

# **RESURRECTION NEWS**



**OCTOBER 2021**

# Pastor's Letter

October 2021

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

This month, we continue exploring the Ten Commandments, focusing on the Fourth Commandment:

## **Honor your father and your mother.**

*What does this mean?* Answer: We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

With this commandment, we have made a transition from speaking about the realm of God to speaking about the realm of humanity. The first three commandments deal with our relationship with the Lord. The last seven (beginning with the Fourth Commandment) deal with our relationship with other humans. It is significant that this commandment heads the Second Table of the Law (as commandments four through ten are often called). This commandment deals with one of the most fundamental realities of what it means to be a human. In a word, the Fourth Commandment is all about authority.

In his own brief commentary on this commandment, St. Paul offers some insight as to what it means to honor those in authority in Ephesians 6, starting in verse 1:

**Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."**

In these three verses, Paul both quotes and affirms the necessity of the Fourth Commandment. Children need to obey their parents. That seems straight forward enough. But then he goes on to explain the responsibility of parents under this commandment, when he specifically addresses Fathers saying,

**Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.**

Paul is answering the question, why are parents necessary? Parents are necessary because someone needs to teach children discipline and to know and love the Lord. We're not born as people who naturally fear, love, and trust in God. Quite the opposite—we are naturally blind, dead, and enemies of God. To use Paul's words from earlier in Ephesians, we are all "by nature children of wrath" (Eph. 2:3). All children need someone to instruct them in the ways of the Lord. Without that kind of instruction and discipline, we're all doomed!

Thanks be to God that he has given us parents when we were young to feed us, clothe us, and teach us how to be functioning human beings. Many of us were even blessed enough to have parents who taught us to love the Lord. Many of us, however, didn't have this. And that's precisely why other authorities have come to exist. Over time, societies have recognized the need to have leaders. At some point, there needs to be a "tribal leader" who makes decisions for the larger group. There needs to be governmental authorities who look out for the needs of the whole. There needs to be spiritual leaders who shepherd and guide God's people. Why? Because we are all "by nature children of wrath." We're naturally blind, dead, and enemies of God. We don't always do the right thing unless we're made to do it. And so, authorities (legal guardians, government, spiritual leaders, etc.) exist as an extension of parental authority. Humans need authority.

The Fourth Commandment offers a twofold call: 1) The call to submit to those who are in authority over us (as we see in Romans 13, 1 Peter 2, and other places), and 2) The call to be responsible authorities for those of us who are in positions of leadership (as we're told in Proverbs 22:4, Colossians 3:18-25, and other places).

May the Lord grant us the grace both to do this and to see its benefits in our lives.

Peace in Jesus,  
Pastor Akers

## Notes from your Deaconess

He speaks only truth  
Because his essence is truth  
No lies or falsehoods

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

Jesus, still with his disciples in the Upper Room, told them that he is *the truth* (John 14:6). The Greek and Hebrew words used for “truth” in the Bible indicate certainty, reliability, faithfulness, and a correspondence to reality. As Christians, we find truth in our Savior, Jesus Christ—with all the words and life he gives as reliable. If “my truth” does not correspond with God’s word, then it cannot be considered certain or real. We humans by nature are slaves to sin and ourselves, and don’t really know truth until we live in him. Earlier in John’s gospel, Jesus told Jews who had believed in him “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free... So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” (8:31, 36). One of the Psalmists prayed to God, “Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling!” (Psalm 43:3). He did when “The true light [came] into the world...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...full of grace and truth” (John 1:9, 14). This reality goes beyond what we can see with our eyes, hear with our ears, smell or taste, or touch with our hands, but includes those things as well. “For by him all things were created....And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together” (Colossians 1:16a, 17).

During October our daily lectionary readings come from Deuteronomy and the gospel of Matthew. Deuteronomy sums up the five books of the Torah, and Matthew’s gospel contains five major sections of teaching by Jesus to parallel the number of books of the Torah. This interesting pairing of law and gospel leads us through the law given by the Lord through Moses, and the re-teaching, extension and fulfillment of the law by the Lord Jesus. “For the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ” (John 1:17).

The Saturday women’s Bible studies will continue meeting October 2, 16, and 30 at 8:30am downstairs at church. We’ll finish up the prophet Hosea that first meeting, but we’ve not yet decided on the following focus of study and discussion. Send me any suggestions which you’d like for consideration!

Under his mercy,  
Sharon M. Conover

*“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates” (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)*

### Sunday Morning Schedule

Divine Services will be held on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Masks and physical distancing are required at both services. Fellowship and Sunday School have been temporarily suspended.

### Thursday Bible Study

Thursday Bible Study will meet at 10:30am in the fellowship hall or 6 pm via Zoom. The topic of the class is St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans. Please contact Pastor Akers if you would like to be added to the email list.

### Men's Retreat

The Fall Men's Retreat will be back to "normal" this year as we gather at the Huesers' Camp in St. Albans for a time of fellowship, study, and, of course, corn hole. The date is set for **October 1 and 2**. More information will be available soon. In the meantime, contact Pastor Akers or Chris Batson if you are interested in attending.

### The Library Corner

We find ourselves in a time and culture where God's plan for man and woman created in his image as man and woman and as made for each other to be an outdated idea. We have a collection of books, some autobiographical in form, which address this current crisis in reality. These include both men and women writers who have found their identity in Christ, not in some label of gender or sexuality, and have learned to take up their cross and follow Jesus faithfully despite the cost. Many of us deal with this personally in our families or with a close friend. How do we show love and communicate compassionately but faithfully with these dear ones? I certainly have this challenge, and would be glad to talk with you or recommend one of these books if interested. (Deaconess Conover writing).

### LWML NED Fall Retreat

The LWML Fall Retreat is November 5 and 6 in Windsor, CT. Donna Snow will lead a bible study. For more information, please contact Dorthy McAllister or Becky Cote.

### LWML

For the first time, a ministry within the New England District has been chosen by LWML National Ballot to receive mission grant funding. LWML Mission Grant #2 for the 2021-2023 biennium is *Healing the Invisible Wound of War through Horses*. Deaconess Kim Slininger was called to **Hope Lutheran Church** to reach out to the extensive veteran and military community in the Bangor area. Deaconess Kim is herself a disabled veteran, and the Spirit Warrior program is an extension of her ministry. This grant of **\$95,000** will provide funding for 58 veterans to go through the program. Learn more about how the *Healing the Invisible Wounds of War through Horses* grant is ministering to veterans and service members at <http://www.lwml.org/2021-2023-mission-grant-2>.

### Thank You

On behalf of Dan and Patty we thank you for your generous gift of \$1,000. It is only through the continued support of faithful friends like you that they are able to continue their work with the street children of Kenya. May He continue to bless you!  
Capstone Ministries, Inc.

Thank you so much for such a great weekend. What a beautiful family of Christian believers. You have an excellent shepherd in Pastor Akers. May God bless your labors for the glory of him.  
Rev. Tyler McMiller

Thank you for your donation of \$500 to the Oakland Food Pantry. We are grateful for your support. Your gift will be a blessing to many people in our community in the coming weeks. May God bless you and your congregation for all the help you have given us.  
Clara Watson, Treasurer

## October Stewardship

There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board for Acolytes, Communion Assistants, Ushers, and Greeters. Please sign up for services that you will be attending. Thank you and we appreciate you.

	<u>October 3</u>	<u>October 10</u>	<u>October 17</u>	<u>October 24</u>	<u>October 31</u>
<u>Altar Care</u>	Krista Carlson	Kitty Carlson	Andrea Watson	LeeAnne Larsen	Julie Kohl
<u>Flowers</u>	Julie Kohl	Sharon Klipp	Sharon Klipp	Steven & Lydia Bendas	Steven & Lydia Bendas

## Defending the Faith

### *Sometimes the Best Defense is a Good Defense.*

With full credit to two of my favorite Christian apologists, Dr. Frank Turek ([www.CrossExamined.org](http://www.CrossExamined.org)) and Greg Kokul ([www.STR.org](http://www.STR.org)), I want to pass this weapon along.

Weapon? We're now passing out WEAPONS in church?!?

Well sort of. This is the kind of weapon you can use to defeat some of the most common atheist arguments against the existence of God - and these are the kinds of things your children and grandchildren will be assaulted with when they head off to college, so you might want to share these articles with them.

If you don't believe that the university system is purging Christianity, take note that Harvard University – originally founded as a Christian university - just one month ago (August 2021) appointed a “devout atheist” as their Chief Chaplain.

This “weapon” we're discussing is the ability to recognize and counter arguments that fall on their own sword. They commit intellectual suicide.

For example, *“I cannot write a word in English”*. *“I am a married bachelor.”*

These statements are obviously self-defeating and that's exactly the kind of thing to listen for.

Here are some more real life examples of the kinds of things you'll actually hear from atheists when they're objecting to the Christian worldview or Christians in general:

Statement: You Christians are so judgmental! It's wrong to judge others.

Response: So why are you judging me?

Statement: We are not “spiritual beings” with an immaterial soul as you claim. The entire universe is made up of only what we can see, hear, touch, taste and smell.

Response: If everything is material, how much does happiness weigh? What color is 6?

Statement: The only way to know truth is through science and the scientific method.

Response: What scientific experiment proved that to you?

Statement: There's no such thing as “absolute truth”.

Response: Is that absolutely true?

Statement: There may be truth somewhere, but you cannot KNOW it. (agnosticism)

Response: How do you know that?

Statement: You Christians think everything you believe is true.

Response: Doesn't everybody think what they believe is true? Do you believe things that you think are not true?

Statement: That's true for you but not for me. (Atheists love to deny truth as it's a powerful defeater for their views.)

Response: Is the statement you just made true for you but not true for me?

Statement: Forcing your views on others is wrong. (Common when discussing abortion)

Response: So why are you forcing that view on me?

You get the idea. Watch for statements and claims from atheists as they're becoming ever bolder and more forceful in trying to shove Christianity into the closet, out of public view.

Every time they make a claim, apply the claim to itself and see if it falls on its own sword. You'll be surprised how often it happens.

As our society is quickly becoming hostile to Christianity, the study of Christian apologetics will prepare you to push back, but do this with gentleness and respect. (1 Peter 3:15)

I'm always open for comments, discussion, and even criticism in person or via email at [charles.j.macpherson@gmail.com](mailto:charles.j.macpherson@gmail.com).

Charlie MacPherson, SDG  
Defending the Faith

## *Members of the Month*

Mari Bidoli and Fernando Gouvêa were both born in São Paulo, Brazil—a mainly Catholic country with Protestant churches being established in the late 19th century. Mari and Fernando belonged to a Presbyterian Church called “Unida” (which means united).

Teens in this church attended mostly to socialize. In 1975 a change began: Three serious young male believers joined their church and methodically taught people the Gospel and led them to commit to Christ. The effect was a big revival: Mari first, and then, after much reluctance, Fernando. Mari and Fernando knew each other distantly in church, but then met at a youth retreat in 1972—and began a “dance” that lasted, off and on, until 1978, when they finally married. They were certainly not dating all that time, but indeed were often “not-dating” by doing things together!



The Gouvêas were active at Unida: In choir; teaching Sunday school to adults and children; leading youth group. Fernando preached from time-to-time, particularly when there was no regular pastor. Later, both Mari and Fernando taught courses on how to teach Sunday school, and Fernando wrote Sunday school curriculum for teenagers. They also sang in a small youth choir for several years—Fernando stepping in to lead when the director left. The group often went to other churches and ran the service—singing, giving personal testimonies, and preaching.

When they were married, Mari was teaching middle and high school Portuguese, and Fernando was starting the master’s program in mathematics. Fernando had a grant, but most income came from Mari’s work. Fernando finished his M.A. in 1981, by which time he was teaching elementary courses at the University. Then the big idea: Fernando told his advisor that he was interested in doing his Ph.D. in the part of mathematics called number theory. Fernando’s advisor said that there was no one in Brazil working in that area, and that he would have to go to the U.S. if he wanted to study number theory. The decision to work toward that goal was preceded with much talk and prayer by the Gouvêas.

Their oldest son Heitor was born before Fernando finished his M.A. They had a second child Marcos, born in March of 1983, and then the family left for Cambridge, MA in September that year. Mari left behind a job she loved so that Fernando could go to graduate school at Harvard. Their visa did not allow Mari to work while Fernando was at Cambridge.

Learning to live in a new country is hard—particularly so with a family on a very small graduate student budget. They struggled with quite simple questions: Sewing thread—where do we buy that?—other such things—where do we buy those? However, the Gouvêas felt fortunate because Fernando’s father was well off and could and did provide some help. Still, the first few months were tough. They had a mostly empty apartment, a toddler, and a baby. When they bought Heitor a toy workbench, he called it “the toy”. As time went on, things did stabilize, and life went on. Fernando found graduate school exciting, hard, stressful, and exhausting. However, it was great to go home in the evening and play with two energetic boys!

While in Cambridge, they attended Park Street Church, and continued as always with teaching and their usual church activities. They enjoyed the student population in the Boston area and became friends with several other Christian graduate students.

June of 1987 found Fernando with a completed Ph.D.—and a return to Brazil. Fernando resumed teaching at the University, and Mari took a teaching job at Pan-American Christian Academy, a school created for missionary children. Marcos and Heitor were enrolled in PACA, with hope that their English would remain alive. Ah—and family—the nicest thing about Brazil: Mari’s sister and Fernando’s siblings, parents on both sides, and many cousins...but the pizza in São Paulo is pretty good too!

A friend had warned them, “Now you will be marginal people—not quite at home in Brazil and not quite at home anywhere else.” This was true, until settling in Waterville eventually fixed it: They’re at home here!

Things eventually settled down a bit—but Fernando suffered from the far-too-political climate at the University—and São Paulo was also hard to live in. They desired to move back North. The question became: “How?”

As always, the hand of the Lord can be seen in our lives as we look back: God had plans. During a short trip to the U.S., Fernando was invited to give a talk at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario. There he got to know a professor who, when she found out there was a desire to come back, figured out a way to invite Fernando to be a visiting member of the department at Queen’s for one year. Fernando and Mari decided to use that year to apply for jobs in the US and Canada. Thus, in 1990 they found themselves in Kingston. Where São Paulo had 10,000,000 people, Kingston had only 100,000. It felt completely different! It was possible to walk to the university in five or ten minutes, rather than driving for 40 minutes in heavy traffic. They enjoyed their year there. They found a church whose pastor and his wife became their friends.

The plan to apply for jobs worked out. Fernando was offered a job at Colby and, after several scary bumps along the way and a lot of prayer, ended up in Waterville in September of 1991. Classes had already started, so Fernando missed faculty orientation. Fernando says he has remained “disoriented” ever since!

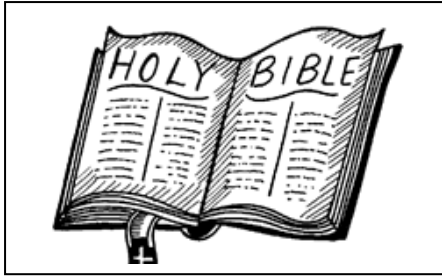
In Waterville, they finally settled down. They joined a Methodist Church and were happy there for some years. They did the usual: choir, Sunday School teaching, Bible studies, even occasional preaching. For a long time Fernando had a weekly Bible study in their home. Mari still has fond memories of her time there and became friends with none other than Sharon Conover, our deaconess! They had the opportunity to work together and know each other very well. Mari is quite thankful for this long-time friendship.

Unfortunately, this denomination tried to be a wide tent and ended up roiled by deep and serious disagreements. Eventually it became clear that seeking a new church home was necessary, bringing them to LCR. Fernando had for a long time been pushing a higher view of the sacraments than was typical at any of the denominations they had been part of before, so coming to the LCMS felt very natural. He had also long been interested in more liturgical worship. So that part felt like coming home as well.

Fernando’s work at Colby involves both teaching and scholarly work. He has taught almost all the mathematics courses at some time in these 30 years. His research has included written articles and books on both number theory and history of mathematics.

The sons are now grown: Heitor has a Ph.D. in political science but decided that academia was not for him. He lives in Florida, and works for *Só Dança*, Fernando’s brother-in-law’s dance apparel company. Marcos has a Ph.D. in classics, and his wife Devin has one in philosophy of science. Devin has a tenure-track teaching job at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. Marcos is home-schooling their daughters: Monica, Miranda, and Susana. The Gouvêas love having granddaughters!

Mari likes to cook: One of Fernando’s colleagues was asked by a student where was the best place to eat in Waterville. He answered “The Gouvêa’s house.” The poor student later told him he couldn’t find that restaurant on Google! Fernando likes books, fountain pens, wine, and perfume. They have a dog, Jelly Bean—now thirteen years old and much less excitable than when she was young, but still a handful. Visiting there always involves giving Jelly Bean some attention—and like her, they enjoy visitors!



### **Monthly Worship**

October 3, 2021

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: 128

Old Testament: Genesis 2:18-25

Epistle: Hebrews 2:1-13

Holy Gospel: Mark 10:2-16

October 10, 2021

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: 90:12-17

Old Testament: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Epistle: Hebrews 3:12-19

Holy Gospel: Mark 10:17-22

October 17, 2021

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: 119:9-16

Old Testament: Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

Epistle: Hebrews 4:1-16

Holy Gospel: Mark 10:23-31

October 24, 2021

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: 126

Old Testament: Jeremiah 31:7-9

Epistle: Hebrews 7:23-28

Holy Gospel: Mark 10:46-52

October 31, 2021

Reformation Day

Psalm: 46

First Reading: Revelation 14:6-7

Epistle: Romans 3:19-28

Holy Gospel: 8:31-36

## **BIBLE QUIZ**

1. **In whose house was Peter staying when Cornelius visited him?**
  - A. Paul the tentmaker
  - B. Simon the tanner
  - C. James the shepherd
  - D. Joseph the carpenter
2. **What was Luke's profession?**
  - A. doctor
  - B. lawyer
  - C. soldier
  - D. tax collector
3. **How did four friends of a paralyzed man get him through an overly crowded room to Jesus?**
  - A. they screamed "Romans" and created a panic to clear out the room
  - B. they bribed people into leaving and never seeing Jesus again
  - C. they ripped a hole in the roof and lowered the man in
  - D. they knocked over two oil lamps and set the place on fire.
4. **What did Lot's wife turn into when she looked back at the city she was fleeing for her life?**
  - A. stone
  - B. salt
  - C. lava
  - D. fire
5. **What is different about Samaria from all of the other cities and towns in Israel?**
  - A. it is the only city King Nebuchadnezzar could not defeat
  - B. it is the only city that had no women in it due to its administrative function
  - C. it is the only city built from the ground up, all of the rest were conquered.
  - D. it is the only city that had idols in the northern kingdom





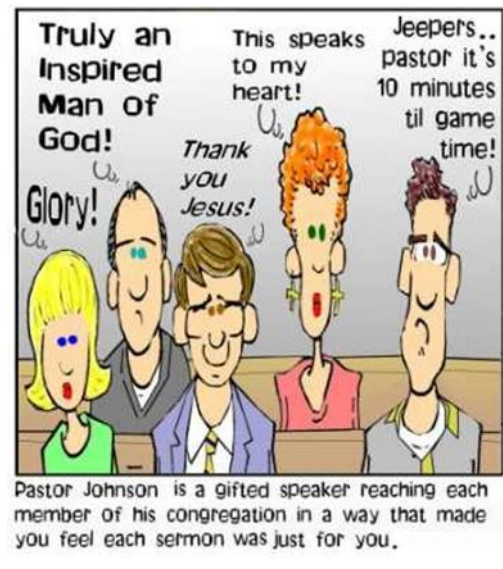
10/1 Mari Gouvea  
 10/3 Julie Kohl  
 10/5 Jo Scheibel  
 10/8 Bill Scheibel  
 10/12 Sharon Kinter  
 10/14 Christine Guzman  
 10/15 Krista Carlson  
 10/21 Corina Wilson  
 10/23 Amy Ouellette  
 10/31 Dottie Evertsen



10/4 Bode Carlson  
 10/5 Mari Gouvea  
 10/8 Kathleen Paules  
 10/9 Steve Love  
 10/13 Richard Kubeck  
 10/15 Bill Scheibel  
 10/21 Olive Grierson  
 10/28 Mark Larsen



10/10 Glenn & Kitty Carlson  
 10/12 Seth & Angie Carlson  
 10/21 Sharon & Dennis Klipp  
 10/30 Rick & Joan Drageland



After a very long and boring sermon, the parishioners filed out of the church, saying nothing to the preacher. Toward the end of the line was a thoughtful woman who always commented on the sermons. Today she chose her words carefully and said, "Pastor, your sermon reminded me of the peace and love of God."

The pastor was thrilled. "No one has ever said anything like that about my preaching before. Please, tell me why you felt that way."

"It reminded me of the peace of God because it passed all understanding and the love of God because it endured forever!"

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"I hope I get to the Pearly Gates before Daddy does," said Lana. "He's always losing the gate opener."

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A little boy walked up to his father and asked him, "Daddy, how do you spell God?" The father replied, "G-O-D." The boy wrote it down, then turned to his father once more and asked, "Now how how do you spell 'Zilla?"

### BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS

1. B (Acts 10:6)
2. A (Colossians 4:14)
3. C (Luke 5:19)
4. B (Genesis 19:26)
5. C (1 Kings 16:24)

# The Daily Lectionary

October 2021

10/1	Deuteronomy 2:16-37 / Matthew 6:16-34
10/2	Deuteronomy 3:1-29 / Matthew 7:1-12
10/3	Deuteronomy 4:1-20 / Matthew 7:13-29
10/4	Deuteronomy 4:21-40 / Matthew 8:1-17
10/5	Deuteronomy 5:1-21 / Matthew 8:18-34
10/6	Deuteronomy 5:22-6:9 / Matthew 9:1-17
10/7	Deuteronomy 6:10-25 / Matthew 9:18-38
10/8	Deuteronomy 7:1-19 / Matthew 10:1-23
10/9	Deuteronomy 8:1-20 / Matthew 10:24-42
10/10	Deuteronomy 9:1-22 / Matthew 11:1-19
10/11	Deuteronomy 9:23-10:22 / Matthew 11:20-30
10/12	Deuteronomy 11:1-25 / Matthew 12:1-21
10/13	Deuteronomy 11:26-12:12 / Matthew 12:22-37
10/14	Deuteronomy 12:13-32 / Matthew 12:38-50
10/15	Deuteronomy 13:1-18 / Matthew 13:1-23
10/16	Deuteronomy 14:1-2, 22-23, 14:28-15:15 / Matthew 13:24-43
10/17	Deuteronomy 15:19-16:22 / Matthew 13:44-58
10/18	Deuteronomy 17:1-20 / Matthew 14:1-21
10/19	Deuteronomy 18:1-22 / Matthew 14:22-36
10/20	Deuteronomy 19:1-20 / Matthew 15:1-20
10/21	Deuteronomy 20:1-20 / Matthew 15:21-39
10/22	Deuteronomy 21:1-23 / Matthew 16:1-12
10/23	Deuteronomy 24:10-25:10 / Matthew 16:13-28
10/24	Deuteronomy 25:17-26:19 / Matthew 17:1-13
10/25	Deuteronomy 27:1-26 / Matthew 17:14-27
10/26	Deuteronomy 28:1-22 / Matthew 18:1-20
10/27	Deuteronomy 29:1-29 / Matthew 18:21-35
10/28	Deuteronomy 30:1-20 / Matthew 19:1-15
10/29	Deuteronomy 31:1-29 / Matthew 19:16-30
10/30	Deuteronomy 31:30-32:27 / Matthew 20:1-16
10/31	Deuteronomy 32:28-52 / Matthew 20:17-34

*(Daily lectionary readings taken from LSB #299-304)*

## Some helpful habits for home devotions:

- *Do one reading in the morning and the other in the evening.*
- *Keep a journal or make a mental note of one thought that you would like to remember from this reading.*
- *Read and discuss the daily reading with a family member or friend.*
- *Choose one verse to commit to memory, reciting it through the day.*
- *Speak to God in prayer about something from the reading that impressed or confused you in this reading.*
- *If you miss a day or two (or three) and fall behind, don't worry and don't quit! Either set aside some time to catch up or skip those readings and move on.*
- *If you're using another reading schedule or guide, stick with it. The important thing is to be in the Word daily.*