

# ***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.
- ◆ We rejoice and give thanks this morning that the Lord has called Emma Elizabeth Rodriguez, the infant daughter of Kelvin & Melissa Rodriguez, to the washing of the water with His Word and Spirit in Holy Baptism. Let us pray that He would likewise keep both her and all of us steadfast in His Word and faith throughout our time on earth, unto the life everlasting.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ There will be a baby shower today for Martin & Suha Horner, following a light lunch and refreshments (after Bible Class). All are welcome to stay.
- ◆ **Annual Emmaus Picnic at Rum Village:** Next Sunday (13 August). We have the same pavilion as last year — the one farther from the parking lot. We are providing hamburgers, hotdogs, drinks, and table service. Please bring a dish or two to share; and, if you like and are able, lawn chairs for sitting and/or your running shoes for running! A new activity this year will be disc golf for those who are interested. The schedule will be: Lunch at 12:30 p.m. 5K Run/Walk Race at 1:30 p.m. Disc Golf begins at 2:30 p.m.
- ◆ **COLLECTIONS FOR 30 JULY 2017: \$ 2,077.00**  
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) Eldon Knepp; (USHERS) Erik & Matthew Horner; (ACOLYTE) Gerhardt Stuckwisch; (ORGANIST) Dcs. Sandra Rhein; (GREETERS) Lois Veen & Marilyn Dulmatch.
- ◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor                      Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574

## **On the Epistle to the Galatians**

*“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.*

*“This is why Paul makes such a frequent practice of linking Jesus Christ with God the Father, to teach us what is the true Christian religion. It does not begin at the top, as all other religions do; it begins at the bottom. It bids us climb up by Jacob’s ladder; God Himself leans on it, and its feet touch the earth, right by Jacob’s head (Gen. 28:12). Therefore whenever you are concerned to think and act about your salvation, you must put away all speculations about the Majesty, all thoughts of works, traditions, and philosophy—indeed, of the Law of God itself. And you must run directly to the manger and the mother’s womb,*

*embrace this Infant and Virgin's Child in your arms, and look at Him—born, being nursed, growing up, going about in human society, teaching, dying, rising again, ascending above all the heavens, and having authority over all things. In this way you can shake off all terrors and errors, as the sun dispels the clouds. This vision will keep you on the proper way, so that you may follow where Christ has gone. When Paul wishes grace and peace not only from God the Father but also from Jesus Christ, therefore, this should be noted first.*

*“The second thing that Paul teaches us here is a substantiation of our faith that Christ is true God. Statements about the divinity of Christ should be assembled and carefully noted, not only against the Arians and other sectarians past or future but also for the substantiation of our own faith. For until our death Satan will never stop attacking all the doctrines of the Creed in us. He is the implacable enemy of faith, for he knows that it is the victory that overcomes the world (1 John 5:4). Therefore it is our obligation to hold constantly to our faith and to establish it, in order that we may be able to stand up to Satan. [Here, in this Epistle,] the true deity of Christ is proved by this conclusion: Paul attributes to Him the ability to grant the very same things that the Father does — grace, peace of conscience, the forgiveness of sins, life, and victory over sin, death, the devil, and hell. This would be illegitimate, in fact, sacrilegious, if Christ were not true God. For no one grants peace unless he himself has it in his hands. But since Christ grants it, He must have it in His hands.*

*“Christ gives grace and peace, not as the Apostles did, by preaching the Gospel, but as its Author and Creator. The Father creates and gives life, grace, peace, etc.; the Son creates and gives the very same things. To give grace, peace, eternal life, the forgiveness of sins, justification, life, and deliverance from death and the devil—these are the works, not of any creature but only of the Divine Majesty. The angels can neither create these things nor grant them. Therefore these works belong only to the glory of the sovereign Majesty, the Maker of all things. And since Paul attributes the very same power to create and give all this to Christ just as much as to the Father, it follows necessarily that Christ is truly God by nature.*

*“Many such arguments appear in John, where it is proved and concluded from the works ascribed to the Son as well as to the Father that the deity of the Father and of the Son is one. Therefore the gifts we receive from the Father are no other than those we receive from the Son; the same things come both from the Father and the Son. Otherwise Paul would have spoken otherwise and would have said: Grace from God the Father, and peace from our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

**(From Dr. Martin Luther's Lectures on Galatians, A.D. 1535)**

