

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 a study of Genesis, making special use of Dr. Luther's commentary on that book.

Preparations have begun for this year's Christmas Pageant, which Donna Harrison will be directing with musical assistance from Rob Rhein. She is hoping that all of the children and youth (eighteen years and younger) will be willing and able to participate at least in the singing for the pageant. We ask that they be available for rehearsals during the usual catechesis time, in order to prepare. For more information and details, please speak to Donna.

◆ Remember Dcs. Rhein in your prayers as she is now teaching in Tanzania, and as she will then be returning to South Bend after this coming week.

◆ On Monday and Tuesday of this week, Pastor Stuckwisch will be attending the Indiana District Church Workers Conference in Indianapolis. He will be returning to South Bend on Tuesday evening. Please remember him and the other workers of our district in your prayers as they travel and as they are met together to discuss the Word of God and the work of His Church.

Please note that we will not be gathered for Vespers this Monday evening.

◆ This Thursday (12 November), Pastor Stuckwisch will be flying to Texas to visit his children and grandchildren over the next couple of weeks. Many thanks to the catechumens and their families for the generous gifts that will assist in making this trip an especially pleasant and enjoyable vacation.

Please note that the Friday catechesis class will not be meeting this week. The Wednesday evening class will meet as usual, from 4:30 until 5:45 p.m. followed by Evening Prayer at 6:00 p.m.

◆ The Altar flowers this morning have been provided by Linda Levine to the glory of God, in loving memory of her parents, Victor and Marian, in this anniversary month of their departure to be with Christ.

◆ COLLECTIONS FOR 1 NOVEMBER 2015: \$ 1,437.00

In order to meet our financial obligations and commitments, an average of \$2360 is needed each week.

◆ IN THE LORD'S SERVICE THIS LORD'S DAY: (ELDER) Robert Rhein; (USHERS) Matthew Horner & Tobias Tribble; (ACOLYTE) Lucas Jindra; (ORGANIST) Monica Stuckwisch; (GREETER) Pat Nering.

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

From the Lutheran Confessions

Affirmative Theses Concerning the Person of Christ (continued)

“5. Since both the divine and human natures are united personally—that is, in the one Person of Christ—we believe, teach, and confess that this personal union is not a combination or connection of such a kind that neither nature has anything in common with the other personally, as when two boards are glued together and neither gives anything to or takes anything from the other. On the contrary, here is the highest communion which God truly has with man. Out of this personal union and the resultant exalted and ineffable sharing there flows everything human that is said or believed about God and everything divine that is said or believed about Christ the Man. The ancient Fathers have illustrated this union and sharing of the natures by the analogy of incandescent iron and the union of body and soul in man.

“6. Therefore we believe, teach, and confess that God is Man and Man is God, which could not be the case if the divine and human natures did not have a real and true communion with each other. For how could the Man, Mary's Son, truly be called or be God, or the Son of the most high God, if His humanity were not personally and truly united with the Son of God and hence really (that is, in deed and in truth) share only the name of God with the divine nature?

“7. Therefore we believe, teach, and confess that Mary conceived and bore not only a plain, ordinary, mere man but the veritable Son of God; for this reason she is rightly called, and truly is, the Mother of God.

“8. Therefore we also believe, teach, and confess that it was not a plain, ordinary, mere man who for us suffered, died, was buried, descended into hell, rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and was exalted to the majesty and omnipotent power of God, but a Man whose human nature has such a profound and ineffable union and communion with the Son of God that it has become one Person with Him.

“9. Therefore the Son of God has truly suffered for us, but according to the property of the human nature which He assumed into the unity of His divine Person and made His own, so that He could suffer and be our High Priest for our reconciliation with God, as it is written in I Cor. 2:8, They have ‘crucified the Lord of glory,’ and in Acts 20:28, We are purchased with God’s own blood.

“10. Therefore we believe, teach, and confess that the Son of Man according to His human nature is really (that is, in deed and in truth) exalted to the right hand of the omnipotent majesty and power of God, because He was assumed into God when He was conceived by the Holy Spirit in His Mother’s womb and His human nature was personally united with the Son of the Most High.

“11. According to the personal union He always possessed this majesty. But in the state of His humiliation He dispensed with it and could therefore truly increase in age, wisdom, and favor with God and men, for He did not always disclose this majesty, but only when it pleased Him. Finally, after His Resurrection He laid aside completely the form of a slave (not the human nature) and was established in the full use, revelation and manifestation of His divine majesty. Thus He entered into His glory in such a way that now not only as God, but also as Man, He knows all things, can do all things, is present to all creatures, and has all things in heaven and on earth and under the earth beneath His feet and in His hands, as He Himself testifies, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me,’ and as St Paul states, He ascended ‘far above all the heavens that He might fill all things.’ He exercises His power everywhere and omnipresently, He can do everything, and He knows everything.

“12. Therefore He is able and it is easy for Him to impart to us His true body and blood which are present in the Holy Supper, not according to the mode or property of the human nature but according to the mode and property of God’s right hand, as Dr. Luther says on the basis of our Christian faith as we teach this to our children. This presence is not mundane or Capernaite although it is true and essential, as the Words of Christ’s Testament declare, ‘This is, is, is My body,’ etc.

*“Our doctrine, faith, and confession do not divide the Person of Christ, as Nestorius did. He denied the genuine sharing of the properties of the two natures in Christ and thus he actually divided the Person, as Luther explains it in his treatise *On the Councils*. Nor do we mingle the natures and their properties together in one essence, as Eutyches erroneously taught. Nor do we deny or abolish the human nature in the Person of Christ, or change the one nature into the other. Christ is, and remains to all eternity, God and Man in one indivisible Person. Next to the Holy Trinity this is the highest Mystery, as the Apostle testifies, and the sole foundation of our comfort, life, and salvation.”*

(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.
 Bible Class / Pageant Rehearsal 10:45 a.m.

MONDAY—TUESDAY *Indiana District Church Workers Conference*

WEDNESDAY Catechesis Class 4:30 p.m.
 Evening Prayer **6:00 p.m.**

THURSDAY *Pr. Stuckwisch flying to Texas to visit his children
and grandchildren — returning on 23 November*

NEXT SUNDAY Divine Service of Communion 9:00 a.m.
 Coffee & Refreshment Downstairs 10:30 a.m.
 Bible Class / Pageant Rehearsal 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 Second-Last Before Advent:
Daniel 12:1–3; Hebrews 10:11–25; and Saint Mark 13:1–13*