

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the 18th week after Trinity (Oct. 3rd-Oct. 9th)

CATECHETICAL THEME:

4th Commandment

This Week's Catechetical Theme: 4th Commandment

We continue our consideration of the Ten Commandments this week by focusing on the Fourth Commandment, which teaches us to, "Honor your father and your mother." So often, we think of the Ten Commandments in terms of rules and behaviors. We think about those things which God has commanded us not to do, and those things we are commanded to do. But the Ten Commandments are much more than rules to govern behavior. In fact, each commandment is given by God in order to protect something that He has given and established. And so the commandments are given so that the life God has given would be had by all. What is given and protected in the Fourth Commandment? The very foundation of society—the family! Here, what God has given in creation, man and woman together raising children, He protects with a Word, and life will go well for those who keep it—for families will be guarded and protected. God bless your time in His Word!

Invocation: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Ten Commandments

The Apostles' Creed

The Catechism: 4th 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.

Daily Readings	Catechetical Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	The Great Commandment Matthew 22: 34-46		Psalm 36
Monday	The Wisdom of the 4th Commandment Proverbs 23:22	1 Thess. 4:1-12	Psalm 37
Tuesday	Children and Parents Ephesians 6:1-4	1 Thess. 4:13-18	Psalm 38
Wednesday	Abraham & Isaac Genesis 22:1-19	1 Thess. 5:1-11	Psalm 39

Thursday	Civil Authorities Romans 13:1-7	1 Thess. 5:12-28	Psalm 40
Friday	Spiritual Authorities Hebrews 13:7-10, 17	Proverbs 1:20-33	Psalm 41
Saturday	Genesis 28:10-17	Ephesians 4:22-28	Psalm 42

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Sun: Reflect upon today’s text and sermon. **Mon:** What word of God stands behind this reading? Why should children listen to their fathers? How does this remind us even of our heavenly Father? What about our mothers? **Tues:** Which offices (vocations) are mentioned in this passage? What are the duties given to each office? How are these offices, and their duties, essential to a family’s wellbeing? **Wed:** How does Isaac keep the 4th Commandment? Did Isaac know how things would turn out? How does this demonstrate the faith of Abraham and Isaac? **Thurs:** Who has appointed governmental authorities? How does the 4th Commandment apply to us as citizens? And to them as government officials? How does this serve the wellbeing of a country? **Fri:** Who does the passage teach us to honor? What sort of leaders? Do the leaders also have a duty? How might we “let them do this with joy”? **Sat:** In preparation for Sunday, reflect upon today’s texts.

Memory Verse

My son, do not despise the LORD’s discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights. (Proverbs 3:11-12)

In Our Prayers this Week

Our Church: Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Preschool. **Circuit 7 Vacancies:** Trinity Lutheran Church-Centralia. **Those Who Rejoice:** The Hanke family at the birth of Parklynn Elise. **Those in Need of Healing:** Carolyn Freund. **Those Undergoing Medical Treatments:** Elbert Brink, Sharon Hanke; Eddie Hermsmeyer. **Those Recovering From Surgery:** Mike Jones, Pat Borgelt (Angie Nolte’s father). **Those Who Are Sick & Dealing with Chronic Pain:** Ariana Nolte, Barb Mueller, Randy Zimmermann, Rodney Tate, Connie Schilling. **Homebound Members:** Melvin & Earlene Lange, Ruth Onken, Paul Schierschwitz, Marlene Schierschwitz. **Baptismal Birthdays:** Emma Winkeler (10/5), Monica French (10/6), Alexa Childress, Alan Kleiboeker (10/9).

The Lord’s Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer From the Small Catechism
Hymn of the Week: Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart (LSB 708)