ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH – HOLLAND, MN

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**Faith and the Family** John Oberdeck [A short review of the topic presented.]

“***And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*** " ***Deut. 6:6-7***

The Focus in this scripture is on the **Word** that we speak and teach. The word we share works to shape peoples’ lives. Family precedes the church, but the definition of family in our society has been changing. Studies have shown that *faith* *formation* is based in families. Children learn about God and faith from their parents and how they live out their Christian lives. If we change what families are, we can change how children perceive their relationship with God and lead them to have distorted views about faith. What is the purpose of family? The Scriptures give us five different purposes for family.

1. **Families exist to bring us salvation.** Genesis 3:15 “*I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel*." Salvation comes to us through family. In the Old Testament we see Satan trying often to destroy families and the line through which the savior was to come. Misunderstandings about family can also lead many astray. For example there is a statue in Jerusalem which has the virgin Mary crushing the serpent’s head.
2. **Families are created to procreate.**
3. **Families exist as demonstration**
4. **Families exist for education**
5. **Families are here to nurture**

In Christ’s service,

 *Pastor Petrich*