

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the Twelfth week after Trinity
(September 4th–September 10th)*

CATECHETICAL THEME:

What Is a Sacrament?

This Week's Catechetical Theme: What Is a Sacrament?

From the beginning, even in the perfect Garden of Eden, our LORD has given us promises in which we can trust. He gives us these promises to strengthen our faith, which receives and trusts His Word. Throughout history, our LORD has often attached His promises to visible elements in order that His Word might have some sign for us to hold on to. In the garden, it was the trees. For Noah, it was a rainbow. For us, it is the water of Holy Baptism, and the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Everything this week is ordered around our LORD's sacramental way of sustaining our faith. 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: What Is a Sacrament?

The Augsburg Confession – The Use of the Sacraments

Our churches teach that the Sacraments were ordained, not only to be marks of profession among men, but even more, to be signs and testimonies of God's will toward us. They were instituted to awaken and confirm faith in those who use them. Therefore, we must use the Sacraments in such a way that faith, which believes the promises offered and set forth through the Sacraments is increased [2 Thessalonians 1:3] (AC, XIII, 1-2).

Daily Readings	Catechetical Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	Jesus Heals a Deaf man Mark 7:31-37		Psalm 43
Monday	The Day of Atonement Leviticus 16:1-34	1 John 3	Psalm 44
Tuesday	Repent and Be Baptized Acts 2:36-42	1 John 4	Psalm 45
Wednesday	The Two Trees Genesis 2:4-17	1 John 5	Psalm 46
Thursday	The Words of Institution 1 Corinthians 11:23-26	2 John	Psalm 47

Friday	There Are Three That Testify 1 John 5:1-8	3 John	Psalm 48
Saturday	2 Chronicles 28:8-15	Galatians 3:15-22	Psalm 49

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Sun: Reflect upon today's text and sermon. **Mon:** What is the visible element to which the LORD attached a promise? What was the promise? What was the function of the promise? Was it Good News? **Tues:** What promises are made to the people? What visible element are the promises attached to? What is the function of this promise? Is it certain? **Wed:** What promises had the LORD given to Adam in the garden? To what had the LORD attached those promises? What was the purpose of each promise? **Thurs:** What promises are given? To what visible element are the promises attached? Is the promise certain? Is the promise Good News? **Fri:** To what three things does the day's passage refer? And to what do each of them testify? How do all agree? What does this teach us about Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and the Word of Christ? **Sat:** In Preparation for Sunday, reflect upon today's texts.

Memory Verse

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Genesis 2:16-17)

In Our Prayers this Week

Our Church: Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Preschool. **For Those Who are Expecting:** Shaelyn Huels (Caroline & Randy Tate's daughter). **For Those on Hospice Care:** Opal Jones, Melvin Lange. **For Those Recovering from Surgery:** Norman Kleiboeker, Lynn Michael, Adrienne Childress (mother of David Childress), Linda Nehrt (Eddie & Verdell Hermsmeyer's niece), Barb Mueller, Pat Borgelt (father of Angie Nolte). **For Those Undergoing Medical Treatments:** Beth Mayer (niece of Mia Zimmermann). **For Those in Need of Healing:** Rodney Tate (father of Randy Tate), Nancy Hutchinson (sister of Jerry Mines), Mike Jones, Roger Zimmermann, Roger & Marilyn Sullens (Linda Reckling's father & mother), Clare Jones (granddaughter of Mike & Opal Jones). **For Those Who Are Dealing with Chronic Pain:** Sam Tepe (brother of Angie Siddell), Ariana Nolte, Randy Zimmermann, Connie Schilling. **Homebound Members:** Earlene Lange, Ruth Onken, Paul Schierschwitz, Marlene Schierschwitz. **Baptismal Birthdays:** Kate Schilling (9/7), Marilyn Schneider (9/9), Jack Gehrs (9/10). **Anniversaries:** David & Heather Childress (9/4), Trevor & Amanda Albers (9/5), Steve & Sandy Haun (9/10).

The Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer From the Small Catechism

Hymn of the Week: My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker (LSB 820)