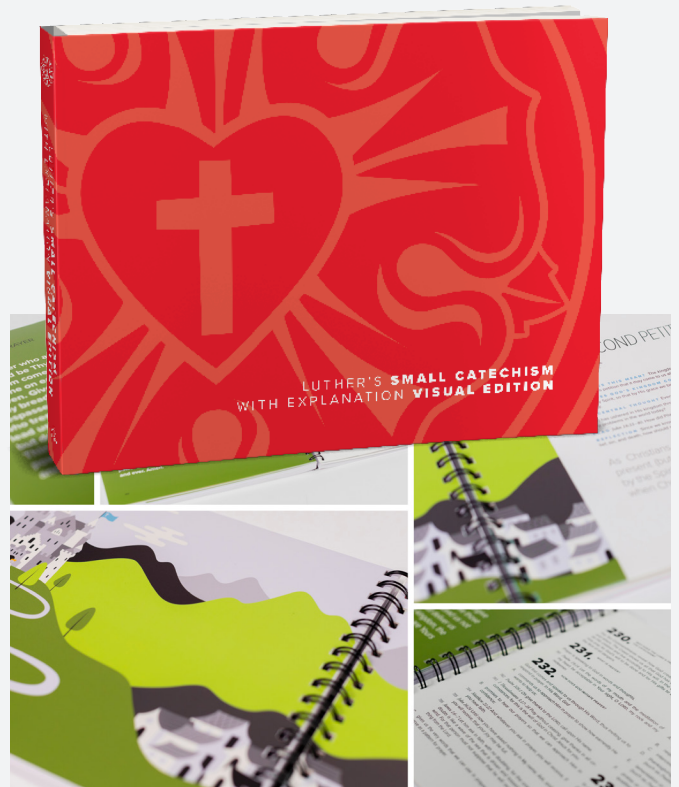


DEVOTIONAL READING PLAN

Use with *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation, Visual Edition*

The Visual Edition of *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* is an excellent resource for individual, household, and congregational devotions.

Below is a list of the 38 different key elements of the Small Catechism and the aids in the 2017 Explanation that help with devotions. If you do five a week you should be able to read them all in two months. You can pick and choose the different features as you'd like, but below are some suggestions on how to use these devotional aids in a variety of ways. Many of the devotional plans require use of a Bible (we recommend and provide pages for The Lutheran Study Bible, or TLSB) as well as a Hymnal (Lutheran Service Book, or LSB).



Here are a variety of ways to customize this reading plan.

- **Basic devotion.** Read the Small Catechism reading for the day. Then consider the Reflection and how the Small Catechism reading applies to your daily life. In your prayers, include the prayer at the end of the section that's specifically written for that element of the Small Catechism.
- **Simple devotion with young children.** Read the Small Catechism reading for the day, then read the Central Thought and Bible narrative. Use this as an opportunity to talk about the narrative in the Bible together, then talk about ways to connect the reading and the Bible narrative to the Reflection. Then, in your family prayers, include the prayer at the end of the section that's specifically written for that element of the Small Catechism. In addition, if your children can read, consider also singing the hymn stanzas for the devotion together.
- **Devotion on your own or with slightly older children.** Consider reading the Small Catechism reading for the day, then read the Central Thought and Bible narrative. Use this as an opportunity to talk about the narrative in the Bible together, then talk about ways to connect the reading and the Bible narrative to the Reflection. In addition, read through the questions and answers in A Closer Reading together in order to better understand the words of the Small Catechism in greater detail, as well as what they mean for us. Finish by including the given prayer in your devotions, as well as singing the hymn stanzas together and/or reading the given Psalm.
- **Devotion on your own or with middle or high school youth.** Consider reading the Small Catechism reading for the day, then read the Central Thought and Bible narrative. Use this as an opportunity to talk about the narrative in the Bible together, then talk about ways to connect the reading and the Bible narrative to the Reflection. You can then read through the A Closer Reading section and/or the Connections and Applications questions together. In particular, the Connections and Applications section highlights critical issues and questions that are most likely relevant in the lives of youth and adults, and may serve as a great springboard for deeper discussion into God's Word. Finish by including the given prayer in your devotions, as well as singing the hymn stanzas together and/or reading the given Psalm.
- **Use the devotion in a more structured way either on your own or in a group.** Consider plugging the features of the Small Catechism and Explanation into a devotional setting from the LSB. The Order of Daily Prayers found on LSB pages 294-298 work well for this. Use the provided Psalm, Hymn stanza(s), Bible narrative reading, and Small Catechism reading for the day where appropriate. If you want to dig deeper into the Small Catechism add the questions and answers from A Closer Reading and/or Connections and Application.





READING #1:

The First Commandment and its meaning, pg. 43–49

Central Thought: pg. 43

Luke 12:13–34 (TLSB pg. 1740)

Reflection Question: In what ways does God generously provide me with all that I need for my daily life and my eternal salvation?

Closer Reading: pg. 44

Connections and Applications: pg. 47–49

Close on page 51: Psalm 1, Hymn (LSB 581, stanzas 1–2), Prayer

READING #2:

The Second Commandment and its meaning, pg. 53–57

Central Thought: pg. 53

Luke 1:39–56 pg. (TLSB pg.1706)

Reflection Question: How can I show that God is my Creator and Redeemer by the way I speak and in my daily conversations with others?

Closer Reading: pg. 54

Connections and Applications: pg. 56

Close on page 57: Psalm 135, Hymn (LSB 581, stanza 3), Prayer

READING #3:

The Third Commandment and its meaning, pg. 59–65

Central Thought: pg. 59

Luke 10:38–42 (TLSB pg.1735)

Reflection Question: How does God's Word open our eyes to see all of His good works?

Closer Reading: pg. 60

Connections and Applications: pg. 62

Close on page 65: Psalm 119: 89-96, Hymn (LSB 581, stanza 4), Prayer

READING #4:

The Fourth Commandment and its meaning, pg. 67–71

Central Thought: pg. 67

John 19:25–27 (TLSB pg. 1822)

Reflection Question: How can I show that I honor and cherish my parents as gifts of God and as His representatives on earth?

Closer Reading: pg. 68

Connections and Applications: pg. 69

Close on page 71: Psalm 127, Hymn (LSB 581, stanza 5), Prayer

READING #5:

The Fifth Commandment and its meaning, pg. 73–79

Central Thought: pg. 73

Luke 10:25–37 (TLSB pg.1735)

Reflection Question: What opportunities does God give me to help my neighbor?

Closer Reading: pg. 74

Connections and Applications: pg. 76

Close on page 79: Psalm 10, Hymn (LSB 581, stanza 6), Prayer

READING #6:

The Sixth Commandment and its meaning, pg. 81–89

Central Thought: pg. 81

Genesis 2:15–24 (TLSB pg. 16)

Reflection Question: How can I talk about marriage and sex in ways that reflect God's good purposes for it?

Closer Reading: pg. 82

Connections and Applications: pg. 85

Close on page 89: Psalm 119:9–16, Hymn (LSB 581, stanza 7), Prayer

READING #7:

The Seventh Commandment and its meaning, pg. 91–95

Central Thought: pg. 91

Luke 19:1–10 (TLSB pg. 1755)

Reflection Question: What are some ways that I can help to protect and care for the earthly goods of my neighbor?

Closer Reading: pg. 92

Connections and Applications: pg. 93

Close on page 95: Psalm 112, Hymn (LSB 581, stanza 8), Prayer

READING #8:

The Eighth Commandment and its meaning, pg. 97–101

Central Thought: pg. 97

Mark 14:3–9 (TLSB pg.)

Reflection Question: Who in my life or community needs me to speak well of them?

Closer Reading: pg. 98

Connections and Applications: pg. 100

Close on page 101: Psalm 35, Hymn (LSB 581, stanza 9), Prayer

READING #9:

The Ninth and Tenth Commandment and their meaning, pg. 103–107

Central Thought: pg. 103

1 Kings 21:1–16 (TLSB pg. 574)

Reflection: Name ten things for which you are grateful. Then offer a prayer of thanks to God.

Closer Reading: pg. 104

Connections and Applications: pg. 105

Close on page 107: Psalm 37, Hymn (LSB 581, stanza 10), Prayer

READING #10:

The Close of the Commandments, pg. 109–115

Central Thought: pg. 109

Deuteronomy 30:1–10 (TLSB pg. 325)

Reflection Question: How do God's threats and promises shape the way I view Him and His actions?

Closer Reading: pg. 110

Connections and Applications: pg. 111

Close on page 115: Psalm 14, Hymn (LSB 581, stanzas 11–12), Prayer



READING #11:

The First Article (Part 1), pg. 121–129

Central Thought: pg. 121

Genesis 2:7–25 (TLSB pg. 16)

Reflection Question: How does seeing myself as God's creature shape my relationship to Him and to His world?

Closer Reading: pg. 122

Connections and Applications: pg. 125

Close on page 129: Psalm 11, Hymn (LSB 811), Prayer

READING #12:

The First Article (Part 2), pg. 131–137

Central Thought: pg. 131

Psalms 104:10–30 (TLSB pg. 947)

Reflection Question: Who or what are the "hands, channels, and means" (LC I 26) through which God provides for my daily needs?

Closer Reading: pg. 132

Connections and Applications: pg. 134

Close on page 137: Psalm 104, Hymn (LSB 876), Prayer



[READING #13:](#)

The First Article (Part 3), pg. 139–145

Central Thought: pg. 139

Matthew 14:13–21 (TLSB pg. 1612)

Reflection Question: What are some examples of God’s generosity in my life?

Closer Reading: pg. 140

Connections and Applications: pg. 142

Close on page 145: Psalm 107, Hymn (LSB 895), Prayer

[READING #14:](#)

The Second Article (Part 1), pg. 147–155

Central Thought: pg. 147

John 20:24–29 (TLSB pg. 1825)

Reflection Question: How can I acknowledge in my words and actions that Jesus is my Lord?

Closer Reading: pg. 148

Connections and Applications: pg. 150

Close on page 155: Psalm 2, Hymn (LSB 954, stanza 2), Prayer

[READING #15:](#)

The Second Article (Part 2), pg. 157–165

Central Thought: pg. 157

Luke 23:32–56 (TLSB pg. 1769)

Reflection Question: What does it say about Jesus that He willingly gave His life for me? What does it say about me?

Closer Reading: pg. 158

Connections and Applications: pg. 161

Close on page 165: Psalm 22, Hymn (LSB 556, stanzas 1–5), Prayer

[READING #16:](#)

The Second Article (Part 3), pg. 167–173

Central Thought: pg. 167

Luke 24:36–53 (TLSB pg. 1772)

Reflection Question: How does confessing Jesus as my risen Lord give my life enduring direction and purpose?

Closer Reading: pg. 168

Connections and Applications: pg. 170

Close on page 173: Psalm 118, Hymn (LSB 556, stanzas 6–10), Prayer

[READING #17:](#)

The Third Article (Part 1), pg. 175–181

Central Thought: pg. 175

Acts 9:1–22 (TLSB pg. 1851)

Reflection Question: Say a brief prayer of thanks to the Holy Spirit for the gift of faith.

Closer Reading: pg. 176

Connections and Applications: pg. 179

Close on page 181: Psalm 143, Hymn (LSB 497), Prayer

[READING #18:](#)

The Third Article (Part 2), pg. 183–193

Central Thought: pg. 183

Acts 2:42–47 (TLSB pg. 1836)

Reflection: I should seek out those who also confess Jesus as Lord and Savior, for they are truly my brothers and sisters in Christ.

Closer Reading: pg. 184

Connections and Applications: pg. 188

Close on page 193: Psalm 27, Hymn (LSB 655), Prayer

[READING #19:](#)

The Third Article (Part 3), pg. 195–201

Central Thought: pg. 195

Acts 24:14–21 (TLSB pg. 1888)

Reflection Question: How might our hope of the resurrection affect the way we view suffering within this world?

Closer Reading: pg. 196

Connections and Applications: pg. 197

Close on page 201: Psalm 42, Hymn (LSB 548), Prayer



[READING #20:](#)

The Introduction—Our Father who art in heaven. pg. 207–211

Central Thought: pg. 207

Luke 15:11–32 (TLSB pg. 1747)

Reflection: Say a prayer in which you thank God for the invitation and encouragement to pray.

Closer Reading: pg. 208

Connections and Applications: pg. 209

Close on page 211: Psalm 16, Hymn (LSB 766, stanza 1), Prayer

[READING #21:](#)

The First Petition—Hallowed be Thy name. pg. 213–217

Central Thought: pg. 213

Luke 11:9–13 (TLSB pg. 1736)

Reflection Question: In what ways can I honor my Father’s name today?

Closer Reading: pg. 214

Connections and Applications: pg. 215

Close on page 217: Psalm 8, Hymn (LSB 766, stanza 2), Prayer

[READING #22:](#)

The Second Petition—Thy kingdom come. Pg. 219–223

Central Thought: pg. 219

John 18:33–40 (TLSB pg. 1820)

Reflection Question: Since we know that Christ will return to bring an end to the devil’s present work of unbelief, sin, and death, how should we live today?

Closer Reading: pg. 220

Connections and Applications: pg. 222

Close on page 223: Psalm 110, Hymn (LSB 766, stanza 3), Prayer

[READING #23:](#)

The Third Petition—Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. pg. 225–229

Central Thought: pg. 225

Matthew 26:36–56 (TLSB pg. 1642)

Reflection Question: What things in my life threaten to pull me away from the Word of God?

Closer Reading: pg. 226

Connections and Applications: pg. 228

Close on page 229: Psalm 19, Hymn (LSB 766, stanza 4), Prayer

[READING #24:](#)

The Fourth Petition—Give us this day our daily bread. pg. 231–235

Central Thought: pg. 231

Exodus 16:1–21 (TLSB pg. 122)

Reflection Question: What habits and practices can help me to better recognize how God sustains my life each day?

Closer Reading: pg. 232

Connections and Applications: pg. 234

Close on page 235: Psalm 103, Hymn (LSB 766, stanza 5), Prayer

[READING #25:](#)

The Fifth Petition—And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. pg. 237–241

Central Thought: pg. 237

Matthew 18:21–35 (TLSB pg. 1622)

Reflection Question: Are there people in my life with whom I am not at peace because I have not forgiven them?

Closer Reading: pg. 238

Connections and Applications: pg. 240

Close on page 241: Psalm 32, Hymn (LSB 766, stanza 6), Prayer



READING #26:

The Sixth Petition—And lead us not into temptation. pg. 243–247

Central Thought: pg. 243

Mark 4:1–20 (TLSB pg. 1662)

Reflection Question: What people or things could lure you away from Jesus?

Closer Reading: pg. 244

Connections and Applications: pg. 246

Close on page 247: Psalm 91, Hymn (LSB 766, stanza 7), Prayer

READING #27:

The Seventh Petition—But deliver us from evil. pg. 249–253

Central Thought: pg. 249

Genesis 3:1–19 (TLSB pg. 17)

Reflection Question: What evils do I see in the world for which I need to pray, “Lord, deliver us!”?

Closer Reading: pg. 250

Connections and Applications: pg. 251

Close on page 253: Psalm 90, Hymn (LSB 766, stanza 8), Prayer

READING #28:

The Conclusion—For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen. pg. 255–257

Close on page 257: Psalm 99, Hymn (LSB 766, stanza 9), Prayer

Note: Reading 28 does not include all the features of the other elements of the Explanation. On this day, consider simply reading through the questions and answers, and reflecting on the Psalm, Hymn, and Prayer.



READING #29:

The Nature of Baptism, pg. 261–265

Central Thought: pg. 261

Matthew 3:13–17 (TLSB pg. 1582)

Reflection Question: How do people answer the question “Who am I?” How does Baptism help me answer that question?

Closer Reading: pg. 262

Connections and Applications: pg. 263

Close on page 265: Psalm 138, Hymn (LSB 590), Prayer

READING #30:

The Blessings of Baptism, pg. 267–271

Central Thought: pg. 267

Acts 2:1–14, 29–41 (TLSB pg. 1832)

Reflection Question: What does the day of Pentecost, and Peter’s sermon in particular, tell us about Jesus and about the blessings of Baptism?

Closer Reading: pg. 268

Connections and Applications: pg. 269

Close on page 271: Psalm 41, Hymn (LSB 601), Prayer

READING #31:

The Power of Baptism, pg. 273–277

Central Thought: pg. 273

John 3:1–15 (TLSB pg. 1782)

Reflection: I have so many faults and problems that I might lose hope. But “God does not lie” and “God’s Word cannot err” (LC IV 57). He has washed me clean. I can trust Him. He will help me in every trouble.

Closer Reading: pg. 274

Connections and Applications: pg. 275

Close on page 277: Psalm 43, Hymn (LSB 406), Prayer

READING #32:

What Baptism Indicates, pg. 279–283

Central Thought: pg. 279

Romans 6:1–14 (TLSB pg. 1918)

Reflection Question: Baptism sets the rhythm for our daily lives as Christians. How do we drown our sins and evil desires? What kind of new person (“new man”) is God making out of me?

Closer Reading: pg. 280

Connections and Applications: pg. 281

Close on page 283: Psalm 18, Hymn (LSB 596), Prayer



READING #33:

Confession, pg. 285–291

Central Thought: pg. 285

2 Samuel 11:1–12:15 (TLSB pg. 501)

Reflection Question: How does life change when I recognize that every day is a day for repentance?

Closer Reading: pg. 286

Connections and Applications: pg. 288

Close on page 291: Psalm 51, Hymn (LSB 608), Prayer

READING #34:

The Office of the Keys, pg. 293–299

Central Thought: pg. 293

John 20:19–23 (TLSB pg. 1825)

Reflection Question: What comfort does forgiveness through a pastor give me when I am tempted to doubt my identity as God’s child?

Closer Reading: pg. 294

Connections and Applications: pg. 296

Close on page 299: Psalm 40, Hymn (LSB 614), Prayer



READING #35:

The Nature of the Sacrament of the Altar, pg. 301–307

Central Thought: pg. 301

Matthew 26:17–30 (TLSB pg. 1641)

Reflection: Jesus wants to be with me and within me (John 17:26). In the Sacrament of the Altar, He gives Himself to me and pledges never to leave me or forsake me.

Closer Reading: pg. 302

Connections and Applications: pg. 304

Close on page 307: Psalm 111, Hymn (LSB 617), Prayer

READING #36:

The Benefit of the Sacrament of the Altar, pg. 309–313

Central Thought: pg. 309

Exodus 12:1–14 (TLSB pg. 113)

Reflection: This forgiveness sets me free from my sinful past, in which death and the tyranny of Satan were my only future. Christ’s body and blood give me a new life and a new future every day.

Closer Reading: pg. 310

Connections and Applications: pg. 311

Close on page 313: Psalm 50, Hymn (LSB 623), Prayer

READING #37:

The Power of the Sacrament of the Altar, pg. 315–319

Central Thought: pg. 315

Mark 4:35–41 (TLSB pg. 1664)

Reflection: Because these words do what they say, there should be no doubt in my mind that the bread and wine are Jesus’ body and blood for my forgiveness.

Closer Reading: pg. 316

Connections and Applications: pg. 317

Close on page 319: Psalm 23, Hymn (LSB 395, stanza 3), Prayer

READING #38:

How to Receive This Sacrament Worthily, pg. 321–327

Central Thought: pg. 321

Matthew 22:1–14 (TLSB pg. 1630)

Reflection Question: How can I prepare for the Lord’s Supper so that I receive it as a blessing?

Closer Reading: pg. 322

Connections and Applications: pg. 323

Close on page 327: Psalm 116, Hymn (LSB 618), Prayer

