

Catechesis Syllabus for 7th - 8th Graders

September, 2018 - April 2019
Wednesdays, 5:00 p.m. - 6:10 p.m.

Instructor Information

Instructor	Email & Website	Phone
Pastor Stephen Preus	stephenpreus@gmail.com www.trinitylcmsvinton.org	319-472-5571 (office) 319-472-2898 (home)

Office Location

Trinity Lutheran Church
1002 East 13th Street
Vinton, IA 52349

Office Hours*

Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

*Due to homebound calls, hospital visits, etc., it is wise to call before stopping by to make sure Pastor Preus is in his study. He would be glad to set up a special time that works for you to meet, as well.

General Information

Description

Midweek School is for catechesis (cat-uh-KEY-sis). Catechesis is a biblical word we use to refer to the teaching of the word of God to others (Galatians 6:6). The primary purpose of catechesis is the creation and sustaining of faith in Jesus Christ, and how that Christian faith expresses itself daily:

Christians are disciples of Jesus—catechumens—for life, not just a few years of confirmation instruction. Christians learn from His Word continuously as they sit together at Jesus’ feet in the Christian congregation and in the Christian home. From His Word they learn to believe that they are sinners, they learn repentance, they learn to confess their sins, they learn to trust in Him for the forgiveness of sins, they learn to call upon Him in prayer, they learn to confess their faith before the world, they learn to confess their sins to one another, they learn to forgive one another as Christ has forgiven them, and they learn to live faithfully in their vocation as hearers of the Word, husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, citizens of the land, and workers of every kind. This life of faith all flows from the Word of God that is received and believed. Faith in Christ lives from the preaching of the Gospel and the reception of Christ’s sacraments (the Divine Service), and this faith expresses itself in the Christian’s life of prayer, confessing the faith before the world, confession and absolution in the home and congregation, acts of mercy toward the neighbor, and faithfulness in one’s vocation (the Table of Duties).

(Rev. Peter Bender, *Lutheran Catechesis: Catechist Edition, Second Edition*, xi)

Catechesis is more than just the short time of instruction spent at Trinity on Wednesdays. It involves establishing a culture and habit of hearing God’s Word and of prayer both in the congregation and at home. When catechesis is looked at as simply another class which we “have to go through” and from which we finally “graduate,” the children and parents do not connect catechesis to the weekly Divine Service. Then the children and parents do not go to the Divine Service weekly to receive God’s good gifts. May this not be the case among us! The Small Catechism of Martin Luther is more than a textbook. It is a prayer book and a handbook for the Christian faith and life. It shapes the way we think.

Expectations and Goals

Pastor Preus, together with the elders of the congregation, expect the children of Midweek School to be in church every Sunday with their parents (see Hebrews 10:25 and Acts 2:42). Church attendance is evidence of your commitment to Christ and our congregation. Obviously sickness or being out of town are examples of valid excuses. The 3rd Commandment teaches that we should desire to hear God's Word as much as able.

Related to this expectation, we also encourage parents to attend our "Catechism Vespers" every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. with their children. The children will benefit from being in attendance every week as part of their Midweek School instruction. If parents are not able to be there, children may sit with Mrs. Sackett, our 6th grade Midweek School teacher, and you can pick them up afterwards. Before this service the children will have about 20 minutes to eat. We have refrigerators, microwaves, etc. for you to use.

***** If you are ever unable to attend the Divine Service on Sunday, the "Catechism A Capella Service" can serve as a replacement, but we desire this ordinarily remain a supplement. *****

The overall goal for all of this is to be in Paradise together with Jesus, our Savior. We are saved through faith in Him. It sounds simple. However, the temptations, trials, and tribulations that battle against the Christian Church are simply too much to ignore. People lose the faith, even when they still think they have it (see Matthew 12:45). Jesus says, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). We want you and your children to have genuine faith in Jesus as your Savior who loved you and gave Himself for you (Galatians 2:20). Jesus is our Lord, who purchased us with His holy blood and innocent suffering and death that we might be His own and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness. Genuine faith in Jesus is the goal for you, your children, and all of us at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Responsibility of Father and Mother

While it is our privilege to teach the children the Christian faith, this responsibility falls first on the head of the household (Deuteronomy 6:7-9). The heading above each chief part of the Catechism says, "As the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to his household." Strictly speaking, teaching the Catechism to children is the solemn duty of their fathers (Ephesians 6:4). The mother is her husband's helper in this great task (Genesis 2:18). The home is the best place to learn true Christian piety.

Course Materials

Required Materials

Provided for the students free of charge are:

- Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation
- Lutheran Catechesis: Catechumen Edition (used for both 7th and 8th grades)

The church kindly asks that you take care of these books, and, if they are lost, pay for a replacement.

Optional Material

Learning the Catechism by heart can be hard. The following resources can help:

- Lessons from Luther (CD audio recording of Luther's Small Catechism) - Ask Pastor for copy
- Download Duolingo's Tinycards App for your computer, iPhone, iPad, or Android. Directions can be found here: <https://education.cph.org/teaching-the-faith-at-home/update-luthers-small-catechism-tinycards/>

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Learn By Heart
Sept 12, 2018	Introduction	None
Sept 19, 2018	Ten Commandments: 1 st Commandment	The 1 st Commandment & meaning
Sept 26, 2018	Ten Commandments: 1 st & 2 nd Commandments	The 2 nd Commandment & meaning
Oct 3, 2018	Ten Commandments: 1 st & 3 rd Commandments	The 3 rd Commandment & meaning
Oct 10, 2018	Ten Commandments: 4 th Commandment	The 4 th Commandment & meaning
Oct 17, 2018	Ten Commandments: 5 th & 6 th Commandments	The 5 th & 6 th Commandments & meanings
Oct 24, 2018	Ten Commandments: 7 th & 8 th Commandments	The 7 th & 8 th Commandments & meanings
Oct 31, 2017	Ten Commandments: 9 th & 10 th Commandments	The 9 th & 10 th Commandments & meanings
Nov 7, 2018	Ten Commandments: Close of Commandments	The Close of Commandments & meaning
Nov 14, 2018	Review: Ten Commandments & Purpose of Law	The Close of Commandments & meaning (yes, again!)
Nov 21, 2018	<i>NO CLASS due to Thanksgiving Break</i>	<i>Happy Thanksgiving!</i>
Nov 28, 2018	Apostles' Creed: First Article Part 1	The First Article & meaning
Dec 5, 2018	Apostles' Creed: First Article Part 2	The First Article & meaning
Dec 12, 2018	Apostles' Creed: Second Article Part 1	The Second Article & meaning
Dec 19, 2018	Apostles' Creed: Second Article Part 2	The Second Article & meaning
Dec 26, 2018	<i>NO CLASS due to Christmas Break</i>	<i>Merry Christmas! Christ is born!</i>
Jan 2, 2019	<i>NO CLASS due to New Years' Break</i>	<i>Happy New Year in God's grace!</i>
Jan 9, 2019	Apostles' Creed: Second Article Part 3	The Second Article & meaning
Jan 16, 2019	Apostles' Creed: Second Article Part 4	The Second Article & meaning
Jan 23, 2019	Makeup Day	John 3:16 & Galatians 4:4-5
Jan 30, 2019	Apostles' Creed: Third Article Part 1	The Third Article
Feb 6, 2019	Apostles' Creed: Third Article Part 2	The Third Article & meaning
Feb 13, 2019	Apostles' Creed: Third Article Part 3	The Third Article & meaning
Feb 20, 2019	Lord's Prayer: The Introduction	Introduction to Lord's Prayer & meaning
Feb 27, 2019	Lord's Prayer: The First Petition	The First Petition & meaning

Week	Topic	Learn By Heart
Mar 6, 2019	Lord's Prayer: The Second Petition	The Second Petition & meaning
Mar 13, 2019	Lord's Prayer: The Third Petition	The Third Petition & meaning
Mar 20, 2019	Lord's Prayer: The Fourth Petition	The Fourth Petition & meaning
Mar 27, 2019	Lord's Prayer: The Fifth Petition	The Fifth Petition & meaning
Apr 3, 2019	Lord's Prayer: The Sixth & Seventh Petitions	The Sixth & Seventh Petitions & meanings
Apr 10, 2019	Lord's Prayer: The Conclusion	The Conclusion to Lord's Prayer & meaning
Apr 17, 2019	<i>NO CLASS due to Holy Week</i>	<i>Christ is Crucified and Risen!</i>
Apr 24, 2019	Pizza Party and Review	None
Apr 29, 2019	Examination of Eighth Graders	
May 5, 2019	Confirmation of Eighth Graders	