

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 our study of Genesis, relying especially on Dr. Luther's extensive commentary on that sacred text. Parents and children, youth and adults are welcome.

Catechesis class for younger and beginning catechumens meets at the same time. Also, Mike Jindra and Ian Walsh are teaching a catechesis class for children of approximately eight through twelves years of age. And Dave Smith is teaching a class for teenagers and others who may be interested.

◆ Bake Sale Today! With the arrival of spring, watch for some improvements in the landscaping on the parking lot side of our church building. Martin Horner has chosen this as his Eagle Scout project. Most of the funding for his project will come from outside sources, but we are going to give him a head start with a bake sale this morning. Thanks to Martin for his service to Emmaus, and, as always, thank you for your support.

◆ Emmaus will be gathered for the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord this Thursday (5 May), the Divine Service beginning at 6:00 p.m. One and all are welcome and encouraged to join us in receiving the Holy Gospel.

◆ Next Sunday (8 May) the Fundraising Committee will be opening the cans for the Silent Auction on the four blankets which are on display downstairs in the church hall. Highest bidder on each blanket gets it.

◆ COLLECTIONS FOR 24 APRIL 2016: \$ 1,947.50 (?)

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) Eldon Knepp; (USHERS) Matt Horner & Nick Stuckwisch;
(ACOLYTE) Gerhardt Stuckwisch; (ORGANIST) Dcs. Sandra Rhein;
(GREETERS) Robert & Herta Johnston.

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

From the Lutheran Confessions

THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION

“XXVI. The Distinction of Foods (continued). In former times men taught, preached, and wrote that distinctions among foods and similar traditions which had been instituted by men serve to earn grace and make satisfaction for sin. Many harmful errors in the church have resulted from this.

“In the first place, the grace of Christ and the teaching concerning faith are thereby obscured, and yet the Gospel earnestly urges them upon us and strongly insists that we regard the merit of Christ as something great and precious and know that faith in Christ is to be esteemed far above all works. This teaching has been almost completely extinguished by those who have taught that grace is to be earned by prescribed fasts, distinctions among foods, vestments, etc.

“In the second place, such traditions have also obscured the commands of God, for these traditions were exalted far above God’s commands. Necessary good works were considered secular and unspiritual: the works which everybody is obliged to do according to his calling—for example, that a husband should labor to support his wife and children and bring them up in the fear of God, that a wife should bear children and care for them, that a prince and magistrates should govern land and people, etc.

“In the third place, such traditions have turned out to be a grievous burden to consciences, for it was not possible to keep all the traditions, and yet the people were of the opinion that they were a necessary service of God. Gerson writes that many fell into despair on this account, and some even committed suicide, because they had not heard anything of the consolation of the grace of Christ. We can see in the writings of the summists and canonists how consciences have been confused, for they undertook to collate the traditions and sought mitigations to relieve consciences, but they were so occupied with such efforts that they neglected all wholesome Christian teachings about more important things, such as faith, consolation in severe trials, and the like. Many devout and learned people before our time have also complained that such traditions caused so much strife in the church that godly people were thereby hindered from coming to a right knowledge of Christ. Gerson and others have complained bitterly about this. In fact, Augustine was also displeased that consciences were burdened with so many traditions, and he taught in this connection that they were not to be considered necessary observances.

“Our teachers have not taught concerning these matters out of malice or contempt of spiritual authority, but dire need has compelled them to give instruction about the aforementioned errors which have arisen from a wrong estimation of tradition. The Gospel demands that the teaching about faith should and must be emphasized in the church, but this teaching cannot be understood if it is supposed that grace is earned through self-chosen works.

“It is therefore taught that grace cannot be earned, God cannot be reconciled, and sin cannot be atoned for by observing the said human traditions. Accordingly they should not be made into a necessary service of God. Reasons for this shall be cited from the Scriptures. In Matt. 15:1–20 Christ defends the Apostles for not observing the customary traditions, and He adds, ‘In vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men’ (Matt. 15:9). Since He calls them vain service, they must not be necessary. Thereupon Christ says, ‘Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man.’ Paul also says in Rom. 14:17, ‘The kingdom of God does not mean food and drink,’ and in Col. 2:16 he says, ‘Let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink or with regard to a festival,’ etc. In Acts 15:10, 11 Peter says, ‘Why do you make trial of God by putting a yoke upon the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? But we believe that we shall be saved through the grace of our Lord Jesus, just as they will.’ Here Peter forbids the burdening of consciences with additional outward ceremonies, whether of Moses or of another. In I Tim. 4:1, 3 such prohibitions as forbid food or marriage are called a doctrine of the devil, for it is diametrically opposed to the Gospel to institute or practice such works for the purpose of earning forgiveness of sin or with the notion that nobody is a Christian unless he performs such services.

“Although our teachers are, like Jovinian, accused of forbidding mortification and discipline, their writings reveal something quite different. They have always taught concerning the holy cross that Christians are obliged to suffer, and this is true and real rather than invented mortification.

“They also teach that everybody is under obligation to conduct himself, with reference to such bodily exercise as fasting and other discipline, so that he does not give occasion to sin, but not as if he earned grace by such works. Such bodily exercise should not be limited to certain specified days but should be practiced continually. Christ speaks of this in Luke 21:34, ‘Take heed to yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation,’ and again, ‘This kind of demon cannot be driven out by anything but fasting and prayer.’ Paul said that he pommelled his body and subdued it. . . .” (To be continued)

(From the Augsburg Confession, 1530)

Walking with Our Savior this Week

TODAY	Divine Service of Communion	9:00 a.m.
	Bake Sale Fundraiser for Landscaping Project	
	Coffee & Refreshment Downstairs	10:30 a.m.
	Catechesis / Family Bible Class	10:45 a.m.
MONDAY	<i>Vespers</i>	6:00 p.m.
TUESDAY	<i>Pastor's Writing Day (but <u>do call</u> in cases of emergency)</i>	
WEDNESDAY	Catechesis Class	4:30 p.m.
	Children's Choir Rehearsal	6:10 p.m.
	<i>Evening Prayer</i>	7:00 p.m.
THURSDAY	THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD	
	Divine Service of Communion	6:00 p.m.
FRIDAY	Catechesis Class	4:30 p.m.
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.
	EMMAUS FAMILY DAY	12:00 Noon

You may also want to keep in mind, in your observance of daily prayer at home:

*This Thursday (5 May) is the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord
Readings: Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:15-23; and St. Luke 24:44-53*

*The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Seventh Sunday of Easter:
Acts of the Apostles 1:12-26; Rev. 22:1-20; and St. John 17:20-26*