

Rebuilding the Church from the Family Up

A Bible-based Workshop for Christian Families

Rebuilding the Family from the Elders Down

Saturday, August 4, 2018
10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Immanuel Lutheran Church
916 Pine St, Manitowoc, WI
www.ilutheran.org



www.hausvater.org/events/402

Coffee and Registration **9:30 a.m.**

Opening Devotion **10 a.m.**

Intergenerational Ministry: Where Are You in Titus 2? **10:30 a.m.**

Discover God's design for linking the congregation to the home in Titus 2:1–8. Consider your distinct calling as a pastor, an older man, an older woman, a younger man, a younger woman, or a child. Learn how each of these members of the Body of Christ serve the good of one another to the glory of God. Ponder real-life applications for your congregation and family.

Marriage and Parenting: Biblical Insights in a Post-Christian Culture **11:15 a.m.**

Society has tried to re-define marriage and usurp parenthood, but God's Word continues to teach timeless truths. Despite all the confusion, marriage remains a divinely established, life-long union of one man and one woman, open to God's blessings of children. God calls upon parents to be evangelists in their homes as they train up the rising generation in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Lunch (\$10/person or \$25/family) **12:15 p.m.**

The Family Altar: How (and Why) to Conduct Home Devotions **1:00 p.m.**

From the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 6:4–9) to the New Testament (Ephesians 6:4), to the Reformation (the Prefaces to Luther's Small and Large Catechisms), we recognize a consistent encouragement to have home devotions. Review the blessings that God attaches to His Word and the calling that parents have for serving their children's spiritual needs. Learn practical tips for conducting home devotions.

Presented by **Dr. Ryan C. MacPherson**, chair of the History Dept. at Bethany Lutheran College, president of the Hausvater Project, and author/editor of several books, including *Studying Luther's Large Catechism: A Workbook for Christian Discipleship* and *Telling the Next Generation: The Evangelical Lutheran Synod's Vision for Christian Education*. See www.ryanmacpherson.com.

Intergenerational Ministry: Where Are You in Titus 2?

Ryan C. MacPherson, Ph.D.

How do the world and the Bible differ in their respect for the elderly?

- “The silver-haired head is a crown of glory, if it is found in the way of righteousness.” (Pr 16:31)
- “The glory of young men is their strength, and the splendor of old men is their gray head.” (Pr 20:29)
- Rehoboam foolishly neglected the advice of his elders (his father Solomon’s advisors) and instead followed the wicked influence of the 40ish-year-old “young men” of his own generation. (1 Kgs 12)

A Few Foundational Principles

- **God’s design for the church:** “where the Gospel is purely taught and the Sacraments are correctly administered” (AC VII); see Mt 28:19–20; Jn 20:22–23; 1 Co 11:23–26; etc.
- **God’s design for the family:** Marriage is the divinely established (Gen 2:18) life-long union (Mt 19:4–6) celebrating sexual complementarity (Gen 1:27), children (Gen 1:28), and chastity (Gen 2:25); as a sanctified vocation, marriage reflects Christ’s love for the church (Eph 5:25–27).
- **Vocation:** “how your station in life serves as a channel of God’s blessings to the people around you,” that is, how *God* works through the office of father or mother or pastor or ... *through you!*

Child-Centered Ministry: Well-Intended, But Misaligned

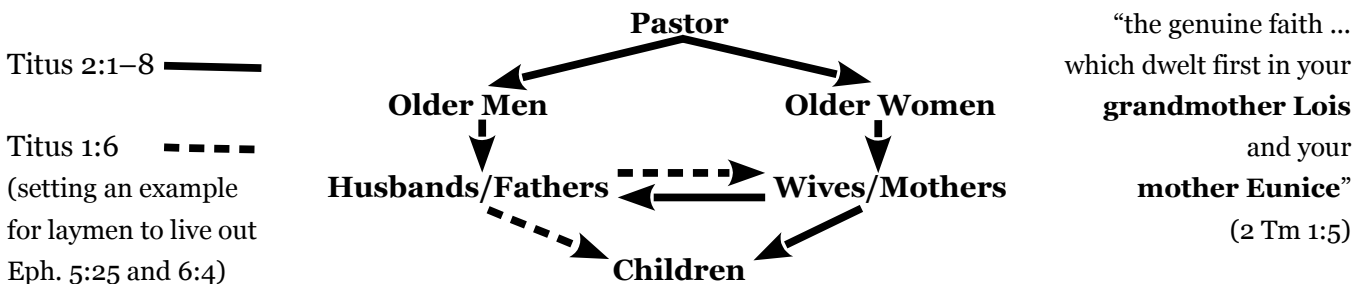
(“How Are Statistics Helpful to the Church (and How Are They Not)?,” www.intoyourhandsllc.com/blog/145)

- Across denominations, we’ve witnessed a tremendous surge in child-centered ministries (VBS, camps, preschools, youth ministries, contemporary worship styles, etc.) over the past 25 years.
- Ironically, these growth-seeking approaches have largely failed to deliver growth:
 - LCMS now has more preschoolers than K–12 combined, but child baptisms and youth confirmations continue to decline. WELS and ELS have similar trends.
 - Fewer than 45% of baptized children are still in church at confirmation time.
- Might the child-focus be the case of a good intention aimed at the wrong target?
 - Long before the child is old enough to get excited about a vibrant youth group, over 55% of parents already have decided to leave the congregation. (Having a Lutheran elementary school provides only a tiny statistical boost to the retention of children in the congregation.)
 - Stats consistently reveal that Dad’s participation is the #1 predictor of a child’s continuation in congregational life. *What do our congregations offer to Dad? (or to Grandpa ... to help Dad?)*

Parent- and Grandparent-Centered Ministry: The “Titus 2” Model

(“Inter-generational Ministry: Where Are You in Titus Chapter Two?,” 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?



- General Context:
 - Titus 1: The Need for Pastors and the Qualifications for Pastors
 - Titus 2: Mentoring the Laity for Their Specific Vocations
- Titus 2:1–8: “Speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine ... ” (v. 1)
 - **A: Train Older Men:** “that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience” (v. 2)
 - **B: Train Older Women:** “the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things” (v. 3)
 - **B’: Who Shall Train Younger Women:** “that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands” (v. 5a)
 - “**THAT THE WORD OF GOD MAY NOT BE BLASPHEMED.**” (v. 5b)
 - **A’: Train Younger Men:** “Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned.” (vv. 7–8)
- Three indications that Paul’s main point was v. 5b:
 - *Context:* False doctrine/blasphemy in chap. 1 was to be corrected by pastors preaching sound doctrine and by laity serving as living testimonies of who God really is.
 - *Greek grammar:* *hina* (“in order that,” “for the purpose of”) introduces the main point.
 - *Hebrew poetic form:* Like many NT writers, Paul employs an OT “chiastic” style in which the subpoints are echoed symmetrically and the main point is just past the center. The Western (Greco-Roman) approach emphasizes the main point at the beginning and end, but the Near Eastern (Hebrew) approach is like a sandwich: the meat is in the middle. (See Kenneth E. Bailey, *Jesus through Middle Eastern Eyes*.)

Genesis 3

- A: Adam is accused
 - B: Eve is accused
 - C: Satan is accused
 - C’: Satan is judged
- A’: Adam is judged

Luke 5

- A: a paralytic man is carried
 - B: healing is requested
 - C: forgiveness is proclaimed
 - C’: forgiveness is doubted
- A’: a formerly paralyzed man walks

- Even more fascinating: Genesis 6–9 is one giant chiastic pattern, going from A, B, C, ... as far as M, N, O, and finally P—the centerpiece being “God remembered Noah” (Gen 8:1)!

How can the older generation mentor the middle and younger generations?

- Intergenerational men’s / women’s Bible studies (making “youth group” intergenerational, too?)
- One-on-one mentoring (taking a walk, going out for coffee, pairing “grandmas” with young girls)
- Adult-centered evangelistic outreach (rather than “VBS for kids and hope the parents come, too”)
- Your ideas? (*Discuss.*)

How can the middle and younger generations serve the older generation?

- Christmas caroling at nursing homes (distributing homemade, Gospel-centered cards)
- Youth group or families visiting shut-ins, volunteering to assist with yard work, etc.
- Your ideas? (*Discuss.*)

Marriage and Parenting: Biblical Insights in a Post-Christian Culture

Ryan C. MacPherson, Ph.D.

God's Plan	America's Public Policy and Popular Culture
A Divinely Established ...	Personal Identity, Social Consensus, Legal Redefinition
Life-Long Union ...	Unilateral Divorce without Cause: UMDA (1974)
Sexual Complementarity ...	M–F, M–M, or F–F: <i>Obergefell v. Hodges</i> (2015)
Children ...	Marriage without Procreation: <i>Griswold v. Connecticut</i> (1965)
... and Chastity	Intimacy without Marriage: <i>Eisenstadt v. Baird</i> (1972)

- From Natural Law (and Scripture, too):
 - Marriage is the divinely established (Gen 2:18) life-long union (Mt 19:4-6) celebrating sexual complementarity (Gen 1:27), children (Gen 1:28), and chastity (Gen 2:25).
 - Pagans can, and should, recognize the natural family, even apart from Scripture.
- From Scripture Alone:
 - Marriage proclaims the love of Christ for the Church and echoes the submission of the Church to her Head, the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph 5:22–33).
 - Submission does not deny equality (Athanasian Creed; 1 Co 11:3; Php 2:6–7).
 - Christ Himself is both the perfect Head (Eph 5:23) and the perfect Submitter (Lk 22:42).
 - Marital parenthood is the primary means for evangelizing the next generation (Dt 6:6–7; Ps 78:5–7; Pr 22:6; Mal 2:15; Ac 2:38–39; Eph 6:4).
- From Luther's Large Catechism:

"God has instituted marriage before all other estates, and therefore created man and woman separately (as is evident), not for lewdness, but that they should legitimately live together, be fruitful, beget children, and nourish and train them to the honor of God." (Sixth Commandment, LC I, 207)
- Preserving Your Marriage through Christ-centered Love and Respect:
 - Ephesians 5:33—"Let each one of you [husbands] in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband."
 - Avoid the "Crazy Cycle" and enjoy the "Rewarded Cycle" (Emerson Eggerichs, *Love and Respect*, reviewed by Pr. Jonathan Conner at www.hausvater.org/book-reviews).
 - The Real "Love Triangle": as Husband and Wife each come closer to Christ, they come closer to each other.
- Passing God's Gift of Marriage to Future Generations
 - Model God's Plan: Let Christ live it through you (sanctification / vocation)
 - Visibly repent when you visibly sin—and visibly rejoice in Christ's forgiveness (justification)!

Hausvater: /HAUS-fah-ter/ noun (German) 1. Housefather. 2. Spiritually responsible head of household, including the housefather as assisted by the housemother. Example: "As the Hausvater should teach it [Christian doctrine] to the entire family ..." (Martin Luther, *Small Catechism*, 1529)

God Intends for Parenthood to Arise within Marriage

- "You shall not commit adultery." (Exodus 20:14; Romans 2:22)
- "Be fruitful and multiply." (Genesis 1:28)
- "He [God] seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth." (Malachi 2:15)
- "...the husband of one wife, having faithful children..." (Titus 1:6)

Society's Recognition, Yet Rejection, of God's Design for Parenthood

- Social science consensus: fatherly presence is the “gold standard” for every conceivable measure of life success in children (spiritually, socially, psychologically, intellectually, medically, etc.).
- Divorce and (transitory) cohabitation result in epidemic fatherlessness.
- A 21st-century minority status: a child raised with both biological parents in the same home.

God's Design for Fatherhood (assisted by Motherhood)

- “I believe in God the Father ...” (Creed) / “Our Father, who art in heaven ...” (Lord's Prayer)
- “For this reason I bow my knees to the **Father [pater]** of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole **family [patria]** in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith . . .” (Eph 3:14–17a)
- “What Fathers Do” (2008), by Rick Stuckwisch, www.hausvater.org/best-blog-posts/:
 1. Catechize his children in the Word of God.
 2. Provide for his family and household.
 3. Love his wife.
 4. Teach his sons to become men.
 5. Give his daughters in marriage.
- “Bring[ing Children] Up in the Training and Admonition of the Lord” (Eph 6:4):
 - Training (*paideia*): “instruction in righteousness” (2 Tim 3:16); “chastening” (Hebrews 12:5,7,8,11); a well-rounded education promoting character development (Greco-Roman)
 - Admonition (*nouthesia*): “examples . . . written for our admonition” (1 Co 10:11); “reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition” (Titus 3:10); literally, “reasoning” (*nous* = mind) with people so that they may recognize God's good and gracious will
 - Modeling by example—the “working, teaching father” who involves his children in meaningful labor that serves others as a thank offering to God who has forgiven us.
 - Self-controlled eyes for sons (Job 31:1; Mt 5:28; Arterburn/Stoeker, *Every Man's Battle*)
 - Heroic fatherhood: be the most important man in your daughter's life until the day you walk her down the aisle to meet her husband. (Meg Meeker, *Strong Fathers, Strong Daughters*)
 - Guide your daughters into finding “Mr. Right.” (Voddie Baucham. *What He Must Be ... If He Wants to Marry My Daughter*, www.hausvater.org/book-reviews/374/)

God's Design for Motherhood (supported by Fatherhood)

- The world sees drudgery, but Luther identified “a majesty concealed within” motherhood.
 - What other vocation brings a new person into the world, and who else can nourish that baby from her own body? “Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you.” (Isa 49:15)
 - Mothering is a holy work, more precious to God than monastic prayers (cf. 1 Tm 2:15).
- Motherhood is a central focus of the congregation's ministry: Paul exhorted Titus to train pastors to train grandmothers to train mothers to raise godly children (Tit 2:1–5).
- *Men* can do *housework*, but only a *woman* can be *homemaker*. Luther: “Let the wife make the husband glad to come home, and let him make her sorry to see him leave.” The Proverbs 31 woman is neither independent nor career-pursuing, but family-centered and home-productive.
- A few “forgotten” functions of the home worth reviving:
 - Nutrition, the foundation for health, requires wholesome ingredients prepared in a healthful manner (Sally Fallon, *Nourishing Traditions*). Can Great-Grandma's recipes be recovered?
 - Daughters (and sons) need mothers who model modesty (“lead chaste and decent lives,” Small Catechism, Sixth Commandment; Pr 11:22; 1 Tm 2:9–10; 1 Pt 3:3–4; Jeff Pollard, *Christian Modesty and the Public Undressing of America*)
 - Sing the Faith: In 17th-century Germany, moms singing hymns to their children in the home preserved the church for an entire generation while public worship was blocked by political turmoil and warfare. Are you ready if this becomes necessary in 21st-century America?

The Family Altar: How (and Why) to Conduct Home Devotions

Ryan C. MacPherson, Ph.D.

- The Lutheran Reformation placed a renewed focus on the vocations of marriage and parenthood.
 - **Vocation:** how your station in life serves as a channel of God’s blessings to the people around you (e.g., God blesses children *by means of* the office of parenthood).
 - Luther wrote the Small Catechism for use by both **the Hausvater** (head of the family) and the pastor.
 - Lutherans sang hymns in their homes (especially when political strife forced churches “underground”).
 - Luther called dads and moms “priests in their home,” for they proclaim the Gospel to their children.
- 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. (Sola Scriptura)*
 - *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; Gal. 3:16
 - *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
(Sola Gratia, Sola Fide, Solus Christus)
- Training Your Children with a Christian Home Library:
 - Core Curriculum: the Bible, the Hymnal, and the Catechism.
 - God has ordained every family to be a “home school” family at some level.
 - 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)
 - 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.
 - Fathers are evangelists in their homes (Dt 6:6–7; Ps 44:1, 48:13, 78:5–7; Pr 22:6; Mal 2:15 (esp. NKJV); Ac 2:38–39; Eph 6:4)—note esp. how Dt 6 and Eph 6 echo each other, connecting OT and NT teaching.
 - Learn the sign of the cross, pray the Hebrew way (palms opened to heaven), march around Jericho blowing trumpets, listen to children nominate a hymn of the week ... home devotions can be a treasured time for all ages, and God has called Dad to lead this adventure! Your ideas? (*Discuss.*)
- *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, just as the pastor teaches the whole family along with the congregation!)

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):
 - “Constructing a Family Altar Board,” by Marie MacPherson
 - “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
- “Luther’s Evening Prayer (Chant),” composed by Christina Harman (free music score in PDF download, plus a performance recording, at www.hausvater.org/prayers)
- Bible Study Resources (www.hausvater.org/bible-studies):
 - “Discovering Your Vocations in the Family, Church, and Society” (4-part series, free PDF download)
 - “Every Thought Captive to Christ” (free PDF download): 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).
 - **CONFESSION:** 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 free 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!*

