

## **What We Owe to Our Governing Authorities** A Continuation of the *Table of Duties*

Imagine living the United States with no president, no congress, no police officers, no judges, no governors, no mayors and no prisons. Would we observe that man is basically good as the world says, or would we observe the Biblical teaching of original sin? The answer is self-evident. Without law and order there would be complete chaos.

Our governing authorities, as instruments of God, bear the sword to help curb violent outbreaks in society and punish (temporally) wrongdoing. Our governmental leaders are instruments of God no matter which political party they come from (This doesn't mean that everything that they do, say, and believe is God pleasing.) Even if a governmental leader isn't a Christian, we still owe him certain duties that God commands of us.

### **Governing Authorities<sup>i</sup>**

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ([Romans 13:1–4](#))

### **Duties Subjects Owe to Governing Authorities<sup>ii</sup>**

Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. ([Matthew 22:21](#)) Let every person be subject to the governing authorities.... Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. ([Romans 13:1, 5–7](#)) First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ([1 Timothy 2:1–2](#)) Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work. ([Titus 3:1](#)) Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. ([1 Peter 2:13–14](#))>

We should honor and submit to our authorities, even if we disagree with them. The only exception to this is if they command that we do something that goes against the Word of God. “*Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.*” This means, for example, that we should pay our taxes even if we

disagree—taxes belong to Caesar. Yet, if the government demands something that belongs to God, then God trumps Caesar. An example would be if the government made a law that said Christians couldn't meet to worship or that all mothers must have abortions.

We should also pray for our leaders. We want good leaders and laws so that we can lead a peaceable life. We also want good laws for the benefit of our neighbor. This is why, for example, we oppose, through the legal channels, abortion and same sex unions. This type of legislation is harmful to our neighbor.

In summary, we thank God for our governing authorities that He uses to help care of our bodily needs. We also keep in mind that Jesus didn't come to establish an earthly kingdom, but a heavenly one. We shouldn't be surprised when worldly leaders don't act in accordance with Scripture. No matter how 'bad' things are in this world, we know that Christ has overcome the world. Heaven is our home. As citizens of heaven, we are just passing through this perishing world.

Declared Righteous for Jesus' sake,

Pastor

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<sup>i</sup> *Concordia : The Lutheran Confessions*, Edited by Paul Timothy McCain, 346 (St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2005).

<sup>ii</sup> Ibid

### BIBLE CLASSES

*You are invited to attend our Bible studies on Sunday mornings following our worship service. We are Continuing the study of 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!*

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**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. There is a flower chart on the left of the door as you enter from the education wing. Sign your name by the date you would like to furnish flowers. The radio broadcast is \$76.00. Call the office if you would like to furnish a broadcast or have any questions about flowers or the broadcast.

**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.

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE FELLOWSHIP BOARD**

The month of February brings the beginning of the Lenten season. This year Ash Wednesday is February 22.

The Fellowship Board is planning to hold suppers each Wednesday during Lent.

Serving will be from 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. with a free-will offering being taken. The church services will follow at 6:30 p.m.

As in the past, we will need members to provide a main course for each of the Wednesday suppers. This could be soup and sandwiches or a hot dish of some kind. Bars will be needed each week also. A sign-up sheet for the bars will be posted by the office. Anyone willing and able to help us provide these Lenten suppers, or if you have questions, please contact one the board members:

We look forward to a positive response in helping us with this fellowship opportunity.

**Ladies:** Notice the Mission Tidings in your boxes. Special attention can be given to the up-coming events inviting YOU to attend.

The District Convention is June 14-16, 2012 in Appleton, WI.

The cost is \$40 before May 14<sup>th</sup>.

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We are searching for Young Women Representatives (20-35 yrs) to attend the convention. If you are interested talk with Carol Gale, Dottie Neumann, or Dorene Szedlak for details.

Teen girls have the opportunity to attend – nearly free – come along with us.

Young at Heart retreat is at Faith Lutheran in Spencer, WI on April 14, 2012. You are most welcome.

The cost to attend the retreat is \$25 by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

The children will be serving our Lord and the congregation with their musical talents during communion on Jan. 29. Parents help your children learn the ten commandments.

## **CHIPPEWA PALS**

Chippewa Pals, a social organization for developmentally disabled adults, is in need of small prizes for their annual April Bingo party.

**NEEDED!** Cds, VHS and DVDs (used is ok), cologne, toiletries, stationary, nickknacks and stuffed animals, coloring and puzzle books (all levels), simple storybooks, yarn several members crochet) and snack items.

There will be a collection box in the north entry way. Questions? See Pam Rose or call 861-3962.

## **YOUTH NEWS**

Seven youth and two adults, myself included, had a great time at the Lutheran Retreat at Wild Minnesota in MN with other LCMS

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churches (around 50 people total). Our youth enjoyed great teaching from Pastor David

Kind of the University Chapel – University of Minnesota, worship, friendship, and fun tubing down the big hill.

Pastor

### **LUTHERAN FATHERS CONFERENCE**

The Lutheran Fathers Conference will be held here at Zion on Tuesday, February 21 at 9:30 a.m.

We are studying the C.F.W. Walther's "**The True Visible Church.**" The topic has been of critical concern to the Missouri Synod since her inception and continues to be so today. What is church and what is not? Come and find out from Dr. Walther's essay "for the convention of the General Evangelical Lutheran Church Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and other states for its sessions at St. Louis, MO , October 31, 1866".

This study is open to all pastors, laymen and laywomen. You are welcome to join us.