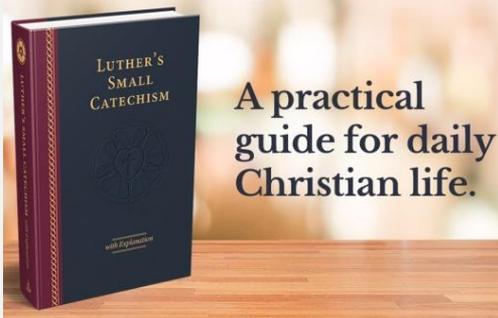


Based on the 2017 Edition

# Luther's Small Catechism Overview

Services: Sunday, 12/3 at 8:00 & 10:45

Church Year: First Sunday in Advent – 2017



**During Advent: Wednesday Services at 11 & 7; Free Meals at 12 & 6**

**Introduction**: Dear friends in Christ: Today is a day of beginnings:

- We begin the new Church Year, Series B, which includes Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost / Trinity, and focuses on the Gospel of Mark!
- We are also beginning a series on the NEW version of Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation, which includes 10 sermons and 11 studies on and off over the next six months!

Today, as we begin the catechism series, we focus on the table of contents, as an overview of the book.

## Contents

**Luther's Small Catechism** – The Small Catechism was written by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther in 1529, so the head of each household could teach his family basic Christian truths.

### **Section 1 – The six chief parts!**

**The Ten Commandments** – *Show our need, express our love!*

**The Creed** – *The work of the Triune God to make us and save us!*

**The Lord's Prayer** – *God's children talk to their heavenly Father!*

**The Sacrament of Holy Baptism** – *God's action to save us!*

Confession – *How we proceed in our Christian lives!*

The Sacrament of the Altar – *Personal assurance of God’s forgiveness!*

## **Section 2 – Speaking to God in words and thoughts!**

Daily Prayers – *Morning, evening, and before and after meals!*

## **Section 3 – How we are called to function as believers!**

Table of Duties – *Scriptural guidance about duties and responsibilities for pastors, hearers, government, citizens, husbands, wives, parents, children, workers, employers, youth, and widows!*

## **Section 4 – An excellent way to prepare to receive the Lord’s Supper!**

Christian Questions with Their Answers – *There are 20 questions and answers; we use them to learn God’s truth and examine ourselves!*

An Explanation of the Small Catechism – *“Designed to help students [like you and me] understand and apply Luther’s Small Catechism” (41).*

**Introduction** – *The basics of faith, Christianity, the Bible, etc.*

## **The Ten Commandments – Written in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5!**

The First Commandment – *Commandments 1-3 focus on our relationship with God: our trust, our use of His name, and our worship!*

The Second Commandment

The Third Commandment

The Fourth Commandment – *Commandments 4-10 focus on our relationship with our neighbor, thus with all people; we should honor, not harm, respect marriage and possessions, speak truthfully, and not sinfully desire what belongs to others!*

The Fifth Commandment

The Sixth Commandment

The Seventh Commandment

The Eighth Commandment

The Ninth Commandment

The Tenth Commandment

The Close of the Commandments – *It’s based on Exodus 20:5-6; the LORD does punish sin, but – much more so – He shows great love to those who keep His commandments!*

## **The Apostles' Creed**

The First Article (Parts 1-3) – *God's work to create all good things!*

The Second Article (Parts 1-3) – *Jesus' work to remove our sins!*

The Third Article (Parts 1-3) – *The Holy Spirit's work to make us holy by clothing us with Jesus and keeping us trusting in Jesus!*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

The Introduction – *Wow, God is our true Father!*

The First Petition – *God's name is holy!*

The Second Petition – *We are members of God's kingdom!*

The Third Petition – *We know that God's will is always best!*

The Fourth Petition – *God gives us all that we need!*

The Fifth Petition – *It is very important for us to forgive others!*

The Sixth Petition – *We should follow God away from temptation!*

The Seventh Petition – *We trust in God to deliver us!*

The Conclusion – *God is able to answer every petition!*

## **Means of Grace – We receive God's eternal love in Christ through Word and Sacrament!**

### **The Sacrament of Holy Baptism**

The Nature of Baptism – *Water and Word!*

The Blessings of Baptism – *Forgiveness, rescue, eternal salvation!*

The Power of Baptism – *The Spirit and the Word!*

What Baptism Indicates – *Daily we die to sin and live for Christ!*

### **Confession**

A Short Form of Confession – *What, why, and how!*

The Office of the Keys – *For pastors publicly and all believers privately!*

### **The Sacrament of the Altar**

The Nature of the Sacrament of the Altar – *Bread, body, wine, blood!*

The Benefit of the Sacrament of the Altar – *Forgiveness!*

The Power of the Sacrament of the Altar – *Jesus gave His body and shed His blood for our forgiveness; by grace we believe and benefit!*

How to Receive This Sacrament Worthily – *By believing that Jesus gave His body and shed His blood for YOU, for YOUR forgiveness!*

**Daily Prayers – Morning, evening, and mealtime!**

**Table of Duties – How to live as people who know Jesus!**

**Appendix – Much important information and many topics!**

Who is Jesus? – Answered from the Bible, creeds, and confessions!

Reading God’s Word – Open it, read it, know its major theme, learn how to interpret it, and realize the important role of the Holy Spirit!

What Is Worship? – With faith we trust in God, faithfully gather for Divine Service, and gladly receive His gifts of Word and Sacrament!

Simple Prayer – Including instruction, thanksgiving, confession, prayer!

Salvation Outline – Seven important points to know and share!

Luther’s Preface – Written when the catechism was introduced!

Explanation of Luther’s Seal – Designed to summarize his faith!

Books of the Bible – Laid out in their basic categories: OT: history, poetry, prophecy; NT: history, epistles, prophecy!

The Time between the Testaments (432-5 BC) – Politics, writings, languages, religious groups, places of worship, readiness for Jesus!

The Church Year (Calendar plus Feasts and Festivals) – Season, colors!

Terms Relating to Worship and God’s House – Terms and definitions!

Symbols and Their Meanings – Learn and be blessed!

Catechism Glossary – Key words and their definitions!

Scriptural Index – Where to find Bible verses used in the catechism!

Index of Topics – Where to find topics mentioned in the catechism!

**A Short Form of Baptism – What to say and do in an emergency!**

Let us pray: Dear Father, bless this series for Your glory and our good!

As we continue the catechism series:

- See the new brochure, which includes an introduction, overview, new features, and the sermon and study schedule.
- Receive YOUR COPY of the NEW catechism, after today’s service.
- Follow the reading schedule in the brochure, attend the scheduled sermons and studies, and bring your book to each sermon and study. We will *be blessed and equipped to be a blessing!*

**CONNECT WITH US** → Website: [www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com](http://www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com)

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