

January 2022

In the First Petition of the Lord's Prayer we pray that God's name would be hallowed among us. This is to say that it would be kept holy or set apart. The explanation is put forth in the Small Catechism: *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!*

As Luther rightly indicates in the explanation of the First Petition, living Christian lives are bound up in knowing the Word of God. If we don't know God's Word how do we determine what is good and what is not. We can't. We will make assumptions based on our own changing feelings or whatever popular culture would have us believe. This will lead us to live contrary to the Word of God and therefore profane the name of God while bearing the name Christian.

So we need to know God's Word. It is a fountain head to a life guided by our Lord Himself. It helps us to see through the weeds of the world and see what is good, right, and salutary. If we try and make things up as we go we are building on shifting sand. We and our families need a strong foundation. Especially nowadays. When our lives are bound to the Word of God we are secure.

To aid you on this course, you will find a schedule of Bible readings printed in the bulletin each week. They have been there for several years but I want to draw your attention back to them. If you are not using a different schedule, here's a place to start. If it's your New Year resolution - great. If you want something different, come and see me. In addition to church attendance, read the Bible at home. Rather than saturating your days with CNN, Fox, or MSNBC, make time for the one thing needful. You will be blessed. Come to Bible Study and ask questions. Let God's Word lead your life as you interact with a world which is hostile to it and hear Peter confess to Jesus as he confesses for us all: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life; and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God." (John 6:68).

*Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
And bring to naught all He has done.*
LSB 655

In Christ,
Pastor Suggitt

Want to listen to good theology concerning current topics, the Bible, and Christ crucified for you? Check out *Issues, Etc.* on your computer or smartphone.



LutheranPublicRadio.org

LIFE QUOTES

On the March for Life: “We’ve shown up to celebrate and safeguard each one from the unborn to the elderly and everywhere in between ... We’re leaning in to bring joy to the desperate and hope to the endangered. We’re reaching out to take community and opportunity even amid adversity. We’re marching forth to give courage and compassion. We’ve united today not simply to leave a sordid past behind but to leap ahead into a splendid future.” *Pastor Michael Salemink, Executive Director of Mission and Ministry, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*