

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, this week and next.

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 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!"

There is a sign-up sheet now on the bulletin board outside of Pastor's study, for those who want to participate in the 5K run/walk race at the picnic.

- ◆ The Altar flowers this morning are provided by Walter Sanders to the glory of God, in loving memory of his daughter, Linda Quier.
- ◆ **COLLECTIONS FOR 23 AUGUST 2015: \$ 1,114.68**
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) Aaron Seyboldt & Caleb Smith;
(ACOLYTE) Frederick Stuckwisch; (ORGANIST) Dcs. Sandra Rhein;
(GREETERS) Robert & Herta Johnston.

- ◆ 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. . . .”

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

“According [to what we do believe, teach, and confess, as previously stated] we reject and condemn all the following errors:

“1. [We reject the position] that Christ is our righteousness only according to the divine nature, etc.

“2. [We reject the position] that Christ is our righteousness only according to the human nature, etc.

“3. [We also reject the teaching] that when the righteousness of faith is spoken of in the pronouncements of the Prophets and Apostles, the words ‘to justify’ and ‘to be justified’ do not mean to absolve or to be absolved from sin and to obtain the forgiveness of sins, but mean to be made righteous in fact before God on account of the love and virtue that the Holy Spirit has infused and the works resulting therefrom.

“4. [We reject the teaching] that faith does not look alone to Christ’s obedience, but also to His divine nature (in so far as it dwells and works within us), and that by such indwelling our sins are covered up.

“5. [We reject the teaching] that faith is a kind of trust in the obedience of Christ that can exist and remain in a person though he does not truly repent and gives no evidence of resulting love, but continues to sin against his conscience..

“6. [We also reject the teaching] that not God Himself but only divine gifts well in believers.

“7. [We reject the teaching] that faith saves because by faith there is begun in us the renewal which consists in love toward God and our fellowman.

“8. [We reject the teaching] that faith indeed has the most prominent role in justification, but that also renewal and love belong to our righteousness before God, not indeed as if it were the primary cause of our righteousness, but that nevertheless our righteousness before God is incomplete and imperfect without such love and renewal.

“9. [We likewise reject the teaching] that believers are justified before God and saved both by the righteousness of Christ reckoned to them and by the incipient new obedience, or in part by the reckoning to them of Christ’s righteousness and in part by our incipient new obedience.

“10. [We also reject the position] that the promise of grace becomes our own by faith in the heart and by the confession of the lips, along with other virtues.

“11. [And, finally, we reject the position] that faith does not justify without good works, in such a way that good works are necessary for righteousness and that unless they are present a person cannot be justified.”

(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.

 Installation of Rev. Adam Clark
 at St. Peter, Mishawaka 3:00 p.m.

MONDAY **Vespers** **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)*

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 Fifth in Martyrs' Tide:
 Isaiah 35:4–7; James 2:1–18; and Saint Mark 7:24–37*