

GOOD SHEPHERD Evangelical Lutheran
Church and School
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TODAY'S FOCUS

Jesus calls us from sinful selfishness to selfless service. Repentance in my life models my Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus came not to be served but to serve and to give His life as a Ransom for us.

In 1717, Anne Steele was born at Broughton, Hampshire, England. Her dad was a timber merchant and a lay pastor at a Christian congregation in Broughton. Her mom died when she was 3. After a hip injury at age 19, Anne was an invalid. 3 years later, she was engaged to be married. Sadly her fiancé drowned on the day of the wedding.

After the death of her fiancé she wrote hymns, devotionals and generally helped her dad with some aspects of his ministry. She remained unmarried. Despite her sufferings she maintained a cheerful and God-glorifying attitude. The Lord took her to heaven in 1778 and her body was laid to rest at St Mary Church, Broughton, Test Valley Borough, Hampshire, England and include over 144 hymns. We use one of her hymns to focus our hearts and minds today.

WELCOMING SONG: *ENSLAVED BY SIN*

#102cw

- 1 Enslaved by sin and bound in chains, beneath its dreadful tyrant sway,
And doomed to everlasting pains we wretched, guilty captives lay.
- 2 Nor gold nor gems could buy our peace, nor all the world's collected store
Suffice to purchase our release; a thousand worlds were all too poor.
- 3 Jesus, the Lord, the mighty God, an all-sufficient ransom paid.
O matchless price! His precious blood for vile, rebellious traitors shed.
- 4 Jesus the sacrifice became to rescue guilty souls from hell;
The spotless, bleeding, dying Lamb beneath avenging justice fell.
- 5 Amazing goodness! Love divine! Oh, may our grateful hearts adore
The matchless grace nor yield to sin nor wear its cruel fetters more!

INVOCATION, CONFESSION OF SINS, & ABSOLUTION

LEADER: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. God invites us to come into His presence and worship Him with humble and penitent hearts. Let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask Him to forgive us. Oh, most holy and merciful Father:

All: We confess to You and to one another and before the whole company of heaven that we have sinned by our own fault, in our own thoughts, in our own words, and in our own deeds. We have sinned against You by what we have done, and we have sinned against You by what we have failed to do.

LEADER: We have not always done Your will. We listen to lies in order to justify our actions. Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.

All : We have not been faithful stewards. We worry. We think You are without knowledge, without power or without compassion. Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.

LEADER: Forgive us for the sake of Your Son's perfect life and innocent death on the cross. You wrote, "Cleanse me, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow."

All: Create in me a pure heart, O God. Renew an unwavering spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Sustain me with a willing spirit.

LEADER: God shows His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. As distant as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our rebellious acts from us. Take heart, your sins are forgiven!

All: Amen! Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! Amen and Amen!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

LEADER: Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask You graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with Your salvation; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

WORD

FIRST LESSON:

Psalm 91

Refrain



He who dwells in the Most High will
rest in the shad-ow of th'Al - might - y.

Psalm tone



He who dwells in the shelter of the / Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Al- / mighty.

I will say / of the Lord,

"He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in / whom I trust."

Surely He will save you from the / fowler's snare
and from the deadly / pestilence.

He will cover you with his feathers, and under His wings you will find / refuge;
His faithfulness will be your shield and / rampart.

REFRAIN

You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that / flies by day,
nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at / midday.
A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at / your right hand,
but it will not come / near you.

REFRAIN

If you make the Most High your dwelling—even the Lord, who is my / refuge—
then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come / near your tent.

For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in / all your ways;
they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot
a- / gainst a stone.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
 and to the Holy / Spirit,
 as it was in the be- / ginning,
 is now, and will be forever. / Amen.

REFRAIN

SECOND LESSON:

GENESIS 37:1-11

Ultimately, God brought the prideful low and raised up humble Joseph. In doing so, God both kept His promises and also saved the family of God and countless others.

Jacob lived in the land where his father had resided as an alien, that is, in the land of Canaan. ² This is the account about the development of the family of Jacob: When Joseph was seventeen years old, he was tending the flock with his brothers.

He was just a boy compared to the sons of his father's wives Bilhah and Zilpah. Joseph brought a bad report about them to their father. ³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his other sons, because he was the son born in his old age, and he made him a special robe. ⁴ His brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, so they hated him and could not speak to him in a friendly way.

⁵ Once Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers, so they hated him all the more. ⁶ He said to them, "Please listen to this dream that I have dreamed: ⁷ There we were, binding sheaves in the field, and suddenly my sheaf rose up and stood upright. Then your sheaves gathered around and bowed down to my sheaf." ⁸ His brothers said to him, "So will you really reign over us? Will you really have dominion over us?" They hated him all the more because of his dreams and what he said.

⁹ Then he had another dream and told it to his brothers. He said, "Listen, I had another dream. This is what I saw: The sun and the moon and eleven stars bowed down to me." ¹⁰ He told it to his father and to his brothers.

His father rebuked him and said to him, "What kind of dream is this that you have dreamed? Will I and your mother and your brothers really come and bow down to the ground in front of you?" ¹¹ His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept what he had said in mind.

SONG OF PRAISE:

Jesus sinners does receive

#304cw st. 1-2

1 Jesus sinners does receive; Oh, may all this saying ponder
 Who in sin's delusions live And from God and heaven wander.
 Here is hope for all who grieve—Jesus sinners does receive.

2 We deserve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich grace revealing,
 Pardon, peace, and life proclaim; Here their ills have perfect healing
 Who with humble hearts believe—Jesus sinners does receive.

THIRD LESSON:

MATTHEW 20:17-28

For our motivation and our model, Christ points back to God's plan for the Son of Man. Jesus came not to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.

¹⁷ As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, He took the twelve disciples aside; and on the way He said to them, ¹⁸ "Look, we are going up to Jerusalem. The Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and experts in the law, and they will condemn Him to death. ¹⁹ They will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock, flog, and crucify Him. On the third day He will be raised."

²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling and asking something of Him. ²¹ He said to her, "What do you want?" She said to Him, "Promise that in Your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and one on Your left hand." ²² But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to Him, "We are."²³ He said to them, "You will indeed drink My cup, but to sit on My right hand and on My left hand is not for Me to give; rather these places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by My Father."

²⁴ When the ten heard this, they were angry with the two brothers. ²⁵ But Jesus summoned them and said, "You know that the rulers of the nations lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.

²⁶ It will not be that way among you.

Instead whoever wants to become great among you will be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first among you will be your slave— ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a Ransom for many."

SONG OF PRAISE:

Jesus sinners does receive

#304cw st. 3 & 5

3 Sheep that from the fold did stray Are not by the Lord forsaken;
Weary souls who lost their way Are by Christ, the Shepherd, taken
In His arms that they may live—Jesus sinners does receive.

5 I, a sinner, come to You With a penitent confession.
Savior, show me mercy, too; Grant for all my sins remission.
Let these words my soul relieve—Jesus sinners does receive.

FOURTH LESSON:

ROMANS 8:1-10

One of Scripture's greatest chapters begins with one of its sweetest verses: Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

So then, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For in Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. ³ Indeed, what the law was unable to do, because it was weakened by the flesh, God did, when he sent His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to deal with sin. God condemned sin in His flesh, ⁴ so that the righteous decree of the law would be fully satisfied in us who are not walking according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

⁵ To be sure, those who are in harmony with the sinful flesh think about things the way the sinful flesh does, and those in harmony with the Spirit think about things the way the Spirit does. ⁶ Now, the way the sinful flesh thinks results in death, but the way the Spirit thinks results in life and peace. ⁷ For the mind-set of the sinful flesh is hostile to God, since it does not submit to God's law, and in fact, it cannot. ⁸ Those who are in the sinful flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the sinful flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed God's Spirit lives in you. And if someone does not have the Spirit of Christ, that person does not belong to Christ. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, but your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

VICTORY SONG OF THE DAY

Text: #202cw TUNE: #263cw

- 1 If God had not been on our side and had not come to aid us,
Our foes with all their pow'r and pride would surely have dismayed us,
For we, His flock, would have to fear the devil's wolves, both far and near,
Who rise in might against us.
- 2 Their furious wrath, did God permit, would surely have consumed us
And as a deep and yawning pit with life and limb entombed us.
A hellish storm would o'er us roll from Satan, who desires our soul
And seeks to overwhelm us.
- 3 Blest be the LORD, who foiled their threat that they could not devour us.
Our souls, like birds, escaped their net; they could not overpow'r us.
The snare is broken—we are free! Our Helper and our Strength is He
Who made the earth and heavens.

INSTRUCTION FROM GOD'S WORD

Ephesians 6:12

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

OFFERINGS

Dear friends of Good Shepherd, during this extraordinary time, we are providing baskets by the doors as you leave to receive your gifts and offerings. In love, God freely gives us all; God's people respond in thanks and freely return gifts to Him. We thank our Lord, and we thank you, for your gifts for His use. If you are visiting and are moved to give a gift, thank you.

Here at Good Shepherd we practice what is called close communion, which means we ask that only those who are members of Good Shepherd, or another church within our fellowship, come and receive the Lord's Supper. If you are visiting to-day and will not be taking the Lord's Supper, rest assured your sins are forgiven through faith in Christ Jesus. There is nothing we want more than for you to receive communion with us in the future. If you speak to one of our pastors after the service, we can talk with you about what is involved with becoming a member here at Good Shepherd.



PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

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 and ever. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER & THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Dear Father in heaven, You have prepared this feast of pardon and peace through the redemption that came by Your Son. Help us to see and confess our sin clearly and trust the forgiveness Jesus freely gives. With joy we accept Your invitation to come to Your table. Amen.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is My blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

SONGS TO USE DURING DISTRIBUTION #113, 125, 377

BLESSING | PARTING SONG: *STAND UP! STAND UP FOR JESUS!* 474CW

There are many avenues to become a member here at Good Shepherd.

- A) Profession of unity in the Faith or peaceful Release from another Christian congregation
- B) Transfer from another W/ELS congregation
- C) A Bible Information Class tailored to your needs.

One of our pastors would gladly help you discover which road may be best traveled for you. Blessings on your journey with God's people into God's Word!





WELCOME TO GOOD SHEPHERD!

CARE ABOUT ONE ANOTHER IN CHRIST

The individuals listed below would be very thankful to receive an encouraging card from you or your family. Also, if you know of someone who would like to be added to our current prayer list please call the church office at 715-325-3355 or one of our pastors. Thank You!

Rose & Tom Adams Erik & Leah Alair (1st yr Seminary student)	Donna Marks, Jerry's wife Jon Mittelsteadt	ONLINE FAMILY OF FAITH
Ron & Diane Bannerman Dale Brahmsteadt Julie Bunt Roger Beyer	Dr. Roger Newman Sam & Becky Piper Violet Powell Elliot Przybylski (infant son of Stacey Berdan and Andrew Przybylski)	Dr. Cheli & DeeDee Marichal & Family –Puerto Rico, FL Dyde in France Family of Jennifer Koniar Forrest & Elizabeth in CA
Pauline Cattanach Mary Cline Elaine Craig Dave & Jill	Cassie Ross (Geneva K's granddaughter teaching in Malawi Pat & Al Rozelle	Pat Hunziker in Indiana Janet in CA Kristin in USA Markka, Joanne Farrington's daughter
Mandy Ehlke John Estlund	Ryan, Betty Havlik's grandson Duane & Jackie Ryun	Melissa in England Pastor Nathan Schulte in Ecuador
Family of Sharon Baur Family of Eugene Sigmund (Tanya Rech's father)	Sarah Allerdig's Grandma Alberta Schroeder David Seidler	Pastor Philip & Kathryn Strackbein in Ecuador
Pastor Robert Hartman Connie Heitl Karen Heiman Scott Heiman & Family Ben Holberg	Lorna Skicki Loren Tullberg Pastor Mike Wolff	Rev.Dr.Karl & Karen Kuenzel- in Ecuador Dan Raney in IL
Katie & Lily Baby Oliver Kizewski	Elton Zuege	Shannon Straszewski MD, (Rev. Dr. Kuenzel's niece) Robert in Ecuador
Elmer Loechler		Gloria Walters in New York

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POSTPONED

PALM SUNDAY
PIE and EASTER TREATS SALE!

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

POSTPONED

Save the Date!

April 18, 2020 Spring LWMS Rally

*of the
Wisconsin River Valley Circuit*

Keynote Speaker Rev. Keith Free

*Administrator of the Board for Home Missions and
former Pastor of Divine Word congregation in Plover, WI*

Please look for more details in early March or ask your LWMS Reporter at any time.

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church and School, Wisconsin Rapids, WI
1GoodShepherd.org 1goodshepherd@gmail.com



The sermon series for our
Lenten Wednesday midweek
evening services
at 7:00 pm
will focus on the six main parts of
Luther's Small Catechism.
Pastor Lucas Proeber from St. Paul's will
join Pastor John and Pastor Tullberg in
this unique series which continues on
Wednesday, March 25

Our Catechism is a rich resource for knowing God more deeply. It is also tremendously practical in teaching us how Christians live knowing Christ paid for our sins by His blood shed on the cross.



The Evangelism Committee needs your help!

This Saturday, March 28 at 9:00 a.m. we are meeting at church
to go out into our community and distribute door hangers.

We are inviting our neighbors to our Easter Sunday
worship services, breakfast and egg hunt.

Speak with Pastor John (715-451-3694) if you have any questions!
Thanks!

OUR WEEK WITH JESUS AT A GLANCE

3/22 SUNDAY 9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion
10:15 am Bible Study

3/23 Mon 11:00 am "Coffee with Christ"– From the Ground Up Coffee House Downtown WR

3/25 Wed 7:00 pm Lenten Worship
No Lenten Meal

3/28 Sat 9:00 am Easter Outreach

3/29 SUNDAY 9:00 am Worship
10:15 am Bible Study

Upcoming Events

3/23-3/27 Spring Break God Shepherd School

3/28 Sat 9:00 am Easter Outreach

4/5 Sun 9:00 am Palm Sunday Worship with Holy Communion

4/9 & 4/10 10:30 am & 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday & Good Friday
with Holy Communion

4/12 7:00 am Easter Son-Rise Worship

9:00 am Easter Festival Worship

Next Week's Sermon Focus:

"The Warrior Rejected by Many Followers"

Join us –online–each **Sunday** as
Pastor Tullberg and Pastor John share sermons
focusing on an aspect of our Savior-warrior as
He is promised to us, fights our enemies for us,
and triumphs over them for us.



March 1 thru Easter Sunday

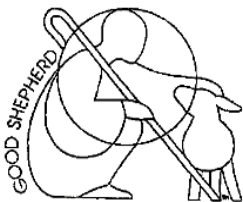
The Ten Commandments



BIBLE BASICS FOR THE FAMILY

In 1527 Dr. Martin Luther wrote the small catechism, It is a basic summary of the six key teachings in the Bible. These chief parts hold the central teachings of Christianity.

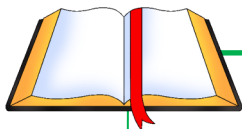
- 1. The Ten Commandments 2. The Apostle's Creed 3. The Lord's Prayer
4. Baptism 5. Confession and Absolution 6. The Lord's Supper**



GOOD SHEPHERD

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, USA, 54494

Educator-Principal Donna Tullberg
Pastors: John Melke, Paul A.Tullberg



BIBLE BASICS FOR THE FAMILY

THE
BIBLE IS
GOD'S
WORD

What is the Bible?

The Bible is the Word of God. God is holy and cannot lie, His Word is free from errors and untruths.

The "Bible" is a word that means "book".

The first **thirty-nine books** look forward to the Promised Savior Jesus Christ. This is the **Old Testament**.

The next **twenty-seven** books look back to Jesus Christ, crucified and risen from the dead. This is the **New Testament**.

The Bible is God's words to people: absolute truth, reliable, holy, infallible, without error, no unkept promises.

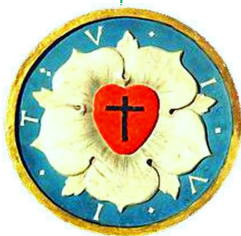
K-4 The Scripture cannot be broken. –John 10:35

Your Word is Truth. -John 17:17

5-6 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope. –Romans 15:4

7-8 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness - 2 Timothy 3:16

Level I ... when you received God's word that you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it truly is, the word of God, which also is at work in you who believe.—1 Thessalonians 2:13



For more information about this:

Luther's Small Catechism - pp. 26-38, questions 1-18

THE LORD WILL ANSWER - pp. 34-41; p. 181

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FAMILY DEVOTION

BIBLE READINGS

Exodus 34:6-7; Titus 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 2:8-13; 2 Peter 1:21

People in this world have many different ways of looking at life. Our days are marked with the unreal, the virtual reality, the pretend. Right to Jesus' face, Governor Pilate mocked such a thing as absolute truth. He

FALSE
true

trusted Roman Power. Sadly, many continue such pretend questions like, "What is truth?" They pretend they want to know. But Jesus has always been a plain talker. Pretend religious-types do not care to listen to Jesus who said, "**I AM the Way, the Truth, and the**

Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6)

The Almighty Living God cannot lie. His Word is without error. For 1500 years the Holy Spirit revealed and preserved God's Word through about 40 writers. Apart from God and His holy Word, there is no other eternally reliable authority. God's Word alone has passed the test of time.

Old ways in science, medicine and even politics are tossed aside in favor of ever-new findings. Ever-changing textbooks must be updated. The cycle continues. A basic tenet of science-inquiry is that nothing is for certain. My sinful nature wants to treat God's Bible like a class text-book,

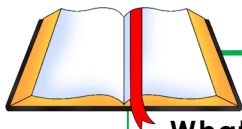
My culture whines for updates to "out-dated morality;" doubts and fears attack my faith. Jesus took His last suffering breath on the cross for all such sin. Together with the Easter-morning disciples, I catch my breath at Jesus' power and love, never changing, to bless me from above. Wow!

PLANNED PRAYER PATTERN FOR WORSHIP LIFE

A.C.T.S.

ADORE GOD **C**ONFESS SINS **T**HANKS-GIVING **S**UPPLICATION FOR OTHERS AND MYSELF

A Lord God, You alone are holy and right in all You do. **C** I am so sorry for quickly and easily putting other things and people above You and Your Word. **T** Thank You for Your holy Bible. **S** Please keep Your Word going strong in my life. Do not let me wander away from You. Use me to share with others the Gospel of Jesus Christ, my Savior and theirs.



BIBLE BASICS FOR THE FAMILY

THE
TWO
MAIN
TEACH-
INGS
OF THE
BIBLE.

What are the two main teachings (doctrines) of the Bible?

The "**LAW**" is the **God-standard of holiness**; it always accuses the sinner for failures to live up to God's requirements and demands justice for rebellion.

The "**GOSPEL**" is the "**Good News**", **God declares the forgiveness of all sins**. Christ died for sinners; and all whom the Father draws to believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior will be saved.

Based on those doctrines, remain faithful to God's Word, restored through His servant, Dr. Martin Luther. HOLY SCRIPTURE alone is the authority for faith and life. Doctrines and moral positions do not change from decade to decade.

God's gift of salvation is ours by FAITH alone; All glory belongs to God, from beginning to end.

K-4

Throughout the world, this Good News is bringing blessings and is spreading. -Colossians 1:6

5-6

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves... -Ephesians 2:8

7-8

...it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2:9)

Level I

How from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. – 2 Timothy 3:15



For more information about this:

Luther's Small Catechism - pp. 117-122, questions 111-117

THE LORD WILL ANSWER - pp. 37-43

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FAMILY DEVOTION

BIBLE READINGS

2 Timothy 3:14-16; Hebrews 1:1-2; Ephesians 2:8-9

Continue. God's gracious Reformation continues in 3 principles: **GRACE ALONE**, **FAITH ALONE** and **SCRIPTURE ALONE**. Dr. Luther was teaching these Words of God: salvation is God's gift.



Like Martin Luther, I hold to truth that A) the Bible is God's Word; B) God's eternal Son fully completed my salvation; C) God's gift of joyful confidence, faith, was created in me by His Word. And God's gifts are not just for me, but are intended for all who trust His word.

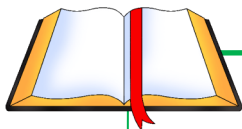
Faith and love continue because Christians know what is waiting for us in heaven—the hope we have had since we first heard the true message. This is the Good News that was announced by angels to Bethlehem shepherds. Throughout the world, this Good News is bringing blessings and is spreading. And that's what has been happening with you since the first time you heard it and understood the truth about God's grace. Colossians 1:6

PLANNED PRAYER PATTERN FOR WORSHIP LIFE

A.C.T.S.

ADORE GOD **C**ONFESS SINS **T**HANKSGIVING **S**UPPLICATION FOR OTHERS AND MYSELF

A Lord God, You keep Your Word. **C** I am so sorry I doubt You so often. **T** Thank You for Your mercies in Your eternal Son Jesus Christ. **S** Keep my heart in the joy of Christ's birth every day; use me to spread the wonder of Jesus Christ's resurrection from death with every breath You grant me.



BIBLE BASICS FOR THE FAMILY

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

K-1

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

K-1

We should fear, love and trust in God above all things.

2-3

Hear O Israel, the LORD, our God, the LORD is one. – Deut. 6:4

4-5

There is no God but one. –1 Cor. 8:4

5-6

I Am the LORD; that is My Name! I will not give My glory to another or My praise to idols. –Is. 42:8

7-8

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.–Ps. 14:1

Level II

To fear the LORD is to hate evil. –Prov. 8:13

It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man. –Ps. 118:8



For more information about this:

Luther's Small Catechism - pp. 40-58, questions 20-38

THE LORD WILL ANSWER - pp. 48-57

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FAMILY DEVOTION

BIBLE READINGS

Genesis 11:1-9; Luke 16:19-31

Adam and Eve thought the devil's idea about lifting themselves up to God-status was good.

The rebellious people of Babel thought fame and power were more important than obeying God. The rich man put good eating and fine clothes ahead of God.

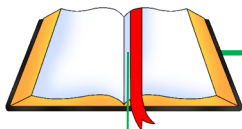
Do I ever think my popularity or promotions are more important than God? Do I ever avoid what God wants me to do because it might cost me too much time or people might think I am weird? What other ways might keep me from putting God first?

I rejoice that Jesus put His Father's will first and saved me; that Christ died on the cross for my sake, and not just for me! —for the whole world. All sin was forgiven for Jesus was raised from the dead. I have God's Word on it: Jesus has already worked my salvation for me.



PLANNED PRAYER PATTERN FOR WORSHIP LIFE P.A.T.H. - Praise - Apology - Thanks - Help

Praise God for His love in Jesus Christ. **Apologize** for putting other ideas, people and activities above God's place in my life **Thank** God for keeping me as His child and strengthening me in His love **HELP** me to fear and trust Him above all things and help others in true and godly worship of Jesus Christ throughout the world.



BIBLE BASICS FOR THE FAMILY

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

K-1 You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

What does this mean?

K-1 We should fear and love God that we do not use His name to curse, swear, lie or deceive, or use witchcraft, but call upon God's name in every trouble, pray, praise and give thanks.

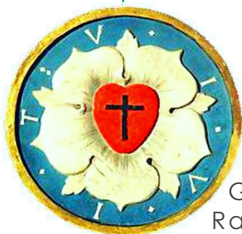
2-3 Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor Me. –Psalm 50:15

4-5 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." This is what you are to say to the Israelites: "I AM has sent me to you." –Exodus 3:14

6-7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow His precepts have good understanding. To Him belongs eternal praise. –Psalm 111:10

8 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities. –Romans 13:1
Do not swear falsely by My name and so profane the name of your God. I AM the Lord. –Leviticus 19:12

Level I Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I AM the Lord your God. –Leviticus 19:31



For more information about this:

Luther's Small Catechism - pp. 53-58, questions 39-43

THE LORD WILL ANSWER - pp. 58-77

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FAMILY DEVOTION

BIBLE READINGS

Psalms 8, Philippians 4:9-11

Names identify people and positions. When we use someone's name, we think of that person's character and reputation. For example, discuss what you know about the character and reputation of the following names: George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Judas Iscariot, Mary Magdalene, Martin Luther, your parents and grandparents, friends and neighbors.



How I use a name may either harm or honor that reputation. When people curse, lie, swear falsely, or practice witchcraft, they steal God's identity. They replace God with their own sinful ideas to their harm.

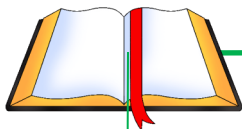
Instead God reveals that I honor His Name by going to Him in prayer. This demonstrates I am based in reality. I find mercy and aid in God alone. I reveal God's true identity to others by sharing the truth: God created everything with His Word; God daily provides for all by the power of His Word; I identify with and support the spread of the Gospel that God gave to all people through Jesus Christ.

On the cross, Jesus shed His blood for each individual sinner. Whoever repents and believes in Jesus Christ will be saved. I have God's reputation on that, so I know I can depend on Him not to fail me.

PLANNED PRAYER PATTERN FOR WORSHIP LIFE

P.A.T.H. - Praise - Apology - Thanks - Help

Praise God for there is no other as great and wonderful as You. **Apologize** for pretending like God is not the all-powerful and all wise Creator of all that is, seen and unseen. **Thank** God for His gift of new life given to me in Jesus Christ. **HELP** me use Your Name in ways that respect, honor and glorify You. Help me in Jesus Christ to reveal Your Word to more people.



BIBLE BASICS FOR THE FAMILY

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

K-1

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean?

K-1

We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and his word but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it.

2-3

Blessed rather are those who hear the Word of God and obey it. –Luke 11:28

4-5

He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God. –John 8:47

5-6

Jesus said, "He who listens to you listens to Me; he who rejects you rejects Me; but he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me." –Luke 10:16

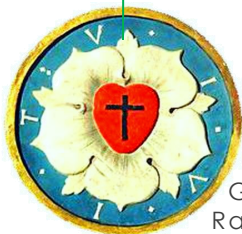
7-8

I love the house where You live, O Lord, the place where Your glory dwells. –Psalm 26:8

This is the one I esteem; he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at My Word. –Isaiah 66:2

Level I

Do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath Day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. –Colossians 2:16-17



For more information about this:

Luther's Small Catechism - pp. 59-67, questions 44-50

THE LORD WILL ANSWER - pp. 87-95

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FAMILY DEVOTION

BIBLE READINGS

Exodus 20:8-11

'Up to your room right now! It's a time out for you, young man!' Sternly, mom scolded son "A". He had to stop his video game. He had to take a time-out by himself, away from blessings; his defiance would stop.

Son "B" had worked his job 10 straight days without a day off. He was really hoping for a little time-out. He knew there was more to life than just working. So he was taking some time off at the cabin his father owned.

When God created the universe, He also created a Time-Out day, a time of rest. But it was not to be a time of punishment endured each week! God's Worship Day is a time to remember His Word and works, to relax and receive blessings God has given.

God's Worship Days are designed to restore and renew us when He gathers us together to worship. God gave His Sabbath for us to be refreshed by His Word and "let tomorrow worry about itself." (Mt. 6:34)

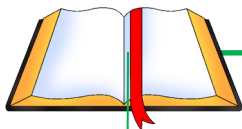
This week, and every week from now on, let's look forward to the day of rest God gave us, and the peace we have because of Christ's work for us.



PLANNED PRAYER PATTERN FOR WORSHIP LIFE

P.A.T.H. - Praise - Apology - Thanks - Help

Praise God for His Time-Out day, the blessing of His Word, and the blessing of pastors to preach that Word. **Apologize** for putting aside God and listening to lies that keep me from resting in God's grace **Thank** God for blessing of pastors to preach God's Word. **HELP** me to fight temptations to dishonor His Word. Help others get spiritual rest in Jesus the Savior.



BIBLE BASICS FOR THE FAMILY

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT

K-1

Honor your father and mother, that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.

What does this mean?

K-1

We should fear and love God that we do not dishonor or anger our parents and others in authority, but honor, serve and obey them, and give them love and respect.

2-3

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the LORD. –Colossians 3:20

4-5

These should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. –1 Timothy 5:4

5-6

We must obey God rather than men. –Acts 5:29

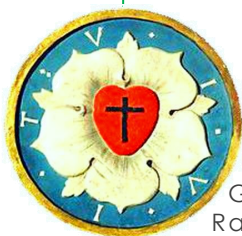
7-8

The eye that mocks a father, that scorns obedience to a mother, will be pecked out by the ravens of the valley, will be eaten by the vultures. –Proverbs 30:17

Level I

Love your neighbor as yourself. –Matthew 22:39

“Honor your father and your mother”–which is the first commandment with a promise– “that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” –Eph. 6:2-3



For more information about this:

Luther's Small Catechism - pp. 68-74, questions 51-59

THE LORD WILL ANSWER - pp. 100-106

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FAMILY DEVOTION

BIBLE READINGS

Romans 13:1-7

As a child, I was a rebel. I expressed my independence by being contrary to those in authority over me. I did not want to admit that I needed to have policeman to keep crooks away. I did not want to admit that I needed teachers to instruct me in knowledge I lacked. I did not want to admit that I needed parents to love and support, guard and protect me.

I am still that child. Like you, I was born wanting to be independent of God, free of all rules to help any other. By our nature we children will grow up to sinfully push away parents, government, and any-and-all-others who can help us. Why? It's all about me, me, me. Some even keep trying to push God away. And why is that? Believe it or not, some actually think that they can get into God's heaven without God!

But reality pops my little pretend balloons of self-centeredness. I cannot do it without God. I would still be lost in my sin were it not for what God has done for me and all people in Christ Jesus. The forgiveness I have by faith in Christ has brought me into God's family. I am gifted, through God's authorities, with blessings my heavenly Father wants to give me.

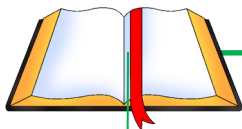
So let us honor these authorities for the sake of God who has placed them over us. Let us thank Jesus for His mercies, and thank authorities He created and placed to bless us and those around us.

PLANNED PRAYER PATTERN FOR WORSHIP LIFE

P.A.T.H. - Praise - Apology - Thanks - Help

Praise God for those in authority over me. **Apologize** for dishonoring God's authority over me in home, church and society. **Thank** God for blessing me with familial, political and spiritual authorities. **HELP** me accept authority as an extension of God's care for me. Help give wisdom to the various leaders in my life that I may all benefit from and enjoy physical peace and well-being.





BIBLE BASICS FOR THE FAMILY

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not murder.

What does this mean?

K-1

K-1

We should fear and love God that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and be-friend him in every bodily need.

2-3

Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer. –1 John 3:15

4-5

Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. –Matt. 5:44

5-6

Whosoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man. –Gen. 9:6

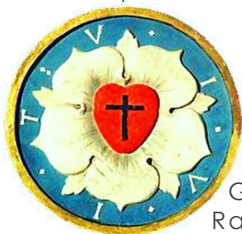
7-8

Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. –Rom. 12:19

Level I

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy...Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. –Matt. 5:7, 9

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. –Eph. 4:32



For more information about this:

Luther's Small Catechism - pp. 75-80, questions 60-65

THE LORD WILL ANSWER - pp. 107-114

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FAMILY DEVOTION

BIBLE READINGS

Genesis 4:6-7, Matthew 5:21-22

Have you ever been so angry that you did something you knew was wrong? Jesus said that being angry with someone like that is just as bad as killing them.



It's like the Lord's warning when He tells Cain "sin is crouching at the door." Cain ignored God, obeyed his angry feelings and then killed his own brother. Our anger with others can lead us to play God and say, "If I were God, I wouldn't waste my time on him!"

Thankfully, God never said that. In His love, He sent Jesus to be killed for us. So when we see those things about others that make us angry, we are to lift up our eyes and look at Jesus's cross.

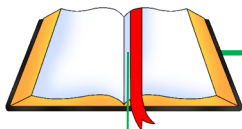
When we look with the eyes of holy faith, we see every annoying sin nailed to the cross in Christ. Christ has already killed the sin in that person who is irritating us. He paid for it. The sin done is owned by Jesus Christ. I have no right to it anymore. It belongs to Jesus!

Why kill someone with my anger? Consider the great wonder: my neighbor is a soul for whom Christ already died! I ask God the Holy Spirit to strengthen me look way beyond the irritation and anger. I will focus on Christ crucified for all people, for my sins and yours too.

PLANNED PRAYER PATTERN FOR WORSHIP LIFE

P.A.T.H. - Praise - Apology - Thanks - Help

Praise God for His Word that reveals how deadly my own feelings can be. **Apologize** for not listening to the warning about sin that crouches in my heart, ready to leap in a moment of anger. **Thank** God for His Holy Spirit, His patience and kindness displayed in Jesus life, death and resurrection. **HELP** me control my feelings of anger. Help me be a person of God-peace in a world filled with hatred toward Jesus and His saving Word.



BIBLE BASICS FOR THE FAMILY

THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean?

K-1

K-1

We should fear and love God that we lead a pure and decent life in words and actions, and that husband and wife love and honor each other.

2-3

Keep yourself **pure**. –1 Tim. 5:22

4-5

Flee the evil desires of youth, and **pursue** righteousness, faith, love and **peace**. –2 Tim. 2:22

5-6

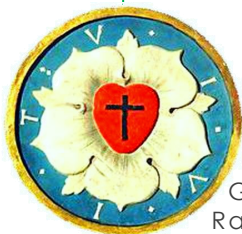
What **God has joined together**, let man not separate. –Matt. 19:6

7-8

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for **building others up** according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. –Eph. 4:29

Level I

Flee from sexual **immorality**. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? **You are not your own**; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. –1 Cor. 6:18-20



For more information about this:

Luther's Small Catechism - pp. 81-90, questions 66-77

THE LORD WILL ANSWER - pp. 143-151

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FAMILY DEVOTION

BIBLE READINGS

Genesis 2:18-24

People claim God is wrong, again.. Some claim there is no difference between male & female, boys & girls. Others say marriage is so out-of-date, and so limiting! *So, let's get back to the Word; what does God say?*

God revealed He created people as male and female. God intended to make us different, like two pieces of an awesome jigsaw puzzle: different, yet fit together perfectly. God's awesome original design was to bless us, not limit us. Sin harms and hinders God's design for love.

God's design is for people to complement one another. God is the one who united Adam and Eve in marriage. Remember? God gave them the planet as a wedding gift! Together God blessed this first family. God's gifts? Breathtaking indeed!

But rebels keep foaming at the mouth that somehow God's word is somehow bad, wrong, out of date, limiting. Such anti-god reasoning is like thinking I can plug a toaster into a water faucet and expect it to make a book. Dumb. Foolish. Dangerous. What would I be thinking?! Abusing or misusing God's gifts hurts and hinders relationships with others. This harm and sadness is not what God intended.

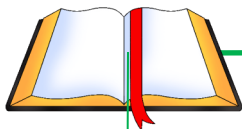
God's Holy Spirit moves God's children to love, respect, and honor each other the way God intended; to forgive others with the mercy Christ has given us. This is how God lifts His families of faith. Let us pray that we properly keep and bless God's gift of our differences, as God intended.

PLANNED PRAYER PATTERN FOR WORSHIP LIFE

P.A.T.H. - Praise - Apology - Thanks - Help

Praise Dear heavenly Father, You have made us all different. What a great idea. **Apology** I often cannot see Your plan. I live among people who dishonor Your idea. Yet You created man and woman as a blessing for all people. **Thank** You for making me— male or female, boy or girl, man or woman. Thank You for creating and blessing families. **HELP** me realize in my own family a small portion of the love and care You daily show me in Christ Jesus my Savior. Help others see Jesus at work in how my family lives.





BIBLE BASICS FOR THE FAMILY

THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not steal.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not take our neighbor's money or property or get it by dishonest dealing, but help him to improve and protect his property and means of income.

K-1

K-1

2-3

In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you. –Matt. 7:12

4-5

He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. –Eph: 4:28

5-6

If a man will not work, he shall not eat. –2 Thess. 3:10

7-8

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. –Phil. 2:4

Level I

If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? –1 John 3:17

Do not forget to do good, and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. –Heb. 13:16



For more information about this:

Luther's Small Catechism - pp. 91-96, questions 78-83

THE LORD WILL ANSWER - pp. 152-153

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FAMILY DEVOTION

BIBLE READINGS

Exodus 22:1-14; Malachi 3:6-12; Ephesians 4:17-28

When I think about it, there are quite a few ways in which people steal even steal from God. The sneakiest thing is the ongoing attempt to steal away God's word from us.

It is very difficult to confess with my heart that I have stolen from others. Have I kept something with the thought to myself, "It's their loss and my gain?" When I was trying to sell something, did I ever lie about it to get more money? Do I steal by not giving back to God?

In this single commandment, passively letting sin happen (omission) and actively stealing (commission) make each of us a thief. I may not be trusting in God to provide for my needs. (I fail to trust). Or I may not be using the skills and abilities He has given me to work. (I actively disobey). Or both, right?

The commandments reveal God's holiness; our sinfulness. Am I honest? Do I know I need a Savior who has kept this command for me; One who took the punishment for me and my thievery? Thanks be to God for sending Jesus.

Christ Jesus took the death-sentence for our sin; Christ Jesus forgives all who believe in Him. Let us now be generous in our giving, our time, our abilities. Or as Jesus Christ said, *"Go and sin no more."*

PLANNED PRAYER PATTERN FOR WORSHIP LIFE

P.A.T.H. - Praise - Apology - Thanks - Help

Praise Dear Heavenly Father, Your love and forgiveness in Jesus Christ is generous beyond comparison! **Apology** I am sorry I am stingy and discontent; I am sorry I have stolen from other people and stolen from You.

Thank You for continuing Your generosity to me and others. **HELP** me trust that You will provide for my every need. Help me and others to trust and thank You for all Your goodness every day!

Satan's Target:

Your mind

Satan's Weapon:

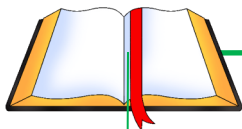
Lies

Satan's Purpose:

To make you ignorant of God's will

Your Defense:

"The inspired Word of God !!!"



BIBLE BASICS FOR THE FAMILY

THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

K-1

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean?

K-1

We should fear and love God that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him or give him a bad name, but defend him, speak well of him, and take his words and actions in the kindest possible way.

2-3

Brothers, do not slander one another. –James 4:11

4-5

“Do not plot evil against your neighbor, and do not love to swear falsely. I hate all this,” declares the Lord. –Zech. 8:17

5-6

A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who pours out lies will not go free. –Prov. 19:5

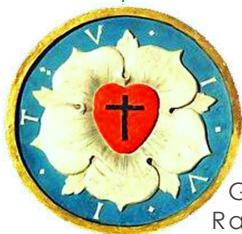
7-8

Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. –Eph. 4:25

Level I

A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret. –Prov. 11:13

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy. –Prov. 31:8-9



For more information about this:

Luther's Small Catechism - pp. 97-102, questions 84-90

THE LORD WILL ANSWER - pp. 154-156

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FAMILY DEVOTION

BIBLE READINGS

Psalm 141:3-4

Words are **powerful** things. If I speak a word in anger or in spite, I cannot take it back. Like wisps and curls of smoke that rise from a fire, I **cannot control where** words go. Like a spark snatched by the wind and starting a forest fire, I cannot control the damage of words that come out of my mouth.

A pastor once told his students: "Take these feathers; scatter the feathers all around the parking lot. Then come back for class." When they came for class, the pastor added, "First, go back and collect all of your feathers." The students protested, "Can't do it! It is too windy!" "In the same way, I cannot completely undo what my words have done."

Here God lumps all of us together, for all of us like sheep have gone astray, each one of us has gone our own wicked way. My words go far beyond where I think they go. People hear the manner, the tone and the words I speak. They begin to draw conclusions. Only the power of the forgiveness of God, written in the ink of Jesus' life-blood, can erase any wicked words I have spoken.

Only God, by the power of His Holy Spirit, can keep my words truthful and helpful. Only God's words can heal the hurts my words have caused.

So I want my words to reflect my Savior Jesus Christ. I pray the Lord God to guard my lips from evil speech. I pray the He gives me opportunities to speak His holy Gospel.

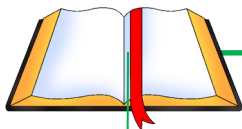


PLANNED PRAYER PATTERN FOR WORSHIP LIFE

P.A.T.H. - Praise - Apology - Thanks - Help

PRAISE O God, my Creator-Redeemer, You alone are worthy of honor.

APOLOGY I am sorry I have spoken falsely and not defended the reputation of others You have created. **THANKS** Lord, You deserve godly thanks as Your Word comes out of my heart and lips. **HELP** me use Your gift of a good name to share Your precious Gospel with others in Jesus' name. Help me by continuing to be the Guard and Protector of my reputation.



BIBLE BASICS FOR THE FAMILY

THE NINTH COMMANDMENT

K-1

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean?

K-1

We should fear and love God that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or obtain it by a show of right, but do all we can to help him keep it.

2-3

You, my brothers, were called to be free. Do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. –Gal. 5:13

4-5

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you.” –Heb. 13:5

5-6

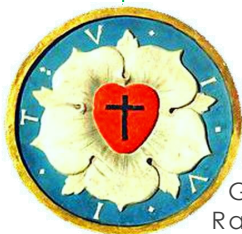
But godliness with contentment is great gain. –1 Tim. 6:6

7-8

Woe to those who plan iniquity...They covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them. They defraud a man of his home, a fellowman of his inheritance. –Micah 2:1-2

Level I

But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. – 1 Tim. 6:8-10



For more information about this:

Luther's Small Catechism - pp. 103-108, questions 91-96

THE LORD WILL ANSWER - - pp. 157-158

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FAMILY DEVOTION

BIBLE READINGS

Timothy 6:6-12

Pokemon. Power Rangers. Cabbage Patch Kids. Barbies. Sizzling hot toy-trends of recent history. Most children walking through a toy store would try to convince their parents that they just absolutely, positively HAD to have it. Once, a little boy even tried to convince his parents that if they did not buy him a certain toy, he would die of shame.

They didn't; he didn't.

God has blessed us with so many gifts. The LORD God wants us to be happy with what we have. Is it wrong to desire to better our lives? to improve our possessions and income? Of course not. However, we need training.



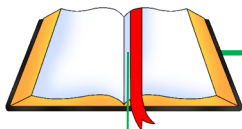
But sinful desires can blind me to the Divine Giver, my Lord, who gives all these blessings. Once I go down that dark path, such a sinful desire can confuse the wants that I have with the needs I face.

My sinful desires try to pull the wool over my eyes, to deprive my neighbor of what my neighbor has ("If I can't have it, neither should he!"). My sinful desires scream to be fulfilled, yet my thanks to God are often a wimpy whimper. God has washed me clean of my sin; set me to live a life of holiness in His family. That is my first priority, my target: to live my life as one of His redeemed children.

PLANNED PRAYER PATTERN FOR WORSHIP LIFE

P.A.T.H. - Praise - Apology - Thanks - Help

Praise You open Your hand, O LORD, and provide for every man and every beast. **Apology** I am sorry I always want more than I need. I am sorry my sinful desires have hidden You from my heart so often. **Thank** You for making me Your instrument to help my neighbors in keeping the blessings You have bestowed on them. **HELP** put to death my Old Adam that desires more than I can have. Help me be the blessing for others that You have intended.



BIBLE BASICS FOR THE FAMILY

THE TENTH COMMANDMENT

K-1

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, workers, animals, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What does this mean?

K-1

We should fear and love God that we do not force or entice away our neighbor's spouse, workers or animals, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

2-3

Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart. –Ps. 37:4

4-5

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed, which is idolatry. –Col. 3:5

5-6

Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions. –Luke 12:15

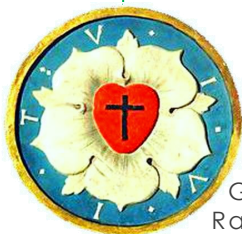
Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire is conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. –James 1:14-15

7-8

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praise-worthy – think about such things. –Phil. 4:8

Level I

Direct me in the path of Your commands, for there I find delight. Turn my heart toward Your statutes and not toward selfish gain. –Ps. 119:35-36



For more information about this:

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FAMILY DEVOTION

BIBLE READINGS

1 Samuel 12:1-14

David was in trouble. He had done wrong. He sinfully lusted after a

beautiful woman. But there was an additional complication. This lust object of his was already married! But King David gave in to his sinful desires.

David misused his position; he soiled his God-given authority. David had Bathsheba's husband "accidentally" killed. King David set himself up as knowing what

was best for himself. He rebelled against such a fun-limiting God. Bad decisions led to bad consequences for himself, his family and many others.

When I sin against the Tenth Commandment, I am like foolish David, setting myself up in place of, and more important than, the living God. I am saying that God's plan for life is not as good as my plan. Actually such arrogant thoughts claim God does not know what He is doing. Yet surprisingly, when I repent of these "thought-sins", God forgives, cleanses, restores me, for Jesus' sake.

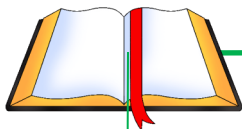
May the Holy Spirit of the Lord our God reveal His Word. Keep looking to the Light of God's word. Let us see God's Sacrifice, placed in a manger, nailed to a cross, echoed from the empty Easter tomb: **Christ crucified and risen for me!**



PLANNED PRAYER PATTERN FOR WORSHIP LIFE

P.A.T.H. - Praise - Apology - Thanks - Help

Praise Oh heavenly Father, You have gifted me with everything **Apology** Far too often I act like You do not know what You are doing. I am sorry. I am sorry. **Thanks** Thank You for Word to guard my heart and mind. Thank You for my Savior Jesus Christ **HELP** Help me to fear and love You over my own plans and ideas. Let me see and do Your will; let me encourage others to bless and be blessed according to Your plans.



BIBLE BASICS FOR THE FAMILY

THE CONCLUSION

K-1 What does God say about all these commandments?
He says, "I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments."

What does this mean?

4-5 **God threatens to punish all who transgress these commandments. Therefore we should fear His anger and not disobey what He commands.**

5-6 **But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore we should love and trust in Him, and gladly obey what He commands.**

4-5 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags. –Isaiah 64:6

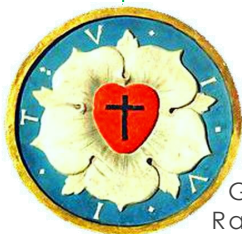
5-6 There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins. –Ecclesiastes 7:20

7-8 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. –James 2:10

Clearly no one is justified before God by the Law, because, "The righteous will live by faith." –Galatians 3:11

Level I

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law by becoming a curse for us. –Galatians 3:13



For more information about this:

Luther's Small Catechism - pp. 109-116, questions 97-110

THE LORD WILL ANSWER - pp. 161-165

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FAMILY DEVOTION

BIBLE READINGS

Exodus 20:1-21



God is not kidding when it comes to keeping His commandments. God demands more than “just doing our best.” God rightfully expects perfect obedience from His creation. God hates sin; no rebellion is allowed.

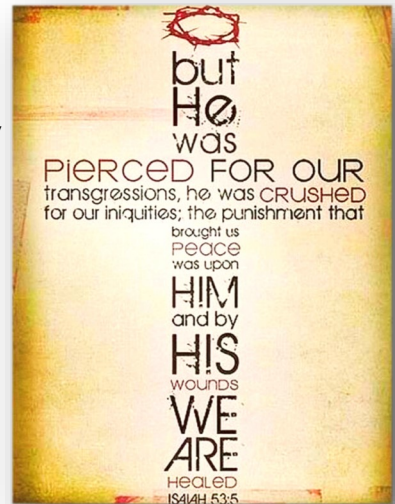
The Bible states, “**whoever keeps the whole Law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it...**” (James 2:10) It's like one link in a chain breaking. The chain is useless, snapped and unable to do its job. Eve and Adam took one tiny bite of crisp fresh forbidden fruit; all creation for all time was hellishly destroyed.

Sin happens. I divorce myself from God. Dirty, ugly, evil, filthy sin makes me unclean. Sin always separates me from the Holy and Just God. God must punish all sinners, Law-breakers and Law-benders. That leaves all of us correctly and rightly in a heap of trouble.

Thanks be to God, He sent Jesus who took my punishment for bending and breaking God's Law. In Jesus I am showered with His forgiving mercies.

Jesus' life-blood cleanses me of all sin. I have faith and am thankful for God's undeserved grace in Christ.

So now I want to keep His commandments out of love and deep respect for Him. The Holy Spirit uses His Holy Scriptures to reveal God's holy will, to direct me, enable me, forgive me and cleanse me as now I gladly do what God commands.



PLANNED PRAYER PATTERN FOR WORSHIP LIFE

P.A.T.H. - Praise - Apology - Thanks - Help

Praise God, You are holy! **Apology** I am so sorry I fail You. **Thanks** Thank You for Your forgiving grace and mercy in Jesus Christ. **HELP** Use Your Holy Word to fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Increase my joy in keep Your commands. In Jesus, my Savior, I ask. Amen.

A flower with five petals represents the rose on Luther's Family Crest. Within each petal is a golden heart (God's love) with symbols of five of the six chief parts of Luther's Small Catechism: 1 The **Ten Commandments**, 2 The **Creed**, 3 **Holy Baptism**, 4 **Holy Communion**, 5 The **Lord's Prayer**, and 6 **The Ministry of the Keys and Confession**.



Between the petals are blue flowering waters each marked with a **CHI (X) RHO (P)** These are the first two Greek letters in the Greek word for Christ. The elongated form of the **CHI-RHO** symbol suggests 2 different items: 1) a **Sword**, (the Sword of the Spirit is the **Word of God**) and 2) a **Shepherds Staff**.

The 6th chief part, **Ministry of the Keys & Confession** is represented with the arrow-filled, Cross-focused center. Drawn to the **Cross of Christ Jesus** (center) in the waters of **Baptism** (blue arrows), the repentant sinner is gathered in by the Father. The sinner's forgiveness is announced (red for **blood** of Jesus).

The Spirit washed the sinner clean (blue reflecting hope and faith). Then forgiven sinners are sent out. We carry the good news of the Gospel into **all the world** (rich golden arrows circling the design).

"YES" is God's answer to every promise in God's Word through Jesus Christ. **"YES"** is created by God when with His Word, the Holy Spirit (red flames) calls people out of darkness into life.

6 Chief Parts of Luther's Catechisms L. Prahlow, P.Tullberg