

# ***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.

◆ There will be a Voters' Meeting this morning, downstairs in the church hall following time for coffee and refreshments. Members of Emmaus are encouraged to stay for the meeting. Bible class will resume next week.

Catechesis class for younger and beginning catechumens meets at the same time as the Voters' Meeting. Older children, especially between the ages of eight and twelve, will meet with Nathaniel Rhein and Nicholai Stuckwisch.

◆ Pastor Stuckwisch will be traveling to North Carolina on Friday, to speak on Dr. Luther's theology and practice of music and hymnody at Augustana Lutheran Church in Hickory. He will return to South Bend on 2 October. Please remember him in your prayers as he travels and as he speaks.

◆ This Saturday (30 September) is a Church Cleaning Day. The official time is 9:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m. Come for an hour or for the morning, as you are able. Snacks and lunch will be provided. The job chart is in the Fellowship Hall. You are welcome to add a job to the list if you notice something that needs cleaning or repairing. You are even more welcome to complete a job and check it off the list!

◆ **COLLECTIONS FOR 17 SEPTEMBER 2017: \$2,692.45**

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 Randy & Diana Fish to the glory of God, in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

◆ **IN THE LORD'S SERVICE THIS LORD'S DAY:** (ELDER) Rob Rhein; (USHERS) Egon Tribble & Nicholai Stuckwisch; (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**

*“Let these words of Paul [that is, ‘To deliver us from the present evil world’ (Gal. 1:4),] stand just as they are, true and accurate, not painted or counterfeit: this present age is evil. Do not be dissuaded because there are many fine virtues in many men or because hypocrites make a great pretense out of sanctity. But pay careful attention to what Paul says. Out of his words you may boldly and freely pronounce this sentence against the world: that the world, with all its wisdom, righteousness, and power, is the devil’s kingdom, out of which only God is able to deliver us by His only Son.*

*“Let us praise God the Father, therefore, and give Him thanks for His indescribable mercy, that when we were incapable of doing so by our own strength, He delivered us from the kingdom of the devil, in which we were captives, and did so by His own Son. And with Paul let us confess that all our works and righteousness, with all of which we could not make the devil stoop down one hairbreadth, are nothing but loss and refuse (Phil. 3:8). And let us tread underfoot and utterly abhor, as a polluted garment (Is. 64:6) and the deadly poison of the devil, all the power of ‘free will,’ all the wisdom and righteousness of the world, all religious orders, all [sacrificial] Masses, ceremonies, vows, fasts, hair shirts, and the like. On the other hand, let us praise and magnify the glory of Christ, who has delivered us by His death not only from this world but from this ‘evil world.’*

*“Thus you have two definitions, of ‘world’ and of ‘Christ,’ or of the kingdom of the world and of Christ. The kingdom of the world is the kingdom of sin, death, the devil, blasphemy, despair, and eternal death. But the kingdom of Christ is the kingdom of grace, forgiveness of sins, comfort, salvation, and eternal life, into which we have been transferred (Col. 1:13) by our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever. Amen.*

*“‘According to the will of our God and Father’ (Gal. 1:4). Paul chooses and arranges his every word here in such a way that each of them does battle against the perverters of the doctrine of justification. Christ, he says, has delivered us from this wicked kingdom of the devil and the world, and has done so according to the will, good pleasure, and command of the Father. Therefore we have not been delivered by our own will or exertion (Rom. 9:16) or by our own wisdom or decision; we have been delivered because God has had mercy on us and has loved us. As it is written in another passage (John 1:13): ‘Who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.’ It is by grace, then, and not by our merit that we have been delivered from this present evil world.*

*“Paul is so prolix and ardent in his praise of grace that he sharpens and aims every word against the false apostles.*

*“There is another reason why Paul refers to the will of the Father here, a reason cited in many passages in the Gospel of John also, where Christ, in asserting His commission, calls us back to the will of the Father, so that in His words and works we are to look, not at Him but at the Father. For Christ came into the world so that He might take hold of us and so that we, by gazing upon Christ, might be drawn and carried directly to the Father. As we have warned you before, there is no hope that any saving knowledge of God can come by speculating about the majesty of God; this can come only by taking hold of Christ, who, by the will of the Father, has given Himself into death for our sins. When you have grasped this, then all wrath stops, and fear and trembling disappear; and God appears as nothing but the merciful One who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all (Rom. 8:32). It is extremely dangerous to speculate about the majesty of God and His dreadful judgments—how He destroyed the whole world with the Flood, how He destroyed Sodom, etc.; for this brings men to the brink of despair and plunges them into total destruction, as I have shown before.*

*“‘Of our God and Father’ (Gal. 1:4). This word ‘our’ is to be applied to both, so that the meaning is ‘of our God and of our Father.’ Then Christ’s Father and our Father are one and the same. Thus Christ says to Mary Magdalene in John 20:17: ‘Go to My brethren, and say to them: “I am ascending to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.”’ Therefore God is our Father and our God, but through Christ. This is an apostolic mode of speaking, and Paul’s own phrase. He does not speak with such carefully chosen words, but his words are nevertheless very appropriate and ardent in their zeal.*

*“‘To whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.’ (Gal. 1:5). In their writings the Hebrews make it a custom to mingle praise and thanksgiving, a custom observed both by the Hebrews and by the Apostles, as is evident very often in Paul. For the name of the Lord should be held in great reverence and should never be mentioned without praise and thanksgiving, which are a certain kind of worship and divine service. In secular matters, when we speak the name of a king or a prince, we make it a custom to do so with some nice gesture, reverence, and genuflection. Much more should we bow the knee of our heart when we speak about God, and we should mention the name of God with gratitude and the greatest reverence.”*

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

# Walking with Our Savior this Week

<b>TODAY</b>	Divine Service of Communion	9:00 a.m.
	Coffee & Refreshment Downstairs	10:30 a.m.
	Voters' Meeting / Catechesis	10:45 a.m.

*Monday evening Vespers is on hiatus for the time being, until we are able to resume a more consistent weekly schedule later in the fall.*

**TUESDAY**      *Pastor's Writing Day (but do call in cases of emergency)*

<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Catechesis Class	4:30 p.m.
	Children's Choir Rehearsal	6:10 p.m.
	<i>Evening Prayer</i>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>

**THURSDAY**      *Pastor's Family Day (but do call in cases of emergency)*

**FRIDAY**      *Pr. Stuckwisch traveling to North Carolina to speak on Luther's theology and practice of music and hymnody*

**SATURDAY**      Emmaus Church Cleaning Day      9:00—1:00

<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	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:*

*This Friday (29 September) is the Feast of St. Michael & All Angels  
Readings: Dan. 10:10–14; 12:1–3; Rev. 12:7–12; and St. Luke 10:17–20*

*The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the First in Angels' Tide:  
Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32; Phil. 2:1–18; and St. Matthew 21:23–32*