



# Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

5218 Neosho St, St. Louis, MO 63109 • 314-352-0014

[www.hopelutheranstl.org](http://www.hopelutheranstl.org)



## ✠ THE HOPE LUTHERAN ✠

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### Called to Practice Holy Humanity

We Lutherans have long used Luther's *Small Catechism* for teaching the basics of the Christian faith. When we think or talk of the "parts" of Luther's *Catechism*, we most likely think of the "six chief parts" of Christian doctrine and life: 1) the Ten Commandments, 2) the Creed, 3) the Lord's Prayer, 4) the Sacrament of Baptism, 5) Confession, and 6) the Sacrament of the Altar.

However, there's much more to learn in the *Small Catechism*. What we learned in Catechism classes is certainly the heart and core of what we Christians believe and teach and how we live. The "six chief parts" of the *Catechism* is only the first of four "sections" in Luther's little handbook for faith and life. **Section 2** gives us a little primer on Daily Prayer. **Section 3**, called "Table of Duties," offers instruction and admonishment for living the Christian life in this world. **Section 4**, "Christian Questions with Their Answers," serves as a good examination for those who wish to join us at the Lord's Supper as well as excellent preparation prior to each time we partake of Holy Communion.

This month we look at **Section 3**, the "Table of Duties," in general. In coming months we will unpack the various parts of this "Table" in more detail.

#### "TABLE OF DUTIES"

For us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century the word "duty" may conjure up notions of moral or legal obligations, things we are required to do, often against our will. Luther, however, did not understand "duty" with such a negative spin. The German name for this section of the *Catechism* is "*Haustafel*," which means "House Table." Think of it as a list (table) of things we Christians do around the house and in regular daily life.

#### *Holy Orders*

The *Catechism* gives this introductory explanation to the "Table of Duties":

*"Certain passages of Scripture for various holy orders and positions, admonishing them about their duties and responsibilities."*

This indicates what Luther had in mind when he assembled the Scripture passages in this "Table." He wanted to give instruction on how we Christians – God's people made holy by the blood of Christ Jesus – live holy lives in our various positions and places in life, in our "vocations." Luther wanted to teach us that all of life is holy in Christ Jesus. Scripture reminds us that "*everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer*" (1 Timothy 4:4-5).

The common notion in Luther's day was that only the monks and nuns lived the "holy life." As they lived, studied, served, and worshiped in the monasteries or convents, they were presumed to be holier than the ordinary people in the nearby village – the shopkeepers, farmers, blacksmiths, servant girls, etc. Thus the phrase "holy orders" was given only to the monks and nuns.

Luther's "Table of Duties" turns all of that on its head. He uses the phrase "holy orders" for the normal positions and ordinary vocations of everyday life. Page through the *Catechism's* "Table" and you'll see what I mean. Here's a list of the "holy orders":

- Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers
- Hearers (church members)
- Civil Government
- Citizens
- Husbands
- Wives

- Parents
- Children
- Workers
- Employers and Supervisors
- Youth
- Widows

All these vocations are “holy orders” for us Christians. All these vocations, or places in life, are the locations where God has placed us to live as His holy, redeemed, forgiven, and loving people.

### **Life of Love and Prayer**

The end of the “Table of Duties” serves as a bookend to the introductory explanation. Luther cites two Bible passages under the heading “To Everyone” and offers a little rhyme:

*The commandments . . . are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Rom. 13:9*

*I urge...that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone. 1 Tim. 2:1*

*Let each his lesson learn with care,  
And all the household well shall fare.*

The holy Christian life is a life of love and prayer. When we live as instructed in the “Table of Duties,” the “household” of our life in this world fares well.

Now that we are redeemed and made holy by the blood of Jesus Christ, we love our various neighbors in various ways. This life of love is what the “Table of Duties” is all about.

We also live the life of prayer as we live at the receiving end of God’s grace, forgiveness, and protection. We pray for ourselves and for others (“requests, prayers, intercession”), and we give thanks (“thanksgiving”) to God and the people around us. After all, “*what do you have that you did not receive*” (1 Corinthians 4:7), that is, as a gift from God through the people around you?

Since we are called to love our neighbor, it helps to know who our neighbor is and how we can love him/her/them. The various “holy orders” of the Table of Duties fall nicely into pairings. These pairings of “orders” show us how we are to practice our holy humanity. They illustrate for us whom we are to love and for whom we are to pray. The “holy orders” may be paired this way:

<i>Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers</i>	↔	<i>Hearers (congregation members)</i>
<i>Civil Government</i>	↔	<i>Citizens</i>

<i>Husbands</i>	↔	<i>Wives</i>
<i>Parents</i>	↔	<i>Children</i>
<i>Workers of All Kinds</i>	↔	<i>Employers &amp; Supervisors</i>
<i>Youth</i>	↔	<i>Widows</i>

The arrows within each pairing signifies the love and prayer that one order (vocation) gives in service to the other. The love and service flow in both directions. For example, in the third pairing, husbands are to love and serve their wives, and wives are to love and serve their husbands. In coming articles, we’ll unpack the different “holy orders” as they relate to each other in these pairings.

### **“Called to Practice Our Humanity”**

Dr. Robert Kolb discusses Section 3 of Luther’s *Catechism* under the heading “Called to practice our humanity.” He says that our responsibilities (duties) as Christians are truly “response-abilities.” We respond to God’s grace of making us His holy people as we care for one another. Dr. Kolb explains:

For our responsibilities are truly “response-abilities.” They respond to God’s call to us to exist as the human creatures He designed. They respond to the needs of other creatures as God has designed, so that their needs may be met through His structure of mutual dependence and assistance.

These responsibilities consist of whatever actions are necessary for the proper care and the supporting, sustaining love and concern which is vital for human life, for the well-being of the whole creation. In exercising them we are the hands or feet or mouth of God. Luther called us God’s “masks,” behind which He comes to uphold and preserve human life. All people are assigned these responsibilities. (*Teaching God’s Children His Teaching: A Guide for the Study of Luther’s Catechism*, p. 141).

This is what it means to practice our humanity – a holy humanity – because God has sanctified us by His Son, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

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# LCMS Stewardship Ministry

## Newsletter article - October 2021

Why do we give? Is it simply because God commands us to? Or is there more to it? To be sure, the Word and instruction of God in the Bible says we should give, and this is sufficient to encourage us to give (Luke 6:38; Acts 20:35; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:7; Gal. 6:6).

But there's more to it than just obligation. We're not just trying to fulfill a work of the law. We are bearing fruits of the Spirit given to us by our Father in heaven through His Son our Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, we're not just doing what our Father said, we're also doing what He did.

Children emulate their parents. When they grow up, they often carry many of the same mannerisms and characteristics as their parents. But there is more to it than that. Children copy their parents even on a more mundane level. They watch how their parents cross their legs, how they fold their hands, how they stand and sit and walk, and how they do and say most everything. Then children try to copy it.

This can be quite humorous when caught in the act. They do this even when parents don't want them to. Everyone has been in the uncomfortable - and embarrassing situation - where a child does or says something one of their parents have done or said that is less than polite. Sitcoms thrive on these. It only works because of the truth that children emulate their parents, and they do it because they want to be like them.

We are the children of God - by grace through faith. In Holy Baptism, God the Father declares of us what He declared of Jesus at His Baptism in the Jordan, "You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." God the Father claims us as His own. He takes away all our sins. In exchange, He gives us His righteousness, His purity, His holiness, and His Spirit - by which we cry out, "Abba, Father."

We are born again - born from above, born of water and the Spirit - to a new life in Christ as His children. We are sons of God in Christ through Baptism. Since we are sons, we are heirs who share in the glory of the Son of God. The inheritance is ours because of the

Father's grace, mercy, and generosity in sending His Son in time to save us for all eternity.

This is why we give generously of our income to the work of the church. We want to be like our heavenly Father. We want to emulate His generosity by being generous ourselves. We give to the work of the church because we have witnessed the generous giving of our Father in heaven.

More than that, we are recipients of it. It is because we have received our Father's gifts that we desire to give ourselves. His gifts are not just spiritual. They are temporal and earthly as well. As *Luther's Small Catechism* teaches in the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer:

### **Give us this day our daily bread.**

*What does this mean?* God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

*What is meant by daily bread?* Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

In other words, He gives us everything that we need for the care of both body and soul. His generosity knows no bounds.

Therefore, we sit down at the beginning of the year, the beginning of the month, or the beginning of the week and set aside a generous portion of God's daily bread for His work in the church. This is not done because He has commanded us so to do but rather because we, as His children by grace, want to emulate His generosity in our own lives. He is our Father; we are His children. And children want to be like their parents.



# Music in a Sacred Space

Reformation Organ Vespers  
Sunday, October 31 at 3:00 p.m.



Jacob Weber,  
organist



Rev. Dr. Jon Vieker,  
preacher



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In the Sunday **Divine Service** God Himself comes in our midst to serve us through His Word and Sacrament. The *Augsburg Confession* makes this simple and profound statement about our worship: *“All ceremonies should serve the purpose of teaching the people what they need to know about Christ”* (AC, 24:3). That’s indeed what our liturgy does every Sunday. Here’s what we will hear and learn about Christ in the month of October:

Date	Day in Church Year	Gospel Reading	Gospel Focus (Theme of the Day)
October 3	<b>Anniversary of a Congregation</b>	Luke 19:1-10	<b>Congregation Anniversary</b> - God promises to dwell with His people by means of His holy Word and Sacraments. Just as Jesus entered the home of Zacchaeus and thus brought salvation to him and other sinners around him, so also has our Lord entered our house of worship and continually brings salvation to us. We thank our gracious Savior, along with His Father and the Holy Spirit, for dwelling among us here at Hope for 105 years.
October 10	<b>Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity</b>	Matthew 9:1-8	<b>The Healing of the Paralytic</b> - Jesus heals body and soul. This healing is the forgiveness of sins. Where the soul is healed in forgiveness, the body benefits too. Jesus forgives sins on earth.
October 17	<b>20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	Matthew 22:1-14	<b>The Great Supper-</b> God invites all people to His great supper at the end of time. Some reject Him and His invitation; others gladly receive His gracious invitation. Those who enjoy the supper are changed—by God’s gifts.
October 24	<b>21st Sunday after Trinity</b>	John 4:46-54	<b>Spiritual Armor</b> - We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against the spiritual forces of darkness. Yet we don’t look for “signs and wonders.” Jesus heals and strengthens and raises from the dead through His Word alone.
October 31	<b>Festival of the Reformation</b> <i>(observed)</i>	Matthew 11:12-19	<b>The Everlasting Gospel</b> - The Church always needs to be reformed. That reforming comes only through the Word of God. God’s people may suffer scorn and persecution, but Jesus sustains and upholds His Church by the hearing of His Word.

### RUSH LUSO

Lutheran South is hosting Rush LuSo Open House on October 19 at 6:30 pm. Choosing a high school is like choosing a family. Come see

why Lutheran South can offer your family the best overall high school experience. Please register at [slancers.org/events](http://slancers.org/events).

## **THRIVE PARENT UNIVERSITY AT HOPE**

Thrive Parent University is starting up again! Hope will begin another year of hosting Parent University every Thursday night. This is a great program that helps mothers who have chosen life for their babies prepare to be good parents. By attending Parent University they learn parenting skills and earn points to "buy" baby clothes and supplies in the Thrive "store." The program runs all year with a break from Thanksgiving until the beginning of January. Otherwise, every Thursday night at Hope you will find families coming to learn.

There are a few changes while they get things started again.

Here is the schedule:

- 5:30-6:00 pm Snack is served
- 6:00-6:30 pm Pastor Asbury teaches a Bible class
- 6:30-7:30 pm A Thrive staff member teaches a parenting lesson

Hope volunteers will help serve the snack once per month. Volunteers are needed! To volunteer, please contact Judy Maichel at 314-352-1319 or [mjmaichel@juno.com](mailto:mjmaichel@juno.com). Help this program save lives and strengthen families!

## **CAN'T MAKE THE BREW IN THE LOU FESTIVAL? YOU CAN STILL ENJOY THE TASTING ALL YEAR!**

For the one-time cost of just \$30, you'll get the 2021-2022 Passport with access to more than \$300 in beverages, menu items and special discounts at more than 25 of your favorite breweries, wineries, restaurants and other venues. These offers don't expire until October 9, 2022, so take your time and enjoy yourself!

Don't forget, Brew in the Lou Passports make excellent gifts for the holidays or birthdays- for friends, family members, co-workers, clients, customers and employees.

## **SERVING AFGHAN REFUGEES**

Presently there are thousands of Afghan refugees being screened for clearance on US

military bases in the USA and beyond. Within the next few weeks, many will be released for resettlement in this country. Of that number, approximately 1,400 are expected to arrive in St. Louis, some already have. By way of preparation for these arrivals, CFNA has recruited a well-qualified person to serve as our Afghan Ministry Facilitator. Her name is Homa Zafer and her primary task is to reach out to these refugee families through the services provided by CFNA.

Homa was born and raised in Afghanistan as part of a Muslim family. While she was young the family fled to Pakistan. This was at the time of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and her father had been a government official whose position and life, were now at risk. While in Pakistan she became a believer and committed herself to Christ. Resettled to St. Louis in 1999, the entire family immediately connected with the small but growing Afghan refugee community in St. Louis. Homa remains a fluent speaker of Dari and Pashto. She also holds two degrees from Washington University and is a confirmed member of Concordia Lutheran Church, Kirkwood.

In her Facilitator position for only a few days, she managed to connect with a refugee family of five who had very recently arrived in St. Louis from Kabul. Ahmad, the head of the family, had served in the US Embassy as a database manager. He, together with his family, departed Kabul with little more than the clothes on their backs. The gift cards provided by CFNA helped, but until they qualify for some level of government assistance, the uncertainty regarding their day-to-day needs continue. CFNA has launched an appeal for in-kind donations. If you are inclined to provide a financial contribution and are a member of a Lutheran congregation in the St. Louis area, you are urged to make your contribution to CFNA through your congregation. Routed in this way, it may qualify for a match by Lutheran Foundation.

Phone: 314-352-0014

# October 2021

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Elder:</b> 3 – Chad Rolland 10 – Scot Kinnaman 17 – Chad Rolland 24 – Scot Kinnaman 31 – Jim Frost	<b>Altar Guild:</b> 3 Spyers/Truebe 10 Asbury/Bergdolt 17 Brown/Patton 24 Keller/Janssen 31 Brown/Patton				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <i>Pastor's day off</i>
<b>3 <u>Ann. of Congregation</u></b> 9:00 Divine Service 10:15 Coffee hour 10:30 Bible Class/ SS 11:35 Schola/Confirmation	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  6:00 Thrive Parent University	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <i>Pastor's day off</i>
<b>10 <u>Trinity 19</u></b> 9:00 Divine Service 10:15 Coffee hour 10:30 Bible Class/SS 11:35 Schola/Confirmation	<b>11</b>  7:00 Church Council	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  6:00 Thrive Parent University	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <i>Pastor's day off</i>
<b>17 <u>Trinity 20</u></b> 9:00 Divine Service 10:15 Coffee hour 10:30 Bible Class/ SS 11:35 Schola/Confirmation	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  6:00 Thrive Parent University	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <i>Pastor's day off</i>
<b>24 <u>Trinity 21</u></b> 9:00 Divine Service 10:15 Coffee hour 10:30 Bible Class/ SS 11:35 Schola/Confirmation	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  6:00 Thrive Parent University	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <i>Pastor's day off</i>
<b>31 <u>Reformation</u></b> 9:00 Divine Service 10:15 Coffee hour 10:30 Bible Class/ SS 12:00 Voters Assembly						