

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.

- ◆ Please note that GLORIA PATRI (“*Glory be to the Father,*” etc.) is omitted throughout Holy Week, wherever it would normally occur in the liturgy.
This includes the case of the Nunc Dimmittis following the Holy Communion.

- ◆ Following coffee & refreshments, our Family Bible Class continues our study of Genesis, relying especially on Dr. Luther’s extensive commentary on that sacred text. Parents and children, youth and adults are welcome.

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).

- ◆ Ladies of Emmaus, please note: We are receiving contributions this morning in support of our food pantry. Thank you for your support.

- ◆ Throughout this Holy Week, you will have the opportunity to be gathered with your brothers and sisters in Christ for the Word of God and prayer at Emmaus. *The Order of Matins will be prayed on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, beginning at 9:00 a.m.* These Matins will feature the Lord’s Passion from St. Matthew, St. Mark, and St. Luke, respectively. ***There will also be a spoken Divine Service on each of these days, beginning at 6:00 p.m.*** Sanctify this Holy Week unto yourself by giving attention to the Word of God and receiving the gifts of Christ our Savior.

- ◆ On the morning of Maundy Thursday (9:00 a.m.), there will be a brief service of Corporate Confession & Absolution, that we might be prepared for the celebration of the Cross and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Emmaus will be gathered for the Divine Service on Maundy Thursday at 6:00 p.m. That Service will include the re-consecration of the Chalice and Ciborium, now recovered. It concludes with the ceremonial stripping of the Altar in preparation for the solemn observances of Good Friday.

- ◆ On Good Friday, members of Emmaus are invited to the annual *Tre Ore* service at Our Redeemer, South Bend, from 12:00 Noon until 3:00 p.m.

We will also then be gathered at Emmaus on Good Friday evening for the solemn observance of the Divine Service, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

- ◆ By His rest in the tomb, our Lord Jesus Christ sanctified the graves of His saints (of all those who believe and are baptized into Him). On the morning of Holy Saturday (4 April), we will be gathered at Emmaus to sanctify His Sabbath Rest unto ourselves by praying the Order of Matins at 9:00 a.m.

Following the Matins on Saturday, we are counting on the Emmaus Youth to prepare the Sanctuary for the Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord.

- ◆ **Those with Easter lilies and other spring flowers to donate or loan for the decoration of the Sanctuary on Easter are encouraged to bring those to the church by Saturday morning. Many thanks for your assistance.**

- ◆ *The Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord commences with the Great Vigil of Easter, beginning at 8:00 p.m. on Holy Saturday (4 April).*

The Paschal Feast continues on Easter Sunday morning (5 April) with the Chorale Communion Service at 6:00 a.m., and the chief Divine Service at 9:00 a.m. *Each of these fully festive Services will be different.*

- ◆ Remember that you will have the opportunity to enjoy an Easter Breakfast (or Brunch) after either one of the Divine Services next Sunday morning.

Thanks to the Smith family for hosting the breakfast for us again this year.

- ◆ We will continue to celebrate the Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord throughout the First Week of Easter in daily Divine Service, as scheduled.

- ◆ COLLECTIONS FOR 22 MARCH 2015: \$ 2,401.00

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) Eldon Knepp; (USHERS) Matthew Horner & Nicholai Stuckwisch; (ACOLYTE) Frederick Stuckwisch; (CRUCIFER) Luke Harrison; (ORGANIST) Dcs. Sandra Rhein; (GREETERS) Robert & Herta Johnston.

- ◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor

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From the Lutheran Confessions

“Article XXIV. The Mass: The Sacraments are not only signs among men, but signs of God’s will toward us; so it is correct to define the New Testament Sacraments as signs of grace. There are two parts to a Sacrament, the sign and the Word. In the New Testament, the Word is the added promise of grace. The promise of the New Testament is the promise of the forgiveness of sins, as the text says, ‘This is My Body, which is given for you,’ ‘this is the Cup of the New Testament in My Blood, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.’ Therefore the Word offers forgiveness of sins, while the ceremony is a sort of picture or ‘seal,’ as Paul calls it (Rom. 4:11), showing forth the promise. As the promise is useless unless faith accepts it, so the ceremony is useless without the faith which really believes that the forgiveness of sins is being offered here. Such a faith encourages the contrite mind. As the Word was given to arouse this faith, so the Sacrament was instituted to move the heart to believe through what it presents to the eyes. For the Holy Spirit works through the Word and the Sacraments.

“This use of the Sacrament, when faith gives life to terrified hearts, is the worship of the New Testament, because what matters in the New Testament is the spiritual motivation, dying and being made alive. For such use Christ instituted it, as He commanded, ‘Do this in remembrance of Me.’ The remembrance of Christ is not the vain celebration of a show or a celebration for the sake of example, the way plays celebrate the memory of Hercules or Ulysses. It is rather the remembrance of Christ’s blessings and the acceptance of them by faith, so that they make us alive. So the Psalm says, ‘He has caused His wonderful works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and merciful. He provides food for those who fear Him’ (Ps. 111:4–5). This means that in the ceremony we should acknowledge the will and mercy of God. A faith that acknowledges mercy makes alive. The principal use of the Sacrament is to make clear that terrified consciences are the ones worthy of it, and how they ought to use it.

“There is also a sacrifice, since one action can have several purposes. Once faith has strengthened a conscience to see its liberation from terror, then it really gives thanks for the blessing of Christ’s suffering. It uses the ceremony itself as praise to God, as a demonstration of its gratitude and a witness of its high esteem for God’s gifts. Thus the ceremony becomes a sacrifice of praise.

“The Fathers speak of a twofold effect, of the comfort for the conscience and of thanksgiving or praise; the first of these belongs to the nature of the Sacrament, and the second to the sacrifice.”

(From the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, 1530)

Walking with Our Savior this Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY	Divine Service of Communion	9:00 a.m.
	Coffee & Refreshment Downstairs	10:30 a.m.
	Catechesis / Family Bible Class	10:45 a.m.
MONDAY	Holy Week Matins	9:00 a.m.
	Spoken Divine Service	6:00 p.m.
TUESDAY	Holy Week Matins	9:00 a.m.
	Spoken Divine Service	6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	Holy Week Matins	9:00 a.m.
	Spoken Divine Service	6:00 p.m.
MAUNDY THURSDAY	Confessional Service	9:00 a.m.
	Service of Communion	6:00 p.m.
GOOD FRIDAY	<i>Tre Ore</i> Service at Our Redeemer	12:00—3:00
	Solemn Divine Service	6:00 p.m.
HOLY SATURDAY	The Order of Matins	9:00 a.m.
	<i>(Youth Preparing the Sanctuary for Easter)</i>	
	THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER	8:00 p.m.
EASTER SUNDAY	THE FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD	
	Luther's Chorale Communion	6:00 a.m.
	• <i>Easter Breakfast</i>	7:30 a.m.
	Divine Service of Communion	9:00 a.m.
	• <i>Easter Breakfast/Brunch</i>	10:30 a.m.