

## The Basics of Lutheran Teaching - Class #2

**The First Commandment.** You shall have no other gods before me.

**What does this mean?** We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

### **104. What Is God?**

God is a Spirit; He is eternal, omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient, holy, just, faithful, benevolent, merciful, and gracious.

167) John 4, 24. God is a Spirit; and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

168) Ps. 90, 1. 2. Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God.

169) Ps. 102,27. Thou art the same.

170) Jer. 23, 23. 24. Am I a God at hand, saith the Lord, and not a God afar off! Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth saith the Lord.

171) Luke 1,37. With God nothing shall be impossible.

172) Psalm 139:1-4 O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*. <sup>2</sup>You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. <sup>3</sup>You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. <sup>4</sup>For *there is* not a word on my tongue, *But* behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.

173) Is. 6, 3. Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory.

174) Dan. 9, 7. O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto Thee, but unto us confusion of faces.

175) Ps, 33,4. The Word of the Lord is right; and all His works are done in truth.

176) Ps. 145, 9. The Lord is good to all; and His tender mercies are over all His works.

177) Exod. 34, 6. 7. The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgressions and sin.

178) 1 John 4, 8. God is love.

179) Rom. 1, 10. 20. Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them. For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse. (Natural knowledge of God.)

### **105. Who Is the true God?**

The Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, three distinct Persons in one divine Essence.

180) Deut. 6, 4. Hear, O Israel: the Lord, our God, is one Lord.

181) Matt. 28, 19. Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost,

182) 2 Cor. 13, 14. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all.

Num. 6, 24-26. The Lord bless thee and keep thee; the Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee; the Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and give thee peace.

Matthew 3:16-17 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: <sup>17</sup> And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

### **106. How are these divine Persons distinguished from each other?**

The Father has begotten the Son from eternity; the Son is begotten of the Father from eternity; the Holy Ghost from eternity proceeds from the Father and the Son.

To the Father especially is ascribed the work of Creation; to the Son, the work of Redemption; to the Holy Ghost, the work of Sanctification.

183) Ps, 2, 7. Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten Thee.

184). John 15,26. When the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of Me.

185) Gal. 4, 6. Because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

### **107. What Is It to believe In God?**

It includes knowledge, assent, and a reliance of the heart(confidence). The confidence is not in the mere existence of God or the entire Scriptures. The object of saving faith is the Gospel that God forgives us because of Christ's substitutionary and atoning work for us.

#### **Intellectual knowledge (facts)**

186) Rom. 10, 14. How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?

187) Rom. 10, 17. So, then, faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

188) John 17,3. And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.

#### **Assent (the facts are true)**

189) John 5,46. For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed Me; for he wrote of Me.

193) James 2, 19. Thou believest that there is one God; thou dost well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

#### **Confidence/Trust that Christ is his Savior.**

190) John 3, 36. He that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him.

191) Hebr. 11, 1. Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

192) 2 Tim. 1, 12. I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day.

John 1:29 Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

1 Timothy 2:5-6 For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the Man* Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

2 Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Hebrews 2:17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Isaiah 53:4-5 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup>But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

### **15. What Is forbidden In the First Commandment?**

All manner of idolatry, whether it be actually to regard and adore a creature as God, or to fear, love, or trust in creatures as we should fear, love, and trust in God alone.

- 15) Is. 42, 8. I am the Lord: that is my name; and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images. (Gross idolatry.)
- 16) Matt. 4, 10. Thou shalt worship the Lord, thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.
- 17) Ps. 115, 3. 4. But our God is in the heavens; He hath done whatsoever He pleased. Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands.
- 18) Matt. 10, 28. Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
- 19) Matt. 10, 37. He that loveth father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. (Fine idolatry.)
- 20) Provo 3,5. Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding.
- 21) Jer. 17, 5. Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord.
- 22) Eph. 5,5. For this ye know that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.
- 23) Phil. 3, 19. Whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.
- 24) Ps. 14, 1. The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works.
- 25) John 5, 23. All men should honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father which hath sent Him.

### **16. What is enjoined in the First Commandment?**

That we should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

- 26) Gen. 17,1. I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.
- 27) Ps. 33, 8. Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.
- 28) Gen. 39, 9. How, then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?
- 29) Ps. 73, 25. 26. Whom have I in heaven but Thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside Thee. My flesh and my heart faileth; but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever.
- 30) Ps. 42, 11. Why art thou cast down, O my soul, and why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God; for I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance and my God.
- 31) Ps. 118, 8. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.

### **In six natural days the Triune God created all things out of nothing by His Word.**

Genesis 1:1-3 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

### **116. Which is the foremost among the visible creatures?**

Man, because God Himself has prepared his body, has given him a rational soul, and, above all, has made him in His image.

213) Gen. 2,7. And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

214) Gen. 1,27. God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them.

### **Of what does the divine Image consist?**

In blissful knowledge of God and in perfect righteousness and holiness.

Genesis 1:31; 2:25 Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed *it was* very good....

<sup>25</sup>And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Genesis 2:16-17; 3:8a And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." ...<sup>8</sup>And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day....

### **118. Do we still bear the Image of God?**

No; it was lost in the Fall of man. (Genesis 3 The Story of Man's Fall into Sin)

Genesis 3:8b-10 ...and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where *are* you?" <sup>10</sup>So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

Gen. 5, 3. Adam begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth.

In believers, a beginning is made in the renewal of the divine image. It will be fully restored only in eternal life.

Ephesians 4:22-24 ...that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, <sup>23</sup>and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, <sup>24</sup>and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. (*Also Col 3:9-10*)

218) Ps, 17, 15. I will behold Thy face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with Thy likeness.

### **92. What Is sin?**

Sin is every departure from the rule of the divine Law.

1 John 3:4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

### **93. By whom was sin brought into the world?**

By the devil, who first departed from God,

and by man, who of his own free will suffered himself to be misled into sin.

155) 1 John 3,8. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning.

156) Rom. 5, 12. By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin.

**There are two kinds of sin:** original sin and actual sin.

### **95. What Is original sin (the sin of origin)?**

It is that sin which we have inherited from Adam, the total depravity of our whole human nature, which is now deprived of its concreated righteousness, inclined to all that is evil, and subject to damnation.

157) Ps. 51,5. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

158) John 3, 6. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

159) Rom. 7, 18. I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing.

160) Gen. 8, 21. The imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth.

161) Eph. 2, 3. And were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

### **96. What Is actual sin?**

Every transgression of the divine Law in desires, thoughts, words, and deeds.

162) Matt. 15, 19. Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

163) James 4, 17. Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

### **The Ten Commandments are the holy will of God, or the Law, wherein God tells us how we are to be (holy and righteous) and what we are to do or not to do.**

Lev. 19, 2. Ye shall be holy; for I, the Lord, your God, am holy.

Micah 6, 8. He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God!

In the creation of man God wrote the law in man's heart, and afterwards He laid it down in ten commandments written on two tables, and published it through Moses.

Rom. 2, 14. 15. ... the work of the Law written in their hearts....

Galatians 3:19 What purpose then *does* the law *serve*? **It was added because of transgressions**, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; *and it was* appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.

### **The Ten Commandments are divided up into two tables:**

#### **Love of God (Commandments 1-3) and**

#### **Love of Neighbor (Commandments 4-10). Love is the fulfillment of the law.**

Matthew 22:37-39 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. <sup>38</sup>This is the first and great commandment. <sup>39</sup>

And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

1 Tim. 1,5. Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart.

Rom. 13, 10. Therefore love is the fulfilling of the Law.

### **90. Can we keep God's Commandments as He would have us keep them?**

No; since the fall natural man cannot keep the Law of God at all, and even the regenerate can keep it but imperfectly.

144:) Ps. 14, 3. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good; no, not one.

145) Eccl. 7,20. There is not a just man upon earth that doeth good and sinneth not.

146) Is. 64, 6. We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags.

147) Job 14, 4. Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? Not one.

148) Phil. 3, 12. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect; but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

149) Ps. 143,2. Enter not into judgment with Thy servant; for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified.

James 2, 10. Whosoever shall keep the whole Law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

### **91. What purposes does the Law, then, serve?**

**1. Curb** - First, it checks, in a measure, the coarse outbursts of sin, and thereby helps to maintain outward discipline and decency in the world.

1 Timothy 1:8-10 But we know that the law *is* good if one uses it lawfully, <sup>9</sup>knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for *the* lawless and insubordinate, for *the* ungodly and for sinners, for *the* unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, <sup>10</sup>for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine,

**2. Mirror** - Secondly, and chiefly, it teaches man the due knowledge of his sin.

151) Rom. 3, 20. By the Law is the knowledge of sin.

152) Rom. 7, 7. I had not known sin but by the Law; for I had not known lust except the Law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

**3. Rule/Guide** - Thirdly, it leads the regenerate to know what are truly good works.

153) Ps. 119, 9. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to Thy Word.

***Lex Semper Accusat.*** --The Law always accuses. Through the knowledge of our sin, the Law prepares us and leads us to receive Christ in the Gospel.

Galatians 3:23-25 But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

### **97. How may we, then, be made free from sin, righteous, and heirs of salvation?**

Not by the works of the Law, but by faith.

164) Rom. 10,4. Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone that believeth,

Acts 16:31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

**Romans 3:19-26** Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

<sup>20</sup>Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup>But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup>even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.

For there is no difference; <sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup>being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God set forth *as* a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, <sup>26</sup>to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

**Part II: The proper distinction between the Law and the Gospel.**

Romans 10:3-4 For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. <sup>4</sup>For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

The Ten Commandments are \_\_\_\_\_.

The Promise of forgiveness in Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ (Good News).

The Law promises \_\_\_\_\_.  
Leviticus 18:5 ‘You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I *am* the LORD.

The Gospel promises \_\_\_\_\_ .  
John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Matthew 19:17 So He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.”

The Gospel has NO \_\_\_\_\_ .  
Mark 16:16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved...  
Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

The Law has \_\_\_\_\_ .  
Leviticus 19:2 “... ‘You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God *am* holy.  
James 2:10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is guilty of all.

Christ redeems us from the \_\_\_\_\_ .  
Galatians 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed *is* everyone who hangs on a tree”),

All are under the \_\_\_\_\_ .  
Galatians 3:10-11 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, “Cursed *is* everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.” <sup>11</sup>But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God *is* evident, for “the just shall live by faith.”

Provides = S \_\_\_\_\_  
Rom 1:16-17  
O \_\_\_\_\_  
S \_\_\_\_\_

Accuses = S \_\_\_\_\_  
Rom 3:20  
O \_\_\_\_\_  
S \_\_\_\_\_

The Gospel is preached to \_\_\_\_\_ .  
John 7:37-38 ... “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. <sup>38</sup>He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”  
Isaiah 61:1 “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

The Law is preached to \_\_\_\_\_ .  
Acts 3:19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,  
Psalm 32:5 I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,” And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Matthew 19:16-20 The Rich Young Man

Luke 15:11-20 The Prodigal Son

**Daily Devotion for Family or Individual Use** (*Lutheran Worship*, page 293)

1. Say: "In the name of the Father and of the ✚ Son and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN."

HYMN #18 (*The Augustana Service Book And Hymnal*)

If Thy beloved Son, O God, Had not to earth descended;  
And clad in mortal flesh and blood, Sin's death-chains had not rended  
My soul in untold misery Would pine in hell eternally, Because of my transgressions.

But now sweet peace and rest I find, Despair no more reigns o'er me.  
Sin's burden need not press the mind For Christ hath borne it for me.  
Upon the cross for me He died, That, reconciled, I might abide With Thee, my God, forever.

Therefore, in childlike faith, my heart Builds all its hopes on Jesus.  
Abiding peace He doth impart, from burdens He releases.  
His holy blood for me was spilt, To cleanse me from the stains of guilt,--Whiter than  
snow He washes me.

2. Pray Psalm 51:1-13

3. Scripture Readings:

Hear the Word of God as recorded in \_\_\_\_\_.

Readings from Divine Service

Day 1 –Genesis 3:1-24

Day 2 -John 6

Day 3 -John 7

Day 4 -John 8

Day 5 -John 9

Day 6 -John 10

After reading say: Thanks be to God.

4. Prayer

Luther's Morning Prayer (*Luther's Small Catechism*, page 30-31)

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doing and life may please You. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

or

Luther's Evening Prayer (*Luther's Small Catechism*, page 31)

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that you would forgive me all my sin where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Say: "May the almighty and most merciful God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us. AMEN."