

## ***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.
- ◆ Dcs. Rhein is in Ethiopia throughout this week and next, continuing her work on the hymnal project there on behalf of the LCMS. Please remember her in your prayers and intercessions as she serves the church in this way.
- ◆ Ladies of Emmaus, the Women's Service League is gathering LWML Mites this morning and will collect donations for the Food Pantry next Sunday.
- ◆ Following coffee & refreshments, our Family Bible Class continues a study of Genesis, making special use of Dr. Luther's commentary on that book. 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.
- ◆ Throughout Lent, there will be Vespers on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., as well as a brief, spoken Divine Service on (most of the) Fridays at 9:00 a.m. As in past years, there will be soup supper served prior to the Wednesday evening Vespers, from 5:30 until 6:30 p.m. One and all are welcome to enjoy the good soup and to share that opportunity for fraternal fellowship. There is a sign-up sheet for those who are willing and able to contribute.
- ◆ The new Emmaus picture directories are available downstairs in the church hall. There should be a copy for each household. Pick yours up today.
- ◆ **COLLECTIONS FOR 26 FEBRUARY 2017: \$ 1,988.45**  
In order to meet our financial obligations and commitments, an average of \$2360 is needed each week.
- ◆ **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.**

- ◆ IN THE LORD'S SERVICE THIS LORD'S DAY:  
(ELDER) Eldon Knepp; (USHERS) Erik & Matthew Horner; (ACOLYTE)  
Gerhardt Stuckwisch; (ORGANIST) Dcs. Sarah Osbun; (GREETERS)  
Marilyn Dulmatch & Lois Veen.
- ◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor              Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574

## **On the Church Year**

*“Like Easter, the English word ‘Lent’ got its name from the folklore of the Germanic tribes. ‘Lencten’ is the same root as ‘lengthen,’ and stands for that time of the spring when the daylight does in fact lengthen.*

*“Even within the season of Lent there are distinct moods and accents. Laetare, the Fourth Sunday in Lent, breaks into the general mood of self-denial in the same way that Gaudete, the Third Sunday in Advent, breaks into the season of Advent. On this Sunday the Roman church permits rose as a liturgical color.*

*“The historic Epistle for the day speaks of Jerusalem as ‘the mother of us all,’ and from this reading the Sunday was often known as Mothering Sunday. Originally this was a day when children returned to their home churches and to their families.*

*“On this day the pope often gave special recognition to those who had upheld the faith in a significant way. When he awarded the Golden Rose — a filigree rose of worked gold — to King Henry VIII of England, he also granted the king the title Defender of the faith, largely for his writings against Luther.*

*“Historically, the Fifth Sunday in Lent, also known as Judica, was ‘Passion Sunday — marking the beginning of Passiontide. This season is older than Lent and focuses on the Passion. The chants for these days contain many ancient hymns that describe Christ’s suffering, such as Vexilla regis, Pange lingua, and O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (of Reformation origin).*

*“The Scripture readings also began to take up the theme of the crucifixion. Traditionally this was also the day when the cross disappeared beneath a veil, together with all statues and pictures, not to reappear until Easter.*

*“The feeling of awe that surrounds Lent influenced even church architecture. Massive rood screens of stone and wood began to hide the mystery of Christ’s sacrifice from the eyes of the faithful. In the East the screen became a solid wall, and the priest was as effectively sealed off as if he had been officiating within the holy of holies.*

*"Holy Week largely reflects what the church at Jerusalem once did. In the first two or three centuries Jerusalem was the most ancient and most influential of the ancient bishoprics, and citing the example of the place where Christ suffered and died was the strongest argument one could raise for imitating it.*

*"The Spanish pilgrim Silvia, or Etheria, who journeyed there about the year 390, has given us a detailed description of the liturgy at Jerusalem. She wrote not only about Easter, Epiphany, and Pentecost but also about the new churches Constantine built there. Her description of Holy Week and Easter is probably the clearest and oldest we have.*

*"By the time of her visit Helena, Constantine's mother, had completed churches at the traditional sites which were hallowed by Christ's life — where He was born, where He died, where He celebrated His last supper, where He raised Lazarus. To these sites the faithful had long made pilgrimages.*

*"By Etheria's time the pattern was already rather elaborate. On the Saturday before Palm Sunday the Christians first gathered in Bethany at the church built in honor of Lazarus. The next morning they trooped to the church at Golgotha, built to honor the martyrs. In the afternoon they worshiped at shrines on the Mount of Olives.*

*"Before the crowds left the Mount of Olives, they listened to the account of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Waving palm and olive branches, they marched triumphantly toward the city. The bishop, as a type of Christ, rode on a donkey, and the faithful ended each hymn with the refrain: 'Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.'*

*"At dusk, on Maundy Thursday, taking food along, they withdrew for the night to the Mount of Olives, where Jesus had prayed with His Disciples. At dawn on Good Friday they trudged off to the courtyard of Pilate to hear the Evangelists' account of the trial.*

*"Etheria cites various 'stations' of the cross, including those at the court of Pilate, at Calvary, and at the Holy Sepulcher. Unfortunately she skips over the activities of Holy Saturday by commenting that they did not much differ from those in Spain, probably centering on the liturgy of the sacred fire and on the night-long vigil.*

*"What those who welcomed Christ into Jerusalem once waved were probably palm and olive branches, together with a sprinkling of spring flowers. Exactly this same kind of pathway — flowers and leaves — is still often laid in Spain and Portugal not only for a Palm Sunday procession but for any parade, such as one in honor of a visiting head of state."*

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

# **Walking with Our Savior this Week**

<b>TODAY</b>	<b>Divine Service of Communion</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>
	Coffee & Refreshments Downstairs	10:30 a.m.
	Catechesis / Family Bible Class	10:45 a.m.
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>Vespers</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<i>The South Bend and LaPorte Circuit Pastors Meeting at Prince of Peace in Goshen</i>	
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Soup Supper	5:30—6:30
	<b>First Lenten Vespers</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<i>Pastor's Family Day (but <u>do call</u> in cases of emergency)</i>	
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>Brief Spoken Divine Service</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	<b>Divine Service of Communion</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>
	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:*

*The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Second Sunday in Lent:  
Genesis 12:1-9; Romans 4:1-17; and Saint John 3:1-17*