

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the week following the Second Sunday after Trinity
(June 18th – June 24th)*

CATECHETICAL THEME:

To Bishops, Pastors, & Preachers

This Week's Catechetical Theme: To Bishops, Pastors, & Preachers

Last week, our study of Vocation began by examining our common Christian calling. The Holy Spirit, by means of the Gospel, has called us to faith, and we are members of 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 week, we begin to examine those specific God-given offices in which he places us uniquely, and from 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. It is called the "Table of Duties." And the first office it addresses, is the Pastoral Office. Who established it? What duties are given to it? Is there a promise given to those who serve in it? All of these questions are answered in these week's catechetical material. 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: 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).

Daily Readings	Catechetical Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	The Parable of the Great Banquet Luke 14:15-24		Psalm 30
Monday	Qualifications for Pastors 1 Timothy 3:1-7	Deuteronomy 11	Psalm 31
Tuesday	Qualifications for Pastors Titus 1:5-9	Deuteronomy 12	Psalm 32

Wednesday	The Institution of the Office Matthew 28:18-20	Deuteronomy 13	Psalm 33
Thursday	The Institution of the Office John 20:21-23	Deuteronomy 14	Psalm 34
Friday	Duties of the Office 1 Timothy 4:6-16; 2 Timothy 4:1-8	Deuteronomy 15	Psalm 35
Saturday	Micah 7:18-20	1 Timothy 1:12-17	Psalm 36

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Sun: Reflect upon today's text and sermon. **Mon - Tues:** What attributes mentioned in this list are applicable to all Christians? Which are specific to those called to the Pastoral Office? What 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:** 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? **Sat:** In preparation for Sunday, reflect upon today's texts.

Memory Verse

He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. (Titus 1:9)

In Our Prayers this Week

For Circuit Vacancies: Faith Lutheran (Flora), Trinity Lutheran (Iuka), Faith Lutheran (Mt. Vernon), Messiah Lutheran (Carlyle). **For Fathers:** For all who are fathers and those who desire to be one. **For Those in Need of Healing:** Norma Rueter. **For Those Who Are Recovering From Surgery:** Marilyn Schneider. **For Those Undergoing Medical Treatments:** Sheri Nolte, Marla Corry, Beth Jones (daughter-in-law of Mike Jones), Beth Mayer (niece of Mia Zimmermann). **For Those Who Are Dealing with Chronic Pain:** Barb Mueller, Sam Tepe (brother of Angie Siddell), Ariana Nolte, Randy Zimmermann. **Homebound Members:** Earlene Lange, Ruth Onken. **Baptismal Birthday:** Hazel Kuper, Anna Childress, Hannah Hoffmann (6/20), Heather Childress (6/22). **Anniversaries:** Brandi & Nick Gehrs (6/20).

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

Hymn of the Week: Oh, How Great Is Your Compassion (LSB 559)