

# ***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.

◆ Tomorrow (24 August), Emmaus will be gathered to celebrate the Feast of St. Bartholomew, the Apostle, in the Divine Service beginning at 6:00 p.m.

◆ Looking ahead to the month of September, please take note that the next Emmaus cleaning day will be on Saturday the 12th, and that we'll be having a church picnic the following day, on Sunday the 13th. Watch for more info in the coming weeks, or talk to Deaconess Rhein for the "inside scoop!"

◆ The Altar flowers this morning are provided by Pat Nering to the glory of God, in honor of her goddaughter, Rebecca Tribble.

◆ **COLLECTIONS FOR 16 AUGUST 2015: \$ 2,722.00**

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) Dave Smith; (USHERS) Matthew Harrison & Nathaniel Rhein;  
(ACOLYTE) Lucas Jindra; (ORGANIST) Deaconess Sandra Rhein;  
(GREETERS) Marilyn Dulmatch & Lois Veen.

◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor

Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574

# **From the Lutheran Confessions**

## CONCERNING THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF FAITH BEFORE GOD

### *The Question at Issue*

*“It is the unanimous confession of our churches according to the Word of God and the content of the Augsburg Confession that we poor sinners are justified before God and saved solely by faith in Christ, so that Christ alone is our righteousness. He is truly God and man since in Him the divine and human natures are personally united to one another (Jer. 23:6; I Cor. 1:30; II Cor 5:21). Because of the foregoing a question has arisen, According to which nature is Christ our righteousness? Two false and mutually contradictory teachings have invaded some churches.*

*“One party has held that Christ is our righteousness only according to His Godhead. When He dwells in us by faith, over against this indwelling Godhead, the sins of all men are esteemed like a drop of water over against the immense ocean. Others, however, held that Christ is our righteousness before God only according to the human nature.”*

### *Affirmative Theses*

#### *The Pure Doctrine of the Christian Church Against Both These Errors*

*“1. In opposition to these two errors just recounted, we believe, teach, and confess unanimously that Christ is our righteousness neither according to the divine nature alone nor according to the human nature alone. On the contrary, the entire Christ according to both natures is our righteousness solely in His obedience which as God and man He rendered to His heavenly Father into death itself. Thereby He won for us the forgiveness of sins and eternal life; ‘For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by **one man’s obedience** many will be made righteous’ (Rom. 5:19).*

*“2. Accordingly we believe, teach, and confess that our righteousness before God consists in this, that God forgives us our sins purely by His grace, without any preceding, present, or subsequent work, merit, or worthiness, and reckons to us the righteousness of Christ’s obedience, on account of which righteousness we are accepted by God into grace and are regarded as righteous.*

*“3. We believe, teach, and confess that faith is the only means and instrument whereby we accept Christ and in Christ obtain the ‘righteousness which avails before God,’ and that for Christ’s sake such faith is reckoned for righteousness (Rom. 4:5).*

*“4. We believe, teach, and confess that this faith is not a mere knowledge of the stories about Christ, but the kind of gift of God by which in the Word of the Gospel we recognize Christ aright as our Redeemer and trust in Him, so that solely because of His obedience, by grace, we have forgiveness of sins, are regarded as holy and righteous by God the Father, and shall be saved eternally.*

*“5. We believe, teach, and confess that according to the usage of Scripture the word ‘justify’ means in this article ‘absolve,’ that is, pronounce free from sin. ‘He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous are both alike an abomination to the Lord’ (Prov. 17:15); likewise, ‘Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies’ (Rom. 8:33). Sometimes, as in the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the words regeneratio (rebirth) and vivificatio (making alive) are used in place of justification, and then they mean the same thing, even though otherwise these terms refer to the renovation of man and distinguish it from justification by faith.*

*“6. We also believe, teach, and confess that, although the genuinely believing and truly regenerated persons retain much weakness and many shortcomings down to their graves, they still have no reason to doubt either the righteousness which is reckoned to them through faith or the salvation of their souls, but they must regard it as certain that for Christ’s sake, on the basis of the promises and the Word of the holy Gospel, they have a gracious God.*

*“7. We believe, teach, and confess that if we would preserve the pure doctrine concerning the righteousness of faith before God, we must give special attention to the ‘exclusive terms,’ that is, to those words of the holy Apostle Paul which separate the merit of Christ completely from our own works and give all glory to Christ alone. Thus the holy Apostle Paul uses such expressions as ‘by grace,’ ‘without merit,’ ‘without law,’ ‘without works,’ ‘not by works,’ etc. All these expressions say in effect that we become righteous and are saved ‘alone by faith’ in Christ.*

*“8. We believe, teach, and confess that the contrition that precedes justification and the good works that follow it do not belong in the article of justification before God. Nevertheless, we should not imagine a kind of faith in this connection that could coexist and co-persist with a wicked intention to sin and to act contrary to one’s conscience. On the contrary, after a person has been justified by faith, a true living faith becomes ‘active through love’ (Gal. 5:6). Thus good works always follow justifying faith and are certainly to be found with it, since such faith is never alone but is always accompanied by love and hope.”*

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

# ***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**                      THE FEAST OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW, THE APOSTLE  
**Divine Service of Communion                      6:00 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)*

**FRIDAY—SATURDAY**                      *Pr. Stuckwisch attending the Indiana District  
Board of Directors Meeting in Fort 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.  
  
                                         *Installation of Rev. Adam Clark  
                                         at St. Peter, Mishawaka                                              3:00 p.m.*

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

*This Monday (24 August) is the Feast of St. Bartholomew, the Apostle  
Readings: Proverbs 3:1–8; 2 Cor. 4:7–10; and St. Luke 22:24–30*

*This Saturday (29 August) is the Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist  
Readings: Revelation 6:9–11; Romans 6:1–5; and St. Mark 6:14–29*

*The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Fourth in Martyrs' Tide:  
Deuteronomy 4:1–9; Ephesians 6:10–20; and St. Mark 7:14–23*