

Women of L.I.F.E. 2019 Study

**“This is Most Certainly True: A Study of the Catechisms”** -Rev. Joseph Dapelo

I regularly remind my confirmation students and my entire congregation that “catechesis”, or instruction in the Christian faith, is not simply a two or three year program when you are in Middle School. For the baptized child, their catechesis doesn’t begin when they become a pre-teen, and there isn’t a time in the Christian life when our catechesis ends.

So why do we forget about the basics in the Christian faith, and why do we think that there is a time when we have outgrown learning the catechism?

This is not a new thing. As Luther wrote in the preface for his Large Catechism, even many pastors read it once, think they understand it perfectly, throw it in the corner, and never read it again. He says that even as a doctor and a preacher he turns to the catechism regularly, studying it daily, and yet he cannot master it enough to toss it aside.

The catechisms, both Luther’s Small Catechism and his Large Catechism, teach us the basics of the Christian faith, but they also challenge us to keep digging into the faith and into the Scriptures. Whether we are a housewife, a mother, a teacher, an experienced Christian, or a new Christian (or new to the Lutheran church), there is much to learn as we walk through the Ten Commandments, the Apostles’ Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, and the Sacraments. There is richness for our daily Christian life as we live it out in the home, in the church, in the community, and in the world.

Being equipped and instructed in the faith and having it reinforced over and over again, helps us to stand firm in the midst of false teachings and a culture that pushes against the truth. It helps us to stand and say, “This is most certainly true!”

The 2019 Women of L.I.F.E. Study will be a walk through the catechisms, learning again and again the truths of Scripture and the faith which has been handed down to us.

**This Is Most Certainly True: A Study of Luther’s Catechisms**

Lesson 1: The Ten Commandments: First Table of the Law (1-3)

Lesson 2: The Ten Commandments: Second Table of the Law (4-10)

Lesson 3: The Creed: First Article (God, the Father)

Lesson 4: The Creed: Second Article (God, the Son)

Lesson 5: The Creed: Third Article (God, the Holy Spirit)

Lesson 6: The Lord’s Prayer: Our Father

Lesson 7: The Lord’s Prayer: Why do we pray?

Lesson 8: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism: What is Baptism?

Lesson 9: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism: What benefits does Baptism give?

Lesson 10: Confession: What is Confession? What about Private Confession and Absolution?

Lesson 11: The Sacrament of the Altar: What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

Lesson 12: The Sacrament of the Altar: What is the benefit of eating and drinking?

Appendix: Daily Prayers and Table of Duties