The Catechism

1. Which book is the source of all Christian doctrine? (The Bible.)
2. What is a doctrine? (A doctrine is a teaching.)
3. Which handbook presents the chief parts of Christian doctrine? (The catechism.)
4. Who wrote the catechism? (Dr. Martin Luther.)
5. Why did he write it? (The people knew so little of the Bible.)
6. Why is it called the Small Catechism? (Luther also wrote a large one.)
7. Why is it called a catechism? (A catechism is a book of instruction in the form of questions and answers.)
8. What are the Six Chief Parts of Christian Doctrine?
   1. The Ten Commandments
   2. The Apostles’ Creed
   3. The Lord’s Prayer
   4. The Sacrament of Holy Baptism
   5. The Office of the Keys and Confession
   6. The Sacrament of the Altar

The Law

1. What is the Law? (The Law is the holy will of God.)
2. What does God tell us in the Law? (God tells us in the Law how we are to be, what we are to do, and what we are not to do.)
3. Where do you find the Law in summary or outline? (In the Ten Commandments.)
4. When was the Law given for the first time? (At creation, God wrote the requirements of the Law into human hearts.)
5. What does this mean? (This means that Adam and Eve by nature knew right from wrong.)
6. Why was it necessary for the Law to be given a second time? (Humankind sinned; the knowledge of the Law thus became blurred.)
7. Through whom did God give the Law a second time? (Through Moses, on Mount Sinai, about 1500 BC)
8. What is the requirement of the First Table of the Law? (Love to God.)
9. What is the requirement of the Second Table of the Law? (Love to humanity.)
10. What, in one word, is the requirement of all the commandments? (Love.)
11. Who is obliged to keep these commandments? (Everyone)

Joshua 24:15

English Standard Version (ESV)

And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”
The Close of the Commandments

1. What does the Close of the Commandments contain? (A threat and a promise.)
2. What is God’s threat upon those who fail to keep these Commandments? (Death and damnation.)
3. What is God’s promise to those who keep His Commandments? (Grace and every blessing.)
4. What kind of obedience does God require of us? (A perfect obedience.)
5. Who can keep God's Law perfectly? (No human being.)
6. For what purpose, then, was the Law given? (The Law serves as a curb, a mirror, and a guide.)
7. How does the Law serve as a curb? (The Law checks the coarse outbursts of sin.)
8. How does the Law serve as a mirror? (The Law shows us that our heart is sinful.)
9. How does the Law serve as a guide? (The Law shows Christians how God desires to guide us in our daily life.)
10. Of what are we guilty when we depart from these rules? (We are guilty of sin.)
11. What is sin? (“Sin is lawlessness”; that is, being and living without the Law in our thoughts, words, and actions (1 John 3:4).)
12. What are the two kinds of sin? (Original and actual sin.)
13. What is original sin? (Original sin is that sin with which we were born, which we had at our “origin.”)
14. What is actual sin? (Actual sin is every sinful act against the Law in thoughts, desires, words, or behavior.)
15. What is the wages of sin? (“The wages of sin is death” [Romans 6:23].)
16. Of what does the study of God’s Law convince us? (That we cannot keep the Law, and that we are therefore lost and condemned sinners.)

The Creed

1. What is a creed? (A creed is a statement of what one believes.)
2. How many universal Christian creeds are there? (Three: the Apostles’ Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed.)
3. Why is the first creed called the Apostles’ Creed? (It contains essentially what the apostles believed.)
4. Why is the Apostles’ Creed divided into three articles? (There is one article for each of the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.)
5. Which work is ascribed to each Person of the Trinity? (To the Father, the work of creation; to the Son, the work of redemption; to the Holy Spirit, the work of sanctification.)

The First Article

1. Why do you say “I believe” and not “We believe”? (I must believe for myself if I am to be saved.)
2. What does it mean to believe in God? (To believe in God means to know assent to, and trust in God.)
3. Why is God called the Father? (He is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and He is our Father by faith in Jesus.)
4. Why is God called “almighty” and “maker”? (He made heaven and earth out of nothing, by His almighty power.)
Exodus 15:13 English Standard Version (ESV)

13 “You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.”

The Second Article

1. Do you hope to be saved? (Yes, such is my hope.)
2. In whom, then, do you trust? (In my dear Lord Jesus Christ.)
3. What does the name Jesus mean? (Jesus means “Savior.”)
4. What does the title Christ or (in Hebrew) Messiah mean? (Christ and Messiah mean “the Anointed One.”)
5. Who is Jesus Christ? (Jesus Christ is true God and true man, my Savior.)
6. What two natures are united in Him? (The divine nature and the human nature.)
7. Why do you believe that Jesus Christ is true God? (He was begotten of the Father from eternity.)
8. Why do you believe that Jesus Christ is true man? (He was born of the Virgin Mary.)
9. Why was it necessary for our Savior to be true God? (So that He might live, fulfill the Law, suffer, and die as a ransom for me and all people, and thus overcome sin, death, and the devil.)
10. Why was it necessary for our Savior to be true man? (So that He might fulfill the Law and suffer and die for me.)
11. What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him? (He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.)

John 3:14-15 English Standard Version (ESV)

14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.
The Second Article: Roles of Jesus

For what threefold office was Christ anointed? (To be our Prophet, Priest, and King.)

- In what respect was He a prophet? (He preached during His earthly ministry and still preaches today through His ministers.)
- A Priest? (He sacrificed Himself on the altar of the cross, and He prays for us.)
- A King? (He rules over the world and especially over His Church.)

1. Where was Jesus born? (In Bethlehem.)
2. For what purpose was Jesus born? (To save His people from their sins.)
3. In what ways did Jesus prove that He is the Son of God? (By His words and by His works.)
4. Why did Jesus die on the cross? (To redeem me, a lost and condemned creature.)
5. From what has Jesus redeemed you? (From the power and punishment of sin, the sting of death, and the ownership of Satan.)
6. What price did Jesus pay for your redemption? (His holy, precious blood.)

The Old Testament

1. Genesis
2. Exodus
3. Leviticus
4. Numbers
5. Deuteronomy
6. Joshua
7. Judges
8. Ruth
9. 1 Samuel
10. 2 Samuel
11. 1 Kings
12. 2 Kings
13. 1 Chronicles
14. 2 Chronicles
15. Ezra
16. Nehemiah
17. Esther
18. Job
19. Psalms
20. Proverbs
21. Ecclesiastes
22. Song of Solomon
23. Isaiah
24. Jeremiah
25. Lamentations
26. Ezekiel
27. Daniel
28. Hosea
29. Joel
30. Amos
31. Obadiah
32. Jonah
33. Micah
34. Nahum
35. Habakkuk
36. Zephaniah
37. Haggai
38. Zechariah
39. Malachi
40. Matthew
41. Mark
42. Luke
43. John
44. Acts (of the Apostles)
45. Romans
46. 1 Corinthians
47. 2 Corinthians
48. Galatians
49. Ephesians
50. Philippians
51. Colossians
52. 1 Thessalonians
53. 2 Thessalonians
54. 1 Timothy
55. 2 Timothy
56. Titus
57. Philemon
58. Hebrews
59. 1 Peter
60. 2 Peter
61. 1 John
62. 2 John
63. 3 John
64. 4 John
65. 5 John
66. Jude
67. Revelation

The New Testament
The Third Article: The Holy Spirit

1. Who is your Guide to Jesus? (My Guide to Jesus is the Holy Spirit.)

2. Who is the Holy Spirit? (The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity.)

3. What is the pathway through which the Holy Spirit leads you to Jesus? (Through the Word of God—spoken and visible—as the Means of Grace.)

4. Why can you not find Jesus by yourself? (By nature I am spiritually blind, dead, and an enemy of God.)

5. What has the Holy Spirit done to bring you to Christ? (He has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified, and kept me in the true faith.)

6. Is the Holy Spirit willing to work this in everyone who hears the Gospel? (Yes!)

7. Why, then, are many people lost? (They resist the Holy Spirit.)

8. If, then, these people are lost, whose fault is it? (Their own fault.)

9. On the other hand, if a person is saved, who receives all the credit? (The Holy Spirit.)

10. Why is He called the “Holy” Spirit? (He Himself is holy, and He makes us holy.)

11. What are all those called who have been made holy by the Holy Spirit? (They are called Christians.)

12. What is a Christian? (A Christian is one who believes in Jesus, loves Him, and follows Him.)

13. Will the Christian do good works? (Yes, indeed; as the Holy Spirit evidences His power in the life of a Christian. A good work is “faith working through love” [Galatians 5:6].)

14. When were most of us made Christians by the Holy Spirit? (When we were baptized.)

The Third Article: The Holy Christian Church

1. Through what means does the Holy Spirit make saints of sinners? (Through the Means of Grace.)

2. What are the Means of Grace? (The written and spoken Word of God and the Sacraments.)

3. Where are the Means of Grace to be found? (In the Christian Church.)

4. What is the Church? (The Church is the communion of saints, or the whole number of believers in Christ.)

5. Who are members of the Church? (All who have faith in Christ.)

6. How many such churches are there? (Only one.)

7. Is the Church limited to any place or age? (No, it is catholic, which means universal.)

8. Why is the Church invisible to us? (We cannot look into another’s heart and see whether he or she believes.)

9. Why is the Church called “holy?” (The members are holy by faith in Christ, and they serve God with holy works.)
10. Why is the Church called the “Christian” Church? (It is built upon Christ.)

11. What do you understand by the visible church? (A local congregation.)

12. Who are members of a local church? (Believers and possibly also hypocrites.)

13. How many visible churches are there? (There are a great many.)

14. Which must be the true visible church? (The church that is grounded in and focused on the Bible.)

15. What are the three fundamental teachings of the evangelical Lutheran Church?

   a. The Bible is the Word of God.
   b. Jesus is the only Savior.
   c. We are saved by believing in Jesus and being baptized.

The Forgiveness of Sins

1. Who forgives us our sins daily and richly? (God forgives us our sins daily and richly.)

2. Why does God forgive us our sins? (He is gracious and merciful.)

3. For whose sake does God forgive us our sins? (For Jesus’ sake.)

4. What has Jesus done for you? (He has lived and died and now lives again for me.)

5. Is there anything about you to deserve forgiveness? (No, I receive forgiveness according to the riches of God’s grace.)

6. For whom has Jesus won forgiveness? (For all people.)

7. Where does God tell us that He has forgiven us? (In the Gospel.)

8. Is the Gospel also in Holy Baptism and in the Lord’s Supper? (Yes)

9. What then, is the central teaching of the Gospel? (This, that all who believe receive forgiveness of sins and are justified before God, not by works, but by grace, for Jesus’ sake, through faith.)

The Resurrection and the Life Everlasting

1. What are the two parts of every person? (Body and soul.)

2. What takes place when a person dies? (The soul and body separate.)

3. Where does the soul of the Christian go? (Into the presence of God.)

4. Where does the body usually go? (Into the ground.)

5. At the end of time, what will take place with regard to the body? (The body will be raised again and be joined to the soul.)
6. With what kind of body will we be raised? (We will be raised with a glorified body.)

7. What is a glorified body? (A body like Christ’s glorious body.)

8. Of what does the blessedness of heaven consist? (In this, that [a] we shall see God face—to—face; [b] we shall be clothed again with the divine image; [c] we shall be free from all ills; [d] we shall be eternally happy.)

9. To whom shall the blessedness of heaven be given? (To me and all believers.)

**Prayer**

1. Can we speak to God? (Yes, we can speak to God.)

2. What is this speaking to God called? (It is called prayer.)

3. To whom should we pray? (We should pray to the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.)

4. What should move us to pray? ([a] God’s command; [b] God’s promise; [c] our own and our neighbor’s need.)

5. In whose name do we pray? (We pray in the name of Jesus.)

6. Why do we pray in the name of Jesus? (Jesus is the Son of God, our Savior, and for His sake God will grant us all good things.)

7. For what do we ask God in our prayers? (We ask Him [a] to forgive us our sins; [b] to help us to be good; [c] to give us what we need; [d] to take us to heaven when we die.)

8. For whom should we pray? (For all people; for ourselves; for our loved ones; for our church, school, and country; even for our enemies.)

9. Does God always hear and answer prayers? (Yes, according to His will.)

10. In what three Ways does God answer prayers? (By saying yes, by saying no, and by saying wait.)

11. When does God always answer yes to our prayers? (When we ask for spiritual gifts and for what He knows is good for us.)

12. What do we add to our prayers when we pray for earthly gifts? (We add: if it be according to Your will.)

13. When should we pray? (At all times, especially in times of trouble and temptations.)

14. When particularly ought we to pray? (In the morning and evening, and before and after meals.)

15. Where should we pray? (Everywhere, especially in church, school, and athome.)

16. With what word do we end our prayers? (We end our prayers with the word amen.)

17. What does amen mean? (Amen means “Yes, it shall be so.” It means that we believe our prayers have been heard.)
The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

1. What is a sacrament? (A sacrament is a sacred act, instituted by God, through which we receive the forgiveness of sins.)

2. How many sacraments are there? (Two: Holy Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.)

3. Which are the visible elements in the two Sacraments? (The visible element in Baptism is water. The visible elements in the Lord’s Supper are bread and wine.)

4. What is joined to the visible elements? (The Word of God.)

5. What is offered, given, and sealed to us in the Sacraments? (Forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.)

6. What is Baptism? (Baptism is “water included in God’s command and combined With God’s word.”)

7. Who instituted Baptism? (Christ our Lord.)

8. How is this command carried out by the Church? (The Church calls pastors, who ordinarily baptize.)

9. Who may and should baptize in case of emergency? (Any Christian.)

10. How is Baptism administered? (By applying water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.)

11. Why is immersing in water not the only correct way of applying water in Baptism? (Because in ordaining Baptism, Christ used a word which simply means “apply Water”)

12. How may water be applied in Baptism? (By washing, pouring, sprinkling, or immersing.)

13. How do we usually apply Water in Baptism? (By sprinkling or pouring.)

14. Who is to be baptized? (All nations.)

15. Who is meant by “all nations”? (Children and adults.)

What answer should be given to those who deny that children are to be baptized? (Children are to be baptized because [a] children are included in “all nations”; [b] children are born sinful and need Baptism for the washing away of their sins; [c] children are brought to faith and receive forgiveness of sins only through Baptism; and [d] children, too, believe God’s promises.)

16. Why do we have sponsors at the Baptism of infants? ([a] The sponsors are to serve as witnesses that the child has been properly baptized; [b] they are to help in the Christian training of the child, especially should the parents die or become neglectful; [c] and they are to remember the child in their prayers.)
The Sacrament of Holy Baptism - Continued

1. What blessings does Baptism give? (Forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.)

2. Who receives the blessings of Baptism? (All who believe.)

3. In whose name were you baptized? (In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.)

4. Whose child have you become through Baptism? (Through Baptism, I have become a child of God, a member of the Church, and an heir of heaven.)

5. How could water do all this for you? (It was not the water merely, but the Word of God and faith.)

6. What emotions does Baptism evoke among the people of God? (Baptism brings joy and contentment to the children of God.)

7. How often were you baptized? (Only once; but each day I should remember and affirm my Baptism.)

8. What is the baptismal vow? (I renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways. I believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I will follow Christ and live as His child, in the Spirit’s grace and power, to death.)

The Sacrament of the Altar

1. Who instituted the Lord’s Supper? (Christ our Lord.)

2. What two kinds of elements are present? (The visible and the invisible elements.)

3. What are the visible elements? (Bread and wine.)

4. What are the invisible elements? (The body and blood of Christ.)

5. What do you receive with the bread? (The body of Christ.)

6. What do you receive with the wine? (The blood of Christ.)

7. In what manner do you receive the bread and wine? (In a natural manner.)

8. In what manner do you receive the body and blood? (In a supernatural manner.)

9. What is this union of the bread with the body, of the wine with the blood, called? (A sacramental union.)

10. Is the Lord’s Supper a memorial feast or a sacrament? (It is both.)

11. Why should Christians receive the Sacrament often? (Christ’s command, His promise, and our need.)
The Sacrament of the Altar - Continued

1. What is the benefit of such eating and drinking? (That is shown us by these words, “Given and shed for you for the remission of sins.”)

2. What blessing do we receive through the Sacrament? (The forgiveness of sins.)

3. How is this offered to us? (Through God’s Words in the Sacrament.)

4. Is there then any reason why you should waver in your assurance of sins forgiven? (No; on the contrary, my assurance is made doubly sure.)

5. How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things? (It is not the eating and drinking indeed that does them.)

6. What is it then? (The Word of God and faith.)

7. Who is a worthy communicant? (He or she that has faith in these Words, “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.”)

8. May a person whose faith is weak go to the Lord’s Table? (By all means. This will strengthen their faith.)

9. What questions should a communicant ask before receiving the Sacrament?

([a] Do I believe I am a sinner? [b] Am I sorry for my sins? [c] Do I believe in Christ as my Savior and Lord? [d] Do I believe that His body and blood are truly present in the Sacrament? [e] Do I plan, with the help of the Spirit, to change my sinful thoughts and actions and to follow Christ?)

10. What rite does the church observe, in order to enable members to examine themselves? (The Rite of Confirmation.)

11. What, in brief, is the vow you make at confirmation? (To remain faithful to God and His Church to death.)

Martin Luther's Christian Questions

Do you believe that you are a sinner? Yes, I believe it; I am a sinner.

How do you know this? From the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept

Are you sorry for your sins? Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.

What have you deserved from God because of your sins? His wrath and displeasure temporal death, and eternal damnation.

Do you hope to be saved? Yes, that is my hope.

In whom then do you trust? In my dear Lord Jesus Christ.

Who is Christ? The Son of God, true God and man.

What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him? He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.

What motivated Christ to die and make full payment for your sins? His great love for His Father and for me and other sinners, as it is written in John 14; Romans 5; Galatians 2; and Ephesians 5.