

Luther's Small Catechism Online Resources

by Martin Luther (Author)...

Luther's Small Catechism has been recreated as a web app that is now available for access. View Luther's explanations in the Small Catechism, along with other catechetical helps and prayers in this new progressive web app specifically designed for mobile devices, tablets, and computers. NRSV and Evangelical Lutheran Worship texts are used for the Ten Commandments, The Lord's Prayer, and the Apostles' Creed. You can access resources at the following website:

<https://catechism.augsburgfortress.org/>

Add the app to your phone or tablet

- For Apple iOS/iPhone users:
 - Open the Safari app.
 - Open [catechism.augsburgfortress.org.](https://catechism.augsburgfortress.org/)
 - Click the Share Menu icon.
 - Select "Add to Home Screen" and follow the instructions given.
- For Google Chrome or Android users:
 - Use Google Chrome with an Android device. When you visit catechism.augsburgfortress.org on a phone or tablet for the first time, you should be prompted to add it to your home screen. Click the prompt to add the app's icon. This will give you easy access to Luther's Small Catechism.
 - If you do not get this prompt using Chrome, follow these instructions:
 - Open the Chrome app.
 - Open [catechism.augsburgfortress.org.](https://catechism.augsburgfortress.org)
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Five Solas: Lutheran Basics

Bishop Katrina Foster - TikTok

- [Sola Scriptura -2:43 mins](#)
- [Sola Fide - 2:20 mins](#)
- [Sola Gratia -2:35 mins](#)
- [Solo Christo -2:06 mins](#)
- [Soli Deo Gloria -2:29 mins](#)

10 Commandments

Movie **The Ten Commandments** - 1956 - Adventure/Drama - 3h 40m - Amazon Prime Video

Movie: **The Prince of Egypt (Disney)** - 1998 - Family/Musical - 1h 39m - Amazon Prime Video

Former Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton - With New Voices

- [1st Commandment - 1:54 mins](#)
- [2nd Commandment - 1:23 mins](#)
- [3rd Commandment - 2:43 mins](#)
- [4th Commandment - 1:55 mins](#)
- [5th Commandment - 1:54 mins](#)
- [6th Commandment - 1:56 mins](#)
- [7th Commandment - 1:22 mins](#)
- [8th Commandment - 1:19 mins](#)
- [9th & 10th Commandments - 2:01 mins](#)

Apostles' Creed

Luther House of Study

<https://lutherhouseofstudy.org/apostlescreed/>

- First Article 2:26 mins
- Second Article 2:47 mins
- Third Article 2:54 mins

The Lord's Prayer

[Charlotte Church, Albert Hay Malotte - The Lord's Prayer \(Live from Jerusalem 2001\)](#)

[Gaither - The Lord's Prayer \(Live\)](#)

Luther House of Study

<https://lutherhouseofstudy.org/the-lords-prayer/>

Introduction 2:35 mins

First Petition 2:21 mins

Second Petition 2:38 mins

Third Petition 2:36 mins

Fourth Petition 2:48 mins

Fifth Petition 2:16 mins

Sixth Petition 2:30 mins

Seventh Petition 2:10 mins

Doxology Amen 2:44 mins

Sacraments

[What Is a Sacrament, A Lutheran Perspective](#) 3:17 mins

[The Sacraments - Two Minute Lutheran](#) 2:01 mins

Church History

Movie: Luther 2003 · Drama/Political drama · 2h 3m

YouTube; Amazon Prime Video

Movie: Bonhoeffer 2024 · War/Drama · 2h 12m

YouTube; Amazon Prime Video

Early Church to the Great Schism

Reformation

[Luther and the Protestant Reformation: Crash Course World ...](#) 15:06 mins

Lutherans & WWII

[The Nazis Exploited Martin Luther's Legacy. This Berlin Exhibit Highlights How.](#)

[By Emily McFarlan Miller, Tom Heneghan](#)

Slavery and the Bible

[Race, Ethnicity, and Culture](#)

ELCA HISTORY

[ELCA Family Tree Image](#)

Faith Structure

ELCA Structure and Ministries

- [ELCA Presiding Bishop Announces New Churchwide Organization Design for 2011](#) 17:58 mins
- [Meet the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Rev. Yehiel Curry](#) 3:23 mins
- [ELCA Family Tree Image](#)

Career Ministry

Other Lutheran Denominations

Other Religions

Church Calendar

[David L Hansen - What is the Church Calendar?](#)

Season of Pentecost Holidays

Seasons Related to Christmas

Seasons Related to Easter

Faith Life

Priesthood of All Believers

[Priesthood of All Believers \(N.T. Wright and John Witvliet\)](#) 9:15 mins

Spiritual Disciplines

[Spirituality in Lutheran Perspective: MuchtoOffer, MuchtoLearn](#) by LISA E. DAHILL

[The spiritual discipline of rest](#) By Erin Strybis August 6, 2021

Stewardship

[ELCA Link](#)

[Personal and Household](#)

[Congregational Stewardship](#)

Worship Whys

[ELCA Link](#)

[Lectionary](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Special Services

Special Topics

Lutherans & The Bible

[What Lutherans Think About the Bible](#) by Diane Jacobson

[Scripture study, Lutheran-style Deeper understandings](#) – August 2024 By Troy Troftgruben

The End of All Things

[Deeper understandings: To what end?](#) By Rick Barger

[My take: Pastoral approaches to the end—and the beginning](#) By Jaren Summers

Spiritual Self Defense

[On Stand Your Ground: A Theological and Ethical Reflection](#)

Oppression in the Bible

[Race, Ethnicity, and Culture](#)

[Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent](#)

Science and Faith

[Social Statement – Genetics, Faith and Responsibility](#)

IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE*

The Christian Journey: a Lutheran Perspective

■ It's all about love - God the lover creating the universe, calling Sarah and Abraham, freeing the slaves, gathering a covenant people to model love, and becoming one of us.

Jesus, revealer of God's love, reached out to all - the poor, the outcast, and those told they were not worthy of God's love.

Such love threatened the powerful. They nailed him to a cross. There God showed a heart of love. There God bore the sin and violence of humanity. On the cross Jesus revealed God's will to love even unto death...

and there Jesus died.



The Word became flesh.

Have you heard the good news?



■ Those who heard, and whose hearts and minds were changed, were baptized into Christ and into his church.

Your sins are forgiven.



■ Then God raised Jesus!

Death was shattered.

A new day dawned, and

Love lived again.

Alleluia!

■ Women Wept. Disciples deserted. Earth trembled. All was dark. The way of love seemed defeated.

?!

We are people of the story. This story makes us who we are.



Note: This pamphlet looks like a board game. You can make it one by enlarging and cutting out figures like these.



Glue the ends together to make a circle. Move the group on the journey, reading as you go. All will finish together. There are no winners or losers. It's all about Christ, grace, love, and community in the new world of God's abundant, steadfast mercy.

* Love has a special meaning in the Bible. Love is God's unconditional and never ending desire, work, and suffering for the good of all humans and all creation. Love is God's action to bring us into abundant life - reconciled to God, each other, and all creation... and loving as God loves.



Why an infant?
Isn't God's family for everybody?

■ In our baptism (as infants, youth, or adults) God gave us new life and brought us into the community of Jesus. All was a gift of love - even the faith which grows out of God's unconditional acceptance.

???

■ The greatest gift of baptism is our union with Christ. We now live IN CHRIST.

■ United to Christ we are **JUSTIFIED***. We are declared beloved children of God. This is our identity for life! We know who we are and whose we are.

Does God really love me and receive me just as I am? YES!



■ In the new reality there are no... points or pointkeepers. • big deals. • people of greater value and people of lesser value. • levels of importance based on achievement.

■ The Spirit gathers us into CHURCH, the community of very human "saints/sinner" who are called to... • worship • love one another • love the world.



■ In the new world of abundant grace we are free for **loving!**

■ a change so great it's like dying and rising.
■ a change so great it's like being born anew.

■ In baptism we were transferred from an old world to a new world, from an old reality to a new reality.



???

■ **No**
... because it's all about love.

■ In a love relationship with God where we are forgiven, showered with grace, born with Christ, born anew, justified, sustained by the Holy Spirit... we respond by loving as we have been loved.

1 John 4:19

The two ways



We'll try.

1. Love so amazing, 2. so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

* "Justified" - to be validated, accepted, shown to be of great value, not because of our sincerity, achievements, or intentions, but because of Christ. Justification is a free gift received by faith. "Faith" = trusting God and God's promises.

? 4

The crucified and risen Christ, present in all creation, is with us (the church) in two special ways...

Word and Sacrament.

1. "Word" is the living Christ "addressing" US...

through
 • the Bible
 • preaching
 • an event
 • the voice of a friend.

This living Word...
 • exposes us so we see our need, our stupidity, our self-centeredness.

Luther called this LAW and GOSPEL



In Sacraments God comes to us in the very ordinary.



given and shed for you...

We are SENT from Word and meal to live as followers of Christ +

The Holy Communion Meal
 After ENTRY, WORD, and PRAYER, we offer gifts, give THANKS, and then Share the MEAL of bread and cup. The risen Christ is with US forgiving, healing, Uniting, nourishing.*

We gather for two sacraments
BAPTISM (see discussion on p.2) and
HOLY COMMUNION

Note: This declaration has no conditions. It is not based on what we do but on who God is.

2. "Sacrament"

is a drama/event in the faith community which...
 • is commanded by Christ.
 • uses an earthly element.
 • is connected to a promise.

? 5

In the love relationship we are free...

from the law, from keeping rules in order to be thought of as "good."

from perfectionism. Loved as we are, we do not have to strive to be perfect in order to be acceptable.

from fear of death. Eternally Safe in God's arms, the power of death is shattered.

from absolutes. We need not always be right or unquestioning. Doubt and struggle are part of the life of trust.

from domination. In God's embrace we don't have to judge others so we look better. We don't have to be above others or control others to feel worthy.

from deception. We need not fake it. We can be honest about nation, culture, race, school, church, and ourselves. We are Saints and Sinners.

* The meal also pictures the dream of God - a world of unity where all have enough, all share, and where all creation lives in peace.



The opposite
is any way to be
religious, spiritual,
"Christian" without
dying.

It is
Cruciform,
life in the shape
of the
cross

"What is the shape
of the free life
in Christ?"

Now our life
energy can be used
to live joyfully in
creation, loving
God and serving
the neighbor.*

Now we can enter
fully into life
knowing there is
forgiveness when
we fail.

You
don't
need points!

from sin.
Loving
God, we are
free from self-
centeredness
and idolatry.

Idolatry is
trusting anything
other than God for
worth and well-being
(youth, beauty, success,
security, winning, cars,
clothes, ideology, nation,
popularity, status, wealth).

■ meaning a daily return to baptism,
dying to the
old self,
rising to the
new self,
rising to love, to serve, to
follow the way of the cross.

My sign is a reminder
that sometimes the way of
Christ's love is very clear,
and often it is not. We need
help - from our church family,
pastors, Scriptures, prayer,
good reasoning, and the
wisdom of the past.



■ By grace we are
LIBERATED
from a tiresome
and joyless religious
life of earning points,
keeping score,
justifying
ourselves,
and
looking
good.

Does this
mean I don't
have to buy all
the right things
to have worth
and dignity?



■ As people of
of the cross,
living joyfully in
creation, we ...

1. worship God with
the family of faith.
2. pray.

3. love our neighbors,
especially the lowly,
vulnerable and outsider.

4. see work (student,
nurse, plumber, etc.) and
our family life (daughter,
son, mother, etc.) as a calling
from God to love and serve.

5. reject violence, forgiving
our enemies and working
for peace and reconciliation.

6. see our bodies, our
sexuality, our talents,
our gender as beautiful
gifts to be used for the
glory of God.

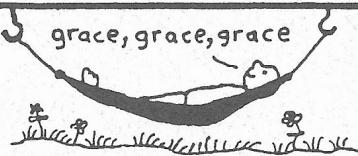
7. involve ourselves in
the community, nation,
and world for the good of all, not
some (This is working for God's "justice").

8. release from our abundance money
and things for the good of others,
especially the poor and hungry.

9. say **YES** to creation, tenderly caring
for it, seeing God in it, and responding
with awe, wonder, and gratitude;
and we say **NO** to all that would harm
God's creation. ☺☺☺☺☺☺

10. tell the story of God's love and
invite others to share the journey.

We also
enjoy rest,
parties,
re-creation.



* "Neighbor" means anyone in need.

Instead
of
got-t
we
get-t

Note: These
are not rules.
They are ways
that emerge
when Christ's
Spirit dwells
in us. They
are "what we
do when we
don't have to
do anything."

Inspired by
Gerhard For

■ In the midst of the joy, we humans and all of creation need continued mending. History witnesses to human frailty, futility, violence, stupidity, and the human need to be big deals, to be in control.

How often we fail in our loving at the expense of each other and all creation.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

■ This is...

- abundant life.
- life as a great banquet.
- life lived in the extravagance of God's grace.
- partnership with God in loving the world.

■ Nevertheless, God does not give up on us. God meets us where we are...

- in our joy and sorrow.
- in our weakness and our failure.
- in the deepest reality of our lives — our pain, our suffering, and our death.

God in Christ meets us on the cross.

Here God is passionately involved. Here God shares our humanity.

Here God whispers...

?"
10

I'm getting it! The faith journey is not about moving to a higher spiritual level. It's about becoming more deeply human. Wow!



"...and 'human' comes from 'humus', of the soil."

ALLE LUIJ

■ When we near our death we will not cling to our good deeds, our points, or a triumphant self-confidence. We will remember our baptism and cling to a promise: "Nothing will separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus, our Lord."

ROMANS 8:38-39

■ In this love is our hope. Here is the power to make us new. Here is the power that ushers in a whole new creation.

"I love you."

We give thanks to you, O God of love and mercy, for raising us to free and abundant life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Study Questions

Use these questions to prompt further conversation:

- ? 1** When do you first remember being aware of God's love?
- ? 2** What do you know about your Baptism? How is your life different because of this event?
- ? 3** If you were baptized as an infant, how would you respond if someone told you that you must "accept Jesus as your Savior" and be baptized as an adult?
- ? 4** Some say they are closest to God when they are alone in nature. Why do we need church, Christian community, worship, Scripture, Baptism, and Holy Communion?
- ? 5** Lutherans have a living way of seeing the Bible—God comes to us through Scripture with judgment and grace. Was there a time in your life when God encountered you through the Bible? You may also share a time when God encountered you through a sermon, a hymn, Holy Communion, a relationship, or an event.
- ? 6** The following seven boxes tell about common bondages. Which is most likely to seduce you? Which bondage prevails in the society that surrounds you?
- ? 7** What is the difference between the Christian life as "What I must do and what I must not do" and "What I am free from and what I am free for"?
- ? 8** From among the ten freedoms listed, which one is very special to you?
- ? 9** How can you tell the story (your story and God's story)? Also, how do you invite others to join the journey?
- ? 10** How does God meet you in your joy and in your sorrow?
- ? 11** What are your reasons for ALLELUIA, for praising God?

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