

CATECHISM CONNECTIONS

EXPRESSIONS OF MY FAITH



NORTHWESTERN PUBLISHING HOUSE
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Art Director: Karen Knutson
Design Team: Diane Cook, Pamela Dunn

The text of the enchiridion is the version adopted by WELS at the 1995 synod convention.

The catechism text and questions are from Luther's Small Catechism. Copyright © 2017 by Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

All rights reserved. This publication may not be copied, photocopied, reproduced, translated, or converted to any electronic or machine-readable form in whole or in part, except for brief quotations, without prior written approval from the publisher.

Northwestern Publishing House
1250 N. 113th St., Milwaukee, WI 53226-3284
www.nph.net
© 2017 Northwestern Publishing House
Published 2017
Printed in the United States of America
ISBN 978-0-8100-2883-8

Luther wrote the Small Catechism for pastors to use to teach young people and for parents to use to teach their children. But Luther also used the catechism for his own personal Bible study. In fact, he continued to use the catechism for the rest of his life.

Luther's Small Catechism is a wonderful book that we still use for studying God's Word. It helps us grow in our knowledge and understanding of the Bible. As we study the Bible, we also grow in faith. For that reason, the catechism is an important book for us to use now and for the rest of our lives as well.

Use this book to write down important truths that you learn as you study the catechism and to keep track of the Bible passages that you have memorized and that teach important biblical truths. Keep this book with your catechism. Refer to both of them regularly. Use both to review key truths you have learned. Use both to help answer questions family members or friends may ask. Use both when your faith is challenged. Use both to continue to grow.

Like Luther, be a lifelong student of the catechism.



In preparation for lifelong service to the Lord Jesus and his church, I studied God's Word regularly in confirmation class. I promised my faithfulness to God's Word on my confirmation day,

_____ , _____

at _____ Church.

MY PASTOR(S):

MY CONFIRMATION VERSE:

CONTENTS

EXPOSITION OF LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM

Martin Luther, the Author of the Small Catechism	viii
The Bible: The Truth About God and Us	1
God's Law	7
The Ten Commandments	11
The Ten Commandments.....	11
The First Commandment.....	15
The Second Commandment.....	18
The Third Commandment.....	21
The Fourth Commandment.....	25
The Fifth Commandment	29
The Sixth Commandment.....	32
The Seventh Commandment.....	37
The Eighth Commandment.....	40
The Ninth and Tenth Commandments.....	43
The Conclusion to the Commandments.....	46
The Difference Between the Law and the Gospel	51
The Apostles' Creed	54
The Apostles' Creed	54
The First Article.....	57
Creation	57
God Preserves His Creation.....	61
The Ruin of God's Creation	64
The Second Article.....	67
Christ's Person	67
Christ's Office	70
Christ's Work.....	74

Christ's Humiliation and Exaltation	78
We Belong to Christ	82
The Third Article.....	85
The Work of the Holy Spirit.....	85
Good Works and Gifts of the Holy Spirit.....	90
The Christian Church.....	94
The Forgiveness of Sins	98
The Resurrection	101
The New Self Against the Old Adam	105
The Lord's Prayer	109
Prayer	109
The Address.....	112
The First Petition	115
The Second Petition	118
The Third Petition.....	121
The Fourth Petition.....	124
The Fifth Petition	127
The Sixth Petition	130
The Seventh Petition	133
The Doxology.....	136
The Means of Grace	139
Baptism	142
The Institution of Baptism	142
The Blessings of Baptism.....	145
The Power of Baptism.....	147
The Meaning of Baptism for Our Daily Life.....	149

The Use of the Keys and Confession	152
The Keys	152
The Public Use of the Keys.....	155
Confession	159
The Lord's Supper	163
The Institution of the Lord's Supper	163
The Blessings of the Lord's Supper	166
The Power of the Lord's Supper	169
The Reception of the Lord's Supper	172
The Books of the Bible	175
Nicene Creed	176



THE BIBLE

The Truth About God and Us

1. Why should it be clear to everyone that there is a God?

2. What can we learn about God from the things he created?

3. How does the conscience within each of us testify to the truth that there is a God?

A CLOSER LOOK

Gentiles

4. Why do we still need the Bible?

5. According to the Bible, what has spoiled my relationship with God?

6. What is the result of this sin in my life?

A CLOSER LOOK

Sin _____

Defile _____

Wrath _____

7. What does God tell me in his Word that brings peace to my relationship with him?

8. Can I trust what the Bible tells me?

9. How can the words of the Bible be God's Word if human writers wrote them?

10. Why is the Bible so important?

11. What does God forbid anyone to do with the Bible?



Acts 17:10-12

The Bereans were looking to see if the message of Jesus was true. They checked the words of the apostle Paul and compared them with the Bible. Why was it important to know if Paul spoke the truth?

Why is it important for you to know the truth of the Bible?

Explain what can make it hard for you to be like the Bereans.

What is one thing you could do that would follow the example of the Bereans?



GOD'S LAW

In Need of a Savior

12. What do we mean when we speak of God's law?

A CLOSER LOOK

Law _____

Civil Laws _____

Ceremonial Laws _____

Moral Laws _____

13. How does God give his law (moral law) to everyone?

14. How did God give his law in a second way?

Curb _____

Mirror _____

Guide _____

15. How does the law serve as a curb in the lives of all people, even unbelievers?

16. What do we mean when we say that God's law acts as a mirror in the hearts of all people?

17. Why is it so important that we look into the mirror of God's law?

18. What do we mean when we say that God's law serves as a guide for Christians?

19. Why do we want to follow God's law?



Exodus 19:10–20:21

In what special and striking ways did God show the people how important the law was?

Sometimes we don't think God's law is important. Can you remember a time when you thought God's commands were unimportant?

How did you learn it was more important to obey than to disobey?



COMMANDMENTS

The Ten Commandments

20. At birth what is wrong in our natural relationship with God?

21. What are the results of our inborn sin?

22. How do we know that this description applies to us?

23. How do we come to the realization of our sin?

24. Why is the work of the law a blessing as it uncovers our sins?

25. Who alone kept God's law?

26. Why is it important to us that Jesus kept the law for us?

A CLOSER LOOK

Redeem _____

Vicarious _____

Atonement _____

27. How has the result of Jesus' life and death turned our lives around?

28. What is the result of having both the old Adam and the new self within us?

29. How does the new self within us respond to the gift of forgiveness and eternal life that Jesus has earned for us?

30. What blessings are ours as we obey his laws?

31. Why is God's law (the Ten Commandments) a blessing for us as we wish to show our gratitude to God for saving us?

CONNECTIONS



Jonah 1-3

Notice how God brought the city of Nineveh to repentance. He used the words of his prophet. How has God shown you your sin?

How has he assured you of his love and forgiveness?

What Bible truths or passages have been most comforting to you when you have felt the guilt of your sin?
