

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.
- ◆ There is a second coffee choice on Sunday mornings — a gourmet coffee ordered through Coffee by Gillespie. Offering this coffee serves the double purpose of supporting an area pastor whose family has ongoing medical expenses and providing a high-end option for coffee aficionados. Beginning today, a donation mug will sit beside this coffee. For those who would like a guideline, the cost per cup is around 50¢.
- ◆ Following coffee & refreshments this morning, our Family Bible Class will resume our study of Genesis, making special use of Dr. Luther's lectures.

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 also teaching a catechesis class for teenagers and others who are interested.

With the variety of options provided, it is intended that everyone would be in attendance at one or another of these classes, in order to hear and learn God's Word. A nursery is provided for the youngest children (under four), and we ask that older children not occupy that room during catechesis. We do also ask that anyone not participating in one of the classes be considerate of those who are teaching and learning, so as not to disturb or distract them.

- ◆ Five of our Emmaus catechumens — Joshua Jordan, Justinian Stuckwisch, Leora Tribble, Lucas Jindra, and Teagan Wright — will receive the Rite of Confirmation next Sunday (2 October). They will give public confession of the faith, as they have learned it from Luther's Small Catechism, at the Order of Vespers this Friday (30 September), beginning at 6:00 p.m. All members of the congregation, especially our other catechumens and their families, are encouraged to attend the Vespers.

Also at the Divine Service next Sunday, David Sams will be receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, and both David and Kelvin Rodriguez will be confirmed as members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Emmaus. In addition, Cecilia Osburn and Cyprian Rhein will be receiving their First Holy Communion. Let us rejoice and be glad and give thanks to Christ, our Lord!

- ◆ **Ladies of Emmaus**, please note that LWML Mites are being collected this morning (25 September), and donations for our own Emmaus Food Pantry will be collected next Sunday (2 October). Thank you for your support!
- ◆ From Dcs. Rhein: **There will be a brief youth group meeting after Bible Class this morning.** All youth (ages 12–20) and their parents are invited. If you plan to attend next summer's Higher Things conference, you need to be at this meeting to sign up. Your attendance is required. We will also discuss youth group activities for the year, so please join us if you are able.
- ◆ The Altar flowers this morning are provided by Randy & Diana Fish to the glory of God, in celebration of their 48th wedding anniversary.
- ◆ **COLLECTIONS FOR 18 SEPTEMBER 2016:** \$ 1,713.71
In order to meet our financial obligations and commitments, an average of \$2360 is needed each week.
- ◆ Many thanks to the Fundraising Committee, to Betty Shankle in particular, and to all who helped in various ways to make the Port-a-Pit Chicken sale such a successful fundraiser last weekend. We are very happy to report that roughly \$2,000 was earned toward making up the deficit in the general fund.
- ◆ **IN THE LORD'S SERVICE THIS LORD'S DAY:**
(ELDER) Robert Rhein; (USHERS) Matthew Horner & Nick Stuckwisch;
(ACOLYTE) Frederick Stuckwisch; (ORGANIST) Deaconess Sandra Rhein; (GREETERS) Marilyn Dulmatch & Lois Veen.
- ◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574

On the Church Year

“Traditionally the altar stood in the east end of the church, with the worshipers in the west, facing the rising sun, a symbol of Christ, the Light of the world. In these terms the Epistle was read from a desk or ambo on the south side of the chancel, or in smaller churches, from the south ‘horn’ of the altar. The Gospel was read from the north position, or from the people’s left.

“Just how and why the specific readings were selected for a given Sunday is not very clear. Few seem to have any connection with the church year, a good indication that they were established very early, before there was a year. Some may have come from the ancient practice of ‘lectio continua’ (continuous reading) in which a whole book was read in sequence.

“The ancient church held the system of appointed readings so sacred it hesitated to make changes even though the church year changed. The church of the Reformation advocated varying sets of pericopes, to cover a larger part of the Scriptures, a practice that is now winning favor also in Roman Catholic circles.

“Often the Epistle was read by an appointed lector, or even by a distinguished layman, as has for centuries been the custom in the Church of England, or as the Roman Catholic Church is again doing. The Gospel was considered especially sacred, and the book in which the lessons were inscribed was often bound in the finest leather, embellished with gold leaf and jewels, with the verses drawn in purple ink and the capitals in gold. An elaborate ceremony for reading the Gospel, still common in the Orthodox churches, included the ceremonial kiss, the ritual censuring, and the solemn procession to carry it to the ambo.

“Since the Epistle and the Gospel were read from opposite sides of the chancel, the versicle which covered the time lag while the officiants moved from one position to another was called the Gradual. A ‘gradus’ is a step or incline, and may be evidence that the stand from which the Gospel was read was higher than the one for the Epistle. It could of course also refer to the altar steps from which the verses were sung. Luther was especially fond of the Gradual. The great Hallelujah always reminded him of choirs of angels.

“Generally the Lutheran reformers retained nearly all of the Western liturgy. What they discarded was certain practices and prayers in the fixed part of the canon which, they thought, obscured the unique sacrifice of Christ on the cross.

“In reforming the liturgy Luther was conservative. He attempted to save everything which did not appear contrary to Scripture, especially those elements which made faith tangible and which seemed to have been the practice of the apostolic church.

“Zwingli at first followed the pattern of Luther, though he was later to cut the liturgy drastically. Calvin attempted to eradicate any liturgy he could not find in the Scriptures or in the early church, and his even more drastic followers soon turned the house of God into a barren hall, without pictures, statues, altar, or even, for a time, a cross.

“In England the first Book of Common Prayer borrowed heavily from the Lutheran orders, with additional prayers from the Eastern Orthodox rites. Cranmer, its gifted editor, had spent a year and a half in Germany, studying the Lutheran forms, and married the niece of Osiander, one of the leading Lutheran liturgists. This, plus more than twenty years of practical experience with the German order, helped make the English prayer book the outstanding book it is.”

(From THE YEAR OF THE LORD, by Theodore J. Kleinhaus, CPH 1967)

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.
	Youth Group Meeting	11:45 a.m.

MONDAY **Vespers** **6:00 p.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 **Vespers** **6:00 p.m.**
With catechetical examination of the confirmands

NEXT SUNDAY **Divine Service of Communion 9:00 a.m.**
with the Rites of Holy Baptism & Confirmation
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:

*This Thursday (29 September) is the Feast of St. Michael & All Angels
Readings: Dan. 10:10-14; 12:1-3; Rev. 12:7-12; and St. Matt. 18:1-11*

*The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Second in Angels' Tide:
Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; and St. Luke 17:1-10*