

# ***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.
- ◆ Pastor Stuckwisch is speaking and preaching at Augustana Lutheran Church in Hickory, North Carolina, this weekend. He will be returning to South Bend this Tuesday. Please remember him in your prayers as he travels.
- ◆ Following coffee & refreshments this morning, Pastor Seyboldt will be teaching Family Bible Class. Next Sunday, Pastor Stuckwisch will resume our discussion and study of Dr. Luther's Lectures on the Book of Genesis. Catechesis class for the younger and beginning catechumens meets with Dcs. Rhein at the same time. Nathaniel Rhein and Nicholai Stuckwisch are teaching the catechesis class for children of approximately eight through twelves years of age. And Dave Smith will be resuming his class on Old Testament figures for teenagers and others who may be interested.
- ◆ Catechesis Class will meet on both Wednesday and Friday this week, as per the usual routine, in order to accommodate the variety of family schedules, beginning at 4:30 p.m. in each case.
- ◆ Ladies of Emmaus, note that LWML Mites will be collected next Sunday (8 October), and donations for the Food Pantry the week after (15 October).
- ◆ **COLLECTIONS FOR 24 SEPTEMBER 2017: \$ 1,420.17**  
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 Charley & Karin Horner to the glory of God, in thanksgiving for their children and grandchildren.
- ◆ **IN THE LORD'S SERVICE THIS LORD'S DAY:**  
(ELDER) Eldon Knepp; (USHERS) Matthew Horner & Tobias Tribble;  
(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**

*“I am astonished.” (Gal. 1:6). You see here the art and skill with which Paul treats his Galatians, who had fallen away and had been led astray by the false apostles. He does not attack them with harsh and stern words; he speaks paternally, not only bearing their fall with patience but even excusing it somewhat. He also shows maternal affection toward them; he speaks gently to them, and yet in such a way that he scolds them, though with words that are very appropriate to the purpose. Toward their betrayers, by contrast, he is extremely violent and indignant. He blames everything on them, and so at the very opening of his epistle he erupts into fulminations against them. ‘If anyone,’ he says, ‘is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed’ (Gal. 1:9). Later on, in the fifth chapter, he threatens them with condemnations: ‘He who is troubling you will bear his judgment, whoever he is’ (Gal. 5:10). He also invokes a terrible curse upon them: ‘I wish those who unsettle you would mutilate themselves!’ (Gal. 5:12). These are dreadful words against the righteousness of the flesh or of the Law.*

*“Paul could have treated the Galatians with less courtesy and denounced them more roughly, something like this: ‘A plague on your apostasy! I am ashamed of you. Your ingratitude wounds me. I am angry with you.’ Or he could have exclaimed against them tragically: ‘O what an age! What habits!’ But since it is his aim to raise up the fallen and, with fatherly care, to recall them from their error to the Gospel, he refrains from these harsh words, especially at the beginning, and addresses them with great gentleness and mildness. Seeking as he was to heal the wounded, it would not have been right for him to make their wound worse by applying a sharp and painful plaster to it and thus to hurt the wounded instead of healing them. Therefore he could not have found gentler words than these: ‘I am astonished,’ by which he made clear both that it saddened him and that it displeased him that they had fallen away from him.*

*“Here Paul lives up to his own rule, which he gives later on in the sixth chapter (Gal. 6:1): ‘Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual, etc.’ We, too, should follow this example. We should show that toward those poor disciples who have been led astray we feel as parents feel toward their children, so that they may see our paternal zeal and maternal feelings toward them and may see that we seek their salvation. But when it comes to the devil and his servants, the originators of perversion and sectarianism, we should follow the example of the apostles. We should be impatient, proud, sharp, and bitter, despising and condemning their sham as sharply and harshly as we can. When a child has been bitten by a dog, the parents chase the dog but console and soothe the weeping child with the sweetest of words.*

*“Paul has wonderful skill in treating the troubled consciences of those who have fallen. By contrast the pope erupts like a tyrant and hurls his fulminations and curses against those who are miserable and troubled in their consciences, as one can see in his bulls, especially in the bull on the Lord’s Supper. The bishops are not a bit better in the performance of their duty. They do not preach the Gospel or concern themselves with saving men’s souls. All they try to do is to establish and maintain their sovereignty over men.*

*“‘That so quickly’ (Gal. 1:6). You see that Paul is complaining about how easy it is to fall from faith. In the same vein he warns Christians in another passage: ‘Let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall’ (1 Cor. 10:12). By our own experience we are proving daily how difficult it is for the mind to acquire and keep a steadfast faith, and how difficult it is to present a perfect people before the Lord. A man may labor for a decade before he puts some small church into proper order. And once it is in order, along comes some fanatic who cannot do anything but slander and abuse the sincere preachers of the Word — and in one moment he overthrows everything! Who would not be agitated by such outrageous actions?*

*“By the grace of God we here in Wittenberg have acquired the form of a Christian church. In our midst the Word is taught purely, the Sacraments are used properly, there are exhortations and prayers for all social classes; in short, everything is moving along well. But some fanatic could stop this blessed progress of the Gospel in a hurry, and in one moment he could overturn everything that we have built up with the hard work of many years. This is what happened to Paul, the chosen instrument of Christ (Acts 9:15). With great toil and trouble he had gained the churches of Galatia; but in a short time after his departure the false apostles overthrew them, as this and all his other epistles testify. So weak and miserable is this present life, and so beset are we by the snares of Satan, that one fanatic can often destroy and completely undo in a short time what it took faithful ministers the hard labor of many years day and night to build up. We are learning this by bitter experience today, and yet there is nothing we can do about it.*

*“Because the church is so frail and tender, and so easily overthrown, one must be on constant guard against these fanatics. For when they have heard two sermons or have read a couple of pages in the Sacred Scriptures, they suddenly make themselves masters of all pupils and teachers, contrary to the authority of all men. You will find many such today among the artisans, those brazen men who have never been tested by temptation and therefore have not learned to fear God and have no taste of grace. . . .”*

***(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.
	Catechesis / Family Bible Class	10:45 a.m.

*Pastor Stuckwisch at Augustana Lutheran Church in Hickory, NC*

*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**     *Pr. Stuckwisch traveling home from North Carolina*

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

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

**FRIDAY**     Catechesis Class     4:30 p.m.

<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:*

***The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Second in Angels' Tide:  
Isaiah 5:1-7; Philippians 3:4-14; and Saint Matthew 21:33-46***