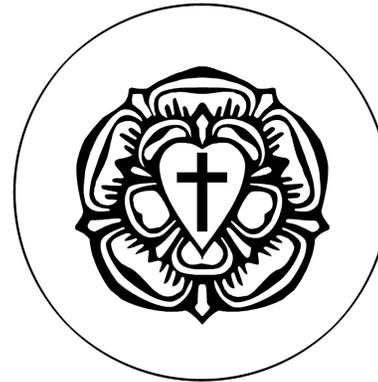


Lutheran Catechism Memorization

Units 4-6: Baptism, The Keys and Confession,
The Sacrament of the Altar



Your word I have hidden in my
heart, That I might not sin against
You! (Psalm 119:11, NKJV)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Directions

Break up the items each week, so that you memorize some *every day*.

1. Memorize (word for word) the parts of each answer in **bold print**.
2. Be able to retell the complete thought of the answers in plain print.
3. Recite/retell the entire section due each Monday to your catechism teacher.
4. All sections are required to complete Youth Catechesis class.

Week 22

1. The Nature of Baptism: What is Baptism?

Baptism is not just water, but it is the water used according to God's command and connected with His Word.

2. What is that Word and command of God concerning Baptism?

Jesus says: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatever I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:18–20).

3. The Blessings of Baptism: What does Baptism give or profit?

Baptism effects the forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, just as the words and promises of God declare.

4. Which are the words and promises of God?

Christ our Lord says, Mark 16:16, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."

5. What does it mean that we are baptized "in the name of" the Triune God?

It means that through Baptism God makes us His children. Galatians 3:26–27 says, "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

6. How do we know that little children should be baptized?

- They are included in our Lord's command to His church that all nations be baptized.
- Jesus particularly asks that little children be brought to Him.
- Little children, even infants, are dead in sin and must be born again.
- Holy Baptism is a means given to the church by which infants are regenerated and brought to faith.

In John 3:5–6, Jesus said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

7. How can Baptism save us, when Christ alone is our Savior?

It unites us with Christ through faith and thus makes us partakers of all the blessings He won for us. Romans 6:3 says, "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?"

Suggestions for Memorization

Every student is different from every other student in experience and gifts relating to memorization. Here are some recommended techniques to try. These techniques may make the work easier, but the student and parents should remember that like all learning, memorization *always* requires work. Some students will need to work more, some less. Some students will have greater self-discipline, some less.

The Disappearing Word Technique This works best with a white board or something similar that can be erased with *no trace* of the words that were erased. Paper and chalk are not ideal.

1. The entire text to be memorized is written out.
2. The student reads the text aloud.
3. As long as words remain, the student erases one or more words, but not punctuation.
4. Go back to step 2.

A simple web page on our school web site helps with this. The user types or pastes the text, then the page converts it into clickable words. The words disappear when clicked, but may be all brought back if the student gets lost.

Diagramming Real sentence diagramming requires some knowledge of grammar, but for memorization it doesn't necessarily have to be a correct or standard diagram. The main idea is simply to write and connect phrases to picture the meaning of the text. It may even help to draw some pictures.

Focused Repetition Without distractions, repeat small parts of the text from memory. When one part has been memorized, move to other small parts. When ready, add them together and repeat until they can be said from memory. In this way, the student can slowly build the memorized text. This is best done in several focused sessions of about 10-15 minutes with breaks.

Getting Help Someone else can help a lot with prompts, encouragement, and ensuring that there are no distractions during study time.

Week 23

1. The Power of Baptism: How can water do such great things?

It is not the water that does these things, but the Word of God which is in and with the water, and faith which trusts this Word of God in the water. For without the Word of God the water is simply water, and no baptism; but with the Word of God it is a baptism, that is, a gracious water of life and a washing of regeneration in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says, Titus 3, 5—8: “According to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior; that having been justified by His grace, we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying.”

2. The Meaning of Baptism: What does such baptizing with water mean?

Such baptizing with water means that the old Adam in us should, by daily contrition and repentance, be drowned and die with all sins and evil lusts; and that a new man daily come forth and arise, who shall live before God in righteousness and purity forever. Where is this written? St. Paul writes, Romans 6, 4: “We are buried with Christ by baptism into death, that just as He was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

3. Is it correct for a believer in Christ to say that he is “born again?”

Yes. The Holy Spirit creates a new man within a penitent sinner, when he believes that for Christ's sake his sins are forgiven. He gives this new birth not only through the Word of God by itself, but especially in Baptism. John 3:3 says, “Jesus [said], ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’”

4. How does Baptism make us “heirs . . . of eternal life?”

In Baptism God establishes His covenant with us and makes us His children by faith in Christ and, therefore, His *heirs of eternal life*. Galatians 3:26 says, “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”

5. How do the blessings of Baptism become ours?

When we renounce the devil and by faith accept the promises that God has given us in Baptism. Mark 16:16.

6. What is our daily response to God's covenant of grace in Baptism?

We put off the old man (old Adam) by daily avoiding sin and repenting of the sin that we did not avoid; we put on the new man by clinging to God as His obedient children and trusting His promise of forgiveness. 1 Thessalonians 4:7 says, “For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.”

7. Can a person who has fallen from faith be received again into the grace of his Baptism?

Yes. Our faithfulness may falter, but God will remain true to His Word. 2 Timothy 2:13 says, "If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself."

8. What are the duties of parents and the church in connection with Baptism?

1. Constantly pray for the children who are baptized; 2. Teach them the Word of God at home and in various ways through the Church; and 3. Set them a good example of constant faithfulness and repentance. Deuteronomy 6:7 says, "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up."

Memory Verification _____

Week 24

Day 1 **Matthew 7:7–8**, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."

Day 2 **Romans 8:26**, "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."

Day 3 **John 8:31b–32**, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Day 4 **John 6:63**, "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life."

1. Why does the Church follow a special yearly calendar called the Church Year?

In order to present a complete review of the work of Jesus Christ and the life of a Christian every year. There is no law requiring this particular arrangement, but we follow it out of respect and love for our fellow Christians, past and present.

2. What is the best way to celebrate the commemoration of a saint on a certain day in the year?

Learn about the life of that person, recognizing his sins and faults, as well as the evidence and example of his faith. We do not remember past saints in order to venerate (worship) them, but in order to learn from their faith and

3. Why should we be concerned about communing in a worthy manner?

Because the Lord instructs us to examine ourselves before receiving the Sacrament in order that we may receive it with blessing. Those who take it unworthily receive God's judgment instead of forgiveness. 1 Corinthians 11:28 says, "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup."

4. How should we examine ourselves?

Examine our faith and life, to see: 1. Whether we truly repent of our sins; 2. Whether we believe in Jesus Christ as our Savior; 3. Whether we believe that He gives us His true body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins, and 4. Whether we have sincere desire, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, to amend our sinful lives. Jesus provides pastors to help with this, through private confession and absolution.

5. Whom should the church not allow to the Lord's Supper?

- (a) Those who do not confess the Real Presence of Jesus' body and blood.
- (b) Those who are known to be ungodly or impenitent.
- (c) Those who have given offense (the appearance of hypocrisy or ungodliness) and not removed it.
- (d) Those unable to examine themselves.
- (e) Those who subscribe to a different confession of faith, since the Lord's Supper is an exercise and sign of unity in faith.

1 Corinthians 1:10 says, "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

6. If we feel unworthy, should we stay away from the Lord's Supper?

No. The feeling of unworthiness is often part of repentance, so it should move us to come and receive forgiveness from the Lord's Table. Mark 9:24 says, "Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, 'Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!'"

Memory Verification _____

appearance of bread and wine. Representation is another theory, holding that Jesus did not really mean what His words say. Instead, He supposedly meant that the bread represents His body, and the wine represents His blood. Both of these theories contradict the words of holy scripture, and are therefore wrong. 1 Corinthians 10:16 says, “The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?”

Note: Representation is particularly harmful, because it changes the Lord’s Supper into something else. Churches that redefine Jesus’ words to exclude His real body and blood are holding a new supper of their own making in place of the Lord’s Supper.

6. What effect does the Lord’s Supper have on our daily life?

Through the forgiveness of sins, it 1. Strengthens our faith in Christ, 2. enables us to live a more godly life, and 3. binds us closer in faith with other communicants. 1 Corinthians 10:17 says, “For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.”

7. What should urge us to come often to the Lord’s Table?

The Lord’s gracious invitation and promise of forgiveness and life, as well as our great weakness and need for these blessings. As often as we recognize our need for God’s forgiveness, and that He provides it through Word and Sacrament, we should take the opportunity to receive the Lord’s Supper. Phillipians 1:6 says, “. . . being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

Receiving the Lord’s Supper is also a confession of faith in Jesus’ atoning death, and a public sign of unity in faith with those who receive it together with us.

Memory Verification _____

Week 28

1. How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things? **It is not the eating and drinking that does this, but the words here written: “Given and shed for you for the remission of sins.” These words, along with the eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament; and whoever believes these words has exactly what they say, namely, the forgiveness of sins.**

2. Who then receives this Sacrament worthily? **Fasting and bodily preparation are indeed a fine outward training; but he is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words, “Given and shed for you for the remission of sins.” But he who does not believe these words, or doubts them, is unworthy and unprepared; for the words “for you” require truly believing hearts.**

better understand the Church militant to which we belong by virtue of our own Baptism and faith.

3. Why should you make use of private confession?

Private confession is a special opportunity to receive God’s forgiveness for the sins that we know and feel in our hearts.

4. How often should we confess our sins privately?

We may confess our sins privately as often as we realize that we have sins to confess. Even when we do not, it is a healthy habit to confess our sins privately at least once or twice a month, in preparation to receive the Lord’s Supper.

5. Will the pastor or confessor repeat the sins I confess to other people?

The pastor or confessor has the sacred duty never to repeat the sins that are confessed during the time of private confession. They are strictly between the sinner and his Savior, Who has provided complete forgiveness for every sin through His own blood.

6. Is private confession a practice of the Roman Catholic Church?

No. The Roman Catholic Church teaches something similar, called the sacrament of Penance. There are important differences, as taught in the Catechism of Dr. Luther. Some Protestants have unfortunately rejected the beneficial practice of private confession, wrongly assuming that it is the same as Penance.

Memory Verification _____

Week 25

1. What is the Office of the Keys? **The Office of the Keys is the special authority which Christ has given to His Church on earth: to forgive the sins of the penitent sinners, but to retain the sins of the impenitent as long as they do not repent.**

2. Where is this written? **The evangelist writes, John 20, 22—23: “Jesus breathed on His disciples and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; and if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’”**

Memory Verification _____

Week 26

1. What is Confession? **Confession consists of two parts: one, that we confess our sins; the other, that we receive absolution, or forgiveness, from the pastor or confessor as from God himself, and in no way doubt, but firmly believe that our sins are thereby forgiven before God in heaven.**
2. What sins should we confess? **Before God we should acknowledge ourselves guilty of all sins, even of those which we do not know about, as we do in the Lord's Prayer. But before the pastor or confessor we should acknowledge those sins only which we know and feel in our hearts.**
3. Which are these? **Here consider your own situation according to the Ten Commandments, whether you are a father, mother, son, daughter, employer, employee; whether you have been disobedient, dishonest, lazy; whether you have injured anyone by word or deed; whether you have stolen, neglected, wasted anything, or done any harm.**
4. What two-fold command has Christ given to His Church?
 1. Preach the Gospel to all nations; and 2. Administer the Sacraments. Matthew 28:19–20 says, "... baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you..."
5. What special authority did Jesus include in this command?

To forgive (remit) or retain (bind) sins, thus opening or closing heaven. This is called the Power of the Keys. John 20:23 says, "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."
6. Whose sins should be forgiven, and whose retained?

Penitent sinners should be forgiven, but impenitent sinners should be bound in their guilt. Acts 3:19 says, "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord..."
7. What is Excommunication?

It is a serious act of love that should be done by a Christian congregation when an impenitent member stubbornly refuses to repent. The purpose is to show the deadly harm that the person's impenitence has done, so that he might repent. Excommunication removes the right of receiving communion, but does not ban the person from attending church. If the person publicly repents, he must be forgiven and restored. 1 Corinthians 5:5 says, "... deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus."
8. How do Christians administer the Office of the Keys?

1. Through the church, by calling qualified men to forgive and retain sins publicly with God's authority. 2. When a pressing need arises and no such minister is available, any Christian may act as a minister by forgiving or retaining sins with God's authority. 3. Christians also apply the Word of God privately from their positions in life when the opportunity arises. St. Paul wrote with his fellow ministers, 1 Corinthians 4:1, "Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God."

Memory Verification _____

Week 27

1. What is the Sacrament of the Altar? **The Sacrament of the Altar 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.**
2. Where is this written? **The holy evangelists Matthew, Mark and Luke, together with St. Paul, write thus: "Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, 'Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way also He took the cup after supper, gave thanks and gave it to them, saying, Drink from it, all of you; this cup is the New Covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."**
3. What benefit do we receive from such eating and drinking? **The benefit which we receive from such eating and drinking is shown us by these words: "Given and shed for you for the remission of sins," namely, 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.**
4. What does Jesus give us in the Sacrament of the Altar?

Under the earthly elements of bread and wine, Jesus gives us His true body and blood to eat and drink, the same that He gave for us on the cross, and the same that rose again on Easter. This is called the *Real Presence*. Luke 22:19—20 says, "And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.' Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.'"
5. How is the teaching of the *Real Presence* different from *Transubstantiation* and *Representation*?

Transubstantiation is a philosophical theory stating that the bread and wine are fundamentally changed into Jesus' body and blood, retaining only the