

Catechism Introduction

What is Catechism

Catechism is the ancient practice of the Christian Church wherein she teaches her children to echo the doctrines of Christ that created and formed her:

This Jesus is the stone which was despised and rejected by you, the builders, but which became the chief Cornerstone. Acts 4:11

having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the [chief] Cornerstone. Eph 2:20

Historically, catechism led to baptism and eventually a full incorporation into the mysteries of Christ (reception of the Lord's Body and Blood as well as the gifts of Sanctification). In the modern context, most have some knowledge of the Faith prior to catechism or have been members of another, heterodox, church body. So, our catechism is still a *mystagogical catechesis*, but it is not, typically, the foundation of the individuals' faith.

What we'll need

For this class we'll all need a copy of the Bible (NKJV preferred), an LSB (Lutheran Service Book) and a copy of either the Book of Concord or Luther's Small Catechism with explanation. These books will be provided to the catecheumens by the Church.

Structure

There is no definite structure to the catechetical meetings other than the fact that we will begin and end with prayer and discuss God's Word in the interim. In the past, the far past, catechism was typically several years. Despite this, the modern church typically only enrolls catecheumens for about 10 weeks. Here, since the neophytes have varying backgrounds, we'll have no definite end date to the catechesis and will work through all the doctrines of the Church as slowly as necessary. Likely, the process will take about three years. However, individuals who have learned the faith and can profess it, will be welcomed into membership of the Church and admitted to the Sacrament under normal circumstances.