

2nd Annual ELS Homeschool Symposium

Sponsored by the ELS Board for Education

Hosted at Bethany Lutheran College ▪ April 22, 2018

Welcome to the 2nd ELS Homeschooling Symposium! We're so happy to have you join us for an afternoon of information and fellowship!

2:00 **Socializing/Book Browsing/Registration** (Meyer Hall 101, Lecture Hall)

3:00 **Opening Devotion** (Prof. Doyle Holbird)

3:30 ***Hymns in the Life of the Church, School, and Home** (Rev. Johann Caauwe)

The church's songs—especially her hymns—provide us with a vehicle for passing the faith on to the next generation. This happens when these songs not only provide musical accompaniment for the proclamation of the gospel in corporate worship, but especially when these hymns accompany the lives of the church's members. It starts with children at a very young age; when hymns are learned young and learned well, they provide for a lifetime of comfort and strength.

5:00 **Socializing/Book Browsing/Dinner** (Dining Hall, Old Main)

Dinner will be held in the Bethany Dining Center in Old Main. Thanks to funding from the ELS Board for Education, dinner is complementary. Before going to the cafeteria, please be sure you have obtained a meal ticket for each adult and child over the age of 6. Generally, there are gluten-free options available in the dining center. There will also be a salad bar available.

6:15 ***Faith and Family: A Classical Lutheran Approach** (Dr. Ryan MacPherson)

The Bible, the hymnal, and the catechism provide the core curriculum for Lutheran home education, and likewise for family devotions. A "classical" approach to education first lays a foundation of basic facts (Grammar), then proceeds to demonstrate truth through rational arguments (Logic), and finally culminates in the craft of effective communication (Rhetoric). Luther drew upon such an education during the Reformation, and its value continues today.

7:00 **Closing Hymn and Prayer** (Rev. Andrew Palmquist)

May the Lord bless you richly as you raise your children in His grace and truth.

Blessings in Christ,

Joshua Mears and Marie MacPherson

Coordinators, 2nd Annual ELS Homeschool Symposium

* **Child care** is offered during these sessions. Children ages 1–3 will be in MH 130 (across the hallway from the Lecture Hall). Children ages 4–10 are on the second floor. We kindly ask that your children be picked up promptly after the sessions. We are grateful for the older children in attendance who have volunteered to assist the designated childcare providers.

Save the Date . . . Thursday, June 21, 2018

**"A Reliable and Defensible Christianity for Today's World:
Equipping Christians to Defend and Share the Gospel"**

Bethany Lutheran College ▪ www.blc.edu/apologetics

Hymns in the Life of Church, School, and Home

ELS Homeschool Symposium— Mankato MN — April 15, 2018

Outline

- I. Hymnals are for Church, School, and Home
 - A. First Generations
 - B. Further Generations
- II. Why sing to children?
 - A. Words put to music become embedded deeply in heart and mind, even into the shadows of dementia
 - B. Sing to children to prepare them to live under the cross and to die in Christ
- III. What shall we sing to them?
 - A. Songs sturdy enough to carry the content of the faith
 - B. Songs that children can grow into and not out of
 - C. Lutheran hymnody is unique in its doctrinal content and comfort that prepares individual Christians for a lifetime of living under the cross
- IV. How, Where, When?
 - A. Church
 1. Children in Church
 2. Hymns in the Divine Service
 - B. School
 1. Music in Lutheran Schools
 2. Hymnology
 - C. Home
 1. The Family Altar
 2. Hymns for Life

Resources

Links to these resources are listed at shepherdstory.com/hymns

- A. Books/Videos
 1. [Singing the Gospel: Lutheran Hymns and the Success of the Reformation](#). Christopher Boyd Brown (Harvard University Press, 2005).
 2. [First Person Singular](#). Carl Schalk (Morningstar, 1998)
 3. [Why Johnny Can't Sing Hymns](#). T. David Gordon (P&R Publishing, 2010).
 4. [Singing the Faith: Living the Lutheran Musical Heritage](#) (Good Shepherd Institute)
 5. [Children Making Music](#). (LCMS/WELS, 2008).
- B. Presentations
 1. "[My Friend When I Am Dying](#)" by Pr. Christopher Esget to Good Shepherd Institute
 2. "[Will Our Children Stay Within the Church?](#)" by Pr Timothy Pauls (link on hausvater.org)
 3. "[Lutheran Hymns: Teaching the Faith in Both Church and Home](#)" North Texas Free Conference 2011
- C. Hymn Collections
 1. Children's Choirs of St. Paul's Lutheran, Ft. Wayne IN (CPH)
 2. [Heirs of the Reformation](#) (CPH, Amazon)
 3. [Martin Luther: Hymns, Ballads, Chants, Truth](#) (CPH, Amazon)
 4. [The Heavens Declare His Glory](#)

Quotes

“Who will teach our children the songs of faith? Home, school, and church all have a part to play. And unless we are ready to give up a generation with no strong roots in the church’s treasury of song, we had better get busy.”

Carl Schalk, First Person Singular (1998)

“Here the Word of God and its teachings appear as verse wedded to melody, penetrating the heart and delighting the soul. Long before children have learned to read, they have sung. And as the elderly approach their twilight years, the melodies and texts of the church’s song are still recalled, even if their eyesight has faded and their fingers are no longer nimble enough to turn a page. From cradle to grave, the church’s song gives voice to the heartfelt cries and joyful strains of God’s children.”

Introducing Lutheran Service Book

“Consider a child born in the 1970’s, finding himself coming toward the end of his life in a geriatric ward in the 2060’s, and as he prepares to make his peace with God summoning up such a deeply spiritual ditty as: If I were a fuzzy wuzzy bear, I’d thank you, Lord, for my fuzzy wuzzy hair. Children’s hymns should never be seen as a form of entertainment to keep the kids happy.”

John L. Bell, The Singing Thing (2000)

“hymns that accompany one’s life are one of life’s richest treasures. And so when I became responsible for selecting hymns for my congregation on a weekly basis, I knew that I was equipping them to either live well or not so well.”

T. David Gordon, “Why Johnny Can’t Sing Hymns” P & R Publishing Company Phillipsburg, NJ: 2010.

Core Lutheran Hymns

1. Savior of the Nations, Come	2	Ambrose, Luther
2. O Lord, How Shall I Meet You	18	Gerhardt
3. Of the Father’s Love Begotten	25	Prudentius
4. All Praise to You, Eternal God	33	Luther
5. Once Again My Heart Rejoices	37	Gerhardt
6. From Heaven Above to Earth I Come	38	Luther
7. O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is	40	Gerhardt
8. Let All Together Praise Our God	41	Herman
9. How Lovely Shines the Morning Star	79	Nicolai
10. To Jordan Came, the Christ, our Lord	88	Luther
11. A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth	100	Gerhardt
12. O Sacred Head, Now Wounded	105	Bernard of Clairvaux, Gerhardt
13. Upon the Cross Extended	113	Gerhardt
14. O Dearest Jesus	117	Heerman
15. Sing, My Tongue the Glorious Battle	122	Fortunatus
16. At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing	141	Latin hymn
17. Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain	142	John of Damascus
18. Awake, My Heart, with Gladness	156	Gerhardt
19. Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands	161	Luther
20. A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing	171	Bede, the Venerable
21. Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord	176	Luther
22. Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest	177/178	Maurus
23. We Now Implore God the Holy Ghost	190	Luther

24. Triune God, Oh, Be Our Stay	192	German Litany
25. A Mighty Fortress Is Our God	200	Luther
26. Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word	203	Luther
27. Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying	206	Nicolai
28. Who Knows When Death	210	Juliane
29. Praise the Almighty	235	Herrnschmidt
30. All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above	236	Schütz
31. Kyrie! God, Father	266	
32. Isaiah, Mighty Seer in Days of Old	267	Luther
33. We All Believe in One True God	271	Luther
34. The Ten Commandments Are the Law	285	Luther
35. All Who Believe and Are Baptized	299	Kingo
36. From Depths of Woe I Cry to You	305	Luther
37. As Surely As I Live, God Said	308	Herman
38. Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness	311	Franck
39. Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior	313	Luther
40. O Lord, We Praise You	317	Luther
41. Jesus, Priceless Treasure	349	Franck
42. Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence	361	Liturgy of St. James
43. Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice	377	Luther
44. All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall	378	Spengler
45. By Grace I'm Saved	384	Scheidt
46. Salvation unto Us Has Come	390	Speratus
47. Our Father, Who from Heaven Above	410	Luther
48. My God Will Never Leave Me	418	Helmbold
49. If God Himself Be For Me	419	Gerhardt
50. Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me	428	Gerhardt
51. Evening and Morning	430	Gerhardt
52. I Walk in Danger All the Way	431	Brorson
53. Lord, You I Love with All My Heart	434	Schalling
54. Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing	443	Gerhardt
55. O God, My Faithful God	459	Heermann
56. Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me	479	Gerhardt
57. In the Midst of Earthly Life	534	Luther
58. Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide	541	Selnecker
59. Behold a Host, Arrayed in White	550	Brorson
60. May God Bestow on Us His Grace	574	Luther
61. Father, We Praise You	581	Gregory I
62. All Christians Who Have Been Baptized	736	Gerhardt
63. God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It	737	Neumeister

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Sunday	Auswendig zu lernende Lieder	English Title	CW	LSB	TLH	ELH
Advent 1	Wie soll ich dich empfangen	O Lord, How Shall I Meet You	18	334	58	94
Advent 2	Vom himmel hoch da komm ich her	From Heaven Above to Earth I Come	38	358	85	123
Advent 3	Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ	All Praise to You, Eternal God	33	382	80	136
Advent 4	Lobt Gott, ihr Christen allzugleich	Let All Together Praise Our God	41	389	105	148
Sun. after Christmas	Nun danket all Gott	Now Thank We All Our God	610	895	36	63
New Year's	Nun laßt und gehn und treten	Now Let Us Come Before Him	74		122	
after New Year's	Ach, bleib mit deiner Gnade	Abide, O Dearest Jesus	333	919	53	579
Baptism of our Lord	Christ, unser Herr, zum Jordan	To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord	88	406		247
Epiphany 2	Alles ist an Gottes Segen	All Depends on Our Possessing	421	732	425	468
Epiphany 3	Jesus Christus, unser Heiland	Jesus Christ, our Blessed Savior	313	627	311	316
Epiphany 4	Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott	A Mighty Fortress	200	656	262	250
Epiphany 5	Es wollt uns Gott gnädig sein	May God Bestow on Us His Grace	574	823	500	591
Epiphany 6	Jerusalem, du hochgebaute Stadt	Jerusalem, Thou City Fair and High	212	674	619	541
Septuagesima	Gott des Himmels und der Erden	God, Who Madest Earth and Heaven			549	77
Sexagesima	Nun ruhen alle Wälder	Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadow	587	880	554	569
Quinquagesima	Nun lob, mein Seel, den Herren	My Soul, Now Bless Your Maker	257	820	34	456
Lent 1	Schwing dich auf zu deinem Gott					
Lent 2	Ein Lämmlein geht und trägt	A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth	100	438	142	331
Lent 3	Wenn meine Sünd mich kränken	When O'er My Sins I Sorrow	109		152	276
Lent 4	O Haupt voll Blut und Wunden	O Sacred Head, Now Wounded	105	449	172	334
Lent 5	O Welt, sieh hier dein Leben	Upon the Cross Extended	113	453	171	304
Palm Sunday	O Traurigkeit, o Herzeleid!	O Darkest Woe	137	448	167	332
Easter	Auf, auf, mein Herz, mit Freuden	Awake My Heart with Gladness	156	467	192	341
Easter 2	Gott sei gelobet und gebenedeiet	O Lord, We Praise You	317	617	313	327
Easter 3	Wach auf, mein Herz, und singe					
Easter 4	Sollt es gleich bisweilen scheinen					
Easter 5	Nun bitten wir den Heiligen Geist	We Now Implore God the Holy	190	768	231	33
Easter 6	Vater unser in Himmelreich	Our Father, Who from Heaven Above	410	766	458	383
Easter 7	Allein zu dir, HErr Jesu Christ	I Trust, O Christ, in You Alone	437		319	415
Pentecost	Komm, Heiliger Geist, Herre	Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord	176	497	224	2
Trinity	Wir Glauben all an einen Gott	We All Believe in One True God	271	954	251	38

Sunday	Auswendig zu lernende Lieder	English Title	CW	LSB	TLH	ELH
Trinity 1	O Ewigkeit, du Donnerwort					
Trinity 2	Aus Gnaden soll ich selig werden	By Grace I'm Saved	384	566	373	226
Trinity 3	Seelenbräutigam					
Trinity 4	Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ					255
Trinity 5	Fang dein Werk mit Jesu an	With the Lord Begin Your Task	478	869	540	82
Trinity 6	Dieß sind die heiligen zehn Gebot	The Ten Commandments Are the Law	285	581	287	490
Trinity 7	Wer nur den lieben Gott	If You But Trust in God to Guide You	444	750	518	205
Trinity 8	Ach bleib bei uns, Herr Jesu	Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide	541	585	292	511
Trinity 9	Herzlich lieb hab ich dich, O Herr	Lord, You I Love With All My Heart	434	708	429	406
Trinity 10	Wo soll ich fliehen hin					
Trinity 11	Es ist das Heil uns kommen her	Salvation Unto Us Has Come	390	555	377	227
Trinity 12	Was Gott thut, das ist wohlgethan	What God Ordains Is Always Good	429	760	521	519
Trinity 13	Befiehl du deine Wege	Commit Whatever Grieves Thee			520	208
Trinity 14	Lobe den Herren, den mächtigen	Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	234	790	39	65
Trinity 15	Ich singe dir mit Herz und Mund	Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing	443	737	535	
Trinity 16	Wer weiß, wie nahe mir mein	Who Knows When Death	210		598	483
Trinity 17	Nun sich der Tag geendet hat					
Trinity 18	Nun freut euch lieben Christen	Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice	377	556	387	378
Trinity 19	Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu dir	From Depths of Woe I Cry to You	305	607	329	452
Trinity 20	Valet will ich dir geben	Farewell I Gladly Bid Thee			407	535
Trinity 21	Warum sollt ich mich denn grämen	Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me	428	756	523	377
Trinity 22	Sei Lob und Ehr dem höchsten	All Praise to God Who Reigns Above	236	819	19	435
Trinity 23	Was gibst du denn, o meine Seele	Soul, What Return Has God, thy Savior			404	
Trinity 24	Wenn mein Stündlein vorhanden	When My Last Hour Is Close At			594	481
Trinity 25	Mitten wir im Leben sind	In the Midst of Earthly Life	534	755	590	527
Trinity 26	Es ist gewisslich an der Zeit	The Day Is Surely Drawing Near	207	508	611	538
Trinity 27	Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme	Wake, Awake	206	516	609	544

Faith & Family

A Classical Lutheran Approach

2nd Annual ELS Homeschool Symposium, Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, Minn., April 15, 2018

Ryan C. MacPherson, Ph.D. ▪ www.ryanmacpherson.com

Introductory Concepts

Classical Education (truth-centered rather than craving-centered):

- **Grammar:** Founded upon rote memorization of facts that are worth memorizing by rote.
- **Logic:** Relating known facts logically to one another in order to figure out the unknown.
- **Rhetoric:** Communicating truth in a winsome manner to the people entrusted to one's care.
- **Mentoring in Stages:** How do you teach your children to cross the street?

Lutheran Theology (which is exactly the same as Christian/Biblical theology):

- **Not “Only” the 5 “Onlies”:** Sola Gratia, Sola Fide, Sola Scriptura, Solus Christus, Soli Deo Gloria
- **But Also:** sacramental, vocational, and strong in weakness (theology of the cross vs. of glory)
- **Nota Bene:** Lutheran Catechesis and Lutheran Apologetics thrive amid Classical Education!

The Take-Home Message

The take-home message is that God has called parents to take home *the Message*—the Gospel—from their pastor, passing the faith down the generations within the home.

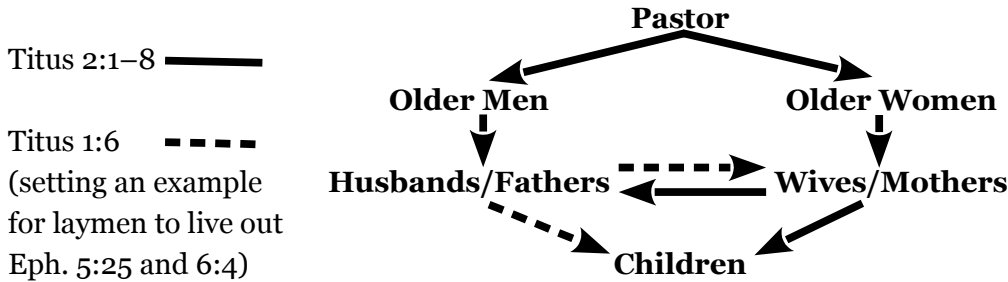
- *Perhaps* homeschooling vs. parochial schools vs. public schools is an open choice.
- *But*, Christian home discipleship is a divine command to which God has attached promises (and, if the command be neglected, then the entire family and the broader church both risk His wrath).
 - **Luther's Catechisms** were written to equip parents for teaching God's Word to their children.
 - Our Lutheran forefathers referred to their home devotion time/space as **the Family Altar**.
 - Well-known OT and NT passages present **God's command** and attach **His promise** to the “Family Altar”: Dt 6:6–7; Ps 78:5–7; Pr 22:6; Mal 2:15; Ac 2:38–39; Eph 6:4.
 - One less-well-known passage in particular needs to become better known if we are to properly understand the **vocations of pastor, father, and mother**: Titus 2:1–8.
- *Moreover*, because the classical liberal arts approach to learning was so instrumental in the Lutheran Reformation itself, parents have good reason to employ the same approach in their homes and similarly to urge that pastors and teachers (parochial, charter*, public*) do the same.
 - **Grammar:** Memorize Bible passages, hymns, and the Small Catechism (both its 6-chief-parts structure and its content), plus an outline of facts for retelling Bible history.
 - **Logic:** Understand how each doctrine rests upon one or more clear passages of Scripture, and how one doctrine relates to another, forming a system of theology.
 - **Rhetoric:** Defend orthodoxy from heresy and faith from unbelief through biblical apologetics.

*While public schools in America at this time will not support Christian theology directly, they at least should support the Natural Law truths that **facts exist** (genuine knowledge does not arise from personal opinion or ethnic perspective!), that some basic **names and dates of history are worth memorizing**, and that **logic helps** us sort out truth from error (e.g., the syllogism vs. fallacies). **Natural law** standards of morality and justice, as expressed by Aristotle and Cicero in the West and Confucius in the East, find their clearest expressions in Scripture (Ten Commandments, Deuteronomy's Civil Code, the Book of Proverbs, the Sermon on the Mount, Romans 1–2), and these same texts greatly influenced the formation of the United States. To refuse to take those biblical texts seriously is to surrender our national heritage and forsake our citizenship.

Titus 2: A “Faith and Family” Model of the Congregation

Where Are You in Titus Chapter Two? (see: www.hausvater.org/articles/320)

- Pastors preach sermons (Titus 1:9) and laypeople live sermons (Titus 2:1–8; cf. Rom. 12:1) ... together cherishing the marks of the church as their vocations link the congregation to the home through spiritual mentoring relationships.
- So, where has God placed *you* in Titus 2?



A Brief Outline for a Classical Lutheran Education

GRAMMAR STAGE (a framework filled with facts)		
Bible	Hymnal	Catechism
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eras of Bible History: Creation, Flood, Patriarchs, Exodus, Judges, Kings, Captivity, Jesus, Apostles • Map: Jordan River, Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, etc. • Themes: OT and NT • Books of the Bible: Genre, Sequence, Author, Content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chant the Liturgy with the Congregation • Sing Hymns at Church and in the Home • Follow the Seasons of the Church Year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the 6 Chief Parts: Commandments, Creed, Prayer, Baptism, Absolution, Communion • Memorize Catechism and Bible Verses • Define Terms: Trinity, grace, justification, etc.

LOGIC STAGE (showing why something is true)		
Bible	Hymnal	Catechism
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OT prophecies and NT fulfillment in Christ • Historical-Grammatical approach to the Creation texts, Resurrection texts, Baptism texts, and Communion texts • Figurative approach to parables and visions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biblical lyrics set to music (melody, tempo, rhythm, major/minor keys, etc.) • Hymns correspond to the 6 Chief Parts, or to the Church Year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the 6 Chief Parts by proof passages. • Identify inter-relations among the 6 Chief Parts: 1st Article/4th Petition, etc. • Distinguish true doctrines from false doctrines by appeal to Scripture

RHETORIC STAGE (communicating truths effectively)		
Bible	Hymnal	Catechism
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectionary and Hymnody for the Seasons of the Church Year • OT typology fulfilled by Christ in the NT • Select one’s own list of Bible passages to share with others in times of special need. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select hymns for personal and family devotions, matching the church year or special times in life. • Select hymns to share with others in times of special need. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Order your day with personal and family devotions. • Talk with people from other denominations about similarities and differences with the Lutheran church. • Explain to an unbeliever what you believe and why.

Parents model “Rhetoric,” preparing their children to *become parents* who will do the same for *their children*.

The Family Altar (www.hausvater.org/articles/354)

- Every family has an altar—the questions are: To which god? and, How often is it used?
- Noah (Gen 8:20), Abraham (Gen 12:7), Isaac (Gen 26:25), and Jacob (Gen 33:20) built altars to the Lord, as did Moses (Exo 17:15), Joshua (Jos 8:30), Gideon (Jdg 6:24), Samuel (1 Sm 7:17), and David (2 Sm 24:25).
 - God repeatedly commanded that altars to false gods be torn down.
 - After times of idolatry, the altars to the true God had to be rebuilt.
- Have you torn down the altars in your home devoted to false gods? Have you built an altar to the true God? (Our Lutheran fathers called their family devotion space and time “the family altar.”)
- Treasuring the Unique Benefits of God’s Word: *Holy Scripture is God’s inspired, inerrant, infallible, complete, preserved, and efficacious Word revealing Christ as Savior.*
 - God’s: Jer 23:28; 1 Co 2:13; Gal 1:11–12; 1 Th 2:13; 2 Pt 1:16,18
 - Inspired: Mt 22:43; 2 Tm 3:16,17; 2 Pt 1:20–21
 - Inerrant: Ps 12:6; Jn 10:35; Jn 8:31–32
 - Infallible: Jos 21:45, cf. 23:14; 1 Kgs 8:56; Ps 77:8; Isa 34:16; Mt 5:18; 2 Co 1:20; Heb 10:23; 2 Pt 3:9,13
 - Complete: Dt 12:32; Mt 28:20; Rev 22:18–19
 - Preserved: Ps 12:7; Isa 40:8; Mt 24:35; 1 Pt 1:22–25, quoting Isa 40:8
 - Efficacious: Isa 55:11; Jn 8:31–32; Jn 17:20; Ro 10:14,17; Heb 4:12; 2 Pt 3:5–7; Rev 1:3
 - **Revealing Christ as Savior:** Mt 5:17; Jn 5:39; Jn 20:30–31; Gal 3:22,24–25; 2 Tm 3:15
- Receiving God’s Gifts as a Family in the Divine Service:
 - There can be no Christian family, no Christian anything, apart from Word and Sacrament.
 - Whether as a household of one, or of twenty-one, let the Divine Service set the rhythm.
- Training Your Children with a Christian Home Library:
 - God has ordained every family to be a “home school” family at some level.
 - Bible History reveals that children and grandchildren suffer when parents neglect to train their children in the way of the Lord.
 - Research reveals that youth leave the church unless their *fathers*, in particular, take an active role in mentoring them in the Christian faith—*before* adolescence.
 - The challenges are severe, but God’s Word abounds with promises to bless His people.
 - Core Curriculum: the Bible, the Hymnal, and the Catechism.
- Holding Your Family Together in Christ at the Family Altar
 - Take primary responsibility for your children’s “education” (whether or not you enroll them in “school”). Consider Luther’s Large Catechism, concerning the Fourth Commandment: “First of all, they [parents] should earnestly and faithfully discharge their office, not only to support and provide for the bodily necessities of their children, servants, subjects, etc., but, most of all, to train them to the honor and praise of God.” (LC, I, 168)
 - “Our fathers have told us” (Ps 44:1); “that you may tell it to the generation following” (Ps 48:13); “we will not hide them from our children, telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done” (Ps 78:4).
 - Fathers are to be evangelists in their own home (Dt 6:6–7; Ps 78:5–7; Pr 22:6; Mal 2:15; Ac 2:38–39; Eph 6:4).
 - *Leave an everlasting legacy:* Bless your children, your children’s children, and your children’s children’s children (Gen 49:1–28). (What a privilege parents have to attach God’s name and God’s blessings to their children as they bring them to the church to be baptized and as they instruct them in God’s Word daily at home!)

Practical Suggestions (Not Commands)

• **Daily:**

- Post a schedule on the refrigerator (everyone eats every day, so everyone will be sure to see it if it's on the fridge!): include time for a family devotion.
- Rise with Luther's Morning Prayer, and go to sleep with Luther's Evening Prayer. (We *speak* one and *chant* the other, since otherwise we are usually too tired to keep the almost-the-same-but-not-quite-the-same words straight! Christina Harman's chants: www.hausvater.org/hymnody-liturgy/365)
- Fathers, read one chapter (25 verses) of the Bible to your family daily. You'll finish the whole Bible in about four years. We use the NKJV for all ages, and before you know it even the younger children understand the words.
- Read children's Bibles and Bible history books, appropriate to your children's age. This way, young children can have the advantage of understanding the simplified version immediately even as they also have opportunity to grow into the NKJV (or similar) adult version.
- Use the "Order for Family Devotions" or whatever it may be called in your hymnal, or just use Matins (abbreviated if you wish), or Prime (morning) and Compline (evening), or just the Suffrages, or just the Litany, or alternate for variety.
 - Buy a hymnal for everyone in the family who knows how to read.
 - Use the same hymnal in your home as your congregation uses in the divine service.
- Rotate your meal prayers: "Come, Lord Jesus..." at breakfast, "The eyes of all look to You, O Lord," at supper, etc. Say it. Sing it. Chant it. Fold your hands. Open your palms toward heaven.
- Reaffirm the baptismal blessing (sign of the cross) as you tuck your children into bed.

• **Weekly:**

- Invite the children to nominate a hymn of the week from the Sunday service, and adopt it for your home devotions. *Caution:* Some particularly enthusiastic children have been known to shout out in the middle of the divine service, "Daddy! I love this one! Can we sing it all week?"
- Recite a section of the Small Catechism daily, repeating for a full week. With 10 commandments, 9 sections to the Lord's Prayer, 3 articles of the Apostles' Creed (which can be further divided, since Article 2 is especially long), and 4 distinct "What does this mean?" sections for each sacrament, you can easily spread the catechism out over a year.
- Assign memory work to be recited on Sundays, using Bible verses that track with the catechism recitations.

• **Yearly:**

- Create a Family Altar Board (www.hausvater.org/articles/354) and track the changing seasons of the church year: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, etc.
- Hang a large crucifix on the wall and drape it with the colors of the current church season.
- Fathers, bless your children on their birthdays by selecting a Bible verse appropriate to their new year of life and praying for them specifically.

• **Homeschool Religion Curricula?**

- We do not (*gasp!*) have a religion course at our homeschool.
- We plan to add one when our children get to high school: Luther's Large Catechism (see Ryan MacPherson, *Studying the Large Catechism: A Workbook for Christian Discipleship*).
- Meanwhile, we have home devotions, and we compare the Christian worldview with various alternatives across the curriculum (creation vs. evolution in biology; Christian monotheism vs. polytheism and relativism in social studies; etc.).
- We also read a lot of Christian biographies, and promote higher-level thinking: John Wycliffe (hero) vs. unfaithful church leaders (villains)? But John Wycliffe denied the real presence in the Lord's Supper! Neither side in their debate was "Lutheran." How would *you* respond?

Encouragement and Suggestions for Family Devotions from the Hausvater Project:

- From the Hausvater Project vision statement (www.hausvater.org/about):
 - “that husbands lead their families in home devotions, regular church attendance, catechetical instruction, and lifelong Christian discipleship”
 - “that parents take active and primary roles in the Christian upbringing and general education of their children”
- Feature articles (www.hausvater.org/articles):
 - “The Father as Mentor to His Sons: 10 Topics for Man-to-Man Discussion,” by Douglas Lindee
 - “Laying the Foundation for a Christian Home Library,” by Ryan MacPherson
 - “A Mother’s Journey into Homeschooling,” by Danielle M. Olson
 - “Discipleship in the Christian Home: An Historical Perspective,” by Ryan MacPherson
 - “Family Worship: Biblical Suggestions for Your Home,” by Jeremie and Molly Schulz
 - “Raising Children in the Paideia of the Lord,” by Erich Heidenreich
 - “‘Talk of Them When You Sit in Your House’: A Father Shares His Family’s ‘Deuteronomy 6’ Experiences,” by Emil B. Huntington
- Audio Archives from the 2013 Fall Bible Institute (www.hausvater.org/events/275)
- Book Reviews (www.hausvater.org/book-reviews):
 - “A Hausmutter Reading List,” a review of several books, by Marie MacPherson
 - “Dads, It’s Time to Read God’s Word to Your Family,” a review of Rob Otto’s *Rise Up!: For Dads Who Want to Lead Boldly*, by John Merseth, Jr.
 - “Equipping Men to Shepherd Their Families for Christ,” a review of Voddie Baucham’s *Family Shepherds*, by Ryan MacPherson
- Bible Study Resources (www.hausvater.org/bible-studies):
 - “Discovering Your Vocations in the Family, Church, and Society”
 - “Every Thought Captive to Christ”: Suitable for both individual and group Bible studies, whether in the home or at church, the following questions, which put Law before Gospel and Justification before Sanctification, memorably spell C-A-P-T-I-V-E. It is through the study of Scripture that Christians learn to “take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” (2 Corinthians 10:5).
 - CONFESION: Of which sins does this passage convict me?
 - ABSOLUTION: How does this passage reveal God’s forgiveness for me in Christ?
 - PRAYER: For what does this passage instruct me to ask or thank God?
 - TRADITION: How has this passage inspired the creeds, confessions, liturgy, hymns, or catechism of my church?
 - INTERPRETATION: How do other passages help me to interpret this one? or How does this passage help me to interpret others?
 - VOCATION: How does this passage guide me in my life as a(n) [insert my station in life]?
 - EVANGELISM: How can I share with an unbeliever what this passage has taught me about God’s grace in Christ?
 - “A Four–Year Cycle for Christian Homes”: Take your family through the entire Bible in four years by reading just 20 to 25 verses per day! (A 2-page PDF download provides details.)
 - YEAR ONE: Hebrew History
 - YEAR TWO: Minor Prophets and Christian History
 - YEAR THREE: Wisdom Literature and Major Prophets
 - YEAR FOUR: Old and New Testament Doctrine
 - ... and more at www.hausvater.org!

Luther's Evening Prayer

In the evening, when you go to bed, you shall make the sign of the holy cross, and you shall say:
"In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."
Then, kneeling or standing, you shall say the Apostles' Creed and Lord's Prayer.
Then you may say this prayer:

An Evening Prayer

Dr. Martin Luther (1483-1546)

Tr. *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary*

Abendlied

Christina Harman (1987)

2011

I thank You, my Hea - ven - ly Fa - ther, through Je - sus Christ, Your de - ar Son,
that You have gra - cious - ly kept me this day;
and I pray You to for - give me all my sins where I have done wrong,
and gra - cious - ly keep me this night.
For in - to Your hands I com - me - nd my - self,
my bo - dy and soul, and a - ll things. Let Your ho - ly an - gel be wi - th me,
that the wick - ed foe may have no pow - er o - ver me. A - men.



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