

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 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 is resuming his class on various Old Testament figures for teenagers and others who may be interested.
- ◆ Ladies of Emmaus, note that LWML Mites are being collected this morning (8 October), and donations for the Food Pantry next Sunday (15 October).
- ◆ Dcs. Rhein will be leaving tomorrow (Monday the 9th) for a couple weeks in Indonesia, in order to continue her work on the hymnal project there.
- ◆ 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. on Wednesday, and **at 5:00 p.m. on Friday.**
- ◆ **COLLECTIONS FOR 1 OCTOBER 2017: \$ 2,370.00**
In order to meet our financial obligations and commitments, an average of \$2400 is needed each week.
- ◆ The flowers on the Altar this morning are provided by Pastor & LaRena Stuckwisch to the glory of God, with thanksgiving for Nicholai & Hannah as they celebrate their birthdays and anniversary and welcome their baby.
- ◆ **IN THE LORD'S SERVICE THIS LORD'S DAY:** (ELDER) Rob Rhein; (USHERS) Erik Horner & Egon 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

“Because the church is so frail and tender, and so easily overthrown, one must be on constant guard against the 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. Lacking the Holy Spirit, they teach whatever they please and whatever the common people find plausible. The ignorant mob, eager to hear something novel, soon attaches itself to them. In fact, even many who think that they understand the doctrine of faith and have been tested by temptation are led astray by them.

“Thus Paul can teach us from his own experience that churches gained by great labor can be overthrown quickly and easily. Therefore we should constantly be on our guard against the devil as he roams everywhere (1 Peter 5:8), so that he does not come while we are asleep and plant tares among the wheat (Matthew 13:25). Even though pastors are ever so watchful and diligent, the Christian flock is threatened by Satan. For, as I said, Paul had established churches in Galatia with painstaking care. Yet no sooner had he set his foot out of the door, as the saying goes, then the false apostles overthrew some of them; and this fall brought on great ruin in the churches of Galatia. This loss, so sudden and so great, was undoubtedly bitterer for the Apostle than death itself. Therefore we should constantly be on our guard not to enter into temptation (Matthew 26:41) — first, each for himself, and secondly, the clergy not only for themselves but also for the whole church.

“‘You are removed’ (Gal. 1:6). Here again Paul uses a word that is not sharp but is very mild. He does not say: ‘I am astonished that you are defecting so quickly, that you are so disobedient, fickle, inconstant, or ungrateful,’ but ‘that you are removed so soon.’ It is as though he were saying: ‘You are completely passive; for you have not done any harm, but you have suffered harm.’ Therefore in order to recall those backsliders he accuses those who have removed them rather than those who were removed. At the same time, however, he shyly puts some blame on them when he complains that they have been removed. It is as though he were saying: ‘Yes, I embrace you with fatherly feeling. We know that you have fallen, not by your own fault but by the fault of the false apostles. Still I do wish that you had been a little more mature in the strength of sound doctrine. You did not take hold firmly enough of the Word; you did not sink your roots deeply enough in it. That is why such a light breeze can carry you away so quickly.’

“Jerome thinks that Paul intended to interpret the name ‘Galatians’ by referring to the Hebrew word [Galah], which is tantamount to ‘fallen or carried away.’ It is as though he were saying: ‘You are really Galatians both in name and in fact; that is, you have been removed.’

“Some people think that we Germans are descended from the Galatians, and there may be some truth in this. For we Germans do resemble them in nature. I myself am obliged to wish that our people were steadier and surer. Whatever we do, we are always very ardent at the beginning; but when the ardor of our initial feelings is spent, we soon lose our enthusiasm. We give up on things and completely reject them as impetuously as we undertake them. When the light of the Gospel first began to appear after the great darkness of human traditions, many listened eagerly to sermons. But now that the teaching of religion has been successfully reformed by the great growth of the Word of God, many are joining the sects, to their destruction. Many despise not only Sacred Scripture but almost all learning. They are certainly worthy of being compared to those foolish Galatians.

“‘From Him who called you in the grace of Christ’ (Gal. 1:6). This passage is rather ambiguous. Therefore it is capable of two interpretations. The first is ‘from that Christ who called you in grace.’ The second is ‘from Him [God] who has called you in the grace of Christ.’ I prefer the former. For it seems right to me that just as a little earlier Paul made Christ the One who snatches us from the present wicked world, as well as the Giver of grace and peace equally with God the Father, so here he makes Him also the Caller. For it is Paul’s special purpose to impress Christ on our minds, and through Him the Father.

“These words, ‘from Christ, who called you in grace,’ also have great force and contain an antithesis, as though he were saying: ‘Alas, how easily you let yourselves be withdrawn and removed from Christ, who has called you, not as Moses did, to the Law, works, sin, wrath, and damnation, but to sheer grace!’ So we today complain with Paul that the blindness and perversity of men is so horrible that no one is willing to accept the doctrine of grace and salvation. Or if there are some who accept it, they soon fall away from it. Nevertheless, it brings with it every benefit, both spiritual and physical, namely, the forgiveness of sins, peace of heart, and eternal life. It also brings light and sound judgment about everything. It approves and supports civil government, the home, and every way of life that has been ordained and established by God. It eradicates all doctrines of error, sin, death, sedition, confusion, etc. In short, it uncovers all the works of the devil and opens to us the works of God. . . .”

(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 *Dcs. Rhein traveling to Indonesia for hymnal project*

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)*

WEDNESDAY Catechesis Class 4:30 p.m.
 Evening Prayer **6:00 p.m.**

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

FRIDAY Catechesis Class **5:00 p.m.**

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.

Pr. Osbun's installation at First Lutheran, Hanna 3:00 p.m. (Central)

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

*The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Third in Angels' Tide:
Isaiah 25:6-9; Philippians 4:4-13; and Saint Matthew 22:1-14*