

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. Catechesis class for younger and beginning catechumens meets at the same time. Older children, especially between the ages of eight and twelve, will meet with Mike Jindra and Ian Walsh. And Dave Smith is teaching a catechesis class for teenagers and others who are interested.
- ◆ Pastor Stuckwisch will be teaching a DMin course at the Seminary in Fort Wayne all this week. Note: *No Vespers on Monday nor Evening Prayer on Wednesday this week, and no catechesis classes on Wednesday or Friday.*

Children's Choir will rehearse on Friday of this week, 3:30—4:15 p.m.

- ◆ 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 17 JANUARY 2016: \$ 3,603.30

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) Aaron Seyboldt & Rick Saenz;
(ACOLYTE) Frederick Stuckwisch; (ORGANIST) Deaconess Sandra Rhein; (GREETERS) Marilyn Dulmatch & Lois Veen.

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

From the Lutheran Confessions

THE TREATISE ON THE POWER AND PRIMACY OF THE POPE

Compiled by the Lutheran Theologians Assembled in Smalcald in 1537

“To [the various] errors [of the pope] 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. The ninth question of the third canon states, ‘No one shall judge the supreme see [the pope], for the judge is judged by neither the emperor, nor by all the clergy, nor by kings, nor by the people.’ Thus the pope exercises a twofold tyranny: he defends his errors by force and murders, and he forbids a judicial examination. The latter does more harm than all the punishments, for when proper judicial process has been taken away, the churches are not able to remove impious teachings and impious forms of worship, and countless souls are lost generation after generation.

“Therefore, let the godly consider the enormous errors of the pope’s kingdom and his tyranny. They should know, in the first place, that these errors must be rejected and that the true teaching must be embraced for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. Then, in the second place, they should also know how great a crime it is to support unjust cruelty in the murder of saints, whose blood God will undoubtedly avenge.

“Especially does it behoove the chief members of the church, the kings and the princes, to have regard for the interests of the church and to see to it that errors are removed and consciences are healed. God expressly exhorts kings, ‘Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth’ (Ps. 2:10). For the first care of kings should be to advance the glory of God. Wherefore it would be most shameful for them to use their authority and power for the support of idolatry and countless other crimes and for the murder of saints.

“Even if the pope should hold synods, how can the church be purified as long as the pope does not permit anything to be decreed contrary to his will and grants nobody the right to express an opinion, except his followers, whom he has bound by horrible oaths and curses to defend his tyranny and wickedness without any regard for the Word of God?

“Since decisions of synods are decisions of the church and not of the pontiffs, it is especially incumbent on the kings to restrain the license of the pontiffs and see to it that the church is not deprived of the power of making judgments and decisions according to the Word of God. And as Christians ought to censure the rest of the pope’s errors, so they ought also to rebuke the pope when he evades and obstructs true understanding and true judgment on the part of the church.

“Accordingly, even if the bishop of Rome did possess the primacy by divine right, he should not be obeyed inasmuch as he defends impious forms of worship and doctrines which are in conflict with the Gospel. On the contrary, it is necessary to resist him as Antichrist.

“The errors of the pope are manifest, and they are not trifling. Manifest, too, is the cruelty which he employs against the godly. And it is the clear command of God that we should flee from idolatry, impious doctrines, and unjust cruelty. Therefore all the godly have weighty, compelling, and evident reasons for not submitting to the pope, and these urgent reasons are a comfort to the godly when, as often happens, they are reproached for scandal, schism, and discord. On the other hand, those who agree with the pope and defend his doctrines and forms of worship defile themselves with idolatry and blasphemous opinions, make themselves guilty of the blood of the godly whom the pope persecutes, detract from the glory of God, and hinder the welfare of the church by so strengthening errors and other crimes as to impose them on all posterity.

The Power and Jurisdiction of Bishops

“In the [Augsburg] Confession and the Apology [of that Confession] we have set forth in general terms what we have to say about ecclesiastical power.

“The Gospel requires of those who preside over the churches [i.e., the pastors and bishops of the church] that they preach the Gospel, remit sins, administer the sacraments, and, in addition, exercise jurisdiction, that is, excommunicate those who are guilty of notorious crimes and absolve those who repent. By the confession of all, even of our adversaries, it is evident that this power belongs by divine right to all who preside over the churches, whether they are called pastors, presbyters, or bishops. Accordingly Jerome teaches clearly that in the apostolic letters all who preside over the churches are both bishops and presbyters. He quotes from Titus, ‘This is why I left you in Crete, that you might appoint presbyters in every town,’ and points out that these words are followed by, ‘A bishop must be married only once’ (Titus 1:5–7). . . .” (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.**
Coffee & Refreshments Downstairs 10:30 a.m.
Catechesis / Family Bible Class 10:45 a.m.

MONDAY—FRIDAY *Pastor Stuckwisch teaching at the Seminary*

FRIDAY Children's Choir Rehearsal 3:30 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:

Today (24 January) is also the Feast of St. Timothy, Pastor & Confessor
Readings: Acts 16:1–5; 1 Timothy 6:11–16; and St. Matt. 24:42–47

This Monday (25 January) is the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul
Readings: Acts 9:1–22; Galatians 1:11–24; and St. Matt. 19:27–30

This Tuesday (26 January) is the Feast of St. Titus, Pastor & Confessor
Readings: Acts 20:28–35; Titus 1:1–9; and Saint Luke 10:1–9

The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Fourth after the Epiphany:
Jeremiah 1:4–19; 1 Cor. 12:31b–13:13; and Saint Luke 4:31–44