

*For the week of The Fourth Sunday of Easter  
April 30<sup>th</sup>, through May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — “Lutheran Confessions”** You may have heard of the Book of Concord, it and even know it contains the fundamental doctrines of Lutheranism. But how well do you know what it actually says? Since we have wrapped up with the Small Catechism (itself a document in the Book of Concord), we will be touching on parts of the Book of Concord (BoC) from now until the end of summer.

The primary document in the BoC is the Augsburg Confession (AC). The AC was written by the Lutheran Reformers to give answer to their faith. They were supposed to repent before Emperor Charles V but instead wrote this confession to argue that what they held was in accord with Scripture and the ancient Church.

This week we are highlighting the first four articles. Article I is about God. It affirms the Council of Nicaea in confessing God as Triune, three divine persons in one divine essence: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It concludes by condemning the ancient heresies that distorted or denied the doctrine of the Trinity.

Article II is about original sin. It affirms that since the fall of Adam, all who are naturally born are born with win, that is, without fear of God, without trust in God, and with an inclination to sin, called concupiscence. It continues on to say that this fallen condition alone condemns us to hell if we are not born anew through the Holy Spirit. It concludes by condemning ancient heresy that says that humanity is by nature good and not corrupt.

Article III is about Jesus. It affirms that Jesus, the eternal Word and Son of God, assumed human nature in Mary’s womb. Thus, Jesus has two natures—divine and human—inseparably joined in one person. It continues to affirm what the Apostles’ Creed confesses about Jesus as God and man.

Article IV is about justification. “Our churches teach that people cannot be justified before God by their own strengths, merits, or works. People are freely justified for Christ’s sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor and that their sins are forgiven for Christ’s sake. By His death, Christ made satisfaction for our sins. God counts this faith for righteousness in His sight.”

### ***The Order of Meditation and Prayer***

*Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate.  
Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.*

#### **INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### **APOSTLES’ CREED**

#### **VERSE: JOHN 10:14**

*I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.*

#### **PSALM 23 or the appointed daily psalms**

##### ***Prayer on the Psalm***

*Lord Jesus, who alone is that one Good shepherd, thanks be unto You for all Your spiritual and bodily benefits. Let the Word of Your salvation dwell among us richly, and suffer not that trusty staff, the Word of Your promise, to be taken from us. And when the shadow of death spreads over us, conduct us safely to the fold of the perfected saints, the tabernacle not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Amen.*

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	80	82, 84	85, 87	88	90	92	94	97, 98
Evening	81	83	86	89	91	93	95, 96	99, 100

## **BIBLE READINGS**

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	John 10:1-10	
Monday	You Shall Not Commit Adultery—Matthew 5:27-32 <b>St. Philip and St. James, Apostles</b>	Proverbs 16:1-33
Tuesday	You Shall Not Give False Testimony—Matthew 5:33-37	Proverbs 17:1-28
Wednesday	A Telling Truth, Pentecost—Acts 2:1-24	Proverbs 18:1-24
Thursday	Love Your Enemies—Matthew 5:38-48	Proverbs 19:1-29
Friday	The Lord's Prayer—Matthew 6:1-18	Proverbs 20:1-30
Saturday	Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60	1 Peter 2:2-10

## **CATECHISM — Asking a Blessing —**

*The children and members of the household shall go to the table reverently, fold their hands, and say:*

The eyes of all look to You, [O LORD,] and You give them their food at the proper time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. (Ps. 145: 15–16)

*Then shall be said the Lord's Prayer and the following:*

Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these Your gifts which we receive from Your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## **DEVOTION OR MEDITATION**

### **DAILY PRAYER**

*Select from among the following prayers as time and circumstances allow:*

#### **Prayer for the Unity of Faith**

O God, Your infinite love restores to the right way those who err, seeks the scattered, and preserves those whom You have gathered. Of Your tender mercy pour out on Your faithful people the grace of unity that, all schisms being ended, Your flock may be gathered to the true Shepherd of Your Church and may serve You in all faithfulness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

#### **Collect of the Week**

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Daily Themes for Prayer**

- Sunday:** *For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacrament.*
- Monday:** *For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.*
- Wednesday:** *For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday:** *For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of Christ's body and blood.*
- Friday:** *For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday:** *For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.*

### **In Our Prayers this Week**

**Our Congregation:** *Bert & Renae Tegtmeier; Debi Thompson; Ruth Trickett; Adam & Bekah Wadkins, JD, Flint, Nathaniel; Malorie Wagner; Pat & Janine Wagner; Camrie Wagner; Jayme Wagner*

**Baptismal Birthdays:** *Cheryl Deterding; Jessica Luft; Jessica Shaw; Travis Holzapfel; Nicolas Ferguson; Emery Hughes; Casey King*

**Wedding Anniversaries:** *Richard & Denise Weber; David & Debbie Hunsaker; Kirk & Jeniifer Lauritsen; Richard & Christine Dewey;*

**Members of the Congregation:** *Janet*

**Friends of our Congregation:** *Gloria, Russell; John,; Vernon; Jeff; Lenora; Vernon*

**Other:**

**Our Circuit:**

*St. John Lutheran Church, Aliceville; Rev. Timothy Booth*

*Trinity Lutheran Church, Burlington; Vacant*

**Our District Staff and President,** *Rev. Justin Panzer.*

*Jackie Schaefer, Communications Specialist*

*Heather Williams, Business Manager*

**Our Synod and President,** *Rev. Matthew Harrison*

**Our Community:** *USD 290; Life Care Center; Hope House*

**Our State and Governor,** *Laura Kelly*

**Our Nation and President,** *Joseph Biden*

## LORD'S PRAYER

### MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER FROM THE CATECHISM

*I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.*

—or—

*I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.*

### HYMN OF THE WEEK

### "For Me to Live Is Jesus"

742

1 For me to live is Jesus,  
To die is gain for me;  
So when my Savior pleases,  
I meet death willingly.

2 For Christ, my Lord, my brother,  
I leave this world so dim  
And gladly seek another,  
Where I shall be with Him.

3 My woes are nearly over,  
Though long and dark the road;  
My sin His merits cover,  
And I have peace with God.

4 Lord, when my pow'rs are failing,  
My breath comes heavily,  
And words are unavailing,  
O hear my sighs to Thee.

5 In my last hour, O grant me  
A slumber soft and still,  
No doubts to vex or haunt me,  
Safe anchored in Thy will;

6 And so to Thee still cleaving  
When death shall come to me,  
I fall asleep believing  
And wake in heav'n with Thee!

Text: Ein schön geistlich Gesangbuch, 1609, Jena; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.  
Text: Public domain

### Looking Forward to "Fifth Sunday of Easter"

May 7, 2023

**Service Hymns:** 709 | 711 | 710 | 740 | 735 | 540 | 609 | 602

**Readings:** Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60 | 1 Peter 22:2-10 | John 14:1-14

The risen Lord Jesus alone is "the way, and the truth, and the life," and we come "to the Father" only through Him (John 14:6). God is thus "glorified in the Son," and those who believe in Him will do the works of Christ because He goes to the Father for us (John 14:12-14). Stephen, "a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 6:5) and "doing great wonders and signs among the people" (Acts 6:8), did the works of Christ. When he was falsely accused and put to death, he "gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God" (Acts 7:55). Fixing his hope there, he commended his spirit to the Lord Jesus and prayed for his murderers. In the same way, all the baptized are called to follow the example of Christ Jesus by faith. Though He was "rejected by men" in the sight of God, He is "chosen and precious" (1 Peter 2:4). He is the chief cornerstone of the Father's "spiritual house," and we are built upon Him as "living stones" (1 Peter 2:5).

