

The Lutheran Day School
and the Three Estates: Family, Church, and State
Part 2 of 3

Question: *Since the church is the assembly of all believers in Christ among whom the Gospel is preached and the sacraments are administered, and to obtain faith in Christ God instituted the ministry of the Gospel and Sacraments through which the Holy Spirit creates faith in Christ, by what rationale according to God's Word would a Lutheran congregation run a day school?*

What is the family?

The family as instituted by God is comprised of the one flesh union of one man and one woman (marriage) for the procreation of children, and for the nurture of children in the fear and love of the Lord and in loving service to others. "The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for the mutual companionship, help, and support that each person ought to receive from the other, both in prosperity and adversity" (LSB Rite of Holy Matrimony). The family is the primary location of the benevolent dominion that God gave to mankind over the creation. The authority of father and mother under the Fourth Commandment is foundational for the authority of civil government and is an extension of parental authority. The sanctity of family, life, and marriage, and their relationship to each other are taught under the fourth, fifth, and sixth commandments.

Family has been harmed since the fall:

- *Divorce*
- *Widowhood*
- *Orphaned children*
- *Barrenness*
- *Ignorance of responsibility and calling under God*
- *Failure or hardship in teaching children*

What is the state?

The state is the civil government established by God since the fall into sin to provide order to society, to protect its citizens, to punish evil, and to contribute to the common welfare of its citizens. The authority of civil government is derived from the authority of father and mother under the fourth commandment and is charged with protecting life and the institutions of marriage and family.

State is subject to the evils of its citizens and false ideologies:

- *A rejection of the biblical order of marriage and family*
- *The perversion of justice, where criminals are not punished*
- *Devaluation of human life and parental authority*
- *Communism*
- *"Woke" ideology; DEI*
- *Erosion of the first amendment: the free exercise of religion*

What is the church?

The church is the congregation of believers in Christ among whom the Gospel is preached, and the sacraments are administered for the creation and nurturing of faith in Christ that loves God and the neighbor. Baptized believers in Christ are members of His body the church. The body of Christ cares for her members, and honors and supports God's institution of the family and civil government. In the church and among the members of the body of Christ, faith in Christ is active in love for the neighbor as Christ has loved us and given Himself for us and for all mankind. Christian congregations and individual Christians come to the aid of the civil and domestic estates through her teaching and confession, and in acts of mercy and love, especially when those estates are unable to fulfill their calling before God.

**THE CHURCH COMES TO THE AID OF THE FAMILY AND SOCIETY
WHEN THERE IS A BREAKDOWN IN THOSE ESTATES:**

ACTS 2:40-47—The Church on the Day of Pentecost

⁴⁰ And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this ^[1]perverse generation.” ⁴¹ Then those who ^[m]gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*. ⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ ^[n]doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵ and ^[o]sold their possessions and goods, and divided^[n] them among all, as anyone had need.

⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added ^[q]to the church daily those who were being saved.

JAMES 1:26—Pure and undefiled Religion

²⁶ If anyone ^[c]among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion *is* useless. ²⁷ Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-4—Prayer for All

Therefore I ^[a]exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks be made for all men, ² for kings and all who are in ^[b]authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and ^[c]reverence. ³ For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

The Table of Duties is Structured around the Three Estates

PEACE LUTHERAN ACADEMY MISSION STATEMENT:

*Peace Lutheran Academy partners with parents in Christian education
for a life of faith in Christ and service to others.*