

# Announcements

September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023

- ♦ 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.
- ♦ **Family Bible Class:** Pastor Stephens will continue our study on the book of I Peter. Sunday School Classes are also in session.
- ♦ Emmaus will be gathered to celebrate *St. Michael the Archangel* in the **Divine Service, this Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm**
- ♦ **Emmaus Hymnal Supplements** have arrived! Thank you to all who were part of the production process. Please see the table in the Narthex.
- ♦ **October 14<sup>th</sup> Nelsons Port-A-Pit 9:00 am- 4 pm** At the Marathon Station (corner of Grape Rd. and Edison). We will be passing a signup sheet during Bible class prior to the event. If you would like to preorder chicken, it can be purchased by going to <https://emmaus247.square.site/>
- ♦ Please sign up to help with this event. Any questions please see Bridgit Kronewitter or Rick Tribble.
- ♦ **Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 4:00pm: Fun at A-mazing Acres:** 18430 US-12, Edwardsburg, MI 49112. Event organized by Elizabeth Bruce Gleason: More info. [A-Mazingacres.com](http://A-Mazingacres.com), search on Facebook or contact Rick Tribble for questions.
- ♦ **October 29<sup>th</sup>** marks the culmination of Emmaus' Anniversary Year, with a Hymn Festival and catered dinner. The **Hymn Festival begins at 3 pm** at Emmaus, the **catered dinner follows at 5 pm**, and will be held in the fellowship hall at *St. Paul's Lutheran Church (51490 Laurel Rd., South Bend)*. The Word of the Lord endures forever! Keep an eye out for information on the Dinner Ticket Sales.  
Two ways to participate in the dinner program:  
**PHOTO CONTEST:** Submit an Emmaus-related photo. All photos must be 8x10 in a black, plastic frame. Prizes will be limited-edition Emmaus mugs. Framed photos must be submitted by October 22<sup>nd</sup> and will all be displayed at the dinner.  
**TESTIMONIALS:** Anyone may sign up to prepare and give a brief (three-minute) remembrance or testimonial, telling how you have seen God at work at Emmaus.  
**\*\*FUN PHOTOS:** Please submit photos from over the years-- people, events, and other fun ones. Contact Rick Tribble at [rtribble@gmail.com](mailto:rtribble@gmail.com) by October 1<sup>st</sup> thanks!

- ♦ **Regarding the Parking Lot:** We can use it today. The current plan is for them to come redo the parking lot Monday. We ask that you continue NOT to use the parking lot for Monday night's service. We should be good by Wednesday. Again, sorry for any inconvenience. The rain messed things up and they are doing everything to make sure we are satisfied with the job.
- ♦ **COLLECTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 17: \$2,521.25** In order to meet our financial obligations, an average of \$3,314 is needed each week.
- ♦ **FLOWERS:** Last week's flowers were given in celebration of Daniel and Elenor Bliese's 6<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Flowers this week are given in celebration of Randy and Diana Fish's 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary!

## **The Solid Declaration of the Formula of Concord**

### *II. Free Will*

*Since a division has occurred not only between the Papists and us, but also among some theologians of the Augsburg Confession themselves, concerning free will, we shall, first of all, show exactly the points in controversy.*

*For since man with [respect to] his free will is found and can be considered in four distinct, dissimilar states, the question at present is not what was the condition of the same before the Fall, or what he is able to do since the Fall and before his conversion in external things which pertain to this temporal life; also not what sort of a free will he will have in spiritual things after he has been regenerated and is controlled by God's Spirit, or when he rises from the dead. But the principal question is only and alone, what the intellect and will of the unregenerate man is able to do in his conversion and regeneration from his own powers remaining after the Fall; whether he is able, when the Word of God is preached, and the grace of God is offered us, to prepare himself for grace, accept the same, and assent thereto. This is the question upon which, for quite a number of years now, there has been a controversy among some theologians in the churches of the Augsburg Confession.*

*For the one side has held and taught that, although man cannot from his own powers fulfil God's command, or truly trust in God, fear and love Him, without the grace of the Holy Ghost, nevertheless he still has so much of natural powers left before regeneration as to be able to prepare himself to a certain extent for grace, and to assent, although feebly; however, that he cannot accomplish anything by them, but must succumb in the struggle, if the grace of the Holy Ghost is not added thereto.*

*Moreover [On the other side], both the ancient and modern enthusiasts have taught that God converts men, and leads them to the saving knowledge of Christ through His Spirit, without any created means and instrument, that is, without the external preaching and hearing of God's Word.*

*Against both these parties the pure teachers of the Augsburg Confession have taught and contended that by the fall of our first parents man was so corrupted that in divine things pertaining to our conversion and the salvation of our souls he is by nature blind, that, when the Word of God is preached, he neither does nor can understand it, but regards it as foolishness; also, that he does not of himself draw nigh to God, but is and*

*remains an enemy of God, until he is converted, becomes a believer [is endowed with faith], is regenerated and renewed, by the power of the Holy Ghost through the Word when preached and heard, out of pure grace, without any cooperation of his own.*

*In order to explain this controversy in a Christian manner, according to the guidance of God's Word, and by His grace to decide it, our doctrine, faith, and confession are as follows:*

*Namely, that in spiritual and divine things the intellect, heart, and will of the unregenerate man are utterly unable, by their own natural powers, to understand, believe, accept, think, will, begin, effect, do, work, or concur in working anything, but they are entirely dead to what is good, and corrupt, so that in man's nature since the Fall, before regeneration, there is not the least spark of spiritual power remaining, nor present, by which, of himself, he can prepare himself for God's grace, or accept the offered grace, nor be capable of it for and of himself, or apply or accommodate himself thereto, or by his own powers be able of himself, as of himself, to aid, do, work, or concur in working anything towards his conversion, either wholly, or half, or in any, even the least or most inconsiderable part; but that he is the servant [and slave] of sin, John 8:34, and a captive of the devil, by whom he is moved, Eph. 2:2; 2 Tim. 2:26. Hence the natural free will according to its perverted disposition and nature is strong and active only with respect to what is displeasing and contrary to God.*

*This declaration and principal [general] reply to the chief question and statement of the controversy presented in the introduction to this article is confirmed and substantiated by the following arguments from God's Word, and although they are contrary to proud reason and philosophy, yet we know that the wisdom of this perverted world is only foolishness before God, and that articles of faith must be judged only from God's Word.*

*For, first, although man's reason or natural intellect indeed has still a dim spark of the knowledge that there is a God, as also of the doctrine of the Law, Rom. 1:19ff; yet it is so ignorant, blind, and perverted that when even the most ingenious and learned men upon earth read or hear the Gospel of the Son of God and the promise of eternal salvation, they cannot from their own powers perceive, apprehend, understand, or believe and regard it as true, but the more diligence and earnestness they employ, wishing to comprehend these spiritual things with their reason, the less they understand or believe, and before they become enlightened and are taught by the Holy Ghost, they regard all this only as foolishness or fictions. 10 1 Cor. 2:14: The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him. 1 Cor. 1:21: For after that, in the wisdom of God, the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. Eph. 4:17f.: They (that is, those not born again of God's Spirit) walk in the vanity of their mind, having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart. Matt. 13:11ff; Luke 8:18: Seeing they see not, and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand; but it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. Rom. 3:11. 12: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are all together become unprofitable, there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Accordingly, the Scriptures flatly call natural man in spiritual and divine things darkness, Eph. 5:8, Acts 26:18. John 1:5: The light shineth in darkness (that is, in the dark, blind world, which does not know or regard God), and the darkness comprehendeth it not. Likewise, the Scriptures teach that man in sins is not only weak and sick, but defunct and entirely*

dead, Eph. 2:1. 5; Col. 2:13.

Now, just as a man who is physically dead cannot of his own powers prepare or adapt himself to obtain temporal life again, so the man who is spiritually dead in sins cannot of his own strength adapt or apply himself to the acquisition of spiritual and heavenly righteousness and life, unless he is delivered and quickened by the Son of God from the death of sin.

## ***Walking with Our Savior this Week***

<b>TODAY</b>	<b><i>Divine Service of Communion</i></b>	<b><i>9:00 a.m.</i></b>
	Coffee & Refreshments	10:30 a.m.
	Bible Class & Sunday School	10:45 a.m.
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b><i>Brief Spoken Vespers</i></b>	<b><i>6:30 p.m.</i></b>
	(REMINDER: DO NOT USE PARKING LOT~SORRY)	
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Catechesis	2:30-3:45 p.m.
	Children's Choir & Youth Bible Study	4:15-5:00 p.m.
	<b><i>Evening Prayer</i></b>	<b><i>6:00 p.m.</i></b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>St. Michael the Archangel</b>	
	<b><i>Divine Service</i></b>	<b><i>6:00 p.m.</i></b>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<i>Private Confession and Absolution</i>	<i>11 am-noon</i>
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	<b><i>Divine Service of Communion</i></b>	<b><i>9:00 a.m.</i></b>
	Coffee & Refreshments	10:30 a.m.
	Bible Class & Sunday School	10:45 a.m.

Pastor Stephens' office hours: Monday and Wednesday, 8:15-noon

\*Private Confession and Absolution also available by appointment

**Announcements** can be sent by email to the church secretary at [emmaus1923secretary@gmail.com](mailto:emmaus1923secretary@gmail.com) or text Rebecca Stephens at (201) 572-6962

You may also want to keep in mind, in your observance of daily prayer at home: The appointed readings for next Sunday, the First Sunday of Angels' tide:

Isaiah 44:21-23; Ephesians 4:22-28; St. Matthew 9:1-8