

Catechesis II: Logic Level Manual



Requirements for Confirmation

[To aid parents in teaching their children]

**St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Waterford, Wisconsin**

At St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church we believe that catechesis is an essential part of every Christian's life. It begins as soon as a child can hear God's Word. And is ongoing for the rest of the days that the Lord has set before him. What a privilege it is to learn the marvelous truths that God shares with us.

Martin Luther wrote in the Large Catechism:

“Therefore let every father of a family know that it is his duty, by the injunction and command of God, to teach these things to his children or have them learn what they ought to know. For since they are baptized and received into the Christian Church, they should also enjoy this communion of the Sacrament, in order that they may serve us and be useful to us; for they must all indeed help us to believe, love, pray, and fight against the devil” (Large Catechism V The Sacrament of the Altar: 87).

Catechesis is an ongoing instruction of the Christian faith. It works best when church and home are working together to build a deep foundation with the desire to make disciples for life. To that end this program is labeled Catechesis II: Logic Level and is the middle level of Catechesis. Catechesis I: Grammar Level is designed to equip parents of young children active in their worship life to teach the faith and help them learn the basic tenets of the faith by heart. The level after Logic is Catechesis III: Rhetoric Level. The design of that program is to continue having parents and their children after confirmation faithfully attend to their worship life, Bible Study, and service in the church.

This packet deals exclusively with Catechesis II: Logic Level.

The Lord bless you as we work together to “train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6).

Pastor

CATECHESIS II: LOGIC LEVEL PROGRAM LEADING TO THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

The rationale for our program is simple. It is Bible-based, not only in content, but also in format. It recognizes the Biblical truth that passing down to our children the teachings of Scripture is most properly the parents' (especially the father's) task. The church's task is to equip and support the parents. The following Bible passages are most appropriate here:

"Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give them, like the days of the heavens above the earth.... [C]arefully keep all these commandments which I command you to do—to love the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him." **Deuteronomy 11:18-22**

Give ear, O my people, to my law; Incline your ears to the words of my mouth. Which we have heard and known, And our fathers have told us.

We will not hide them from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done. For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, That they should make them known to their children; That the generation to come might know them, The children who would be born, That they may arise and declare them to their children, That they may set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments." **Psalms 78:1, 3-7**

"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." **Ephesians 6:4**

From these passages it is clear that the religious education and training of each child rests with that child's parents, particularly the father. The church stands ready to assist parents in this great task, but would never presume to rob parents of either the responsibility or the joy of teaching their own children.

With this Biblical background in mind, outlined now is the confirmation program for St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

Our Three Year Program

- **Year I:** Old Testament Catechesis
- **Year II:** New Testament Catechesis
- **Year III:** Lutheran Catechesis

This program eligibility begins in 6th grade, but may be started later. Completion of Catechesis I: Grammar Level is not required to enter Catechesis II: Logic Level, but learning the 10 Commandments, Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:16, John 20:22-23, and the Words of Institution by heart prior to entry is strongly encouraged.

What Is Expected of Catechumens

Number of classes held: about 28 (per year). Yearly requirements include:

1. Regular attendance at *worship services*.
2. Attending all *classes*.
3. Successfully completing about 25 *sermon studies during school year and 6 during the summer*.
4. Successfully learning by heart all *memory work*.
5. Successfully completing all *quizzes*.
6. Regular *Sunday School* attendance.
7. By the end of the program complete learning by heart of the Small Catechism.
8. *Family serving* in the church *i.e.*
assisting with Sunday School, Fall Clean Up, Altar Guild for girls, ushering for boys, etc.

What Is Expected of Parents

1. At least one parent is required to attend class with Pastor each Wednesday. Parents must be in attendance even if their child is not there that night (due to illness, etc.). In this way parents will be prepared either to reinforce what was taught or to actually do the primary teaching of the lesson (if their child was absent). Parents are responsible for ensuring that their child does not fall behind.
2. Parents are expected to work with their child during the week, using the helps provided at each *parent session*. They are to see to it that all work is done to the best of their child's ability and that their child meets all of the requirements.
3. Parents are expected to have their child make-up each quiz and memory work assignment that is not passed.

Class Structure and Schedule

Class will meet each Wednesday at 5:15 PM. All three years meet together. One parent will also be required to be in attendance for class as explained previously. Each Wednesday's class schedule will look like this:

5:15 - 6:15 PM: Session with Catechumens and parents
5:15 - 5:20 PM: Recitation.

Parents will receive their child's returned sermon studies.

Notes About Requirements

1. **Worship Attendance:** It goes without saying that catechumens are expected to be in worship every Sunday, and on holidays. Faithful worship attendance is expected of us by our heavenly Father (*Third Commandment*). Public worship is a part of our lives as His people. Formal Catechesis prepares a young person for a life of worship, both now and in the life to come. During the Rite of Confirmation each Catechumen promises to remain faithful in Word and Sacrament. That faithfulness must begin now.

2. **Classes:** All classes must be attended. On weeks where a catechumen is absent from class due to sickness, etc., the parent who was in attendance must teach the lesson to their child and arrange for their child to make up missed quizzes, etc. *[No more than four absences are allowed in order to pass the class. Three absences by parents on Wednesday evening (regardless of whether or not their child was in attendance) will require a review by the Board of Elders.]*

3. **25+6 Sermon Studies:** A sermon study is a one-page (standard lined paper) report on our pastor's sermon from the previous Sunday. Do not attempt to simply write down everything that was preached. Rather, write down the things that you thought were important -- the main points, how God's Word in the sermon applies to our lives, etc. Sermon studies do two things: (1) They teach the catechumen how to listen carefully and think through what they hear, and (2) they help our pastor by letting him know when a sermon message came through strong and clear and when it didn't. During the summers between each year the catechumen is also required to write 6 additional sermon studies. Taking the summer off is not an option. *[Approximately 60 different sermons will be preached from September through April, including Lent, Holidays, etc. 25 sermon studies must be handed in during the class year along with the 6 additional studies during the summers between each class year.]*

4. **Recitation:** Catechumens will be required to learn Bible passages, sections of the Small Catechism, and hymn stanzas by heart. They may recite it orally or may write it out. They must retry until they have learned it by heart.

5. **Quizzes:** Any time class is missed a brief quiz on missed material will be required. These questions, which will be true/false, multiple choice, or short answer, will test their understanding of the lesson they learned the previous Wednesday. *[A passing grade of 80% is necessary for each quiz. If a quiz is not passed with at least 80%, it must be retaken until an 80% grade is achieved to be confirmed.]*

6. **Sunday School Attendance:** Sometimes young people in our program feel they're *too old* for Sunday School. Nothing could be further from the truth. No one is too old. Catechesis—studying God's Word—is not something that we graduate from. Sunday School, Teen Bible Class, Adult Bible Class, and private home study and devotions should be a part of our lives for as long as we live. Parents are also encouraged to attend Bible Class with their child during the Sunday School hour. Attendance is required.

7. **Service in the Church:** Each family in the program is encouraged to serve Christ's Church. Starting in the second year of the program, girls will join the Junior Altar Guild. Along with a parent they will shadow the Altar Guild and provide assistance. That same year boys will join the Junior Ushering Crew. Along with a parent they will assist the elder in his crew. Parents and their children can also assist in Sunday School. There will also be a number of opportunities to service including Fall Clean-up, Turkey Dinner, etc.

Other Items

1. **Notification of Progress:** Pastor will keep in close contact with parents concerning their child's progress. Parents are encouraged to also share any questions or concerns they have with Pastor. Minimum requirements to pass each class, as they are spelled out throughout this booklet, were drawn up the Board of Elders. Any requests for special consideration or any appeals regarding these requirements can be brought to a Board of Elders meeting by a parent. Please contact an Elder about the procedure for making such a request.
2. **Weather Related Cancellations:** If Fox River Middle School cancels class or has an early dismissal due to inclement weather, classes will likely also be canceled that evening.
3. **Materials:** All materials are available through Concordia Catechetical Academy of Peace Lutheran Church—Sussex, Wisconsin, and will be provided by St. Peter's.

Conclusion

This Catechesis program may be different from what most parents remember about their own experiences, in that direct parental involvement is expected. It has been necessary to rethink catechesis instruction. The diversity of children (abilities, attitudes, and needs) has changed over the years. The attitude of many parents has also changed. We have gotten away from our biblical roots, where the family home was the real classroom for a child's religious education. Some parents have given away the responsibility and the joy of teaching their children. In doing so, parents have lost the closeness that comes from spending time (especially spiritual time) with their children. Children don't know the joy of learning from their parents, and parents don't know the joy of learning for themselves as they prepare to teach their children.

We believe that involving parents more fully points to a much better way. We hope and pray that you feel the same way too.

This program seeks to better equip the children of our Church family to be disciples for life and have a deeper foundation in the Scriptures and Lutheran doctrine.

“In the second place, after they have learned the text well, teach them the meaning also, so that they know what it means.... Take your time in doing this. For it is not necessary for you to explain all the parts at once, but one after the other. After they understand the First Commandment well, then explain the Second, and so on. Otherwise they will be overwhelmed, so that they will not be able to remember anything well” (SC Preface 14-16).

Phone Numbers

Pastor

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NOTES:

The Six Chief Parts of Christian Doctrine



“As the head of the family should teach it
in a simple way to his household.”

— Dr. Martin Luther

(From his introduction to his Small Catechism)

The format for this program of Catechesis II: Logic Level instruction was developed
in 2021 by Rev. Joshua P. H. Conradt in conjunction with the congregation’s Board of Elders.

“Soli Deo Gloria!”

(To God alone be the glory!)