

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)

II. Grade 7 (1st Year Lutheran Catechesis)

- + Weekly Church Attendance
- + Daily Home Devotions, incorporating *Out-Loud Recitation*
- + Sunday School
 - combined 7th & 8th 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) – beginning Fall 2009, Youth Catechesis will be @ 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 DCE Hintz, Pastor Lange and Pastor Stark
 - covering *key Bible stories* that are pre-requisite for 2nd year catechesis
 - closing devotions in church, **for parents and students**, at 7:50 p.m.
- + Sermon Summaries (12 total @ 2 per month)
- + Recitation of the Chief Parts of the Catechism
 - all six chief parts AND 12 Bible passages, each in its entirety, recited at designated times (see annual schedule)
- + February Retreat @ St. John's with several other area congregations
- + Occasional Quizzes

III. Grade 8 (2nd Year Lutheran Catechesis)

- + Weekly Church Attendance
- + Daily Home Devotions, incorporating *Out-Loud Recitation*
- + Sunday School
 - combined 7th & 8th 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) – beginning Fall 2009, Youth Catechesis will be @ TLS
- + Wednesday Night Classes, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
 - taught primarily by Pastor Stark; assisted by Pastor Lange and DCE Hintz
 - covering the Six Chief Parts of Christian Doctrine, using the *Bible* and *Luther's Small Catechism*

(continued)

- closing devotions in church, for parents and students, at 7:50 p.m.
- + Sermon Summaries (12 total @ 2 per month)
- + Recitation of the Chief Parts of the Catechism PLUS 12 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 congregations
- + 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 leader. 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.
- + Watch the *Out Loud Recitation* video which demonstrates a week-long progression in doing *Out Loud Recitation on the Church's website at www.stjohnlcmstopeka.org*

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 8th 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.) **During Advent and Lent, class will be held immediately AFTER the Worship Service (attendance at which is a requirement) until 8:00 p.m.**
- + 7:47 p.m. classes adjourn to the church for closing with parents... **parents are asked to sit in any of the first 6 or 7 rows on the Lectern side allowing places for students to join you in those same rows as they come in from class...** conclude at approximately 8:00 p.m.
- + 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); additional sermon summaries may be assigned for excessive absences