

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.

- ◆ Our brother in Christ, Robert Juday, departed from this vale of tears to the nearer presence of our Lord this past Thursday morning. His funeral will take place tomorrow at Welsheimer's on Cleveland Road. Visitation and viewing will take place today, also at Welsheimer, from 2:00 until 6:00 p.m.

*Please note that we will **not** be gathered for Vespers tomorrow evening.*

- ◆ Our thanks to the children's choir for their faithful service and assistance throughout much of the year, and to Deaconess Rhein for directing the choir. As today will be their last Sunday of singing for this academic year, there will not be choir rehearsal on the remaining Wednesdays of the month.

Consequently, **Evening Prayer will be at 6:00 p.m.** (instead of 7:00 p.m.).

- ◆ Pr. Stuckwisch will be vested and available in the Emmaus Sanctuary for Individual Confession & Holy Absolution this Saturday (21 May) from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. This means of grace and forgiveness is freely offered to be freely received in repentant faith by the authority of Christ our Lord. Those who may have questions concerning this Christian practice are encouraged to review the Small Catechism and to visit with Pastor about it any time.

- ◆ Looking ahead, if anyone would like to bring a dessert to share for Pastors' Anniversary Dinner on the 29th of May, please contact Betty Shankle.

- ◆ The Altar flowers this morning are provided by Linda Levine to the glory of God in loving memory of her parents, Marian (5/22) and Victor (6/10).

◆ COLLECTIONS FOR 8 MAY 2016: \$ 2,153.79

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 & Erik Horner; (ACOLYTE) Stefan Horner; (CRUCIFER) Martin Horner; (ORGANIST) Deaconess Sandra Rhein; (GREETER) Pat Nering.

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

From the Lutheran Confessions

THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION

“XXVII. Monastic Vows. Monastic vows gained such a reputation that many monks with even a little understanding were displeased. It was claimed that monastic vows were equal to Baptism, and that by monastic life one could earn forgiveness of sin and justification before God. What is more, they added that monastic life not only earned righteousness and godliness, but also that by means of this life both the precepts and the counsels included in the Gospel were kept, and so monastic vows were praised more highly than Baptism. They also claimed that more merit could be obtained by monastic life than by all other states of life instituted by God — whether the office of pastor and preacher, of ruler, prince, lord, or the like, all of whom serve in their appointed calling according to God’s Word and command without invented spirituality. None of these things can be denied, for they are found in their own books.

“Furthermore, those who were thus ensnared and inveigled into a monastery learned little about Christ. Formerly the monasteries had conducted schools of Holy Scripture and other branches of learning which are profitable to the Christian church, so that pastors and bishops were taken from monasteries. But now the picture is changed. In former times people gathered and adopted monastic life for the purpose of learning the Scriptures, but now it is claimed that monastic life is of such a nature that thereby God’s grace and righteousness before God are earned. In fact, it is called a state of perfection and is regarded as far superior to the other estates instituted by God. All this is mentioned, without misrepresentation, in order that one may better grasp and understand what our teachers teach and preach.

“For one thing, it is taught among us with regard to those who desire to marry that all those who are not suited for celibacy have the power, right, and authority to marry, for vows cannot nullify God’s order and command. God’s command in I Cor. 7:2 reads, ‘Because of the temptation to immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.’ It is not alone God’s command that urges, drives, and compels us to do this, but God’s creation and order also direct all to marriage who are not endowed with the gift of virginity by a special act of God. This appears from God’s own words in Gen. 2:18, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.’

“What objection may be raised to this? No matter how much one extols the vow and the obligation, no matter how highly one exalts them, it is still impossible to abrogate God’s command. Learned men say that a vow made contrary to papal canons is not binding. How much less must be their obligation, lawfulness, and power when they are contrary to God’s command!

“If there were no reasons which allowed annulment of the obligation of a vow, the popes could not have dispensed and released men from such obligation, for no man has the right to cancel obligation which is derived from divine law. Consequently the popes were well aware that some amelioration ought to be exercised in connection with this obligation and have often given dispensations, as in the case of the king of Aragon and many others. If dispensation were granted for the maintenance of temporal interests, how much more should dispensations be granted for necessities of men’s souls!

“Why, then, do our opponents insist so strongly that vows must be kept without first ascertaining whether a vow is of the proper sort? For a vow must involve what is possible and voluntary and must be uncoerced. Yet it is commonly known to what an extent perpetual chastity lies within human power and ability, and there are few, whether men or women, who have taken monastic vows of themselves, willingly, and after due consideration. Before they came to a right understanding they were persuaded to take monastic vows, and sometimes they have been compelled and forced to do so. Accordingly it is not right to argue so rashly and insistently about the obligation of vows inasmuch as it is generally conceded that it belongs to the very nature and character of a vow that it should be voluntary and should be assumed only after due consideration and counsel. . . .” (To be continued)

(From the Augsburg Confession, 1530)

Walking with Our Savior this Week

TODAY Divine Service of Communion 9:00 a.m.
 Coffee & Refreshment Downstairs 10:30 a.m.
 Catechesis / Family Bible Class 10:45 a.m.

Robert Juday Visitation at Welsheimer 2:00—6:00

MONDAY *Robert Juday Funeral at Welsheimer* 10:00 a.m.

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's Family Day (but do call in cases of emergency)*

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.

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

*The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Feast of the Holy Trinity:
Prov. 8:1–4, 22–31; Acts of the Apostles 2:22–36; and St. John 8:48–59*