

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the week following the Seventh Sunday after Trinity
(July 14th – July 20th)*

CATECHETICAL THEME:

The Vocations of Husband and Wife

This Week's 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!

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: 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).

Daily Readings	Catechetical Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand Mark 8:1-9		Psalm 115
Monday	The LORD Institutes Marriage	Nehemiah 12	Psalm 116

	Genesis 2:18-25		
Tuesday	Husbands and Wives Ephesians 5:1-2, 22-33	Nehemiah 13	Psalms 117
Wednesday	Christians Households Colossians 3:12-19	Esther 1	Psalms 118
Thursday	Wives and Husbands 1 Peter 3:1-7	Esther 2	Psalms 119
Friday	Teaching About Divorce Matthew 19:1-9	Esther 3	Psalms 120
Saturday	Jeremiah 23:16-29	Acts 20:27-38	Psalms 121

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Sun: Reflect upon today's text and sermon. **Mon - Fri:** 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 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? **Sat:** In preparation for Sunday, reflect upon today's texts.

Memory Verse

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. (Gen. 2:24; Also See Eph. 5:31)

In Our Prayers this Week

For Circuit Vacancies: Messiah Lutheran (Carlyle). **For Those Expecting:** Shelby Maschhoff. **For Those Recovering from Surgery:** Kim Childress (David Childress' Sister) Marilyn Edwards, Dawna Wander (Friend of Dave Childress), Sherri Williams. **For Those Undergoing Medical Treatments/Testing:** Eli Kuper, Marla Corry, Beth Jones (daughter-in-law of Mike Jones), Alexis Tehandon (Granddaughter of Debra Wells). **For Those Who Are Dealing with Chronic Pain:** Barb Mueller, Sam Tepe (brother of Angie Siddell), Ariana Nolte, Randy Zimmermann. **Baptismal Birthday:** Travis Schneider (7/16), Billie Yardley (7/18). **Wedding Anniversary:** Lucas & Vanessa Hanke (7/15).

The Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer From the Small Catechism
Hymn of the Month: All Christians Who Have Been Baptized (LSB 596)