

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, our Family Bible Class will continue our study of Genesis, following Dr. Luther's Lectures on that book.
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.
- ◆ Emmaus will be gathered this Wednesday, the 28th of June, for the Feast of St. Peter & St. Paul, the Apostles, Divine Service beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- ◆ The Emmaus Youth will be hosting a gathering this Friday (30 June). Aside from a brief business meeting, Mr. Michael Jindra will lead a discussion of the dangers involved in digital distractions, a topic that he has studied and addressed in various venues in the past. Not only "the youth" but other young adults from 12 to 22 are strongly encouraged to attend. Whether you or others you know have struggled to maintain a balance between screens and the important activities of life, come to hear what Mr. Jindra has to say and to contribute to the conversation. Interested parents should please talk to Mike before making plans to attend. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ **COLLECTIONS FOR 18 JUNE 2017: \$ 2,545.00**
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 Cheryl & Andy Jordan to the glory of God, in celebration of their wedding anniversary.
- ◆ **IN THE LORD'S SERVICE THIS EASTER DAY:**
(ELDER) Rob Rhein; (USHERS) Aaron Seyboldt & Tobias Tribble;
(ACOLYTE) Frederick Stuckwisch; (ORGANIST) Dcs. Sandra Rhein;
(GREETERS) Marilyn Dulmatch & Lois Veen.
- ◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574

On the Epistle to the Galatians

“God calls in two ways, either by means or without means. Today He calls men into the ministry of the Word by a mediated call, that is, one that comes through means, namely, through man. But the Apostles were called immediately by Christ Himself, as the Prophets in the Old Testament had been called by God Himself. Afterwards the Apostles called their disciples, as Paul called Timothy, Titus, etc. These men called bishops, as in Titus 1:5ff.; and the bishops called their successors down to our own time, and so on to the end of the world. This is a mediated calling, since it is done by man. Nevertheless, it is divine.

“Thus when someone is called by a prince or a magistrate or me, he has his calling through man. Since the time of the Apostles this has been the usual method of calling in the world. It should not be changed; it should be exalted, on account of the sectarians, who despise it and lay claim to another calling, by which they say that the Spirit drives them to teach. But they are liars and impostors, for they are being driven by a spirit who is not good but evil. It is not lawful for me to forsake my assigned station as a preacher, to go to another city where I have no call, and to preach there. I have no right to do this even if I hear that false doctrine is being taught and that souls are being seduced and condemned which I could rescue from error and condemnation by my sound doctrine. But I should commit the matter to God, who in His own time will find the opportunity to call ministers lawfully and to give the Word. For He is the Lord of the harvest who will send laborers into His harvest; our task is to pray.

“Therefore we should not intrude into someone else’s harvest, as the devil does through his sectarians. With ardent zeal they claim to be saddened that men are being so miserably led astray, and to want to teach them the truth and rescue them from the devil’s clutches. Therefore when a man seeks, with pious zeal and good intentions, to rescue with his sound doctrine those who have been led astray into error, this is still a bad example, which gives ungodly teachers an excuse to intrude themselves, after which Satan himself occupies the see. This example does a great deal of damage.

“But when the prince or some other magistrate calls me, then, with firm confidence, I can boast against the devil and the enemies of the Gospel that I have been called by the command of God through the voice of a man; for the command of God comes through the mouth of the prince, and this is a genuine call. Therefore we pastors, too, have been called by divine authority—not by Christ immediately, as the Apostles were, but ‘through man.’

“Now this doctrine of the certainty of the call is extremely necessary on account of the pernicious and demonic spirits. Every minister of the Word may boast with John the Baptist (Luke 3:2): ‘The Word of the Lord has come upon me.’ Therefore when I preach, baptize, or administer the Sacraments, I do so as one who has a command and call. For the voice of the Lord has come to me, not in some corner, as the sectarians boast, but through the mouth of a man who is carrying out his lawful right. But if one or two citizens were to ask me to preach, I should not follow such a private call; for this would open the window to the ministers of Satan, who would follow this example and work harm, as we have said above. But when those who are in public office ask me, I should obey.

“Therefore when Paul says ‘not from men nor through man,’ he is knocking down the false apostles. It is as though he were saying: ‘No matter how much these vipers may brag, of what more can they brag than that they have come either ‘from men,’ that is, on their own, without any call, or ‘through man,’ that is, being sent by someone else? I am not concerned about any of this; nor should you be. But as for me, I have been called and sent neither from men nor through man but immediately, that is, by Jesus Christ Himself. In every way my call is like that of the Apostles, and I am indeed an Apostle.’ Therefore Paul deals thoroughly with this doctrine of the call of the Apostles. Elsewhere he distinguishes between apostleship and other ministries, as in 1 Cor. 12:28 ff. and in Eph. 4:11, where he says: ‘And God has ordained some in the church as Apostles, Prophets, etc.’ He puts Apostles into first place, so that those may properly be called Apostles who have been sent immediately by God Himself without any other person as the means. Thus Matthias was called by God alone; for when the other Apostles had chosen two men, they did not dare decide between them but cast lots and prayed God to indicate whom He preferred (Acts 1:23–26). Since he was to be an Apostle, it was necessary that he be called by God. Thus Paul was called to be the Apostle to the Gentiles (Rom. 11:13). This is why the Apostles are called saints; for they are sure of their calling and doctrine and have remained faithful in their ministry, and no one of them has become an apostate except Judas, because their call is a holy one.

“This is the first attack Paul makes against the false apostles, who ran when no one sent them. The [divine] call [to the Office of the Ministry], therefore, is not to be despised. For it is not sufficient if a man has the Word and the pure doctrine. He must also have the assurance of his call, and whoever enters without this assurance enters only in order to kill and destroy (John 10:10). For God never prospers the work of those who are not called. . . .”

(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.

Dcs. Rhein at Deaconess Conference in Pittsburgh, Monday – Thursday

MONDAY	<i>Vespers</i>	6:00 p.m.
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TUESDAY	<i>Pastor's Writing Day (but <u>do call</u> in cases of emergency)</i>
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WEDNESDAY	THE EVE OF THE FEAST OF ST. PETER & ST. PAUL
	<i>Divine Service of Communion</i> 6:00 p.m.

THURSDAY	<i>Pastor's Family Day (but <u>do call</u> in cases of emergency)</i>
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FRIDAY	Youth and Young Adult Discussion on the Dangers of Digital Distractions	7:00 p.m.
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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 First in Apostles' Tide:
Jeremiah 20:7–13; Romans 6:12–23; and Saint Matthew 10:5–33*