

Faith Basics

Participant's Guide

(Revised May 2008)

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
DAVISON, MICHIGAN

www.TrinityDavison.org



Dear Friend in Christ,

Welcome to Faith Basics!

In the coming weeks you will discover the most exciting and meaningful information that you will ever experience. The world and the meaning of life itself will become clearer to you through Bible stories, provocative discussions, and plain Christian explanations.

For nearly two thousand years, billions have realized that a carpenter from Nazareth named Jesus has something special to offer that can be found nowhere else. The disciple Peter expressed it well when he said to Jesus, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God” (Gospel of John 6:68, 69). Unlike other classes, programs or lessons which give you valuable advice only for today and the near future, the knowledge you are about to gain will impact and benefit you for all of eternity.

As the title of this course implies, we will only be able to cover the *basics* of our Christian faith during our time together during the next several weeks. The spiritual truths of the Bible can never be covered in a single course. You have your entire life, this side of heaven, to explore, investigate, and dive deeper into God’s revelation. As your pastor, I hope that *Faith Basics* is only the first of many Bible studies that you will be a part of.

I thank God for you and pray that the relationship between you and Trinity Lutheran Church will be one of mutual blessings while we grow, pray, serve and play together as God’s forgiven and loved children.

In His service,

Pastor Todd J. Frusti

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Unit 1: In-class Worksheet

The Bible

1. How do we know that there is a “god”?

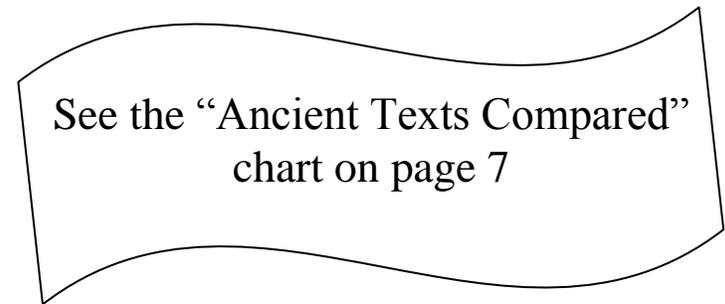
- a. _____
- b. _____

2. “But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (Gospel of John 20:31)

What does this tell us about the purpose of the Bible?

3. B.I.B.L.E. acrostic

- B _____
- I _____
- B _____
- L _____
- E _____



4. Two parts of the Bible

	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>New Testament</u>
<i>Original Language</i>		
<i>Date</i>		
<i>Authors</i>		
<i># of Books</i>		

5. 2 Timothy 3:16 describes the doctrine of verbal inspiration:

¹⁶*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,*

Draw an illustration for verbal inspiration.

6. Important Bible dates:

- 1500-400 BC Old Testament is written
- 300 – 200 BC Old Testament translated from Hebrew and Aramaic into Greek
- 40 – 95 A.D. New Testament is written.
- 800 – 1,400 A.D. Masoretes, a group of Jewish scholars create a standardized and unified text by comparing and analyzing all known copies of the Old Testament.
- 1205 Chapter divisions added to Biblical text.
- 1151 Verses numbered in New Testament
- 1571 Verses number in Old Testament

7. Two main teachings of the Bible

<u>LAW</u>	<u>GOSPEL</u>

Growing Throughout the Week

- Learn more about what the Bible teaches about Christianity and the Bible. Read questions 1-12 in Luther's Small Catechism.
- Learn more about what the Bible teaches about Law and Gospel. Read questions 74-85 in Luther's Small Catechism.
- Recommended reading: *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel.

Notes

Ancient Documents Compared				
Work	When Written	Earliest Copy	Time Lapse	# of Copies
<i>Herodotus</i>	<i>488-428 B.C.</i>	<i>A.D. 900</i>	<i>1,300 yrs.</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Thucydides</i>	<i>c.460-400 B.C.</i>	<i>c.A.D.900</i>	<i>1,300 yrs.</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Tacitus</i>	<i>A.D. 100</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000 yrs.</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Caesar's Gaelic War</i>	<i>58-50 B.C.</i>	<i>A.D. 900</i>	<i>950 yrs.</i>	<i>9-10</i>
<i>Livy's Rom. Hist.</i>	<i>59 B.C.–A.D. 17</i>	<i>A.D. 900</i>	<i>900 yrs.</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>New Test.</i>	<i>A.D. 40-100</i>	<i>A.D. 130 (full man. A.D. 350)</i>	<i>30-130 yrs</i>	<i>5,000 gk. 10,000 lt. 9,300 others</i>

Notes

Unit 2 - Pre-Class Work Sheet

The Ten Commandments

1. There are two kinds of sin:

- a. Original sin.
- b. Actual sin.

The first three Commandments are fulfilled
through love for God.

2. What are some “other gods” that we are guilty of worshipping?

- a. Proverbs 11:28 _____
- b. Matthew 10:37 (entire chapter) _____
- c. John 5:23 (vs. 1-30) _____
- d. Philippians 3:14-20 _____

3. Read the explanation of the Second Commandment on the right column of this from Luther’s Small Catechism. Does God want us to use His name? If so, how? _____

4. What are some ways that people sin against the Third Commandment?

The First Commandment

You shall have no other gods.

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

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.

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.

Commandments 4-10 are fulfilled through
love for people.

5. What insights do the following Bible verses give about murder:
- Deut. 32:39 _____
 - James 3:9 (Genesis 1:26-27) _____
 - 1 John 3:15 _____
 - Luke 1:39-44 _____
6. What do Romans 13:1-5 and Genesis 9:5-6 tell us about capital punishment?
- _____
7. According to the following Bible passages, what should we do to guard against sexual sins?
- a) 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 _____
 - b) Psalm 51:10 _____
 - c) Proverbs 23:29-35 _____
 - d) Genesis 39:1-12 _____
 - e) Philippians 4:4-8 _____
8. What insights do the following Bible passages add to the 7th Commandment?:
- James 1:16-17 _____
 - Ephesians 4:28 _____
 - 1 John 3:16-19 _____
9. Read Malachi 3:6-12.
- e. What sin does God accuse His people of committing?
 - f. How does God want people to manage the financial gifts he entrusts to us?
 - g. What encouragement does God give?

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.

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.

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.

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.

10. True or False We may do with our money as we please.
11. True or False Selfishness leads to sins against every one of the commandments.
12. How are we guilty of sinning against the 8th Commandment?
- Proverbs 11:13 _____
 - Proverbs 19:5 _____
 - Proverbs 31:8-9 _____
 - Matthew 18:15-20 _____
13. What is the opposite of coveting? (cf. Philippians 4:10-13; Hebrews 13:5)
- _____
- _____
14. What does James 2:10 tell us about just one sin?
- _____
- _____
15. According to Isaiah 64:6, even our good works are
- _____
16. Read Ephesians 2:8, 9. We are saved (select one)
- By doing our best.
 - By believing in Christ our Savior

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.

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.

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.

Growing Throughout the Week

- Read Daniel 1-3 and consider how Daniel would only worship one God
- Read 1 Kings 21:1-16 to see the dangers of coveting.
- Learn more about what the Bible teaches about the Ten Commandments . Read questions 13-73 in Luther's Small Catechism.

Notes



Pre-Class Work Sheet - Unit 3

Our Creator and His Creation

1) We speak of God as a Trinity (“tri” – “unity”). There is only one God, but there are three persons in God. The First Person of the Trinity is the _____ (cf. Malachi 2:10). The Second Person of the Trinity is the _____ (cf. Matthew 3:17). The Third Person of the Trinity is the _____ (cf. Acts 5:3-4).

2) What do the following Bible verses tell us about God?

- a) John 4:24 _____
- b) Deuteronomy 6:4 _____
- c) Matthew 3:13-17 _____
- d) Psalm 102:27 _____
- e) Jeremiah 23:23,24; Psalm 139:7-12 _____

3) Look up the word “create” in a dictionary and write down it’s definition. _____

4) There are three kinds of created beings. What are they?

- a) _____ have both body and soul.
- b) _____ have a soul but no body.
- c) _____ have a body but no soul.

5) Read Psalm 103:20-21 and Psalm 91:11-12. What is the purpose of the angels?

The Apostle’s Creed

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 my 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.

6) The Bible tells us that God is all powerful. How does this serve us as a warning? (Read 2 Kings 17).

7) The Bible tells us that God is all powerful (omnipotent). How does this serve us a comfort? (Read Matt. 6:25, 26).

8) There is a mammoth difference between the Bible's account of creation (Genesis 1 & 2) and the theory of Evolution. Even though evolutionists have *never* disproved *any* part of Scripture, how can we understand that God created *everything* (cf. Hebrews 11:3)? _____

9) In the Bible (Genesis 1-2) we are told that God made all things. The theory of evolution teaches differently. Some say that evolution has contributed to the moral decline in our society. Do you agree or disagree? Why? _____

Growing Throughout the Week

- Discover the earliest time in our history - read Genesis 1-12.
- Learn more about what the Bible teaches about the First Article. Read questions 86-113 in Luther's Small Catechism.

Notes

Notes

Pre-Class Work Sheet - Unit 4

The Life of Jesus

1. Read Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-25, and Luke 2:1-7.

These verses tell the awesome story about the Son of God or the second person of the Trinity becoming a human being—just like us!!!

a. How is Jesus' birth different from that of every other person? _____

b. What does the name "Immanuel" mean (Mt. 1:23)?

c. What does the name "Jesus" mean (Mt. 1:21)? _____

2. Complete the following sentence after you have read John 20:28 and Matthew 26 & 27. "Jesus Christ is both true _____ and true _____ in the same person.

3. Why did Jesus come into the world?

a. 1 John 3:8 _____

b. Hebrews 2:14-15, 17 _____

Know Jesus
Know Peace

No Jesus
No Peace

The Apostle's Creed

Second Article

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 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.

4. Look up the word “redeem” in a dictionary and write out the definition.

5. What does it mean when we say that Jesus is our “redeemer” (cf. John 8:34-36; 1 Peter 1:18, 19)?

6. What do 2 Corinthians 5:15 and 1 John 2:2 tell us about the extent of Christ’s forgiveness? _____

7. *Christ is risen!* How does this great Easter message comfort me

a. When I am troubled by my sins (cf. Romans 5:6-10; 1 Corinthians 15:17)?

b. When I am mourning the death of a loved one (cf. John 14:19; 1 Corinthians 15:20, 21)?

c. When I fear for the future of Christ’s church (Ephesians 1:15-23)?

8. Jesus said that He would return at the end of time. What do we know about the end times?

a. Mark 13:32 _____

b. Matthew 24:7 _____

c. 1 Timothy 4:1 _____

9. How do I apply Jesus’ forgiveness to my own life? (cf. Ephesians 2:8-10) _____

Growing Throughout the Week

- Read about the life of Jesus in one of the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John.
- Learn more about what the Bible teaches about Jesus, His life, and His work. Read questions 114-152 in Luther’s Small Catechism.

Notes

Notes

Pre-Class Work Sheet - Unit 5

The Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, The Church, The Forgiveness of Sins, The Resurrection of the Body, Life Everlasting

1. The work of the Holy Spirit is known as sanctification which means "to make holy". What do the following Bible verses say about how the Holy Spirit does in our lives (sanctification)?

- a) 1 Corinthians 12:3 _____
- b) 1 Peter 1:23 _____
- c) Titus 3:3-5 _____
- d) Romans 8:9 _____
- e) Galatians 5:22-26 _____
- f) Ephesians 2:10 _____

2. How does the Christian receive the forgiveness of sins (cf Eph. 2:8, 9)? _____

3. Please read John 14:1-6 and Matthew 7:13-14. Based on these passages, how many religions are in the world? _____

7 Read Acts 8:18-24. Look up the word "Simony" in the dictionary. Also, look up the word "indulgences" in the dictionary or in an encyclopedia. In the space below, explain what they have in common, how they are different; and how such abuses can be prevented today.

4. *True or False* The Bible's teachings on the resurrection of the body are the same as reincarnation.

The Apostle's 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 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.

5. *True or False* Only believers in Jesus will be raised on the last day.

6. According to the following Bible passages, members of a Christian congregation should

- a) Luke 11:28 _____
- b) I Cor. 11:24,25 _____
- a) Acts 17:11 _____
- b) 1 Peter 2:17 _____
- c) Matt. 18:15 _____
- d) 2 Thess. 3:1 _____
- e) 1 Jn. 4:1 _____
- f) 1 Cor. 16:2 _____

Why We Need The Church

1. THE CHURCH IS THE CONTINUING INCARNATION OF JESUS IN THE WORLD.
2. The Church is the temple of the Holy Spirit.
3. The Bible commands us to meet together to encourage one another.
4. Christians can accomplish far more together than they can apart.
5. Each believer is gifted by the Holy Spirit for work in the Church.
6. The Church is essential for becoming a deeply committed Christian.

(From: Adam Hamilton. "Leading Beyond the Walls" pp. 23-25)

Growing Throughout the Week

- Read about exciting activity of the Holy Spirit in the life of the early church in the book of Acts.
- Learn more about what the Bible teaches about Jesus, His life, and His work. Read questions 153-192 in Luther's Small Catechism.
- Read Appendix 1: "Who Are the Lutherans?"

Notes

Notes

Pre-Class Work Sheet – Unit 6

Prayer

1. God speaks to us in _____.
2. We speak to God in _____.
3. Why should we pray?
 - a. Matthew 7:7-8 _____
 - b. Psalm 50:15 _____
 - c. Our own and our neighbors need.
4. What does it mean to pray in Jesus' name? _____

5. (a) When we pray for things which God has not definitely promised, we should always add _____

Why? _____

6. Prayer should never be *mere* habit, but it should be habit – thoughtful, sincere, well-directed habit. What can we learn about this from Daniel 6:10 and Psalm 55:17? _____

7. What is our ultimate prayer? (see Psalm 63:1; Psalm 73:25, 26) _____

8. What does God tell us to pray for in Philippians 4:6?

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be 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.

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.

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!

The Second Petition

Thy kingdom come.

What does this mean? The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we 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.

9. God hears and answers all of our prayers. Read the following verses to discover how much attention God gives to us:
- a) Isaiah 65:24 _____

- b) 2 Corinthians 12:8-9 _____

- c) Matthew 8:5-13 _____

10. Since God hears and answers all of our prayers, what three answers does He give? (Hint: one of the answers is not “maybe”).
- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
11. When Jesus’ disciples asked Him to teach them how they should pray He taught them what is known today as “*The Lord’s Prayer*”. Carefully read over the seven petitions or parts of the Lord’s Prayer and their meanings.
- a. Which of the petitions pray for what would be considered an earthly/bodily need or concern as compared to a spiritual concern? _____

- b. What does this imply about what is most important? _____



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.

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.

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.

12. Who helps us to pray according to Romans 8:18-27? _____

13. Where can we pray?
a. Luke 5:12-16 _____
b. Matthew 6:6 _____
c. Acts 12:1-19 _____
d. 1 Timothy 2:1-8 _____

14. Prayer can and should be a vital part of telling others about Jesus Christ. Read about how the church prayed for Peter and John in Acts 4. Specifically what did they pray for? _____

A popular book has been “The Prayer of Jabez.” Jabez’s prayer is found in 1 Chronicles 4:10. Please read this prayer and in your own words describe what is being prayed for.

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.

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.

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.”

Growing Throughout the Week

- Read what is known as the “Prayer Book of the Bible”, the book of Psalms.
- Learn more about what the Bible says about prayer and the Lord’s Prayer. Read questions 193-235 in Luther’s Small Catechism.
- Next time you talk to God pray about your un-believing friends and relatives by name. Ask the Holy Spirit to create faith in their hearts.

Notes

A.C.T.S. Formula for Prayer

Adoration

Confession

Thanksgiving

Supplication

Prayer . . . a P.A.T.H. to God

Praise

Apology

Thanks

Help

Pre-Class Work Sheet - Unit 7

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

The word "sacrament" simply means "a sacred act". The word comes from the Greek word for mystery. God has given us two *sacraments* through which He conveys to us His grace and forgiveness: Baptism and Holy Communion.

Four things are necessary for a sacrament:

1. A sacrament is instituted by God.
2. A sacrament is joined to God's Word
3. A sacrament has an earthly element.
4. A sacrament gives forgiveness.

1. Read the paragraphs in the right side columns about Baptism. Who performs the sacred act, God or People?

2. Review the list of things necessary for a sacrament and identify these four things in the sacrament of Holy Baptism:

Instituted by God: _____

Joined to God's Word: _____

Visible Element(s): _____

Offer forgiveness: _____

3. Read the account of Jesus' crucifixion in Luke 23:32-43 in which Jesus promised salvation to one of the two criminals who were crucified with him. Then read the account of God's rescue of Paul and Silas from prison in Acts 16:16-34. Based on what you have just read concerning baptism, which of the following is true?

- a. Baptism is absolutely necessary for salvation.
- b. Baptism is a requirement if there is sufficient time in the person's life to be baptized.
- c. Baptism is not a requirement for salvation.
- d. None of the above. Explain: _____

Holy Baptism

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." [Matt. 28:19]

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]

4. Churches sometimes disagree about how old a person must be before he or she is baptized. Some churches refuse to baptize babies, other churches will baptize people of all ages. To answer this question, we must again turn to what God says to us about the matter in His Word. What do the following Bible passages say about the age of the person being baptized?

- Matthew 28:18-20 _____

- Acts 2:38-39 _____

- John 3:1-21 _____

- Acts 16:16-34 _____

4. CASE STUDY

Cindy and Joe, two close friends from your small group are the proud parents of a newborn daughter, Julie. Cindy and Joe take Christian parenting seriously and even scheduled the date of her baptism before she was born. Four days before Julie's baptism Cindy goes to the crib and discovers that Julie is not breathing. She calls 911, but nothing can be done. The members of your small group attend the funeral and desire to offer the best possible care for Cindy and Joe. Phone calls, e-mails, cards, and meals from group members show that others care. During a group meeting, Joe asks if Julie could be in heaven since she had not been baptized. How do you respond?

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]

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.

Growing Throughout the Week

- Learn more about what the Bible teaches about the blessings of Baptism. Read questions 239-260 in Luther's Small Catechism.
- If you have been baptized, find out when and put the date on your calendar to remind yourself of this special event.
- If you have not been baptized, talk to our pastor about how you can receive this special gift from God.
- Do you know someone who has children that are not baptized? Tell them that Trinity Lutheran Church and many other churches would be honored to baptize their children – even if they are not members.

Notes

Notes

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Every week millions of Christians all over the world gather around altars for a sacred meal which is commonly known as the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Have you ever wondered what this observation is all about? It began nearly 2,000 years ago in Jerusalem when Jesus and his twelve disciples met for a final meal. Take a few minutes right now to read about this meal Jesus shared with His disciples. You will be able to find the story in Matthew 26:17-30.

Within a few hours after the meal Jesus was arrested by the Temple guards. The next morning Jesus was tried, crucified, and His lifeless body was laid in the tomb. Three days later the Lord Jesus rose from the dead.

Every year Christians observe the establishment of Holy Communion with special times of worship on the Thursday before Easter. This holiday (holy day) is commonly known as Maundy Thursday. The name “Maundy Thursday” comes from the Latin word ‘mandatum’ which means ‘mandate’. During the same meal, Jesus gave all of His followers – including you and me – the mandate or command to “Love each other as I have loved you” (John 15:12).

I pray that you will find this study refreshing and meaningful as you grow in Christ’s love *right from the start* and as God continues to grow you through Word and Sacrament.

Holy Communion

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.”

1. Review question. What four things are necessary for something to be a sacrament?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

2. Based on your answers above, list and identify these four things in the sacrament of Holy Communion:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

3. What are some others names for the Sacrament of Holy Communion?
 - a. 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 _____
 - b. 1 Corinthians 10:14-22 _____
 - c. 1 Corinthians 10:16 _____
 - d. Acts 2:42 _____

4. When Jesus instituted Holy Communion He said that the bread and wine actually *are* His body and blood. According to 1 Corinthians 10:16, how are the bread and wine in the sacrament Jesus' body and blood?

5. After reading Luther's explanation of Holy Communion in the sidebars, which do you think is the best description of the Lutheran understanding of Holy Communion:

- The bread is turned into Christ's body and the wine is turned into Christ's blood.
- The bread remains bread but is also Christ's body. The wine remains wine but is also Christ's blood.
- The bread and wine symbolize Christ's body and blood.
(For more information read: 1 Corinthians 11:26; 1 Corinthians 11:27, 29)

6. True/False If an atheist comes to the Sacrament of Holy Communion and eats the bread and drinks the wine he/she also received the body and blood of Jesus.
7. True/False If you receive Holy Communion from a pastor who is secretly an atheist you are only receiving bread and wine – not the Lord's Supper.

Holy Communion

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.

Growing Throughout the Week

- Read what St. Paul wrote about the Sacrament of Holy Communion in 1 Corinthians 10 & 11.
- Read the more detailed account of Jesus' teachings at the Last Supper in John 13-18.
- Learn more about what the Bible teaches about the Lord's Supper. Read questions 285-306 in Luther's Small Catechism.

Notes

<i>The Lord's Supper Compared</i>			
	<u>Roman</u> <u>Catholic</u> ¹	<u>Reformed</u> ²	<u>Lutheran</u> ³
<u>Bread</u>			
<u>Wine</u>			
<u>Body</u>			
<u>Blood</u>			

¹ Roman Catholic doctrine of Lord's Supper is called "Transubstantiation".

² Reformed doctrine of Lord's Supper is called "symbolism".

³ Lutheran doctrine of Lord' Supper is called "real presence".

Notes

Appendix 1

Who Are the Lutherans?

A Lutheran pastor once asked his confirmation class of eighth graders, “Who was Martin Luther?” He waited with baited breath, hoping that one of his prize students would give the correct answer and describe how Martin Luther had been a monk and priest who living in Germany during the sixteenth century who changed not only the church, but the world. He didn’t get the answer he was waiting for, instead one of the students went on to explain that Martin Luther was an African American who did great things for his fellow African Americans in the 1960’s.

Who was Martin Luther? He was a Christian just like you and me. The extraordinary thing that he did was to recognize that he lived at a time when God’s church was in dire need of repair, redirection, and rededication. Corruption and greed were rampant among church leaders.

Some mistakenly understand that Martin Luther is responsible for creating a split from the Roman Catholic Church. This claim is unfair in that it was never Luther’s intention to create division or break away from the Church that he loved and served. Unfortunately, when Luther used the Word of God to expose abuses of church leaders, he was threatened with arrest and even execution. Leaders of the church refused to repent and return to the truths of God’s Word. Today, God’s people continue to be divided into many different Christian traditions.

Trinity Lutheran Church of Davison is a part of the Lutheran Church –Missouri Synod. We are just one of nearly 8,000 congregations in the United States that have committed to be partners in doing God’s work in the world. The congregations of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod agree on a common set of beliefs that are based on the Bible and interpreted in the Lutheran Confessions. Together these congregations own and operate two seminaries for the training of pastors in Fort Wayne, Indiana and St. Louis, Missouri along with a number of universities as near as Ann Arbor, Michigan and as far away as Irvine, California.

Lutherans are not the only people who will be in heaven. Jesus said that “whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” There are millions who believe in Jesus as their Savior from sin. No matter what church they worship at, they will be with us in God’s Kingdom of Glory. Therefore, in the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, one of the purposes our congregations work together is to build relationships of fellowship with Christians of other traditions. In recent years, we have been blessed as our Synod and several other denominations have come to agree on critical doctrines and joined into full altar and pulpit fellowship with one another.

Five hundred years ago the world was changed when Martin Luther insisted to be faithful to God and His Word instead of human institutions. Today, the members of Trinity Lutheran Church hope and pray that God will change the world through us as we make it our goal to be faithful to God and His Word.



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