

The Basics of Lutheran Teaching - Class #2

Prayer: Blessed Lord, Who hast caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of Thy holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which Thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. *(For Grace to receive the Word).*

The First Article of the Creed

104. What Is God?

God is a Spirit; He is eternal, omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient, holy, just, faithful, benevolent, merciful, and gracious. **(attributes of God)**

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

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. **{eternal}**

169) Ps. 102, 27. Thou art **the same**. **{unchangeable}**

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. **{omnipresent}**

171) Luke 1, 37. With God **nothing shall be impossible**. **{omnipotent}**

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

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. **{righteous, faithful}**

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

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

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. **{merciful/gracious}**

178) 1 John 4, 8. God is **love**. **{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: ¹⁷ 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?

A. The internal works of the Trinity are divided. {opera ad intra}

“The works which God does outside of all created things, **within Himself**, are not common to the three persons, but are peculiar to only one person....” “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.” --Lest we mingle the persons and teach modalism.

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

184). John 15,26 ...the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of Me.

B. The external works of the Trinity are undivided. {opera ad extra}

“When God outside His essence works something among His creatures, then the three persons are together and work together, because there is one doer and maker” (p.74). --Lest we divide the God-head and have three gods.

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle....”

But, “providence and the sustaining and conservation of things are often attributed to one person, and yet it is the common work of the whole Trinity.” **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.**

Matthew 6:26 “Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? (also Matthew 10:29)

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

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 in 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.

A. 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.

B. 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.

C. 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.

Isaiah 53:4-5 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵But 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.

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.

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....

²⁵And 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; ¹⁷but 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.” ...⁸And 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. ⁹Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where *are* you?” ¹⁰So 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, ²³and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴and 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....

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. ³⁸This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹

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? {Three Uses of the Law}

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, ⁹knowing 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, ¹⁰for 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.

John 5:45 “Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is **one who accuses you—Moses**, in whom you trust.

Revelation 12:10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, **who accused them before our God day and night**, has been cast down.

What Purpose Does the Law Serve?

Galatians 3:19-25 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. 20Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but

God is one. ²¹Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. ²²But **the Scripture has confined all under sin**, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. ²³But before faith came, we were **kept under guard by the law**, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. ²⁴Therefore **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.

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

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

For there is no difference; ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom 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, ²⁶to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Large Catechism, Preface.

¹⁸ What is the whole Psalter but meditations and exercises based on the First Commandment? Now, I know beyond a doubt that such lazy-bellies and presumptuous fellows do not understand a single Psalm, much less the entire Scriptures, yet they pretend to know and despise **the Catechism, which is a brief compend and summary of all the Holy Scriptures.**

¹⁹ Therefore, I once again implore all Christians, especially pastors and preachers, not to try to be doctors prematurely and to imagine that they know everything. Vain imaginations, like new cloth, suffer shrinkage! **Let all Christians exercise themselves in the Catechism daily, and constantly put it into practice, guarding themselves with the greatest care and diligence against the poisonous infection of such security or vanity. Let them continue to read and teach, to learn and meditate and ponder.** Let them never stop until they have proved by experience that they have taught the devil to death and have become wiser than God himself and all his saints.

²⁰ If they show such diligence, then I promise them — and their experience will bear me out — that they will gain much fruit and God will make excellent men of them. Then in due time they themselves will make the noble confession that the longer they work with the Catechism, the less they know of it and the more they have to learn. Only then, hungry and thirsty, will they truly relish what now they cannot bear to smell because they are so bloated and surfeited. To this end may God grant his grace! Amen. (Tappert)

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. ⁴For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

The Ten Commandments are _____.

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.

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 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.

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." ¹¹But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God *is* evident, for "the just shall live by faith."

Accuses = S _____

Rom 3:20

O _____

S _____

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,

Psalms 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

The Promise of forgiveness in Jesus is

_____ (Good News).

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.

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, ⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast.

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"),

Provides = S _____

Rom 1:16-17

O _____

S _____

The Gospel is preached to _____.

John 7:37-38 ... "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸He 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;

Luke 15:11-20 The Prodigal Son

Daily Devotion

1. Say: "In the name of the Father and of the ✚ Son and of the Holy Ghost. AMEN."
2. HYMN #18 (*The Augustana Service Book and Hymnal*), stanzas 1-3
St. 1 - 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.
St. 2 - 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.
St. 3 - 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.
3. Pray Psalm 51:1-13
4. Scripture Readings:
Hear the Word of God as recorded in _____.
Readings from 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.
5. Lord's Prayer
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be
done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our
trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and
ever. Amen
6. Prayer - Luther's Morning Prayer
I thank Thee, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, that Thou hast
kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray Thee that Thou wouldst keep me
this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please Thee. For
into Thy hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Thy holy angel
be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen. Amen.
or Luther's Evening Prayer
I thank Thee, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, that Thou hast
graciously kept me this day; and I pray Thee that Thou wouldst forgive me all my sins
where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Thy hands I
commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Thy holy angel be with me, that
the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.
6. Say: "May the almighty and most merciful God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Ghost, bless
and preserve us. AMEN."

The Form of the Lutheran Congregation:

1. The Divine Service. The order of the Divine Service itself presents the full counsel of God in each and every service. The liturgy (order of divine service) begins with the invocation of God's name followed by the confession of sins and the absolution. The Word of God is received along with the chanting of thanksgiving from the psalms. The Triune God is praised in hymns and confessed with the Nicene Creed. The Lord's Supper is offered. And finally, the members are sent away with a benediction. Each and every baptized member is in attendance. **The one-year Sunday lectionary** presents each of the Scriptural doctrines on a yearly basis, with an accompanying hymn and collect. **Other Festivals and occasions** provide additional opportunities for divine and prayer services.

2. Wednesday Catechesis.--provides opportunity for the continual learning of **Luther's Small Catechism**, which is the layman's Bible, systematically teaching all the doctrines of the faith in the six chief parts. On Wednesday nights we repeat the Catechism's text by heart and also teach the meaning of the words. We also learn a hymn and a Bible verse, including teaching on the theme and Holy Gospel of the upcoming Sunday Service. The youngest members are instructed and questioned and the older members review the basics of Scriptural teaching. Some congregations offer this before or after the Divine Service, while others have a midweek Catechesis service. In addition, **catechism classes** are usually offered for those youth & adults who are preparing for confirmation and to receive Lord's Supper for the first time.

3. Sunday School and Adult Bible Classes.--is the further training to provide "a richer and fuller understanding" (as described by the Small Catechism) which is normally provided by **a Christian day school**. Children are taught not only religious truths but also wisdom and virtue along with their earthly education. When a congregation is not able to support a school, other ways must be provided. Adult **Bible classes and Sunday school** are used by Lutheran congregations to provide at least an hour of religious instruction on Sunday morning.

4. Christians are provided with devotional material to use in their **daily home devotions**, not only for themselves, but also to teach their children. The **Lutheran Herald** is provided by the Diocese. It presents a Scripture reading, daily devotion written by one of the pastors in the diocese and a prayer for six days a week. **Our Family Daily Prayers (OFDP)** is provided by our congregation, which includes more Scripture readings and psalms, etc. and ties these to our congregation's schedule and calendar.

5. The pastor will offer opportunities for **Private Confession and Absolution**, or you can call a schedule a particular time with him.

6. Christians should avail themselves of **opportunities to meet together socially** with each other out of love for the brethren.