

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 ask that you please sign the guest book at the back of the church, and we pray that our Lord would guard and keep you in His grace, mercy, and peace throughout the Days of Christmas and the New Year of Our Lord.
- ◆ Pr. Stuckwisch is in Chicago with his daughter Oly' Anna this weekend, for Oly's Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) dance competition. They will be returning to South Bend this evening. Thanks to Pr. Seyboldt for preaching and presiding this morning, and to Pr. Osburn for assisting as his Deacon.
- ◆ Dcs. Rhein is in Ethiopia this week, serving the Lutheran hymnal project there. She will return on 25 January. Please remember her in your prayers.
- ◆ Following coffee & refreshments, our Family Bible Class this morning will include a closer look at today's Readings and a Q&A with Pastor Seyboldt. 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 teaching a catechesis class for teenagers and others who are interested.
- ◆ Catechumens (and parents), please note that our weekday catechesis classes have resumed (*meeting on Friday only this week and next*), at 4:30 p.m.
- ◆ This Wednesday (18 January), Emmaus will be gathered for the Feast of the Confession of St. Peter in the Divine Service beginning at 6:00 p.m. And on Wednesday the 25th, we will be gathered to celebrate the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, the Divine Service beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- ◆ New and returning officers of the Congregation will be inducted into office at the Divine Service next Sunday (22 January). Please note that meetings this month have been postponed due to scheduling conflicts and difficulties. The Board of Elders and the Church Council will meet at their usual times on the last Tuesday of January (the 31st), and the Voters' Meeting will then be held on the first Sunday in February (the 5th).
- ◆ The youth group meets next Sunday (22 January), Noon – 2:00 p.m., for lunch and guided discussions. Discussion leaders are Sarah Rhein and Mike Jindra. This a great opportunity to enjoy some time together as a group.

- ◆ Occasionally items are placed on a downstairs table for anyone to take. This is one of the many ways we're able to help each other. One small request: Please leave a note with such items indicating who brought them, and after three weeks or so, please remove those items that remain. Thank you.
- ◆ The flowers on the Altar this morning are provided by Charley & Karin Horner to the glory of God, in celebration of their son Benjamin's and their granddaughter Genevieve's birthdays.
- ◆ Please note that a new flower chart for the Year of Our Lord 2017 is now available on the bulletin board at the back of the church. You are welcome to sign up to provide flowers for the Lord's Altar to the glory of God, in memory of loved ones, or in honor of special people and events.
- ◆ **COLLECTIONS FOR 8 JANUARY 2017: \$ 1,070.75**
 In order to meet our financial obligations and commitments, an average of \$2360 is needed each week.
 Offering envelopes for the coming Year of Our Lord 2017 are available in the glass room at the back of the church.
- ◆ **IN THE LORD'S SERVICE THIS LORD'S DAY:**
 (ELDER) Robert Rhein; (USHERS) Martin & Matthew Horner;
 (ACOLYTE) Stefan Horner; (ORGANIST) Deaconess Sandra Rhein;
 (CRUCIFER) Aaron Seyboldt; (GREETER) Pat Nering.
- ◆ **We are in need of additional greeters to welcome members and guests to the Lord's House on the Lord's Day. Please consider volunteering to serve and assist in this way approximately one Sunday each month.**
- ◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574

On the Church Year

“Many of the Epiphany customs are associated with water or with wine, as we might infer if we remember that Epiphany was once the day to celebrate Christ's Baptism and His Miracle at Cana. In the ancient lectionaries these readings had once been a part of the propers for the day, and Luther favored a return to the account of Christ's Baptism, rather than that of the Wise Men. [In the newer lectionary, the Baptism is observed on the First Sunday after the Epiphany.]

“In Palestine, the Jordan was naturally the site of a great procession and a blessing of the water. Elsewhere, too, streams and wells often received a religious blessing. The pious often drove their cows and sheep through such streams, carried home vessels of water from the blessed streams or wells, or dipped their crucifixes and statues in them. Water blessed on Epiphany was often given to the sick or sprinkled about the house.

“Among the Greeks Epiphany is a day when the fishing fleet is blessed. The priest reads the Scriptures and then casts a crucifix into the water. A score of divers swim to recover it. The lucky one gets a handsome reward and the acclaim of all who are watching. This happy custom occurs not solely in Greece but wherever the Greeks have settled, especially in Florida and California.

“In England the day was known as Twelfth Night, as in Shakespeare’s play Twelfth Night. Among the English the day was a grand climax to the Christmas season, with huge feasts, banqueting, gambling, and reveling.

“But under any of its names, Epiphany, Twelfth Night, The Feast of the Kings, Old Christmas, or the Baptism of Our Lord, the day was an important one. In the ancient church it ranked behind only Easter and Pentecost. Until 50 years ago it was a Roman Catholic day of obligation, as was Ascension. Since it usually fell on a work day, however, it was eventually disregarded, perhaps to conform more easily to the pattern of the American office and factory.

“Until after the time of Gregory the Great the Sundays after Epiphany do not seem to have had any liturgical significance. They simply filled in the time between Christmas-Epiphany and Pre-Easter [Septuagesima, etc.]. In the oldest service books there were from 4 to 10 Sundays after Epiphany, but in the time of Gregory, with the growth of Lent and Septuagesima, the number varied from 1 to 6, depending on the date of Easter. The theme of the Epiphany season is the manifestation of Christ’s glory in His ministry.

“Generally the propers for these Sundays were historically similar in Roman, Lutheran, and Anglican uses, especially the Epistles and Gospels. Variations would begin to occur with the fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, where Introits and Graduals were repeated, and with the fifth and sixth, which were used as ‘wandering’ days to fill in, as needed, at the end of the Pentecost season.

“The Lutheran reformers, however, worked out a maximum number of propers from the ancient lectionaries for both the Epiphany and Pentecost seasons, to avoid the need for ‘wandering Sundays.’ They also appointed the last Sunday after the Epiphany as the Transfiguration of Our Lord. . . .”

(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 & Refreshments 10:30 a.m.
Catechesis / Bible Class 10:45 a.m.

MONDAY **Vespers** **6:00 p.m.**

TUESDAY *Pastor's Writing Day (but do call in cases of emergency)*

WEDNESDAY **THE FEAST OF THE CONFESSION OF ST. PETER**
Divine Service of Communion **6:00 p.m.**

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

FRIDAY Catechesis Class 4:30 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY **Divine Service of Communion** **9:00 a.m.**
—*with induction of new and returning officers*
Coffee & Refreshments 10:30 a.m.
Catechesis / Bible Class 10:45 a.m.
Emmaus Youth Lunch & Meeting 12:00—2:00

You may also want to keep in mind, in your observance of daily prayer at home:

This Wednesday (18 January) is the Feast of the Confession of St. Peter
Readings: Acts 4:8–13; 2 Peter 1:1–15; and St. Mark 8:27—9:1

The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Third after the Epiphany:
Isaiah 9:1–4; 1 Corinthians 1:10–18; and St. Matthew 4:12–25