

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.
- ◆ Dcs. Rhein will be returning from Ethiopia this Thursday (7 September). Please keep her in your prayers as she concludes her work and travels home.
- ◆ Following coffee & refreshments this morning, Pr. Stuckwisch will continue the discussion of stewardship that we've recently been having. One and all, including youth and young adults, are encouraged to attend and participate. Summer catechesis class for the younger children will meet the same time.
- ◆ Our next **Emmaus Family Day** will be this coming Sunday, September the 10th. It will begin with a carry-in dinner to welcome the new and returning college students. Entertainment afterwards will be Reformation vignettes by various members. Please bring a main dish and a side dish. (*College students, as our guests, please just bring yourselves and share in the feast!*)
- ◆ *Dear Emmaus Family, We invite all of you to share in the joy of our wedding on Saturday, **September the 16th at 10:00 a.m.** The Rite of Holy Matrimony will take place at Emmaus with a reception to follow at Fernwood Botanical Gardens, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, MI 49120. To RSVP, e-mail Elle at <particalwaveduality@gmail.com>, or talk to Donna Harrison. In Christ, Elle Harrison & Daniel Bliese*
- ◆ Notice from the Food Bank of Northern Indiana: September is Stamp Out Hunger Month. The Food Bank is encouraging agencies to spend some time volunteering as individuals or groups, and to consider touring the facility. If anyone is interested in a tour of the food bank, let Betty Shankle know and she will make the arrangements.
- ◆ **COLLECTIONS FOR 20 AUGUST 2017: \$ 2,094.00**
In order to meet our financial obligations and commitments, an average of \$2400 is needed each week.

- ◆ The Altar flowers this morning are provided by Charley & Karin Horner to the glory of God, in celebration of their daughter Ingrid's birthday.
- ◆ IN THE LORD'S SERVICE THIS LORD'S DAY:
(ELDER) Dave Smith; (USHERS) Erik & Matthew Horner; (ACOLYTE) Gerhard Stuckwisch; (ORGANIST) Monica Stuckwisch; (GREETERS) Lois Veen & Marilyn Dulmatch.
- ◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574

On the Epistle to the Galatians

“I have often experienced, and still do every day, how difficult it is to believe, especially amid struggles of conscience, that Christ was given, not for the holy, righteous, and deserving, or for those who were His friends, but for the godless, sinful, and undeserving, for those who were His enemies, who deserved the wrath of God and eternal death.

“Therefore let us fortify ourselves with these and similar statements of Paul, that ‘Christ gave Himself for our sins’ (Gal. 1:4). When the devil accuses us and says: ‘You are a sinner, therefore you are damned,’ then we can answer him and say: ‘Because you say that I am a sinner, therefore I shall be righteous and be saved.’ ‘No,’ says the devil, ‘you will be damned.’ ‘No,’ I say, ‘for I take refuge in Christ, who has given Himself for my sins. Therefore, Satan, you will not prevail against me as you try to frighten me by showing me the magnitude of my sins and to plunge me into anguish, loss of faith, despair, hatred, contempt of God, and blasphemy. In fact, when you say that I am a sinner, you provide me with armor and weapons against yourself, so that I may slit your throat with your own sword and trample you underfoot. You yourself are preaching the glory of God to me; for you are reminding me, a miserable and condemned sinner, of the fatherly love of God, who “so loved the world that He gave His only Son, etc.” (John 3:16). You are reminding me of the blessing of Christ my Redeemer. On His shoulders, not on mine, lie all my sins. For “the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all,” and “for the transgressions of His people He was stricken” (Is. 53:6, 8). Therefore when you say that I am a sinner, you do not frighten me; but you bring me immense consolation.’

“Anyone who understand this strategy can easily avoid all the tricks of the devil, who kills a man and leads him to hell by reminding him of his sin unless the man resists him with this strategy and Christian wisdom, by which alone sin, death, and the devil are vanquished. But anyone who does not get rid of the

memory of his sin but holds on to it and tortures himself with his own thoughts, supposing either that he can help himself by his own strength or that he can wait until his conscience has been pacified, falls into Satan's trap, which Satan has set to ensnare men, destroys himself with sorrow, and is finally overcome completely. For the devil never stops accusing his conscience. The sly serpent really knows how to present Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Savior, as a law-giver, judge, and condemner.

“Against this temptation we must use these words of Paul in which he gives this true definition of Christ: ‘Christ is the Son of God and of the Virgin; He was delivered and put to death for our sins.’ If the devil cites any other definition of Christ, you must say: ‘The definition and the subject are false; therefore I refuse to accept the definition.’ I am not speaking vainly here, for I know why I define Christ so strictly from the words of Paul. For Christ is not a cruel master; He is the Propitiator for the sins of the whole world. If you are a sinner, therefore — as indeed we all are — do not put Christ on a rainbow as the Judge; for then you will be terrified and will despair of His mercy. No, grasp the true definition of Him, namely, that Christ, the Son of God and of the Virgin, is not One who terrifies, troubles, condemns us sinners or calls us to account for our evil past but One who has taken away the sins of the whole world, nailing them to the cross (Col. 2:14) and driving them all the way out by Himself.

“Learn this definition carefully. Especially practice this pronoun ‘our’ in such a way that this syllable, once believed, may swallow up and absorb all your sins, that is, that you may be certain that Christ has taken away not only the sins of some men but your sins and those of the whole world. The offering was for the sins of the whole world, even though the whole world does not believe. So do not permit your sins to be merely sins; let them be your very own sins. That is, believe that Christ was given not only for the sins of others but also for yours. Hold to this firmly, and do not let anything deprive you of this sweet definition of Christ, which brings joy even to the angels in heaven: That Christ is, in the strictest of terms, not a Moses, a tormentor, or an executioner but the Mediator for sins and the Donor of grace, who gave Himself, not for our merits, holiness, glory, and holy life but for our sins. Christ also interprets the Law, to be sure; but this is not His proper and chief work.

“So far as the words are concerned, we know all this very well and can discourse on it. But in the struggle, when the devil tries to mar the image of Christ and to snatch the Word from our hearts, we discover that we do not know them as well as we should. . . .”

(From Dr. Martin Luther's Lectures on Galatians, A.D. 1535)

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.

MONDAY *Labor Day National Holiday*

(Our regular Monday evening Vespers will resume mid-September)

TUESDAY *South Bend – LaPorte Circuit Pastors Meeting*

WEDNESDAY *Evening Prayer* **6:00 p.m.**

(Looking ahead, we anticipate that our regular catechesis classes, as well as children's choir, will resume their usual schedule the week of 10 September)

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

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:

*The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Fifth in Martyrs' Tide:
Ezekiel 33:7–9; Romans 13:1–10; and Saint Matthew 18:1–20*