

VOCATIONAL SUNDAY – LAW ENFORCEMENT

First Lutheran Church, Aitkin, Minnesota

January 17, 2016

I would like to especially welcome all those who **have served, are serving or are volunteering in some work** related to the vocation of **Law Enforcement**. I would also like to welcome your **family members**. This is our first in an ongoing effort to **recognize, thank and celebrate** the many and various **God-given vocations** that help to **make our community and world the great place** that it is to live. We appreciate your service.

Working For God, Serving Others

(From Lord of Life Lutheran Newsletter, Sept. 2015)

No matter your occupation, each day brings opportunities to honor God by helping other people. This applies to everyone from a prince to a laborer, as Martin Luther said,

“The prince should think: Christ has served me and made everything to follow him; therefore, I should also serve my neighbor, protect him and everything that belongs to him. That is why God has given me this office, and I have it that I might serve him...”

“The same is true for shoemaker, tailor, scribe or reader. If he is a Christian tailor, he will say: I make these clothes because God has bidden me do so, so that I can earn a living, so that I can help and serve my neighbor. When a Christian does not serve the other, God is not present; that is not Christian living.”

At this time, I would ask all those who **serve** in Law Enforcement, those **folks who are or have been employed or who volunteer** in the **vocation of Law Enforcement** to please stand where you are. (**Types of service? City Police/ Sheriff/ Highway Patrol/ Jail/ Probation/ Courts/ Attorneys/ Other?**)

Dear Friends in Christ, please join me in a round of **applause** thanking these people.

Now, I would like to ask all **family members** of these folks to rise. Let us **also thank** them for their support of these public servants. Please **remain standing**.

We would like to offer a prayer of blessing for you at this time. Everyone would please respond when I say, **“Lord in your mercy,”** with **“Hear our prayer.”**

OVER

Prayer:

Almighty and loving God, we give you praise and hearty thanks for the gift of the **vocation of Law Enforcement**. We thank you for the care and protection that we receive from the work of these friends, neighbors and family members. **Lord in your mercy...**

We ask that you may continue to grant wisdom, guidance, courage, compassion, protection, empowerment and hope to each law enforcement person here and for all those others that we lift up to you now silently from our hearts (**pause**). **Lord in your mercy...**

We pray also for their **family members** who sacrifice so much in order for them to also be out 24 x 7, in all kinds of weather, on holidays and when they might also be needed at home. Strengthen these families. Draw them close to each other and to you. Assure them of your life-giving presence both with the law enforcement member and with the family back home. **Lord in your mercy...**

Finally, Lord, please bless and lift up these dear friends, law enforcement folks and their families. Help them to know that they are doing critical work, that they are appreciated and that they are serving as your hands and feet in Aitkin, Minnesota and the world beyond. **Lord in your mercy...**

Whatever else is needed, Lord, please grant according to the love you have for these dear friends and for all people throughout the world. May your good and gracious will be done in our lives, community and world. **Thanks be to God. In Jesus' Name we pray.** Amen.

Once more, please join me in **offering applause** in appreciation to these people. Everyone is invited to share **personal greetings** with them during **fellowship hour** after worship. Thank you. You may be seated.