

WORSHIP WITH US

Saturday: 6:30 PM
Sunday: 10:15 AM

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Catechism Challenge

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thirty-four years ago, I was quite sure that I was done with Martin Luther's Small Catechism. I had completed my confirmation course, I had memorized not only Luther's Small Catechism, but the 306 questions and explanations in the back as well. The little blue book went up on a shelf, not to be opened again for many, many years. I'm pretty sure I never looked at it for a decade when I began to teach Sunday school.

At the seminary I knew I would have to relearn the catechism, since as a pastor I would be required to teach it. I wasn't too excited about it, rather I was thrilled that I would be reading books from some of the greatest theologians of the ages. I yearned to dive deep into the knowledge of God. At the seminary however, I read Luther's words for the first time, "I am also a doctor and a preacher, just as learned and experienced as all of them who are so high and mighty. Nevertheless, each morning, and whenever else I have time, I do as a child who is being taught the catechism and I read and recite word for word the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Psalms, etc. I must still read and study the catechism daily, and yet *I cannot master it* as I wish, but must remain a child and pupil of the catechism – and I also do so gladly."

If Rev. Dr. Martin Luther was not finished with the Small Catechism in his life, then it's certain that I'm not ready to be done with it either.

The Catechism is the summary of the essentials of the Christian faith – the doctrines of the Church. Luther and the Lutherans did not invent these, but rather received them as part of the catholic heritage shared by all Christians. The Catechism consists of: 1) The Ten Commandments 2) The Apostles' Creed 3) The Lord's Prayer 4) Holy Baptism 5) Confession and Holy Absolution 6) The Lord's Supper.. These texts are the Christian faith "in a nutshell."

According to history the young son of Martin Luther, Hans, would frequently ask "Was ist das?" "What is that?" or "What does this mean?" when he didn't understand something. Luther wrote explanations for each of the parts of the Catechism in the Small Catechism based on this question so that all the sons and daughters of the Church could learn. The intended purpose and audience is quite clear because almost every section is introduced by a statement that says, "As the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to his household." There are two things to note about this statement. First, we learn that the Small Catechism provides a simple and basic explanation of the faith for those who need it in this way (usually children and youth). Second, we find that the Small Catechism was written as an instrument for parents. It was written so that they can teach the faith to their children in the home.

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On first glance, it seems that the explanations of the parts of the Catechism are very simple – only suitable for children – but in reality their wording and organization contains deep theology. The words Luther has chosen to use invite deeper reflection and express profound truths. The explanations also provide language that guides the way we think and talk about the faith as Lutherans. This is important for two reasons. First, it equips us to speak to others about what we believe. And second, it keeps us grounded in the evangelical catholic faith as we are surrounded by a culture that wants to draw us into error.

In order for the explanations of the Small Catechism to function in this way, they need to be in our head. This happens as we learn them by heart. The first step in this process is to begin using them as we seek to commit them to memory. The second step is that we continue to use them so that they go beyond memorization. Memorized items are learned and then forgotten. Items we have learned by heart are things that we use over and over until they become part of us. Once they are part of us, they begin to shape and form the way we think and speak.

With this goal in mind, I am challenging each member of Prince of Peace to commit to memory, (re-commit to memory?) the explanations of the Small Catechism during this school year and to begin to make them part of your devotional life. If we use them daily, they soon begin to stick in our mind (though as our mind gets older we may have to be a little more intentional about trying to commit them to memory).

Beginning September 11th, a portion of the Small Catechism will be printed out in the bulletin. We will also recite this reading as part of the opening announcements. Use this as the Small Catechism text in your personal and family devotions. Work on this as families and couples. Challenge one another to learn these by heart. Speak about what they mean with one another. By the grace of God as we work on this together, we will move beyond memorization to learning them by heart and through them, bring forth fruits of the Spirit.

Pastor Michael

PRINCE OF PEACE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school will be starting on September 11th this year.

The Preschool/Kindergarten class is open to **potty trained** 3 year olds and all children of preschool and kindergarten age. And then of course there are classes for **all ages** from first grade to those of us who have been out of school for decades.

Please pass this information along to any Lutheran friends you might have who are seeking Christian Education for their children or themselves.

For those of you who were confirmed this year, there are still classes available to you. Please don't just wander away from learning more about The Word of our Lord. No matter how old you are YOU CAN NEVER LEARN ENOUGH OR TOO MUCH.

There will be registration forms for classes on the table in the hall, please use them and leave them in the Christian Education mail slot.

ADULT INSTRUCTION CLASS – We are forming a new adult instruction class. It will start Thursday, 9/15/16 at 6:45. Whether you have questions about Christ or want to deepen your faith in Him, this class will explore what the Bible says about our God, and how His love gives direction and meaning to your life today and forever. This class is designed for those who are interested in learning or reviewing the foundations of the Christian faith. Attendance at the class may lead to membership in our church, but there are no obligations. Child-care is provided.

KIDZ KLUB

POP's youth group will be starting back on Thursday, September 8! Please remember to wear comfortable clothing and tennis shoes. Our schedule for the evening is as follows:

6:00 – 6:15	Opening Prayer
6:15 – 6:30	Dinner
6:30 – 7:00	Games
7:00 – 7:30	Lesson
7:30	Closing Prayer

For more info, see Eric Bendekovic or contact him at (ebendekovic@aol.com). Thank you!

40 DAYS OF LIFE

From September 28th through November 4th, Christians throughout Pittsburgh are invited to take part in the international 40 Days for Life campaign, simultaneously happening in all 50 states, in 342 cities, and 24 nations. During this time, please unite with fellow Christians in prayer, fasting, and **peaceful vigil held every day from 7am – 7pm in front of Planned Parenthood at 933 Liberty Avenue**. Contact Nikki Bruni nbruni@40daysforlifepgh.com or go to 40daysforlifepittsburgh.com for more information.

ATTENTION MARRIED COUPLES: The September 16-18 Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend is now full. (You may contact the Directors listed below to be on a waiting list.) However, there is still room for YOU at the October 21-23 Weekend at Olmsted Retreat in Ludlow, PA. Please consider whether it is time for you to rekindle the romance and realize the full potential of your marriage with all the joy and beauty that God intends. Olmsted Retreat is a beautiful, serene location in the Allegheny National Forest, a couple hours north of Pittsburgh. Weekends run from Friday at 8 PM to Sunday at approximately 3 PM. Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are covered by a \$100.00 per couple registration fee plus a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish that you are given the opportunity to make toward the end of the weekend. Registrations are limited, so sign up TODAY by going to the website: www.GodLovesMarriage.org and pay the fee with a credit card, or mark the option to mail a check. For questions, contact Pennsylvania Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at fjschamber@comcast.net or 724-325-3166.

**September Birthdays
and Anniversaries**

Birthdays

Lawrie Borgman	2
Joseph Meinert	4
Betty Wunnenberg	4
Mary Dietrich	10
Timothy Nord	15
Lynn Gunther	17
Alice Davis	22
Joslyn Mesing	25
Larry Weimer	25
Ron Doerr	27

Baptismal Birthdays

Faye Brockmiller	
Carol Helkowski	
Edna Gaertner	1
Erik Doerr	3
Linda Weimer	8
Brittany Rodman	13
Ruth Rose	14
Trevor Mesing	15
Ed Morgan	21
Sandi Morgan	21
Heather Nuerge	21
Andrew Kostelnik	22
Betty Wunnenberg	22
Maggie Dietrich	29

Anniversaries

Mike & Joanie Gremer	3
James & Helen Nord	20
<i>Celebrating their 50th!!!</i>	
Ed & Sandi Morgan	28
Doug & Tammy Eckstrom	29

Servants in Ministry

Greeter

- 4 – Ed/Sandi Morgan
- 11 – Ruth Miller
- 18 – Rich/Ethel Clayton
- 25 – Beau/Twila DeThomas

Reader

- 4 – Mary Podeszwa
- 11 – Tammy Eckstrom
- 18 – George Mesing
- 25 – Jeff Doerr

Acolyte

- 4 – Cole Skuse
- 11 – Noah Weedon
- 18 – Hanna Bendekovic
- 25 – Nikolai Podeszwa

Altar Guild

Linda Weimer/Amy Wilson

Audio Visual

- 4 – Darryl Gunther
/Mike Gremerr
- 11 – Stephan Fatschel
/Doug Eckstrom
- 18 – Matthew Muto
/Doug Eckstrom
- 25 – Lynn/Darryl Gunther

Prayer Concerns

Please keep the following members and friends in your prayers:

- For Rachel Humphrey for chronic back pain.
- Bill Hewlett for recovery.
- Gene Reddel.
- Margaret Cron.
- Continued prayers of healing for Twila DeThomas's stepfather and Willis Volland's sister; Betty Ann.
- Terry McCall recovering at home.
- Additional prayers for those battling cancer: Bob Greer (youth leader at Darryl Gunther's former church), Mary Guthrie (wife of Darryl's co-worker), Carol Helkowski, Pastor Michael, Milt Scott, Joan Doerr and Stephanie Parker's mother, Sherry, for lung and brain cancer.
- Joel, a young friend of the Mesing family, who was recently diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma.
- Blaine Morgan for chronic illness.
- Robert Ord, friend of the Mallary's, undergoing surgery for a cerebral aneurysm.
- Ben Mallary, son of Bill and Becky, who was recently diagnosed with Lyme disease, for safe travels and full recovery.
- Layana (Granddaughter of Karen & Joe Meinert) for her mental health.
- Thomas Haffely who was hospitalized for cardiac arrest.

The Lutheran Hour—September Sermon Schedule

September 4

"Choose Life!"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

In Christ, you have been called God's friend. Now you get to befriend others in His Name.
(Deuteronomy 30:15-20)

September 11

"There's No Other Friend Like Jesus"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

We befriend, love, and show care for other people because Jesus loved, befriended, and saved us.

(Luke 15:1-10)

September 18

"Be Careful Who Sings Your Praises"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

God invites us to take all that He gives us and then put it to work for others.

(Luke 16:1-15)

September 25

"Unlimited Patience--Almost"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus

In this life the Lord of perfect patience invites sinners to faith and forgiveness. But remember, it is an invitation for this life only.

(1 Timothy 1:15-16)

September 2016

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
				1 7:00 Choir	2	3 6:30 Holy Communion
4 16 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion	5	6	7 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	8 6:00 Kidz Klub 7:00 Choir	9	10 9:00-11:00 Mens Club 6:30 Holy Communion
11 17 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion	12	13 6:30 Council	14 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	15 6:00 Kidz Klub 7:00 Choir	16	17 6:30 Holy Communion
18 18 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion Voter's Meeting	19	20	21 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	22 6:00 Kidz Klub 7:00 Choir	23	24 6:30 Holy Communion
25 19 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion Fall Festival	26	27	28 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 7:00 Elders	29 6:00 Kidz Klub 7:00 Choir	30	