

# ***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. Dave Smith is teaching a catechesis class for teenagers and for others interested. Other children, especially between the ages of eight and twelve years are encouraged to participate in the Family Bible Class for the summer months, or to visit with Dcs. Rhein about opportunities to serve.
- ◆ Pastor Stuckwisch and Dave Smith will be attending the Indiana District Convention from Wednesday through Friday of this week. Please keep the two of them and all of the other delegates from around the District in your prayers, as they travel to and fro, and as they are in convention.
- ◆ Looking ahead, Pr. Stuckwisch will be traveling to Sri Lanka and then to India in July, to teach the theology and practice of the Liturgy to Lutheran pastors there. He will be leaving South Bend on Friday the 3rd of July, and returning on Sunday the 26th. Please remember him in your prayers in these coming weeks, as he plans and prepares for his trip and for his teaching.
- ◆ On June the 29th (not this week, but on Monday of next week) Emmaus will be gathered to celebrate the Feast of St. Peter & St. Paul, the Apostles, in the Divine Service beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- ◆ The Altar flowers this morning have been provided by the Horner family to the glory of God, in memory of Karin's father, Rev. LeRoy Martinson.
- ◆ **COLLECTIONS FOR 14 JUNE 2015: \$ 1,068.25**  
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) Martin Horner & Nathaniel Rhein;  
(ACOLYTE) Lucas Jindra; (ORGANIST) Deaconess Sandra Rhein;  
(GREETERS) Carrol McCarty & Pat Nering.
- ◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor                      Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574

## **From the Lutheran Confessions**

*“Article XXVIII. Ecclesiastical Power: In the [Augsburg] Confession we added the extent to which it is legitimate for [bishops] 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.*

*“This is the simple way to interpret traditions. We should know that they are not necessary acts of worship, and yet we should observe them in their place and without superstition, in order to avoid offenses. This is the way many great and learned men in the church have felt about it. We do not see what possible objection there can be to this. Certainly the statement, ‘He who hears you hears Me’ (Luke 10:16), is not referring to traditions but is rather directed against traditions. It is not what they call a ‘commandment with unlimited authority,’ but rather a ‘caution about something prescribed,’ about a special commandment. It is a testimony given to the Apostles so that we may believe them on the basis of another’s Word rather than on the basis of their own. For Christ wants to assure us, as was necessary, that the Word is efficacious when it is delivered by men and that we should not look for another word from heaven. ‘He who hears you hears Me’ cannot be applied to traditions. For Christ requires them to teach in such a way that He might be heard, because he says, ‘hears Me.’ Therefore He wants His voice, His Word to be heard, not human traditions. Thus these asses take a statement that supports our position and contains the deepest kind of comfort and teaching, and they misapply it to these trifles, distinction of foods and clothing and the like.*

*“They also quote the statement, ‘Obey your leaders’ (Heb. 13:17). This statement requires obedience to the Gospel; it does not create an authority for bishops apart from the Gospel. Bishops must not create traditions contrary to the Gospel, nor interpret their traditions in a manner contrary to the Gospel. When they do so, we are forbidden to obey them by the statement, ‘If anyone preaches another Gospel, let him be accursed’ (Gal. 1:8).*

*“We give the same response to the passage, ‘Observe whatever they tell you’ (Matt. 23:3). Clearly it does not set down the universal commandment that we are to observe everything, for elsewhere (Acts 5:29) Scripture commands that we must obey God rather than men. To the extent that they teach wicked things, they should not be heard. But these are wicked things: that human traditions are the worship of God; that they are necessary acts of worship; that they merit forgiveness of sins and eternal life.*

*“They also raise an objection on the basis of the public offenses and commotions which have arisen under the pretext of our teaching. We shall respond to this in brief. If all the offenses are put together, still the one doctrine of the forgiveness of sins, that by faith we freely obtain the forgiveness of sins for Christ’s sake, brings enough good to hide all the evils. Originally this gained for Luther not only our good will but that of many who are now opposed to us. ‘The former good will ceases, and mortals are forgetful,’ said Pindar. Still we will not forsake the truth which the church needs, nor can we agree with our opponents who condemn it. For we must obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29). Those who originally condemned the clear truth, and are now most cruelly persecuting it, will give an account for the schism that has been provoked. Besides, are there no offenses among our opponents? What evil there is in the sacrilegious desecration of the Mass for profit! What disgrace there is in [pretense of] celibacy! But let us skip over the comparison. For the time being we have made this reply to the Confutation. Now we leave it to the judgment of all pious people whether our opponents are right in boasting that they have really refuted our Confession with the Scriptures.”*

***(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.

**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—FRIDAY**      *Indiana District Convention in Ft. Wayne*

**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:*

*This Wednesday (24 June) is the Nativity of St. John the Baptist:  
Readings: Isaiah 40:1-5; Acts 13:13-26; and St. Luke 1:57-80*

*The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the First in Apostles' Tide:  
Lamentations 3:22-33; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; St. Mark 5:21-43*