

Prince of Peace Tidings

Volume 26

February 2024

Issue 2

Back to the Basics: Studying Luther's Large Catechism

In his *Large Catechism*, Martin Luther writes this of the catechism, "A Christian should daily exercise themselves in the catechism, which is a short summary and epitome of the entire Holy Scriptures." But what do we usually end up doing once we are catechized? We put away Luther's *Small Catechism* and it gathers dust on a shelf. Why do so many Christians do this? Well, Luther has the not-so-good answer: "[We] assume that [we] have finished learning the parts of the catechism or know it well enough in all points. But, even if [we] know and understand the catechism perfectly (which, however, is impossible in this life), there are still so many benefits and fruits to be gained." In other words, we think that we have graduated and so, we must know enough.

So, what can be gained by studying the catechism? Well, catechism study is a most effective help against the devil, the world, and all evil thoughts. It helps to be occupied with God's Word, to speak it, and meditate on it. Certainly, as Luther says, you will not release a stronger repellent against the devil than to be engaged by God's commandments and words, and speak, sing, or think them.

If your *Small Catechism* has gathered dust over the years, check it out, read it, and you'll be surprised at all the things you thought you knew, but didn't fully understand.

Beginning in February, the Sunday Adult Sunday School will begin a study on the Six Chief Parts of the catechism starting with the Ten Commandments. Throughout each week, we will be utilizing our various senses with study, pictures, and song with Luther's *Large Catechism* as we go back to the basics of the one true Christian faith.

Did you know that Luther wrote hymns to go along with Christian catechesis? Did you know that Luther's *Small Catechism* originally had woodcuts (like cartoons today) to further describe Christian teaching? Luther knew that everyone learns differently and so we will be following Luther's example in teaching the basics of the one true Christian faith. I hope to see you each week during this study!

In Christ,
Pastor Adelsen

Luther's Catechetical Hymns on the Six Chief Parts

The Ten Commandments	These Are the Holy Ten Commands (LSB 581)
The Creed	We All Believe in One True God (LSB 954)
Lord's Prayer	Our Father, Who from Heaven Above (LSB 766)
Holy Baptism	To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord (LSB 406)
Confession	From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee (LSB 607)
Lord's Supper	O Lord, We Praise Thee (LSB 617)

"Prince of Peace exists to be a disciple making community for the Lord Jesus Christ."

Prince of Peace Tidings

Caring for My Neighbor

If any of the Ten Commandments might tempt us to think that keeping the Law is easy, it would be the Fifth Commandment. After all, how hard is it to get through life without murdering somebody? The vast majority of people can handle that!

But Jesus famously blows up this notion by pointing out that the command, “you shall not murder,” goes much deeper — down to the heart.



STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.” But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, “You fool!” will be liable to the hell of fire. (Matt. 5:21–22)

Hatred and disdain come from the same sort of crookedness of heart as murder. With both murder and hatred, you look down on another person and think them of little worth.

In the Small Catechism, Luther also points out that every “do not” in the commandments also includes a “do this:” “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*” (SC, Fifth Commandment, emphasis added).

We are not called merely to avoid evil; we must also do positive good.

So, when Jesus drew near to us and became our neighbor by taking up our humanity, He came not only to avoid harming us, but He came to positively help us, bless us, and serve us.

We are now called to show the love to our neighbors that Christ showed to us. Your neighbor is yet another gift that God has given you that requires your stewardship. We are called to show mercy, to be kind, to love and serve our neighbor. One aspect of this stewardship is financial: our neighbors need us to support the church’s work so that they can hear the Gospel and come to faith. Our neighbors need the church’s alms and mercy work. Our neighbors need our faithful service in all we do in the name of Christ.

“Prince of Peace exists to be a disciple making community for the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Prince of Peace Tidings

New to the POP Church Library: The Book of Concord

Every catechized Lutheran knows of Martin Luther's Small Catechism question, "What does this mean?" But did you know that the Small Catechism is included in a book called *The Book of Concord*?

The Book of Concord is a summary of proper Christian doctrine, which contains statements of faith, otherwise known as confessions of faith. These were written to keep the Church pure from false teachings and were all included in a single volume known as *The Book of Concord* in 1580.

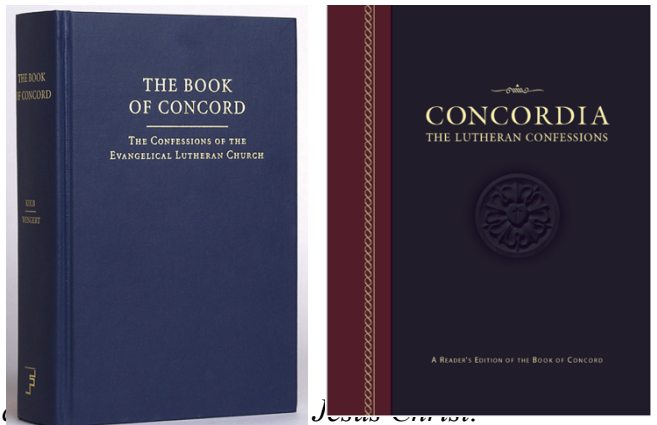
The Book of Concord includes what is believed, taught, and confessed by the Lutheran Church:

- The Three Ecumenical Creeds: The Apostles' Creed, The Nicene Creed, The Athanasian Creed
- The Augsburg Confession
- The Apology of the Augsburg Confession
- The Smalcald Articles
- The Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope
- Luther's Small Catechism
- Luther's Large Catechism
- Epitome of the Formula of Concord
- The Solid Declaration of the Formula of Concord

The Book of Concord is a summary of proper Christian doctrine. It does not supplant the Bible. *The Book of Concord* teaches the Bible, because nothing is more important than clearly confessing and bearing witness to the truths of God's Word, which reveals the glorious Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is what *The Book of Concord* is all about.

The Book of Concord is not just for pastors and church workers, it is for every Lutheran. As C.F.W. Walther, the first president of the LCMS, once said, "*The Book of Concord* should be in every Lutheran home. If a person isn't familiar with this book, he'll think, 'That old book is just for pastors. I don't have to preach. After working all day, I can't sit down and study in the evening. If I read my morning and evening devotions, that's enough.' No, that is not enough! The Lord doesn't want us to remain children, blown to and fro by every wind of doctrine; instead of that, He wants us to grow in knowledge so that we can teach others."

Check out POP's two editions – *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church* and *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, A Readers Guide* – located in the church library today! If you would like a personal copy, contact the church office to place an order.



"Prince of Peace exists to be a disciple making"

Jesus Christ.

Prince of Peace Tidings

Lutheran Service Book Hymnals

At the December 2023 Prince of Peace Voters' Meeting, it was unanimously voted to begin implementing the use of the *Lutheran Service Book* hymnal as an aid to guide our worship services. Prince of Peace will maintain a library of the *Lutheran Service Book* for use during worship services, though some members of Prince of Peace may wish to donate hymnals to the church as a memorial or may wish to purchase a personal copy.

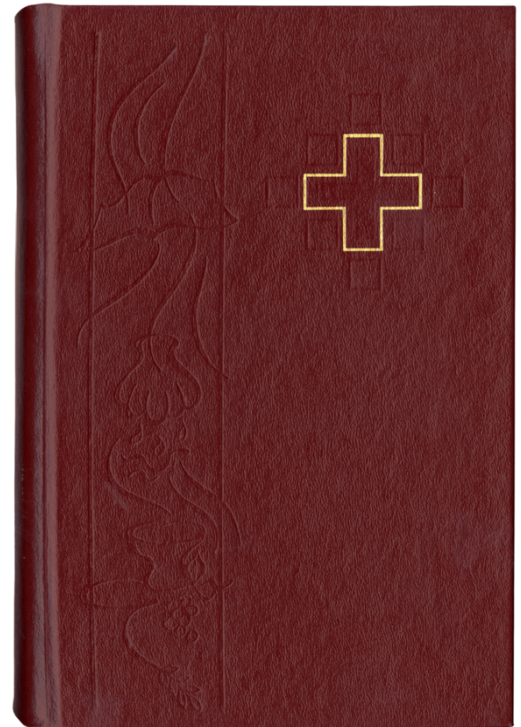
If you wish to make a purchase of a *Lutheran Service Book* hymnal as a memorial to the congregation or for personal use, please contact Debbie in the church office. Prince of Peace will purchase the hymnals on your behalf to take advantage of the church's tax-free status. The *Lutheran Service Book* is available through Concordia Publishing House and is priced as follows below (plus shipping).

For congregational use:

- LSB Pew Edition, \$29.99 per copy
- LSB Large Print Edition, \$49.99 per copy

For congregational and personal use:

- LSB Pew Edition, \$29.99 per copy
- LSB Large Print Edition, \$49.99 per copy
- LSB Gift Edition, \$49.99 per copy
- LSB Large Print Edition, \$49.99 per copy
- LSB Deluxe Edition (pew edition, upgraded), \$54.99 per copy



The *Lutheran Service Book* includes the following in each hymnal:

- Church Year Festivals and Commemorations
- Lectionaries
- Glossary of Church Terms
- The Psalms
- The Divine Service (Five Settings)
- Daily Office (Matins, Vespers, Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, Compline)
- Other Services
- Daily Prayer for Individuals and Families
- Luther's Small Catechism

Prince of Peace Tidings

Lenten Midweek: Studying the Creed and the Lord's Prayer

On Wednesday, February 21, we will resume our Lenten sermon series on the Six Chief Parts. We began last year with our study on the Ten Commandments. We could very well stop with the Ten Commandments. But as we all know, we daily fail in keeping God's commandments. Thanks be to God that He gave us the Gospel and this good news is what we confess each week as we recite the Creed. And because we have the One and only Savior from sin, Jesus Christ, as our Brother, we are also able to pray to God just as a dear child speaks to his dear father. Come and join us each Wednesday evening as we study the second and third chief parts of the catechism!

POP Lenten and Easter Schedule		
Theme	Date	Time
Ash Wednesday	Wednesday, February 14	7 p.m.
The First Article of the Creed	Wednesday, February 21	7 p.m.
The Second Article of the Creed	Wednesday, February 28	7 p.m.
The Third Article of the Creed	Wednesday, March 6	7 p.m.
Lord's Prayer (Petitions 1-3)	Wednesday, March 13	7 p.m.
Lord's Prayer (Petitions 4-7)	Wednesday, March 20	7 p.m.
Maundy (Holy) Thursday	Thursday, March 28	7 p.m.
Good Friday	Friday, March 29	7 p.m.
Easter Vigil	Saturday, March 30	7 p.m.
Easter Sunrise	Sunday, March 31	6 a.m.
Easter Day	Sunday, March 31	9 a.m.

Lenten Meals: 6 p.m. Wednesdays from February 21-March 20
Easter Breakfast: 7 a.m. on March 31

The Book of Revelation – Wednesday Morning Bible Study

The Book of Revelation is addressed to seven churches: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea. These seven churches represent the Christian Church for all time and place. When reading through Revelation 2-3, we certainly see that fact. Each congregation was far from perfect, they are sinner-saints after all, as they all dealt with false teachings from within or from without. To each congregation, Jesus spoke to them law to show them their sins and gospel in showing what Christ has won for them. Below are some examples of how we still face the same challenges as the congregations of the past.

- **Ephesus:** Persevering in the midst of suffering, and uncompromising against evil.
- **Smyrna:** Poor monetarily, but rich in God's grace.
- **Pergamum:** Double-mindedness. Saying that they are Christians but not living the life of faith.
- **Thyatira:** Heresy and seduction.
- **Sardis:** Going through the motions of religion as Jesus meant little to them.
- **Philadelphia:** Kept the word of Jesus and have not denied His Name.
- **Laodicea:** Apathetic in their faith in Christ as they found security in their possessions and wealth.

As God's Word says in Ecclesiastes 1:9, *"There is nothing new under the sun."* We can see ourselves in each of these congregations – for good or bad. But despite their faith or lack thereof, Christ is still present as the ruler of His Church offering the forgiveness of sins that He won for all people through His death and bodily resurrection.

This is just a taste of what the Wednesday Morning Bible Study has learned so far in our study on the Book of Revelation. Please join us each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.!

"Prince of Peace exists to be a disciple making community for the Lord Jesus Christ."

Prince of Peace Tidings

Congregational President's Comments February 2024

Winter has finally hit us with a vengeance. Heavy snowfall, subzero temperatures, and poor driving conditions. I can't think of a better time to curl up with a good read. How about breaking out the big book on the coffee table or nightstand, the Bible. Pastor Adelsen is, in fact, leading us in a study of Revelation. What a mystery book that is! Join us every Wednesday morning to find out what happens next. Keep God's Word at the center of your life.

Synod has published a preliminary feasibility study regarding the Genesis Project (LCMS school discussion). The findings generally suggest a phased approach not yet specific to grades, but implying multiple grades per room/teacher will be necessary based on eligible student populations. It appears the areas near Holmen and north would provide the best location for growth. A targeted tuition is suggested at \$5,000 per student per year, together with necessary financial support from each congregation, a heavy dose of fundraising and is hopeful a local financial benefactor(s) may step forward to sponsor the project. The survey sample population for the study was, however, quite limited from which to draw significant conclusions. Of course, Synod and consultants have already suggested that if a school project is approved by the four member churches, that the churches move forward quickly and decisively with major investment in facilities, financing obligations and include consideration of necessary staffing to meet student needs 10 or 20 years from now. Synod views a well-designed facility with gymnasiums and other amenities as quite the attraction for student population growth as well as a congregation outreach. Staffing and facility maintenance will be a huge recurring expense as is the case for any venture. It was further implied that future investment consideration might be problematic when facing rising construction costs, limited financial resources and demographic changes in the area, so it is recommended that the project scope be all in, all at the outset. More information will be forthcoming as the steering committee meets to discuss the next phase (Phase 2) of the feasibility work. A copy of the 119-page preliminary feasibility study will be posted in the narthex for your review.

The 2024 budget has been approved at the voter meeting in December. The church financial conditions remain troubling. Please keep our attendance and financial conditions in your prayers.

Pastor Adelsen has begun the use of the Lutheran Service Book to help guide worship. Comments are welcome. If you care to purchase your own copy, there is a sign up sheet in the narthex. The first order will be made February 12.

TOGETHER IN CHRIST. ALLELUIA!

Kurt Childs, Congregational President

"Prince of Peace exists to be a disciple making community for the Lord Jesus Christ."

Prince of Peace Tidings

LWML News:

We're starting a fresh LWML year!

All women are invited to join!

Our next meeting will be Saturday morning, February 3, at 9 a.m.



Our February birthdays

Dana Hoffmann	5 th
Laura Kasinger	6 th
Russ Kuehn	8 th
Lexi Ruffi	8 th
Caleb Kolander	9 th
Desha Hodgkins	10 th
Jenny Hinds	11 th
Ona Childs	13 th
Joshua Soto	17 th
Adam Novak	19 th
Laura Waite	21 st
Sarah Harris	22 nd
Joe Cone	23 rd
Tiffany Danielson	26 th
Randy Otto	28 th

Celebrating a wedding anniversary this month are

Kim & Debbie Steenberg	1 st
Tom & Cheryl Schran	19 th

“Prince of Peace exists to be a disciple making community for the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Prince of Peace Tidings

February Schedules

Ushers

February 4-Russ & Sharie Brunk
February 11-Randy & DeAnne Otto
February 18-Willie & Leatta Danielson
February 25-Roger & Ginny Emmon

Greeters

February 4-POP Family
February 11-POP Family
February 18-POP Family
February 25-Chris Leis & Barb Hinds

Money counters

February 4-Lori Peters & Chris Leis
February 11-Elaine Schmidt & Debbie Dunnum
February 18-Barb Alsobrooks & Ona Childs
February 25-Barb Hinds & Debbie Dunnum

Song Leaders

February 4-Brooklynn Scholze
February 11-Holly Ford
February 18-Sarah Kolander
February 25-Patty & Nancy Horstmann

Altar Guild

Cassie Grube
Lori Schmidt

“Prince of Peace exists to be a disciple making community for the Lord Jesus Christ.”