

# ***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, Pr. Stuckwisch will continue the discussion of stewardship that we've recently been having. One and all, including youth and young adults, are encouraged to attend and participate. Summer catechesis class for the younger children will meet the same time.
- ◆ Please remember in your prayers those members of Emmaus who will be attending the Family Retreat at Redeemer in Fort Wayne this week.

*Note: Due to the Family Retreat in Fort Wayne, we will not be gathered for Evening Prayer at Emmaus this Wednesday.*

- ◆ After Bible Class next Sunday (August the 6th), you are invited to a baby shower for Martin & Suha Horner, following a light lunch and refreshments. They are registered at Target. Talk to Karin Horner for more information.
- ◆ Looking ahead, the Emmaus Family Day Picnic will be held at Rum Village on Sunday the 13th of August. One and all are invited and welcome. Watch for my details and information in the coming weeks.
- ◆ **COLLECTIONS FOR 23 JULY 2017: \$ 1,290.00**  
In order to meet our financial obligations and commitments, an average of \$2400 is needed each week.
- ◆ **IN THE LORD'S SERVICE THIS LORD'S DAY:** (ELDER) Robert Rhein; (USHERS) Nathan Jindra & Tobias Tribble; (ACOLYTE) Stefan Horner; (ORGANIST) Dcs. Sandra Rhein; (GREETER) Pat Nering.
- ◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor                      Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574

## On the Epistle to the Galatians

*“Why does the Apostle add ‘and from our Lord Jesus Christ’ (Gal. 1:3)? Did it not suffice to say ‘from God the Father’? Why does he link Jesus Christ with the Father? You have often heard from us that it is a rule and principle in the Scriptures, and one that must be scrupulously observed, to refrain from speculation about the majesty of God, which is too much for the human body, and especially for the human mind, to bear. ‘Man shall not see Me and live,’ says Scripture (Ex. 33:20). The pope, the Turks, the Jews, and all the sectarians pay no attention to this rule. They put Christ the Mediator out of their sight, speak only of God, pray only to Him, and act only in relation to Him. The monk, for example, imagines this to himself: ‘The works I am doing are pleasing to God. God will look upon my vows, and on their account He will grant me salvation.’ The Turk says: ‘If I live this way and bathe this way, God will accept me and give me eternal life.’ The Jew thinks to himself: ‘If I obey the Law of Moses, I shall find God gracious to me, and so I shall be saved.’*

*“Thus the fanatics of our time boast about the Spirit, visions, and I do not know what other monstrous things; they go around in miracles beyond their comprehension. These ‘new monks’ invent a new cross and new works, and they imagine that by performing these they will please God. In short, whoever does not know the doctrine of justification takes away Christ the Propitiator.*

*“But true Christian theology, as I often warn you, does not present God to us in His majesty, as Moses and other teachings do, but Christ born of the Virgin as our Mediator and High Priest. Therefore when we are embattled against the Law, sin, and death in the presence of God, nothing is more dangerous than to stray into heaven with our idle speculations, there to investigate God in His incomprehensible power, wisdom, and majesty, to ask how He created the world and how He governs it. If you attempt to comprehend God this way and want to make atonement to Him apart from Christ the Mediator, making your works, fasts, cowl, and tonsure the mediation between Him and yourself, you will inevitably fall, as Lucifer did (Is. 14:12), and in horrible despair lose God and everything. For as in His own nature God is immense, incomprehensible, and infinite, so to man’s nature He is intolerable. Therefore if you want to be safe and out of danger to your conscience and your salvation, put a check on this speculative spirit. Take hold of God as Scripture instructs you (1 Cor. 1:21, 24): ‘Since in wisdom, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. We preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.’*

*“Therefore begin where Christ began — in the Virgin’s womb, in the manger, at His Mother’s breasts. For this purpose He came down, was born, lived among men, suffered, was crucified, and died, so that in every possible way He might present Himself to our sight. He wanted us to fix the gaze of our hearts upon Himself and thus to prevent us from clambering into heaven and speculating about the Divine Majesty.*

*“Therefore whenever you consider the doctrine of justification and wonder how or where or in what condition to find a God who justifies or accepts sinners, then you must know that there is no other God than this Man Jesus Christ. Take hold of Him; cling to Him with all your heart, and spurn all speculation about the Divine Majesty; for whoever investigates the majesty of God will be consumed by His glory. Christ Himself says: ‘I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father, but by Me’ (John 14:6).*

*“Outside Christ, the Way, therefore, you will find no other way to the Father; you will find only wandering, not truth, but hypocrisy and lies, not life, but eternal death. Take note, therefore, in the doctrine of justification or grace that when we all must struggle with the Law, sin, death, and the devil, we must look at no other God than this incarnate and human God.*

*“But when you leave the doctrine of justification and have to engage in controversy with Jews, Turks, or sectarians, etc., about the power, wisdom, etc., of God, then you must use all your cleverness and effort and be as profound and subtle a controversialist as possible; for then you are in another area.*

*“But when it comes to the conscience, to righteousness and life (which I want to be noted carefully here) against the Law, sin, death, and the devil; or when it comes to satisfaction for sin, the forgiveness of sins, reconciliation, and eternal salvation, then you must disabuse your mind completely of all speculation and investigation into the majesty of God, and you must pay attention only to this Man, who presents Himself to us as the Mediator and says: ‘Come to Me, all who labor, etc.’ (Matt. 11:28). When you do this, you will see the love, the goodness, and the sweetness of God. You will see His wisdom, His power, and His majesty sweetened and mitigated to your ability to stand it. And in this lovely picture you will find everything, as Paul says to the Colossians: ‘In Christ are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge’ (2:3); and ‘In Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily’ (2:9). The world does not see this, because it looks at Him only as a man in His weakness.”*

***(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.

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

**TUESDAY—THURSDAY**      *Family Retreat at Redeemer, Fort Wayne*

**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.

*Baby Shower for Martin & Suha Horner*  
*Following a light lunch and refreshments*      12:00 Noon

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

*The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Sixth in Apostles' Tide:  
Isaiah 55:1–5; Romans 9:1–13; and Saint Matthew 14:13–21*

