

The Congregation at Prayer

The “Congregation at Prayer” is a weekly devotional and catechetical guide for use in the home. It is prepared by the pastor each week and distributed in the Sunday bulletin. It lives from the themes established on each Sunday of the church year and it looks forward to the coming Sunday.

It is given to help families and individual Christians in prayer, reading the Scriptures, and learning the catechism at home. Its purpose is to have all members of the congregation, young and old, using the Bible and catechism as daily devotional companions for the Christian faith and life.

Please keep in mind that a family or individual may or may not be able to use all that is printed. Use according to your family size, age or as you are able. You also may want to substitute the Meditation devotions or another devotional for the daily bible readings.

How to use *The Congregation at Prayer*

The “Congregation at Prayer” can be used by families at the dinner table for devotion. For individuals – whenever the time suits you.

Invocation:

Begin the devotion with the invocation.

The Apostles’ Creed:

Confess together, young and old, the Apostles’ Creed.

The Verse of the Week and the Catechism:

Recite out loud the Verse of the Week and the portions of the Catechism every day.

For Families: Children learn by repetition. Whether the parents read aloud the catechism or take turns with the children, the goal is that the family together becomes familiar with these portions which speak about their faith and life.

Daily Readings:

Each day there is a Bible Story that can read by the individual Christian or can be shared with the family. Going through these stories throughout the week and year will build up the individual and the family in God’s Word. (You can also substitute the Meditations readings for this section, if you so wish)

For Families: Have one of the parents or older children read the lesson. You may add your thoughts or have discussion afterwards.

On Saturday, look ahead to the Sunday’s readings of which there is a summary at the bottom of the second page.

Prayers:

Lord’s Prayer:

Together pray the Lord’s Prayer

Close with Evening Prayer:

Pray this prayer together.

For Families: If you have young children, don’t worry about them not following along at first. But continue, as they will see you setting an example for them by making God’s Word a priority in your life. They also, by listening (remember the repetition!) and participating, will become firmly grounded in the Christian Faith.

May God bless your devotions! – Pastor Sauer