

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

- ◆ Thanks to the Emmaus Youth for decorating the church for Christmas two weeks ago — and now, also, for taking care of putting the decorations away again after Bible Class and Catechesis today.

- ◆ As we have entered Epiphany Tide, we are resuming our usual schedule and routines this week: Vespers at 6:00 p.m. on Monday. Catechesis Classes on Wednesday (4:30 p.m.) and Friday (5:00 p.m.). And, this week, children's choir at 6:10 p.m. on Wednesday, followed by Evening Prayer at 7:00 p.m.

- ◆ Both young and old are invited to join Donna Harison and Tim & Laurie Schlueter in attending the Chicago March for Life next Sunday (the 14th). We have seats available, but we'd like to get a firm count of those who are planning to go. The group will leave right after church on Sunday, so plan on packing a sack lunch to eat on the road. The March itself is from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m. We will be returning home that night. Please respond if you would like to come, and if you are planning to drive or would like to ride. Thanks! Would love to have you join us in showing our support for Life!

Whether or not you're able to join the Chicago March, there will be a Right to Life march here in South Bend on Friday the 19th of January, from 1:00 until 2:00 p.m. There will be a rally at 11:30 a.m. at the headquarters on Washington street. There is an added urgency in South Bend at this point, in view of the efforts that are underway to open an abortion clinic here.

- ◆ Pastor and LaRena Stuckwisch express their sincere thanks to the members of Emmaus for the lovely cards and gracious gifts received in this season, and for all the loving support throughout the year. The Stuckwisch family is grateful for the kindness and care of their brothers and sisters in Christ.
- ◆ COLLECTIONS FOR 31 DECEMBER 2017: \$ 2,871.00
In order to meet our financial obligations and commitments, an average of \$2400 is needed each week.
- ◆ Offering envelopes for the Year of Our Lord 2018 are now available in the glass room at the book of the Church, for those members who so desire.
- ◆ Please note that a new flower chart for the Year of Our Lord 2018 is now available on the bulletin board at the back of the church. You are welcome to sign up to provide flowers for the Lord's Altar to the glory of God, in memory of loved ones, or in honor of special people and events.
- ◆ IN THE LORD'S SERVICE THIS LORD'S DAY:
(ELDER) Eldon Knepp; (USHERS) Matthew Horner & Ariksander Stuckwisch; (ACOLYTE) Gerhardt Stuckwisch; (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

“But when He who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were Apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus’ (Gal. 1:15–17). This refers to Paul’s first journey. Jerome exerts himself mightily here, saying that in the Book of Acts Luke does not even mention Paul’s journey to Arabia — as though it were necessary to record the events and actions of every single day, which would be impossible! Let this suffice, that we have some details and a certain number of accounts from which we can derive teaching and examples.

“Here Paul testifies that immediately after he had been called by the grace of God to preach Christ among the Gentiles, he went to Arabia — and that not on the advice of any human being — to perform the task to which he had been called. This text tells you who taught him and by what means he came to the

knowledge of grace and to his apostolate. ‘When God was pleased to,’ he says. It is as though he were saying: ‘I did not deserve this; for I was zealous for the Law of God, but without judgment. In fact, my foolish and wicked zeal so blinded me that, with the permission of God, I fell straight into even more abominable and outrageous sins. I persecuted the church of God; I was an enemy of Christ; I blasphemed His gospel; and finally I was responsible for the shedding of much innocent blood. This was what I had deserved myself. But in the very midst of this cruel rage I was called to such grace. On what grounds? Because of my outrageous cruelty? Of course not! But the abundant grace of God, who calls and shows mercy, pardoned and forgave me all those blasphemies. And in place of these horrible sins, which I then regarded as a service most pleasing to God, He gave me His grace and called me to be an Apostle.’

“In our own day we [that is, Luther and his associates] have come to the knowledge of grace by the same ‘merits.’ I crucified Christ daily in my monastic life, and I blasphemed God through the false trust in which I was constantly living. Outwardly I was not like other men: extortioners, unjust, adulterers (Luke 18:11). I observed chastity, poverty, and obedience. In addition, I was free of the cares of this present life and was devoted only to fasting, vigils, prayers, reading Mass, and things like that. Nevertheless, under the cover of this sanctity and confidence I was nursing incessant mistrust, doubt, fear, hatred, and blasphemy against God. This righteousness of mine was nothing but a cesspool and the delightful kingdom of the devil. For Satan loves such saints and treats as his own beloved those who destroy their own bodies and souls, and who deprive themselves of all the blessings of the gifts of God.

“Even as they do this, however, malice, blindness, contempt for God, ignorance of the Gospel, profanation of the sacraments, blasphemy and abuse of Christ, and the neglect of all the blessings of God hold full sway in them. In short, such saints are the slaves of Satan. Therefore they are impelled to think, say, and do whatever he wishes, even though outwardly they seem to surpass everyone else in good works, holiness, and austerity of life.

“That is how we were under the papacy, truly no less insulting and blasphemous against Christ and His Gospel than Paul was, and perhaps even worse than he. I was especially bad. I had a horror even of the name of John Hus; in fact, I regarded it as a grave offense to think of him. And I would have been willing — so zealously did I obey the pope — to have provided fire and sword to burn and destroy that heretic, if not in deed, then in spirit; and I would have thought that thereby I was offering a high service to God (John 16:2). . . .”

(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 & Donuts Downstairs 10:30 a.m.
Family Bible Class 10:45 a.m.

Emmaus Youth Taking Down the Decorations

MONDAY *Vespers* **6:00 p.m.**

TUESDAY Circuit Pastors Meeting at St. Peter, Mishawaka

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 & Donuts Downstairs 10:30 a.m.
Family Bible Class 10:45 a.m.

Chicago March for Life 2:00—4:00 p.m.

Circuit Forum at St. Paul, Bremen 4:00 p.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 after the Epiphany:
1 Samuel 3:1–20; 1 Corinthians 6:12–20; and Saint John 1:43–51*