

Preaching the Catechism

Introduction: In 1946, shortly after becoming pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, TX, W.A. Criswell announced to his congregation that he was going to preach through the entire Bible, beginning in Genesis. Eighteen years later Criswell finished preaching on the book of Revelation. Criswell didn't follow one of the historic lectionaries, but did he preach the "whole counsel of God?" Why or why not?

I. History

A. The Catechism's pre-Lutheran roots.

1. Instruction of the catechumenate leading to baptism.

"Let him, therefore, who is to be taught the truth in regard to piety be instructed before his baptism in the knowledge of the unbegotten God, in the understanding of His only begotten Son, in the assured acknowledgment of the Holy Ghost. Let him learn the order of the several parts of creation, the series of providence, the different dispensations of Thy laws. Let him be instructed why the world was made, and why man was appointed to be a citizen therein; let him also know his own nature, of what sort it is; let him be taught how God punished the wicked with water and fire, and did glorify the saints in every generation...how God still took care of and did not reject mankind, but called them from their error and vanity to the acknowledgment of the truth at various seasons....let him (the instructor) instruct him in the doctrines concerning our Lord's incarnation, and in those concerning his passion, and resurrection from the dead, and assumption" (Constitutions of the Holy Apostles, Book VII, Section III, ca. 300 A.D.).

2. Medieval use of the Lord's Prayer and the Apostle's Creed

3. Prayer books at the time of Luther.

B. The need for catechism instruction in Luther's day.

1. A *misinstructed* populace

"The papists have taught the twelve articles of faith in the Creed, but in the meantime they have invented a multitude of others about purgatory, the sacrifice of the mass, the invocation of the saints. Thus one error grows out of another. We must therefore restore everything to its right shape— that is, to conformity with the Word of God" (LW Vol. 54: Table Talk, p. 333).

2. An *uninstructed* populace

3. The Saxon visitation of 1527-1528

“The deplorable, miserable condition which I discovered lately when I, too, was a visitor, has forced and urged me to prepare this Catechism, or Christian doctrine, in this small plain, simple form. 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. Nevertheless, all maintain that they are Christians, all have been baptized and receive the holy Sacrament. Yet they cannot recite either the Lord’s Prayer, or the Creed, or the Ten Commandments; they live like dumb brutes and irrational swine; and yet, now that the Gospel has come, they have nicely learned to abuse all liberty like experts” (Concordia Triglotta, Historical Introduction, p. 68)

C. The Catechism’s roots in preaching

1. Luther was preaching topical sermon series on the Commandments, Creed, or Lord’s Prayer as early as 1516-1517

“Often I preached four sermons on one day. During the whole of one Lent I preached two sermons and gave one lecture every day. This was when I first preached on the Ten Commandments to a large congregation, for to preach on the catechism was then a new and uncommon thing” (LW Vol. 54: Table Talk, p. 282).

2. Preface to the *Deutsche Messe* (1526) suggests catechetical sermons at Monday and Tuesday Matins. (LW Vol. 53: Liturgy and Hymns, p. 69)

3. Three week-day sermon series on the Catechism during 1528 provide basis for the text of the Large Catechism.

D. Catechetical preaching in early Lutheranism

1. Multiple Sunday services (typically three or four) made it possible to focus on the catechism in one of them.

From the Liturgical Prescriptions for the churches in Halle, 1573: “Sundays: early service at 4:00 in the summer and at 5:00 in the winter for the ‘Gesinde und Dienstboden.’ The sermon text is the catechism....The early sermon is not to last more than 45 minutes, so that the singing and sermon together do not last more than an hour.” (From *Liturgical Prescriptions in German Church Orders to 1800*, Prepared by Joseph Herl, revision of October 3, 1997)

From the Liturgical Prescriptions for the churches in Ostfriesland, 1716: “Cities and villages with two pastors are to have three sermons each Sunday. In the first sermon from 6:00 to 7:00 the text is the Epistle; at the high sermon from 8:00 to 10:00 it is the Gospel; in Vespers from 12:00 to 1:00 it is the Lutheran Catechism.” (Herl, op. cit.)

2. Many churches held weekday services in which series of sermons on the catechism were held at intervals throughout the year.

From the Liturgical Prescriptions for the churches in Wittenberg, 1533: "Catechism sermons are held four times a year (once by the Pfarrer and the other three by the three priests): in the first two weeks of Advent, in the first two weeks of Quadragesime, in the 'Creuz- und nachfolgenden wochen,' and in the two weeks after the harvest.... Sermons are held Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at Vespers..." (Herl, op. cit.)

For Discussion

1. What features of the situation during the Reformation which called for catechetical preaching parallel our own day?
2. What advantages do we have for catechetical instruction?
3. What advantages did they have?

II. Benefits

- A. Limitations of the Lectionaries
- B. Systematically approaches the duty to preach and teach "The Whole Counsel of God"
 1. Makes sure we don't lose sight of the basics
 2. Logically ties together not only a single Sunday service, but weeks of services.
 3. Allows for fuller treatment of important doctrines
- C. People appreciate topical preaching
 1. For its logical flow— Easy to follow and understand week by week

"Christ could have taught in a profound way but he wished to deliver his message with the utmost simplicity in order that the common people might understand. Good God, there are sixteen-year-old girls, women, old men, and farmers in church, and they don't understand lofty matters! If one can present fitting and familiar comparisons,...the people will understand and remember. Accordingly, he's the best preacher who can teach in a plain, childlike, popular and simple way. I prefer to preach in an easy and comprehensible fashion, but when it comes to academic disputations watch me in the university; there I'll make it sharp enough for anybody and will reply, no matter how

complicated he wants to be. Someday I'll have to write a book against artful preachers" (LW Vol 54: Table Talk, p. 383).

2. For its timeliness— Especially the Commandments, but also the other parts

D. Provides for freshness in our own pulpit work (See part IV below)

E. An opportunity to address catechism truths kerygmatically rather than didactically.

For Discussion

1. In which parts of the Catechism do our people need the most shoring up today?

III. Suggestions for incorporating sermons on the catechism into our preaching schedules

A. A Summer Sermon Series

1. The flow of the liturgical year is less connected during the summer anyway.
2. Possible to plan some loose associations with the secular calendar.

B. Appropriate topics suggested by the liturgical calendar and lectionary system

1. Obvious examples:

Preach on Baptism - Epiphany 1 (Baptism of Christ)

Preach on the Lord's Supper - Maundy Thursday

Preach on the Creed - Trinity Sunday

Preach on the First Commandment on Lent 1 (Christ's Temptation)

2. Other possibilities:

First Commandment - Pentecost 23 (ILCW A) Matthew 22:37

Second Commandment - Epiphany 6 (ILCW A) Matthew 5:20-37

Third Commandment - Pentecost 22 (ILCW A) Hebrews 4:9-16

Fourth Commandment - Christmas 1 (ILCW B) Col. 3:12-21

Fifth Commandment - Pentecost 8 (ILCW C) Luke 10:25-37

Sixth Commandment - Pentecost 15 (ILCW C) Hebrews 13:1-9

Seventh Commandment - Pentecost 19 (ILCW C) 1 Timothy 6:6-16

Eighth Commandment - Pentecost 19 (ILCW B) James 4:7-12
 Ninth & Tenth Commandments - Pentecost 15 (ILCW B) Mark 7:1-23
 First Article - Pentecost 12 (ILCW C) Hebrews 11:1-3
 Second Article - Easter 3 (ILCW A) 1 Peter 1:17-21
 Third Article - Pentecost - Choose a text
 First part of Baptism - Pentecost 14 (ILCW B) Ephesians 5:22-33
 Second part of Baptism - Pentecost 5 (ILCW C) Galatians 3:23-29
 Third part of Baptism - Pentecost 1 (ILCW B) John 3:1-17
 Fourth part of Baptism - Pentecost 6 (ILCW A) Romans 6:1-6
 Lord's Supper - practically all texts assigned to Maundy Thursday
 Ministry of the Keys, First - Pentecost 14 (ILCW A) Matthew 16:13-20
 Ministry of the Keys, Second - Pentecost 16 (ILCW A) Mat. 18:15-20
 Confession, all parts - Lent 4 (ILCW C) Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
 Address to the Lord's Prayer - Pentecost 10 (ILCW C) Luke 11:1-13
 First Petition - Pentecost 13 (ILCW C) Jeremiah 23:23-29
 Second Petition - Epiphany 4 (ILCW A) Matthew 4:12-23
 Third Petition - Pentecost 13 (ILCW B) Ephesians 5:15-20
 Fourth Petition - Epiphany 8 (ILCW A) Matthew 6:24-34
 Fifth Petition - Pentecost 12 (ILCW B) Ephesians 4:30-5:2
 Sixth Petition - Lent 3 (ILCW C) I Corinthians 10:1-13
 Seventh Petition - Pentecost 23 (ILCW C) 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
 The Doxology - Pentecost 14 (ILCW A) Romans 11:33-36

C. Incorporated into our Lenten worship?

1. The practice of the early Church

"The most appropriate time for preaching on the catechism is Lent, the traditional season of instruction when the catechumens used to be prepared for baptism. To take one of the chief parts of the catechism each year, for example, would provide themes for five years of Lenten preaching. Or, by pushing hard, one might be able to cover the whole catechism in Lent, though there would hardly be any time for digestion or discussion" (James Nestingen, "Preaching the Catechism," in *Word and World*, Vol. X, Number 1, p. 42).

2. Luther's example

3. Perhaps combine Sundays and Wednesdays into a single 10 sermon series

Let Ash Wednesday introduce Lent

Let Palm Sunday maintain it's traditional focus

D. One whole year instead of following the lectionary?

"There is every good reason to be loyal to the lectionary. But the value of preaching a sermon on each of the commandments, for example, or on each article or each petition, is such that even the lectionary might yield" (Nestingen, loc. cit.).

For Discussion

1. If we generally preach on one of the pericopes, which part of the catechism is being emphasized most? Least?
2. Further ideas for scheduling catechism sermons
[A sample sermon series using the Catechism is at the end of this document]

IV. Types of Catechetical Sermons

- A. Expository
- B. Topical
- C. Inductive
- D. Other organizational approaches: See LCCA's *Catechism Sermon Book*

V. Resources

Catechism Sermon Book 2000

Peter L. Martin, Editor

Available from WELS-BWM

Cat. No. 38-7325

Call 1-800-876-1388 or email orders@wmcwels.net or visit www.wmcwels.net/forsale to order

"Lord, Teach Us To Pray" - Rev. Ken Behnken

"Ten Words For A Happy Life" - Rev. Ken Behnken

"Credo" - Dr. Loren Kramer

Sermon Series available from:

Resources for Lutheran Pastors

242 Pleasant Hills Dr.

Reno, NV 89523-2262 Phone (775) 746-5323

Ten Sermons on the Catechism - Dr. Martin Luther

Available in Luther's Works, Volume 51, Sermons 1

Pages 133-194

Sample sermon series using the Catechism.

08/07/94

Part of the Catechism: 1st, The Blessings of Holy Communion

John Vieths - Catechetical Series on the Lord's Supper

Readings: Exodus 24:1-11, Jeremiah 31:31-34, Luke 22:7-20

Text: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Hymns: 420, 403, 125 (vs. 1,4), 312, 318

The Lord's Supper Is More than Just a Meal

1. It Is Jesus' Own Body and Blood.
 2. It Is a Preaching of the Gospel.
 3. It Is a Personal Promise from God.
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08/14/94

Part of the Catechism: 2nd, The Blessings of Holy Communion

John M. Koelpin - Catechetical Series on the Lord's Supper

Readings: Isaiah 6:5-7, Psalm 103, 1 Peter 2:21-25, Matthew 26:26-30

Verse of the Day: John 3:16

Text: Psalm 103:1-8/Words of Institution

Hymns: 226, 385, 486 (1,2), 311(1-5), 316

There Is Fruit In The Lord's Supper

1. Fruit given to the sinner
 2. Fruit found in forgiveness
 3. Fruit lasting for eternity
 4. Fruit strengthening for the fight
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08/21/94

Part of the Catechism: Lord's Supper - 3rd, The Power of Holy Communion

John M. Koelpin - Catechetical Series on the Lord's Supper

Readings: Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 119b, Romans 10:8-18, John 6:60-63

Verse of the Day: John 20:31

Text: Romans 10:17/Matthew 26:26-28

Hymns: 259; 288; 469 (1-4); 135; 293

Partake of a Powerful Meal

1. Power which gives blessings
 2. Power which comes from the Word
 3. Power which focuses on Christ
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08/28/94

Part of the Catechism: Lord's Supper - 4th, Preparation for Proper Reception

John Vieths - Catechetical Series on the Lord's Supper

Readings: Isaiah 55:1-7, Hebrews 10:19-31, Matthew 11:28-30

Text: 1 Corinthians 11:27-29

Hymns: 336, 304, 488 (vs. 1,4), 397, 331

Prepare to Receive Your Savior's Body

1. Prepare Your Hearts.
 2. Prepare Your Minds.
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07/09/95

Part of Catechism: 1st, The Institution of Baptism

John M. Koelpin Catechetical Series on Baptism

Readings: Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 18, Ephesians 2:14-22 & 5:25,26, Matthew 28:16-20

Verse of the Day: 1 Corinthians 12:13

Text: Matthew 28:19

Hymns: 226(1-4), 294, 232, 295, 226(5-7)

What is Baptism?

1. It is water used with God's command
 2. It is water connected with God's Word
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07/16/95

Part of Catechism: 2nd, The Blessings of Baptism

John M. Koelpin Catechetical Series on Baptism

Readings: 2 Kings 5:9-14, Psalm 92, Acts 2:36-41, Luke 3:2,3,7,8

Verse of the Day: 1 Peter 3:21

Text: 1 Peter 3:18b-22

Hymns: 239, 372, 303(2,4,5), 241, 394

Sermon Preached by John Liebenow

07/23/95

Part of Catechism: 3rd, The Power of Baptism

John M. Koelpin Catechetical Series on Baptism

Readings: Acts 8:26-39, Psalm 130, Titus 3:4-7, John 3:1-6

Verse of the Day: Mark 16:16

Text: Titus 3:4-8

Hymns: 282, 300, 249, 398, 291

God's Power is at Work in Baptism

1. By its connection with the Word
 2. By its creation of our faith
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07/30/95

Part of the Catechism: 4th, The Meaning of Baptism for Daily Life

John Vieths - Catechetical Series on Baptism

Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34, Romans 6:1-4, John 15:1-8

Text: Romans 6:1-4

Hymns: 229, 383, 469 (vs. 1, 5,6) 389, 299

Baptism Has Given You A New Life

1. Which Won't Take God's Grace as a License.
 2. Which Knows Its Connection With Jesus' Death and Resurrection.
 3. Which Thinks and Acts Like the Child of God You Are.
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08/04/96

Part of the Catechism: Introduction to the Commandments

John Vieths - Catechetical Series on the First Table of the Law

Readings: Exodus 19:16-19, 20:18-21; Romans 3:19-22; Matthew 5:17-20

Text: Romans 3:19-22

Hymns: 224, 285 (vs. 1-4, 11-12), 125 (vs. 1,4), 312, 389

The Law Speaks To Us All

1. It Calls Us Sinners.
 2. It Prepares Us for Christ.
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08/11/96

Part of the Catechism: 1st Commandment

John Vieths - Catechetical Series on the First Table of the Law

Readings: Exodus 20:1-6, Romans 1:18-22, Matthew 19:16-26

Text: Exodus 20:1-6

Hymns: 193, 287, 249 (vs. 2,3), 343, 320

You Shall Have No Other Gods

1. Only One God Is Worthy.
 2. Only One God Can Be First.
 3. Only One God Is Real.
 4. Only One God Can Do Anything About It.
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08/25/96

Part of the Catechism: 2nd Commandment

John M. Koelpin - Catechetical Series on the First Table of the Law

Readings: Exodus 34:5-7, Psalm 8, Romans 10:11-15, John 16:23-28

Verse of the Day: Psalm 54:6

Text: Exodus 34:5-7/Exodus 20:7

Hymns: 249, 340, 480(4,5), 238, 334

What s In A Name?

With God s name:

1. Deep meaning
 2. Awesome reverence
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09/1/96

Part of the Catechism: 3rd Commandment

John Vieths - Catechetical Series on the First Table of the Law

Readings: Exodus 20:8-11, Colossians 2:13-23, John 4:19-26

Text: John 4:19-26

Hymns: 231, 286, 259 (vs. 1,2), 235, 321

Jesus Teaches Us True Worship

1. Worship Where You Find Salvation.
 2. Worship That Is Genuine.
-

07/06/97

Part of the Catechism: 4th Commandment

John M. Koelpin - Catechetical Series on the Second Table of the Law

Readings: Deuteronomy 5:7-22, Psalm 103, Ephesians 6:1-4, Luke 2:41-51

Verse of the Day: 1 Peter 2:13

Text: Ephesians 6:1-4

Hymns: 287, 285(1-5), 484(1), 506, 619

Honor God s Rule By Representation

1. Those who are ruled
 2. Those who rule
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07/13/97

Part of the Catechism: 5th Commandment

John Vieths - Catechetical Series on the Second Table of the Law

Readings: Exodus 21:12-25, 1 John 3:11-18, Matthew 5:21-24

Text: 1 John 3:11-18

Hymns: 260, 459, 483 (vs. 1,2), 307, 458

How's Your Love Life?

1. Do Not Hate It.
 2. Do Not Neglect It.
-

07/20/97

Part of the Catechism: 6th Commandment

John M. Koelpin - Catechetical Series on the Second Table of the Law

Readings: Genesis 2:19-24, Psalm 119a, 1 Corinthians 6:18-20, Matthew 5:27,28

Verse of the Day: Genesis 2:18

Text: 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

Hymns: 471, 285(1,2,7), 488(1,4), 461, 462

Live Chastely

1. How
 2. Why
-

08/02/98

Part of the Catechism: 8th Commandment

John Vieths - Catechetical Series on the Second Table of the Law

Readings: Genesis 39:11-20, James 3:3-10, Matthew 12:1-7

Text: Proverbs 22:1

Hymns: 286, 491, 469 (vs. 3-4), 397, 458

God Considers Your Name Precious

1. It's Value.
 2. It's Enemies.
 3. It's Protections.
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08/09/98

Part of the Catechism: 9th/10th Commandments

John M. Koelpin - Catechetical Series on the Second Table of the Law

Readings: Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 51b, James 4:1-3, Matthew 6:25-34

Verse of the Day: Matthew 5:8

Text: James 4:1-3

Hymns: 238, 287, 484(1), 285(1,10-12), 462

What About My Desires?

1. They affect my actions toward others
 2. They affect God's actions toward me
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08/16/98

Part of the Catechism: Conclusion to the Commandments

John Vieths - Catechetical Series on the Second Table of the Law

Readings: Deuteronomy 11:13-17, Galatians 3:10-14, Luke 18:9-14

Text: Exodus 20:5b-6

Hymns: 240, 287, 480 (vs. 4), 398, 326

Ten Commandments: Is God Serious?

1. He Is Jealous.
 2. He Will Punish.
 3. He Shows Love.
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06/13/99

Part of the Catechism: Introduction to Prayer

John Vieths- Catechetical Series on the Lord's Prayer

Readings: Daniel 9:3-19, 1 Timothy 2:1-8, Matthew 6:5-8

Text: Daniel 9:3-4, 19

Hymns: 412, 411, 470, 409, 408

Basics of Christian Prayer

1. Prayer's Posture.
 2. Prayer's Object.
 3. Prayer's Concern.
-

06/20/99

Part of the Catechism: The Lord's Prayer - The Address

John Vieths - Catechetical Series on the Lord's Prayer

Readings: Genesis 32:9-12, Romans 8:12-17, Matthew 7:9-11

Text: Matthew 7:9-11

Hymns: 410 (vs. 1), 449, 609, 419, 501

A Child's Confidence in Prayer

1. God Is Our Heavenly Father.
 2. Our Father Gives Good Gifts.
-

06/27/99

Part of the Catechism: The Lord's Prayer - The First Petition

John M. Koelpin - Catechetical Series on the Lord's Prayer

Readings: Exodus 34:5-7, Psalm 103, 2 Thessalonians 1:11,12, John 17:11b-19

Verse of the Day: Isaiah 42:8

Text: Matthew 6:9

Hymns: 410 (2), 458, 613, 462, 358 (1-4)

Hallowed By Thy Name

1. By what we teach
 2. By how we live
-

07/04/99

Part of the Catechism: The Lord's Prayer - The Second Petition

John M. Koelpin - Catechetical Series on the Lord's Prayer

Readings: Exodus 19:3-6, Psalm 45, Romans 14:13-18, Luke 17:20-37

Verse of the Day: John 18:36

Text: Matthew 6:10

Hymns: 410 (3), 289, 618, 576 & 577, 293

The Battle Cry for God's People: Thy Kingdom Come

1. Among us
 2. To others
-

07/11/99

Part of the Catechism: The Lord's Prayer - The Third Petition

John Vieths - Catechetical Series on the Lord's Prayer

Readings: Jeremiah 23:25-32, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8, John 6:35-40

Text: Matthew 6:10

Hymns: 410 (vs. 1,5), 452, 485 (vs. 1,2,6), 455, 472

Thy Will Be Done

1. In the Battle of Wills.
 2. By the Gift of Faith.
-

09/03/00

Part of the Catechism: The Lord's Prayer - The Fourth Petition

John M. Koelpin - Catechetical Series on the Lord's Prayer

Readings: Deuteronomy 8:10-18, Psalm 145, James 4:13-15, Matthew 6:25-34

Verse of the Day: Psalm 118:1

Text: Matthew 6:11

Hymns: 410(vs.1,5), 609, 483, 612 & 613, 611

Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

1. A broad prayer
 2. A narrow prayer
-

09/10/00

Part of the Catechism: The Lord's Prayer - The Fifth Petition

John Vieths - Catechetical Series on the Lord's Prayer

Readings: Genesis 50:15-21, Ephesians 4:25-5:2, Matthew 18:21-35

Text: Matthew 6:12, 14-15

Hymns: 410 (vs. 1,6), 490, 482, 493, 307

Forgive Us Our Trespasses

1. What This Means For Our Life With God.
 2. What This Means For Our Life With Each Other.
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09/17/00

Part of the Catechism: The Lord's Prayer - The Sixth Petition

John M. Koelpin - Catechetical Series on the Lord's Prayer

Readings: Proverbs (selected verses), Psalm 27, James 1:12-18, Matthew 26:36-45

Verse of the Day: 1 Corinthians 10:13

Text: Matthew 6:13a

Hymns: 410(1,7), 415, 469(1-3), 431&462, 426

Lead Us Not Into Temptation

1. Why?
 2. How?
-

09/24/00

Part of the Catechism: The Lord's Prayer - The Seventh Petition

John Vieths - Catechetical Series on the Lord's Prayer

Readings: Daniel 3:16-28, 2 Timothy 4:9-18, Mark 15:33-37, 16:9-14

Text: Matthew 13b

Hymns: 410 (vs. 1,8), 428, 469 (vs. 4-6), 448, 213

Deliver Us From Evil

1. Our Danger.
 2. Our Deliverances.
-

10/03/00

Part of the Catechism: The Lord's Prayer - The Doxology

John M. Koelpin - Catechetical Series on the Lord's Prayer

Readings: 1 Chronicles 29:10-13, Psalm 31, Romans 8:26-32, John 13:9-14

Verse of the Day: 1 John 5:14

Text: Revelation 7:12

Hymns: 410(1,9), 409, 334, 312, 408

There Is No Better Way To End The Lord's Prayer Than With

1. A word of praise
 2. A word of confidence
-

06/10/01 (Trinity Sunday)

Part of the Catechism: The Creed - Introduction

John Vieths - Catechetical Series on the Creed

Readings: Numbers 6:22-27, Romans 5:1-5, John 16:12-15

Text: John 12:42-46

Hymns: 195, 177, 477, 270, 347

Jesus Has Given Us a Faith Worth Confessing

1. Our Fear of Confessing Faith In Him.
 2. The Blessing of our Faith in Him.
-

06/17/01 (Father's Day)

Part of the Catechism: The First Article (The Father Created Us)

John M. Koelpin - Catechetical Series on the Creed

Readings: Genesis 1:1-28, Romans 1:18-25, Matthew 19:1-6

Text: Hebrews 11:3

Hymns: 229, 237, 259, 481, 256

Where Did All This Come From?

1. From God.
 2. From Nothing.
-

06/24/01

Part of the Catechism: The First Article (The Father Preserves Us)

John Vieths - Catechetical Series on the Creed

Readings: 1 Kings 17:1-16, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13, Matthew 6:25-34

Text: Matthew 6:25-34

Hymns: 232, 234, 483, 517, 260

Do Not Worry

You need not worry because...

1. God Is the One Who Gave Us Our Lives.
 2. God Takes Care of Things Less Important.
 3. Worry Is Pagan. Concerned.
 4. Your Heavenly Father Knows Your Needs
 5. Members of the Kingdom Will Have Every Need Met.
 6. Today Has Enough with Which to be
-

07/01/01

Part of the Catechism: The Creed The Second Article (Christ Humbled Himself)

John M. Koelpin - Catechetical Series on the Creed

Readings: Isaiah 53:2-9, Psalm 8, Philippians 2:6-8, Matthew 26:47-56

Verse of the Day: Psalm 132:9

Text: Mark 10:45

Hymns: 236(1-4), 370, 480, 373, 236(5)

This We Confess: God Became Man

1. To serve his Father in love
 2. To serve us in love
-

07/08/01

Part of the Catechism: The Creed The Second Article (Christ Is Exalted)

John M. Koelpin - Catechetical Series on the Creed

Readings: Isaiah 53:10-12, Psalm 148, Ephesians 1:15-23, Mark 16:9-16, 19,20

Verse of the Day: Philippians 2:9a

Text: Philippians 2:9-11

Hymns: 236 (1-4), 370, 480, 373, 236 (5)

This We Confess: Jesus Christ is Lord

1. As Lord He Reigns even Now
 2. As Lord He Reigns into Eternity
-

07/15/01

Part of the Catechism: The Creed - The Third Article (The Holy Spirit Converts Us)

John Vieths - Catechetical Series on the Creed

Readings: Ezekiel 11:17-21, 2 Corinthians 2:10b-16, John 3:1-8

Text: 1 Corinthians 2:12-14

Hymns: 339, 184, 488 (vs. 1,4) 532, 402

The Spirit Has Opened Our Hearts

1. To Believe God's Grace.
 2. By Using His Word.
 3. Overcoming Our Helplessness
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07/22/01

Part of the Catechism: The Creed The Third Article (The Holy Spirit Sanctifies)

John M. Koelpin - Catechetical Series on the Creed

Readings: 1 Samuel 10:5-11, Psalm 51b, Galatians 5:16-26, John 14:15-21

Verse of the Day: Luke 8:15

Text: Galatians 5:25

Hymns: 471, 186, 489, 182, 458

You Are Living A Spirit-Filled Life

1. The Spirit is your life-source
 2. The Spirit is your life-guide
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