

Congregation at Prayer April 30, 2017

What is confirmation? Confirmation is a growing in understanding. We spend time coming to understand the faith that the Holy Spirit gave to us in our baptism. Now the Holy Spirit causes us to grow in wisdom and understanding as He prepares to live in this world. As our youth go through the Rite of Confirmation, we should not see this as an end point or even a beginning, but as one step along the road of life. Celebrate the Holy Spirit's work, pray for them and encourage them to continue in the journey in faith. So that they too on that last day join with us in celebration of the wedding feast of the Lamb.

The Order of Meditation and Prayer for Daily Use

(Pray and confess out loud as much of the Order of Meditation as possible)

Theme for the Week: Confirmed in Faith

Invocation (Spoken while making the sign of the cross to remember your baptism)

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostle's Creed

Learn by Heart Verse (Practice saying this verse word for word, out loud, throughout the day)

John 20:22b-23 He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

From the Catechism (Read together and discuss briefly)

The Sixth Commandment You shall not commit adultery. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.	First Grade +
To Wives Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. Eph. 5:22 They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear. 1 Peter 3:5-6	Third grade +

Daily Bible Readings

Monday	The First Battle—Exodus 17:8-16
Tuesday	The Advice of Jethro, the Father-in-law of Moses—Exodus 18:1-27
Wednesday	Israel Encamps at Mount Sinai—Exodus 19:1-25
Thursday	The Lord Gives the Ten Commandments—Exodus 20:1-24 (25-26)
Friday	The Lord Makes His Covenant with Israel—Exodus 23:20—24:18
Weekend	Looking Ahead

Daily Themes for Prayer:

Sunday: Pray for those are prevented from gathering for worship: those who live in areas where persecution is strong; those who do not have a Christian church nearby; those who are homebound; those whose work keeps them away from worship.

Monday: Pray for the salvation and well-being of your neighbors; for our Lutheran schools, colleges, and seminaries; for those who serve as teachers, healthcare workers, police and firefighters; for good government and for peace.

Tuesday: Pray for your personal life of faith: that you would continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus, that the fruit of the Spirit would be evident in your life and relationships, that your attitudes, your reactions, and your choices would reflect your faith in Christ.

Wed: Pray for the mission of our congregation: to bring people hope, healing and new life through Jesus Christ. Pray about practical ways for you personally to join Jesus in His mission.

Thursday: Pray for your pastors. Pray for protection for them from the attacks of the enemy. Pray for their influence for Christ in the congregation and in the community. Pray that they are able to finish strong and remain faithful to the end.

Friday: Pray for the ministry of Lutheran Church Charities: for their comfort dog ministry; for their Lutheran Emergency Response Teams (LERT) that deploy when disasters happen here and around the country.

Saturday: Pray for the witness of you and your family to those God brings across your path. Pray for eyes to see the opportunities the Lord gives you to talk to others about Jesus or to serve them in His name.

Lord's Prayer

Going with God's Blessing

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Looking Ahead (Take a look at the readings for next Sunday)