

\What am I Supposed To Do?

A Review of the *Table of Duties*

With the proper understanding that there is nothing that a Christian can *do* to merit salvation and that Christ has done it all for us by His life, death, and resurrection – Christians, who are freed from the demands of God's Law by the Gospel, often ask what they are supposed to do once they leave on Sundays. So, what are we supposed to do as those who are called children of God by grace alone, for the sake of Christ alone, apart from the deeds of the Law? How do we know what God wants us to do and not to do while we are sojourners here?

God tells us His will for our lives in Scripture, i.e. the 10 Commandments. The summary of what God wants us to do is this; *Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Herein are comprehended all the commandments. Rom. 13:8ff.* Though God's Law primarily shows us that we fail to love our neighbor as ourselves and therefore need forgiveness, the Law of God is always good and is always what God wants us to do as His children. For Christ came to fulfill that Law for us, not to abolish It. Therefore, when we leave each Sunday having received forgiveness, life, and salvation, and having been strengthened in the one true faith, it is always God's will that we try to keep His Law and drown our old Adam. It is never His desire that we go against His Word by stealing, lying, and the like so that grace may abound.

God's will for us to love our neighbor is carried out in our vocations. God calls us to certain vocations in life such as husband, wife, parent, child, citizen, and worker and it is in these vocations that we are to love our neighbor. Though always tainted with sin and always reliant on mercy, it is in our vocations that we produce good works that God has prepared for us in advance to do (Again, not for salvation). For example, since you are covered with the perfect righteousness of Christ, you taking out the garbage for your family is just as much a good work as the Christian doctor who treats sick children in Guatemala.

In our *Catechism*, we have the *Table of Duties*, which highlights from Scripture what God desires for us to do in our respective vocations. Over the next few Newsletter articles I plan to touch on these duties as outlined below.

Article #1 - The Duties of Pastors and The Duties that Christians owe their Pastors

Article #2 – The Duties of Governing Authorities and the Duties We Owe to Them

Article #3 – The Duties of Husbands and Wives

Article #4 – The Duties of Parents and Children

Article #5 – The Duties of Employers and Employees

Article #6 – General Duties of the Young, Widows, and All Christians

If I may change the subject slightly, I would like to make a few closing remark about unemployment as it relates to vocation. The loss of a job certainly brings with it many challenges. It often makes people question their identity and worth as a person. I encourage all of us to keep in mind that our value isn't based on what we do. Our identity isn't based on our jobs, but on who we are in Christ. His perfect works that cover us in baptism give us worth that a struggling economy or unemployment can never take away.

May the peace of God, which passes *all understanding* keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

-Pastor

BIBLE CLASSES

You are invited to attend our Bible studies on Sunday mornings following our worship service. We are studying the Book of Galatians.

Wednesday morning classes are at 9:30 a.m. We are studying the readings for the upcoming Sunday. Come early if you would like to talk with your fellow members.

Everyone is invited to attend one or both classes. You are most welcome!

Flowers and radio: If you would like to furnish altar flowers or sponsor a radio broadcast for a special occasion, please call the office. Altar flowers are \$30.00 and the radio broadcast is \$76.00.

Prayer requests: if you would like a prayer on Sunday morning, please contact one of the secretaries during the week. If it is a last minute, you can also catch pastor before service.

YOUTH

Jr. and Sr. High Youth (and parents) are invited to watch the Packer's game and play board games at Pastor and Brienne's house on Sunday, December 4th at 3:15 p.m. Please let Pastor know if you are planning to attend by Sunday morning of that day - and also to receive directions.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Advent Sermon Series:

The Lord's Prayer

Nov. 30: "Our Father Who Art in
In Heaven, ..."

Dec. 7: "Thy Kingdom Come"

Dec. 14: "Thy Will Be Done"

Dec. 8th at 11:00 a.m. packaging the
Shut-in cookies

Zion's Women's Society Christmas

Potluck: Dec. 8 at 12:30 p.m.

Children's Christmas Service:

Sunday, Dec. 18th at 9:00 a.m.

Brunch at 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Service: Dec. 24, 6:30
p.m.

Christmas Day Service: 9:00 a.m.

No New Year's Eve Service

New Year's Day Service: 9:00 a.m.

POINSETTIAS

If you would like to furnish a poinsettia plant to enhance our Christmas services, please sign up on the sheet by the office. The cost is \$6.50 per plant. Thank you.

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

The following items are requested:

GIFT Donations: Unwrapped gifts preferred. Suggestion for gifts of new toys, books, puzzles, games, craft items, blankets and bedding, winter hat and mittens, clothing and shoes etc. Gifts can be dropped off at Central Lutheran Church, 28 E. Columbia St., Chipewa Falls – Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m.

Monetary donations can be given to purchase gifts for these families. Please make checks payable to: Spirit of Christmas, PO Box 831, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

Volunteers are needed: For more information please call the SOC office at 715-726-0534 or 715-271-0256.

Your help is much appreciated by the struggling families in Chippewa County!

Food Pantry is also in need of canned goods such as vegetables, soup, tuna, spaghetti sauce, boxed dinners, rice, spaghetti, soaps, paper toweling, toilet paper, etc. There a great need in our community for these items - especially during the holidays. They can be put in the container in the back entrance or dropped off at Salvation Army.

LUTHERAN WITNESS

The 2012 subscription of the Lutheran Witness can be ordered now. Orders need to be in by Dec. 20th. The cost is \$21.65 for the year. You can call the office to order one.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FELLOWSHIP BOARD

Thanksgiving Day has come and gone for another year. It is time once again to start thinking of ahead to Christmas and the activities at church.

Although it wasn't brought up on the Women's Society meeting, the Fellowship Board has decided to trim the Christmas tree and the church proper the afternoon of December 8th. That is the day of the Women's Society's Christmas potluck luncheon. Hopefully some the Women's Society members and guests will be able to help with this project as they did last year.

We are extending a very warm invitation to the gentlemen of the congregation who would who would be willing and able to assist us in this effort also. We would like you to come and join us at the 12:30 p.m. luncheon. The food is always good and maybe there might be some of Lois' delicious Christmas cookies. That alone should be an incentive to get you to

come help us. If there are enough of us, it shouldn't take much time to get the job done. We do appreciate the extra helping hands.

The Children's Christmas program will be Sunday, December 18 at 9:00 a.m. The Fellowship Board will be hosting the annual potluck brunch following the service. Items to consider bringing are muffins, coffee cake, sweet rolls, donuts, breads, Christmas cookies or fruit. The Fellowship Board will be providing Sunday Brunch pizzas, but if someone would bring egg bake it would be greatly appreciated. Coffee, tea, milk and juice will also be provided as well as the plates, cups and eating utensils.

So the dates to remember are Thursday, December 8 for the potluck luncheon with the Women's Society at 12:30 p.m. and trimming of the church after, and then Sunday, December 18, for the Children's Christmas program at 9:00 a.m. and potluck brunch that follows.

If you aren't able to come to help on December 8, please be sure to be here on Sunday, December 18 for the Children's program and brunch. We look forward to this special annual event and hope to see you all there.

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN

The Orphan Grain Train is a mission organization that serves relief for human need worldwide.

Help is given here in the US as well countries around the world. Help is given to orphanages in Russia, and in Eastern Europe, Haiti and many Medical Centers.

Since 1992, Orphan Grain Train has sent over 1929 full semi-loads of food, clothing, medical equipment and disaster relief supplies to people in the U.S.A. and 50 other countries.

For about 3 pennies, Orphan Train can ship a meal to a child in a foreign country. \$15 will feed 500 people, \$150 will feed 5000.

The goal of "Project Feed 500" is to ship enough meals to feed 4 million hunger people by Sept. 2012.

If you want to help, you can make a check payable to: Orphan Grain Train, P.O. Box 1466, Norfolk, NE 68702. What a great Christmas present that would be!

Zion Youth! A Fun Retreat

Grades 7-12

January 20-21st

Patriarchs, Philistines, and Prophets

Seeing the accuracy of the Old Testament by using ancient literature, history, and archeology

With Rev. David Kind, Pastor at University Chapel.

Plus Snow Tubing at Wild Mountain

Grades 7-12

January 20-21st

Check in at 5:30pm

Closing service begins at 3pm

At Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, St. Croix Falls

Cost is \$35 per person (dinner, breakfast, lunch, and price of snow tubing included) and please bring a snack to share

Each church is required to bring at least one chaperone.

Friends are Welcome!

You MUST RSVP by January 8th

so that we can give head count to Wild Mountain.

Please let me know if you would like to attend with me by January 1st. Please make you checks payable to Zion Lutheran Church. – Pastor Stark