



**St John Lutheran Church and School**  
**Faith Development Guide**  
(Based on the Luther's Small Catechism)

**"AS THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY  
SHOULD TEACH THEM  
IN A SIMPLE WAY TO HIS HOUSEHOLD"**  
Martin Luther



***Christian  
Education***

**Prepared by:**

**Pastor John Stransky**

**&**

**Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator  
Benjamin D. Seidler**

Has been and will be Reviewed and Approved by  
St. John Boards: Elders/ Christian Education and Day School Board

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## Why Is Children's Ministry So Important?

- 1) God instructs parents to teach their children about Him (Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and Psalm 78:1-8).
- 2) Jesus welcomes and blesses children in the face of the disciples' rebuke (Mark 10:13-16).
- 3) Jesus reveals mysteries to children that are hidden from the wise (Matthew 11:25).
- 4) Jesus challenges adults to change and humbly reflect childlike hearts (Matthew 18:2-6).
- 5) Jesus presents Himself to those who welcome children. Those who cause children to sin are punished (Matthew 18:5-6).
- 6) Most people enter a relationship with Jesus as children (George Barna).
- 7) Parents can be spiritually reached through their children.
- 8) Parents seek healthy, safe, enriching activities that they and their children can enjoy. Churches can create opportunities for this as well as add the spiritual component.
- 9) Churches can mentor parents who may not know how to spiritually guide their children.
- 10) Churches can offer a sacred space of respite for weary and hurting families.
- 11) Children's Ministry provides opportunities for parents and children to develop friendships and connect with their peers.
- 12) Children's Ministry allows volunteers to bond with one another and make a difference in the lives of other people. (Brown, 2016)



# Nursery and Preschool

## The Common Table Prayer

Before Meal: Come, Lord Jesus, be our Guest  
And let these gifts to us be blest. Amen.

After Meal: We give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
And His mercy endures forever. Amen.

## Bedtime Prayer

Now I lay me down to sleep,  
I pray, dear Lord, my soul to keep.  
If I should die before I wake,  
I pray the Lord my soul to take.

## Definitions

Bible: A book which has  
God's word inside. Another  
name for God's word is  
Scripture

Christians: People who are  
followers of Jesus.

Amen: Yes! This is true!

## Bible Stories to teach

Adam & Eve

Noah



# Kindergarten

## The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven

Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those  
Who trespass against us;

And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,  
And the power, and the glory,  
Forever and ever.  
Amen



## The Golden Rule

<sup>30</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'<sup>31</sup> *The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these.*"  
Mark 12:30-31(NIV)

## Review Nursery/Preschool memory work

Adam & Eve

Noah

The Conception and Birth of Jesus

# First Grade

## The Ten Commandment

(Exodus 20:1-17)

1. You shall have no other gods.
2. You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.
3. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not murder.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.



### Review Kindergarten memory work

Additional Bible Story/ies

Moses and the Exodus

# Second Grade

## The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only

Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.



### Review First Grade memory work

Additional Bible Story/ies

Creation/Gen 1

Baptism of Jesus/including what is Baptism

# Third Grade

## Bible Handout

### The Books of the Bible

#### **Books of the Old Testament – Historical Books** (5 law and 12 history):

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy;  
Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Samuel 1, Samuel 2, Kings 1, Kings 2,  
Chronicles 1, Chronicles 2, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

#### **Books of the Old Testament – Poetical Books:**

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon

#### **Books of the Old Testament – Prophetical Books** (Major Prophets):

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel

#### **Books of the Old Testament – Minor Prophets**

Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah,  
Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

#### **Books of the New Testament – Historical Books** (4 biography, 1 history):

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John; (gospels)  
Acts of the Apostles

#### **Books of the New Testament – The Epistles** (13 Pauline Epistles, 8 General):

Romans, Corinthians 1, Corinthians 2, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians,  
Colossians, Thessalonians 1, Thessalonians 2, Timothy 1, Timothy 2, Titus,  
Philemon, Hebrews, James, Peter 1, Peter 2, John 1, John 2, John 3, Jude

#### **Books of the New Testament – Prophetical:**

Revelation

(to help the kids with this one can use the songs that can be found on the web)



# Third Grade continued

**Psalm 23 (ESV):** The Lord Is My Shepherd - A Psalm of David.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in  
green pastures.

He leads me beside still  
waters.

He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of  
righteousness for his name's  
sake.

Even though I walk through  
the valley of the shadow of  
death, I will fear no evil, for  
you are with me; your rod and  
your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before  
me in the presence of my  
enemies; you anoint my head  
with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy  
shall follow me all the days of  
my life, and I shall dwell  
in the house of the Lord forever.



## Review Second Grade memory work

Additional Bible Story/ies

Story of David - Goliath, Saul, Jonathan

Other key Psalms (one or two) that David wrote

# Fourth Grade

## Small Catechism hand out

### The Ten Commandments with meanings:

The First Commandment

**You shall have no other gods.**

*What does this mean?* We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

The Second Commandment

**You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.**

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

The Third Commandment

**Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.**

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

The Fourth Commandment

**Honor your father and your mother.**

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

The Fifth Commandment

**You shall not murder.**

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.

The Sixth Commandment

**You shall not commit adultery.**

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

### The Seventh Commandment

**You shall not steal.**

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

### The Eighth Commandment

**You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.**

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

### The Ninth Commandment

**You shall not covet your neighbor's house.**

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

### The Tenth Commandment

**You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

[The text of the commandments is from Ex. 20:3, 7, 8, 12–17.]

### The Close of the Commandments

*What does God say about all these commandments?*

He says, "I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments." (Ex. 20: 5–6)

*What does this mean?* God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.

## **Review Third Grade memory work**

Bible work

Exodus 20

Why did God give the commandments?

Review of Moses

# Pre-Confirmation & Confirmation Check List

The following is to be a guideline for all youth wishing to be confirmed in 8th grade. Confirmation is an important step in the development of faith, if these guidelines cannot be met a student may not be able to be confirmed. Parents and Pastor; along with the Board of Elders, must communicate regularly throughout this faith enriching time.

- \* Attend Church on a regular basis (starting at 5<sup>th</sup> grade) - Minimum of 2 times per month
- \* Sermon Notes twice a month (starting at 6<sup>th</sup> grade; if attending a different church take notes and turn in with the church bulletin)
- \* Attend Youth Bible Class (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grades twice a month or help with Sunday School)
- \* Acolyte duties - (6th - 8th Grade) each student will be assigned Sunday's based upon their regular family worship time. Students are responsible for obtaining substitute acolytes. Please notify Pastor John of changes in the schedule.

## CONFIRMATION - Beginning at 7th Grade

- \* Attend Confirmation Class on as scheduled
- \* Have completed assignments and memorization homework
- \* Confirmation scheduled - First Sunday in May following Easter
- \* First Communion - Maundy Thursday

*Pastor and the Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator will be keeping progress on this check list of each of the student in the grades specified. They will enlist the help of the elders and others to make sure to have the most current information.*

*Confirmation- 8<sup>th</sup> graders will write a Statement of Faith. This statement will be read by the student in front of the congregation at a service before Confirmation Sunday. On the Thursday night church service before Confirmation Sunday there will be a Public Questioning of the students.*

# Fifth Grade

## The Apostle's Creed with meanings

### **The First Article: Creation**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

*What does this mean?* I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

### **The Second Article: Redemption**

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

*What does this mean?* I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

### **The Third Article: Sanctification**

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*What does this mean?* I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

**Review of past material & additional Bible Story/ies and Doctrine**

Creation 1st article

Holy Week 2nd Article

Baptism/Holy Spirit 3rd Article

what is creation, redemption, sanctification?

# Sixth Grade

## The Lord's Prayer – Petitions and Meanings

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

### The Introduction

#### **Our Father who art in heaven.**

*What does this mean?* With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

### The First Petition

#### **Hallowed be Thy name.**

*What does this mean?* God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

*How is God's name kept holy?* God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

### The Second Petition

#### **Thy kingdom come.**

*What does this mean?* The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

*How does God's kingdom come?* God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

### The Third Petition

#### **Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

*What does this mean?* The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

*How is God's will done?* God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's

name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die.

This is His good and gracious will.

## **Sixth Grade continued**

The Fourth Petition

**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.

The Fifth Petition

**And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

*What does this mean?* We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

The Sixth Petition

**And lead us not into temptation.**

*What does this mean?* God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

The Seventh Petition

**But deliver us from evil.**

*What does this mean?* We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

The Conclusion

**For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.\* Amen.**



*What does this mean?* This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen means “yes, yes, it shall be so.”

\*These words were not in Luther’s Small Catechism.

## **Seventh Grade/ Eighth Grade**

### **Confession and Office of the Keys**

#### **How Christians should be taught to confess**

##### **What is Confession?**

Confession has two parts.

First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

##### **What sins should we confess?**

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord’s Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

##### **Which are these?**

Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

##### **What is the Office of the Keys?\***

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

##### **Where is this written?\***

This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” (John 20:22–23)

##### **What do you believe according to these words?\***

I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

\*This question may not have been composed by Luther himself but reflects his teaching and was included in editions of the catechism during his lifetime.

# **Eighth Grade/ Seventh Grade**

## **Baptism and The Sacrament of the Alter**

### **Baptism**

First

#### **What is Baptism?**

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.

#### **Which is that word of God?**

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matt. 28:19)

Second

#### **What benefits does Baptism give?**

It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

#### **Which are these words and promises of God?**

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:16)

Third

#### **How can water do such great things?**

Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying." (Titus 3:5-8)

Fourth

#### **What does such baptizing with water indicate?**

It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

#### **Where is this written?**

St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: "We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Rom. 6:4)

## **Eighth Grade continued**

### **The Sacrament of the Alter**

#### **What is the Sacrament of the Altar?**

It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.

#### **Where is this written?**

The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

#### **What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?**

These words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

#### **How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?**

Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: "forgiveness of sins."

#### **Who receives this sacrament worthily?**

Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins."

But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.

Based on a sermon of May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1528 by Martin Luther:

“This sermon has been undertaken for the instruction of children and uneducated people. Hence from ancient times it has been called in Greek, a “catechism” — that is, instruction for children. Its contents represent the minimum of knowledge required of a Christian. Whoever does not possess it should not be reckoned among Christians nor admitted to a sacrament, just as a craftsman who does not know the rules and practices of his craft is rejected and considered incompetent. For this reason young people should be thoroughly instructed in the various parts of the Catechism or children’s sermons and diligently drilled in their practice.

Therefore, it is the duty of every head of a household to examine his children and servants at least once a week and ascertain what they have learned of it, and if they do not know it, to keep them faithfully at it.”

(excerpt from the Preface of the THE LARGE CATECHISM)

### Key Bible Verse:

Deuteronomy 6: 5-7 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup> And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup> 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.



## Behavioral Expectations

*While J.A.M., Confirmation, Sunday School, and other activities are designed to be a fun and relaxing time, good behavior is required of all involved. The following is a brief guide to the expectations of behavior while at St. John.*

- Students must listen to teachers, leaders, and volunteers while here.
- There is to be no fighting, arguing, swearing, or verbally harassing other students or adults
- Phones and electronics are not allowed during J.A.M and Confirmation.
  - We understand that there may be a need for this in a specific situation; if you feel the student needs to have their phone in their possession please speak directly to Pastor or the Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator.
    - All phones and electronics will be collected prior to opening devotion and put in individual clear bags with the students name on the bag; the bags will be locked in Pastor's office and returned at the end of the evening.
    - If an emergency arises you may call the church at 715-842-5212.

## Discipline Process

*Discipline comes from the root word disciple. The Scriptures make it clear that discipline is an integral part of the life of a disciple of Jesus. When we take the time to carefully guide the behavior of children, we are helping them understand how a Christ-follower lives and relates to others.*

*We will follow the guidelines Jesus taught which we read in Matthew 18:15-18*

<sup>15</sup> “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. <sup>16</sup> But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup> If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup> Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. (The Holy Bible: English Standard Version, 2016)<sup>1</sup>

*With regards to behavioral issues as listed above the following steps will be followed:*

*1st offense - The teacher, class leader will speak with the student directly requiring the behavior to stop.*

*2nd offense - same day - the teacher and student will speak with Pastor, Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator about the behavior which is to be stopped*

*3rd or continued offense - same day - the student will be removed from class and will sit with either Pastor or the Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator. The teacher and Pastor and/or the Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator will speak with parents upon picking up the child.*

*If poor behavior is exhibited on a regular basis (2 or more consecutive weeks or more than 4 times during either the fall/winter or winter/spring terms) parents will be asked to either attend J.A.M. or Confirmation with their child. If behavior does not improve the student may be asked to not come to J.A.M. or Confirmation for up to 2 weeks.*

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<sup>1</sup> *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton: Standard Bible Society, 2016), Mt 18:15–18.

*With regards to phones and electronic devices*

*If a student is found with a device following the opening devotion the following will be the procedures for discipline.*

*1st offense - student will put phone in bag and box with no other consequence*

*2nd offense - student will put phone in bag and box and must speak with Pastor or the Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator to pick it up. The student will bring a "Warning Slip" home which will spell out the following consequences*

*3rd offense - student will place phone in bag and box, at the end of the evening the device will be given to the students parents.*

*Any further offense - the student will not be allowed to bring the device to J.A.M. or Confirmation.*

*As stated above, there are circumstances which a device may be needed; in these situations parents must speak to either Pastor or the Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator.*

# Bible Learning Opportunities

## **Bible Study grades 6-12**

On Sunday mornings there will be a Bible Study offered for grades 6/7-12. Starting at 9:00/9:15 am. This Bible Study will focus on the needs of the students. "How are you doing? What's going on in your life?" Questions that could be asked.

- Grades 6-8<sup>th</sup> should attend two times a month. (Per confirmation requirement)

## **Youth Group**

A good social gathering with Bible Studies and fun activities for the youth (grades 9-12ish) and their friends. Youth group will meet on Wednesday nights during the school year and two times a month during the summer. Growing in their faith and doing Bible study on their own. Also moving toward the next step as to meeting outside the church with others and having a Bible Study- Young Adults.

## **Adult Bible Studies**

There are many opportunities for the adults here at St. John to be in a Bible Study or two. There is the Sunday morning at 9:00/9:15 pastor lead; guest speaker or someone else on a special topic. On two Sunday nights a month there is the Men's and Women's Bible Studies. Also, Senior Club and Ladies Aid. Pastor has offered other Men's and Women's Bible Studies during the week. Camp Fire Bible Studies offered two Sundays a month during the summer.



## **JAM (Jesus and Me)**

The midweek program here at St. John that meets on Wednesday nights during the school year (September to May) from 6:30 to 8:00pm (time changes apply for special nights). Kids from Kindergarten to 8<sup>th</sup> grade start out in the church for a 10 to 15-minute devotion and then break out into the different grade groups. The schedule allows for Bible/Catechism learning, snack and gym/games.

## **VBS**

Vacation Bible School being held in August. Two weeks after the Wisconsin Valley Fair (Wausau fair). Having the commitment from the Youth Group helps a lot. Also, all the other people that volunteer their time and support. Always looking for more adults to help. This is a free week-long program for all.

## **Day School**

Two fold here: 1) Go over a passage from the week ahead readings. Most of the time it is the Gospel reading.

2) Memorization – 10 Commandments; Creed, Lord’s Prayer, and Bible Passages.

## **Sunday School**

Sunday School meets during education hour 9-10:00am Sunday morning. All students start out together in the church and then break out into their classes for the remainder of the time.

## Helpful Prayers and Tips for Family Devotions

### Tips for Family Devotions:

- 1) It's never too late to start.
- 2) Keep it short and simple.
- 3) Find a regular time that works for you and your family.
- 4) Do something that fits your families personality – don't compare with someone else.
- 5) Experiment – if a plan doesn't work, try something different.
- 6) Use resources that target the oldest child in your family.
- 7) Find ways to make your time together enjoyable.
- 8) Throw perfection out the window.
- 9) Allow kids to wiggle.
- 10) When you fall off the wagon, start again. (Brown, 2016)

### Prayers for Your Home:

- 1) Pray that God remains number one in your life.
  - 2) Pray that a desire to be Christlike grows in each member of your family.
  - 3) Pray that you remain committed to gathering your family around God's Word.
  - 4) Pray that a spirit of love and forgiveness permeates your home.
  - 5) Pray for opportunities to have fun with your children.
  - 6) Pray for warmth around your family dinner table.
  - 7) Pray for ways to bring God into your everyday conversations at home.
  - 8) Pray for commitment to pray with and about your children.
  - 9) Pray that you and your spouse find ways to enjoy each other's company.
  - 10) Pray for committed Christian mentors to build a friendship with your children.
- (Brown, 2016)

**LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

**LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins

where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands, I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen. (Luther's Small Catechism, 1991)

## **Meal Time Fun Prayers to Musical Tunes:**

### **Adams Family Grace (to the tune of "The Adams Family")**

We thank the Lord for giving  
The food we need for living  
Because we really need it  
And we like to eat it

#### **Chorus**

Chorus: na na na nah (snap fingers twice)  
na na na nah (snap fingers twice)  
na na na nah (sing three times)  
(then snap fingers twice, last time say Amen)

We're thirsty and we're hungry  
Want something in our tummy  
The food looks mighty yummy  
And so we thank the Lord.

#### **Chorus**

We thank you Lord for giving  
The food we need living  
For friends, fun and family  
We thank you now oh Lord.

#### **Chorus**

### **Batman Grace (to the tune of the Batman theme song)**

na na na na na na na na Thank You Jesus  
na na na na na na na na For the food Jesus  
Amen

### **Johnny Appleseed** (tune: Johnny Appleseed)

Ooooooh, the Lord is good to me (clap, clap)  
And so I thank the Lord (clap, clap)  
For giving me the things I need;  
The Sun and the Rain and the Apple Seed  
The Lord is good to me.  
JOHNNY APPLESEED! (clap) AMEN!!!

### **Original Super Man**

Thank you Lord for giving us food!  
Thank you Lord for giving us food!  
For the food that we eat here!  
and the friends that we meet here!  
Thank you Lord for giving us food!  
Amen (stand like Superman)

### **Jaws Prayer (to the tune of Jaws)**

(put your hands on top of your head like a shark fin.)

God is; Great and; God is; Good and;  
(speed up now)  
So we; Thank Him; For Our; Food and;  
AMEN!

(when saying amen make your hand arms close like a shark mouth)

### **Yankee Doodle Grace**

(tune of "Yankee Doodle")  
We thank you Lord for daily bread

For rain and sunny weather  
We thank you Lord for this our food  
And that we are together  
Thank you, thank you, thank you Lord  
Thank you, thank you, thank you Father  
Thanks you Lord for this our food  
And that we are together

### **Flintstones Grace**

(tune of Flintstones Theme Song)

God is- great – and God is – Good  
And let us thank Him for our food.  
God is – great – and God is – Good  
And let us thank Him for our food.  
Amen. Ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-men

Amen. Ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-men

## **Bibliography**

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