

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 this morning, Pr. Stuckwisch will continue the Bible study and discussion of stewardship that we've been having over the summer (to be concluded in this month of September). One and all, including especially the officers of the congregation, as well as the youth and young adults, are encouraged to attend and participate in the study.

Regular Sunday morning catechesis class for the younger and beginning catechumens resumes this morning at the same time. Also, Ian Walsh, Nathaniel Rhein, and Nicholai Stuckwisch will begin teaching the catechesis class for children of approximately eight through twelves years of age.

◆ Midweek Catechesis Classes also resume this week for the new academic year, this week meeting on Wednesday (only), at the usual time of 4:30 p.m.

Also note that Children's Choir Rehearsal will follow the catechesis class at 6:10 p.m. And Evening Prayer will begin at 7:00 p.m.

◆ Today is another **Emmaus Family Day**. To begin with, following Bible Class this morning, we'll have a carry-in dinner to welcome the new and returning college students. Then we'll enjoy some Reformation vignettes by various members. All are welcome! Members, please share a main dish and a side dish, as you're able. (*College students, as our guests, please just bring yourselves and share in the feast and festivities this afternoon!*)

◆ **Congratulations to Garold & Marion Grossnickle as they celebrate 68 years of marriage today (September the 10th)!**

◆ *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 3 SEPTEMBER 2017: \$ 1,596.00
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 new grandbabies (due this month).
- ◆ IN THE LORD'S SERVICE THIS LORD'S DAY: (ELDER) Rob Rhein; (USHERS) Ariksander Stuckwisch & Tobias Tribble; (ACOLYTE) Stefan Horner; (ORGANIST) Dcs. Sandra Rhein; (GREETER) Pat Nering.
- ◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574

On the Epistle to the Galatians

“So far as the words are concerned (‘Christ gave Himself for our sins’), 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. Whoever could define Christ accurately, then, exalting Him and looking to Him as his sweet Savior and High Priest and not as a stern Judge, would have overcome all evils and would already be in the kingdom of heaven. But to do this in the midst of struggle is the hardest thing there is. I am speaking from experience, for I am acquainted with the devil’s craftiness. Not only does he try to frighten us by inflating the Law and making many logs out of one speck (Matt. 7:3–5), for he is very skillful both at aggravating sin and at inflating the conscience in good works; but he also makes a practice of frightening us by transforming himself into the Person of the Mediator Himself. He cites some passage of Scripture or some saying of Christ and thus strikes our hearts and gives the impression of being Christ Himself. So strong is this impression that our conscience would be ready to swear that this is the same Christ whose saying he has cited. So crafty is this enemy that he does not present the entire Christ to us; he presents only a part of Him, namely, that He is the Son of God and Man, born of the Virgin.

Eventually he adds something else to this, some saying in which Christ terrifies sinners, such as, ‘Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish’ (Luke 13:3). But adulterating the genuine definition of Christ with his poison he produces the effect, that although we believe that Christ is the Mediator, in fact our troubled conscience feels and judges that He is a tyrant and a tormentor. So Satan deceives us, and we easily lose the pleasant sight of Christ, our High Priest and Mediator. Once this happens, we avoid Christ as though He were Satan.

“This is why I am so earnest in my plea to you to learn the true and correct definition of Christ on the basis of these words of Paul: ‘Who gave Himself for our sins.’ If He gave Himself into death for our sins, then undoubtedly He is not a tormentor. He is not One who will cast down the troubled, but One who will raise up the fallen and bring propitiation and consolation to the terrified. Otherwise Paul would be lying when he says ‘who gave Himself for our sins.’ If I define Christ this way, I define Him correctly, grasp the authentic Christ, and truly make Him my own. I avoid all speculations about the Divine Majesty and take my stand in the humanity of Christ. There is no fear here; there is sheer sweetness, joy, and the like. This kindles a light that shows me the true knowledge of God, of myself, of all creatures, and of all the wickedness of the kingdom of the devil.

“We are not teaching anything novel; we are repeating and confirming old doctrines. Would that we could teach and confirm them in such a way that we would have them not only in our mouth but in the meditations at the core of our heart and especially that we might be able to use them in the struggle of death!

“‘To deliver us from the present evil world’ (Gal. 1:4). In these words, too, Paul summarizes the argument of this Epistle. By ‘the present world’ he means the whole world that has been, is, and will be, in order to differentiate it from the eternal age to come. And he calls it ‘evil’ because whatever is in this age is subject to the evil of the devil, who rules the entire world. Therefore the world is called the kingdom of the devil; for there is nothing in it but ignorance, contempt, blasphemy, hatred of God, and disobedience of all the words and works of God. We exist in this kingdom of the world and under it.

“Here you see again that by his own works or his own power no one can abolish sin; for the whole world, as John says, ‘is in the power of the evil one’ (1 John 5:19). All those who are in the world, therefore, are the slaves of sin and the devil, and are members of the devil, who holds all men by his tyranny as captives to his will. . . .”

(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.
 Emmaus Family Day 12:00 Noon

MONDAY—TUESDAY *Pr. Stuckwisch at Circuit Visitors' Mtg*

WEDNESDAY Catechesis Class 4:30 p.m.
 Children's Choir Rehearsal 6:10 p.m.
 Evening Prayer ***7:00 p.m.***

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

FRIDAY Wedding Rehearsal 3:30 p.m.

Emmaus serving meal at Hope Rescue Mission

SATURDAY Harrison - Bliese Wedding 10:00 a.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 Sixth in Martyrs' Tide:
Genesis 50:15–21; Romans 14:1–12; and St. Matthew 18:21–35***