

GOOD SHEPHERD NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2024



LCMS Stewardship Ministry

The Chief Stewards of Humanity: Mom and Dad

St. Paul tells the Ephesians that the first commandment with a specific promise attached to it is, “Honor your father and mother so that it may go well with you, and you may live long in the land” (Ephesians. 6:2). This promise is one indication of the importance of this commandment. The other thing that highlights the special nature of this commandment is its placement within the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are clearly organized in two big categories. The first three commandments deal with our relationship with God. This category is called the First Table of the Law. The last seven commandments, the Second Table of the Law, tell us how we should relate to other people. These two tables correspond to what Jesus calls the two greatest commandments: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind,” and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:37–39).

The order of the Second Table of the Law is also important. Murder is a greater sin than adultery, which is a greater sin than stealing, or lying, or coveting. But why is the Fourth Commandment first in the Second Table, ahead of “you shall not murder”? Is disobeying your parents really worse than murder? Or maybe we should give up on thinking these commandments are ordered?

The overall effect of this order is to get us to see our parents as a connection point between our neighbors and our God. Throughout our upbringing our father and mother stand between us and God and deliver His gifts to us: God clothes us, feeds us, protects us and teaches His Word to us through our parents.

So, parents have a very high calling from God. They are called to be stewards of the greatest gift: the gift of life.

Parenting thus gives us a keen insight into all our stewardship. Parents know that they have been given a great treasure in their children, a treasure that does not belong to them, yet for which they feel a great deal of responsibility. Truth be told, every gift we have been given is like this, because everything we have — whether

our own personal skills and powers or our wealth and time — is all from God. He entrusts it all to us so that we can use it all and take care of it all for His great purposes.



MANNERS AND CUSTOMS OF BIBLE TIMES

The wedding feast

Bride and groom entered under a canopy when they arrived at the house. There they presided over the wedding feast at which a great deal of time was spent in eating and drinking (Song of Songs 2:4 may allude to the canopy). At the wedding in Cana, Jesus provided one hundred twenty gallons of wine for the guests, but they had already drunk so much that the person in charge (the “ruler of the feast”) thought it was a pity that the excellent new wine should have been left to the end when the people could not appreciate it (John 2:6-10).

Festivities often lasted for seven days (Judges 14:12), or perhaps even longer. The guests were there to witness that the marriage had been consummated (Genesis 29:22-23): the bloodstained bedcoverings were shown to demonstrate that the bride had been a virgin (Deuteronomy 21:13-21). (The veil does not seem to have been removed from Leah’s face until after the marriage was consummated: Jacob did not know it was Leah until the light of day, Genesis 29:25). During the festivities, God’s blessing was asked upon the couple, and it may well have been for this reason that Jesus was invited to the wedding at Cana (John 2:2). In very wealthy families’ guests were actually provided with “wedding clothes” (Matthew 22:12).



- 1/4 Parker Adams
- 1/9 Darrell Bittle
- 1/9 Carter Hildebrant
- 1/12 Eileen Blair
- 1/15 Lew Paul
- 1/17 Dave Hudson
- 1/22 Roger Riggerbach
- 1/22 Tom Cox
- 1/26 Jacob Schwartz
- 1/27 Connie Haney
- 1/28 Christel Austin

None this month



CHURCH HAPPENINGS

December 18, 2024 Steve (Tim Sr) Prince went home to be with the Lord.

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	8:00 AM Praise Band
7 Early Communion Mite Collection Both Services 8:00 AM Traditional Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary 2:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Youth Group	8 Homeschoolers	9 9:30 AM Quilting 10:00 AM Bible Study	10 5:00 PM American Heritage Girls 6:00 PM Elder's Meeting	11 12	13 8:00 AM Praise Band 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study	
14 Late Communion 8:00 AM Traditional Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary 2:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Youth Group	15 Homeschoolers	16 9:30 AM Quilting 10:00 AM Bible Study	17 5:00 PM American Heritage Girls 6:00 PM Council Meeting	18 19	20 8:00 AM Praise Band 9:00 AM Life Team	
21 Early Communion 8:00 AM Traditional Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary 2:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Youth Group	22 Homeschoolers	23 9:30 AM Quilting 10:00 AM Bible Study	24 25	26 27	8:00 AM Praise Band	
28 Late Communion 8:00 AM Traditional Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary 2:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Youth Group	29 30	31 9:30 AM Quilting 10:00 AM Bible Study				

The youth made cookies for the cookie walk







American Heritage Murder Mystery Dinner



Youth Murder Mystery Dinner





Youth Christmas Party



Adult Mystery Dinner





Sunday Breakfast





Puppet Show



Tree Decorating





This year's Angel Tree served 9 families and 33 kids. Thank you for your blessings on these families. They were beyond appreciative.













Regular Sunday Worship Times
Traditional Worship @ 8:00 AM
Contemporary Worship @ 10:45 AM

Sunday School @ 9:30 AM



Good Shepherd Lutheran
Church

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