

# Thursday Morning Bible Study

## Luther's Small Catechism | Lesson 25: The Church

### Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

### The Family of Believers—the Holy Christian Church

205. What is the holy Christian church?

**Ephesians 2:19–22   Acts 5:14** (see also: Acts 2:46–47)

206. Why do we call the holy Christian church the *communion* of saints?

**Romans 12:5** (see also: John 10:16, Ephesians 5:23, and Ephesians 4:4)

207. Who alone knows the members of the holy Christian church?

**2 Timothy 2:19** (see also: Luke 17:20–21 and 1 Samuel 16:7)

208. Why is the invisible church—all believers everywhere—called *holy* and the communion of *saints*?

**Ephesians 5:25–27** (see also: Revelation 1:5–6, Romans 1:7, and 1 Corinthians 1:2)

209. Because the Holy Spirit works through the gospel, where only is the holy Christian church found?

**Matthew 28:19–20   John 8:31** (see also: Isaiah 55:10–11 and Matthew 18:20)

210. Why do we also call a group of people who gather together in one place to hear the gospel a *church* (visible church)?

**Isaiah 55:10–11   Matthew 18:20**

211. What are we to examine as we evaluate different churches?

**Acts 17:11** (see also: Matthew 28:19–20, 2 Timothy 4:3–4, 1 John 4:1, John 8:31, Revelation 3:8–10, and Revelation 2:13–16)

212. When we find a church that passes God's test, what does God want us to do?  
**1 John 1:3** (see also: *John 17:20–21 and 1 Corinthians 1:10*)
213. How do we express the bond of fellowship with others who faithfully teach God's Word?
- a. **Hebrews 10:25** (see also: *1 Thessalonians 5:11, Romans 1:11–12, Ephesians 4:11–16*)
  - b. **1 Corinthians 10:17 Acts 1:14 Acts 2:42** (see also: *1 Timothy 2:1–4, 8*)
  - c. **Psalms 78:4–7** (see also: *John 21:15, Joel 1:3, and Proverbs 22:6*)
  - d. **Matthew 28:19 Philippians 4:14–16** (see also: *Acts 13–14*)
214. What does the Bible teach us to do when we discover visible churches or organizations that promote teachings contrary to God's Word?  
**2 Corinthians 6:14 Matthew 7:15–16 Titus 3:10** (see also: *2 Timothy 4:3, Romans 16:17–18, and Galatians 1:8*)
215. Why does the Bible command us to separated from those who do not faithfully teach God's Word?  
**John 17:17 2 Corinthians 11:3 James 5:19–20** (see also: *Psalms 119:30–31, 103–105; John 14:6, John 8:31, Matthew 7:15, 2 Timothy 2:16–17, Revelation 22:18–19, and Titus 1:13–14*)

### **1 Peter 3:8–17**

1. What attitudes does God ask you to have as you witness to others? Will it be difficult to have such attitudes? Why or why not?

### **For discussion... Lutheran Confessions and Fellowship**

**Recommended memory work:** The Third Article of the Apostles' Creed with Explanation