

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.
- ◆ We give thanks with two of our catechumens, Benjamin Horner & Julianne Seyboldt, as they receive the rite of confirmation at the Divine Service this morning. Let us pray that our gracious Lord would continue to pour out His blessing upon these young Christians, by His Word and Holy Spirit, and that, by His mercy, He would guard and keep the two of them and all of us in His Word and faith throughout our lives, even unto death.
- ◆ 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.

- ◆ Trinity Lutheran Church in Elkhart is hosting a Circuit Reformation Service this afternoon (5 November), beginning at 4:00 p.m. President May will be preaching, and Pr. Stuckwisch will be among those participating in the Service, which will follow the example of Dr. Luther's German Mass.
- ◆ The next Emmaus **Talent Show** will be next Sunday (12 November), with a carry-in dinner following Bible Class and Catechesis. Sign up with your talent on the bulletin board outside Pastor's study, if you haven't already!
- ◆ Looking ahead, Pr. Stuckwisch will be presenting on the Reformation and its significance for the Church in our day at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Granger, Indiana, on Monday the 13th of November, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

- ◆ **COLLECTIONS FOR 29 OCTOBER 2017:** \$ 1,532.30

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 Stefan's birthday
- ◆ IN THE LORD'S SERVICE THIS LORD'S DAY:
 (ELDER) Robert Rhein; (USHERS) Erik Horner & Egon Tribble;
 (ACOLYTE) Gerhardt Stuckwisch; (CRUCIFER) Luke Harrison;
 (ORGANIST) Dcs. Sandra Rhein; (GREETER) Pat Nering.
- ◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574

On the Epistle to the Galatians

“The false apostles said that Paul preached to the Gentiles about freedom from the Law, contempt for the Law of God, and even the total abrogation both of the Law and of the entire Jewish kingdom — all this in opposition to the Law of God, the custom of the entire Jewish nation, the example of the Apostles, and even his own example. Therefore he was to be avoided as a public blasphemer against God and a rebel against the entire Jewish commonwealth. They maintained that they were the ones to be listened to; for not only did they preach the Gospel correctly, but they were also the very pupils of the Apostles, with whom Paul had never been acquainted. By this device they slandered Paul among the Galatians and brought about the defection of the Galatians from him. And to make sure that the truth of the Gospel would abide among the Galatians, Paul was forced with all his strength to oppose the false apostles, whom he confidently attacks and condemns as the troublers of the churches and the subverters of the Gospel of Christ, as follows:

“‘And want to pervert the Gospel of Christ’ (Gal. 1:7). That is, they are intent not only on troubling you but also on utterly destroying and extinguishing the Gospel of Christ. Satan is engaged in both of these activities. He is not content to trouble and deceive many people through his false apostles; but through them he is also at work to overthrow and abolish the Gospel completely, and he will not rest until he has accomplished this. Yet such perverters of the Gospel find it intolerable to hear that they are the devil's apostles. In fact, they are prouder than anyone else of the name of Christ, and they claim to be the most sincere preachers of the Gospel. But because they confuse the Law with the Gospel, it is inevitable that they subvert the Gospel.

“Either Christ must abide, and the Law perish; or the Law must abide, and Christ perish. It is impossible for Christ and the Law to agree and to share the reign over a conscience. Where the righteousness of the Law reigns, there the righteousness of grace cannot reign; and, on the other hand, where the righ-

teousness of grace reigns, there the righteousness of the Law cannot reign. One of these two will have to yield to the other. And if you cannot bring yourself to believe that God wants to forgive your sins for the sake of Christ, how will you be able to believe that He wants to forgive you for the sake of the works of the Law or for the sake of your own works? Therefore the doctrine of grace simply cannot stand with the doctrine of the Law. One of them must be rejected and abolished, and the other must be confirmed or substantiated.

“But just as the Jews were inclined away from this doctrine of faith and grace, so we also are inclined away from it. I personally would like to keep both the righteousness of grace as that which justifies and the righteousness of the Law as the basis for God’s attitude toward me. But, as Paul says here, confusing these means perverting the Gospel of Christ. Yet in a controversy the stronger side can defeat the better side. So it happens that the righteousness of grace and of faith is lost; and the other righteousness, that of the Law and of works, is advanced and defended. Christ and His side are weak, and the Gospel is a foolish proclamation. On the other hand, the kingdom of the world and the devil, its prince, are strong; in addition, the wisdom of the flesh is very impressive. But this is our consolation, that the devil with his members cannot accomplish what he wishes. He may trouble many persons, but he cannot destroy the Gospel of Christ. The truth may be endangered, but it cannot perish. It is attacked, but it cannot be conquered; for ‘the Word of the Lord abide forever’ (1 Peter 1:25).

“It seems to be a trivial matter to teach the Law and affirm works, but this does more damage than human reason can imagine. Not only does it mar and obscure the knowledge of grace, but it also removes Christ and all His blessings, and it completely overthrows the Gospel, as Paul says in this passage. The cause of this great evil is our flesh. Steeped in sin, it sees no way to extricate itself except by works. This is why it wants to live in the righteousness of the Law and to rest in trust in its own works. Therefore it knows nothing or nearly nothing about the doctrine of faith and grace, without which the conscience cannot find peace.

“From these words of Paul, ‘and want to pervert the Gospel of Christ,’ it seems that the false apostles were very bold and brazen in their wholesale opposition to Paul. Therefore he withstands them with zeal and ardor, utterly certain of his calling. He exalts his ministry wonderfully against them and says: ‘But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we preached to you, let him be accursed’ (Gal. 1:8).”

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

Walking with Our Savior this Week

TODAY Divine Service of Communion
with the Rite of Confirmation 9:00 a.m.
Coffee & Refreshment Downstairs 10:30 a.m.
Catechesis / Family Bible Class 10:45 a.m.

Reformation Festival at Trinity in Elkhart 4:00 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 9:00 a.m.
Coffee & Refreshment Downstairs 10:30 a.m.
Catechesis / Family Bible Class 10:45 a.m.
Carry-In Dinner and Talent Show 12:00 Noon

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

*The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Third-Last Before Advent:
Amos 5:18–24; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; and St. Matthew 25:1–13*