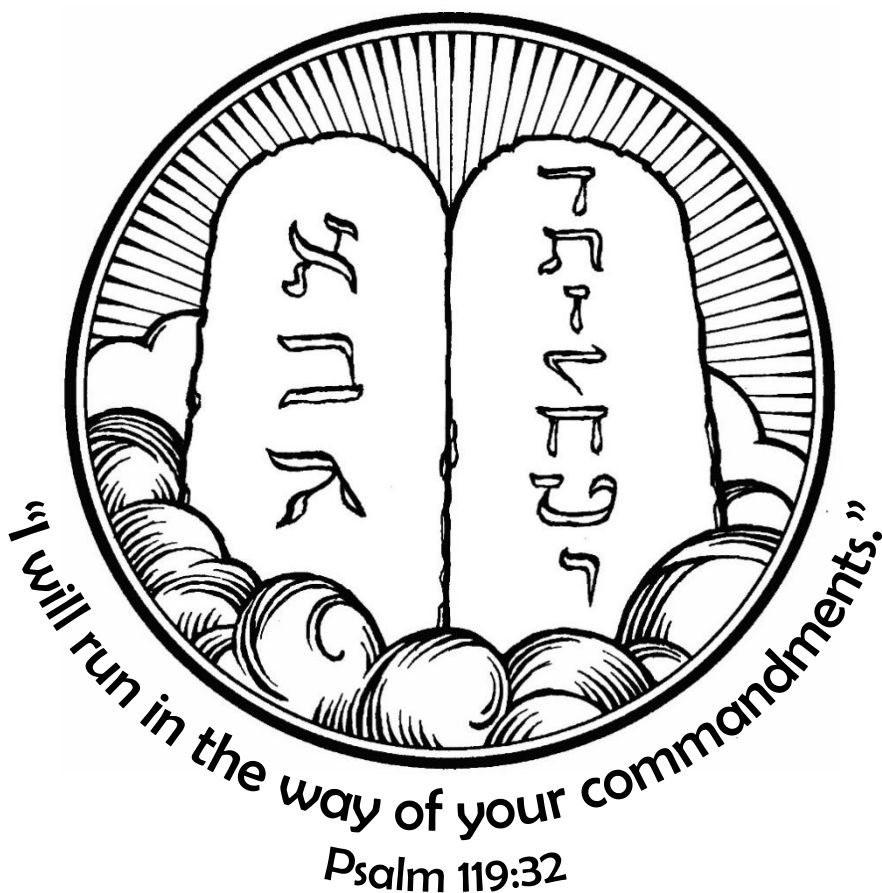


SPEAKING WITH ONE VOICE:

CATECHESIS FOR THE
HOME AND CONGREGATION



DAILY DEVOTIONALS FOR FALL – 2026

The Ten Commandments

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Waterloo, IL



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TWO-YEAR CYCLE OF WEEKLY CATECHETICAL THEMES

At a Glance

Fall

Year 1: The Ten Commandments

Year 2: Holy Baptism

Winter

Year 1: The Apostles' Creed

Year 2: Confession and the Keys

Spring

Year 1: The Lord's Prayer

Year 2: The Sacrament of the Altar

Summer

Year 1: Divine Service, Daily Prayer, Piety

Year 2: Table of Duties & Stewardship

Fall Catechesis 2026

Fall: August 16 – November 14

The Ten Commandments

Week 1: Handing Down the Faith	These Words...Shall Be On Your Heart (Deut. 6:1-15)
Week 2: The Giving of the Law	The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17)
Week 3: The 1 st Commandment	The Golden Calf (Exodus 32:1-14)
Week 4: The 2 nd Commandment	Elijah and the Prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:20-39 (40))
Week 5: The 3 rd Commandment	Mary Hears Jesus' Word (Luke 10:38-42)
Week 6: The 4 th Commandment	Abraham & Isaac (Genesis 22:1-14 (15-19))
Week 7: The 5 th Commandment	Cain & Abel (Genesis 4:1-16)
Week 8: The 6 th Commandment	The LORD Institutes Marriage (Genesis 1:26-31; 2:18-24)
Week 9: The 7 th Commandment	Jesus and Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)
Week 10: The 8 th Commandment	False Witness Against Jesus (Mark 14:53-65)
Week 11: The Reformation Josiah the Young Reformer (2 Kings 22:1-2, 8-13; 23:1-3)	
Week 12: The 9 th /10 th Commandments	Naboth's Vineyard (1 Kings 21:1-16)
Week 13: The Close of the Commandments	What the Lord Says (Exodus 20:5-6)



HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL

Quick Start Guide:

- Come to Church, Sunday School, and Bible Study on Sunday for initial teaching on topic of the week.
- Do family devotions each day using the resources from this packet or the week's devotion printed on the back of the Sunday bulletin. (You can find it on the church website too.)
 - Pick a set, repeatable time of day to do family devotions.
 - Follow an order of daily prayer.
 - Put a check mark by each reading as you complete them during family devotions.
- **For Sunday Devotions:**
 - Either re-read the Gospel reading from church and discuss what was learned in the sermon, or
 - Use the assigned Wednesday reading and questions (the main reading for the week's catechesis).

Purpose of this Booklet:

- To equip parents to pass down "the pattern of sound words" (2 Timothy 1:13) that they have heard from Scripture and the Catechism to their children.

How it Works:

- This devotion curriculum is doctrinally framed and Biblically supported.
 - Each week you will have a variety of Scripture readings that all come together to instruct the family on a particular doctrinal topic.

- This devotional curriculum is multifaceted. Sunday School, Adult Bible Study, and Home Devotions all come together to reinforce the same teachings each week.
 - In Sunday school children learn the main Bible story for the week, and a bit of instruction on the article of the Catechism that is being worked on.
 - In Adult Bible Study, parents learn the main Bible story for the week a bit deeper than the children and are prepped to teach their families in home devotion.
 - In home devotions, what was learned on Sunday is more deeply ingrained in the hearts of parents and children and healthy habits are formed that will, God willing, last a lifetime.

Why Family Devotions?

It is the duty first of parents, not pastors or Sunday school teachers, to raise their children in the fear and love of the Lord and to hand on the true faith. The church will help and teach parents how to do this, but the church may not presume to take this responsibility from those to whom it truly belongs.

"Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the LORD swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth." Deuteronomy 11:18-21

"We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children." Psalms 78:4-6

"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4

MORNING

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

In the morning, O Lord, You hear my voice;

in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for You and watch.

My mouth is filled with Your praise,

and with Your glory all the day.

O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth will declare Your praise.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Hymn of the Season, or another appropriate hymn or psalm, may be sung or spoken.

The appointed reading from Propers for Daily Devotion is read and discussed using the accompanying questions.

A portion of the Small or Large Catechism may be read and recited.

The Apostles' Creed is confessed.

Lord's Prayer

Prayers for others and ourselves

Concluding prayers:

Almighty God, merciful Father, who created and completed all things, on this day when the work of our calling begins anew, we implore You to create its beginning, direct its continuance, and bless its end, that our doings may be preserved from sin, our life sanctified, and our work this day be well pleasing to You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

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 doings 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.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Then go joyfully to your work.

NOON

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Listen to my prayer, O God, do not ignore my plea;

hear me and answer me.

Evening, morning, and noon

I cry out in distress, and He hears my voice.

Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you;

He will never let the righteous fall.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Hymn of the Season, or another appropriate hymn or psalm, may be sung or spoken.

The appointed reading from Propers for Daily Devotion is read and discussed using the accompanying questions.

A portion of the Small or Large Catechism may be read and recited.

O Lord,

have mercy upon us.

O Christ,

have mercy upon us.

O Lord,

have mercy upon us.

Lord's Prayer

Prayers for others and ourselves

Concluding prayer:

Blessed Lord Jesus Christ, at this hour You hung upon the cross, stretching out Your loving arms to embrace the world in Your death. Grant that all people of the earth may look to You and see their salvation; for Your mercy's sake we pray.

Amen.

Heavenly Father, send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts to direct and rule us according to Your will, to comfort us in all our afflictions, to defend us from all error, and to lead us into all truth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EARLY EVENING

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

A candle may be lighted.

Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Joyous light of glory:

of the immortal Father;

heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ.

We have come to the setting of the sun,

and we look to the evening light.

We sing to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:

You are worthy of being praised with pure voices forever.

O Son of God, O Giver of life: the universe proclaims Your glory.

The Hymn of the Season, or another appropriate hymn or psalm, may be sung or spoken.

The appointed reading from Propers for Daily Devotion is read and discussed using the accompanying questions.

A portion of the Small or Large Catechism may be read and recited.

The Apostles' Creed is confessed.

Lord's Prayer

Prayers for others and ourselves

Concluding prayer:

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for the evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our constant companion on the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope among us, that we may recognize You as You are revealed in the Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread. Grant this for Your name's sake.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSE OF THE DAY

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

Amen.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

to sing praise to Your name, O Most High;

To herald Your love in the morning,

Your truth at the close of the day.

The Hymn of the Season, or another appropriate hymn or psalm, may be sung or spoken.

The appointed reading from Propers for Daily Devotion is read and discussed using the accompanying questions.

A portion of the Small or Large Catechism may be read and recited.

The Apostles' Creed is confessed.

Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace;

Your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation

which You have prepared in the sight of every people:

a light to reveal You to the nations

and the glory of Your people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Prayers for others and ourselves

Concluding prayers:

Visit our dwellings, O Lord, and in Your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of Your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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 sins 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.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Then go to sleep at once and in good cheer.



Trinity: Aug. 16-Sept. 26

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

655



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and



by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your
 Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that
 u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal



Son And bring to naught all He has done.
 we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
 strife And lead us out of death to life.



Scan the QR code to hear the hymn on
 YouTube

bitty

Trinity: Sept. 27-Nov. 14

A Mighty Fortress is our God

LSB 656



1 A might - y for - tress is our God,
 2 With might of ours can naught be done,
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill,
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main



He helps us free from ev - 'ry need
 But for us fights the val - iant One,
 We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
 He's by our side up - on the plain



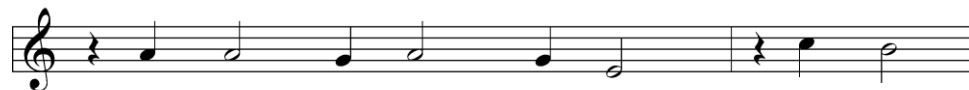
A trust - y shield and weap - on;
 Soon were our loss ef - fect - ed;
 All ea - ger to de - vour us,
 Nor an - y thanks have for it;



The old e - vil foe Now means
 Ask ye, Who is this? Je - sus
 This world's prince may still Scowl fierce
 And take they our life, Goods, fame,



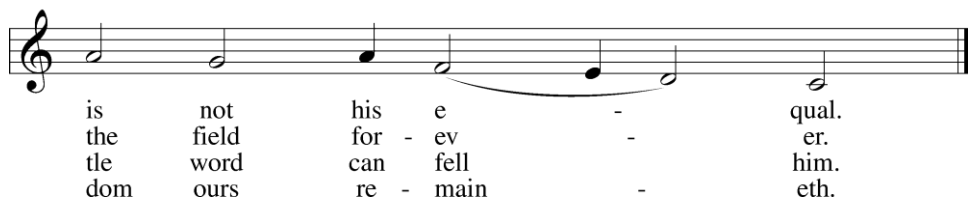
That hath us now o'er - tak - en.
 Whom God Him - self e - lect - ed.
 They shall not o - ver - pow'r us.
 With His good gifts and Spir - it.



Are his dread arms in fight; On earth
 And there's none oth - er God; He holds
 He's judged; the deed is done; One lit -
 Our vic - t'ry has been won; The King -



dead - ly woe; Deep guile and great might
 Christ it is, Of Sab - a - oth Lord,
 as he will, He can harm none,
 child, and wife, Though these all be gone,



Scan the QR code to hear the hymn on YouTube



DAILY PRAYER

For Individuals and Families

These brief services are intended as a simple form of daily prayer for individuals and families, and in other settings.

When more than one person is present, the versicles and response may be spoken responsively, with one person reading the words in regular type and the others responding with the words in bold type. Prayers that are in bold type are to be prayed by all.

For the readings, a passage has been recommended for each day of the week. These may be found in this devotional book or in *The Family at Prayer*, published each week in the back of the bulletin. The value in using this schedule lies in the opportunity to repeat them and learn them well. Readings from the Small Catechism may also be incorporated into the services.

In the prayers “for others and ourselves,” the following suggestions may be used to establish a pattern of daily and weekly prayer.

Sunday: For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and the Sacraments.

Monday: For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one’s calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.

Tuesday: For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.

Wednesday: For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.

Thursday: For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of Christ’s body and blood.

Friday: For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.

Saturday: For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God’s Word on the Lord’s Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ’s holy gifts.

Acknowledgments

The following pages are adapted from pages 294-298 of *Lutheran Service Book*

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APOSTLES' CREED AND LORD'S PRAYER

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✝ everlasting. Amen.**

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.**

PROPERS FOR DAILY DEVOTION

Week 1: August 16-22

Catechetical Theme: Handing Down the Faith

This week not only marks the beginning of the academic year in our schools, but in our congregations and homes. It also kicks off the catechetical year! The Sunday School classes, Bible studies, and another year of Midweek instruction gets off to a start. Those who teach are installed into their offices. But why do we take this teaching ministry so seriously? And what relationship does the congregation have to the role which God has given to parents to carry out in the home? What is the Church's role in handing down the faith? And what can we do to make sure we fulfill these duties faithfully? This will serve as the theme for this week's catechesis. The Lord bless your time in His Word!

Catechism: From the Prefaces to the Small & Large Catechism

Therefore, I beg you all for God's sake, my dear sirs and brethren, who are pastors or preachers, to devote yourselves heartily to your office [1 Timothy 4:13]. Have pity on the people who are entrusted to you [Acts 20:28] and help us teach the catechism to the people, and especially to the young. And let those of you who cannot do better take these tables and forms and impress them, word for word, on the people [Deuteronomy 6:7] (SC, Preface, 6).

But for myself I say this: I am also a doctor and preacher...Yet I act as a child who is being taught the catechism. Every morning—and whenever I have time—I read and say, word for word, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Psalms, and such. I must still read and study them daily. Yet I cannot master the catechism as I wish. But I must remain a child and pupil of the catechism, and am glad to remain so (LC, Longer Preface, 7).

Readings for the Week

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ August 16: Monday | Jude 1:1-4 – Contend for the Faith |
| ☐ August 17: Tuesday | 1 Timothy 6:3-5 – Sound Words of Jesus |
| ☐ August 18: Wednesday | Deuteronomy 6:4-15 – Teach Children Diligently |
| ☐ August 19: Thursday | Luke 18:15-17 – Let the Children Come to Me |
| ☐ August 20: Friday | 2 Timothy 3:14-17 – Continue in What You Learned |
| ☐ August 21: Saturday | Psalms 78:1-8 – Tell the Coming Generation |

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Mon- Sat: What does the day's passage teach us about the importance of teaching the faith? What is necessary to teach the faith? What is the source of the faith? Who is to be taught the faith? Does this passage encourage the teaching of the faith ever to stop? How does one generation ensure that the next generation confesses the one true faith?

Verse of the Week: Luke 18:15-16

Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God."

Hymn of the Season:

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (LSB 655)

Week 2: August 23-29

Catechetical Theme: The Giving of the Law

This fall, our catechetical material will all focus on the teaching of the Ten Commandments, the 1st Chief Part in Luther's Small Catechism. We will end up studying each of the Ten Commandments, one by one, so that we are sure to understand the will of the LORD for us—His people. But before we study the commandments, we do well to remember the purpose for which the LORD gave the Ten Commandments, and the entire Law. Beginning with the giving of the Law at Mt. Sinai, we will explore the purpose and function of the Law of God, and how it benefits us today. God bless your time in His Word!

Catechism: From the Formula of Concord – Article V

1. We believe, teach, and confess that the distinction between law and gospel is to be preserved with great diligence in the church as an especially glorious light, through which the Word of God, in accord with Paul's admonition, is properly divided.
2. We believe, teach, and confess that the law is, strictly speaking, a divine teaching which gives instruction regarding what is right and God-pleasing and condemns everything that is sin and contrary to God's will.
3. Therefore, everything that condemns sin is and belongs to the proclamation of the law.

Readings for the Week

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ August 24: Monday | Deuteronomy 5:1-21 – The Ten Commandments |
| ☐ August 25: Tuesday | Matthew 5:17-48 – Jesus Teaches the Law |
| ☐ August 26: Wednesday | Exodus 20:1-17 – The Ten Commandments |
| ☐ August 27: Thursday | Galatians 5:13-15 – The Law is Fulfilled in One Word |
| ☐ August 28: Friday | Romans 3:9-20 – With the Law Comes Knowledge of Sin |
| ☐ August 29: Saturday | Galatians 3:10-14 – Redeemed from the Curse of the Law |

Questions to Discuss in the Home

- Mon:** When were the Ten Commandments given? What had the LORD already done for His people? Can you number the commandments based on the text? How are verses 4-6 rightly considered an explanation of the 1st Commandment? What relationship do verses 3-11 speak of? What about verses 12-17?
- Tues:** Does Jesus minimize the Law of God? According to Jesus, who is able to keep the Law? From where do our sinful actions flow?
- Wed:** How is today's reading similar to Monday's? Is it different at all? Can you number the commandments based on the text? Discuss verses 8-10 in relationship to the 2nd Commandment. Why would these words be repeated?
- Thur:** What is the fulfillment of the Law? Is the command to love a word of Law, or Gospel?
- Fri:** How are we blind to our sin without the Law of God? Why does God give us the Law? How is this a blessing to us? What is the purpose of the Law?
- Sat:** Can anyone be saved anyone be saved by keeping the Law (Ten Comm.)? How are we saved and granted eternal life?

Verse of the Week: Romans 3:20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sins.

Hymn of the Season:

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (LSB 655)

Week 3: August 30-September 5

Catechetical Theme: The 1st Commandment

This week we begin our weekly examination of the Ten Commandments, by which the LORD has revealed His will for our lives. In the First Commandment we learn that the will of the LORD is for every person to fear, love, and trust in Him above all things. That is to say, He desires that all would believe in Him and be saved. Of course, because the First Commandment is a word of the Law, it serves to show us that we, in fact, fear, love and trust in many things above Him. Whether it be our financial situation, a medical diagnosis, an enemy, the breakdown of our reputation, or a family dispute, there is so much that causes us to live in fear, there is much that we love more than Him, and there are people in whom we place more trust than the LORD who created us and redeemed us. This week we examine what it means to have no other gods. God bless your time in His Word!

Catechism: The 1st Commandment

What is the First Commandment?

Pre+

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

1st+

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

Readings for the Week

☐ August 31: Monday

Judges 16:23-24 – Philistines Idolize Dagon

☐ September 1: Tuesday

Daniel 3 – The Fiery Furnace

☒ **September 2: Wednesday**

Exodus 32:1-14 – The Golden Calf

☐ September 3: Thursday

Matthew 6:24-34 – You Cannot Serve Two Masters

☐ September 4: Friday

Psalms 146:1-7 – Trust Not in Princes

☐ September 5: Saturday

Luke 12:13-21 – The Parable of the Rich Fool

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Mon: What do the Philistines give to Dagon? What acts do they attribute to Dagon?

What sin have they committed? What commandment have they sinned against?

Tues: What had King Nebuchadnezzar demanded? Why did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego not obey their king? What persecution did they suffer? Did they keep the First Commandment? How did the LORD protect them?

Wed: What did the children of Israel ascribe to the calf? What did they call the calf?

What did they give to the calf? How was this sin against the First Commandment?

What was the LORD's initial response? Why did He not respond with wrath? How does the action of Moses remind us of the action of Jesus?

Thur: Against what sort of idolatry does Jesus warn us in this reading? How might we be tempted to trust and serve money, or other worldly possessions? To what does Jesus point us so that we would not be anxious about our needs?

Fri-Sat: Of what sort of idolatry does this passage warn us? How might we be tempted to place our trust in these things? How is this a sin against the First Commandment? What does this passage instruct us to do instead?

Verse of the Week: Matthew 4:10 "You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve."

Hymn of the Season:

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (LSB 655)

Week 4: September 6-12

Catechetical Theme: The 2nd Commandment

We continue our consideration of the Ten Commandments this week by focusing on the Second Commandment, which teaches us how to use the name of the LORD. In fact, the LORD has given His name so that His children might call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks. Of course, His name is holy, above all other names, and so it is good, right, and salutary that His name should be treated as such. And so, while we do not desire to misuse His name by cursing, swearing, using satanic arts, lying, or deceiving by His name, as His children, we are to use His name, and use it often! God bless your time in His Word!

Catechism: The Second Commandment

What is the Second Commandment?

Pre+

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

What does this mean?

1st+

We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

Readings for the Week

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ September 7: Monday | Luke 9:51-55 – Cursing in His Name |
| ☐ September 8: Tuesday | Exodus 3:1-15 – The LORD Gives His Name |
| ☐ September 9: Wednesday | 1 Kings 18:20-40 – Elijah and the Prophets of Baal |
| ☐ September 10: Thursday | Psalms 34:1-7 Magnify the Lord With Me |
| ☐ September 11: Friday | Isaiah 9:6-7 – His Name Shall Be Called |
| ☐ September 12: Saturday | Matthew 1:18-21 – His Name Shall Be Called |

Questions to Discuss in the Home

- Mon:** Why did Jesus send messengers into the village? How were the messengers received? How did the disciples respond? What does it mean to curse? Does Jesus allow them to call down God's wrath?
- Tues:** Who appeared to Moses? Why did Moses hide his face? What does verse seven reveal about the LORD? What did the LORD desire to do for His people? What did Moses ask the LORD in verse 13? How did the LORD answer him? What name is given? Was Moses given the LORD's name to use?
- Wed:** To whom do the prophets of Baal pray? For how long do they pray? Are their prayers heard? To whom does Elijah pray? How quickly are Elijah's prayers heard? What does this teach us about prayer?
- Thur:** How does this Psalm encourage us to keep the 2nd commandment positively ("call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks")? What does the Psalm say will happen if you keep this commandment?
- Fri-Sat:** About whom does this passage speak? What names for Him does this passage reveal? What do these names teach us about Him? How do these names encourage us to think about Him?

Verse of the Week: Philippians 2:9-10 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.

Hymn of the Season:

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (LSB 655)

Week 5: September 13-19

Catechetical Theme: The 3rd Commandment

Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy. It is easy to think of this commandment being primarily about not doing work. Indeed, many understand it to mean exactly that. In fact, this understanding is what caused the Pharisees to be opposed to Jesus when He healed on the Sabbath (Luke 14:1-11). But why did the LORD command the people of God to rest from the labor? It wasn't for the sake of rest, but for the sake of the people. For while they rested from their work, they were to gather as the people of God to hear His Word, to rejoice in His promises, and to give thanks for His peace. This week we will unpack how this commandment is kept among us today, and how the LORD continues to give us Sabbath rest!

Catechism: The Third Commandment

What is the Third Commandment?

Pre+

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean?

1st+

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

Readings for the Week

☐ September 14: Monday

Luke 2:41-52 – Jesus in the Temple

☐ September 15: Tuesday

Mark 2:23-3:4 – Sabbath for Man

☒ **September 16: Wednesday**

Luke 10:38-42 – Mary and Martha

☐ September 17: Thursday

Hebrews 4:9-12 – There Remains a Sabbath Rest

☐ September 18: Friday

Matthew 11:25-30 – I Will Give You Rest

☐ September 19: Saturday

Luke 4:16-21 – As Was His Custom

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Mon: Where did Jesus go? When his parents found him, what was he doing? How does Jesus keep the Third Commandment? Why is it necessary for Him to keep this commandment?

Tues: What was Jesus doing when the reading begins? Why are the Pharisees concerned? Where does Jesus point them? For what—or whom—was the Sabbath given? How does Jesus healing on the Sabbath teach us what the Sabbath is intended for? How is the Sabbath properly understood as a gift?

Wed: What was Martha concerned with doing? What did Mary do? Why was Mary commended for this? How did Mary keep the Third Commandment?

Thur: Do the people of God continue to have a Sabbath Rest? What does verse 10 teach us should occur on the Sabbath? How does verse 12 teach us about how the LORD gives Sabbath rest? How is this consistent with Luther's meaning of the Third Commandment?

Fri: Who is invited to come to Jesus? Where do we do our work? Why does our work make us "heavy laden"? What does Jesus say He will give to those who come? What does this teach us regarding the Divine Service?

Sat: How did Jesus rest on the Sabbath? Why was this Jesus' "custom"? How does Jesus serve us on the Sabbath?

Verse of the Week: Matthew 11:28

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Hymn of the Season:

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (LSB 655)

Week 6: September 20-26

Catechetical Theme: The 4th Commandment

So often, we think of the Ten Commandments in terms of rules and behaviors. We think about those things which God has commanded us not to do, and those things we are commanded to do. But the Ten Commandments are much more than rules to govern behavior. In fact, each commandment is given by God in order to protect something that He has given and established. And so the commandments are given so that the life God has given would be had by all. What is given and protected in the Fourth Commandment? The very foundation of society—the family! Here, what God has given in creation, man and woman together raising children, He protects with a Word, and life will go well for those who keep it—for families will be guarded and protected. God bless!

Catechism: The Fourth Commandment

What is the Fourth Commandment? Honor your father and your mother.

Pre+

What does this mean?

1st+

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities,

but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

Readings for the Week

☐ September 21: Monday

Proverbs 23:22 – The Wisdom of the 4th Commandment

☐ September 22: Tuesday

Ephesians 6:1-4 – Children and Parents

☒ **September 23: Wednesday**

Genesis 22:1-19 – Abraham & Isaac

☐ September 24: Thursday

Romans 13:1-7 – Civil Authorities

☐ September 25: Friday

Hebrews 13:7-10, 17 – Spiritual Authorities

☐ September 26: Saturday

Luke 15:11-24 (25-32) – The Prodigal Son

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Mon: What word of God stands behind this reading? Why should children listen to their fathers? How does this remind us even of our heavenly Father? What about our mothers? Why does the passage speak about mothers specifically when they are old?

Tues: Which offices (roles) are mentioned in this passage? What are the duties given to each office? How are these offices, and their duties, essential to a family's well-being?

Wed: How does Isaac keep the 4th Commandment? Did Isaac know how things would turn out? How does this demonstrate deep faith?

Thur: Who has appointed governmental authorities? How does the 4th Commandment apply to us as citizens? And to them as government officials? How does this serve the well-being of a country?

Fri: Who does the passage teach us to honor? What sort of leaders? Do the leaders also have a duty? How might we "let them do this with joy"?

Sat: How did the prodigal son break the 4th Commandment? How did that turn out for him? What should we do if we break the 4th Commandment? What can parents learn from this parable?

Verse of the Week: Ephesians 6:2-3

"Honor your father and your mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise),
"that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."

Hymn of the Season:

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (LSB 655)

Week 7: September 27-October 3

Catechetical Theme: The 5th Commandment

*God is the author of life (Acts 3:15). He gives and He takes away (Job 1:21). As we confess in the Creed, He is the Lord and giver of life. He desires **not** the death of anyone (Ezek 18:32). To that end, to protect the lives which He gives, the LORD has given the Fifth Commandment. "You shall not murder," is God's revealed will that we are to protect and defend life in all its stages, from the very beginning, when it is conceived, to the very end, when death occurs. What the Lord gives is the Lord's to take away—not ours. And so, in the Fifth Commandment we learn to fear and love God so that we help and support our neighbor in every physical need. God bless your time in His Word!*

Catechism: The Fifth Commandment

What is the Fifth Commandment?

Pre+

You shall not murder.

What does this mean?

1st+

We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.

Readings for the Week

☐ September 28: Monday

Psalm 139:7-16 – Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

☐ September 29: Tuesday

Jeremiah 1:4-5 – Before I Formed You

☐ **September 30: Wednesday**

Genesis 4:1-16 – Cain & Abel

☐ October 1: Thursday

Luke 1:39-45 – John Leaps in the Womb

☐ October 2: Friday

Genesis 37:18-36 – Joseph Sold by His Brothers

☐ October 3: Saturday

Luke 10:25-37 – The Good Samaritan

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Mon: Pay special attention to verse 13. What does this verse teach us about our lives?

Who created us? Who made us? How should this passage teach us to value every life formed in the womb?

Tues: What does the LORD say to Jeremiah? Does this agree with yesterday's Psalm?

What does this passage teach us about our lives, even our future?

Wed: How did Cain break the 5th Commandment? How had the sin already taken place in his heart before he killed his brother? Where does our hatred begin? How does God's protection of Cain teach us about life?

Thur: Where are Jesus and John the Baptist? How does John respond when he is in the presence of Jesus, His Savior? What does this passage teach us about life, even in the womb? About faith?

Fri: How do Joseph's brothers feel about him? What do they plan to do? How does Reuben try to protect him? Did Reuben do enough? How did the brothers sin against the Fifth Commandment?

Sat: How did the priest and Levite break the 5th Commandment? How did the Samaritan keep the 5th Commandment. What more than not killing does this story teach us?

Verse of the Week: Psalm 139:16

Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there were none of them.

Hymn of the Season:

A Mighty Fortress is Our God (LSB 656)

Catechetical Theme: The 6th Commandment

With the Fourth Commandment, the LORD protects His institution of the family; with the Fifth He protects His gift of life. This week, we focus on the Sixth Commandment, by which the LORD upholds and protects the sacred institution of Holy Matrimony. Even before the fall into sin, the LORD had established one man and one woman to live together, forsaking all others, and to be devoted to one another. This was to be a comprehensive union of body, mind and spirit, from which life would flow as children were given. While the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh desires to tear down this holy union, the Sixth Commandment is God's Word by which He teaches His people to consider marriage as a gift of God, and honor it with our life and actions. God bless your time in His Word!

Catechism: The Sixth Commandment

What is the Sixth Commandment?

Pre+

You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean?

1st+

We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

Readings for the Week

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ October 5: Monday | Ephesians 5:22-33 – Christ and the Church |
| ☐ October 6: Tuesday | Mark 10:2-9 (10-12) – Jesus' Teaching about Marriage |
| ☒ October 7: Wednesday | Genesis 1:26-31; 2:18-24 – The LORD Institutes Marriage |
| ☐ October 8: Thursday | 1 Corinthians 7:8-17 – Paul's Instructions |
| ☐ October 9: Friday | 1 Peter 3:1-7 – Wives and Husbands |
| ☐ October 10: Saturday | Colossians 3:18-19 – Rules for Wives and Husbands |

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Mon: How are wives taught to relate to their husbands? In what role is the husband?

How is Christ Himself the model for the husband? How then is the husband supposed to treat His wife? What is marriage given to be a picture of? How does a faithful marriage teach us about Jesus' love toward us?

Tues: What question did the Pharisees ask Jesus? Why does Jesus say that the Old Testament people had been allowed to divorce? What does Jesus point them to? Are husband and wife supposed to be separated from one another? How is Jesus like a faithful husband?

Wed: Who establishes marriage? When did He establish marriage? Had sin yet entered into the world? How were Adam and Eve to treat one another? What would come forth from them? Was the institution of marriage a blessing, or a burden?

Thur: Does Paul give the impression that it is bad to be single? In what condition does he encourage a single person, or a widow, to stay? If a person does enter into marriage, how is he or she to behave? (See verses 10-11.) If a Christian is married to a non-Christian, how should the Christian behave?

Fri-Sat: How does this passage sound like Monday's passage from Ephesians? How does this passage instruct wives? How does this passage instruct husbands?

Verse of the Week: Genesis 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Hymn of the Season:

A Mighty Fortress is Our God (LSB 656)

Catechetical Theme: The 7th Commandment

With the Seventh Commandment the LORD protects His gift of property. We might think of the children of Israel, who while living in bondage in Egypt, did not remember having things of their own. But now, having been redeemed through Moses, the LORD was reestablishing His people, and they would, for the first time in their lives, have possessions to call their own. Of course, with sinful and selfish hearts by nature, the children of Israel would be prone to sin against their neighbor either by stealing what the LORD had given to another, or by scheming to get another's possessions in a way that only appeared to be proper. But the people of God are called to love and serve their neighbors. And so the LORD desires that we would help our neighbor to improve and protect that which he owns. This is the Seventh Commandment, and our catechetical theme for the week. God bless your time in His Word.

Catechism: The Seventh Commandment

What is the Seventh Commandment?

Pre+

You shall not steal.

What does this mean?

1st+

We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Readings for the Week

☐ October 12: Monday

Proverbs 20:10-11 – An Abomination to the LORD

☐ October 13: Tuesday

Luke 19:45-46 – Jesus Cleanses the Temple

☒ **October 14: Wednesday**

Luke 19:1-10 – Jesus and Zacchaeus

☐ October 15: Thursday

Proverbs 19:17 – Generosity

☐ October 16: Friday

Luke 14:12-14 – How to Feast

☐ October 17: Saturday

Philippians 2:3-11 – Look to the Interests of Others

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Mon: To what sort of stealing does the proverb refer? Does this sort of stealing occur today? How might a business owner be tempted to sin against the 7th Commandment? Who does the proverb indicate is able to understand this?

Tues: For what reason does Jesus cleanse the temple? What does he say? In the temple, those who had to offer a sacrifice for sin were being taken advantage of by being charged extremely high prices for the sacrifices. Why would this anger Jesus? How does this break the 7th Commandment?

Wed: What occupation did Zacchaeus hold? What temptations would exist for Zacchaeus as a tax collector? What sin did Zacchaeus commit? Why did Jesus seek him out? How did he respond?

Thur-Fri: What positive action does this passage encourage? How does this illustrate the meaning of the 7th Commandment? What blessing is promised in this passage?

Sat: How does this passage encourage us to look at others? How does this change our view of our possessions? Who does the passage offer as an example of this?

Verse of the Week: Ephesians 4:28 Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

Hymn of the Season:

A Mighty Fortress is Our God (LSB 656)

Week 10: October 18-24

Catechetical Theme: The 8th Commandment

With the Eighth Commandment the LORD protects a person's name and reputation. In love and service to our neighbor we are to speak in ways that uphold our neighbor's name and reputation. When we fail to defend our neighbor, or worse, when we speak in ways that harm his name and reputation, we sin against this commandment. The greatest violators are false preachers who, by their false doctrine, speak ill of God and His name. But every Christian is tempted to break this commandment by speaking ill of our neighbors when we're not called to do so. Certain authorities must cast judgment, but the Scriptures teach us to speak the truth in love. We do not ignore sin, but we remember that love covers a multitude of sins, and we make every effort to put the best construction on everything and to speak of our neighbors in the kindest way. God bless your time in God's Word!

Catechism: The Eighth Commandment

What is the Eighth Commandment?

Pre+

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean?

1st+

We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Readings for the Week

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ October 19: Monday | Matthew 18:15-20 – How to Speak to Your Brother |
| ☐ October 20: Tuesday | Ephesians 4:15, 25 – Speaking the Truth |
| ☐ October 21: Wednesday | Mark 14:53-65 – False Witness Against Jesus |
| ☐ October 22: Thursday | Proverbs 19:5 – False Witness |
| ☐ October 23: Friday | Proverbs 18:21 – Two Uses of the Tongue |
| ☐ October 24: Saturday | James 3:5-12 – The Tongue Is a Fire |

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Mon: How does this passage teach us to treat our fellow Christian, even if he or she would sin against us? Are we encouraged to go tell everyone about it? How does this protect the reputation of our neighbor? How is this a loving work?

Tues: How do these passages encourage us to speak to our neighbor? What does it mean to speak the truth "in love"? Do we speak in such a way as to harm our neighbor, or to help him?

Wed: What was the goal of the council; what did they intend to do to Jesus? What sort of witnesses were provided to speak against him? Who is the only person to speak the truth in this account?

Thur-Fri: What does this proverb teach us about speaking falsely? Does this affirm Luther's meaning of the 8th Commandment? How should we use our words in light of this Proverb?

Sat: How does James describe the tongue? How is it that the tongue is dangerous? How can the tongue be used for good? How might we learn to control our tongue? What sort of words do we desire to speak to our neighbor?

Verse of the Week: Proverbs 19:5

A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who breathes out lies will not escape.

Hymn of the Season:

A Mighty Fortress is Our God (LSB 656)

Week 11: October 25-31

Catechetical Theme: The Reformation

Reformation is what God the Holy Spirit does to sinners. By the Gospel He calls them out of the darkness of unbelief to faith in Jesus Christ. Whether it occurs by means of Holy Baptism for the infant, and is followed up with the teaching of the faith, or even if the first instance of this reforming work occurs when an adult hears the Gospel and is later baptized, what has occurred is the reforming work of God. In fact, this sort of reformation is not possible apart from those means by which God has promised to work: The written and rightly-proclaimed Word, and the Sacraments instituted according to Christ's command. This week, all of our readings remind us that the Scriptures are that foundation upon which the Lord builds His Church. And so, while we give thanks for faithful men like Dr. Martin Luther, through whom the Lord spoke to bring ongoing reformation, we remember that God-given reformation continues to be given to us, through the means of grace, still today. Ecclesia semper reformanda est! ("The Church is always to be reformed!") God bless your time in His Word.

Catechism: From the Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration

First, we confess our adherence to the prophetic and apostolic writing of the Old and New Testaments, as the pure, clear fountain of Israel, which alone is the one true guiding principle, according to which all teachers and teaching are to be judged and evaluated (FC SD, 3).

Readings for the Week

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|--|---|
| ☐ October 26: Monday | Nehemiah 8:1-12 – Ezra Reads the Torah |
| ☐ October 27: Tuesday | John 8:31-38 – The Truth Will Set You Free |
| ☒ October 28: Wednesday | 2 Kings 22:1-2, 8-13; 23:1-3 – Josiah the Young Reformer |
| ☐ October 29: Thursday | 2 Timothy 3:14-17 – All Scripture Is God-Breathed |
| ☐ October 30: Friday | 1 Timothy 4:1-16 – Put These Things Before Your Brothers |
| ☐ October 31: Saturday | Matthew 7:24-29 – The Wise and Foolish Builders |

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Mon: The people of Israel had been exiled in Babylon, unable to gather for worship and to hear God's Word. How did the people respond when Ezra read God's Word to them? What impact would it have on the people of God to not be able to hear the Word of the LORD? How does this help us understand the significance of this event?

Tues: How does the reading place an emphasis on hearing the Word of God? Of what benefit is hearing the Word of God? What should we do when we hear God's Word?

Wed: What did Josiah discover? Why was this important to the people of God? What two things did Josiah do when he heard the Word of God?

Thur-Sat: How does the day's reading place an emphasis on hearing the Word of God? Of what benefit is hearing the Word of God? What should we do when we hear God's Word?

Verse of the Week: Romans 3:22b-24

For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Hymn of the Season:

A Mighty Fortress is Our God (LSB 656)

Week 12: November 1-7

Catechetical Theme: The 9th & 10th Commandments

In the 9th and 10th Commandments we learn that it is sinful to covet. But do we know what it is to covet? Certainly these commandments are not to be taken as a prohibition against the pursuit, or desire, for a house, a wife, a job, etc. Indeed, the pursuit of such things is often times encouraged by the Scriptures as a holy and noble pursuit. To desire that which is good, the Lord does not forbid. But, to covet the Lord does forbid. And this week we will explore what it is that the LORD forbids in these commandments, and we will see that, simply put, to covet is to desire for yourself what the LORD has given to another. God bless your time in His Word.

Catechism: The Ninth and Tenth Commandments

What is the Ninth Commandment?

Pre+

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean?

2nd+

We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

What is the Tenth Commandment?

Pre+

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What does this mean?

2nd+

We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

Readings for the Week

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ November 2: Monday | Micah 2:1-2 – Woe to Those Who Covet |
| ☐ November 3: Tuesday | 2 Samuel 11:2-4 – David Covets Bathsheba |
| ☐ November 4: Wednesday | 1 Kings 21:1-19 – Naboth's Vineyard |
| ☐ November 5: Thursday | Jeremiah 22:13-19 – Woe to the Man of Dishonest Gain |
| ☐ November 6: Friday | 1 Timothy 6:8-10 – We Will Be Content |
| ☐ November 7: Saturday | James 1:14-15 – Tempted By Desire |

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Mon: What warning does Micah speak against those who covet? How does coveting multiply sin?

Tues: Identify the sinful desire for something that belongs to another person. To what additional sins does the coveting lead?

Wed-Thurs: Identify the sinful desire for something that belongs to another person. To what additional sins does coveting lead? What will be the end of those who give into coveting?

Fri: From whom do we receive our blessings? From whom does our neighbor receive his or her blessings? With what attitude are we taught to receive the LORD's blessings? How does a desire for more multiply sin?

Sat: How does sinful desire multiply sin? What is its end result? Why must we guard against this?

Verse of the Week: Philippians 2:4

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Hymn of the Season:

A Mighty Fortress is Our God (LSB 656)

Week 13: November 8-14

Catechetical Theme: The Close of the Commandments

This week we wrap up our examination of the Ten Commandments by taking a closer look at The Close of the Commandments. Here we will see that the LORD has two words which He speaks to His people, and both are promises. To those who hate his word; that is, to those who reject His word and refuse to repent of their sins, He promises wrath and punishment. But to those who love his word; that is those who receive His word, believe His Word, and have lives that are ordered according to it, He promises to show love and blessing. The LORD speaks a threatening Word of Law, and a comforting Word of Gospel. Both are God's Word. Both are true promises. And both are used by the LORD to accomplish His purposes. God bless your devotion!

Catechism: The Close of the Commandments

What does God say about all these commandments?

1st+

He says: "I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments." [Ex.

20:5-6]

What does this mean?

2nd+

God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.

Readings for the Week

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ November 9: Monday | James 4:12 – Able to Save and to Destroy |
| ☐ November 10: Tuesday | John 1:17 – Law & Grace |
| ☐ November 11: Wed. | Exodus 20:5-6 – What God Says about the Commandments |
| ☐ November 12: Thursday | 2 Corinthians 3:6 – Kills and Gives Life |
| ☐ November 12: Friday | Romans 6:23 – Wages of Sin, Gift of God |
| ☐ November 13: Saturday | Galatians 3:10-14 – Cursed by the Law, Saved Through Christ |

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Mon – Sat: In each of this week's passages, identify what portion of the passage promises punishment, and which promises blessing. What parts are Law? What parts are Gospel? How does the passage reinforce the basic distinction between Law and Gospel? How should the passage shape us as faithful Christians?

Verse of the Week: Romans 6:23

The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hymn of the Season:

A Mighty Fortress is Our God (LSB 656)

Week 1: November 15-21

Catechetical Theme: The Holy Trinity

This week marks the beginning of a new catechetical focus: The Apostles’ Creed. For the next 13 weeks or so, we will examine the three persons of the Holy Trinity, their work, and what they have done for us. We will look at the work of the Father, the work of the Son, and the work of the Holy Spirit, and we will grow in our wonder at the glorious mystery of the Holy Trinity. We begin our study of the Creed by considering the fact that God is Triune, three divine persons in one God. “The Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal” (Athanasian Creed, sts 5-6). During the rest of the quarter we will consider the revelation of God concerning each of the persons of the Trinity. The Lord bless your time in His Word!

Catechism: Augsburg Confession, Article I (God)

Our churches teach with common consent that the decree of the Council of Nicaea about the unity of the divine essence and the three persons is true. It is to be believed without any doubt. God is one divine essence who is eternal, without a body, without parts, of infinite wisdom, and goodness. He is the maker and preserver of all things, visible and invisible [Nehemiah 9:6]. Yet there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit [Matthew 28:19]. These three persons are of the same essence and power (1-3).

Readings for the Week

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ November 16: Monday | Genesis 1:26-27 – Let us make man in our image |
| ☐ November 17: Tuesday | Matthew 28:18-20 – The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit |
| ☒ November 18: Wednesday | Matthew 3:13-17 – This Is My Beloved Son |
| ☐ November 19: Thursday | John 14:25-26 – The Helper, the Father, & the Son |
| ☐ November 20: Friday | Ephesians 1:16-17 – I do not cease to give thanks |
| ☐ November 21: Saturday | 2 Corinthians 13:14 – Trinitarian Blessing |

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Mon- Sat: In what way is God revealed in this passage to be *triune*? In what way are multiple persons revealed? Does the passage reveal the persons doing any work? How does this passage teach us the doctrine of the Holy Trinity?

Verse of the Week: Matthew 3:16-17

And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Hymn of the Season:

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name (LSB 940)

Catechetical Theme: Thanking the Lord for Daily Bread

This week our country sets aside a day for her citizens to give thanks. This is good and salutary, but apart from Christ and His Word, we would not know to whom to give our thanks. Neither would we know all that we have for which we ought to be thankful. And so, in fact, it is the Church which properly sanctifies the day and makes it holy – a holy-day – by her use of the Word of God and prayer. That is what we shall do this week, as the nation pauses from work to give thanks. We shall use the Word of God to be reminded of all the gifts that God freely gives, so that we might receive His gifts with thanksgiving, and give glory to our Father in heaven. Enjoy your family and your feasting, even as you remember and give thanks that all good gifts come from above. God bless your time in His Word.

Catechism: The Fourth Petition of the Lord’s Prayer

What is the Fourth Petition? Give us this day our daily bread.
Pre+

What does this mean?
1st+

God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread?
3rd+

Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

Readings for the Week

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|--|---|
| ☐ November 23: Monday | Deuteronomy 26:1-11 – Offerings of Firstfruits and Tithes |
| ☐ November 24: Tuesday | 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 – The Cheerful Giver |
| ☒ November 25: Wednesday | Luke 17:11-19 – The Ten Lepers |
| ☐ November 26: Thursday | 2 Thess. 3:10-12 – Provisions through Our Work |
| ☐ November 27: Friday | Matthew 6:25-34 – Daily Bread |
| ☐ November 28: Saturday | Proverbs 30:8-9 – Contentment from God |

Questions to Discuss in the Home

For each day’s reading, consider the following questions:

- Who is the giver of the gifts?
- What gifts does He give?
- How are the gifts given?
- How do the people respond?
- Is their response appropriate?
- How might this passage encourage our thanksgiving toward the Lord?

Verse of the Week: 2 Corinthians 9:10

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

Hymn of the Season: Holy God, We Praise Thy Name (LSB 940)