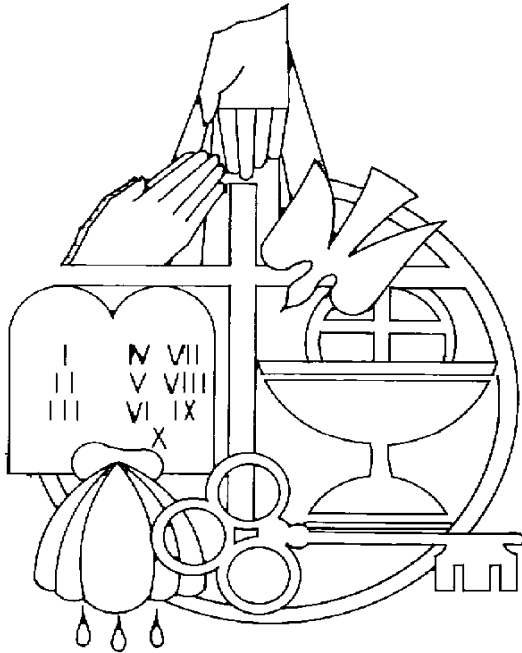


# Emmaus Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Rev. Ronald Stephens, Pastor

Rev. Dr. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor



✝ DAILY CATECHESIS ON THE WAY ✝

TO AND FROM EMMAUS WITH JESUS

✝ THE WEEK OF SEXAGESIMA ✝

*“They were continually devoting themselves to the Apostolic Doctrine and to the Communion, to the Breaking of the Bread, and to the Prayers.”*

*(Acts of the Apostles 2:42)*



## The Solid Declaration of the Formula of Concord

### *XI. Election)*

*Although among the theologians of the Augsburg Confession there has not occurred as yet any public dissension whatever concerning the eternal election of the children of God that has caused offense, and has become wide-spread, yet since this article has been brought into very painful controversy in other places, and even among our theologians there has been some agitation concerning it; moreover, since the same expressions were not always employed concerning it by the theologians; therefore, in order, by the aid of divine grace, to prevent disagreement and separation on its account in the future among our successors, we, as much as in us lies, have desired also to present an explanation of the same here, so that every one may know what is our unanimous doctrine, faith, and confession also concerning this article. For the doctrine concerning this article, if taught from, and according to, the pattern of the divine Word [and analogy of God's Word and of faith], neither can nor should be regarded as useless or unnecessary, much less as offensive or injurious, because the Holy Scriptures not only in but one place and incidentally, but in many places, thoroughly treat and urge [explain] the same. Moreover, we should not neglect or reject the doctrine of the divine Word on account of abuse or misunderstanding, but precisely on that account, in order to avert all abuse and misunderstanding, the true meaning should and must be explained from the foundation of the Scriptures; and the plain sum and substance [of the heavenly doctrine] concerning this article, accordingly, consists in the following points:*

***This Week in the Church Year***

*The Sower sows the seed of His Word. This Word is living and powerful to conceive new life in those who hear it. But the planting of Christ is attacked by the devil, the world, and the flesh. Satan snatches the Word away from hard hearts. The riches and pleasures of this life choke off faith. Shallow and emotional belief withers in time of temptation and trouble. But see how Christ bears this attack for us! Christ's Cross was planted in the hard and rocky soil of Golgotha. A crown of thorns was placed upon His head. Satan and His demons hellishly hounded and devoured Him. Yet, through His dying and rising again, He destroyed these enemies of ours. Jesus is Himself the Seed which fell to the ground and died in order that it might sprout forth to new life and produce much grain. In Him, the weak are strong. He is the Word of the Father which does not return void but yields a harvest hundredfold.*

***Emphasis: Scripture Alone***

***The Order of Daily Catechesis in Word and Prayer***

*Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of daily catechesis as you and your family are able. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.*

**[The Opening Versicles and Psalmody]:**

*O Lord, open my lips.                      And my mouth will declare Your praise.*

*Make haste, O God, to deliver me.        Make haste to help me, O Lord.*

**Psalm 1**

*(and/or one or more of the appointed Psalms listed below)*

<i>Psalms</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<i>Morning</i>	67; 150	51; 145	54; 146	65; 147:1–11	133; 143; 147:12–21	86; 148	122; 149
<i>Evening</i>	46; 93	85; 47	28; 99	125; 91	81; 116; 134	6; 19	141; 90

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

***The Verse: Psalm 95:7–8***

Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.

***Readings for the Week of Sexagesima:***

***Sunday, 23 February 2025*** (St. Polycarp of Smyrna, Bishop & Martyr)

Job 18:1–21; St. John 7:32–53

***Monday, 24 February 2025*** (St. Matthias, Apostle)

Job 19:1–12, 21–27; St. John 8:1–20

(1 Samuel 16:1–13; Acts 1:15–26; St. Matthew 11:25–30)

***Tuesday, 25 February 2025***

Job 20:1–23, 29; St. John 8:21–38

***Wednesday, 26 February 2025***

Job 21:1–21; St. John 8:39–59

***Thursday, 27 February 2025***

Job 30:16–31; St. John 9:1–23

***Friday, 28 February 2025***

Job 31:1–12, 33–40; St. John 9:24–41

***Saturday, 1 March 2025***

Job (32:1–22) 33:1–18; St. John 10:(1–21) 22–42

*O Lord, have mercy on us.*

**Thanks be to God.**

*The Catechism: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism*

*What is Baptism?*

**Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's Word.**

*Which is that Word of God?*

**Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, Baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (St. Matthew 28:19)**

**The Hymn of the Week**

**"MAY GOD BESTOW ON US HIS GRACE"**

**LSB #823**

*[Daily Prayer: Invocation, Apostles' Creed, Kyrie Eleison, and the Our Father]:*

**In the Name ☩ of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and ☩ the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Our Father Who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever & ever. Amen.**

[*The Collects of the Week, Intercessions for each day of the week, and Special Petitions*]:

*Collect for Sexagesima:*

**O God, who sees that we put not our trust in anything that we do, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (Amen)**

*Collect for the feast of St. Matthias (Monday, February 24):*

**Almighty God, who into the place of the traitor Judas did choose Your faithful servant Saint Matthias, grant that Your Church, ever being preserved from false apostles may continually abide in the doctrine of Your true Apostles; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (Amen)**

*Daily Themes for Intercessory Prayer:*

- Sunday:** *For the joy of the Resurrection; for the faithful preaching and hearing of God's Word; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.*
- Monday:** *For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for vocations and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for Resurrection Lutheran Academy and other schools, our home schools, our colleges and seminaries; for good government and peace.*
- Tuesday:** *For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing; for the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.*
- Wednesday:** *For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must rear their children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday:** *For the Church and her pastors; for missionaries, teachers, deaconesses, and other servants of Christ and His Church; for the fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood.*
- Friday:** *For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; for its spread throughout the whole world; for the persecuted; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday:** *For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for pastors as they prepare to administer Christ's holy gifts; for receptive hearts and minds on the Lord's Day.*

*In our Prayers this Week at Emmaus:*

*Moreah Stuckwisch, Rachel Barrett, Anna Hart, Monica Sams, Theresa Lippincott, Melissa Rodriguez, and all expectant mothers, their husbands and families, and their unborn children.*

[*The Daily Morning or Evening Prayer, the Benedicamus, and the Benediction*]:

(*Morning*): We thank You, Lord God, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept us this night from all harm and danger; and we pray that You would keep us this day also from sin and every evil, that all our doings and life may please You; for into Your hands we commend ourselves, our bodies and souls and all things; let Your holy Angel be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us. Amen.

(*Evening*): We thank You, Lord God, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept us this day from all harm and danger; and we pray that You would forgive us all our sins, wherever we have done wrong, and graciously keep us this night; for into Your hands we commend ourselves, our bodies and souls and all things; let Your holy Angel be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us. Amen.

*Let us bless the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

*The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Love of God and the Communion of the Holy Spirit † be with us all. Amen.*

*Then, if it is in the morning, go joyfully to your work, according to your vocations in life, in faith toward God and in love toward your neighbor; or, if it is at the close of the day, go to sleep at once and in good cheer.*

*Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well shall fare.*

**Commemoration of St. Polycarp of Smyrna, Bishop & Martyr**      **Sunday, 23 Feb**

*Born around A.D. 69, St. Polycarp became one of the central figures of the early church in the second century. Apparently a disciple of the Apostle and Evangelist, St. John, Polycarp linked the first generation of believers with later Christians. Among other connections, he was a noted friend and colleague of St. Ignatius. After serving for many years as the Bishop of Smyrna, at a ripe old age Polycarp was arrested, tried, and publicly executed for his faith and testimony on 23 February, A.D. 156. A precious eyewitness narrative of his death and the events surrounding it, entitled 'The Martyrdom of Polycarp,' continues to encourage believers in times of persecution.*

**The Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle**

**Monday, 24 February**

*St. Matthias is one of the lesser-known Apostles. According to the early Church Fathers, Matthias was one of the 72 sent out by Jesus in St. Luke 10:1ff. After the Ascension, he was chosen by lot to fill the vacancy in the Twelve resulting from the death of Judas Iscariot (Acts 1:16–25). Early church Tradition places Matthias in a number of locations. Some historians suggest that he went to Ethiopia; others place him in Armenia, the first nation to adopt Christianity as a national religion. Martyred for his faith, Matthias may well have met his death at Colchis in Asia Minor, around A.D. 50. St. Matthias Church at Trier, Germany, claims the honor of being the final burial site for Matthias, the only one of the Apostles to be buried in Europe north of the Alps.*

**Hymns:**

- LSB #504 Father Most Holy  
ES #73 Lord Jesus Christ, My Savior Blest  
LSB #642 O Living Bread from Heaven  
LSB #685 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus  
LSB #450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded  
ES #82 Lord Jesus Christ, True Man And God  
LSB #402 The Only Son from Heaven

***I Samuel 16:1–13:** The Son of David, Jesus is, indeed, the Lord's anointed, the keeper of sheep who goes to lay down His life for the sheep.*

***I Corinthians 13:1–13:** Jesus is the incarnate Love of the Father who suffers long and is kind, who is not puffed up, who never fails us.*

***St. Luke 18:31–43:** Jesus tells the Twelve that He is going up to Jerusalem to suffer and die and rise again, but they cannot understand or grasp what He is saying. The meaning of His words is hidden from their sight. However, as Jesus makes His way up to Jerusalem, a blind man calls out to Him for mercy. This blind man sees that Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior, for he calls Him "Son of David." Jesus opens the eyes of the blind to see Him not according to outward appearances of lowliness, but according to His heart of mercy and compassion. Those who behold Him thus by faith follow Him to the Cross through death into life.*