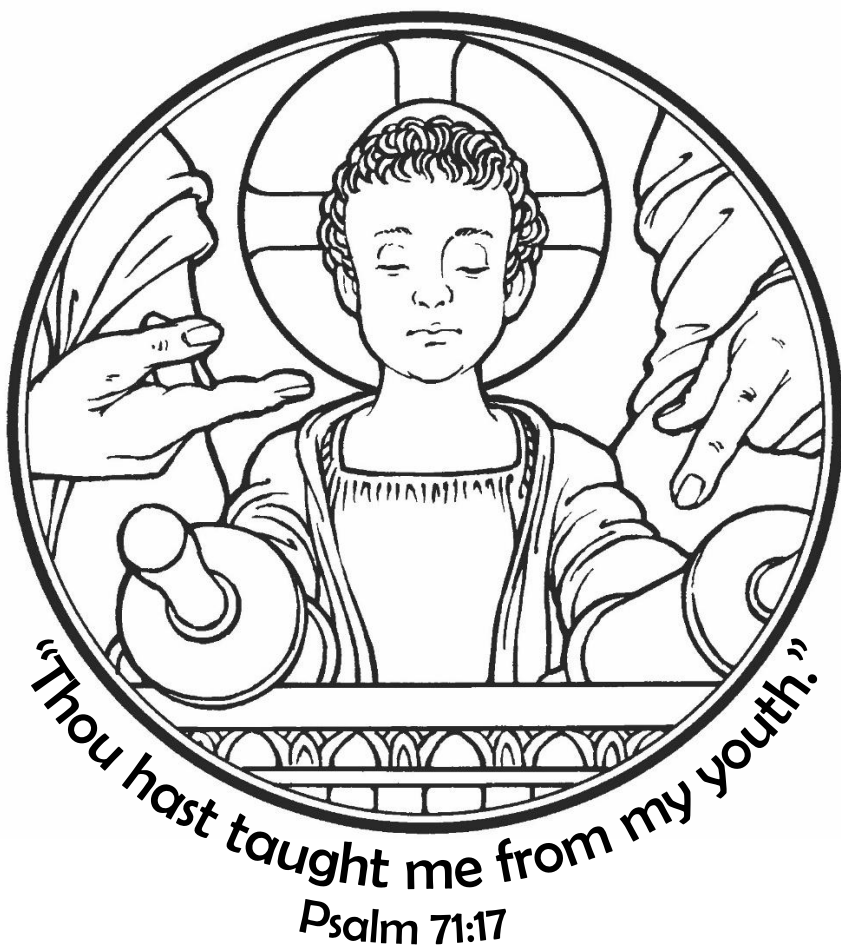


SPEAKING WITH ONE VOICE:

CATECHESIS FOR THE
HOME AND CONGREGATION



DAILY DEVOTIONALS FOR SUMMER – 2026

Table of Duties

**Immanuel Lutheran Church
Waterloo, IL**



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TWO-YEAR CYCLE OF WEEKLY CATECHETICAL THEMES

At a Glance

Fall

Year 1: The Ten Commandments

Year 2: Holy Baptism

Winter

Year 1: The Apostles' Creed

Year 2: Confession and the Keys

Spring

Year 1: The Lord's Prayer

Year 2: The Sacrament of the Altar

Summer

Year 1: Divine Service, Daily Prayer, Piety

Year 2: Table of Duties & Stewardship

Summer Catechesis 2026

Summer: June 14 – August 9

6/14	Week 1:	To Bishops, Pastors, & Preachers
6/21	Week 2:	What Hearers Owe their Pastors
6/28	Week 3:	Of Civil Government
7/5	Week 4:	Of Citizens
7/12	Week 5:	Husbands and Wives
7/19	Week 6:	Parents and Children
7/26	Week 7:	Workers and Employers
8/2	Week 8:	To Youth
8/9	Week 9:	To Widows

Table of Duties



HYMN OF THE SEASON

The Hymn of the Month is to be used during Sunday morning catechesis, in daily devotion in the home.

Hymn of the Season (Trinity): *Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord* (LSB 497)



HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL

Quick Start Guide:

- Come to Church, Sunday School, and Bible Study on Sunday for initial teaching on topic of the week.
- Do family devotions each day using the resources from this packet or The Family at Prayer printed in the back of the Sunday bulletin. (You can find it on the church website too.)
 - Pick a set, repeatable time of day to do family devotions.
 - Use an order of daily prayer from this booklet or the general one in The Family at Prayer as published in the Sunday bulletin.
 - Put a check mark by each reading as you complete them during family devotions.
- **For Sunday Devotions:**
 - Either re-read the Gospel reading from church and discuss what was learned in the sermon, or
 - Use the assigned Wednesday reading and questions (the main reading for the week's catechesis).

Purpose of this Booklet:

- To equip parents to pass down "the pattern of sound words" (2 Timothy 1:13) that they have heard from Scripture and the Catechism to their children.

How it Works:

- This devotion curriculum is doctrinally framed and Biblically supported.
 - Each week you will have a variety of Scripture readings that all come together to instruct the family on a particular doctrinal topic.
- This devotional curriculum is multifaceted. Sunday School, Adult Bible Study, and Home Devotions all come together to reinforce the same teachings each week.
 - In Sunday school children learn the main Bible story for the week, and a bit of instruction on the article of the catechism that is being worked on.
 - In Adult Bible Study, parents learn the main Bible story for the week a bit deeper than the children, and are prepped to teach their families in home devotion.
 - In home devotions, what was learned on Sunday is more deeply ingrained in the hearts of parents and children and healthy habits are formed that will, God willing, last a lifetime.

Why Family Devotions?

It is the duty first of parents, not pastors or Sunday school teachers, to raise their children in the fear and love of the Lord and to hand on the true faith. The church will help and teach parents how to do this, but the church may not presume to take this responsibility from those to whom it truly belongs.

"Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the LORD swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth." Deuteronomy 11:18-21

"We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children." Psalms 78:4-6

"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4



DAILY PRAYER

For Individuals and Families

These brief services are intended as a simple form of daily prayer for individuals and families, and in other settings.

When more than one person is present, the versicles and response may be spoken responsively, with one person reading the words in regular type and the others responding with the words in bold type. Prayers that are in bold type are to be prayed by all.

For the readings, a passage has been recommended for each day of the week. These may be found in this devotional book or in *The Family at Prayer*, published each week in the back of the bulletin. The value in using this schedule lies in the opportunity to repeat them and learn them well. Readings from the Small Catechism may also be incorporated into the services.

In the prayers “for others and ourselves,” the following suggestions may be used to establish a pattern of daily and weekly prayer.

Sunday: For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and the Sacraments.

Monday: For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one’s calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.

Tuesday: For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, 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 raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.

Thursday: For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of Christ’s body and blood.

Friday: For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; 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 receptive hearts and minds to God’s Word on the Lord’s Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ’s holy gifts.

Acknowledgments

The following pages are adapted from pages 294-298 of *Lutheran Service Book*

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MORNING

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

In the morning, O Lord, You hear my voice;

in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for You and watch.

My mouth is filled with Your praise,

and with Your glory all the day.

O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth will declare Your praise.

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 Hymn of the Season, or another appropriate hymn or psalm, may be sung or spoken.

The appointed reading from The Family at Prayer is read and discussed using the accompanying questions.

A portion of the Small or Large Catechism may be read and recited.

The Apostles' Creed is confessed.

Lord's Prayer

Prayers for others and ourselves

Concluding prayers:

Almighty God, merciful Father, who created and completed all things, on this day when the work of our calling begins anew, we implore You to create its beginning, direct its continuance, and bless its end, that our doings may be preserved from sin, our life sanctified, and our work this day be well pleasing to You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Then go joyfully to your work.

NOON

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Listen to my prayer, O God, do not ignore my plea;

hear me and answer me.

Evening, morning, and noon

I cry out in distress, and He hears my voice.

Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you;

He will never let the righteous fall.

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 Hymn of the Season, or another appropriate hymn or psalm, may be sung or spoken.

The appointed reading from The Family at Prayer is read and discussed using the accompanying questions.

A portion of the Small or Large may be read and recited.

O Lord,

have mercy upon us.

O Christ,

have mercy upon us.

O Lord,

have mercy upon us.

Lord's Prayer

Prayers for others and ourselves

Concluding prayer:

Blessed Lord Jesus Christ, at this hour You hung upon the cross, stretching out Your loving arms to embrace the world in Your death. Grant that all people of the earth may look to You and see their salvation; for Your mercy's sake we pray.

Amen.

Heavenly Father, send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts to direct and rule us according to Your will, to comfort us in all our afflictions, to defend us from all error, and to lead us into all truth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EARLY EVENING

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

A candle may be lighted.

Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Joyous light of glory:

of the immortal Father;

heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ.

We have come to the setting of the sun,

and we look to the evening light.

We sing to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:

You are worthy of being praised with pure voices forever.

O Son of God, O Giver of life: the universe proclaims Your glory.

The Hymn of the Season, or another appropriate hymn or psalm, may be sung or spoken.

The appointed reading from The Family at Prayer is read and discussed using the accompanying questions.

A portion of the Small or Large Catechism may be read and recited.

The Apostles' Creed is confessed.

Lord's Prayer

Prayers for others and ourselves

Concluding prayer:

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for the evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our constant companion on the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope among us, that we may recognize You as You are revealed in the Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread. Grant this for Your name's sake.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSE OF THE DAY

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

Amen.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

to sing praise to Your name, O Most High;

To herald Your love in the morning,

Your truth at the close of the day.

The Hymn of the Season, or another appropriate hymn or psalm, may be sung or spoken.

The appointed reading from The Family at Prayer is read and discussed using the accompanying questions.

A portion of the Small or Large Catechism may be read and recited.

The Apostles' Creed is confessed.

Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace;

Your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation

which You have prepared in the sight of every people:

a light to reveal You to the nations

and the glory of Your people Israel.

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.

Lord's Prayer

Prayers for others and ourselves

Concluding prayers:

Visit our dwellings, O Lord, and in Your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of Your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Then go to sleep at once and in good cheer.



Trinity: June 14 – August 15

Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord

LSB 497



1 Come, Ho - ly Ghost, God and Lord, With all Your grac - es
2 Come, ho - ly Light, guide di - vine, Now cause the Word of
3 Come, ho - ly Fire, com - fort true, Grant us the will Your



now out-poured On each be - liev - er's mind and heart;
life to shine. Teach us to know our God a - right
work to do And in Your ser - vice to a - bide;



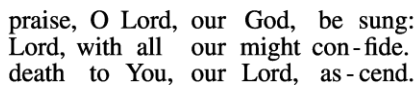
Your fer - vent love to them im - part. Lord, by the
And call Him Fa - ther with de - light. From ev - 'ry
Let tri - als turn us not a - side. Lord, by Your



bright-ness of Your light In ho - ly faith Your Church u - nite;
er - ror keep us free; Let none but Christ our mas - ter be
pow'r pre-pare each heart, And to our weak-ness strength im - part



From ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry tongue This to Your
That we in liv - ing faith a - bide, In Him, our
That brave - ly here we may con - tend, Through life and



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Tune: Eyn Enchiridion oder Handbüchlein, 1524, Erfurt

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003311

Tune: Public domain

Scan QR code to hear the hymn on YouTube



This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

PROPERS FOR DAILY DEVOTION

Week 1: June 14-20

Catechetical Theme: To Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers (The Pastor)

*The Holy Spirit has **called** us to **faith** by the Gospel, and we are members of His Church, that holy nation, the royal priesthood of all believers, called out of darkness so that we might proclaim His excellencies (1 Peter 2:4-10). This summer, we examine how God **calls** us to **offices** in which we serve our neighbors. Luther's Small Catechism includes an entire section on these God-given offices and the duties God has attached to them called the "Table of Duties." And the first office it addresses is the Pastoral Office. Who established it? What duties are given to it? What promise is given to those who serve in it? All of these are answered in this week's devotional material. God bless your time in His Word!*

Catechism: From the Augsburg Confession – Article V

To obtain such (justifying) faith God instituted the office of preaching, giving the gospel and the sacraments. Through these, as through means, he gives the Holy Spirit who produces faith, where and when he wills, in those who hear the gospel. It teaches that we have a gracious God, not through our merit but through Christ's merit, when we so believe.

Condemned are the Anabaptists and others who teach that we obtain the Holy Spirit without the external word of the gospel through our own preparation, thoughts, and works (AC V).

Readings for the Week

☐ June 15: Monday

1 Timothy 3:1-7 – Qualifications for Pastors

☐ June 16: Tuesday

Titus 1:5-9 – Qualifications for Pastors

☐ **June 17: Wednesday**

John 20:21-23 – The Institution of the Office

☐ June 18: Thursday

Matthew 28:18-20 – The Institution of the Office

☐ June 19: Friday

1 Timothy 4:6-16 – Duties of the Office

☐ June 20: Saturday

2 Timothy 4:1-8 – Duties of the Office

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Mon - Tues: What attributes mentioned in this list are applicable to all Christians?

Which are specific to those called to the Pastoral Office? Why is each attribute important? What might happen if we ignore these qualifications?

Wed - Thur: Who spoke these words of institution? To whom did he speak them? What tasks were given by Christ in this passage to be essential to the Pastoral Office? Are these words of Christ command, promise, or both?

Fri - Sat: What duties are ascribed to the Pastoral Office in this passage? Why is it important that pastors remember these duties? How do these duties benefit the people of God served by the pastor? What happens to the Church when these duties are neglected by the pastor?

Verse of the Week: Titus 1:9

He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

Hymn of the Season (Trinity):

Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord (LSB 497)

Week 2: June 21-27

Catechetical Theme: What Hearers Owe Their Pastor (The Laity)

Christ has His Church. A husband has his bride. A father has his children. And a pastor has his people. The offices of headship have specific duties which must be carried out for the benefit of those they serve. Christ dies for the salvation of sinners. A husband loves his wife; a father his children; and a pastor his people. This was last week's emphasis as we studied the Calling of the Pastoral Office. But those who receive the ministry of the pastor are also called by God to a certain vocation—the vocation of hearer. That is this week's focus: the Vocation of the Laity. God bless your time in His Word.

Catechism: From the Large Catechism – The Fourth Commandment

Besides these there are still spiritual fathers. They are not like those in the papacy, who have had themselves called fathers but have performed no function of the fatherly office. For the only ones called spiritual fathers are those who govern and guide us by God's Word. In this sense, St. Paul boasts his fatherhood in 1 Corinthians 4:15, where he says, "I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel." Now, since they are fathers, they are entitled to their honor, even above all others (LC I, 158-160).

Readings for the Week

☐ June 22: Monday	Hebrews 13:7-19 – Obey Your Leaders
☐ June 23: Tuesday	1 Corinthians 9:8-14 – A Living from the Gospel
☐ June 24: Wednesday	1 Kings 17:1-16 – Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath
☐ June 25: Thursday	1 Timothy 5:17-22 – Double Honor
☐ June 26: Friday	1 Thessalonians 5:12-22 – Respect Those Who Labor
☐ June 27: Saturday	Galatians 6:6-10 – Share All Good with One Who Teaches

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Mon: What does it mean to obey? To submit? For what reason do the people submit to their leaders? How does this relate to the 4th Commandment?

Tues: Why should a pastor receive an income? What does this allow him to do? What does a lack of income indicate about the people whom he serves?

Wed: How did the widow show her trust in God? Why did the widow obey Elijah and feed him? What would have happened to the widow had she not listened to Elijah?

Thur: Elder is a New Testament word for pastor. Why should a pastor be considered worthy of double honor? Why should we not bring a charge against the pastor?

Fri: How are the people to treat the pastor (laborer)? For what reason should they treat him like this? How is their life toward one another a reflection of that which their pastor preaches?

Sat: How does a Christian share all things with his pastor? How is the doing of good to our neighbor consistent with what a pastor preaches?

Verse of the Week: Hebrews 13:17

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Hymn of the Season (Trinity):

Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord (LSB 497)

Catechetical Theme: On Civil Government

Our summer focus on the Table of Duties continues this week, as we turn our attention on the Civil Realm. Of course, even in this realm, those in offices of authority receive their authority from above (from God Himself), as Jesus famously reminded Pilate (John 19:11). But even more, the function and duty of these civil offices of authority is derived from the function and duty of our true Father in heaven, who serves, protects, and provides for His people. So, it follows, that those who hold offices of civil authority have the God-given duty to serve and protect the lives of those they serve—the citizens. Every authority is given by God, even evil ones, just as every parent is given by God. And so St. Paul can write, even when his governing authority is the evil Nero: “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God” (Romans 13:1). Still, this is no excuse for those with authority to abuse it. All who wield God-given authority will give and account for how they use it (1 Peter 4:5). God bless your time in His Word.

Catechism: The Large Catechism – The Fourth Commandment

God wants to have [governance] included in this commandment when he speaks of father and mother. He does not wish to have rogues and tyrants in this office and government. He does not assign this honor to them, that is, power and authority to govern, so they can have themselves worshiped. But they should consider that they are obligated to obey God. First of all, they should seriously and faithfully fulfill their office, not only to support and provide for the bodily necessities of their children, servants, subjects, and so on, but, most of all, they should train them to honor and praise God [Proverbs 22:6]. Therefore, do not think that this matter is left to your pleasure or arbitrary will. This is God’s strict command and order, to whom also you must give account for it [1 Peter 4:5] (LC I 167-169).

Readings for the Week

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ June 29: Monday | Romans 13:1-4 – Government Established by God |
| ☐ June 30: Tuesday | 1 Peter 2:10-17 – Authorities Sent by God |
| ☐ July 1: Wednesday | 1 Kings 3:16-28 – Solomon’s Wisdom |
| ☐ July 2: Thursday | Luke 18:1-18 – The Persistent Widow |
| ☐ July 3: Friday | Deuteronomy 17:14-20 – Kings Subject to God’s Word |
| ☐ July 4: Saturday | Acts 13:20-24 – The Death of Herod |

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Mon - Saturday: What does the day’s passage have to say about the duties of the civil authorities? How does the day’s passage relate to the meaning of the 4th Commandment? Was the passage written at a time when the civil authorities were Christian, or not? In narratives, how does the ruler rightly or wrongly exercise his God-given authority?

Verse of the Week: Romans 13:1

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

Hymn of the Season (Trinity):

Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord (LSB 497)

Week 4: July 5-11

Catechetical Theme: On Citizens

This week we continue our focus on the Civil Realm. And if the governmental authorities receive their authority from God, just as parents do, then it follows that we owe them the same things that we owe our parents. We "honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them." And these duties are independent of how good they are at their jobs. We honor those in authority because they stand in God's place. St. Paul can write, even when his governing authority is the evil Nero: "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God" (Romans 13:1). This does not, however, mean that we obey human authorities when they command us to break God's commandments. We honor them but we will not participate in their sins. We say with the apostles, "We must obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29) God bless your time in His Word.

Catechism: The Large Catechism – The Fourth Commandment

Therefore, let everyone who allows himself to be advised remember that God is not joking. Know that it is God who speaks with you and demands obedience. If you obey Him, you are His dear child [John 14:23]. But if you despise obedience, then take shame, misery, and grief for your reward.

The same should also be said about obedience to civil government. This (as we have said) is all included in the place of fatherhood and extends farthest of all relations. Here "father" is not one person from a single family, but it means the many people the father has as tenants, citizens, or subjects. Through them, as through our parents, God gives to us food, house and home, protection, and security. They bear such a name and title with all honor as their highest dignity that it is our duty to honor them and to value them greatly as the dearest treasure and the most precious jewel upon the earth (LC 1 149-150).

Readings for the Week

☐ July 6: Monday

Romans 13:5-7 – Submit to Authorities

☐ July 7: Tuesday

1 Timothy 2:1-3 – Pray for Authorities

☐ **July 8: Wednesday**

1 Samuel 24:1-12, 16-17 – David Spares Saul

☐ July 9: Thursday

Titus 3:1-8 – Be Submissive

☐ July 10: Friday

1 Peter 2:10-17 – Authorities Sent by God

☐ July 11: Saturday

Matthew 22:17-22 – Give to Caesar

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Mon - Sat: What does the day's passage have to say about the duties of the citizens? How does the day's passage relate to the meaning of the 4th Commandment? Was the passage written at a time when the civil authorities were Christian, or not? How does this shape our understanding of God's demand to respect our authorities, even if our authorities are in error? Is there a way to express opposition while continuing to honor and respect the office of those who have authority (think Acts 5:29)?

Verse of the Week: Titus 3:1

Remind people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good.

Hymn of the Season (Trinity):

Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord (LSB 497)

Catechetical Theme: The Vocations of Husband and Wife

Our summer focus on the Table of Duties continues this week, as we turn our attention to the Family. In addition to the Spiritual Realm (the Church) and the Civil Realm (Government and its Citizens), the Christian finds him or herself stationed in life in the midst of a family. The family, in fact, is the fundamental realm from which the spiritual and civil realms draw their meaning. What this means is that each Christian is uniquely placed into relationship within the family, and in that family he or she has vocation—calling. The Vocations of husband and wife were instituted by God in creation, and continue to this day, along with their God-given duties. This will be the focus of this week's catechetical material. But the family also consists of parents and children, which we will look at next week. God bless your time in His Word as you consider the vocations associated with the family!

Catechism: The Large Catechism – The Sixth Commandment

Let me now say in conclusion what this (Sixth) commandment demands: Everyone should live chaste in thought, word, and deed in his condition—that is, especially in the estate of marriage. But also everyone should love and value the spouse God gave to him [Ephesians 5:33]. For where marital chastity is to be maintained, man and wife must by all means live together in love and harmony. Then one may cherish the other from the heart and with complete faithfulness. For harmony is one of the principal points that enkindles love and desire for chastity, so that, where this is found, chastity will follow without any command. Therefore, St. Paul diligently encourages husband and wife to love and honor one another (LC I, 219).

We want to have marriage free as God has instituted it, and we want neither to repeal nor hinder His work. For Paul says that this ban on marriage is the “teachings of demons” (1 Timothy 4:1-3) (SA XI, 3).

Readings for the Week

☐ July 13: Monday

☐ July 14: Tuesday

☐ **July 15: Wednesday**

☐ July 16: Thursday

☐ July 17: Friday

☐ July 18: Saturday

Genesis 2:18-25 – The LORD Institutes Marriage

Ephesians 5:1-2, 22-33 – Husbands and Wives

John 2:1-11 – The Wedding at Cana

Colossians 3:12-19 – Christian Households

1 Peter 3:1-7 – Wives and Husbands

Matthew 19:1-9 – Teaching About Divorce

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Mon - Saturday: What does the day's passage have to say about the institution of marriage? What does the day's passage have to say about the role of husband and/or wife? How does the day's passage relate to the meaning of the 6th Commandment? How does the day's passage speak to our own day? How does the day's passage teach us to view marriage today?

Verse of the Week: Genesis 2:24 (Ephesians 5:31)

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Hymn of the Season (Trinity):

Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord (LSB 497)

Week 6: July 19-25

Catechetical Theme: The Family – Parents and Children

The family is the fundamental unit, given by God, in which we are placed into relationship with one another. This occurs first with husbands and wives, which we've examined last week. But when the Lord blesses husbands and wives with offspring, there are new offices, also established by God, in which we are called to love and serve the neighbor—the parental offices of father and mother; and the office of child. Indeed, as it is with every office, these are offices in which the father, the mother, and the child, are given a person to love and serve. And parents and children love and serve one another according to the Word of God. Enjoy God's Word this week as we examine God's calling upon fathers, mothers, and children in the family.

Catechism: The Small and Large Catechisms

What is the Fourth Commandment? Honor your father and your mother.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them. (SC, Fourth Commandment)

Therefore, it is the duty of every father of a family to question and examine his children and servants at least once a week and see what they know or are learning from the catechism. And if they do not know the catechism, he should keep them learning it faithfully. (LC Short Preface, 4)

Readings for the Week

☐ July 20: Monday

Ephesians 6:1-4 – Children and Parents

☐ July 21: Tuesday

Colossians 3:18-21 – Christian Households

☐ **July 22: Wednesday**

Luke 2:41-51 – Jesus Submits to His Parents

☐ July 23: Thursday

Hebrews 12:5-12 – Fatherly Discipline

☐ July 24: Friday

Proverbs 3:11-12 – The Lord's Discipline

☐ July 25: Saturday

Deuteronomy 11:18-21 – Passing on the Faith

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Mon: What relationship does Paul teach about in the previous chapter? How does this section (on parents and children) naturally follow what came before it? How does Paul instruct parents and children? Discuss the difficulties associated with each.

Tue: What two sets of relationship go together in these verses? How is this similar to the passage from Ephesians? What does Paul instruct parents and children to do? Discuss the difficulties associated with each office.

Wed: This is a familiar Bible story. How does Jesus keep the 4th Commandment? Look specifically near the end of the reading. How does Jesus keep the Law on our behalf? How does Jesus serve as our example?

Thur: How does God the Father discipline us, His children? Is His discipline good for us? How does this serve as an example for parents today?

Fri-Sat: What does today's passage teach us about the parental vocation?

Verse of the Week: Ephesians 6:1-3

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (This is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."

Hymn of the Season (Trinity):

Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord (LSB 497)

Week 7: July 26-August 1

Catechetical Theme: To Workers and Employers

Believe it or not, the LORD has something to say about how we live and act in those places where we work—what we normally think of as our jobs. And the work you do—whether you have your first job ever making pizzas, or whether you worked your way up in your career and are now in management, supervising those who work under you—is holy work. It is work with which you love and serve your neighbor. It is the work you do as a priest of God in the priesthood of all believers. This week we'll look at some passages which speak to the duties associated with our calling in the civil realm as workers, or as employers and/or supervisors. God bless your time in His Word!

Catechism: The Large Catechism – The Fourth Commandment

All authority flows and is born from the authority of parents. Where a father is unable alone to educate his rebellious and irritable child, he uses a schoolmaster to teach the child. If he is too weak, he gets the help of his friends and neighbors. If he departs this life, he delegates and confers his authority and government upon others who are appointed for the purpose. Likewise, a father must have domestic manservants and maidservants under himself for the management of the household. So all whom we call “masters” are in the place of parents and must get their power and authority to govern from them.

Readings for the Week

☐ July 27: Monday

Ephesians 6:1-9 – Workers and Masters

☐ July 28: Tuesday

Colossians 3:12-25 – Workers and Masters

☐ **July 29: Wednesday**

Luke 20:9-18 – The Wicked Tenants

☐ July 30: Thursday

Titus 2:1-10 – Submission to Those in Authority

☐ July 31: Friday

Philemon 1:8-16 – Working as Brothers

☐ August 1: Saturday

1 Peter 2:13-25 – Submission to Authority

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Note: This week's readings speak of slaves and masters. We should not think of this as referring to the institution of slavery as it was known in our country's history. Rather, these passages have the 1st Century Greco-Roman world as their context. It is better to think of them, for comparison's sake, as workers and supervisors.

Mon- Sat: What does this passage speak of regarding the office and duty of a slave/worker? What is the duty of a person who is a supervisor/manager/master? How is one encouraged to think of his or her work? How does the passage encourage us to treat those with whom we work? How should the worker treat his or her master? How should the master treat his or her worker? How does this all relate to the person and work of Christ?

Verse of the Week: Colossians 3:23-24

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Hymn of the Season (Trinity):

Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord (LSB 497)

Week 8: August 2-8

Catechetical Theme: To Youth

Even being young has duties from God assigned to it. Since we do not come out of the womb knowing everything, it is the duty of the young to learn from and to respect those who are older than them. This week we will see what happens to the young when they do not respect their elders and what will happen if they do. Above all, a youth should humbly seek wisdom from God so that when he is old, he will be on the right path. There are many who have said, "I wish that I had listened to my parents, teachers, and pastors," who are suffering needlessly for lack of wisdom. That does not have to be you. Seek the wisdom of your elders in humility. God bless your time in His Word!

Catechism: Large Catechism – The Fourth Commandment

God knows very well this perverseness of the world; therefore, He admonishes and urges by commandments that everyone consider what his parents have done for him. Each child will discover that he has from them a body and life. He has been fed and reared when otherwise he would have perished a hundred times in his own filth. Therefore, this is a true and good saying of old and wise people: "To God, to parents, to teachers we can never offer enough thanks and compensation." The person who thinks about and considers this will give all honor to his parents without force and bear them up on his hands as those through whom God has done him all good [Psalm 91:12]. (LC I, 129-130)

Readings for the Week

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| ☐ August 3: Monday | 1 Peter 5:5-6 – To Youth |
| ☐ August 4: Tuesday | Proverbs 3:1-8 – Instructions for a Son |
| ☐ August 5: Wednesday | 1 Kings 12:1-20 – Rehoboam's Folly |
| ☐ August 6: Thursday | 2 Kings 2:23-25 – Elisha and the Youths |
| ☐ August 7: Friday | Ecclesiastes 12:1-8 – Remember God in Your Youth |
| ☐ August 8: Saturday | Romans 13:9-10 – To Everyone |

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Mon-Tues: To what sort of person does the day's passage specifically speak? What duty does the LORD attach to this kind of person? How will the Body of Christ be built up by Christians who serve in this vocation?

Wed-Thur: Did the young people do their duty as young people in this story? What virtue did these young people lack? (See 1 Peter 5:5-6) What should the young people have done in this story to live according to God's commands?

Fri: Why does Solomon say that it is important to remember God in your youth? Will the fun, health, and energy of youth last forever? What can bring joy when youth is gone?

Sat: Think back on all the vocations listed so far, pastor, layman, ruler, citizen, husband, wife, mother, child, worker, employer. When you do your duty in each of these stations, how are you "loving your neighbor as yourself"?

Verse of the Week: Romans 13:9

The Commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Hymn of the Season (Trinity):

Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord (LSB 497)

Week 9: August 9-15

Catechetical Theme: To Widows and the Elderly

Last week we examined the duties that God has given to the young. Now we turn our attention toward the duties of those who are older, especially widows. Age brings with it a natural slowing down of the body. The corruption in our flesh because of sin shows us what was always true: we are not self-sufficient and live and breathe only by the grace of God. Therefore, it is the duty of the widows and the elderly to pray for themselves and others and to seek all their good in the Lord. Elsewhere in Scripture we see that it is the duty of the elderly to pass on what wisdom they have learned from the Lord to the younger generation. God bless your time in God's Word!

Catechism: Large Catechism – The Lord's Prayer

For we are in a situation where no person can perfectly keep the Ten Commandments, even though he has begun to believe. The devil with all his power, together with the world and our own flesh, resist our efforts. Therefore, nothing is more necessary than that we should continually turn towards God's ear, call upon Him, and pray to Him. We must pray that He would give, preserve, and increase faith in us and the fulfillment of the Ten Commandments [2 Thessalonians 1:3]. We pray that he would remove everything that is in our way and that opposes us in these matters. (LC III, 2)

Readings for the Week

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| ☐ August 10: Monday | 1 Timothy 5:5-6 – To Widows |
| ☐ August 11: Tuesday | Luke 18:1-8 – The Persistent Widow |
| ☐ August 12: Wednesday | Luke 7:11-17 – Jesus Raises the Widow's Son |
| ☐ August 13: Thursday | Proverbs 17:6, 20:29 – The Glory of the Elderly |
| ☐ August 14: Friday | Titus 2:2-5 – For Elderly Men and Women |
| ☐ August 15: Saturday | 1 Timothy 2:1-4 – To Everyone |

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Mon: To what sort of person does the day's passage specifically speak? Who is a widow's only true hope? What duty does the LORD attach to this kind of person?

Tues: How is the widow in Jesus' story a good example of how to pray? Should we all pray like that, or just widows?

Wed: Widows and those who are old have lost many people that they love. What is the ultimate hope for those who have lost loved ones to death?

Thur: What gift of God gives joy in old age? Why is gray hair glory for the old?

Fri: How are old people to be an example to the young? What have you learned from the elderly? Have you learned anything about the faith from those older than you?

Sat: This passage talks about praying. Who is supposed to do the praying? Who are we supposed to be praying for?

Verse of the Week: 1 Timothy 2:1

I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people.

Hymn of the Season (Trinity):

Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord (LSB 497)