



# Ascension Lutheran Church

## A Guide for the Head of Household to Leading Evening Family Devotions

1. The household shall gather together and either sit in a circle on the floor or around a cleared table. Light a candle to symbolize Christ Jesus, who is the light of the world (John 8:12). Devotions may be distributed or viewed with an electronic device (the former is preferred to reduce distraction).
2. The **Invocation** is spoken by the Head of Household. The household responds with “Amen” and recites the excerpt from Psalm 92, which should be committed to memory.
3. The household recites the **Creed**, which should be committed to memory.
4. The household recites the **Lord’s Prayer**, which should be committed to memory.
5. The Head of Household may read a **Psalm** (use “60 Days to Pray the Psalter”).
6. The Head of Household may lead a daily **Prayer**. A simple prayer (with address, rationale, petition, and termination) might resemble the following: “Heavenly Father, You are the source of all goodness and blessing in our lives. We pray for [*recite respective daily prayer petitions*]. In the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.”
7. The Head of Household reads the **Words of Jesus**. Each individual may offer meditation. Meditation is not necessary each night, but should be done at least one night of the week.
8. The **Small Catechism** is recited in question and answer form. For example, the Head of Household asks, “What is the First Commandment?” The household answers, “You shall have no other gods.” The Head of Household asks, “What does this mean?” The household answers, “We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.” The catechism and its meanings should be committed to memory.
9. The **Hymn** is sung. The hymn melody is available via sound file on the church website beside the respective devotion. An attempt should be made to memorize as many stanzas as possible.
10. The household recites **Luther’s Evening Prayer**, which should be committed to memory. The candle is extinguished.