

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.

◆ Dcs. Rhein is in Indonesia this week, working on the hymnal project there. Thanks to Monica Stuckwisch for serving as our organist in her absence.

◆ Following coffee & refreshments this morning, Pr. Stuckwisch continues 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, please note that donations in support of our Emmaus Food Pantry are being collected this morning (15 October). Thank you!

◆ This Wednesday (18 October), Emmaus will be gathered for the Feast of Saint Luke, the Evangelist, in the Divine Service beginning at 6:00 p.m.

◆ Catechesis Class will meet only on Friday this week (at 5:00 p.m.), due to the celebration of the Feast of St. Luke on Wednesday (at 6:00 p.m.).

◆ **COLLECTIONS FOR 8 OCTOBER 2017: \$ 4,475.00**

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 Charley & Karin Horner to the glory of God, in celebration of their son Matthew's birthday.

◆ **IN THE LORD'S SERVICE THIS LORD'S DAY:**
(ELDER) Dave Smith; (USHERS) Caleb Smith & Nicholai Stuckwisch;
(ACOLYTE) Frederick Stuckwisch; (ORGANIST) Monica Stuckwisch;
(GREETERS) Lois Veen & Marilyn Dulmatch.

◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574

On the Epistle to the 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. What madness is the world up to when it so bitterly hates this Word, this Gospel of eternal comfort, grace, salvation, and eternal life, and when it blasphemes and persecutes it with such satanic rage?

“Earlier Paul called this present world ‘wicked,’ that is, sheer evil; for otherwise it would acknowledge the blessings and mercy of God, which it spitefully rejects and persecutes. It loves darkness, error, and the kingdom of the devil more than light, truth, and the kingdom of Christ (John 3:19). And it does so not through error but through the devil’s extreme spitefulness. By giving Himself into death for the sins of all men, Christ has earned nothing from this world but that it blasphemes Him and persecutes His salutary Word and would like to crucify Him again if it could. Therefore the world not only dwells in darkness but is darkness itself, as is written in John 1:5.

“Therefore Paul emphasizes these words, ‘from Christ, who has called you,’ and mystically suggests a contrast. It is as though he were saying: ‘My proclamation was not about the hard laws of Moses; nor did I teach you that you should be slaves under the yoke. But I preached sheer grace and freedom to

you; that is, that Christ has mercifully called you in grace to make you free men under Christ rather than slaves under Moses. But through your false apostles you have now become disciples of Moses; for they have called you by the Law of Moses, not to grace but to wrath, hatred of God, sin, and death. But when Christ calls, this brings grace and salvation. For He transfers them from the Law to the Gospel, from wrath to grace, from sin to righteousness, and from death to life. Will you permit yourselves to be carried—and so quickly and easily at that!—in another direction, away from such a living fountain bubbling over with grace and life?’ Now if by the very Law of God Moses calls men to the wrath of God and to sin, where do you suppose the pope calls them by his own traditions? The other interpretation, according to which it is the Father who calls in the grace of Christ, is also good; but the earlier interpretation, which refers to Christ, is more pleasant and more suitable to comfort afflicted consciences.

“‘To a different gospel’ (Gal. 1:6). Here let us learn to recognize the tricks and craft of the devil. A heretic does not come with the label ‘error’ or ‘devil’; nor does the devil himself come in the form of a devil, especially not that ‘white devil.’ In fact, even the black devil, who impels men to overt acts of evil, provides them with a covering for the acts they perpetrate or intend to perpetrate. In his fury the murderer does not see that murder is as great and horrible a sin as it is in fact, because he has a covering for it. Lechers, thieves, covetous men, drunkards, and the like, have the means to flatter themselves and cover up their sins. Thus the black devil always emerges in the disguise and covering of all his works and tricks. But in the spiritual area, where Satan emerges not black but white, in the guise of an angel or even of God Himself, there he puts himself forward with very sly pretense and amazing tricks. He peddles his deadly poison as the doctrine of grace, the Word of God, and the Gospel of Christ. This is why Paul calls the doctrine of the false apostles and ministers of Satan a ‘gospel,’ saying, ‘to a different gospel.’ But he is speaking ironically, as though he were saying: ‘Now you Galatians have different evangelists and a different gospel. You despise my Gospel now, and it has lost your respect.

“From this it is evident that these false apostles had condemned Paul’s Gospel among the Galatians, saying: ‘To be sure, Paul made a good start. But a good start is not enough, for there are more sublime things to follow.’ As they said in Acts 15:1: ‘It is not enough for you to believe in Christ or to be baptized. You must also be circumcised; for “unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”’ This is tantamount to saying that Christ is a good workman who has begun a building but has not completed it, and that Moses must complete it.”

(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.

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

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 THE FEAST OF SAINT LUKE, THE EVANGELIST
Divine Service of Communion 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.
 with the Rite of Holy Baptism
 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 Wednesday (18 October) is the Feast of Saint Luke the Evangelist
Readings: Isaiah 35:5-8; 2 Timothy 4:5-18; and St. Luke 10:1-9*

*The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Fourth in Angels' Tide:
Isaiah 45:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; and St. Matthew 22:15-22*