

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Luther's Small Catechism | Lesson 14: I Believe

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 Triune God

118. What do we mean when we say that God is triune?
Deuteronomy 6:4 Matthew 28:19 (see also: *1 Corinthians 8:4, John 10:30, Genesis 1:26, Matthew 3:16–17, John 15:26, and 2 Corinthians 13:14*)
119. Though we can't comprehend this great truth, why do we believe that God is triune? *John 17:17 Isaiah 55:9 1 John 5:20* (see also: *Jeremiah 10:7, 1 Corinthians 2:13, and 1 John 5:20*)
120. What does the Bible reveal about the characteristics of God?
John 4:24 Psalm 42:2 Isaiah 6:3 Malachi 3:6 Psalm 90:2 Genesis 17:1 John 21:17 Jeremiah 23:24 1 John 4:8 (see also: *Psalm 139:1–4, Psalm 139:7–8, and Psalm 103:8*)
121. Why is it so important that we teach the doctrine of the Trinity?
Psalm 49:7–8 John 3:16 John 14:6 John 5:23 (see also: *Acts 4:12 and 2 Corinthians 5:21*)

Matthew 3:1–17

1. What are some of the places in our worship services where we are reminded that God is triune?

For further discussion...

2. Before Luther, the Creed was generally divided into twelve articles. Why do you think Luther chose to divide it into only three? What advantages or disadvantages are there in dividing it so?

Recommended memory work: The First Article of the Apostles' Creed

The First Article of the Apostles' Creed

Creation

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

What does this mean?

I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.

And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil. All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him.

This is most certainly true.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Luther's Small Catechism | Lesson 15: Creation

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.

God the Father Almighty: The Creator

122. Why do we believers label the first person of the triune God “the Father”?
Malachi 2:10 Matthew 3:17 John 20:17 (see also: Galatians 4:4–5 and Galatians 3:26)
123. How did God show his almighty power in the creation of the world?
Psalm 33:6, 9 Exodus 20:11 Hebrews 11:3 (see also: Genesis 1:1–2:3)
124. What does the Bible clearly teach about the origin of all things?
John 1:3 Exodus 20:11
125. Why don't we accept human theories about the origin of the world and the origin of people? *Job 38:1–7 Hebrews 3:4 Matthew 19:4 Hebrews 11:3 (see also: 2 Peter 3:5, 1 Timothy 6:20–21, Revelation 4:11, and Acts 4:24, 14:15–17, 17:22–31)*
126. How did God show that we humans were the focus of his creating activity?
Genesis 1:26 Genesis 2:7, 20–22 Genesis 1:28
127. What does the Bible mean when it says that God created humans in his own image? *Colossians 3:10 Ephesians 4:24*
128. What was the consequence of the fall into sin on the image of God?
Romans 8:7 Genesis 5:3 Psalm 51:5 (see also: 1 Corinthians 2:14)

129. How has God shown his wisdom and goodness in the way he created you?
1 Corinthians 12:14–26 Genesis 2:7 James 1:5, 17 (see also: Job 31:15, Job 10:11–12, and Ecclesiastes 12:7)

Job 38 and 39

1. What part of God's creation demonstrates his power and wisdom the most to you?

For further discussion...

2. How does knowing God is our Creator change how we view ourselves and life in general?

Recommended memory work: The First Article of the Apostles' Creed

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Luther's Small Catechism | Lesson 16: Preservation

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.

God the Father Almighty: Our Provider and Protector

130. What are all the things God does to provide for his creation?

Psalm 139:14 Matthew 6:25-34 Psalm 37:25 Psalm 103:2-3 Psalm 121:3 Psalm 50:15
(see also: *Psalm 36:6-7, Psalm 147:8-9, Psalm 147:4, and Hebrews 1:3*)

131. What different methods does God use to provide for us?

a. *2 Thessalonians 3:10 Leviticus 26:4 3 John 2 1 Timothy 5:23* (see also: *Psalm 104:14 and Psalm 67:6*)

b. *1 Kings 17:1-16 John 6:3-13 Matthew 19:26* (see also: *Mark 4:35-41*)

132. How does our heavenly Father protect us?

a. *Psalm 91:9-10 Exodus 17:8-13 Daniel 6:16-23* (see also: *Psalm 50:15 and Exodus 14*)

b. *Romans 8:28 Genesis 50:19-20 Hebrews 12:5-11* (see also: *Genesis 37:12-36, 39:1-46:4*)

133. What special creatures does God send for our protection?

Psalm 91:11 2 Kings 6:8-17 (see also: *Daniel 16:6-23 and Matthew 2:13-21*)

134. What does God tell us about angels?

Genesis 1:31 Hebrews 1:14 Daniel 7:10 Matthew 18:10 (see also: *Psalm 103:20 and Psalm 91:11-12*)

135. Why does our heavenly Father preserve and protect us?

Romans 11:35 Lamentations 3:22-23 Romans 8:32 (see also: *Genesis 32:10*)

136. What does our heavenly Father's goodness and mercy move us to do?
Psalms 7:17 Psalms 150:1-2, 6 1 Samuel 12:24 Romans 12:1 1 Corinthians 10:31
(see also: Deuteronomy 10:12)

Exodus 16:1-17:7

1. What challenges in your life have led you to worry or doubt God?
2. How might God's way of helping the Israelites in the wilderness be an encouragement to you?

For further discussion...

3. Is God like a watchmaker who wound up the universe at creation and then let it run? Why or why not?

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

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Luther's Small Catechism | Lesson 17: The Fall

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 Ruin of God's Creation

137. What does the Bible tell us about the evil angels?
Jude 6 Matthew 25:34 (see also: 2 Peter 2:4)
138. The devil is the chief of the evil angels. How did the devil ruin God's creation?
Genesis 3:1-6
139. What was the result on God's creation of the fall into sin?
Genesis 3:6-19 Romans 5:12 (see also: Romans 8:22)
140. What was the impact of the fall into sin on the image of God?
Romans 7:18 1 Corinthians 2:14 Romans 8:7 Genesis 5:3 (see also: Genesis 8:31 and Ephesians 2:1)
141. What is the devil's goal as he continues to work in God's creation?
John 8:44 2 Timothy 2:25-26 (see also: 1 Peter 5:8 and Revelation 12:12)
142. Though he would have been justified, why didn't God destroy Adam and Eve?
Lamentations 3:22 Ezekiel 33:11
143. What has our heavenly Father done to rescue us from the devil's evil plan?
Romans 5:18-19 1 John 3:8 John 3:16 (see also: Genesis 3:15 and 2 Corinthians 5:21)

Matthew 4:1-11

1. What are some of the arguments Satan uses to try to get you to fall into temptation?
2. Which words of God do you find especially helpful for resisting those arguments?

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

The Second Article of the Apostles' Creed

Redemption

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood, and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Luther's Small Catechism | Lesson 18: God and Man

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.

Christ's Person

144. Who is the second person of the trinity?

1 John 5:20 (see also: 1 Timothy 2:5)

145. How do we know Jesus Christ is true God?

a. *Matthew 1:23 Luke 2:11 John 20:26–28 (see also: Romans 9:5 and John 3:16)*

b. *Matthew 28:18–20 John 1:1–2 John 1:43–51 Hebrews 13:8 (see also: John 21:17 and John 4:1–26)*

c. *John 2:1–11 Matthew 8:23–27 Mark 5:1–20 Matthew 9:6 (see also: John 11:38–44 and Romans 1:4)*

d. *Revelation 5:13 Philippians 2:10 (see also: John 5:22–23 and Hebrews 1:6)*

146. How do we know that Jesus is true man?

a. *Romans 1:3 Hebrews 2:14 Matthew 26:2 (see also: Acts 17:31 and Romans 9:5)*

b. *Galatians 4:4 Luke 24:39 Matthew 26:38 (see also: Luke 2:12)*

c. *Matthew 4:2 Mark 4:38 Luke 2:40 John 11:35 John 19:28 Mark 15:37*

147. How did God's Son become man?

Matthew 1:20–23 (see also: Luke 1:26–38)

148. Why is it necessary for our salvation that Jesus is true God and true man?

a. *Galatians 4:4–5* *Romans 5:19*

b. *Psalms 49:7–8* *John 1:29* *Galatians 3:13* *2 Timothy 1:10* (see also: *Hebrews 2:14*,
Romans 3:23–24, and *Mark 10:45*)

John 21:1–14

1. How is the knowledge that Jesus is true God and true man comforting in your life?

Recommended memory work: The Second Article of the Apostles' Creed

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Luther's Small Catechism | Lesson 19: Anointed

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.

Christ's Offices

149. What was the significance of anointing throughout the Old Testament?
1 Kings 19:16 Exodus 30:30 1 Samuel 16:13
150. To what office was Christ anointed?
Deuteronomy 18:15 Hebrews 3:1 Isaiah 9:6-7 (see also: Psalm 2 and John 18:37)
151. What were the Old Testament prophets anointed to do?
Jeremiah 1:7 Acts 3:18
152. How did Jesus serve as prophet while he was on Earth?
Matthew 17:5 Luke 8:1 Mark 1:38 (see also: Isaiah 61:1 and John 6:68)
153. How does Jesus continue to serve as prophet even now?
Ephesians 4:11-12 Luke 10:16 2 Corinthians 5:20 (see also: Mark 16:15)
154. What were the Old Testament priests anointed to do?
Hebrews 5:1 Leviticus 16 (see also: Exodus 30:30)
155. How did Christ serve as High Priest while he was on Earth?
Ephesians 5:2 (see also: John 1:29, Hebrews 7:26-27, and 2 Corinthians 5:19)
156. How does Jesus continue to serve as High Priest even now?
1 Timothy 2:5-6 Hebrews 2:17-18 (see also: 1 John 2:1-2)

157. What were the Old Testament kings anointed to do?
1 Samuel 8:20 (see also: *See also 1 Samuel 9:17 and 1 Samuel 16:12–13*)
158. How did Christ serve as King while he was on Earth?
Hebrews 2:14 1 Corinthians 15:56–57 (see also: *1 Corinthians 6:20*)
159. How does Jesus continue to serve as King even now?
- a. *John 18:36–37 Acts 20:28* (see also: *Matthew 28:18–19 and Luke 17:21*)
 - b. *2 Timothy 4:18 Romans 8:28* (see also *Psalms 2 and Romans 14:9*)
 - c. *Revelation 7:14–17*

Matthew 26:30–28:10

As you read, identify the points where Jesus fulfills his threefold office of Prophet, Priest, and King.

1. What times in your life might you be/have been comforted by the fact that Jesus served and serves as your Prophet, Priest, and King?

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

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Luther's Small Catechism | Lesson 20: Redemption

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.

Christ's Work

160. What was our spiritual condition by nature, without Jesus?
Ephesians 2:1 John 8:34 Romans 5:12 1 John 3:8 (see also: Romans 3:23 and Romans 7:18–19, 21)
161. What did Jesus do in order to free us?
Romans 5:19 1 Corinthians 15:3 Romans 4:25 (see also: Galatians 4:4–5, Galatians 3:13, and 1 John 2:2)
162. What do we call the work of Jesus in freeing us from slavery to sin, death, and the devil?
Hebrews 9:12, 15
163. What ransom price did Jesus need to pay for our redemption?
1 Peter 1:18–19 Matthew 20:28 (see also: Isaiah 53:5, Ephesians 1:7, and Revelation 1:5–6)
164. Why do we call Christ's blood holy and precious?
Hebrews 7:26–27 1 John 1:7 (see also: 1 Peter 1:18–19)
165. What does it mean that Christ's suffering and death were innocent?
Hebrews 4:15 (see also: 2 Corinthians 5:21)
166. What do we mean when we say that our Lord Jesus Christ “purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil”?
a. *Colossians 2:13 John 8:34, 36 Romans 8:1*

b. **1 Corinthians 15:54, 57** (see also: *John 11:25–26* and *2 Timothy 1:10*)

c. **Hebrews 2:14** **Revelation 12:10–11** (see also: *1 John 3:8* and *Genesis 3:15*)

167. In what way has Christ's redemption changed our attitude toward these things?
Hebrews 12:6, 11 **1 Peter 1:6–7** **Romans 5:3–4** **Romans 8:35–37** **Daniel 12:2**
(see also: *1 Thessalonians 4:13–18*, *1 Corinthians 15:57*, and *John 11:25–26*)

168. Why do we call Christ's blood holy and precious?
Hebrews 7:26–27 **1 John 1:7** (see also: *1 Peter 1:18–19*)

Genesis 3:1–24

1. Imagine you are Adam or Eve and were just removed from the Garden of Eden. What things would be on your mind as you now face life in a sinful world?
2. How does your freedom in Christ from sin, death, and the power of the devil help you live in a sinful world?

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

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Luther's Small Catechism | Lesson 2I: Immanuel

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.

Christ's State of Humiliation

168. What do we mean when we speak of Christ's humiliation?

Philippians 2:6-8 2 Corinthians 8:9

169. In what ways did Jesus humble himself?

a. *Matthew 1:20* (see also: *Isaiah 7:14*) d. *Mark 15:22, 24*

b. *Luke 2:6-7 Luke 2:48-51* e. *Mark 15:37*

c. *Mark 15:1-20* f. *Isaiah 53:9* (see also: *Mark 15:46*)

170. Why did Christ humble himself?

Mark 10:45 (see also: *2 Corinthians 8:9*)

Christ's State of Exaltation

171. What do we mean when we speak of Christ's exaltation?

John 17:5 Philippians 2:9-10 (see also: *Hebrews 2:9*)

172. How was Jesus exalted?

a. *Mark 16:6 John 10:17-18* (see also: *John 2:19*)

b. *1 Peter 3:18-19* (see also: *Colossians 2:15*)

c. **Mark 16:19** **Ephesians 1:19–22** (see also: *Acts 1:1–11*)

d. **Revelation 1:7** (see also: *Acts 17:31* and *Matthew 25:31–32*)

173. What does the truth of Jesus's exaltation mean for us?

a. **Romans 4:25** **1 Corinthians 15:17** **John 14:19** (see also: *1 Peter 1:3* and *1 Corinthians 15:22–23*)

b. **Colossians 2:15** (see also: *1 Peter 3:18–19* and *Matthew 28:18*)

c. **John 14:2–3** **1 John 2:1–2** (see also: *1 Timothy 2:5*)

d. **Romans 8:28** (see also: *Ephesians 1:19–22*)

e. **Luke 21:27–28** **Romans 8:1**

174. Because we do not know when judgment day will be, what attitude does God want us to have?

Matthew 24:42, 44

Luke 24:13–49

1. What different reactions did the followers of Jesus have on Easter Sunday? What did Jesus say to comfort them?
2. How did Jesus show that he had risen from the grave? How is that proof important in your life?

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

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Luther's Small Catechism | Lesson 22: Redeemed

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.

We Belong to Christ

175. Why did Jesus redeem us?

1 Timothy 2:4 (see also: 2 Corinthians 5:21 and Revelation 5:9)

176. What is Christ's goal in making us his own?

Romans 6:6 Luke 1:68, 74–75 1 Peter 2:9 (see also: 2 Corinthians 5:15, Titus 2:14, and Galatians 2:20)

177. How is it possible that our service to God could be considered righteous, innocent, and blessed?

Isaiah 61:10 Revelation 7:14 Ephesians 4:24 (see also: Titus 2:11–13, Colossians 3:17, and John 12:1–8)

178. When will we finally be able to serve in perfect and everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness?

2 Peter 3:13 (see also: Revelation 7:14–15 and Revelation 14:4–5)

179. What gives us confidence that we will one day serve God in the perfection of heaven?

Job 19:25–27 (see also: 1 Corinthians 6:14 and Philippians 3:20–21)

180. How does the redemption won for us by Christ become our own?

Acts 16:30–31 (see also: John 3:16 and Romans 10:4)

181. How do we come to believe in Jesus?

Romans 10:17 1 Corinthians 12:3

Luke 19:1–10

1. How did Zacchaeus demonstrate that his heart was changed?
2. We all struggle because of our sinful nature, but how does the message that you belong to Christ influence your attitude and actions?

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

The Third Article of the Apostles' Creed

Sanctification

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.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers.

On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Luther's Small Catechism | Lesson 23: Sanctification

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 Work of the Holy Spirit

182. Who is the Holy Spirit? **2 Corinthians 13:14** (*see also: Matthew 28:19*)
183. How does the Bible emphasize that the Holy Spirit is God?
- a. **Acts 5:1-11** (*see also: Matthew 28:19 and 1 Corinthians 3:16*)
 - b. **Psalms 139:7-8 Hebrews 9:14 1 Corinthians 2:10**
 - c. **Genesis 1:1-2 Titus 3:5 Romans 8:27**
184. What is the focus of the work of the Holy Spirit?
1 Corinthians 12:3 2 Timothy 1:9 (*see also: 1 Timothy 2:4; 1 Peter 2:9, 11; and 1 Corinthians 1:2*)
185. What is the work of the Holy Spirit called?
2 Thessalonians 2:13 (*see also: 1 Corinthians 6:11*)
186. Why is the work of the Holy Spirit so important to us?
1 Corinthians 2:14 Romans 8:7 (*see also: Ephesians 2:1 and 1 Corinthians 12:3*)
187. How does the Holy Spirit call us to faith?
Acts 2:38 2 Timothy 3:15 Matthew 26:26-28 (*see also: 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14, Romans 10:17, John 17:17, and Acts 10:1-48*)
188. Why do we say that the Holy Spirit deserves all credit for bringing us to faith?
Ephesians 2:8-9 (*see also: 1 Corinthians 12:3*)

189. In what different ways does the Bible describe the miracle the Holy Spirit works when he calls us to faith?
- Acts 3:19 1 Peter 2:25 Acts 15:3 (see also: Jeremiah 31:18, Psalm 51:13, and Acts 11:21)*
 - John 3:3, 6 (see also: 1 Peter 1:3, 23 and Titus 3:5)*
 - Ephesians 2:4-5 (see also: Colossians 2:13)*
190. Why is the term *enlightened* used to describe the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts?
1 Peter 2:9 2 Corinthians 4:4-6 (see also: Ephesians 5:8 and Acts 26:17-18)
191. What gifts are we able to see clearly because of the Holy Spirit's work in our hearts?
1 Corinthians 12:3 John 17:3 Romans 8:16 Ephesians 1:7 Romans 15:13 Romans 5:1-4 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 1 Peter 1:3-4 (see also: Isaiah 32:17, Romans 8:24-25, Luke 2:10, and Psalm 119:50)
192. What ongoing work does the Holy Spirit do after our conversions?
1 Thessalonians 2:13 Isaiah 41:10 1 Peter 1:5 1 Peter 5:10 (see also: Ephesians 3:16 and Philippians 1:6)
193. Why is the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit to keep us in the true faith so necessary?
1 Peter 5:8 2 Corinthians 11:3 1 John 2:15 Galatians 5:17 (see also: Ephesians 6:11-12)
194. Because the new person within us understands the importance of the work of the Holy Spirit, what attitude do we as Christians properly display toward hearing the Word of God and using the sacraments?
Romans 1:16 Acts 2:42 Revelation 1:3 (see also: John 8:47, John 15:5, and Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23)

Acts 8:26-39

- In what ways is the faith story of the Ethiopian eunuch similar or different to your own?

For discussion...

- How does today's study speak to...
 - decision theology?*
 - the doctrine of election?*

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

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Luther's Small Catechism | Lesson 24: Good Works

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 Gospel Reflected in Our Lives

195. What has changed in us as a result of the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts?
2 Corinthians 5:17 Psalm 119:104, 112 (see also: Psalm 40:8, Titus 2:14, and 1 Thessalonians 4:7)
196. What are God's goals for those that are new Christians?
1 Thessalonians 5:23–24 Ephesians 1:18 2 Peter 3:18 Ephesians 2:10 (see also: 1 Thessalonians 4:3–4, 1 Corinthians 6:9–11, Ephesians 3:14–19)
197. Who alone is able to do works that are considered good by God?
Hebrews 11:6 Galatians 5:6 (see also: Galatians 2:20, Galatians 5:22–24, Colossians 3:17, Mark 12:41–44, Mark 14:3–9, and Luke 19:1–10)
198. What motivates a believer to do good works?
Romans 12:1 2 Corinthians 5:14–15
199. How does a believer know what works are truly good in God's sight?
Psalm 119:105 Romans 12:2 (see also: Psalm 119:9 and Luke 11:28)
200. How is it possible that God can consider something done by a Christian, who still remains a sinner, to be truly good?
1 John 1:9 Galatians 2:20 Philippians 2:13 Romans 9:16 (see also: 1 Corinthians 6:11, Hebrews 11:6, John 15:5, and Psalm 147:11)
201. What are some of the unique gifts that the Holy Spirit has given to the members of the New Testament church?
Romans 12:6–8 Ephesians 4:11 (see also: 1 Corinthians 12:8)

202. What is the purpose of these gifts of the Holy Spirit?
Ephesians 4:12 1 Corinthians 12:1, 4–7
203. In the early years of the Christian church, the Holy Spirit gave some special, miraculous gifts. What were some of those special gifts?
1 Corinthians 12:8–10, 28, 30 Acts 2:1–11 (see also: Acts 9:36–42 and Acts 3:1–11)
204. What purpose did these special gifts serve?
2 Corinthians 12:12 Hebrews 2:3–4

2 Corinthians 8:1–9

1. How does the example of the Macedonian Christians guide us in our view of good works?

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

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

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Luther's Small Catechism | Lesson 26: Forgiveness

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 Forgiveness of Sins

216. Why are all humans in need of God's forgiveness?
Matthew 22:37-39 Matthew 5:48 Psalm 51:5 (see also: *1 Peter 1:16, Romans 5:12, 1 John 1:8, 1 John 3:4, Romans 7:18-19, and Psalm 143:2*)
217. What has God revealed about himself that gives us hope?
Psalm 86:15 (see also: *Isaiah 43:25 and John 3:16*)
218. What did our gracious God do to overturn the judgment against our sin?
Galatians 4:4-5 1 John 2:2 2 Corinthians 5:19 (see also: *John 1:29, Romans 5:18, Ephesians 1:7, and Titus 3:5-7*)
219. How is it possible that God, who is holy and just, would declare sinners righteous?
2 Corinthians 5:21 Romans 3:23-25 (see also: *Isaiah 53:5-6 and Romans 4:25*)
220. Why doesn't everyone receive the blessings that Christ won for every person on the cross?
Philippians 3:18-19 Romans 10:3 Hebrews 10:26 (see also: *Romans 2:12, Matthew 22:1-14, Galatians 5:4, and Romans 3:23-25*)
221. What means does the Holy Spirit use to bring Christ's forgiveness to our hearts?
Romans 1:16 Acts 2:38 Matthew 26:26-28
222. How do we receive the forgiveness of sins that God declared for all people?
Ephesians 2:8-9 (see also: *Romans 3:22, 28; Romans 4:5; Romans 1:17; Genesis 15:6; Galatians 3:26-27; and Acts 10:43*)

223. Why can we be certain that our sins have been forgiven?

John 1:29 1 Timothy 4:10 (see also: 1 John 2:2, 2 Corinthians 5:19, Romans 3:23–24, and Titus 3:7)

Luke 23:26–43

1. How might the account of the thief on the cross be a comfort to someone struggling with guilt?
2. What might that person's objections to that comfort be? How might you address those objections?

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

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Luther's Small Catechism | Lesson 27: Resurrection

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 Resurrection of the Body

224. What happens when humans die?

Ecclesiastes 12:7 John 11:39 Hebrews 9:27–28 Luke 23:43 (see also: Luke 16:22–23)

225. What are the signs that this final day could happen at any moment?

Matthew 24:3–12 Luke 21:10–12, 25–26 Matthew 24:36 (see also: Matthew 25:1–13, Matthew 24:14, and John 20:31)

226. What will happen on judgment day?

2 Peter 3:10, 12 Daniel 12:2 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17 (see also: Matthew 25:31–46)

227. What will judgment day be like for unbelievers?

Luke 21:26 Mark 16:16 2 Thessalonians 1:9 (see also: Jude 14–15; Matthew 25:41, 46; Matthew 22:10–13, and Revelation 20:15)

228. How will the day be different for believers?

Matthew 25:34, 46 (see also: 1 Thessalonians 4:17 and Psalm 16:11)

229. What does the Bible tell us about heaven, the final home of believers?

John 11:25–26 1 Corinthians 2:9 Revelation 14:13 Revelation 7:15–17 Revelation 21:22–26 (see also: Hebrews 4:9–10 and Colossians 3:4)

230. What will our bodies be like after our resurrection?

Philippians 3:21 Job 19:25–27 (see also: John 5:28–29, Isaiah 26:19, and 1 Corinthians 15:42–44, 50–53)

231. What truth gives me confidence that I will rise to eternal life?
2 Timothy 2:11 John 14:19 (see also: 1 Corinthians 15:3–8, 12–22 and John 11:25)

John 11:1–6, 17–44

1. We know Jesus's tears did not come from lack of faith. How would you describe the difference between pure tears and the grief that comes from spiritual weakness?
2. Jesus raised Lazarus, but Lazarus died again. What lasting comfort does Jesus's raising of Lazarus give to Christians?

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