

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.
- ◆ In the Divine Service this morning, the new and returning officers of our congregation will be inducted into office for this Year of Our Lord 2016. Our sincere thanks to those who have served so faithfully in the past, and to those who begin or continue to serve us in this new year. Christ be praised!
- ◆ There will be a Voters' Meeting this morning, downstairs in the church hall following refreshments. As always, members of Emmaus are encouraged to remain and to participate in this way, also, in the life of our congregation. Family Bible Class will proceed with our study of Genesis next Sunday.
- ◆ Pastor Stuckwisch will be in Fort Wayne on Monday and Thursday of this week. Note that we will not be gathered for Vespers on Monday evening.
- ◆ The Altar flowers this morning are provided by Robert & Herta Johnston to the glory of God, in celebration of their 67th wedding anniversary.
- ◆ Please note that a new flower chart for the Year of Our Lord 2016 is now available on the bulletin board at the back of the church. You are welcome to sign up to provide flowers for the Lord's Altar to the glory of God, in memory of loved ones, or in honor of special people and events.

When paying for Altar flowers, the checks should be made out to Emmaus LWML and then given to Diana Fish. Thanks!
- ◆ **COLLECTIONS FOR 10 JANUARY 2016: \$ 1,320.00**

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) Martin Horner & Nicholai Stuckwisch;
(ACOLYTE) Stefan Horner; (ORGANIST) Deaconess Sandra Rhein;
(GREETERS) Robert & Herta Johnston.
- ◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574

From the Lutheran Confessions

THE TREATISE ON THE POWER AND PRIMACY OF THE POPE

An Addendum to the Augsburg Confession

Compiled by the Lutheran Theologians Assembled in Smalcald in 1537

“It is manifest that the Roman pontiffs and their adherents defend godless doctrines and godless forms of worship, and it is plain that the marks of the Antichrist coincide with those of the pope’s kingdom and his followers. For in describing the Antichrist in his letter to the Thessalonians Paul calls him ‘an adversary of Christ who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God’ (II Thess. 2:3,4). He speaks therefore of one who rules in the church and not of the kings of nations, and he calls that man ‘an adversary of Christ’ because he will devise doctrines which conflict with the Gospel and will arrogate to himself divine authority.

“On the one hand, it is manifest that the pope rules in the church and that he has set up this kingdom for himself on the pretext of the authority of the church and the ministry, offering as pretext these words, ‘I will give you the keys’ (Matt. 16:19). On the other hand, the doctrine of the pope conflicts in many ways with the Gospel, and the pope arrogates to himself a threefold divine authority. First, because he assumes for himself the right to change the doctrine of Christ and the worship instituted by God, and he wishes to have his own doctrine and worship observed as divine. Second, because he assumes for himself not only the power to loose and bind in this life but also the jurisdiction over souls after this life. Third, because the pope is unwilling to be judged by the church or by anybody, and he exalts his authority above the decisions of councils and the whole church. Such unwillingness to be judged by the church or by anybody is to make himself out to be God. Finally, he defends such horrible errors and such impiety with the greatest cruelty and puts to death those who dissent.

“Since this is the situation, all Christians ought to beware of becoming participants in the impious doctrines, blasphemies, and unjust cruelties of the pope. They ought rather to abandon and execrate the pope and his adherents as the kingdom of the Antichrist. Christ commanded, ‘Beware of false prophets’ (Matt. 7:15). Paul also commanded that ungodly teachers should be shunned and execrated as accursed, and he wrote in II Cor. 6:14, ‘Do not be mismatched with unbelievers, for what fellowship has light with darkness?’

“To dissent from the consensus of so many nations and to be called schismatics [as we have been accused] is a serious matter. But divine authority commands us all not to be associated with and not to support impiety and unjust cruelty. Consequently our consciences are sufficiently excused. The errors of the pope’s kingdom are manifest, and the Scriptures unanimously declare these errors to be doctrines of demons and of the Antichrist. The idolatry in the profanation of Masses is manifest, for in addition to other abuses they are shamelessly employed to secure disgraceful profits. The doctrine of repentance has been completely corrupted by the pope and his adherents, who teach that sins are forgiven on account of the worth of our work. Then they bid us to doubt whether forgiveness is obtained. Nowhere do they teach that sins are forgiven freely for Christ’s sake and that by this faith we obtain the remission of sins. Thus they obscure the glory of Christ, deprive consciences of a firm consolation, and abolish true worship (that is, the exercise of faith struggling against despair).

“They have obscured the teaching concerning sin and have invented a tradition concerning the enumeration of sins which has produced many errors and introduced despair. They have also invented satisfactions, by means of which they have further obscured the benefit of Christ. Out of these arose indulgences, which are nothing but lies devised for the sake of gain. Then there is the invocation of saints—how many abuses and what horrible idolatry it has produced! How many profligate acts have sprung from the tradition of celibacy! With what darkness has the teaching about vows covered the Gospel! Here they have feigned that vows produce righteousness before God and merit forgiveness of sins. Thus they have transferred merit from Christ to human traditions and have utterly extinguished the teaching concerning faith. They have pretended that the most trivial traditions are services of God and perfection, and they have preferred these to works performed in callings which God requires and ordained. Such errors are not to be taken lightly, for they detract from the glory of God and bring destruction to souls. Accordingly they cannot be overlooked.

“To these errors, then, two great sins must be added. The first is that the pope defends these errors with savage cruelty and punishment. The other is that the pope wrests judgment from the church and does not allow ecclesiastical controversies to be decided in the proper manner. In fact, he contends that he is above councils and can rescind the decrees of councils, as the canons [of church law] sometimes impudently declare—yet this was done much more impudently by the pontiffs, as examples show. . . .” (To be continued)

(From *The Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope*, 1537)

Walking with Our Savior this Week

TODAY **Divine Service of Communion** **9:00 a.m.**
with induction of officers for 2016
Coffee & Refreshments Downstairs 10:30 a.m.
Voters' Meeting / Catechesis 10:45 a.m.

MONDAY *Pastor Stuckwisch at a Conference in Fort Wayne*

TUESDAY *Pastor's Writing Day (but do call in cases of emergency)*

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

THURSDAY *Pastor Stuckwisch in Fort Wayne for the Symposia*

FRIDAY Catechesis Class 4:30 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY **Divine Service of Communion** **9:00 a.m.**
Coffee & Refreshments 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:

*This Monday (18 January) is the Feast of the Confession of Saint Peter:
Readings: Acts 4:8–13; 2 Peter 1:1–15; and St. Mark 8:27–9:1*

*The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Third after the Epiphany:
Nehemiah 8:1–10; 1 Corinthians 12:12–31; and Saint Luke 4:16–30*