

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, Deaconess Rhein will give a presentation on her recent trips. Parents and children, youth and adults are welcome.

Catechesis class for younger and beginning catechumens meets at the same time. Also, Mike Jindra and Ian Walsh are teaching a catechesis class for children of approximately eight through twelve years of age. And Dave Smith is teaching a class for teenagers and others who may be interested.

◆ Catechumens (and parents), note that our weekday catechesis classes are resuming this week, at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays respectively.

◆ This Monday (24 April), Emmaus will be gathered to celebrate the Eve of the Feast of St. Mark the Evangelist, Divine Service beginning at 6:00 p.m.

And, looking ahead to next week, Emmaus will be gathered for the Feast of St. Philip & St. James the Apostles, on Monday, May the 1st, also at 6 p.m.

◆ This Saturday (29 April), Pastor Stuckwisch will be vested and available in the Emmaus Sanctuary for Individual Confession and Absolution from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. This means of grace and forgiveness, by the authority of Christ our Lord, is freely offered to be freely received in repentant faith. Those who may have questions concerning this Christian practice are encouraged to review the Fifth Chief Part of the Small Catechism, and are welcome to visit with Pastor about it any time.

◆ The Youth are sponsoring a Nelson's Port-a-pit Chicken Sale on Saturday, May 6. Tickets will be available on Sunday mornings. (Of course, you can always buy on site that day.) Please support the youth by buying tickets, selling tickets, and by volunteering for a shift on the 6th. Workers are needed for boxing chicken and potatoes, holding signs, going to cars to take orders, and handling the money. These chicken sales are popular in the community, so working together at one can make for a fun group effort. Pre-sale price for chicken is \$6.50; on-site price is \$7.00. Pit-tatoes are \$3.50/\$4.00. Please contact Deaconess Rhein to volunteer.

◆ COLLECTIONS FOR 16 APRIL 2017: \$ 2,086.01

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 Jerry & Sharon Makowski to the glory of God, in celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary
- ◆ IN THE LORD'S SERVICE THIS EASTER DAY: (ELDER) Eldon Knepp; (USHERS) Erik Horner & Nicholai Stuckwisch; (ACOLYTE) Frederick Stuckwisch; (CRUCIFER) Nathan Jindra; (ORGANIST) Deaconess Sandra Rhein; (GREETER) Pat Nering.
- ◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574

On the Church Year

THE SUNDAYS OF EASTERTIDE

“The mood of Easter did not end with sundown on Easter Sunday. All through the week the newly baptized and confirmed wore their white linen and attended services. Missals of France and Spain in the time of Charlemagne indicate that two or three services were held every day. The feast lasted not merely through the octave but right on for 50 days until the Feast of Pentecost.

“All seven Sundays of Easter, along with the Ascension, belong to the Paschal Feast, though they look forward toward Pentecost Day. Historically, most of these Sundays took their names from the Latin words of the traditional Introit.

“‘Quasimodogeniti,’ the Second Sunday of Easter, gets its name from the Verse: ‘As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word.’ The day is also known as Thomas Sunday, White Sunday, Low Sunday, and the Octave of the Passover.

“‘Misericordias domini,’ the Third Sunday of Easter, took its name from Psalm 33:5: ‘The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord’; ‘Jubilate,’ the Fourth Sunday of Easter, from Psalm 66:1: ‘Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands’; and ‘Cantate,’ the Fifth Sunday of Easter, from Psalm 98:1: ‘Oh, sing unto the Lord a new song.’

“‘Rogate,’ the Sixth Sunday of Easter, broke the pattern, taking its name from the Rogation Days during the week of the Ascension. Another name for the day, ‘Vocem iucunditatis’ followed the usual pattern in taking its name from the Introit, Is. 48:20: ‘With a voice of singing declare ye.’

“‘Exaudi,’ the Seventh Sunday After Easter — and the bridge between the Ascension of our Lord and the Feast of Pentecost Day — gets its name from Psalm 27:7: ‘Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice.’”

THE GREAT FIFTY DAYS OF “PENTECOST”

“The 40 days from Easter Sunday to the Ascension, along with the ten days from the Ascension to the Feast of Pentecost, were days of such spiritual excitement that the disciples celebrated them with as much joy as they did Easter.

“The church fathers often referred to the whole period as ‘Pentecost,’ meaning 50 days, without restricting the name to a single day. Throughout these days, sermons, readings, prayers, and hymns reflected the mood of thanks and praise, with no echoes at all of the gloom of Good Friday.

“The Council of Nicaea in 325 specifically banned kneeling for prayer during these 50 days (‘Pentecost’). Kneeling, they said, was a mark of penitence and humility. In light of the Cross and Resurrection, the faithful were to pray boldly, standing upright. For the same reason the Council outlawed fasting.

“This mood of Paschal joy did not at all harmonize with the Rogation Days, the three days before the Ascension, which developed in the fifth century. When the Council of Orleans sanctioned the Rogationtide in 511, many authorities at Rome refused to accept them, on the grounds that so historic a time for ‘Hallelujah’ should not be tempered with three days of ‘Lord, have mercy.’”

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

**It was a strange and dreadful strife
when life and death contended.
The Victory remains with Life!
The reign of death is ended.**

