

# ***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.

◆ Pastor Stuckwisch is on vacation this week, visiting his children and grandchildren in Texas. He will be returning to South Bend next week Monday (23 November). Please remember him in your prayers while he is away.

◆ Also remember Dcs. Rhein in your prayers as she is traveling home to South Bend, today and tomorrow, from her teaching in Tanzania.

◆ Following coffee & refreshments, Pr. Seyboldt will lead the Family Bible Class in a discussion of the today's Readings and other topics of interest.

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.

◆ Looking ahead, Emmaus will be gathered for the Divine Service on the Eve of Thanksgiving (on Wednesday, 25 November), beginning at 6:00 p.m.

◆ The flowers on the Altar this morning have been provided by Karin Horner and family to the glory of God, in memory of her father LeRoy's birthday.

◆ COLLECTIONS FOR 8 NOVEMBER 2015:                   \$ 1,796.00

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) Dave Smith; (USHERS) Erik Horner & Rick Saenz; (ACOLYTE) Benjamin Horner; (ORGANIST) Dcs. Sarah Osburn; (GREETERS) Marilyn Dulmatch & Lois Veen.

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

# **From the Lutheran Confessions**

## ON CHRIST'S DESCENT INTO HELL

*“There has been a dispute among some theologians of the Augsburg Confession concerning this article also. The questions were: When and how, according to our simple Christian Creed, did Christ go to hell? Did it happen before or after His death? Did it occur only according to the soul, or only according to the deity, or according to body and soul, spiritually or corporeally? Does this article belong to Christ’s suffering or to His glorious victory and triumph?”*

*“This article, like the preceding one [concerning the Person of Christ], cannot be comprehended with our senses and reason, but must be apprehended by faith alone. Therefore it is our unanimous opinion that we should not engage in disputation concerning this article, but believe and teach it in all simplicity, as Dr. Luther taught in his sermon preached at Torgau in the year 1533, where he explains this article in a wholly Christian manner, eliminates all unnecessary questions, and admonishes all Christians to simplicity of faith.*

*“It is enough to know that Christ went to hell, destroyed hell for all believers, and has redeemed them from the power of death, of the devil, and of the eternal damnation of the hellish jaws. How this took place is something that we should postpone until the other world, where there will be revealed to us not only this point, but many others as well, which our blind reason cannot comprehend in this life but which we simply accept.”*

## ON CHURCH USAGES, CALLED “ADIAPHORA”

*“There has also been a division among theologians of the Augsburg Confession concerning those ceremonies or church usages which are neither commanded nor forbidden in the Word of God [‘adiaphora’] but have been introduced into the church in the interest of good order and the general welfare”*

*“The chief question has been, In times of persecution, when a confession is called for, and when the enemies of the Gospel have not come to an agreement with us in doctrine, may we with an inviolate conscience yield to their pressure and demands, reintroduce some ceremonies that have fallen into disuse and that in themselves are adiaphora, neither commanded nor forbidden by God, and thus come to an understanding with them in such ceremonies and adiaphora? One party said Yes to this, the other party said No.”*

*Affirmative Theses: The True Doctrine and Confession about this Article*

*“1. To settle this controversy we believe, teach, and confess unanimously that the ceremonies or church usages which are neither commanded nor forbidden in the Word of God, but which have been introduced solely for the sake of good order and the general welfare, are in and for themselves no divine worship or even a part of it. ‘In vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men’ (Matt. 15:9).*

*“2. We believe, teach, and confess that the community of God in every locality and every age has authority to change such ceremonies according to circumstances, as it may be most profitable and edifying to the community of God.*

*“3. But in this matter all frivolity and offenses are to be avoided, and particularly the weak in faith are to be spared (I Cor. 8:9–13; Rom. 14:13ff.).*

*“4. We believe, teach, and confess that in time of persecution, when a clear-cut confession of faith is demanded of us, we dare not yield to the enemies in such adiaphora, as the Apostle Paul writes, ‘For freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery’ (Gal. 5:11). ‘Do not be mismatched with unbelievers, for what fellowship has light with darkness?’ (II Cor. 6:14). ‘To them we did not yield submission even for a moment, that the truth of the Gospel might be preserved for you’ (Gal. 2:5). In such a case it is no longer a question of adiaphora, but a matter which has to do with the truth of the Gospel, Christian liberty, and the sanctioning of public idolatry, as well as preventing offense to the weak in faith. In all these things we have no concessions to make, but we should witness an unequivocal confession and suffer in consequence what God sends us and what He lets the enemies inflict on us.*

*“5. We believe, teach, and confess that no church should condemn another because it has fewer or more external ceremonies not commanded by God, as long as there is mutual agreement in doctrine and in all its articles as well as in the right use of the holy Sacraments, according to the familiar axiom, ‘Disagreement in fasting does not destroy agreement in faith.’*

*“Therefore we reject and condemn as false and contrary to God’s Word [the teaching] that human precepts and institutions are to be regarded as in themselves divine worship or a part of it.*

*It is also false and contrary to God’s Word “when such ceremonies, precepts, and institutions are forcibly imposed upon the community of God as necessary things, in violation of the Christian liberty which it has in external matters.”*

**(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.

*Pastor Stuckwisch on vacation in Texas throughout this week*

**MONDAY**                      *Deaconess Rhein returning to South Bend*

**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 Last Before Advent:  
Isaiah 51:4–6; Jude 20–25; and Saint Mark 13:24–37*

