015: \$ 1,364.00**
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: (DEACON) Rev. Josh Osbun; (ELDER) Robert Rhein; (USHERS) Matthew Harrison & Nicholai Stuckwisch; (ACOLYTE) Joshua Jordan; (ORGANIST) Dcs. Sandra Rhein; (GREETERS) Marilyn Dulmatch & Lois Veen.

◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574

From the Lutheran Confessions

“Article XXIV. The Mass: To begin with, we must repeat the prefatory statement that we do not abolish the Mass but religiously keep and defend it. In our churches Mass is celebrated every Sunday and on other festivals, when the Sacrament is offered to those who wish for it after they have been examined and absolved. We keep traditional liturgical forms, such as the order of the lessons, prayers, vestments, etc.

“In a long harangue about the use of Latin in the Mass, our clever opponents quibble about how a hearer who is ignorant of the faith of the church benefits from hearing a Mass that he does not understand. Apparently they imagine that mere hearing is a beneficial act of worship even where there is no understanding. We do not want to belabor this point, but we leave it up to the judgment of the reader. We mention this only in passing in order to point out that our churches keep the Latin lessons and prayers.

“The purpose of observing ceremonies is that men may learn the Scriptures and that those who have been touched by the Word may receive faith and fear and so may also pray. Therefore we keep Latin for the sake of those who study and understand it, and we insert German hymns to give the common people something to learn that will arouse their faith and fear. This has always been the custom in the churches. Though German hymns have varied in frequency, yet almost everywhere the people sang in their own language. No one has ever written or suggested that men benefit from hearing lessons they do not understand, or from ceremonies that do not teach or admonish, simply ex operato, by the mere doing or observing. Out with such pharisaic ideas!

“There is nothing contrary to the church catholic in our having only the public or common Mass. Even today, Greek parishes have no private Masses but only one public Mass, and this only on Sundays and festivals. The monasteries have public, though daily, Mass. These are remnants of ancient practice, for the Fathers of the church before Gregory make no mention of private Masses. For the present, we forgo any discussion of their origins. But it is clear that the prevalence of the mendicant friars brought on the multiplication

of private Masses; so superstitious and so mercenary have they been that for a long time good men have wanted some limits set to them. Although St. Francis sought to regulate this with the provision that each community should be content with a single common daily Mass, reasons of piety or of profit later changed this. So when it suits them, they change the institutions of the Fathers and then quote the authority of the Fathers against us. Epiphanius writes that in Asia Minor there were no daily Masses but Communion was celebrated three times a week, and that this practice came from the Apostles. He says, 'Assemblies for Communion were appointed by the Apostles to be held on the fourth day, on Sabbath eve, and on the Lord's Day.'

"Our opponents have collected many statements to prove that the Mass is a sacrifice. But all the quotations from the Fathers and the arguments they adduce are silenced by the fact that the Mass does not confer grace ex opere operato, nor merit for others the forgiveness of venial or mortal sins, of guilt, or of punishment. This single answer refutes all our opponents' objections, both here in the Confutation and in all their other books about the Mass.

"We want to remind our readers of the real issue. Aeschines reminded the Jews that both parties in a controversy must deal only with the point at issue and not wander off into side issues, like wrestlers fighting for their position. In the same way our opponents should be forced to discuss the point at issue. Once the real issue of the controversy is clear, it will be easy to evaluate the arguments both sides have presented.

"In our Confession we have stated our position that the Lord's Supper does not grant grace ex opere operato and does not merit for others, whether living or dead, forgiveness of sins or of guilt or of punishment ex opere operato. This position is established and proved by the impossibility of our obtaining the forgiveness of sins ex opere operato through our works, and by the necessity of faith to conquer the terrors of sins and death and to comfort our hearts with the knowledge of Christ; for His sake we are forgiven, His merits and righteousness are bestowed upon us. 'Since we are justified by faith, we have peace' (Rom. 5:1). This is so firm and sure that it can prevail against all the gates of hell.

"If this were the whole problem, the case would be settled. No sane person can approve this pharisaic and pagan notion about the working of the Mass ex opere operato. Yet this notion has taken hold among the people and has infinitely multiplied the Masses. With the work of these Masses they think they can placate God's wrath, gain the remission of guilt and punishment, secure whatever they need in this life, and even free the dead. The monks and scholastics have brought this pharisaic notion into the church."

(From the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, 1530)

Walking with Our Savior this Week

TODAY	Divine Service of Communion	9:00 a.m.
	Coffee & Refreshments Downstairs	10:30 a.m.
	Catechesis / Family Bible Class	10:45 a.m.

Pastor Stuckwisch making a Circuit Visit to St. Paul, South Bend

MONDAY	<i>Vespers</i>	6:00 p.m.
	Bible Class	6:30 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.
	<i>Evening Prayer</i>	7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY *Pastor's Family Day (but do call in cases of emergency)*

FRIDAY	Catechesis Class	4:30 p.m.
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NEXT SUNDAY	THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD	
	Divine Service of Communion	9:00 a.m.
	Coffee & Refreshments Downstairs	10:30 a.m.
	Catechesis / Family Bible Class	10:45 a.m.

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

*The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Transfiguration of Our Lord:
Exodus 34:29-35; 2 Corinthians 3:7-4:6; and Saint Mark 9:2-9*