

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.

- ◆ There will be a Voters' Meeting this morning, downstairs in the church hall following time for coffee and refreshments. Members of Emmaus are encouraged to stay for the meeting. Bible class will resume next week.

Catechesis class for younger and beginning catechumens meets at the same time as the Voters' Meeting. Older children, especially between the ages of eight and twelve, will meet with Nathaniel Rhein and Nicholai Stuckwisch.

- ◆ Tomorrow (Monday, March the 19th), we will be gathered for the Feast of St. Joseph, the Son of David, in the Divine Service beginning at 6:00 p.m.

- ◆ There will be a final Lenten Vespers this Wednesday (21 March), beginning at 7:00 p.m. The catechetical focus will be on Confession and Absolution.

As per our custom, soup supper will again be served prior to the 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.

- ◆ This Saturday (24 March), Pr. Stuckwisch will be vested and available in the Emmaus Sanctuary for Individual Confession and Absolution from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. This means of grace and forgiveness, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, is freely offered to be freely received in repentant faith.

- ◆ Next Sunday (25 March), the Sunday of the Passion, the Divine Service will begin with the procession of Palms, remembering our Lord's entry into Jerusalem. The children of the congregation are invited to participate in that procession, as in the past. They should be here, ready to go, by 8:50 a.m.

- ◆ Please note the following Services throughout Holy Week: On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week, there will be Matins each morning (at 9:00 a.m.) and a brief Divine Service each evening (at 6:00 p.m.). On Maundy Thursday, there will be a service of Confession and Absolution in the morning (9:00 a.m.), and the Divine Service that evening (6:00 p.m.). On Good Friday, the most solemn day of the Church Year, we will then be gathered at Emmaus for the Divine Service, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

- ◆ 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 11 MARCH 2018: \$ 4,621.00
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) Dave Smith; (USHERS) Matthew Horner & Egon Tribble;
(ACOLYTE) Stefan Horner; (ORGANIST) Deaconess Sandra Rhein;
(GREETERS) Lois Veen & Marilyn Dulmatch
- ◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574

On the Epistle to the Galatians

“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. They say that we must believe in Christ and that faith is the foundation of salvation, but they say that this faith does not justify unless it is ‘formed by love.’ This is not the truth of the Gospel; it is falsehood and pretense. The true Gospel, however, is this: Works or love are not the ornament or perfection of faith; but faith itself is a gift of God, a work of God in our hearts, which justifies us because it takes hold of Christ as the Savior. Human reason has the Law as its object. It says to itself: ‘This I have done; this I have not done.’ But faith in its proper function has no other object than Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who was put to death for the sins of the world. It does not look at its love and say: ‘What have I done? Where have I sinned? What have I deserved?’ But it says: ‘What has Christ done? What has He deserved?’ And here the truth of the Gospel gives you the answer: ‘He has redeemed you from sin, from the devil, and from eternal death.’ Therefore faith acknowledges that in this one Person, Jesus Christ, it has the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Whoever diverts his gaze from this object does not have truth faith; he has a phantasy and a vain opinion. He looks away from the promise and at the Law, which terrifies him and drives him to despair.”

“Therefore what the scholastics have taught about justifying faith ‘formed by love’ is an empty dream. For the faith that takes hold of Christ, the Son of God, and is adorned by Him is the faith that justifies, not a faith that includes love. For if faith is to be sure and firm, it must take hold of nothing but Christ alone; and in the agony and terror of conscience it has nothing else to lean on than this pearl of great value (Matt. 13:45–46). Therefore whoever takes hold of Christ by faith, no matter how terrified by the Law and oppressed by the burden of his sins he may be, has the right to boast that he is righteous. How has he this right? By that jewel, Christ, whom he possesses by faith. Our opponents fail to understand this. Therefore they reject Christ, this jewel; and in His place they put their love, which they say is a jewel. But if they do not know what faith is, it is impossible for them to have faith, much less to teach it to others. And as for what they claim to have, this is nothing but a dream, an opinion, and natural reason, but not faith.

“I am saying all this in order that you may recognize that when Paul speaks emphatically of ‘the truth of the Gospel’ (Gal. 2:5), he is vehemently attacking the opposite. He wanted to show that they were abusing the Gospel. By these words he is condemning the false apostles for teaching a false gospel when they required that circumcision be observed. In addition, they used subtle tricks and devices to trap Paul. They watched him closely to see whether he would circumcise Titus and whether he would dare oppose them in the presence of the Apostles. On this account he severely condemns them. ‘They slipped in,’ he says, ‘to spy out our freedom which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage.’ The false apostles equipped and trained themselves in every possible way to attack and convict Paul in the presence of the church. They also tried to abuse the authority of the Apostles, saying: ‘Paul has brought this uncircumcised Titus into the sight of the whole church. He is denying and condemning the Law in the very presence of you who are Apostles. If he has the audacity to try this here in your presence, what would he be willing to try among the Gentiles in your absence?’

“When Paul saw that he was being attacked with such tricks, he resisted the false apostles vigorously and said: ‘We did not permit the liberty we have in Christ Jesus to be imperiled, even though the false brethren tried in every way to trap us and caused us a great deal of trouble. But we overcame them by the very judgment of the Apostles themselves, and we did not yield submission to them even for a moment. (For undoubtedly they said: “Paul, surrender this liberty at least for a while!”) For we saw that they wanted to require the observance of the Law as necessary for salvation.’”

(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.
Voters' Meeting / Catechesis 10:45 a.m.
Mission Event at St. John, Gary 2:00—4:00

MONDAY THE FEAST OF SAINT JOSEPH, THE SON OF DAVID
Divine Service of Communion **6:00 p.m.**

TUESDAY *Pastor's Writing Day (but do call in cases of emergency)*

WEDNESDAY Soup Supper 5:30—6:30
Children's Choir Rehearsal 6:10 p.m.
Lenten Vespers **7:00 p.m.**

THURSDAY *Pastor's Family Day (but do call in cases of emergency)*

FRIDAY ***Brief Spoken Divine Service*** **9:00 a.m.**

SATURDAY Individual Confession & Absolution 5:00—7:00

NEXT SUNDAY PALM SUNDAY / SUNDAY OF THE PASSION
Divine Service of Communion **9:00 a.m.**
Coffee & Refreshments Downstairs 10:30 a.m.
Catechesis / Family Bible Class 10:45 a.m.

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

*This Monday (19 March) is the Feast of St. Joseph, the Son of David
Readings: 2 Sam. 7:4–16; Rom. 4:13–18; and St. Matt. 2:13–23*

*The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Sunday of the Passion:
Zechariah 9:9–12; Philippians 2:5–11; and St. Mark 14:1—15:47*