

# ***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.
- ◆ Dcs. Rhein will be attending the LCMS Deaconess Conference this week in Cleveland, Ohio. Please remember her and all of the deaconesses in your prayers, as they travel to and fro, and as they pray and study together.
- ◆ Emmaus will be gathered to celebrate the Feast of St. Peter & St. Paul, the Apostles, this Wednesday, June the 29th, in the Divine Service at 6:00 p.m.
- ◆ Pastor Stuckwisch will be traveling with some of his older children to Texas at the end of this week, to spend a couple weeks with DoRena's and Zach's families. He will be preaching and serving for his son-in-law this coming Sunday, and the girls will be helping DoRena with her four children, while Sam is taking an apologetics course in France. Pastor and family will return to South Bend on the 15th of July. Please remember them in your prayers.
- ◆ The Altar flowers this morning have been provided by Annalise Harrison to the glory of God, in celebration of her birthday.
- ◆ **COLLECTIONS FOR 19 JUNE 2016: \$1,478.91**  
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) Caleb Smith & Rick Saenz; (ACOLYTE) Timmy Jindra; (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

*“XXVIII. The Power of Bishops (continued). The Apostles directed that one should abstain from blood and from what is strangled. Who observes this prohibition now? Those who do not observe it commit no sin, for the Apostles did not wish to burden consciences with such bondage but forbade such eating for a time to avoid offense. One must pay attention to the chief article of Christian doctrine, and this is not abrogated by the decree. Scarcely any of the ancient canons are observed according to the letter, and many of the regulations fall into disuse from day to day even among those who observe such ordinances jealously. It is impossible to give counsel or help to consciences unless this mitigation is practiced, that one recognizes that such rules are not to be deemed necessary and that disregard of them does not injure consciences.*

*“The bishops might easily retain the obedience of men if they did not insist on the observance of regulations which cannot be kept without sin. Now, however, they administer the Sacrament in one kind and prohibit administration in both kinds. Again, they forbid clergymen to marry and admit no one to the ministry unless he first swears an oath that he will not preach this [Lutheran] doctrine, although there is no doubt that it is in accord with the holy Gospel. Our churches do not ask that the bishops should restore peace and unity at the expense of their honor and dignity (though it is incumbent on the bishops to do this, too, in case of need), but they ask only that the bishops relax certain unreasonable burdens which did not exist in the church in former times and which were introduced contrary to the custom of the universal Christian church. Perhaps there was some reason for introducing them, but they are not adapted to our times. Nor can it be denied that some regulations were adopted from want of understanding. Accordingly the bishops ought to be so gracious as to temper these regulations inasmuch as such changes do not destroy the unity of Christian churches. For many regulations devised by men have with the passing of time fallen into disuse and are not obligatory, as papal law itself testifies.*

*“If, however, this is impossible and they cannot be persuaded to mitigate or abrogate human regulations which are not to be observed without sin, we are bound to follow the apostolic rule which commands us to obey God rather than men. St. Peter forbids the bishops to exercise lordship as if they had power to coerce the churches according to their will. It is not our intention to find ways of reducing the bishops’ power, but we desire and pray that they may not coerce our consciences to sin.*

*“If they are unwilling to do this and ignore our petition, let them consider how they will answer for it in God’s sight, inasmuch as by their obstinacy they offer occasion for division and schism, which they should in truth help to prevent.”*

*“**Conclusion:** These are the chief articles that are regarded as controversial. Although we could have mentioned many more abuses and wrongs, to avoid prolixity and undue length we have indicated only the principal ones. The others can readily be weighed in the light of these. In the past there have been grave complaints about indulgences, pilgrimages, and misuse of the ban. Parish ministers also had endless quarrels with monks about the hearing of confessions, about burials, about sermons on special occasions, and about countless other matters. All these things we have discreetly passed over for the common good in order that the chief points at issue may better be perceived.*

*“It must not be thought that anything has been said or introduced out of hatred or for the purpose of injuring anybody, but we have related only matters which we have considered it necessary to adduce and mention in order that it may be made very clear that we have introduced nothing, either in doctrine or in ceremonies, that is contrary to Holy Scripture or the universal Christian church. For it is manifest and evident (to speak without boasting) that we have diligently and with God’s help prevented any new and godless teaching from creeping into our churches and gaining the upper hand in them.*

*“In keeping with the summons, we have desired to present the above articles as a declaration of our confession and the teaching of our preachers. If anyone should consider that it is lacking in some respect, we are ready to present further information on the basis of the divine Holy Scripture.*

*“Your Imperial Majesty’s most obedient servants:*

*John, duke of Saxony, elector  
George, margrave of Brandenburg  
Ernest, duke of Lüneburg  
Philip, landgrave of Hesse  
John Frederick, duke of Saxony  
Francis, duke of Lüneburg  
Wolfgang, prince of Anhalt  
Mayor and council of Nuremberg  
Mayor and council of Reutlingen”*

*(From the Augsburg Confession, 1530)*

