

# ***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, we welcome the Michael & Beth Ritzman family to Emmaus, and we look forward to hearing about their service to the mission of the Church in Papua New Guinea.
- ◆ Dcs. Rhein will be flying home to South Bend tomorrow. Please remember her in your prayers as she is traveling. Thanks again to Monica Stuckwisch for serving as our organist while Dcs. Rhein has been serving overseas.
- ◆ Tomorrow evening, Bishop Rhoades — bishop of the Fort Wayne – South Bend Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church — will be speaking on the Reformation at Trinity Lutheran Church in Elkhart, beginning at 7:00 p.m.  
As a counterpoint to the Bishop's presentation at Trinity, Pr. Stuckwisch will be speaking on the Reformation from a Lutheran perspective at St. Pius Roman Catholic Church in Granger on Monday the 13th of November, also beginning at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend both of these events.
- ◆ Next Sunday, the 29th of October, Calvary Lutheran Church in Plymouth will be hosting a Circuit Reformation Service, beginning at 4:00 p.m.  
And on Sunday the 5th of November, Trinity in Elkhart will likewise be hosting a Circuit Reformation Service, also beginning at 4:00 p.m.
- ◆ **COLLECTIONS FOR 15 OCTOBER 2017:                   \$ 2,261.00**  
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 Erik's birthday.
- ◆ **IN THE LORD'S SERVICE THIS LORD'S DAY: (ELDER) Eldon Knepp; (USHERS) Aaron Seyboldt & Ariksander Stuckwisch; (ACOLYTE) Stefan Horner; (ORGANIST) Monica Stuckwisch; (GREETER) Pat Nering.**
- ◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor                   Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574

## On the Epistle to the Galatians

*“The 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 basically to say that Christ is a good workman who has begun a building but has not completed it, and that Moses must complete it.*

*“Nowadays, when the sectarians cannot condemn us overtly, they say instead: ‘These Lutherans have a cowardly spirit. They do not dare speak the truth frankly and freely and draw the consequences from it. We have to draw these consequences. To be sure, they have laid a foundation, that is, faith in Christ. But the beginning, the middle, and the end must be joined together. God has not assigned to them the task of accomplishing this; He has left it to us.’*

*“So do these perverse and satanic men glorify their wicked proclamation, calling it the Word of God, so that under the guise of the name of God they may work their damage. For in his ministers the devil does not want to be deformed and black but beautiful and white. To put on such an appearance he presents and adorns everything he says and does with the color of truth and with the name of God. This is the source of the familiar German proverb: ‘All misfortune begins in the name of God.’*

*Therefore let us learn that this is one of the devil’s specialties: If he cannot do his damage by persecuting and destroying, he will do it under the guise of correcting and edifying. Thus today he is persecuting us with power and the sword, so that once we are out of the way, he will not only corrupt the Gospel but will obliterate it. So far he has not succeeded. For he has killed many who steadfastly confessed that our doctrine is holy and divine, and by their blood the church was not destroyed but was watered. So since he cannot succeed that way, he is arousing false teachers. At first they accept our teaching and preach it in agreement with us. But later on they say that we have made a good start, but that the more sublime things have been saved until now, etc. In this way the devil impedes the progress of the Gospel, both on the right side and on the left side — but more on the right, by ‘edifying’ and ‘correcting,’ than on the left, by persecuting and destroying. Therefore we must pray constantly (1 Thess. 5:17), read, and hold tightly to Christ and to His Word, so that we may prevail against the tricks with which the devil attacks us on both the right side and the left; ‘for we are not contending against flesh and blood’ (Eph. 6:12).*

*“Not that there is another [or Although there is not another] gospel, but there are some who trouble you’ (Gal. 1:7). Once more Paul makes excuses for the Galatians and bitterly attacks the false apostles. It is as though he were saying: ‘You Galatians have been persuaded that the Gospel which you received from me is not the true and genuine Gospel. Therefore you suppose that you are doing the right thing when you accept that new gospel which the false apostles are teaching and which seems better than mine. I am not accusing you so much as I am accusing those troublemakers who are disturbing your consciences and snatching you out of my hand.’*

*“Here you see again how ardently and vehemently the Apostle attacks the seducers and with what harsh words he describes them. He calls them troublers of the churches and of consciences, who do nothing but seduce and deceive an endless number of consciences and cause horrible damage and trouble in the churches. In our own day, too, we are obliged to witness this great evil, much to our sorrow; but we cannot do anything more to remedy it than Paul could.*

*“This passage shows that the false apostles undoubtedly called Paul an imperfect apostle and a weak and erring preacher. For this reason he himself, in turn, calls them troublers of the churches and subverters of the Gospel of Christ. Thus they condemned one another; the false apostles condemned Paul, and Paul, in turn, condemned them. There is always such controversy and condemnation going on in the church, especially when the doctrine of the Gospel is prospering; the wicked teachers persecute, condemn, and oppress the faithful teachers, who, in turn, attack and condemn them.*

*“Today the papists and the sectarians hate us violently and condemn us; and we, in turn, detest and condemn their impious and blasphemous doctrine with great hatred. Meanwhile the poor common people are confused. They waver back and forth, wondering and doubting which side to take or whom it is safe to follow. For it is not given to everyone to make Christian judgments about such important issues. The outcome will show which side was right in its teaching and in its condemnation of the other. It is certain that we do not persecute, oppress, or kill anyone; nor does our doctrine trouble consciences, but it delivers them from the endless errors and traps of the devil. In support of this claim we have the testimony of many good men who thank God that our doctrine has given a sure comfort to their consciences. Just as Paul, therefore, was not at fault when the churches were troubled, but the false apostles were, so in our day it is not our fault but that of the Anabaptists, Sacramentarians, and other fanatics that so many great troubles have arisen in the church.”*

***(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.  
   Mission Presentation    10:45 a.m.

**MONDAY**                      *Deaconess Rhein returning to South Bend*  
  
*Bishop Rhoades speaking at Trinity in Elkhart 7:00 p.m.*

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

**WEDNESDAY**                      Catechesis Class    4:30 p.m.  
   Children's Choir Rehearsal    6:10 p.m.  
*Evening Prayer*    **7:00 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  
   with the Rite of Holy Baptism    9:00 a.m.  
   Coffee & Refreshment Downstairs    10:30 a.m.  
   Catechesis / Family Bible Class    10:45 a.m.

*Reformation Festival at Calvary, Plymouth 4:00 p.m.*

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

*This Monday (23 October) is the Feast of Saint James of Jerusalem  
Readings: Acts 15:12–22; James 1:1–12; and St. Matt. 13:54–58*

*The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Fifth in Angels' Tide:  
Leviticus 19:1–18; 1 Thess. 2:1–13; and St. Matthew 22:34–46*