

### The Book of Concord: What is it? Part 7

### The Luther's Small Catechism

It might surprise you to learn that Luther's Small Catechism is part of the Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Book of Concord. But in fact, the Small Catechism is a very important part of the whole. If you remember anything about your confirmation, you might possibly remember the question posed to you: "Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?" To which you would have answered, "I do." So, it is that the Small Catechism is the Christian faith expressed in summary for the purpose of instructing lay people young and old. This article is a summary of how the Small Catechism came to be.

In the year 1528 (2 years before the presentation of the Augsburg Confession), Martin Luther and some of his fellow pastors and theologians paid visits to many of the parishes in Saxony out of concern for the spiritual state of churches throughout the region. What they discovered was far worse than they expected. Luther writes in what would become the preface to his Small Catechism, "Mercy! Dear God, what great misery I beheld! The common person, especially in the villages, has no knowledge Christian whatever of doctrine. And unfortunately, many pastors are completely unable and unqualified to teach... Yet, everyone says they are Christians, have been baptized, and receive the holy Sacraments, even though they cannot even recite the Lord's Prayer or the Creed or the Ten Commandments. They live like dumb brutes and irrational hogs... 0 bishops! What answer will you ever give to Christ for having so shamefully neglected the people and never for a moment fulfilled your office [James 3:1]?"

The reduction of Christianity to a formulaic system of earning indulgences, and trying to minimize one's time in purgatory, didn't merely cause many consciences to be troubled; it also for sook the emphasis on teaching the content of the Christian faith from the Scriptures such that both clergy and laity were left clueless concerning even the most basic tenets of the faith. The people of God in Luther's day had essentially been robbed of the true guidance of God's law (replaced by their man-made laws) and the comfort of His Gospel (which was all but lost at the time) because they hadn't even been taught what Scripture actually taught. Catechetical instruction was already primary emphasis in the work being done toward reforming the Church. Even in the earliest days of the Reformation and before, Luther was already preaching and publishing sermons on the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles Creed.

The idea of a Catechism was not a new one in the 1500's. Many similar catechisms had been written and used in various parts of the Church in prior centuries. And their goal was similar to Luther's: to get the basic contents of the Christian faith into the ears and before the eyes of God's people, with the prayer that the Holy Spirit would work it into their hearts.

Luther's Large Catechism (the topic for next month) was a result of his summarizing and reducing the catechetical sermons he had preached over the years on the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Sacraments. The most prominent sermons used for this were those he had preached in 1528 in the wake of his horrifying discovery of how ignorant we're people concerning the Christian faith. The Small Catechism followed soon after and, as you all know, was even further summarized and simplified so that it was easily memorized. Memorizing the basic tenets of the Christian faith allows the Christian to easily reflect upon

them in any need, and easily draw the admonishment, guidance, or comfort of the Scriptures as needed in any situation.

In addition to being a booklet, The Small Catechism was also originally published in poster form; hanging in the home (and even in churches) to make studying each part easy and convenient.

The word "catechism" comes from the Greek word, kateco (katecho), from which we also get the word "echo." The Small Catechism is written to be echoed. There is an old saying: "Repetition is the mother of all learning." Luther says, "the Holy Spirit is present in such reading, repetition, and meditation. He bestows ever new and more light and devoutness." And so the catechism is to be read, repeated, meditated upon, and each of these over and over. Luther says that this is how we learn the faith; as "children . . . begin to learn their alphabet."

While over the past several decades catechesis (or "confirmation" study) has been associated with children being taught at church by the pastor, The Small Catechism was written with the expectation that it would be taught in the home. Each section begins, "As the Head of the Family Should Teach It in the Simplest Way to His Household . . . " So it is that parents should even today be encouraged to make their homes the primary place of catechesis, with the pastor supporting this through instruction in the church. Families should be encouraged to keep their catechisms near the dining room table, at the bedside, or wherever family devotions might most naturally take place. Getting the poster versions of each of the chief parts might even be in order.

Whatever works best for helping the whole family to read and take to heart these basic

teachings of the Christian faith drawn from the Holy Scriptures. Luther says this is the most important reason to read and study the Catechism, because it grants the Holy Spirit, who brings us to faith in Christ and drives away the devil. Indeed, "for this reason alone you ought gladly to read, speak, think, and use these things, even if you had no other profit and fruit from them than driving away the devil and evil thoughts by doing so. For he cannot hear or endure God's Word... Yes indeed, it is the power of God that gives the devil burning pain and strengthens, comforts, and helps us beyond measure."

Read, repeat, and meditate. Learn it by rote, so as to learn it by heart. Then you can take it with you through all of the joys and sorrows of life and all the way to your deathbed and beyond; fully admonished, guided, and comforted by the most fundamental teachings of Christ and His Word.

In Christ, Pastor Powell



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Questions? Contact Director of Mission Advancement Leah Sieveking leah.sieveking@mo.lcms.org • 314-590-6211



### Baptisms

Mary Eliza Jane Wachter, daughter of Andy and Jenni Wachter was baptized on October 12, 2025

Jace Bleich, son of Kris & Lana Bleich was baptized on October 26, 2025

### **FALL DINNER**

It is time once again to save the date for the Fall Dinner. The event will take place on November 23, 2025, from 11:00am to 6:00pm.

### **FALL DINNER EMS MEAL TICKETS**

Fall Dinner committee is looking for Thrivent Action Teams and ticket purchase/donations for EMS meals. Contact the church office. Janelle (573)690-3664 has tickets for pre-sale for anyone who would like to check tickets out.

### **FALL DINNER CHAIR PERSONS FOR 2025**

Advertising Committee – Cory Esselman Quilt Group – Cindy Rollins Live Auction Committee – Kim Case Greeter Committee – Elsa Horack CarryOut Line – Geri & Terry Surface Country Store – Velvet Meers Beverage Committee – Linda Loesch Ticket Table – Kurt Schlueter
Refrigerator Truck – Will Fife
Fry Shack Committee – Wunderlich boys
Desert Table Committee – Stephanie Moats
Youth Projects – Angie Brenner
Dining Room – Lisa Young
Dishwashing Committee – Bruce Heerbothe
Sign Committee – David Hein
2nds Committee – Judy Hein

### **FALL DINNER QUILT AUCTION**

Give a beautiful queen size Christian Cross Quilt to your kids this year for Christmas to be auctioned off at the Trinity Fall Dinner. The quilt will be displayed in the narthex a few weeks prior to the dinner for you to see. The ladies have pieced and hand quilted this for hours too many to count in service to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

### **FALL DINNER LIVE AUCTION ITEMS:**

Now is a great time to start on your personal donation of your talent and treasure for the dinner. This year, a live auction will be held. If you are famous for your hobby, such as baking, creating Christmas items, cookies, woodworking, needlework, gardening, making wreaths, or crafting jellies, quilts, or other items, we would love to feature it in the auction. The only items we discourage are "rummage or garage sale items.



### **WOMEN'S AUXILARY**

Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 11, 2025 at 1:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Mite Box offerings will be collected at the sign-in table. We welcome all women of the congregation to join us in Christian fellowship and refreshments. Our Christmas luncheon will be held on December 9. For more information, contact Judy Bangert at 573-635-1131.

### MISSIONARY SOCIETY

The next Missionary Society meeting is November 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. All women are welcome to join us for a short meeting and a Bible Study for the evening. We will also be collecting **Mites Boxes** – Remember to pick up your little Mite Box (available in the Lobby the first Sunday of the month) and put your change in it, (every penny counts). Bring the box back and dump it in the big box then take it home and fill it up again. Any questions please contact Danielle Rakow at 573-230-5654 or rakowedtk@gmail.com.

### LADIES EVENING GUILD

The Ladies Evening Guild met in the Church Library on Monday, October 6, 2025. Fourteen members were present. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, November 3, 2025 in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30pm. Our anniversary month will be observed and will have a carry in dish to share. All guests are invited to come.

Both the Taco Salad Sundae Sunday held on September 7, and our rummage sale held Saturday, October 3, were a success. We would like to thank everyone who participated in these events. Proceeds from each are earmarked for the repair of the cafeteria's double doors. During the meeting, we held the election of the office of Vice President and Secretary. A motion was made and seconded to retain Lisa Young as Vice Pres and Pam Rustemeyer as Secretary. Thank you ladies! You both do a wonderful job for the Guild. In December, we will again adopt 2 families for Christmas. The meeting will be held Monday, December 1, at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Our Christmas meal will be prepared by Sandy Siebeneck, Leslie Franklin, and Janelle Schulte. Installation of Officers will take place at the time. The meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

### **HAPPY DRIFTERS**

Our annual Thanksgiving celebration will be Thursday, November 13, at 12:00 in the Fellowship Hall. After our meal, guest speakers will be Dan and Gerry Delong. Each year they have a family tradition of going to the Navajo Indian Reservation in Monument Valley, Arizona. They pick up unsold clothes from Calvary Gifts to distribute to the residents living there. If you are donating clothes to Calvary and it isn't sold you may be helping people in Arizona. Thanks to God we are able to share with others not only Thanksgiving month, but all year long. If you are planning to attend, please sign the sheet on bulletin board in the hall.

### PARISH ED BOARD

All are welcome to Sunday School on Sunday morning. We start all together in the Fellowship Hall and then go to the various rooms. If you are not sure where to go please just ask someone and we will get you to the right group. More students are always welcome. We are also looking for helpers and teachers.

### **VOTERS MEETING**

The next voters meeting will be on Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 7:00.

TRINITY MUSIC ENSEMBLES
UPCOMING DATES

November 2 All Saints Day Men's Choir 8am Women's Choir 10am



THE ALTAR GUILD is selling 6" Red Poinsettias for the Altar this Advent Season. Please use order form in the church office, or <a href="https://form.jotform.com/243374078498066">https://form.jotform.com/243374078498066</a>

### **WEEKLY EMAILS**

If you are not receiving Pastor Powell's weekly emails, it is likely that your email provider is filtering the emails. There are a couple things you can do.

- 1. Check your spam folder to make sure it is not going there.
- 2. Download the new church app. All weekend updates are also posted in the app! tithely.app.link/trinity-jc





# Pecans \$12/BAG

available in the church office, at Calvary's Gift, and through members of Missionary Society

Proceeds support various missions supported by Trinity Lutheran Missionary Society

## Family Events



803 Swifts Hwy, Jefferson City, MO (573) 636-6750 www.trinityjc.org

NOVEMBER

- DECEMBER 2025





Oct 5<sup>th</sup> - Nov 9th

**Trinity Lutheran Church and School** 

WE KINDLY ASK FOR YOUR DONATIONS OF NEW OR GENTLY USED WINTER JACKETS. ALL SIZES FOR ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!

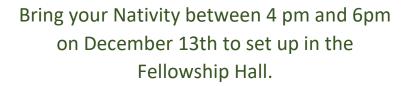
WINTER COATS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED FREE OF CHARGE TO THE COMMUNITY ON \*\*NOVEMBER 16TH FROM 2–4 PM\*\* IN THE CHURCH ANNEX. ANY REMAINING JACKETS WILL BE DONATED TO THE SALVATION ARMY HOPE SHELTER.

### A WALK TO THE NATIVITY

**Sponsored by Trinity Lutheran Youth Group** 

### When?

December 14, 2025



Doors for event open December 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am on close at 6pm.



### Trinity Lutheran Fellowship Hall

### What is it?

It is an opportunity for YOU to bring your special nativity set from home and display it for everyone to admire! Please sign up to display your nativity at the Youth bulletin board in the lobby.

The youth group is excited to serve refreshments and sing Advent caroles while you look around at the unique nativity sets! Hope to see you there!







### **ATHLETICS NEWS**

Congratulations to Trevor Hackmann who qualified to compete in the National Lutheran Cross Country Meet in Mequon, Wisconsin on October 25, 2025. Good Luck Trevor!

Congratulations to our Varsity Volleyball team for being selected to represent TLS at the LSAM Volleyball Tournament on October 31 and November 1.

We invite you to join us for chapel each Wednesday at 8:15. You can also join us online at https://www.youtube.com/@trinitylutheranchurchschoo1036.

Our chapel offerings for the 2nd Quarter will be going to support the Lutheran Bible Translators.

Lutheran Bible Translators partners with local leaders to create translation programs for the many communities who do not have access to God's Word in their native language. Your prayers and financial gifts enable us to provide the resources, tools, and the support local leaders need to make the Word of God more accessible than ever.

### **TLS NOVEMBER EVENTS**

10/31-11/01	LSAM Volleyball Tournament
11/03	Picture Retakes 8:15
11/04	Flu Shot Clinic

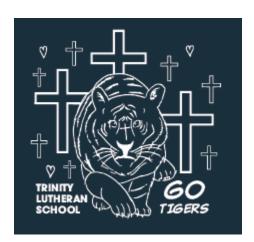
11/07 2nd Quarter Mid-Term11/14 Parents Night Out

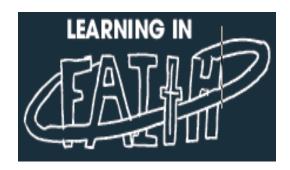
11/21 11:30 Dismissal for Professional Development

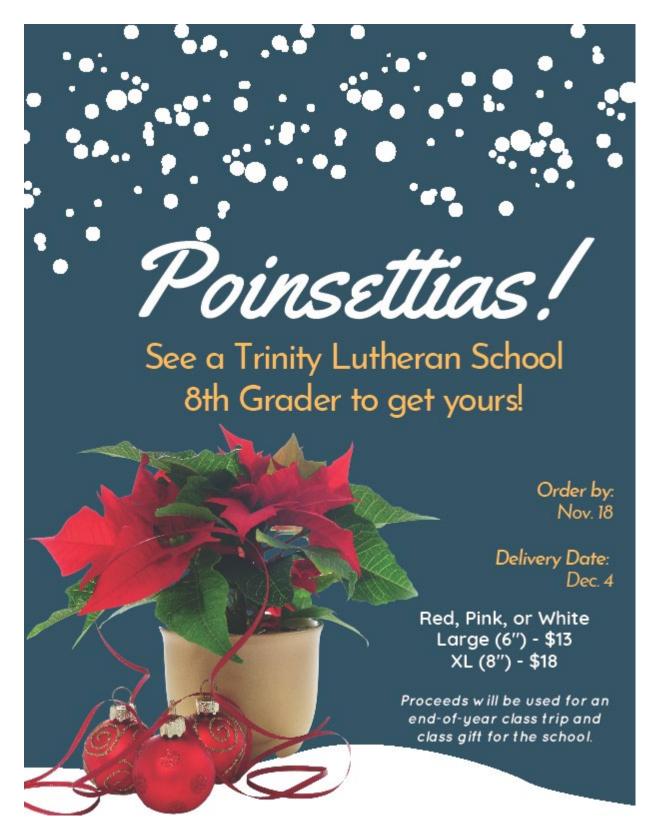
11/24-11/28 Thanksgiving Break

### TIGER TRACKS TO EXCELLENCE

Tiger Tracks to Excellence (TT2X) is a fundraiser specifically targeted on capital improvements to our facilities. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 to fund improvements to the school kitchen and cafeteria and tuition assistance. Visit trinityjc.org/tt2x for more information. So far, we have raised \$18,114. It is not too late to donate to TT2X!

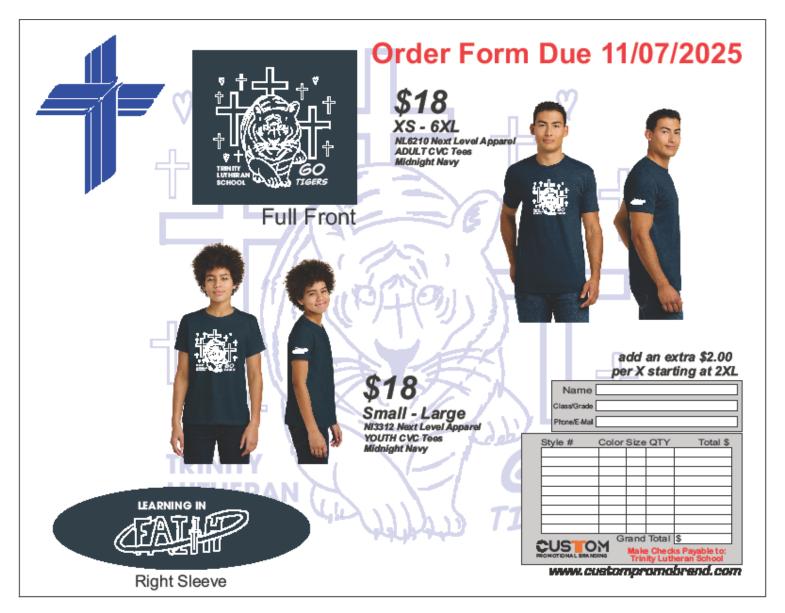






### 8TH GRADE POINSETTIA SALE

The 8th grade class is selling poinsettias as a fundraiser for their class trip. The class will plan the trip later in the school year. The poinsettia sale is the main fundraiser for the class trip. Trinklein Brothers Nursery is supplying the poinsettias in three colors – red, white and pink, and two sizes – a large 6" pot and an extra-large 8" pot. Prices are: \$13 for the large and \$18 for the extra-large. The poinsettia orders are due by Tuesday, November 18 and the flowers will be delivered on Thursday, December 4.



**AND THE WINNERS ARE:** Congratulations to 5<sup>th</sup> grader Traiden Byrd and 8<sup>th</sup> grader Emma Jones! Their t-shirt designs were selected from all of the entries in the design a Trinity t-shirt contest. Thanks to everyone that submitted a design. There were a lot of great designs submitted. Please see order form in the newsletter if you would like to purchase a shirt to support our Student Council



### Saturday November 15 9:00am

Trinity Lutheran Church 803 Swifts Hwy Jefferson City, MO 65109



Building Foundations On The Rock
-Matthew 7:24

# TRINITY LUTHERAN YOUTH GROUP



I can do all things through him who gives me strength
-Philippians 4:13



### Operation Christmas Child - The Youth will host an Operation Christmas Child party during regular youth group time on November 16th. We will spend the evening packing shoeboxes full of gifts to be sent to children ground the world this

Christmas. Please grab a shoebox and start collecting gifts for a boy or girl. If anyone has donations of Arch books or Bibles that could be included in our shoe boxes, please drop them off in the church office or give to Angie on a Sunday morning. Please see the Operation Christmas Child webpage for gift ideas to get you started.

<u>Church Fall Dinner -</u> Youth will host a cake walk and help with greeting during the Fall Dinner on Sunday, November 23rd. Please sign up for your scheduled time during Sunday night Youth Group.

<u>Coat Drive-</u> The Youth Group will be helping with Trinity's Coat Drive on November 9th. Please let Angie know if you can help.

Christmas Decorating – Trinity Youth and Families are encouraged to help the congregation decorate the Sanctuary on Saturday, November 29th at 9am. This will be our youth event for the weekend. Hope to see you all there!



Walk to the Nativity is back and will be held Sunday December 14th. We will set up Nativity sets at 5pm on the 13th to display and share with our community. We ask that each youth bring a dozen cookies for this event. The youth leaders will bring the hot chocolate and cider. A donation will be

collected at the event to support Trinity's Church Worker students. If you have any questions, please see Angie Brenner or any Youth Leader.

Youth Group Meal Train provides an atmosphere of family and fellowship with both youth groups at the same time. We request that families take turns and join together in providing meals. We appreciate all the support families provide to our youth!! To sign up for a meal, go to: <a href="https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/711nwm">https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/711nwm</a>

### **Word for Today**

"He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a **servant**, being made in human likeness." —Philippians 2:7

### **Scripture Snacks**

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." - John 1:1

"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." ~John 1:12

"...Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"~ John 1:29

### **November Calendar**

2 Jr Youth (6:30 pm)
Sr Youth (7:15 pm)

9 Jr Youth (6:30 pm)
Sr Youth (7:15 pm)

16 Jr Youth (6:30 pm)
Sr Youth (7:15 pm)

29 Christmas Decorating Help
(9:00am)

### **Meal Train Link**

www.mealtrain.com/trains/711nwm

### **Contact for More Information**

### **Angie Brenner**

Director of Christian Education abrenner@trinityjc.org





## Coming Home For Christmas

ADVENT IN ISAIAH

Wednesdays in Advent 3:30pm & 6:30pm

December 3, 10, & 17



### MIDWEEK SERVICES

Wednesdays in Advent 3:30pm & 6:30pm December 3, 10, & 17

### CHRISTMAS EVE

Wednesday, December 24 7:30pm & 11:00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY Thursday, December 25

9:00am

### NOVEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			8:15a CHAPEL 9:30a Lectionary L 5:30P-HANDBELLS	7:00p - CHOIR		1 6p DIVINE SERVICE 7p Game Night Social) FH
2 8:30a/10:30a DIVINE Service 9:30a-Sunday School ALL SAINTS DAY	3 8a Quilters 6:30p Evening Guild L	4	<b>5 8:15a CHAPEL</b> 9:30a Lectionary L 5:30P-HANDBELLS	<b>6</b> 7:00p - CHOIR	<b>7</b> 11A – LIBRARY WORK	8 6p DIVINE SERVICE
9 8:30a/10:30a Divine Service 9:30a Sunday School	<b>10</b> 8a Quilters	11 1:30p Women's Aux FH 6p Missionary Society 6p Men's Club L	8:15a CHAPEL 9:30a Lectionary L 11:30aGrief Support 5:30p- Handbells	<b>13</b> 7:00p - Choir	14 11a – Library Work 7:00p – Game Night	9:00am WORK DAY 6p DIVINE SERVICE
16 8:30a/10:30a Divine Service 9:30a Sunday School	<b>17</b> 8a Quilters	18 Board Meetings 6:30PM	19 8:15a CHAPEL 9:30a Lectionary L 5:30P - HANDBELLS	<b>20</b> 7:00p - Choir	Newsletter Deadline	22 6p DIVINE SERVICE
8:30a/10:30a Divine Service 9:30a Sunday School FALL DINNER	<b>24</b> 8a Quilters	25 Church council 630pm	26 8:15a CHAPEL 9:30a Lectionary L 5:30P – HANDBELLS 6:30- Thanksgiving Every Vespers	7:00p – Choir THANKSGIVING	28 11A – Library Work	9:00am Christmas Decorating

30



"If I should neglect prayer but a single day, I should lose a great deal of the fire of faith."

-Martin Luther

### Daily Devotions:

www.lhm.org/dailydevotions www.lwml.org/todays-mustard-seed-devotion www.higherthings.org/content/content-reflections

### Weekly Devotions:

mo.lcms.org/tag/encourage

### Family Devotions:

www.lcms.org/family-devotions-calendar

### Other Resources:

www.lcms.org/prayforus www.lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-thoughts

### LCMS Memory Verse Challenge

### Week of November 2, 2025

### **2Timothy 2:13**

If we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself

### Week of November 9 2025

### 1 Thessalonians 5:23

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### Week of November 16, 2025

### Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

### Week of November 23, 2025

### Revelation 2:10

Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

### Week of November 30, 2025

### Micah 7:7

But as for me, I will look to the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me.