

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 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 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).

◆ Lutheranism is known for its rich treasure of hymns. Martin Luther realized the power of hymns to teach the Christian faith, to strengthen Christians in their faith and life, and to assist them in their worship of the Lord. Today, following a carry-in dinner at Noon, you are invited to a Hymn Exploration on one of Luther's original hymns: "Our Father, Who in Heaven Above." As her senior organ recital, Monica Stuckwisch will be playing this hymn in four versions, by four Lutheran composers.

Please bring food for a carry-in dinner after Bible Class. After eating, we will gather in the church (1:00—1:45) for the Hymn Exploration.

◆ This Saturday (20 June) Pastor Stuckwisch will be vested and available in the Emmaus Sanctuary for Individual Confession and Absolution from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. This means of grace and forgiveness, by the authority of our dear Lord Jesus Christ, is freely offered to be freely received in repentant faith. Those who may have questions concerning this Christian practice are welcome and encouraged to speak with pastor about it, and to review what the Small Catechism teaches on the Office of the Keys and Confession.

◆ The Altar flowers this morning are provided by Rev. Josh & Sarah Osbun to the glory of God, in celebration of their seventh wedding anniversary.

◆ **COLLECTIONS FOR 7 JUNE 2015: \$ 2,188.00**

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) Robert Rhein; (USHERS) Matthew Horner & Aaron Seyboldt;
(ACOLYTE) Benjamin Horner; (ORGANIST) Deaconess Sandra Rhein;
(GREETERS) Marilyn Dulmatch & Lois Veen.
- ◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574

From the Lutheran Confessions

“Article XXVIII. Ecclesiastical Power: In this article of the [Augsburg] Confession we included various subjects. But our opponents’ only reply is that bishops have the power to rule and to correct by force in order to guide their subjects toward the goal of eternal bliss, and that the power to rule requires the power to judge, define, distinguish, and establish what is helpful or conducive to the aforementioned goal. These are the words of the Confutation, by which our opponents inform us that bishops have the authority to create laws which are useful for attaining eternal life. That is the issue in controversy.

“In the church we must keep this teaching, that we receive forgiveness of sins freely for Christ’s sake by faith. We must also keep the teaching that human traditions are useless as acts of worship, and that therefore neither sin nor righteousness depends upon food, drink, clothing, and similar matters. Christ wanted to leave their use free when he said, ‘What goes into the mouth does not defile a man’ (Matt. 15:11). And Paul says, ‘The kingdom of God is not food or drink’ (Rom. 14:17). Thus bishops have no right to create traditions apart from the Gospel as though they merited the forgiveness of sins or were acts of worship that pleased God as righteousness. Nor do the bishops have the right to burden consciences with such traditions so that it would be a sin to omit them. All this is taught by that one passage in Acts (15:9), where the apostles say that hearts are cleansed by faith and then go on to forbid the imposing of a yoke, showing how dangerous this is and enlarging on the sin of those who burden the church. ‘Why do you make a trial of God?’ they say (Acts 15:10). But this thunderbolt does not scare our opponents, who vigorously defend their traditions and wicked notions.

“Earlier they also condemned Article XV, in which we maintained that traditions do not merit the forgiveness of sins; here they also say that traditions are conducive to eternal life. Do they merit forgiveness of sins? Are they acts of worship which please God as righteousness? Do they make hearts alive? In Colossians (2:20–23) Paul denies that traditions avail for eternal righteousness and eternal life since food, drink, clothing, and the like are things which perish

as they are used. But it is eternal things, the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, that work eternal life in the heart. So let our opponents explain how traditions are conducive to eternal life.

“The Gospel clearly testifies that traditions should not be imposed on the church to merit forgiveness of sins or to be acts of worship that please God as righteousness or to burden consciences so that their omission is judged to be a sin. Therefore our opponents will never be able to show that bishops have the power to institute such acts of worship.

“In the Confession we have said what power the Gospel grants to bishops. Those who are now bishops do not perform the duties of bishops according to the Gospel, though they may well be bishops according to canonical polity, to which we do not object. But we are talking about a bishop according to the Gospel. We like the old division of power into the power of the order and the power of jurisdiction. Therefore a bishop has the power of the order, namely, the ministry of Word and Sacraments. He also has the power of jurisdiction, namely, the authority to excommunicate those who are guilty of public offenses or to absolve them if they are converted and ask for absolution. A bishop does not have the power of a tyrant to act without a definite law, nor that of a king to act above the law. But he has a definite command, a definite Word of God, which he ought to teach and according to which he ought to exercise his jurisdiction. Therefore it does not follow that since they have a certain jurisdiction bishops may institute new acts of worship, for worship does not belong to their jurisdiction. They have the Word, they have the command about when they should exercise their jurisdiction, namely, when anyone does something contrary to that Word which they have received from Christ.

“In the [Augsburg] Confession we nevertheless added the extent to which it is legitimate for them to create traditions, namely, that they must not be necessary acts of worship but a means for preserving order in the church, for the sake of peace. These must not ensnare consciences as though they were commanding necessary acts of worship. This is what Paul teaches when he says, ‘Stand fast in the freedom with which Christ has set you free, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery’ (Gal. 5:1). Therefore the use of such ordinances ought to be left free, only that offenses should be avoided and that they be not regarded as necessary acts of worship. Thus even the apostles ordained many things that were changed by time, and they did not set them down as though they could not be changed. For they did not contradict their own writings, in which they worked hard to free the church from the idea that human rites are necessary acts of worship.”

(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 / Family Bible Class	10:45 a.m.
	Carry-in Dinner	12:00 Noon
	Hymn Exploration	1:00 p.m.

MONDAY	Vespers	6:00 p.m.
	Bible Class	6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY *Pastor's Writing Day (but do call in cases of emergency)*

WEDNESDAY	Evening Prayer	6:00 p.m.
------------------	-----------------------	------------------

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

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 / 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 Third after Holy Trinity:
Job 38:1–11; 2 Corinthians 6:1–13; Saint Mark 4:35–41*