

OUR LUTHERAN IDENTITY:

THE 6 CHIEF PARTS

by Rev. Dr. Randy Rozelle



**St. Peter Lutheran Church & School
111 W. Olive Street
Arlington Heights, IL 60004**

Packet Outline

Workshop	Page Number
#1 – The Sacrament of Holy Communion	3
#2 – The Sacrament of Holy Baptism	7
#3 – The 10 Commandments	11
#4 – The Apostles' Creed	16
#5 – The Lord's Prayer	24
#6 – The Office of the Keys: Confession & Forgiveness	28

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

I. About the Sacraments

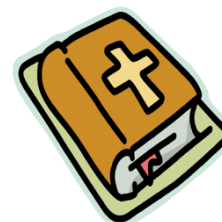
- God freely gives us “the goods” from Jesus’ cross in, with, and through the “_____ of _____”: God’s _____ & The _____.
- The root word of SACRAMENT is
 - _____ - to consecrate, make _____, or set something _____ from the common, ordinary, and/or secular world.
- What Makes a Sacrament?
 - 1) A physical, tangible _____ element
 - 2) God specifically connects _____ to it.
 - 3) It gives _____ of _____ won by Jesus on the cross.
 - 4) Jesus _____ it; He told His Church to do it.
- How Many Sacraments Are in the Bible Then?

II. Kneeling at Jesus’ Table: The Sacrament of Holy Communion

- Matthew 26:26-28
- Mark 14:22-24
- Luke 22:19-20
- 1 Corinthians 11:23-25



- Jesus says: The bread _____ His Body
The wine _____ His Blood
He promises _____ of _____ through receiving it.
- “Is” means _____. (Faith accepts/believes this mysterious union.)
- What Gives Holy Communion This Kind of Power?



- Which Direction is the Lord's Supper?
 - An Ordinance We Obey: From _____ to _____?
 - God Giving Us Grace: From _____ to _____?

- Differences Between Denominations

The Lord's Supper	Before the Words of Institution		After the Words of Institution		Concept/Teaching
	Bread	Wine	Bread	Wine	
Roman Catholic	Bread	Wine	Body	Blood	Transubstantiation
Reformed	Bread	Grape J.	Body	Blood	
Lutheran	Bread	Wine	Body	Blood	Real Presence

Transubstantiation believes that the bread and wine lose their substance and change into body and blood only; RC also teaches that the Mass is a re-sacrifice for the sins of the living and the dead, and they pray for God to accept it.

Symbolism: "The finite cannot bear the Infinite." Therefore, the Lord's Supper is merely symbolic or representative of Jesus' body and blood. The Lord's Supper is a "Memorial Meal" to remember Christ's benefits for us on the cross. Faith ascends and participates with Christ's body and blood in heaven in a spiritual sense, but Jesus' physical body and blood are not received orally with the bread and wine.

Real Presence: In Christ's Supper His very body and blood are truly present, truly distributed, and truly received in and with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. How can this be? Jesus is God; neither He nor His Word can lie.

- What Great Treasure Do I Receive at The Lord's Table?
- How Often Should I Receive Communion?
 - Acts 2:42
 - Acts 20:7
 - Luther's Thoughts



- Common Names for The Lord's Supper
 - Holy **Communion**: " _____ into _____ "
 - with _____
 - with _____
 - with _____
 - Eucharist: "to _____"
 - Sacrament of the Altar: Christ's _____ on the cross (Jn. 1:29)
- The Lord's Supper is filled with _____!!! (Matt. 26:29; Mk. 14:25)

III. Worthy & Unworthy Reception of The Lord's Supper



- 1 Corinthians 11:27-31: Key words
 - "eat & drinking in an unworthy manner"
 - "guilty of sinning against the body & blood of the Lord"
 - "many among you are ..."
 - "examine him/herself before eating & drinking"
 - "eat & drink without recognizing the body of the Lord, eats & drinks judgment on him/herself"
- Proper Self-Examination Before Communing:
 - 1) Am I aware of my sin & _____ them? (Ps 38:18)
 - 2) Do I _____ Jesus as my Savior and His words regarding this Sacrament? (Lk 22:19-20)
 - 3) Do I intend with _____ power to resist the devil, say no to sin and it's desires in my life, and to walk obediently with Jesus in newness of life? (Eph 4:22-24; Rom 6:11-14)
- Remember: such examination is not a way of making myself _____ to receive communion, or a "performance" I do to " _____ " for it. Rather, I receive it worthily when I _____ Jesus and in His words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins."

- What if I feel weak or I'm struggling in my faith, should I still come to His Table?

- Out of Obedience to God's Word and Christian Love, Whom Should We Not Commune?
 - 1) Non-_____ ; non-_____.
 - 2) Christians who cannot _____ themselves: young children; any who haven't received proper instruction; as well as certain medical conditions.
 - 3) Those who are _____ (Matt 6:15)
 - 4) Openly ungodly and are living _____ to God's Word [unrepentant]. (1 Cor 5:11, 13)
 - 5) Those who don't share our _____ of _____.

- Would you take the Lord's Supper at a congregation that holds a _____ about communion?

IV. Communion Specifics



- Common Vessels: _____

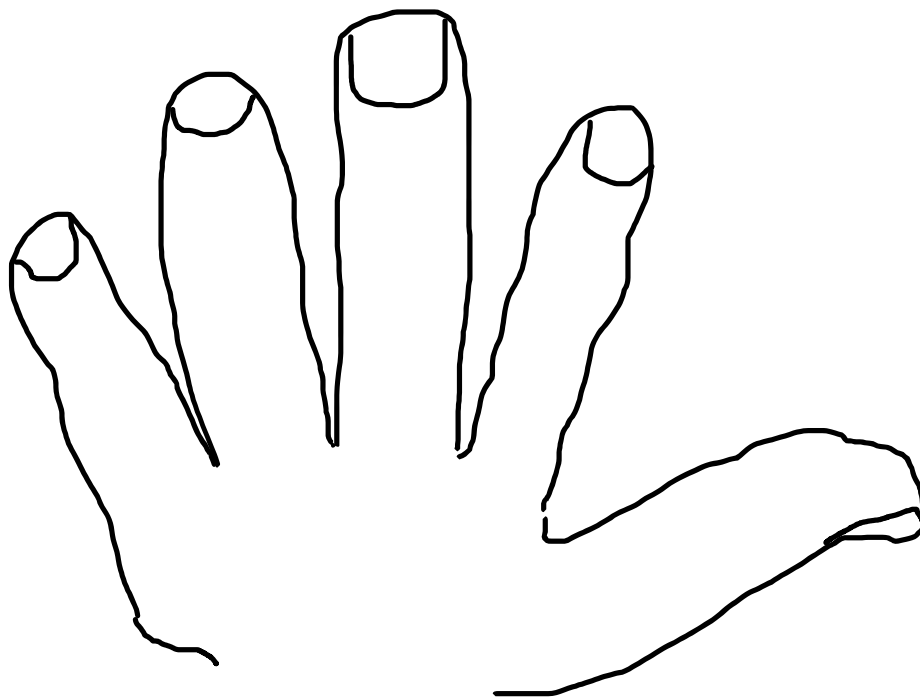
- Communion Demeanor:
 - Approaching His Table: _____
 - Receiving the Bread/Body: _____
 - Receiving the Wine/Blood: _____
 - Leaving His Table: _____

- Next Steps:

- Additional Resources:

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

How would you describe yourself? (write one thing on each finger)



One of the loudest messages being broadcast among teens today: _____

- What's the girl in the video wrestling with?
- What are **you** hearing/being told to find your _____ in?

Do any of you ever wrestle with these Big Life Questions:

- *Who am I?*
- *What makes me special or unique?*
- *Why am I here?*
- *What's my purpose in life?*
- All of us face an _____ at times!



***God to the rescue: **baptism** is all about _____!

WHAT is Christian baptism and WHY do we do it?

The Great Commission, Matthew 28:18-20 – Jesus said after Easter:

- *All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me – I’m _____!*
- *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations – Why the _____ exists...our mission/marching orders as followers of Jesus!*
- **Baptizing** *them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you – _____ disciples of Jesus Christ are made!*
- *And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age - _____ is Jesus as we go forth and baptize and teach the nations? For how long?*

(1) From Jesus’ words, why do we baptize without distinction (*all nations*)?

- _____ said _____!



(2) From Jesus’ words, what reality happened in our baptism?

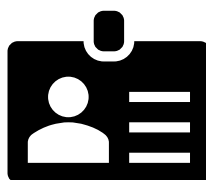
- I’m given a new _____ and a new _____!
...baptize them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

“To be baptized in God’s name is to be baptized not by human hands but by God Himself. God’s name is in it, and where God’s name is, there is life and salvation.”

-Martin Luther (LC:10, 27)

Baptism is all about _____, meaning God is saying these words about you:

Thus says the LORD who created you and formed you: “Fear not for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, for I am the LORD your God, the Holy One, your Savior. You are precious in my eyes and honored, and I love you. Fear not for I am with you....” Isaiah 43:1-5a



God's Other Promises to You in Baptism!!!



Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children.'" Acts 2:36-39

God promises you _____ & the _____.

"God saved us, not because of righteous things we'd done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that ... we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life." Titus 3:5-7

God promises you _____.

*"The power, effect, benefit, fruit, and purpose of baptism is that it saves."
-Martin Luther (LC:24)*

"You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." Galatians 3:26-27

God promises you new _____ and new _____.



"Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." Romans 6:3-5

God _____ you to Jesus' cross & resurrection.

"Through baptism a person is bathed in the blood of Christ and is cleansed from sins." -Martin Luther

Compare this movie clip to Christian baptism:

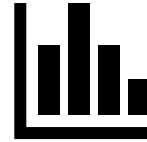
Baptism changes _____!!! How does it change:

Remember Page 1: What are **you** hearing/being told to find your identity in?

- Why are these identities so dangerous?

_____ of teens struggle with comparison and feelings of insecurity/inadequacy:

- one pic on Snap Chat or Instagram
- one pair of jeans that fit too tight
- the success of another classmate
- another sibling gets praise/applause
- the failure to get playing time
- one snide comment
- the absence of any “likes” or “retweets” or “followers”
- left out of a sleepover or party
- not having a girlfriend/boyfriend or getting dumped
- one serious injury
- one bad grade
- the loss of a job, career



and that identity _____ under us!!!

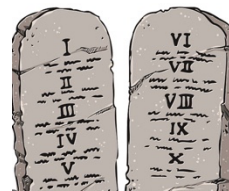
Through baptism, my identity in Christ gives me:

- (1) _____ - my identity in Christ never changes or diminishes.
- (2) _____ - God made me with His hands exactly how He wanted me to be.
- (3) _____ - I don't have to prove myself or elevate myself to anyone; I rest in Jesus' perfect life and work for me.
- (4) _____ - He is in control and I can trust His plan for my life. I might not know the path, but I know the Guide and the Guide knows me.
- (5) _____ - His future for me is eternal life in His home above.

Martin Luther would often retort: ***“but I have been _____!”***

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

The Big Picture: Exodus 20:3 -17 & Deuteronomy 5:6-21



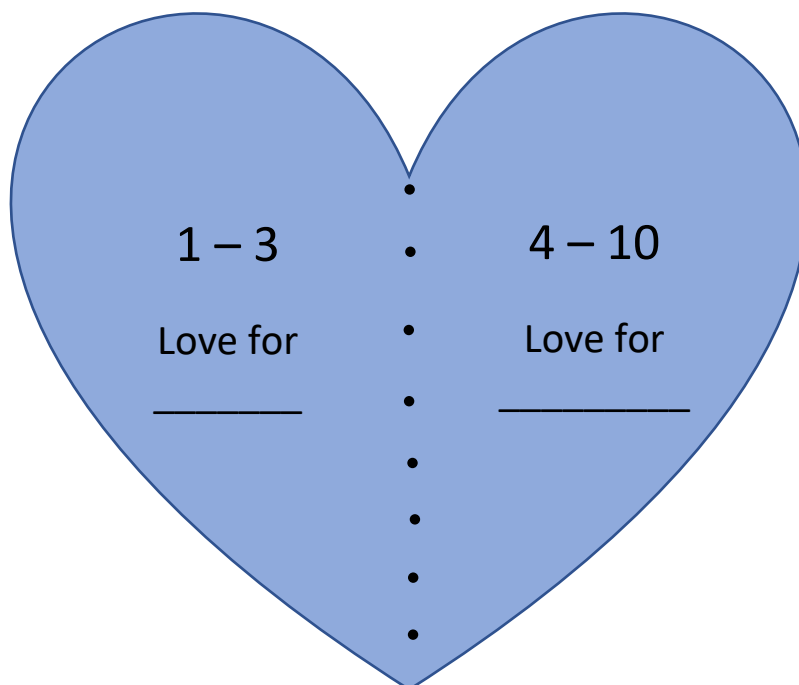
The 10 Commandments are centered in God's _____ and love for us.

The 10 Commandments are NOT what we must do to become God's children. NO! The 10 Commandments are what we do _____ we are His dear children.

- Do you have chores in your family? What are they? Why do you do them?

In baptism God gives me a new identity in Jesus, now what? OR: "I'm a Christian, now what?"
The 10 Commandments are God's _____ for my life; they show me what it looks like to live as His sons and daughters – how to honor Him with my life.

Two Parts, One Whole



Zooming in: Part One – Loving God

Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment." Matthew 22:38

What does it look like for me to love God with my whole heart?

1st Commandment: *You shall have no other gods besides Me.*

- Martin Luther defines a "god" as anything we look to for all good, happiness, refuge in time of need, and anything upon which our heart relies and depends.
- Based on Luther's definition, what are some gods in our lives?
- Being honest, what competes to "be on first" in your heart right now?

2nd Commandment: *You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.*

- Hollow God's name: *curse, swear, lie, use witchcraft, sorcery, ouija board, horoscopes, psychics, wicca, divination, etc.* (Deuteronomy 18:10-12)
- Hallow God's name: *praise, pray, bless, thank, call upon in trouble, etc.* (Psalm 103:1)
- When are you tempted to *hollow* God's name?

Why is the proper use of God's name so important?

"...the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain." Exodus 20:7b

3rd Commandment: *Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy/set apart.*



"There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath or rest, a day of sacred assembly ... wherever you live, it is a Sabbath to the LORD." Leviticus 23:3

- What's unique about the Sabbath day compared to the other six days?
- Have you ever had a bad attitude about going to church? What is this in God's eyes?
- How does the Sabbath bless the rest of your week? (cf. Matthew 11:28-30)

Zooming in: Part Two – Loving Others

[After Jesus said the first & greatest commandment is loving God with all we've got, He continued] *"...and the Second Commandment is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Scriptures hang on these two commandments."* (Matthew 22:38-39)

What does it look like for me to love other people as myself?

4th Commandment: ***Honor your father and your mother.***



- Does this commandment come with an age limit or expiration date?
- What are some ways we break this commandment?

"Honor your father and mother – which is the first commandment with a promise – that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy a long life." (Ephesians 6:2-3)

- What do you think is the only exception when we must NOT OBEY parents or other authorities? (cf. Daniel 3:1-18; Acts 5:29)
- What are 3 ways you can honor, serve, obey, and cherish your parents this week?

5th Commandment: ***You shall not murder.***

- Is this commandment more about what God is _____, or what God is _____?

"God gives all men life and breath and everything else." (Acts 17:25)

"You formed my inward parts; You knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." (Psalm 139:13-14)

- Kinds of murder that fall under this commandment:
 - Homicide
 - Euthanasia
 - Suicide
 - Abortion
 - Embryonic Stem Cell Research
- How can you honor this commandment in school this week? (help/compliment)

6th Commandment: ***You shall not commit adultery.***

- What would Satan want you to think about sexuality and sex?
- This commandment (ALL 10) is about YOUR Creator wanting what's _____ you – for your heart, mind, body, marriage, family, eyes, and especially your soul.
- Your sexuality can be _____, or it can be _____.

7th Commandment: ***You shall not steal.***



- (-) God is against every kind of robbery, theft, and dishonest gain.
- (+) God is for respecting people's property/income and helping them in any need.

"He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need." (Ephesians 4:28)

8th Commandment: ***You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.***

- True or false: "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never harm me."
- Do you remember a time when you were slandered? How did you feel?
- In the 7th commandment God wants us to protect people's property, in the 8th commandment He wants us to protect their _____ & _____.
- What sincere compliment could you give this week to a sibling, friend, and peer?

9th & 10th Commandments: ***You shall not covet your neighbor's house, your neighbor's wife, his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.***

- What toy did you want as a child but never got? What do you tend to covet now?
- Not feeling _____? Consider the following statistics:
 - 1 billion people can't access clean water; an American uses 400-600 liters/day.
 - Most people in the world don't own a car; many American families have three.
 - 1 in 7 children worldwide have to go to work each day just to survive.
 - +1 billion people do not have electricity, can't read/write, live on less \$1/day.
 - Every 7 sec., a child under age 5 dies of hunger somewhere in this world.
- After reading these stats, I feel _____.
- What does Jesus' promise you in Luke 12:22-24?

In Sum: The 10 Commandments

Because of all that God in His great love has done for me, in my deep love for Him, I want to honor His will for my life – The 10 Commandments. Think _____ to, not _____ to!

In my love for God,

- 1) He’s #1 in my life: decisions, thoughts, plans, choices, etc.
- 2) I honor His name
- 3) I honor Him through weekly worship

In my love for others,

- 4) I honor my parents and authorities
- 5) I honor every human life from conception to the grave
- 6) I honor God with my sexuality
- 7) I honor people’s goods and belongings
- 8) I honor people’s names and reputations
- 9/10) I honor people’s spouse, family, property, and possessions, and I live content with all that God has blessed me

Christian Life in the War Zone

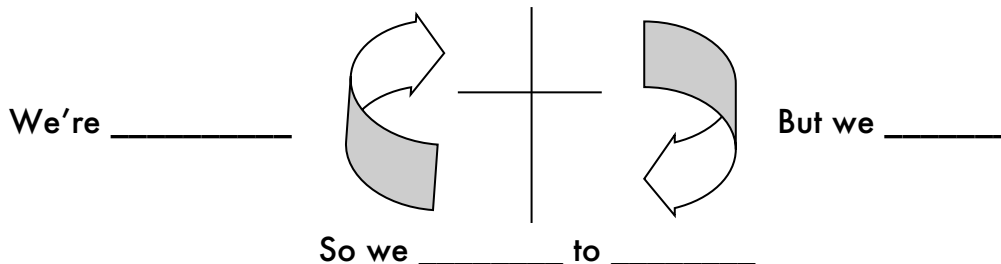


- Read Galatians 5:16-25. Why is it still so hard to obey God’s will: 10 Commandments?

The _____ in us VS. the _____ in us.

- Therefore, we must live every single day around _____ (vs. 25)!

We _____ with the Holy Spirit to obey God’s 10 Commandments (His will)



“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 8:1)


THE APOSTLES' CREED

The Importance of Creeds for Christians and Churches



- Suppose a friend or peer asked you, “What do you believe as a Christian?” What might you say? What DO you believe?
- We live in a “whatever” postmodern culture. Culture says, “Whatever you believe is ok.” “It doesn’t matter what you believe as long as you’re sincere about it.” “Hey, if it works for you, who cares what you believe.” Where have you seen/heard this attitude?
- When it is/isn’t appropriate to believe “whatever”:
 - YES in _____ matters.
 - NO in _____ matters. What is on-the-line here?

A recent pew study revealed that 58% of Americans believe “many religions can lead to eternal life in heaven.”
-Baptist News Global (11/24/21)

- John 8:24 - can belief in “whatever” save us?
 - John 20:31 – what belief alone can save us?
- 
- Creeds define from Scripture *what* _____ as Christians.
 - As Lutheran Christians, we assent to 3 creeds passed down to us from A.D. 300-400s: the *Apostles’ Creed*, the *Nicene Creed*, and the *Athanasian Creed*.
 - Again, these creeds summarize the core beliefs of Christianity from the Bible; they define the *field-of-play* for us as well as what is *out-of-bounds*.
 - The 3 creeds especially tell us about who God is and what He’s done for us...is presently doing for us...and will do for us when Jesus comes back!

Who Is THE Only True God That Exists?

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness." -Genesis 1:26; 3:22; 11:7

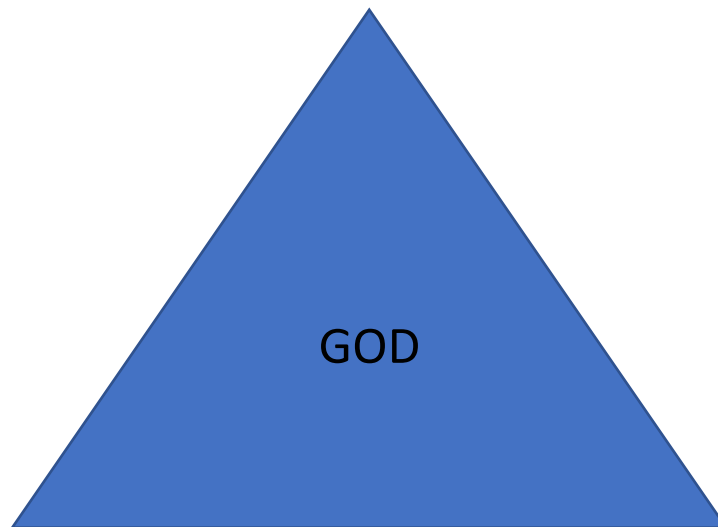
"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one." -Deuteronomy 6:4

Jesus said, "Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

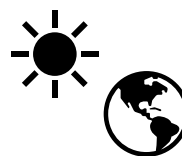
-Matthew 28:19-20

The only true God is the Triune God. *Triune* means 3-in-1.

- God is 1 divine essence/deity/Godhead with 3 distinct persons: Father, Son, Holy Spirit.
 - Not 3 Gods, but 1 God.
 - Not 1 God who plays 3 different roles: sometimes Father, sometimes Son, and sometimes Holy Spirit, but 3 separate persons within the one Godhead.



The Apostles' Creed: Part 1



I believe in God: the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

- Part 1 asserts from the Bible that God the Father is the Creator _____!

1) He created the entire _____.

- A. *“Almost everyone now believes that the universe, and time itself, had a beginning at the Big Bang.”* -Stephen Hawking
- B. Law of Causality
 - If everything that exists has a cause, and the universe had a beginning, what caused the universe to begin to exist?
 - Can nothing birth something?
 - Could a universe that didn't even exist cause itself to suddenly exist?

“By the Word of the LORD were the heavens made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host.... He spoke, and it came to be, He commanded, and it stood firm.” -Psalm 33:6, 9

- C. Complex Design
 - The more complex a design, the more intelligent its _____.
 - Can my GPS watch be explained by _____?
 - Could a tornado rip through a landfill and produce a _____?
 - *There are 15 to +30 constants in the universe – gravitational constant, speed of light, electromagnetic force, cosmological constant, strong nuclear force, mass difference in protons and neutrons, etc. – that are exactly where they need to be for matter to coalesce and for galaxies, stars, planets, and people to exist. If even one of those constants was off even by one part in a million, or in some cases, by one part in a million million, the universe could not have actually come to the point where we see it today.*
 - Dr. Francis S. Collins, world-renowned geneticist, physician, and former Director of the National Human Genome Research Institute
 - How do we explain such complexity and fine-tuning from an accidental boom of particles/gases? Do explosions create order or disorder?

“The heavens declare the glory of God; the expanse proclaims His handiwork.” - Psalm 19:1

2) He created all _____.

- Holy angels:



- exceedingly numerous (Daniel 7:10)
- mighty, obey God, and do His will (Psalm 103:20-21)
- worship God endlessly (Revelation 7:11-12)
- serve God’s children (Hebrews 1:14)

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unaware.” -Hebrews 13:2

- Evil angels/demons:
 - numerous (Mark 5:9)
 - powerful (Mark 5:2-5)
 - confined to earth and sea (Revelation 12:12)
 - at war against God’s children (Ephesians 6:10-12; Revelation 12:17)
 - Satan is their leader – murderer, O truth, father of lies & prowls around like a roaring lion seeking Christians to devour (John 8:44; 1 Peter 5:8-9)



“The Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.” -2 Thess 3:3

3) He created _____.



- Your brain has 100 trillion connections among neurons. If written out in English, it’d fill 20 million volumes, as many as in the world’s largest libraries. The equivalent of 20 million books is between your ears.
- Your retina conducts close to 10 billion calculations per second, and that’s before an image even travels through the optic nerve to the visual cortex.

“For You formed my inward parts; You knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise You for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” -Psalm 139:13-14

“God Himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.” -Acts 17:25

The Apostles’ Creed: Part 2

*And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was
conceived by the Holy Spirit
born of the virgin Mary
suffered under Pontius Pilate
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.*

He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

- The majority of the Creed centers on _____.



1) His identity:

- a. Jesus is fully _____: coeternal and coequal with the Father and the Holy Spirit; the 2nd person of the Trinity; God the Son

God spoke at Jesus' transfiguration: "This is My Son, whom I love ... listen to Him."

-Matthew 17:5

- b. Jesus is fully _____: conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary



2) His mighty acts that accomplished our _____!

*suffered under Pontius Pilate
was crucified, died and was buried
descended into hell (1 Peter 3:18-19)
rose from the dead on the 3rd day (Easter morning)
ascended into heaven and sits at God's right hand
any day He's coming back to judge evil and take us home!*

"God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life." -John 3:16

"The Lord Himself will descend from heaven ... with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore, encourage one another with these words." -1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

More Evidence for Jesus



If Jesus of Nazareth, the most controversial person of all time, really walked this planet and caused such a stir, shouldn't we find historical evidence for Jesus outside of the Bible?

- Josephus, AD 90-95: *"At this time there was a wise man called Jesus, and his conduct was good, and he was known to be virtuous. Many people among the Jews and other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die. But those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he*

had appeared to them 3 days after his crucifixion, and that he was alive. Accordingly, he was perhaps the Messiah, concerning whom the prophets have reported wonders.”

- Thallus, AD 52: Thallus, in the 3rd book of his histories, explains strange darkness [Noon – 3pm] as an eclipse of the sun – unreasonable as it seems to me because a solar eclipse could not have taken place at the time of the full moon during Passover.
- Phlegon, AD 80: “In the time of Tiberius Caesar, at full moon, there was a full eclipse of the sun from the 6th hour to the 9th – manifestly that one of which we speak.”

Source/A.D.

Thallus (52)

Phlegon (80)

Josephus (90-95)

Talmud (70-200)

Tacitus (111)

Pliny (112)

Trajan (112)

Hadrian (117-138)

Suetonius (117-138)

*Adapted from Geisler & Brooks, *When Skeptics Ask*, Baker Books, pg. 109.

Collective Report about Jesus

He existed

He was virtuous

He was worshiped

He had disciples

He was a teacher

He was crucified

He had an empty tomb

Disciples’ declared resurrection

Word of Jesus spread fast



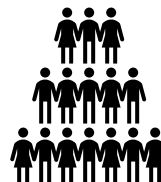
- Does Jesus of Nazareth even fit the Messianic descriptions in the Old Testament?

Prophecy	Fulfillment in Jesus
Seed of Abraham – Gen 18:18	Seed of Abraham - Gal 3:16
Tribe of Judah – Gen 49:10	Tribe of Judah – Mt 1:2-3
Heir to David’s Throne – 2 Sam 7:12-13	Heir to David’s Throne - Lk 1:32
Born in Bethlehem – Micah 5:2	Born in Bethlehem – Mt 2:1
Born of a Virgin – Isa 7:14	Born of a Virgin – Mt 1:18
Flight to Egypt – Hos 11:1	Flight to Egypt – Mt 2:14
Ministry in Galilee – Isa 9:1-2	Ministry in Galilee – Mt 4:12-16
The Prophet to Come – Dt 18:15	The Prophet – Jn 6:14
Rejected by Jews – Isa 53:3	Rejected by His own – Jn 1:11
Triumphal Entry – Zech 9:9	Triumphal Entry – Jn 12:13-14
Betrayed by a Close Friend – Ps 41:9	Betrayed by Judas – Mk 14:10
Sold for 30 Silver Coins – Zech 11:12	Sold for 30 Silver Coins – Mt 26:15
Pierced Hands and Feet – Ps 22:16	Pierced Hands and Feet – Jn 20:27
Soldiers Cast Lots for Clothes – Ps 22:18	Soldiers Cast Lots for Clothes – Jn 19:34
Not a Bone Broken – Ps 34:20	Not a Bone Broken – Jn 19:33
Buried in a Rich Tomb – Isa 53:9	Buried in a Rich Tomb – Mt 27:57-60
His Resurrection – Ps 16:9-10	His Resurrection – Acts 2:29-32
His Ascension – Ps 68:18	His Ascension – Lk 24:50-51

- The probability of even 9 prophecies coming true in one person/Christ is 1:10 to the _____th power. -Marvin Bittinger, Ph.D., Mathematical Sciences

The Apostles' Creed: Part 3

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen*



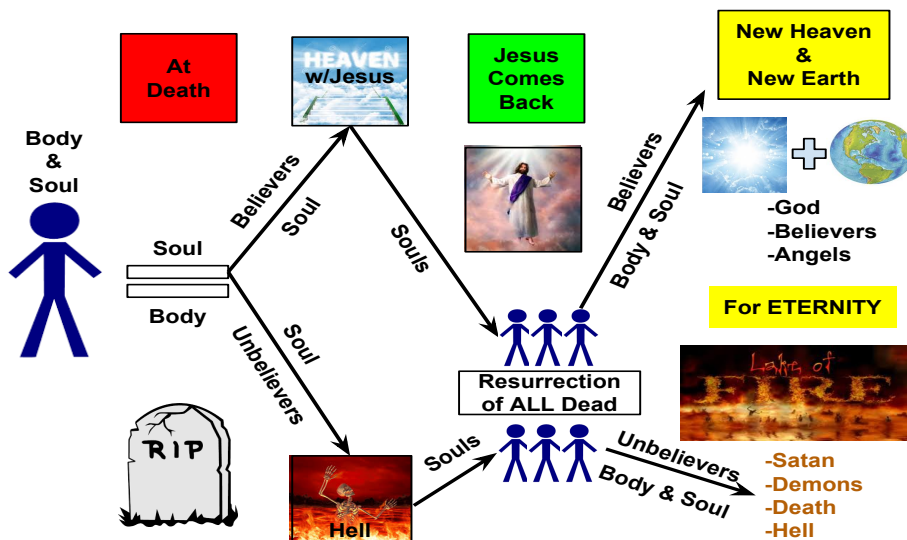
- Now that Jesus has come, died, risen, and ascended, Part 3 of the Creed focuses on the Holy Spirit growing the Christian church all over the earth via the spread of the Gospel: the Good News of Jesus!
- The season of the Christian church began on Pentecost when God poured out His Holy Spirit (50 days after Easter), and it will continue to the day when Jesus comes back.

Jesus said before He ascended into heaven: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." -Acts 1:8

- From A.D. 30 onward, world history is only about the message of Jesus _____!

Jesus said, "This gospel will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." -Matthew 24:14

- What HOPE does the Creed leave us with? Where is world history heading?



Final Reflection



- 1) What Bible teaching from the Apostles' Creed really spoke to you today? Why?
- 2) What particularly challenged you?
- 3) What part in the Creed gives you great joy? Hope?

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus Teaches Us to Pray: Part 1



Matthew 6:5-8 Jesus said: *“(5) And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites who stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners to be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. (6) But when you pray, go into your room, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (7) And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as pagans do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. (8) Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”*

- What do Jesus’ first words assume about us as we follow Him?
- In vv.5 &7, Jesus warns us that prayer is NOT a public _____ to impress _____, nor a string of _____ to impress _____.
- Rather, prayer is a _____, _____ relationship with our heavenly Father who sees and hears us even in _____ (v6).
 - Prayer is speaking to God in _____ and _____.
- In vs.8, what does Jesus promise us about the Father?
 - Why should we still pray then?



Reflect:

- When did God give you a “YES” in prayer? a “NO” (cf. 2 Cor 12:8-9; Matt 26:39)?
- Why do you think the Father sometimes says “NO” to our prayers?

- When God's answer is "NO", we know it's NOT because:

- He's too _____.
- He doesn't _____.
- He doesn't _____.
- He's got "_____ and _____" concerns/things/matters.



- God's "NO" **could** be because...

- _____ prayer - never really _____ (James 4:2)
- _____ ends (James 4:3) - _____/wavering (James 1:6-8)
- _____ is off (Ps 27:14) - _____ (Prov 28:9)
- _____ behavior (Ps 66:18; Isa 59:2) - God's _____ will (Isa 55:8-9)

****God's "No-s" and God's "delays" are NEVER God's _____!**

1 Timothy 2:5-6a "There is one God, and there is **one mediator** between God and men, the man **Christ Jesus**, who gave Himself as a ransom for all..."

- Paul teaches that we ONLY pray to God through Jesus, NEVER to:

i _____ s _____ a _____ c _____ to/for _____

Jesus Teaches Us to Pray: Part 2



Matthew 6:9-13 [Jesus continued] (9) *Pray then like this:*

*"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name
(10) Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
(11) Give us this day our daily bread,
(12) and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
(13) And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil/the evil one."*

- What do Jesus' first two words in the Lord's Prayer once again emphasize?
- In vv.9-10, the first 3 petitions in the Lord's Prayer focus on _____. Why?

- 1st Petition: that by our actions, thoughts, and words, God’s name would be kept **h__llowed** (sacred, precious, handled w/utmost care), NOT **h__llowed** (empty, cheap, meaningless) among us.
- 2nd Petition: for God’s kingdom to come – (A) the spreading of the _____ and more people coming to Christ; (B) driving back the reign of _____; and (C) for God’s end-time _____ of all things.
- 3rd Petition: for God’s _____ will to happen on earth as it does in heaven!
- In vv.11-13, the final petitions focus on us and _____.
- 4th Petition: give us this day our daily bread

In the *Small Catechism*, Martin Luther explains: *“Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.”*

- Why do you think Jesus said “give us this day” and not “tomorrow,” “next week”, or “in the new year”? (Cf. Matthew 6:31-34)
- Why is Proverbs 30:8-9 so hard to pray in this world?
- 5th Petition: forgive our sins as we’ve already forgiven others their sins
 - According to Jesus, is forgiveness more about receiving it or extending it?
 - Read Matthew 6:14-15. What warning about forgiveness does Jesus highlight immediately following the Lord’s Prayer?
 - Forgiveness is always a matter of holy _____!
- 6th Petition: lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one
 - Where has Satan been tempting you lately?

- How is this prayer a potent weapon against his cunning?

Look again at the Lord's Prayer in its entirety (pg2). When Jesus teaches us how to pray, everything we need _____ is right here!!!

Reflect:

- From 1 to 10, where would you put your prayer life right now?

1 (never) 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (constantly)

- When do you tend to pray? Where do you go?
- Who/What do you find yourself praying for most often?
- When you pray, what's your biggest challenge?
- What's on your heart to give God right now?

God's Open Invitation (24/7/365):

(5) The Lord is at hand. (6) Stop being anxious about things, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving give your requests to God. (7) And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS



Reflect

- Do you recall a time when you got “caught with your hand in the cookie jar/a sin” as a child, student, or other? What happened?
- How did you feel inside? Why?
- When you sin, are you more tempted to: hide? Cover it up? Lie about it? Blame someone else? Make excuses? Downplay it? Justify yourself? Explain.

What God Teaches about Our Sin

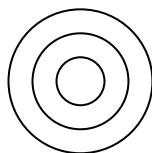
- Every person is _____, therefore I _____.

“I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.” (Psalm 51:5)

“There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins.” (Eccles 7:20)

“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

- My Two Kinds of Sin:
 - 1) _____ Sin: total corruption of my entire human nature which I inherited from Adam through my parents (Psalm 51:1; Romans 5:12)
 - Did anyone have to teach you how to sin?
 - 2) _____ Sin: every thought, word, deed, and desire that I commit against God’s 10 Commandments (Matthew 15:19)
 - Sins of Commission: doing the things we shouldn’t do (James 1:15)
 - Sins of Omission: not doing the things we should do (James 4:17)
- Sin is _____ against God’s will & ways; it lit. means “missing the _____.”



Close your eyes and put a dot on the bullseye. How many times would it take missing the mark before you could be rightly called a “**mark-misser**”?

“Whoever keeps the whole law and stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.”
-James 2:10



WARNING: Sometimes we’re tempted to think: “But I’m better than a lot of people!” Or, “Look at that person over there.”

**** Be careful that you don’t measure yourself against the wrong _____! ****

God measures us against His standard and not in comparison to others!

Luke 18:9-14

The Pharisees compares himself to _____.

The Tax Collector compares himself to _____.

Confession Has Three Parts:

- 1) **C** _____: I genuinely acknowledge my sins before God, am bothered by my disobedience to His words and ways, and my heart is sorrowful.

“I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight. A broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.”

-Psalm 51:3-4, 17b

- 2) **C** _____: I ask God in Jesus to forgive all my sins – known and unknown – to cover them with Jesus’ blood. “God, I’m sorry that...” “God, forgive me for...”

“Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your love; according to Your mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.” -Ps 51:1-2

3) Receiving/believing _____ forgiveness!

“If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness.” -1 John 1:9

Reflect:

- Do you think there’s a sin too big for God to forgive?



Christ Forgives Me, Now What?

- What _____ should follow true repentance in our lives?

“Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.” -John the Baptist, Matthew 3:8

“Repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with repentance.” -Acts 26:20

**A renewed commitment to walk _____ with God by the power of the Holy Spirit in me.



Corporate Confession & Forgiveness: The Office of the Keys

“Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.’” -John 20:22-23

- The Office of the Keys is the special authority Christ gave His church to forgive the sins of _____ sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from _____ sinners, as long as they do not repent. (cf. Matthew 18:17-18)
- A key both _____ and _____.

- Churches call pastors to carry out this duty on behalf of the congregation _____
– in the stead of and by the command of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- What if it becomes open knowledge that a Christian in a congregation is living in unrepentant sin?

“Jesus said, ‘Go and show him his fault first, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, taken one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.’” -Matthew 18:15-17

- If the person still persists in unrepentance, he/she must be _____
from the congregation.

“It is reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father’s wife. Let him who has done this be removed from among you.... Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven....” -Paul, 1 Corinthians 5:1ff.

- The purpose of excommunication is NOT to _____ the person/s, but to: (1) lead him/her to _____ and faith; and (2) to prevent them from leading _____ into sin also.
- If he/she awakens to their sin and repents, we joyfully receive them back into _____ fellowship! -Luke 15:1-32

*“You ought to forgive and comfort him (the now repentant sinner) so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him.”
-2 Cor 2:7-8*

Martin Luther’s 1st of 95 Theses

1. Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, when He said "Repent", willed that the whole life of believers should be repentance.

Reflect:

- How often do you confess your sins to God? When do you tend to do it?
- What does God promise you every time you repent?

*“I am He who blots out your transgressions, and I will not remember your sins.”
-GOD, Isaiah 43:25*