**Lutheran Church of the Cross**

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**Living from the Liturgy**

*A Guide for your Christian Life between Sundays*

The Circumcision and Naming of Jesus

January 1 - 7

*Our Lord Jesus Christ has no need to keep the Covenant with the God of Abraham. He is the God of Abraham. But He submits to His own Law, feels the blade forged by human hands against His tender infant skin, and His blood flows for the sins of the world for the first time. He is circumcised according to, and in fulfillment of, the Law. Yet, despite His perfect obedience, He shall soon suffer the consequences as though He had broke the Law. He shall be cut off from His people. He shall be forsaken. He will again bleed when He dies a shameful death. And the Blood He sheds is the Blood that appeases the wrath of the Father, washes us clean, and fills the Chalice with the elixir of life. He will bear those scars, as badges of His Office, into eternity. (Rev. David Petersen)*

**An Order for Daily Meditation and Prayer**

Read the Scriptures appointed for the day, review the readings from Sunday, and learn by heart the portion of the Small Catechism. Conclude with the Psalms, the Collect, and the prayers, using the guidelines as you see appropriate for yourself or your family.

**Daily Readings for the Week:**

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| Sunday, Jan. 1 | Review Readings for the First Sunday after Christmas | |
| Monday, Jan. 2 | I Peter 1:1-2:3 | Leviticus 7-8 |
| Tuesday, Jan. 3 | I Peter 2:4-25 | Leviticus 9-11 |
| Wednesday, Jan. 4 | I Peter 3-4 | Leviticus 12-13 |
| Thursday, Jan. 5 | I Peter 5 | Leviticus 14-15 |
| Friday, Jan. 6 | Luke 1:1-25 | Leviticus 16-18 |
| Saturday, Jan. 7 | Proverbs 6:9-19 | Psalm 39-40 |

**The Catechism: The Lord’s Prayer: The Fifth Petition**

(*Important! If you have memorized a different translation in confirmation, it is best to pull out your old catechism and refresh your memory from those texts.*)

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

*What does this mean?*

We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

**Psalm of the Week: 8**

**Introduction:** Psalm 8 is a prophecy of Christ – His sufferings, resurrection, and kingly rule over all creatures. This kingdom shall be established by the voice of children, that is, it will be established by Word and faith alone, not by sword or armor. This psalm belongs in the First Commandment, specifically that God intends to be our God, and the Second Petition of the Lord’s Prayer, that His kingdom come.

**Luther’s Prayer:**Lord Jesus, You were delivered for our offenses and raised again for our justification. Bless and defend Your Holy Church. Endue Your Word with power, strengthen our faith, and after the sufferings of this life grant us to celebrate a happy Easter, rising again to live and reign with You in all eternity. Amen.

**Collect for the Circumcision and Naming of Jesus**

Lord God, You made Your beloved Son, our Savior, subject to the Law and caused Him to shed His blood on our behalf. Grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit that our hearts may be made pure from all sins; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Daily Themes for Prayer – (From LSB page 294)**

**Sunday:** Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and the Sacraments.

**Monday:** Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one’s calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and wellbeing of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.

**Tuesday:** Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.

**Wednesday:** Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.

**Thursday:** Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the Blessed Sacrament of Christ’s body and blood.

**Friday:** Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.

**Saturday:** Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God’s Word on the Lord’s Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ’s holy gifts.

**In Our Prayers at LCC**

**Our Prayer Family:** Bruce Wacholz

**A Sister Congregation:**Immanuel Lutheran Church – Easton, MD

Rev. James Kreft

**Our Children, Educators and Schools:** Martha Moore

Cornerstone Schools of Washington, DC

**Special Prayers:** Craig Olson, Stacy Owens, Bob Droege, Helen Nine, Vonnie Stewart, Laura Parker, and the persecuted Church throughout the world.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Luther’s Morning or Evening Prayer**

**Morning:**

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

**Evening:**

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

**Announcements January 1 – 8, 2017**

**Sunday Morning Christian Education:** Join us at 9am as we grow together in the faith of Christ.

**Children –Youth:** Gather on the Lower Level.

**Theme:** Generations of Faith

**Catechism Theme:** 10 Commandments

**Adults:** Gather in the Upper Room.

**Theme:** “Heaven on Earth: The Gifts of Christ in the Divine Service”

**Purpose:** To grow in and foster a common language for LCC regarding the Christian Faith as given in the Divine Liturgy and expressed in such areas as ‘Mission’, ‘Witness’, ‘Outreach’, ‘Daily Living’, and Christian Identity.

**Wednesday Morning Bible Class:** Join us at 10am at the Chapel at the Villages at Rockville (NLH) for a study on the Psalms and their use within the Church’s liturgical life. Our class meets year-round, and all ages are welcome to attend.

**\*\*\*Ways to Serve:**

**The Lord’s Table Soup Kitchen** needs paper towel and napkins. Please place your donations in the basket in the narthex. Thanks to all who donated drink mixes.

**Preschool** is on holiday from December 18th through January 2nd. School resumes on January 3rd.