

# ***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.
- ◆ Pr. Osburn and First Lutheran Church in Hanna (15 E. Wheeler St., Hanna) will be hosting an Altar Guild Workshop on Saturday, February 3. We will begin at 8:30 CENTRAL with a brief spoken Divine Service, observing the Feast of the Purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord (transferred from Feb. 2). The workshop will last until around Noon, followed by a potluck luncheon. Anyone interested in attending should see Dcs. Rhein. All are welcome, especially to the opening Divine Service.
- ◆ COLLECTIONS FOR 7 JANUARY 2018: \$ 2,129.25  
  
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) Robert Rhein; (USHERS) Erik Horner & Aaron Seyboldt; (ACOLYTE) Jonah Tomaw; (ORGANIST) Dcs. Sandra Rhein; (GREETER) Pat Nering.
- ◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor                      Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574

## On the Epistle to the Galatians

*“Compared to these holy hypocrites [the papists], publicans and harlots are not evil. For when they offend, such sinners have remorse of conscience, and they do not justify their evil deeds. But these men, far from acknowledging that their abominations, idolatries, and wicked acts of worship are sins, actually declare that they are a sacrifice pleasing to God. In fact, they adore them as a thing of special holiness; and through them they promise salvation to others and even sell them for money as something that avails for salvation.*

*“This, then, is our great righteousness and valuable merit that bring us to the knowledge of grace: that we have murderously and demonically persecuted, blasphemed, abused, and condemned God, Christ, the Gospel, faith, the sacraments, all pious men, and the true worship of God, and have taught and established the very opposite. And the holier we were, the more blinded we were, and the more sincerely we worshiped the devil. Every single one of us was a bloodsucker, if not in fact, then in heart.*

*“‘When God was pleased.’ This is as though Paul were saying: ‘It is only the unspeakable kindness of God that He has not only spared me — a good-for-nothing, a criminal, a blasphemer, and a sacrilegious man — but that He has also given me the knowledge of salvation, His Spirit, Christ His Son, the apostolic office, and life eternal.’ Seeing us in similar sins, God has not only pardoned our wickedness and blasphemies out of His sheer mercy for the sake of Christ; but He has also showered us with His great blessings and spiritual gifts. But many among us not only ‘have forgotten that they were cleansed from their old sins’ (2 Pet. 1:9); but, opening a window to the devil again, they begin to loathe His Word, and many also pervert it and thus become the founders of new sects. The last state of such men is worse than the first (Matt. 12:45).*

*“‘Who had set me apart before I was born.’ This is a Hebrew expression. It is as though Paul were saying: ‘Who had sanctified, ordained, and prepared me. That is, God had ordained, even before I was born, that I should rage against His church this way, and that afterwards He would mercifully call me back from my cruelty and blasphemy, by His sheer grace, into the way of truth and salvation. In brief, when I had not yet been born, I was already an Apostle in the sight of God; and when the time had come, I was declared to be an Apostle in the sight of the world.’*

*“Thus Paul abolishes all ‘deserving’; he gives the glory only to God, but to himself only confusion. It is as though Paul wanted to say: ‘Every gift — whether great or small, whether physical or spiritual — that God intended to*

give to me, and all the good things that I was ever to do at any time in all my life — all this God had predestined even before I was born, when I could not think, wish, or do anything good but was a shapeless embryo.

“‘Therefore this gift came to me by the mere predestination and merciful grace of God even before I was born. And then, after I was born, He still supported me, even though I was covered with innumerable and horrible iniquities and evils. To declare the unspeakable and inestimable greatness of His mercy to me even more obviously, He forgave my infinite and horrible sins by His sheer grace. So generously did He shower me with His grace that I not only knew what is given to us in Christ but also preached this to others.’ This is what all men deserve and merit, and especially those old fools who are busy only in the filth of man’s own righteousness.

“‘And had called me through His grace.’ Note how diligent the Apostle is. ‘He called me,’ he says. And how? Was it on the basis of my Pharisaism, my blameless and holy life, or my prayers, fasts, and works? No. Much less was it for my blasphemies, persecutions, and oppressions! How then? By His sheer grace alone.

“‘To reveal His Son to me.’ In this passage you hear what sort of doctrine was given and committed to Paul, namely, the doctrine of the Gospel, which is the revelation of the Son of God; as Ps. 2:11 says, ‘Kiss the Son.’ This is a doctrine different from all others. Moses does not reveal the Son of God; he discloses the Law, sin, the conscience, death, the wrath and judgment of God, and hell. These things are not the Son of God! Therefore only the Gospel reveals the Son of God. Oh, if only one could distinguish carefully here and not look for the Law in the Gospel but keep it as separate from the Law as heaven is distant from the earth! In itself the difference is easy and clear, but to us it is difficult and well-nigh incomprehensible. For it is easy to say that the Gospel is nothing but the revelation of the Son of God or the knowledge of Jesus Christ and not the revelation or knowledge of the Law. But in the conflict of conscience and in practice it is difficult even for those who have had a lot of experience to hold to this for certain.

“Now if the Gospel is the revelation of the Son of God, as it really is, then it certainly does not demand works, threaten death, or terrify the conscience. But it shows the Son of God, who is neither the Law nor a work. But this simply cannot persuade the papists. Therefore they make a ‘Law of charity’ of the Gospel. But Christ is the subject of the Gospel. . . .”

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

# ***Walking with Our Savior this Week***

<b>TODAY</b>	<b>Divine Service of Communion</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>
	Coffee & Donuts Downstairs	10:30 a.m.
	Catechesis / Family Bible Class	10:45 a.m.
	<i>Chicago March for Life</i>	2:00—4:00 p.m.
	<i>Circuit Forum at St. Paul, Bremen</i>	4:00 p.m.
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b><i>Vespers</i></b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Board of Elders	6:00 p.m.
	Church Council	7:30 p.m.
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Catechesis Class	4:30 p.m.
	<b><i>Evening Prayer</i></b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<i>Pastor's Family Day (but <u>do call</u> in cases of emergency)</i>	
<b>FRIDAY</b>	South Bend Right to Life March	1:00—2:00
	Catechesis Class	5:00 p.m.
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	<b>Divine Service of Communion</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>
	— <i>with induction of new and returning officers</i>	
	Coffee & Donuts 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 Third after the Epiphany:  
Jonah 3:1–10; 1 Corinthians 7:29–35; and Saint Mark 1:14–20*