

The One-Month Catechism

*A Month-Long Challenge To Teach The Christian Faith
In Our Homes*



Immanuel Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
Merna, Nebraska

“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise” (Deuteronomy 6:5-7).

These words from the book of Deuteronomy remind us that teaching the faith to the next generation is not the responsibility of Sunday School teachers, youth leaders, or even pastors. It is a responsibility, and a joyful one at that, which rests squarely with the fathers and mothers who brought these precious children into the world. “Teach them diligently to your children,” Scripture says. This means as parents it is our duty to teach our children the basics of the Christian faith, such as the 10 Commandments, Apostles’ Creed, and Lord’s Prayer. Even when children appear to have learned them, we continue teaching these things nonetheless.

Martin Luther understood these words well. When he wrote his Small Catechism in the year 1529, he would begin different sections with the heading “As the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to his household.” In the 16th century there were no Sunday Schools, no church youth groups, and no extravagant youth trips which required months of fundraising to encourage and pass on the Christian faith. There were only families and worshiping congregations, but that was enough. Even more than enough. As we learn from Scripture, the family is God’s very own special design to teach the faith.

The *One-Month Catechism* is a challenge for families to teach the Christian faith in their homes. It is an opportunity to obey the Scriptures quoted from the book of Deuteronomy and for Christian fathers to fulfill the vision which Martin Luther had when he wrote the Small Catechism in 1529.

Using this booklet should be easy. Dads, every night at a set time sit down with your family, hand out Small Catechisms to your wife and children, and open up this booklet. Since all the material should be covered in one month, read the materials for “Day 1” on the first day of the month, “Day 2” on the second day, and so on until you finally finish at the end of the month. Begin by leading your family in a short reading from the Small Catechism. For example, on Day 1 ask “What is the First Commandment?” The family responds together, “You shall have no other gods.” Ask then Luther’s famous question, “What does this mean?” The family answers, “We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.” If you choose, you can ask your children individually too. Then open up your Bible and read out-loud to your family the Bible Reading which serves as an illustration

of the Small Catechism reading. Often times there are also a few short notes from the Pastor providing a little more insight. And finally you may conclude by praying the Lord's Prayer together. While some of the Bible readings are longer than others, this should not be very time consuming. It doesn't have to happen in the evening, either. This can be done any time of day. The dinner table is also a fine place to do this, whatever works best for you.

The *challenge* is to keep this up. No doubt, this may often feel like an inconvenience, especially at first. You or your children will most likely become bored sometimes. This is normal and to be expected. When you make a conscious effort to fulfill your duty as a parent, the devil will fight you tooth and nail the whole way. The key is to persevere. Put your foot down. Make time. It takes a strong man to follow through with this. When you get used to taking up this challenge every day, you will begin to enjoy it. As you know in other areas of life, a hard job well done is always worth it. It is all the more fulfilling when you know you are tending to the eternal welfare of your most precious treasures in this world, your children.

One more thing to note – as the Christian faith is practiced both privately in the home *and* publicly in the congregation, it is also part of the *One-Month Catechism* challenge to attend worship every Sunday. If you must be traveling, the Pastor will gladly help you find a good congregation to visit.

You can do this. And make no mistake, you will be rewarded. As St. Paul reminds us, “He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it” (1 Thessalonians 5:24).

Pastor Loeslie

Day 1 – The Ten Commandments

I. Luther's Small Catechism

The First Commandment – You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

II. Bible Reading

Worship of the Golden Calf (Exodus 32:1-35)

III. Notes from Pastor

The First Commandment is the greatest of all the Commandments, that we shall have no other gods. As Luther says, this means that we should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. No matter how a person may sin in this life, all sins can be traced back to putting our own “gods” above the one true God.

IV. Pray the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Day 2 – The Ten Commandments

I. Luther's Small Catechism

The Second Commandment – You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

What does this mean? 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.

II. Bible Reading

The Son of Shelomith is Stoned for Blasphemy (Leviticus 24:10-16)

III. Notes from Pastor

The use of God's name is one of the most precious gifts we have as Christians. Rather than drag his name into filthy language, we use it for good. We use his name to praise and thank him, calling upon God in prayer. And because we call upon God's name in prayer, we have no use for witchcraft, sorcery, psychic readers, or other magic arts. Christians avoid these things as dangerous to the soul.

IV. Pray the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Day 3 – The Ten Commandments

I. Luther's Small Catechism

The Third Commandment – Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean? 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.

II. Bible Reading

Hearing and Despising Preaching and His Word (Numbers 15:32-36)

III. Notes from Pastor

After God created the world in six days, on the seventh day he rested. If God Almighty needed a day of rest, certainly we mortal creatures do also. As Christians, we take a day of rest and gather with our Christian congregation to worship and hear God's Word proclaimed.

IV. Pray the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Day 4 – The Ten Commandments

I. Luther's Small Catechism

The Fourth Commandment – Honor your father and your mother.

What does this mean? 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.

II. Bible Reading

Ham Dishonors His Father (Genesis 9:18-28)

III. Notes from Pastor

The authority of father and mother is the greatest authority on earth. Children are duty-bound not just to love their parents as they may others, but honor them also.

The Fourth Commandment also bids us to obey our government. Christians must do so unless the government forces them to act contrary to the clear Word of God.

IV. Pray the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Day 5 – The Ten Commandments

I. Luther's Small Catechism

The Fifth Commandment – You shall not murder.

What does this mean? 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.

II. Bible Reading

Cain Kills Abel (Genesis 4:1-16)

III. Notes from Pastor

The Fifth Commandment protects God's gift of life. This extends from life in the womb all the way to those who suffer from incurable disease. The Fifth Commandment does not prohibit men from serving as police or soldiers, as Christians recognize that sometimes just wars need to be fought in order to ensure the greater peace.

IV. Pray the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Day 6 – The Ten Commandments

I. Luther's Small Catechism

The Sixth Commandment – You shall not commit adultery

What does this mean? 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.

II. Bible Reading

David and Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11:1-27)

III. Notes from Pastor

The Sixth Commandment protects God's gift of marriage. Marriage is the lifelong union of one man and one woman for two main reasons: one, their mutual companionship and joy, and two, the procreation of children.

IV. Pray the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Day 7 – The Ten Commandments

I. Luther's Small Catechism

The Seventh Commandment – You shall not steal.

What does this mean? 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.

II. Bible Reading

Achan the Thief (Joshua 7:10-26)

III. Notes from Pastor

God gave us the Seventh Commandment to protect our private property.

IV. Pray the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Day 8 – The Ten Commandments

I. Luther's Small Catechism

The Eighth Commandment – You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean? – 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.

II. Bible Reading

Judas Betrayed Jesus (Matthew 26:14-16)

III. Notes from Pastor

God gave the Eighth Commandment to protect our reputations. A good reputation is easy to lose and difficult to gain back. Therefore we observe this commandment, always putting the best construction on our neighbor, hoping he will do the same for us.

IV. Pray the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Day 9 – The Ten Commandments

I. Luther's Small Catechism

The Ninth Commandment – You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean? 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.

II. Bible Reading

Jacob Covets Laban's Flock (Genesis 30:25-43)

III. Notes from Pastor

In addition to coveting what is not ours, God forbids taking something by a "show of right" in the Ninth Commandment. Therefore men such as property owners should take care not to cheat those who rent from them, even if it is technically not against the law. God bids us in this commandment to be content with what he has given.

IV. Pray the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Day 10 – The Ten Commandments

I. Luther's Small Catechism

The Tenth Commandment – 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? 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.

II. Bible Reading

Joseph Flees Potiphar's Wife (Genesis 39:1-23)

III. Notes from Pastor.

The Tenth Commandment also bids us to be content with what God has given. When we consider this commandment, we remember that God has assigned certain duties to all people. Rather than covet the people in our neighbor's life, we do not entice them away. Rather, we encourage one and all to tend to the duties which God has given them.

IV. Pray the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Day 11 – The Ten Commandments

I. Luther's Small Catechism

What does God say about all these Commandments? 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." (Exodus 20:5-6)

What does this mean? 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.

II. Bible Reading

Jerusalem Captured and Burned (2 Chronicles 36:17-21)

III. Notes from Pastor

Children learn sinful habits from their parents and will continue in them if they are left unchecked. Even so, while God punishes sin to the third and fourth generation this way, his love extends to a thousand generations. God only punishes in order that he may love.

IV. Pray the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Day 12 – The Creed

I. Luther's Small Catechism

The First Article – I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean? I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.

All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

II. Bible Reading

The Creation (Genesis 1:1-31)

III. Pray the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Day 13 – The Creed

I. Luther's Small Catechism

The Second Article – 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.

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,

who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, 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,

that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,

just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

II. Bible Reading

Christ Crucified (John 19:1-30)

III. Pray the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Day 14 – The Creed

I. Luther's Small Catechism

The Third Article – 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 reason or strength 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 richly forgives all my sins and the sins of 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.

II. Bible Reading

Pentecost (Acts 2:1-13)

III. Pray the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Day 15 – The Lord’s Prayer

I. Luther’s Small Catechism

The Introduction – Our Father who art in heaven.

What does this mean? – With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

II. Bible Reading

Jesus Teaches The Disciples to Pray (Luke 11:1-13)

III. Notes From Pastor

As Jesus teaches us to pray, we don’t merely pray to a generic god in the sky. As Christians, we know God as *Father* and should address him this way. As the Small Catechism puts it, we should therefore pray with “boldness” and “confidence.”

IV. Pray the Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Day 16 – The Lord’s Prayer

I. Luther’s Small Catechism

The First Petition – Hallowed be Thy name.

What does this mean? God’s name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

How is God’s name kept holy? God’s name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God’s Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

II. Bible Reading

Christ Teaching (Matthew 5:1-48)

III. Notes from Pastor

When we pray “Hallowed Be Thy Name,” we pray that God’s Word be taught in its truth in purity among us, and we also lead holy lives as those who have been baptized in God’s name.

IV. Pray the Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Day 17 – The Lord’s Prayer

I. Luther’s Small Catechism

The Second Petition – Thy kingdom come.

What does this mean? The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we also pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

How does God’s kingdom come? God’s kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

II. Bible Reading

The Kingdom Comes (Luke 11:14-23)

III. Notes from Pastor

God rules over all the world in his kingdom of power. But we also pray that he would rule over us in his kingdom of grace, the church on earth, until he ushers us into his kingdom of glory, heaven itself.

IV. Pray the Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Day 18 – The Lord’s Prayer

I. Luther’s Small Catechism

The Third Petition – Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

What does this mean? The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

How is God’s will done? God’s will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God’s name or let His kingdom come;

and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die.

This is His good and gracious will.

II. Bible Reading

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46)

III. Notes from Pastor

Praying “Thy Will Be Done” is an excellent prayer. In doing so we put away any selfish desires and submit to the will of our gracious Father in heaven, even as our Lord Jesus did in the face of death.

IV. Pray the Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Day 19 – The Lord’s Prayer

I. Luther’s Small Catechism

The Fourth Petition – Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean? 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? 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.

II. Bible Reading

Feeding The Five Thousand (John 6:1-15)

III. Notes from Pastor

In this petition we recognize that we receive all we need for this bodily life from our heavenly Father’s gracious hand. Not only did God create the world, but he sustains everything in it as well.

IV. Pray the Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Day 20 – The Lord’s Prayer

I. Luther’s Small Catechism

The Fifth Petition – And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

What does this mean? We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

II. Bible Reading

The Unmerciful Servant (Matthew 18:21-35)

III. Notes from Pastor

While this petition can be challenging for us to pray when we have been wronged, it goes to the heart of the Christian faith. Because our sins, which are many, have been freely forgiven because of Jesus’ death on the cross, we too should forgive our neighbors freely. A Christian who refuses to forgive is therefore a hypocrite and no Christian at heart.

IV. Pray the Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Day 21 – The Lord’s Prayer

I. Luther’s Small Catechism

The Sixth Petition – And lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean? God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

II. Bible Reading

The Temptation Of Christ (Matthew 4:1-11)

III. Notes from Pastor

It is a fact that Christians will struggle in this life. They are attacked by the devil and the unbelieving world while they still must fight the weakness of the human flesh. In this petition we pray that God would grant us perseverance knowing that the final victory has already been won.

IV. Pray the Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Day 22 – The Lord’s Prayer

I. Luther’s Small Catechism

The Seventh Petition – But deliver us from evil.

What does this mean? We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

II. Bible Reading

Christ Heals The Canaanite Woman’s Daughter (Matthew 15:21-28)

III. Notes from Pastor

We pray this petition in confidence that God will deliver us from every evil and grant us a peaceful, Christian death knowing that we will be with Jesus in paradise.

IV. Pray the Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Day 23 – The Lord’s Prayer

I. Luther’s Small Catechism

The Conclusion – For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

What does this mean? This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen means “yes, yes, it shall be so.”

II. Bible Reading

Ask, And It Will Be Given (Matthew 7:7-11)

III. Notes from Pastor

When we finish our prayers with “Amen,” this is no empty ritual. It means we are confident that our heavenly Father will answer our prayers. “Yes, yes, it shall be so.”

IV. Pray the Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Day 24 – The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

I. Luther's Small Catechism

What is Baptism? Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.

Which is that word of God? Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).

II. Bible Reading

The Baptism of Christ (Matthew 3:13-17)

III. Notes from Pastor

We see here how Baptism has God's command. Christians are baptized even as our Lord Jesus once was. In the case of an emergency, any Christian may baptize. Simply splash water and say, "Name, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

IV. Pray the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Day 25 – The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

I. Luther's Small Catechism

What benefits does Baptism give? It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are these words and promises of God? Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16)

II. Bible Reading

The Philippian Jailer Converted (Acts 16:25-34)

III. Notes from Pastor

Note from the Bible verse how "whoever does not believe will be condemned." Only unbelief and not necessarily lack of baptism condemns. At the same time, Christians believe in the saving power of baptism and seek it out, just as the Philippian Jailer and all his family were baptized.

IV. Pray the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Day 26 – The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

I. Luther's Small Catechism

How can water do such great things? Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three:

“He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying” (Titus 3:5-8).

II. Bible Reading

Let The Children Come To Me (Luke 18:15-17)

III. Notes from Pastor

Jesus loves little children and bids us that we bring them to him. There is no better way to do this than to bring them to God's House to be baptized.

IV. Pray the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Day 27 – The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

I. Luther's Small Catechism

What does such baptizing with water indicate? It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written? St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: “We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life” (Romans 6:4).

II. Bible Reading

The Resurrection (Matthew 28:1-10)

III. Notes from Pastor

We treasure baptism because, like a link of a chain, it connects our bodies to the resurrection of Jesus. Because Jesus is raised from the dead, in baptism we know our bodies will also be raised on the last day.

IV. Pray the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Day 28 – Confession

I. Luther's Small Catechism

What is Confession? Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

What sins should we confess? Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

Which are these? Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

II. Bible Reading

Jesus And Peter (John 21:15-19)

III. Notes from Pastor

Your pastor is given as a gift of God to announce God's forgiveness upon you. We can receive this absolution in public worship. For sins that especially press on our conscience, we can also receive absolution privately. Know your pastor will be there to help you cope through any trouble.

IV. Pray the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Day 29 – Confession

I. Luther's Small Catechism

What is the Office of the Keys? The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

Where is this written? This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven" (John 20:22-23)

What do you believe according to these words? I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

II. Bible Reading

Peter Confesses Jesus As The Christ (Matthew 16:13-20)

III. Notes from Pastor

Jesus has given to his church on earth the power of the keys. This means it has the power to forgive sins and withhold God's forgiveness from sinners who are openly shameless about their sinful ways and would rather live in their sin. It is an awesome authority which the church uses with great care.

IV. Pray the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Day 30 – The Sacrament of the Altar

I. Luther's Small Catechism

What is the Sacrament of the Altar? It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.

Where is this written? The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

II. Bible Reading

On The Road To Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)

III. Notes from Pastor

There is good reason why the altar is prominent in Lutheran churches. From it we receive the true body and blood of Jesus, under the bread and wine. Frequent reception of the Lord's Supper is at the heart of being a practicing Christian.

IV. Pray the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Day 31 – The Sacrament of the Altar

I. Luther's Small Catechism

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking? These words, “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,” show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things? Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: “forgiveness of sins.”

Who receives this sacrament worthily? Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.”

But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words “for you” require all hearts to believe.

II. Bible Reading

The Fellowship Of The Believers (Acts 2:42-47)

III. Notes from Pastor

When we receive the body and blood of Jesus in the Sacrament of the Altar, the chief benefit is the forgiveness of sins. The Lord's Supper is truly medicine for the soul.

IV. Pray the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Well done. By completing the One-Month Catechism, you have accomplished something quite awesome. You've done a thorough job of teaching your family the Christian faith. While the Bible is filled with all sorts of mystery, you have covered the basics and set your children on a firm foundation which will serve them well in this world. There are lots of places you can go from here:

1. You can take up the challenge again. Just because you've done this once doesn't mean you can't do it again. Repetition is the mother of learning, after all. And the more you learn something, the more you tend to enjoy it also. Even if you don't take up the challenge again right now, it will certainly benefit your family to do it again in the future.
2. If you'd like to do something else, talk to the Pastor. He has all sorts of resources to help you and your family grow in the Christian faith.
3. If you have done the One-Month Catechism in preparation for church membership, you can talk to the Pastor now about Confirmation and becoming communicant members. We are so happy to have you join our family here.

+To God Alone the Glory+

