

# ***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 to make use of the video studies from Dr. John Kleinig (for these weeks of August).

Catechesis class for younger and beginning catechumens meets at the same time. And Dave Smith is teaching a catechesis class for teenagers and for anyone 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.

- ◆ Looking ahead to a week from tomorrow (to Monday the 24th of August), Emmaus will be gathered to celebrate the Feast of Saint Bartholomew, the Apostle, in the Divine Service beginning at 6:00 p.m.

- ◆ The Altar flowers this morning are provided by Lester & Betty Shankle to the glory of God, in celebration of their 56th wedding anniversary.

- ◆ COLLECTIONS FOR 9 AUGUST 2015:   \$ 1,907.00

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) Nicholai Stuckwisch & Tobias Tribble;  
(ACOLYTE) Justinian Stuckwisch; (ORGANIST) Deaconess Sandra Rhein;  
(GREETERS) Carrol McCarty & Pat Nering.

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

# From the Lutheran Confessions

## CONCERNING (THE SO-CALLED) “FREE WILL”

*Antitheses: [That is, Rejection of the] Contrary False Doctrine*

*“According [to what we do believe, teach, and confess,] we reject and condemn all the following errors as being contrary to the norm of the Word of God:*

*“1. [We reject] the mad dreams of the so-called Stoic philosophers and of Manichaeans who taught that whatever happens must so happen and could not happen otherwise, that man always acts only under compulsion, even in his external acts, and that he commits evil deeds and acts like fornication, robbery, murder, theft, and similar sins under compulsion.*

*“2. We also reject the error of the crass Pelagians who taught that by his own powers, without the grace of the Holy Spirit, man can convert himself to God, believe the Gospel, whole-heartedly obey God’s law, and thus merit forgiveness of sins and eternal life.*

*“3. We also reject the error of the Semi-Pelagians who teach that man by virtue of his own powers could make a beginning of his conversion but could not complete it without the grace of the Holy Spirit.*

*“4. Likewise [we reject] the teaching that while before his conversion man is indeed too weak to make a beginning, convert himself to God, and whole-heartedly obey God’s law by his own powers, yet after the Holy Spirit has made the beginning through the preaching of the Word and in it has offered His grace, man’s will is forthwith able by its own natural powers to add something (though it be little and feeble) to help, to cooperate, to prepare itself for grace, to apprehend and accept it, and to believe the Gospel.*

*“5. Likewise [we reject the teaching] that after his conversion man is able to keep the law of God perfectly and entirely and that this fulfilling constitutes our righteousness before God whereby we merit eternal life.*

*“6. Likewise we reject and condemn the error of the Enthusiasts who imagine that God draws men to Himself, enlightens them, justifies them, and saves them without means, without the hearing of God’s Word and without the use of the holy Sacraments.*

*“7. Likewise [we reject and condemn the error] that in conversion and rebirth God wholly destroys the substance and essence of the Old Adam, especially the rational soul, and that in conversion and rebirth He creates out of nothing a new essence of the soul.*

*“8. Likewise when these statements are made without explanation that man’s will before, in, and after conversion resists the Holy Spirit, and that the Holy Spirit is given to such as resist Him purposely and persistently. For as Augustine says, in conversion God makes willing people out of unwilling people and dwells in the willing ones.*

*“Some ancient and modern teachers have used expressions such as, ‘God draws, but draws the person who is willing,’ or, ‘Man’s will is not idle in conversion, but does something.’ Since these expressions have been introduced to confirm the role of natural free will in conversion contrary to the doctrine of the grace of God, we hold that these expressions do not agree with the form of sound doctrine and that accordingly it is well to avoid them in a discussion of conversion to God.*

*“On the other hand, it is correct to say that in conversion, through the attraction of the Holy Spirit, God changes stubborn and unwilling people into willing people, and that after conversion, in the daily exercise of repentance, the reborn will of man is not idle but cooperates in all the works which the Holy Spirit performs through us.*

*“9. Likewise, Luther’s statement that man’s will in conversion behaves ‘altogether passively’ (that is, that it does nothing at all) must be understood as referring to the action of divine grace in kindling new movements within the will, that is, when the Spirit of God through the Word that has been heard or through the use of the holy Sacraments takes hold of man’s will and works the new birth and conversion. But after the Holy Spirit has performed and accomplished this and the will of man has been changed and renewed **solely by God’s power and activity**, man’s new will becomes an instrument and means of God the Holy Spirit, so that man not only lays hold on grace but also cooperates with the Holy Spirit in the works that follow.*

*“Prior to man’s conversion there are only two efficient causes, namely, the Holy Spirit and the Word of God as the Holy Spirit’s instrument whereby He effects conversion. Man should hear this Word, though he cannot give it credence and accept it by his own powers but solely by the grace and operation of God the Holy Spirit.”*

*(From The Formula of Concord [Epitome], 1577)*

# ***Walking with Our Savior this Week***

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

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>Vespers</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>
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<b>TUESDAY</b>	<i>Pastor's Writing Day (but <u>do call</u> in cases of emergency)</i>
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<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>Evening Prayer</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>
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<b>THURSDAY</b>	<i>Pastor's Family Day (but <u>do call</u> in cases of emergency)</i>
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<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	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 in Martyrs' Tide:  
Isaiah 29:11–19; Ephesians 5:22–33; and Saint Mark 7:1–13*