

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 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 twelve years of age. And Dave Smith is resuming his class on various Old Testament figures for teenagers and others who may be interested.

◆ Today is the Emmaus Family Day **Talent Show**, beginning with a carry-in dinner following Bible Class and Catechesis.

◆ 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, tomorrow evening (Monday, 13 November), beginning at 7:00 p.m.

◆ **COLLECTIONS FOR 5 NOVEMBER 2017:** \$ 3,654.00

In order to meet our financial obligations and commitments, an average of \$2400 is needed each week.

◆ The Altar flowers this morning have been provided by Linda Levine to the glory of God, in loving memory of her parents, Victor and Marian, in this anniversary month of their departure to be with Christ.

◆ **IN THE LORD'S SERVICE THIS LORD'S DAY:** (ELDER) Dave Smith; (USHERS) Caleb Smith & Ariksander Stuckwisch; (ACOLYTE) Stefan Horner; (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

“From the words, ‘and want to pervert the Gospel of Christ’ (Gal. 1:7), 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).

*“Here Paul is breathing fire. His zeal is so fervent that he almost begins to curse the angels themselves. He says: ‘Even if we ourselves, my brethren, Timothy and Titus, and I, and all who are with me, to say nothing of the others—indeed, even if an angel from heaven should preach to you, etc., I would wish that my brethren and I, yes, even an angel from heaven, be accursed rather than my Gospel be overthrown.’ This is a passionate zeal, that he has the courage to curse so boldly not only himself and his brethren but even an angel from heaven. The Greek word, **anathema**, means something cursed, execrable, contemptible, something that has no relation, participation, or communication with God. Thus Joshua says (6:17): ‘Let the city of Jericho be **anathema** forever, so that it is never reconstructed.’ And in the last chapter of Leviticus it is written: ‘If a man or a beast has been devoted or **anathema**, let him be put to death and not permitted to live’ (Lev. 27:28). Thus the divine sentence was that Amalek and some other cities destined for the **anathema** were to be completely demolished (Ex. 17:14). So this is what Paul means: ‘I would wish that I, others, yes, even an angel from heaven be accursed rather than that we or others preach any other gospel than the one we or others have preached.’ Thus Paul curses himself first; for clever debaters usually begin by criticizing themselves, in order that then they may be able to reprove others more freely and more severely.*

“Therefore Paul concludes that there is no other gospel than the one he himself has been preaching. Nor is any other gospel to be preached by him or by anyone else, or even by an angel from heaven. For once the voice of the Gospel has sounded, it will not be revoked until the Last Day.

“‘As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed’ (Gal. 1:9).

“Paul says the same thing over again, but he shifts the persons. Earlier he had cursed himself, his brethren, and an angel from heaven. Here he says: ‘If there is anyone besides us who preached to you any gospel other than the one you have received from us, let him also be accursed.’ Thus he clearly excommunicates and curses all teachers in general — himself, his brethren, angels,

and, in addition, anyone else at all, that is, his opponents, the false teachers. This shows great fervor of spirit in the Apostle, that he has the courage to curse all teachers throughout the earth and heaven. For all men must either yield to that Gospel which Paul had been preaching or be accursed and damned.

“The shift in persons should be noted. Paul speaks one way in his first anathema and another way in his second. In the first he says: ‘If we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we preached to you’; in the second he says: ‘contrary to that which you received.’ He does this intentionally, to keep the Galatians from saying: ‘Paul, we have not changed the Gospel that you preached to us. We had misunderstood you, but the teachers who came after you have set us straight.’ ‘I will not stand for this,’ he says. ‘They should neither add anything nor correct anything. What you heard from me was the pure Word of God. Let only this stand. I myself do not want to be a different teacher of the Gospel from what I was, nor do I want you to be different pupils. Therefore if you hear anyone teaching a gospel different from the one you heard from me, or bragging that he will bring you something better than what you received from me, let him and his disciples be accursed.’

“In this way the ministers of Satan invade, and insinuate themselves into, the minds of men by promising that they will bring something better. They admit that those who taught the Gospel before them made a good start, but they say that this is not enough. Thus today the fanatics do pay us the compliment that we began the work of the Gospel correctly. But because we despise and condemn their blasphemous doctrine, they call us ‘neopapists,’ who are twice as bad as the old papists. Thus it is that thieves and robbers invade the Lord’s sheepfold ‘to steal and kill and destroy’ (John 10:10). First they confirm our doctrine, but then they correct us and claim to explain more clearly what we have understood incorrectly or only partially. This was how the false apostles gained access to the Galatians. They said: ‘Yes, Paul has laid the foundation of Christian teaching. But he does not teach the true way of justification, for he teaches men to turn away from the Law. Now what he could not bring you correctly, this you should now receive from us.’ But Paul refuses to let anything else be taught by anyone or heard and accepted by the Galatians than what he himself had taught them before and what they had heard and accepted from him. ‘Therefore,’ he says, ‘let those who teach or accept anything else be accursed.’

“This text contains only examples rather than much instruction. We have not yet come to the main doctrine discussed in this Epistle. For the first two chapters contain almost nothing but defenses and refutations. . . .”

(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.
 Carry-In Dinner and Talent Show 12:00 Noon

MONDAY Pr. Stuckwisch speaking on Reformation
 at St. Pius X Catholic Church, Granger 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY Emmaus Church Council 7:30 p.m.

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.
 Voters' Meeting / Catechesis 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-Last Before Advent:
Zephaniah 1:7-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; and St. Matthew 25:14-30*