

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 will offer further opportunity for open questions and conversation with Pastor Stuckwisch. Over the summer we'll take up a discussion and study of Christian marriage and of stewardship, and probably St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians.
- ◆ Today is Emmaus Family Day. Lunch will be a sub sandwich extravaganza. How many items can go on a sub sandwich? Please bring bread, cheese, meat, lettuce, tomatoes, or some other more exotic ingredient, or else fruit or veggies to go along with the sandwiches. As a service project, we will be making banners for the missionary families in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, who have a small home church. You are also welcome to bring games.
- ◆ Pastor Stuckwisch and most of his family will be in Sussex, Wisconsin, from Tuesday through Friday of this week, for the Concordia Catechetical Academy. Pastor will be serving as one of the speakers again this year on the topic of keeping our children in the faith. Please remember him and all those who attend in your prayers, as they travel and as they learn together.
- ◆ Looking ahead, Emmaus will be gathered to celebrate the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist on Friday the 24th of June, Divine Service at 6:00 p.m.
- ◆ The Altar flowers this morning have been provided by Rev. Josh & Sarah Osburn to the glory of God, in celebration of their 8th wedding anniversary.
- ◆ COLLECTIONS FOR 5 JUNE 2016: \$ 2,240.00
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) Robert Rhein; (USHERS) Aaron Seyboldt & Matthew Harrison; (ACOLYTE) Stefan Horner; (ORGANIST) Dcs. Sandra Rhein; (GREETER) Pat Nering.
- ◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574

From the Lutheran Confessions

THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION

ARTICLES ABOUT MATTERS IN DISPUTE, IN WHICH
AN ACCOUNT IS GIVEN OF THE ABUSES WHICH HAVE BEEN CORRECTED

“XXVIII. The Power of Bishops (continued). *Our teachers assert that bishops do not have power to institute or establish anything contrary to the Gospel, as has been indicated previously and as is taught by canon law throughout the whole of the ninth Distinction. It is patently contrary to God’s command and Word to make laws out of opinions or to require that they be observed in order to make satisfaction for sins and obtain grace, for the glory of Christ’s merit is blasphemed when we presume to earn grace by such ordinances. It is also apparent that because of this notion human ordinances have multiplied beyond calculation while the teaching concerning faith and righteousness of faith has almost been suppressed. Almost every day new holy days and new fasts have been pre-scribed, new ceremonies and new veneration of saints have been instituted in order that by such works grace and everything good might be earned from God.*

“Again, those who institute human ordinances also act contrary to God’s command when they attach sin to foods, days, and similar things and burden Christendom with the bondage of the law, as if in order to earn God’s grace there had to be a service of God among Christians like the Levitical service, and as if God had commanded the Apostles and bishops to institute it, as some have written. It is quite believable that some bishops were misled by the example of the law of Moses. The result was that countless regulations came into being—for example, that it is a mortal sin to do manual work on holy days (even when it does not give offense to others), that it is a mortal sin to omit the seven hours, that some foods defile the conscience, that fasting is a work by which God is reconciled, that in a reserved case sin is not forgiven unless forgiveness is secured from the person for whom the case is reserved, in spite of the fact that canon law says nothing of the reservation of guilt but speaks only about the reservation of ecclesiastical penalties.

“Where did the bishops get the right and power to impose such requirements on Christendom to ensnare men’s consciences? In Acts 15:10 St Peter forbids putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples. And St Paul said in II Cor. 10:8 that authority was given for building up and not for tearing down. Why, then, do they multiply sins with such requirements?

“Yet there are clear passages of divine Scripture which forbid the establishment of such regulations for the purpose of earning God’s grace. Or as if they were necessary for salvation. Thus St. Paul says in Colossians (2:16), ‘Let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a sabbath. These are only a shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.’ Again in Colossians (2:20–23), ‘If with Christ you have died to the regulations of the world, why do you live as if you still belonged to the world? Why do you submit to regulations, “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” (referring to things which all perish as they are used), according to human precepts and doctrines? These have an appearance of wisdom.’ In Titus (1:14) St. Paul also forbids giving heed to Jewish myths or to commands of men who reject the truth.

“Christ Himself says concerning those who urge human ordinances on people, ‘Let them alone; they are blind guides’ (Matt. 15:14). He rejects such service of God and says, ‘Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up’ (Matt. 15:13).

“If, then, bishops have the power to burden the churches with countless requirements and thus ensnare consciences, why does the divine Scripture so frequently forbid the making and keeping of human regulations? Why does it call them doctrines of the devil (1 Tim.4:1)? Is it possible that the Holy Spirit warned against them for nothing?

“Inasmuch as such regulations as have been instituted as necessary to propitiate God and merit grace are contrary to the Gospel, it is not at all proper for the bishops to require such services of God. It is necessary to preserve the teaching of Christian liberty in Christendom, namely, that bondage to the law is not necessary for justification, as St. Paul writes in Gal. 5:1, ‘For freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.’ For the chief article of the Gospel must be maintained, namely, that we obtain the grace of God through faith in Christ without our merits; we do not merit it by services of God instituted by men.

“What are we to say, then, about Sunday and other similar church ordinances and ceremonies? To this our teachers reply that bishops or pastors may make regulations so that everything in the churches is done in good order, but not as a means of obtaining God’s grace or making satisfaction for sins, nor in order to bind men’s consciences by considering these things necessary services of God and counting it a sin to omit their observance. . . .” (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.
	<i>Emmaus Family Day</i>	<i>12:00—2:30</i>

MONDAY *Vespers* **6:00 p.m.**

TUESDAY—FRIDAY *Pastor Stuckwisch and Family attending the
Catechetical Academy in Sussex, Wisconsin*

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 Fourth after Holy Trinity:
Isaiah 65:1–9; Galatians 3:23—4:7; and Saint Luke 8:26–39*