

The Small Catechism

What is the Small **Catechism**?

1) Well, it's old! Do the math! It was written in 1529.

2) _____

3) What would you guess is included? (only 8 of these!)

- a) The Ten Commandments
- b) Best Potluck dishes
- c) The Apostles' Creed
- d) Singing Instructions
- e) The Lord's Prayer
- f) The Sacrament of Holy Baptism
- g) Confession
- h) Season of the Church Year
- i) Conflict Management
- j) The Sacrament of the Altar
- k) Morning and Evening Blessings
- l) Blessings at meals
- m) Offerings/donations

DO THE
MATH.

2022
-1529

Yes!
It's me
again!

Why do you think it might have been important to write such a document?



Why did **Martin Luther** write it?

Read #1-5 of the Preface to the Small Catechism (below.) What does this tell you about Luther's reasons for writing it (circle, highlight or underline!)?

Luther's Preface to the Small Catechism

*Martin Luther to All Faithful and Godly Pastors and Preachers:
Grace, Mercy, and Peace in Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

[1] The deplorable, miserable condition which I discovered lately when I, too, was a visitor, has forced and urged me to prepare [publish] this Catechism, or Christian doctrine, in this small, plain, simple form.

[2] Mercy! Good God! what manifold misery I beheld! The common people, especially in the villages, have no knowledge whatever of Christian doctrine, and, alas! many pastors are altogether incapable and incompetent to teach [so much so, that one is ashamed to speak of it].

[3] Nevertheless, all maintain that they are Christians, have been baptized and receive the [common] holy Sacraments. Yet they [do not understand and] cannot [even] recite either the Lord's Prayer, or the Creed, or the Ten Commandments; they live like dumb brutes and irrational hogs; and yet, now that the Gospel has come, they have nicely learned to abuse all liberty like experts.

Some more reasons are found here:

[4] O ye bishops! [to whom this charge has been committed by God,] what will ye ever answer to Christ for having so shamefully neglected the people and never for a moment discharged your office? [You are the persons to whom alone this ruin of the Christian religion is due.

[5] You have permitted men to err so shamefully; yours is the guilt; for you have ever done anything rather than what your office required you to do.] May all misfortune flee you! [I do not wish at this place to invoke evil on your heads.] You command the Sacrament in one form [but is not this the highest ungodliness coupled with the greatest impudence that you are insisting on the administration of the Sacrament in one form only, and on your traditions] and insist on your human laws, and yet at the same time you do not care in the least [while you are utterly without scruple and concern] whether the people know the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, the Ten Commandments, or any part of the Word of God. Woe, woe, unto you forever!

Yet, Luther didn't stop there, he wanted to help people enjoy and understand their faith and God in their lives.

Luther's Solution to the problem begins here at #6. What do you find here?

[6] Therefore I entreat [and adjure] you all for God's sake, my dear sirs and brethren, who are pastors or preachers, to devote yourselves heartily to your office, to have pity on the people who are entrusted to you, and to help us inculcate the Catechism upon the people, and especially upon the young. And let those of you who cannot do better [If any of you are so unskilled that you have absolutely no knowledge of these matters, let them not be ashamed to] take these tables and forms and impress them, word for word, on the people, as follows...

Where do you go to learn about faith?

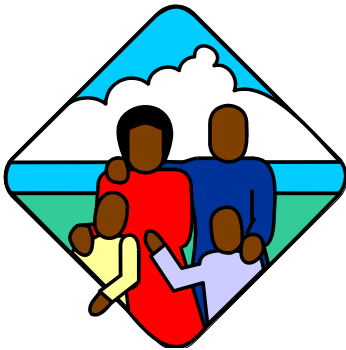
If you had a question about the church, to whom/where would you go to find learn more? Why would you ask those people?

- 1. _____ because _____

- 2. _____ because _____

- 3. _____ because _____

Luther thinks the first person/people that we should be able to ask about faith issues are:



YOUR PARENTS

and

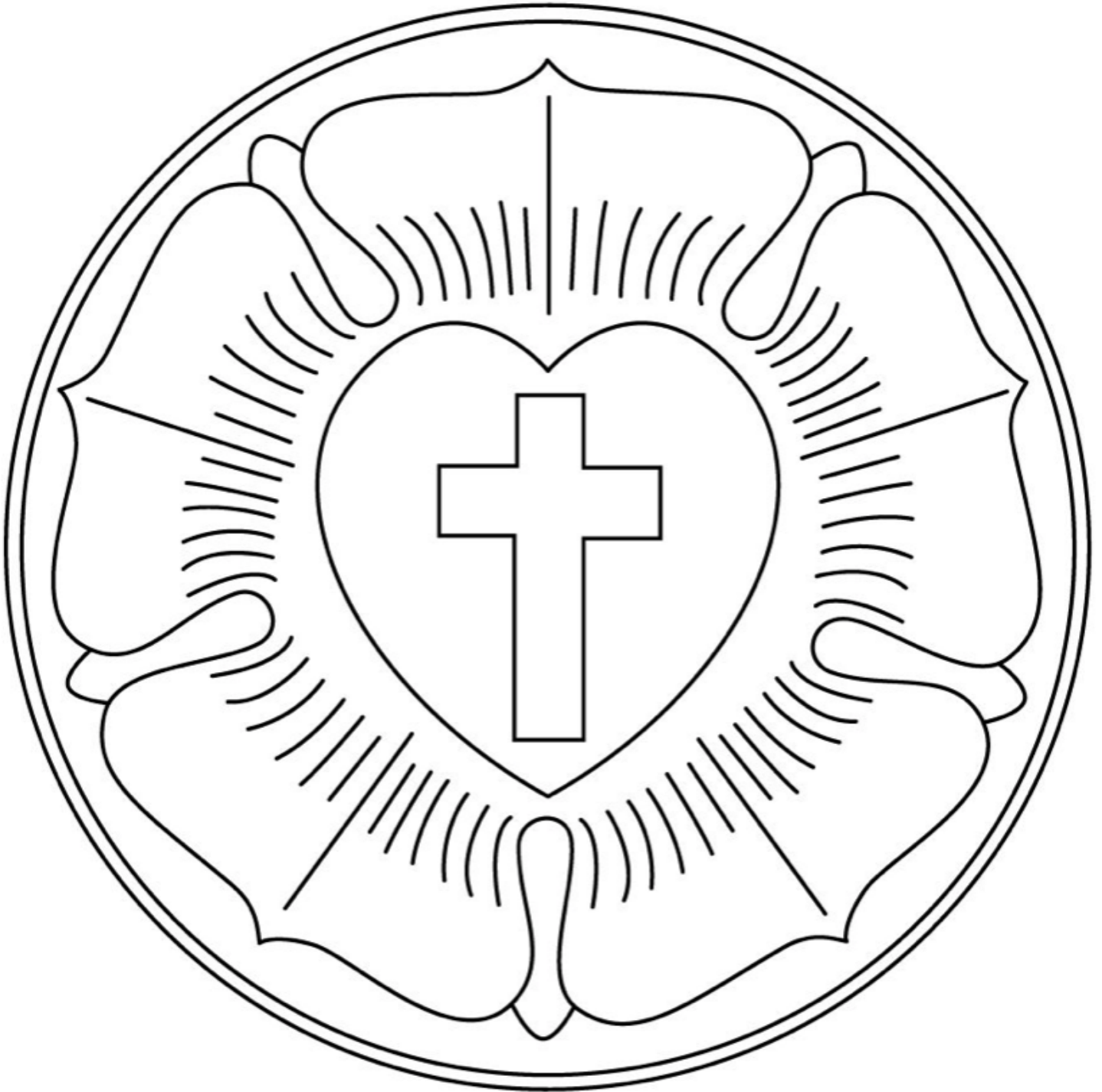
YOUR PASTOR.



Because, Luther thought,

THEY SHOULD KNOW.

AFTERALL, THEY CLAIM TO BE BELIEVERS THEMSELVES.



Black cross – to remind us that Jesus loved us all the way to the cross.

Red Heart – uncorrupted by sin, the heart keeps us alive.

White Rose – symbolizes the peace and joy God gives.

Sky blue background – symbolizes joy in the spirit and a heavenly future.

Golden ring – heaven's promises last forever.

It looks like this:

And was another way to teach/remind people the basics of faith.

