

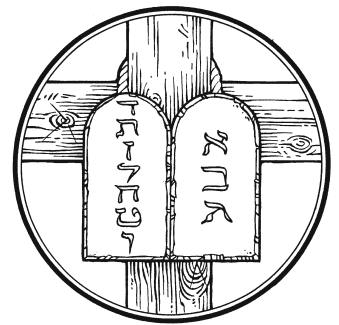
SEPTEMBER 2024

***And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children... Deuteronomy 6:6-7***

After Moses led Israel out of Egypt, God gave him instructions to teach the people. It was a command from the Lord that Moses was to impart onto them so that they, having been rescued by the Lord's mighty hand, would not only remember the mercy shown to them but also to make sure that the following generations knew and that they knew how to live as His people. So God says through Moses, *"Hear, O Israel; the Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 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. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the door posts of your house and on your gates."* (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

We are beginning a new year of Sunday school and Catechism class. These are God-pleasing things. We want our children to be raised in the faith knowing the mercies of our Lord and provide ways for them to continue hearing of Jesus' mercy and how to live their lives as His Christians. God be praised when parents bring their children to Sunday School and Catechism class! We are glad and thankful to have the opportunity for these times of learning.

But this isn't the primary or the only way that children should be learning. The duty given to parents is: **You shall teach them** [the commandments and words of our Lord] *diligently to your children* (Deut. 6:7). Certainly the classes offered can be a part of that, but the responsibility lies with the parents in the home. Classes aren't a substitute for teaching your children diligently, they're a supplement, not a replacement. It's intended to go along with and reinforce what is being taught in the home. The principle Moses is given to articulate is clear: *You shall teach them* [again, the commandments and words of our Lord] *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*. Luther echoes this in the Small Catechism saying, *"As the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to his household"* at the beginning of each of the six chief parts. Parents are called to teach the things of Christ in the home. We should take up this duty joyfully. Our children and the generations to follow are counting on us. I'm always ready to help and give suggestions to all parents who are seeking to lead their family according to God's Word.



If you don't have children in the home, the principle of learning in the home and its benefits still stand for you, too. And here's something else you can do: check on the families with children. Ask how things are going with raising their children to fear, love, and trust in God above all things; what are they doing to nurture God's truth in the home?; how are they leading and answering their children concerning a culture's push for ungodly things? Those who don't have children or are older, you can encourage, pray for, and talk with the parents who are to teach their children diligently.

So, Sunday School and Catechism class are wonderful things! But, by God's design, they are not the only things. The home and church are to compliment one another. May the Lord help us to be faithful to the children and teaching we've been entrusted with.

In Christ,  
Pastor Suggitt

## Lifelines

**President's Column by Pastor Paul Clark, President of Lutherans For Life of Michigan** Jesus says, "Whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea." (Matthew 18:5-7)

We stand together, one in mind and heart, and with one voice, in defense of the lives of our unborn children - God's precious little ones. Yet, what we stand for is not only the lives of these precious unborn children, but also the moms, the dads, the grandmas and grandpas, the young and the old, the healthy and the sick and dying – what we stand for is the very value – the very gift - of life itself.

We continue to be a voice for the voiceless. We speak because we must; for there is a darkness over our state, and a deathly shadow has fallen over the minds of many. The passing of Proposal 3 changed the very constitution in Michigan to allow unfettered killing of the unborn. Many bought into the lie that this was primarily about women's health care. *It is not. Abortion is not and has never been about true health care.*

Dear brothers and sisters: We who are blessed to know the Lord of Life also know that in even the darkest hour, the truth still shines forth, and it shines all the brighter. God has given us life; He has redeemed us through Jesus. Life is of great value – each and every life. For the same Lord Jesus who said, Let the little children come to Me, is the One who brought you to Him as well, through those blessed and saving waters of our Holy Baptism. (*Excerpt from Lutherans for Life of Michigan February/March/April 2024*)



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