

# YOUTH CATECHESIS ORIENTATION

## CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

### I. Infancy – Grade 6

- + Weekly Church Attendance
- + Daily Home Devotions, incorporating *Out-Loud Recitation*
- + Sunday School (including *Out-Loud Recitation* done during the Opening)
- + Topeka Lutheran School (encouraged)
- + 6<sup>th</sup> Graders are encouraged to recite to a volunteer the Six Chief Parts of the Catechism during the school year through an incentive program

### II. Grade 7 (1<sup>st</sup> Year Lutheran Catechesis)

- + Weekly Church Attendance
- + Daily Home Devotions, incorporating *Out-Loud Recitation*
- + Sunday School
  - combined 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade class
  - taught by Jeff Pierce, Dale Fritsch, and occasionally others
  - practicing *Out-Loud Recitation*
  - expected to be present unless ill or out of town
- + Topeka Lutheran School (encouraged) – Youth Catechesis is taught @ TLS
- + Wednesday Night Classes, 6:30-8:00 p.m., for non-TLS students, but TLS students are welcome
  - taught primarily by the Deaconess, and occasionally by Pastor Lange and DCE Hintz
  - covering *key Bible stories* that are pre-requisite for 2<sup>nd</sup> year catechesis
  - closing devotions in class area for students only
- + Sermon Summaries (12 total @ 2 per month)
- + Recitation of the Chief Parts of the Catechism
  - all six chief parts AND Bible passages, each in its entirety, recited at designated times (see annual schedule)
- + February Retreat @ St. John's with several other area LCMS congregations participating
- + Occasional Quizzes

### III. Grade 8 (2<sup>nd</sup> Year Lutheran Catechesis)

- + Weekly Church Attendance
- + Daily Home Devotions, incorporating *Out-Loud Recitation*
- + Sunday School
  - combined 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade class
  - taught by Jeff Pierce, Dale Fritsch, and perhaps others
  - practicing *Out-Loud Recitation*
  - expected to be present unless ill or out of town
- + Topeka Lutheran School (encouraged) – Youth Catechesis is taught @ TLS
- + Wednesday Night Classes, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

- taught by Pastor Lange and DCE Hintz
- covering the Six Chief Parts of Christian Doctrine, using the *Bible* and *Luther's Small Catechism*
- closing devotions in class area for students only
- + Sermon Summaries (12 total @ 2 per month)
- + Recitation of the Chief Parts of the Catechism PLUS several Bible passages
  - all six chief parts **AGAIN**, each in its entirety, recited at designated times (see annual schedule)
- + February Retreat @ St. John's with several other area LCMS congregations participating
- + Private Interviews with pastor, in January and again in April
- + Public Questioning

#### **IV. Lifelong Participation in the Divine Service and Bible studies**

##### **SUGGESTIONS FOR OUT-LOUD RECITATION**

- + Each day the parent speaks the Bible verse and catechism passage by phrases.
- + Children and other family members then repeat the phrases back to the parent. This may be done two or three times during a meal, family devotion, car ride, etc. We encourage families to do this in the context of a family devotion.
- + As the week progresses, recitation is said in longer and longer portions until, by the end of each week, the entire passage can be said in unison.
- + An alternative to a parent speaking the catechism portion is to use the Catechism CD recording provided you this evening.

Please consider doing this together with all children in the family, since the goal is for all of our children to know the entire catechism by heart before they enter the 8<sup>th</sup> grade catechesis class. The earlier children start doing this, the easier it will be later on. (Even pre-school age is not too early to start!)

##### **WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE**

- + 6:30 p.m. start time (Please arrive a few minutes early if possible. Always ENTER the south "GLASS Doors" and proceed to the Youth Room on the lower level.) **During Advent and Lent, class will be held immediately AFTER the Worship Service (attendance at which is a requirement) until 8:00 p.m.**
- + 8:00 p.m. classes concludes... **Parents, please PICKUP your son or daughter at the south entrance. We suggest you park on Fillmore Street, east of the building.**
- + No candy or pop **or cell phones** (please arrive having eaten, and ready to go!)
- + Absences: call the church office by 4:00 p.m. (354-7132), Dcs. Cosgrove's EXT-102 or DCE Hintz's EXT 104; additional sermon summaries may be assigned for excessive absences