St. Paul Lutheran Church
February 2026

The Catechism in the Home

Using Martin Luther's Small Catechism as a centerpiece of faith formation

WHAT LUTHER IMAGINED

As he was writing the Small Catechism Martin Luther did not imagine that, when people in the future considered this little book, they would think first and foremost of an old pastor teaching a bunch of fidgety teenagers in a classroom in a church basement. He envisioned instead that it would be used first and foremost in the home, with one generation passing along the treasure of the faith to another. We know this because he wrote before each part, "As the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to his household."

But in one sense, it doesn't matter what Luther imagined. It matters what you imagine. How do you view this little book of questions and answers about our Christian faith? Is it just a resource that every Lutheran has to master once during their life to prove their confession of faith true? Or can you envision it being the centerpiece of how you raise your children in the faith — how you nourish your family spiritually in your home day by day? Let me try to make that latter option much more likely than perhaps it seems right now.

FULFILL YOUR CALLING AS A PARENT

Why should you use the catechism in your home? Well, first, you should use it because it helps you do what God gave you to do when He made you a parent. The Scriptures always speak of passing along the faith as an activity which centers in the life of the family. Deuteronomy 6:7 says, "You shall teach them [God's commands] diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."

Fathers in particular are told to raise up their children "in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (EPH. 6:4). We see beautiful biblical examples of mothers doing this work as well (see 2 TIM. 1:5). Luther, in a series of sermons he wrote as a companion to the catechism, told parents to consider this the chief duty of their calling as parents. Not even feeding or educating their children was to take priority over it. If parents did not do this, he said, they should not consider themselves to be faithful Christians. In Luther's eyes, passing along the faith to the children entrusted to them by their Heavenly Father should be the prime concern of all Christian parents.

KEEP IT SIMPLE, SAINT OF GOD

The catechism offers a simple way to teach the faith. There are many simple things you can do in the home that are spiritually beneficial, but out of all of them, using the catechism is perhaps the simplest of all. Using this little book need not require a large amount of preparation. Nor do you need any particular skill to teach it. It is, after all, just a little book of questions and answers.

Simply ask the question given and read together the answer with the one you wish to teach. Do it again. You are now teaching the faith. You are doing the very thing you were not sure you could accomplish. You are doing the thing perhaps no one ever modeled for you or taught you to do. The catechism instructs you how to teach even as you instruct those in your home.

Passing through the various parts of the catechism can also help give shape to a more robust devotional life in the home. The topics covered each day can lead to discussion and memorization of verses that establish these teachings, hymns

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THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD
Family Ministry

that sing of them and prayers that accompany them. Letting the catechism determine the topic for the day makes being regular at this work that much easier.

PERFECT FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES

Consider that this little book is perfect for multigenerational settings like the home. There are portions so simple that even the youngest speakers and readers can master them. There are parts so deep that the most mature and experienced Christian will still be captivated by meditating upon them. There is a rhythm to it all that binds every one of every age and ability together.

SHAPE HOW YOUR HOUSEHOLD VIEWS THE WORLD

This little book is not only a collection of individual teachings but a system of truths that shape the mind. As the catechism is learned piece by piece, it molds and solidifies how one views the world. Each question not only stands alone but rests upon the others to form a steady base from which godly discernment can occur. Topics not specifically covered in the questions and answers given can be pondered rightly by those who know well the framework of the catechism.

This is deeply needed by all of us who interact to various degrees with the unbelieving world. We are constantly asked, demanded even, to change our opinions on various issues. More than this, we are encouraged and sometimes manipulated into changing the very assumptions that undergird our whole way of thinking. The catechism teaches us the boundaries of truth so that we will not fall into error even accidentally.

EVERYTHING NEEDFUL

The catechism is enough for salvation and life. Obviously, it is a quick summary of all that the Bible teaches and not a replacement for the Scriptures. It does not cover the breadth and width and depth of all that is given in the Word of God. And yet, amazingly, given its brief nature, it does cover everything necessary for life and salvation.

It teaches right from wrong and righteousness from unrighteousness through the Commandments. Convicted of our sin, it shows us our saving God — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — who did everything necessary to rid us of our sin and who makes us holy in his Son. It teaches us what we truly need even as it teaches us to ask God for those things in prayer.

It teaches us about Holy Baptism, through which God connects us to Jesus' saving death and resurrection. It drives us to the forgiveness we receive in Holy Absolution. It beckons us to the altar to eat the Holy Supper, by which the true presence of Christ's body and blood gives and sustains in us eternal life.

There are even small sections that teach us how to live in our various callings in life, how to pray and how to examine ourselves to prepare for coming to Christ's altar. There is more to learn, to be sure, that the catechism does not broach, but nothing necessary for salvation and life in Christ is left out of this little book.

IT POINTS TO JESUS

Lastly, imagine using the catechism in your home because it always points those who use it to Jesus. No matter where you find yourself reading and reciting from, the catechism leads you to the cross of Jesus to find your ultimate comfort and hope. And in your home, what else do you need?

IMAGINATION INTO REALITY

Can you imagine it? Good. The next step is to bring that thought into reality. Open up the catechism. Grab a resource that helps you go through it in a regular way. Imagine it — and then do it.

Article written by Pastor Philip Hoppe, pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Colby, Kansas.

Upcoming Events & News

Pastor update:

Pastor Lucido has returned the call. The call committee will meet soon to continue the search for a new pastor.

Please take a peek at the **flower chart**; flowers are $25 a Sunday. It is a wonderful way to honor a loved one, celebrate a special day or just to adorn God's altar.

Quilting is Monday"s at 10am, everyone is welcome to join in for fellowship and sewing.

Wednesday Bible Study is only on Feb. 4th, due to the upcoming Pastor schedule and Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday begins on Feb. 18th, with soup and sandwich meal followed by worship.
We will let everyone know the time of meal and worship as soon as we can.
If you would like to bring a soup, sandwiches or desserts to the Wednesday meals, please sign up or let Jennifer or Jayne know.
Feb. 25th, March 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th are the other dates for supper and worship.

We are planning on **Confirmation** on Palm Sunday; March 28th.

For a while now, we have **Online Giving** on our church website. This is an option we have but we realize only a handful of members donate though this link.
If the trend continues, this may be discontinued. The monthly fee alone is making this decision. We are reopening this discussion at our April quarterly voters meeting.

Reminder: The Last Sunday of each month, the little church donation box is on the table and it's there for donations to Mission Central. The fund from the little box helps out Mission Central and their mission. Thank you to all who contributed last year and please, when writing a check, make it out to St. Paul Lutheran Church. Thanks again.

St. John Lutheran Church in Kroschel invites you all to their soup and bingo on Sunday Feb. 1st and Sunday Feb. 15th. Bingo starts at 5pm, followed by chili/soup at 6pm. Free will offering.

Pastor Walter has discontinued his landline so is you need to talk to him, his cell number is 218-269,2084

Birthdays & Anniversaries

February 2026

3rd: Davie Hopkins
6th: Jenny Schroeder
10th: Ron Rabe
12th: Isla Zabrok
14th: Jeanette Scheafer
15th: JD and Chelsey Bottelson
15th: Jayne Maser
18th: Greg Wickstrom
24th: Nicole Hansen
26th: Shawn Ausmus,
Larry and Linda Marotz
27th: Doug Maser,
Tim and Sue Davis,
Liam Rogneby
28th: Diane Rogneby

If we missed anyone, please let Jennifer know!

Flower Chart:

Feb. 1st: The Hopkins Family
…….....in loving memory of Dave
Feb. 8th: (open)
Feb. 15th: Jeanette Scheafer
……...in loving memory of Fred
Feb. 22nd: Cydelle Klande
…….in loving memory of my dad

Prayers to the Church:
To those who are in our hearts and thoughts.

Acolyte Schedule:

Feb 1st: Croix
Feb. 8th: Henry
Feb.
15th: Marlowe
Feb. 22nd: Levi

Ash Wednesday:
Feb 25th:

Ushers Schedule 2026

Feb. Ryan Ausmus and Eddie Odendahl
March: Jim Jarvis and Jeff and Liam Rogneby
April: Matt and Abe Maser
May: Rick Williams and Vern Volk
June: Randy Hickle and Doug Kottke
July: John and Jacob Maser
August: Bill Morgan and Aaron Peterson
Sept: Jedidah Lilenthal and Issac Maser
October: Tonette Peterson and Tracy Peterson
Nov: Doug Maser and Toby Hickle
Dec: Steve Marudas and John Gilbertson

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Email: st.paulhinckley@yahoo.com

Church Phone: (320) 384-6267

Website: www.stpaulhinckleymn.org

Like us on Facebook! *https://www.facebook.com/SPLCHINCKLEY*

*Check **Facebook** or **church website** for any updates on schedules for Worship Service and other events.*

Vacancy Pastor	**Church Secretary**	**Church Newsletter**	**Organists**
Pastor Walter Lehenbauer	Jennifer Kubesh	Jennifer Kubesh Cydelle Klande	Sue Hickle Connie Odendahl

Church Council

Meets 1st Tuesday each month at 7pm

Chairman: John Frank
Vice Chair: Matt Maser
Elders: Rod Lawin
David Berquist
Toby Hickle
Trustees: Jeff Rogneby
Bill Morgan
Greg Kroschel
Secretary: Carol Robinson
Fin. Sec.: Star Lawin
Treasurer: Tracy Peterson

Stewardship
Jan 1-Jan 18, 2026

General Fund.....$6,814
LW $83
Altar Flowers $217
Missions $55
Sunday School $500

TOTAL.....$7,669

Sunday School: Karissa Ausmus
Grace Peterson
Board of Fellowship: Jayne Maser
Youth Group: TBD
Fellowship: Jayne Maser and
Jennifer Kubesh

In case of an emergency, please contact Elder Rod Lawin at 320-372-0109

Quarterly Voter's Meeting
January 18, 2026
33 members, 10:30am

Roll Call, Loren Vogler leads us in prayer

Secretary Report: John Frank read meeting minutes from October; no changes;
1st Jayne Maser; 2nd Jeanette Scheafer

Treasurer's Report: As of January 13, 2026; checking is $190,540.82 and savings is $27,912.65. After taking off memorials, roof, youth, fellowship, pastor loans, concerts operating funds are $170,916.98 As of December; checking was $193,614.66 and Savings was the same. After taking off previous mentions, operating funds was $181,903.47.
Tracy mentions getting an address stamp,approved that.and Tracy brought up the online giving, very few do it, going to get the word out about it and bring it back to the meeting in April. It is $45 a month for the online to continue.

Pastor's Report: no report at this time
Board of Fellowship: meetings moved to second Tuesday of the month, resume in February

Trustees, Elder, and no other reports at this time

Old Business:
Christmas Caroling: started with trio then to a duo, looking at earlier day next time.The People we visited really enjoyed the singing and visits.
Live Nativity: went well, thank you to everyone inside and outside for making that day very successful.
Orange Envelopes: Thank you all who contributed to orange envelopes this past year. Another successful year to the general fund, missions, and youth.

New Business:
Pastor Call Update: Waiting for an answer from our placed call to Pastor Gregory Lucido, both John and Brandon talked to him and answered his questions. Hopefully an answer by end of the month.
Lent and Easter Services: Ash Wednesday begins on Feb. 18th; looking for people to help with the soup and sandwich meals. Times to be determined for meal and worship. Pancake Breakfast is a go, John and David will head this up, thank you both for doing that. Confirmation is on Palm Sunday, March 28th.
Open Elder position on council, see John if interested.
Financial Pledge: After many discussions, it was suggested that we send $3,500 to Minnesota North District; 1st by Jayne Maser and second Sue Hickle
Interior Repairs: Painting will start soon, thank you Aaron, Tracy and Hunter Peterson for their work in getting the attic work finished
Usher schedule: Thank you Randy Hickle for getting the usher schedule ready to go for the upcoming year.
Nominations for Synod Officers: Nomination Matthew Harrison for president for Synod President: 1st Jayne Maser; 2nd Star Lawin
Serve times: they will change when new Pastor comes in; looking at 8:30AM or 10:30am times, just giving everyone a reminder.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30am
1st Jeanette Schaefer; 2nd Mary Ann Lyon
Close with Doxology

Submitted by Jennifer Kubesh, Church Secretary

Thank You's

To St. Paul Lutheran Church family:
I have been thankful for being a member of the St. Paul Family for many years.
I am very thankful to get the newsletters, bulletins each month. It keeps me in touch with what is going on with the family.
Lastly having the members come down for caroling was so thoughtful those that stopped to listen were so grateful. Each of the cards I got were so thoughtful.
Greetings,
Florence Benoit

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Creation Moments

Proclaiming Evidence for Truth

THIS WEEK'S CREATION MOMENT

Wild Medicine

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'" - John 14:6

Is it possible that your pharmacist could be a chimpanzee? That's not such a silly question. Naturalists are discovering that many animals use a variety of plants and other items to treat their illnesses. Animals often know about the medicinal properties of plants when modern medicine has yet to learn about them.

Recently naturalists noticed that one of the monkeys in the African preserve under their care had become lethargic, lost her appetite, and obviously had a severe gastric upset. A few hours after she became sick, she started munching on a native shrub that is not a normal part of the monkey's diet. She chewed the plant, swallowed the bitter juice and spit out the pulp. By the next afternoon her symptoms were gone and she was feeling better. After a little research, scientists discovered that local tribes use juices from the same plant to treat intestinal upset and loss of appetite.

Studies of the juices of a root that bears rub into their coats show that the bears are using an effective insecticide. Scientists have observed elephants, monkeys, birds and bears eating a variety of things that were not a normal part of their diet only to discover that the things being eaten had medicinal properties. Most amazing is that the animals know how best to take their medicine. If a leaf is best swallowed whole to kill intestinal parasites, it will be swallowed unchewed! Who other than the Great Physician Himself could have taught the animals this medicine?

Image: Black capped squirrel monkey, Envato.

Scan the QR code after service to watch a related video!

CREATION MOMENTS, INC.

P.O. Box 839 • Foley, MN 56329 • 800-422-4253

Ushers:
Eddie Odendahl and
Ryan Ausmus

FEBRUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9am Worship 10am Fellowship 10am Sunday School 10am Confirmation	2 10am Quilting 7pm Council Mtg	3	4 10:30am Bible Study	5	6	7
8 9am Worship w/ Communion 10am Fellowship 10am Confirmation	9 10am Quilting	10	11	12	13	1 4
15 9am Worship 10am Fellowship 10am Sunday School 10am Confirmation	16 10am Quilting	17	18 6pm Soup & Sand 7pm Worship Ash Wednesday	19	20	21
22 9am Worship w/ Communion 10am Fellowship 10am Confirmation	23 10am Quilting	24	25 6pm Soup & Sand 7pm Worship	26	27	28

St. Paul Lutheran Church

PO Box 99
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Newsletter
February 2026

For God so Loved the World