

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.
- ◆ Ladies of Emmaus, please note: We are collecting money for our Emmaus Food Pantry this morning (11 March). Thank you for your support.

Also, the LWML South Bend Zone Spring Bible Break will be held this Saturday, March 17th, at St. Paul's in Bremen. Registration will begin at 9:00 am. A study on "God's Timing" will be led by Rev. Roger Rohde.

- ◆ Following coffee & refreshments, our Family Bible Class continues a study of Genesis, making special use of Dr. Luther's commentary on that book.

Catechesis class for younger and beginning catechumens meets at the same time. Older children, especially between the ages of eight and twelve, have class with Nathaniel Rhein & Nicholai Stuckwisch. And Dave Smith is teaching a catechesis class for teenagers and others who are interested.

- ◆ Throughout the Season of Lent, there will be Vespers each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m., and a brief, spoken Divine Service each Friday at 9:00 a.m.

As in past years, there will be soup supper served prior to the Wednesday evening Vespers, from 5:30 until 6:30 p.m. One and all are welcome to enjoy the good soup and to share that opportunity for fraternal fellowship.

There is a sign-up sheet for those who are willing and able to contribute to the soup suppers or to assist in serving, cleaning up, and so forth. Thanks!

- ◆ Emmaus will be serving another meal at Hope Rescue Mission this Friday, March the 16th. Volunteers are needed to provide cookies, to help prepare the meal, and to assist in serving the meal. Talk to Betty Shankle for info.
- ◆ Those who may be willing and able to lend or donate Easter lilies or other spring flowers for the adornment of the Sanctuary on the Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord, please have those to the Church by the morning of Saturday the 31st of March. Thank you in advance for your assistance!

◆ COLLECTIONS FOR 4 MARCH 2018: \$ 1,547.00

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

◆ IN THE LORD'S SERVICE THIS LORD'S DAY: (ELDER) Robert Rhein; (USHERS) Erik Horner & Ariksander Stuckwisch; (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

“Paul might have permitted Titus to be circumcised; but when he saw that they wanted to compel him, Paul refused. For if those who were demanding circumcision had had their way, they would have jumped to the conclusion that circumcision was necessary for righteousness; and thus, because of Paul's permission, they would have prevailed against him. . . .

“Therefore Paul achieved a glorious victory. Although Titus, the Gentile, was in the midst of the Apostles and of all the faithful, where this question was being vehemently debated, he was not compelled to undergo circumcision. Paul obtained this triumph; and he declares that this conference decided, by the consensus of all the Apostles and with the approval of the entire church, that Titus was not to be circumcised. This is a powerful argument, one that is very effective against the false apostles. With the argument that ‘even Titus was not compelled to be circumcised’ Paul succeeded in refuting and convincing all his opponents. It is as though he were to say: ‘Why do these false apostles spread the false rumor about me that I was obligated, at the behest of the Apostles, to observe circumcision? For I have the testimony of the faithful in Jerusalem, indeed of the Apostles themselves, that as a result of my efforts the very opposite was decided on. Not only did my position win out there — that Titus was to remain uncircumcised — but the Apostles approved and ratified it. Therefore your false apostles are liars; they use the name of the Apostles to slander me and to trick you. For I, and not they, have the Apostles and all the faithful on my side, and I can prove this from the case of Titus.’

“At the same time Paul did not condemn circumcision; nor did he compel anyone to undergo it. For it is neither sin nor righteousness to be either uncircumcised or circumcised, just as it is neither sin nor righteousness, but a physical necessity, to eat and drink.

“Whether you eat or not, you are neither better nor worse off (1 Cor. 8:8). But if anyone came along and attached either sin or righteousness to it and said: ‘If you eat, you are sinning; but if you abstain, you are righteous,’ or vice versa, he would be both foolish and evil. This is what the pope does; in his formula of excommunication he threatens with punishment the soul of anyone who does not obey the laws of the Roman pontiff, and he makes all his laws necessary for salvation. Therefore it is the devil himself who is speaking in the person of the pope and in all such papal decrees. For if salvation consists in the observance of the pope’s laws, what need do we have of Christ as our Justifier and Savior?

“But because of false brethren secretly brought in, who slipped in to spy out our freedom which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage — to them we did not yield submission even for a moment, that the truth of the Gospel might be preserved for you’ (Gal. 2:4–5). Here Paul states why he went up to Jerusalem and conferred with the other Apostles about his Gospel; he also states why he did not circumcise Titus. It was not to be confirmed by the Apostles or to become more certain of his Gospel, for he had no doubts about this. It was rather that the truth of the Gospel might abide among the Galatians and in all the churches of the Gentiles. Thus you see that what was at stake for Paul was no joke and no trifle.

“Now when Paul speaks of ‘the truth of the Gospel,’ he shows that there are two uses of the Gospel, a true one and a false one, or a true and a false gospel. It is as though he were saying: ‘The false apostles proclaim a faith and a gospel too, but their gospel is a false gospel. Hence my stubbornness and refusal to yield. I did this in order that the truth of the Gospel might be preserved among you.’ Thus in our day the pope and the sectarians brag that they proclaim the Gospel and faith in Christ. Yes, they do, but with the same results that the false apostles once had, those whom Paul (Gal. 1:7) calls troublers of the churches and perverters of the Gospel of Christ. By contrast he says that he is teaching ‘the truth of the Gospel,’ the pure and true Gospel, as though he were saying: ‘Everything else is a lie masquerading as the Gospel.’ For all the heretics lay claim to the names of God, of Christ, of the church, etc.; and they pretend that they want to teach, not errors but the most certain truth and the purest Gospel.

“The truth of the Gospel is this, that our righteousness comes by faith alone, without the works of the Law. The falsification or corruption of the Gospel is this, that we are justified by faith but not without the works of the Law. The false apostles preached the Gospel, but they did so with this condition attached to it. The scholastics do the same thing in our day. . . .”

(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 / Catechesis	10:45 a.m.
MONDAY	<i>Vespers</i>	<i>6:00 p.m.</i>
TUESDAY	Board of Elders Meeting	6:00 p.m.
	Emmaus Church Council	7:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	Soup Supper	5:30—6:30
	Children’s Choir Rehearsal	6:10 p.m.
	<i>Lenten Vespers</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>
THURSDAY	<i>Pastor Stuckwisch at District BOD Meeting</i>	
FRIDAY	<i>Brief Spoken Divine Service</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>
NEXT SUNDAY	Divine Service of Communion	9:00 a.m.
	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 Fifth Sunday in Lent:
Jeremiah 31:31–34; Hebrews 5:1–10; and St. Mark 10:32–45***