

Pastor's Page - March 2012
(Newsletter edited for website)

Why? Because I Said So
The Duties of Parents and Children
Continuation of the *Table of Duties*¹

For Parents. Ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. [Eph. 6:4](#).

God works through means. For example, our Father in heaven provides us our bodies, food, clothing, shelter, etc. - but He does this through the means of parents and other authorities. Parents are to care for, discipline, and teach the faith to their children, while not provoking them to wrath. This is God's will. He wants all parents to teach their children His Word – The 10 Commandments, The Gospel, etc. If you look at our catechism, each chief part begins with these words, “As the head of the family should teach them in a simple way to his household.” Parents teach and pass on the faith, and this happens in the home. It is through the means of parents that God cares for, disciplines, and catechizes (instructs) His children.

For Children. Children, obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right. Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. [Eph. 6:1-3](#).

We, children, *should fear and love God that we may not despise nor anger our parents and masters, but give them honor, serve, obey, and hold them in love and esteem.* Parents are God given authorities. As we have seen above, parents provide so much for children. Children should ponder just how much God has given them through their parents. This should result in a grateful heart that is willing to honor, love, serve, and obey. If a child disobeys a parent, he or she really disobeys God. Unless a parent commands a child to sin, a child should always obey the parent. Why? Because, God lovingly says so. We all have seen the child who refuses to obey his parents. He leaves the home and refuses to obey other authorities in the world and maybe ends up in jail, in trouble, or doesn't live long on the earth. In reality, he is refusing to listen to and obey God. Therefore, it is so important that parents discipline their children and that children obey their parents because this has both temporal and eternal consequences.

As we continue to study the *Table of Duties*, we are reminded that these are God given. God places us in different vocations (callings), i.e. parent, child, worker, etc. - and wants us to do certain things. Keep in mind that whenever God tells us to do something – that is Law and not Gospel. The Law of God does three things: 1. It serves as a *curb* to keep order in the world. A world without Law would be chaos. 2. It serves as a *mirror* to show us what we should do to get to heaven, but don't do. Therefore, it reflects that we are sinners and shows us that we can do nothing to save ourselves. This is the primary purpose of the Law. This makes way for the Gospel of Jesus Christ – salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, apart from the deeds of the Law. 3. It serves as a *guide* for our lives. What is God's will for us? Obey the Commandments – love God and love your neighbor.

We must never think God's Law a harmful thing for us. God's 10 Commandments are meant for our good, not to harm us. The Law is only harmful if we misuse It and deceive ourselves into thinking we can work our way into heaven.

Parents, if you are thinking that you haven't cared for, disciplined, or catechized your children as you should – you are right. Children, if the 4th Commandment has shown you that you have failed to honor, serve, obey, and hold your parents in love and esteem as God commands – you see clearly. Parents and children alike (which includes the whole world) are sinners. Thanks be to God the Father that He sent His Son to take our place and live a sinless life under the demands of the Law. Thanks be to Jesus that He willingly kept the 4th

¹ <http://www.bookofconcord.org/smallcatechism.php#tableofduties>

Commandment for us and then went to the cross to pay for our breaking It. Since we are freed from the burden of the Law through Christ, we are free to love the Law and obey It because God lovingly says so.

A forgiven Child of God,
Pastor Stark

ZION'S WOMEN'S SOCIETY

The Women's Society met on Thursday, February 9. Twelve members, one guest and Pastor were present. Pam was hostess and served cake.

Pastor led in devotions based on the topic "What Does The Bible Say About Pastors" taken from the February issue of the Lutheran Witness. Devotions closed with the Lord's Prayer.

During the business meeting it was decided the group would again provide the first Lenten Supper on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd.

Next meeting will be March 8 at 1:30 p.m. Dianne Schroeder will be the hostess. All ladies are invited and encouraged to attend.

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 Women's Society hosted the Ash Wednesday supper. We will be having 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 and for providing a supper is posted by the office. Anyone willing and able to help us provide these Lenten suppers, or if you have questions, please contact one of the board members:

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

SERMONS

Audio of the sermons are now available on our website. If you are unable to attend and miss the service on the radio – want to tell a friend here or in another state that they can hear the true Gospel on our website – or just want to listen to the sermon again – you now can. “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word Christ.” Romans 10:17

LADIES: *Up-coming events inviting YOU may want to attend.*

*The District Convention is June 14-16, 2012 in Appleton, WI.
The cost is \$40 before May 14th.*

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 Spooner, WI on April 14, 2012. You are most welcome. The cost to attend the retreat is \$25 by March 31st.

ATTENTION THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEMBERS:

In 2011 we received \$3186.64 from Thrivent Choice Dollars. If you are a Thrivent Financial member (age 16 or older and have \$800 or more in insurance products or \$20,000 or more in investments) you are eligible to recommend to distribute Thrivent Financial charitable grant funds through Choice Dollars among thousands of Lutheran organizations including our local congregation.

If you had Choice Dollars to direct in 2011 but you haven't done so yet, you have until March 31 to make your decisions at [Thrivent.com/Thrivent Choice](http://Thrivent.com/ThriventChoice). If you do not have web access you can also call 800-847-4836 or contact Tom Griebel at 715-723-2506 for assistance. We would like ALL eligible members at Zion to participate in this program - it a way to give more to the church or other charitable organizations without spending more of your money. Please check with your elderly family members or your children (16 or older) to assist them in participating.

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 snck items.

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

MITTEN PROJECT

Since this past fall, supported by donations of cash and supplies, our sewers group has made about 90 pair of mittens. About 45 pairs were given away before Christmas mostly to the Family Resource Center here in Chippewa Falls.

Now our plan is to help the **fund raiser** sponsored by the Eau Claire Area LC-MS con-gregations to assist Pastor Xiong with medical expenses. In support of this we're offering our mittens for a suggested donation of \$10 for the adult size. We'll have all sizes available here at Zion downstairs at the Lenten suppers until March 9th and for the next couple of Sundays at the rear entrance. We will also

accept any cash donations. Questions? Ask Pam Rose, Doreen Szedlak or Kathy Michels.

PLEASE JOIN US....

Benefit for Pastor Neal Xiong

Pastor Neal Xiong of the Hmong Lutheran Mission Church in Eau Claire was hospitalized in May 2011. Medical expenses rose above \$50,000. His health insurance covered a large portion of the bill. However, he has been left with a \$7,000 balance. Local LCMS churches are joining together to help eliminate the debt for Pastor Neal. Please join us for a delicious Italian dinner, Silent Auction and Bake sale on:

Date: Sunday, March 18th

Where: **Lutheran Church of St. Matthew**

1915 Hogeboom Ave.,

Eau Claire

Time: 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Serving: Spaghetti, meatballs,
garden salad, bread
sticks, beverages &
dessert

(Suggested donation: \$7:00 adults,
\$4 age 12 and under, age 5 & under free)

Silent Auction will end at 1:00 p.m.

We invite the Christian community of Eau Claire to gather with us in fellowship to raise funds to eliminate the remaining balance on Pastor Neal's medical bill.

We are accepting donations for the silent auction and bake sale.

*"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."
Galatians 6:2*
