

“A Congregation at Prayer”

At-Home Devotions Using the Bible, Luther’s Catechism, and Hymnal

It’s our encouragement to you, dear brothers and sisters, to take this time of unrest and irregularity to establish a daily devotional life for you and your household. Here are some suggestions for how to implement a daily gathering around our at-home altars:

- 📖 Establish a daily routine and structure. In a time when a sense of normalcy is in scarce supply, a routine will establish a peaceful and much-needed rhythm to life.
- 📖 Plan time for at-home Bible reading, Catechism discussion and worship. Sit down and use the set orders of service provided in this booklet. It may seem odd at first, but as you grow more and more familiar with it, it has the possibility to become something that is edifying and welcomed by all in the family.
- 📖 Pray! Pray! Pray! Pray corporately as a family or household. Pray privately. Seek out persons and opportunities for prayer (especially the current Prayer Corner). Many prayers are included in the devotional booklet, “*A Congregation at Prayer*” to help get you started. Hymns also make powerful prayer starters.
- 📖 Take time to dig out your catechism and hymnal and use them. What a better time than now to remind yourself of the mercies of God through doctrine and song. If you don’t have a Catechism or Hymnal handy, this devotional booklet includes the portions of the Catechism and the Hymns (with melodies) that you will need.
- 📖 Discuss and apply what you read from the Bible. Don’t just read the Bible and then close it up again. Think through it carefully, discuss it, and apply it to yourself. Luther’s four strands of Bible study are helpful in getting started with a more personal study of the Bible. Read the assigned portion of God’s Word for the day, and then discuss:
 - 1) What does this mean? (or: *What is the Holy Spirit teaching me here?*)
 - 2) What makes me sad in what I just read? (or: *What does this teach me about sin?*)
 - 3) What makes me glad in what I just read? (or: *What has God done for me?*)
 - 4) What does this lead me to want to change in my life, or do for the Lord?
- 📖 Trust in the Lord. Remind yourself and all in your family that God is still in control. May God bless as and keep us, as he has promised to do. May this unplanned moment of family time renew the love and grace that God blesses through parents and children. And may your time in the Word strengthen and guide you every day.
- 📖 Share the message of Romans 8:35-39 – “*Nothing Will Be Able to Separate Us from the Love of God.*”

In Christ alone,

Pastor K

Worship Online

God's people long to worship the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit for all that they have accomplished for us, given to us freely by grace, and promised to us as future gifts of mercy. While we are unable to gather together for the time being, please connect with us and with God's Word through our online worship services.

On **March 22** and **March 29** we will provide one online Sunday worship service. The link will be posted by **9:00 a.m.** on our websites: svlchurch.com and svlcandelas.org Further instructions on how to connect with our online worship services are also posted on both websites.

We are working diligently to get our Westminster campus chapel ready for live streaming and pre-recording of worship services. Our goals are to have a mid-week Lenten service online on **Wednesday, March 25 @ 7:00 p.m.** and then Sunday worship services online starting **April 2**. Stay tuned to our website for updates.

Holy Communion – Private Communion in the Chapel

In addition to our online opportunities to hear, read, and study God's Word, we would also like to make sure you have opportunities to meet with a pastor for prayer, confession and absolution and the Lord's Supper.

With this in mind, there will be set times during the last week of March and the first week of April when the Westminster chapel will be open for you to visit. Pastor K will be on site at these times and would be glad to lead you in a brief service (10 minutes) in the chapel that will include a Bible reading, confession and forgiveness, the Lord's Prayer, and reception of the Lord's Supper.

Since we are not to have more than 10 people in our chapel at one time, we ask that you contact Pastor K ahead of time to schedule with him when you plan to visit and how many will be with you. You can contact him at svlwestminister@gmail.com and also at his mobile number: 303-931-7989.

Pastor Belter is arranging dates and times with the SVL Candelas site.

Dates and times when Pastor K will be at SVL Westminster and the chapel will be open:

3.31 (Tue): 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	4.05 (Sun): 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
4.02 (Thu): 3:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	4.07 (Tue): 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
4.03 (Fri): 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	4.08 (Wed): 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
4.04 (Sat): 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	4.09 (Thu): 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Again, please email, phone, or text ahead of time when you would like to visit, so that we can keep the number of people on campus under 10 at all times.

Call Updates

We are thankful to the Lord of the Church that Kayte Gut, our PreK Director and Teacher has decided to continue to serve among us at Shepherd of the Valley, declining to serve in Pflugerville, TX. Please continue to support Kayte and all of our teachers with your prayers, encouragement, and service as they continue to minister to Jesus' little lambs.

Pastor Kieselhorst is currently deliberating a Call to serve as the parish pastor of Atonement Lutheran Church & School in Milwaukee, WI, as well as the Call to continue serving at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church & School. Please keep Pastor K and his family in your prayers during these deliberations.

Prayer Corner

The current list of prayer requests has been emailed to SVL's members (included in the pdf "SVL Update").

Care for Individual Souls

Are there other blessings that we might realize in even greater ways during these days? These times give us an abundance of ways to show our Christian love and care for our neighbor. Let's use this opportunity to mobilize our service to one another. Reach out and check in with each other. Pray for each other.

Might there be ways we can help some of our brothers and sisters in Christ at this time (especially those who are elderly and health-compromised)? Perhaps we can help each other if some are in need of household supplies or groceries. Maybe a brother or sister in Christ hints at or speaks of loneliness from isolation. Give a call or drop a line to check in on each other and figure out how needs might be met. We need each other, and God has given us each other for our times of need!

SVL's Elders have already begun to contact our at-risk members at SVL. So far, no reports of anyone sick with the COVID-19 virus have been reported to us. May God continue to keep you all safe and free from this virus!

Pastor K's goals for the next couple of weeks are 1) to call every member of SVL, starting with the beginning of the alphabet, and 2) to call every 2020 visitor to SVL, starting with the most recent visitors.

And you are, of course, welcome to call, text or email your pastors or Elders at any time.

Thank Offerings

“Now about the collection for God’s people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made” (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

What a joy it is for us as children of God to give generous thank offerings to the God who has made us his children through Christ! Our public worship services give us a very convenient opportunity to carry out this command of God, as we are able to take time every service to collect our thank offerings, which God uses to carry out his gospel work among us at SVL and throughout the world.

For the next few weeks, we will not have the opportunity to collect our offerings at public worship. God’s call for us to give toward his work, however, still stands. Our thank offerings, of course, are vital to our ministry. Without them, we would not be able to carry out the work we do together at SVL. It is important for us all to remember that, even during these uncertain times, SVL’s expenses remain fixed. Here, then, are a few options to continue giving your thank offerings:

- A. Use our secure online giving platform. Go to svlchurch.com/giving or svlcandelas.org/give for one-time or regular contributions.
- B. Mail your offering to the church (8997 W. 88th Avenue, Westminster CO 80021).

Thank you for considering these options as we seek to carry out God’s work as his humble servants at SVL.

Continued Communication . . .

What is written above is a lot of information. Thank you for taking the time to read it. And thank you for your patience, cooperation, and understanding as we seek to make God-pleasing decisions about how to proceed during these strange times. I pray a return to normalcy happens soon.

We are continuing to update our svlchurch.com website, so that you can go there to find the most recent reports, announcements, devotions, sermons, and worship services. So please keep checking in to our website and Facebook page regularly to receive updates.

A Closing Thought – Romans 8:35-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.