

LEADER

What Is a Lutheran?

REVISED EDITION



To Know, To Live,
To Grow

Series Overview

To Know, To Live, To Grow

To Know, To Live, To Grow is a holistic approach to confirmation. With Christian education as a key component, this material



helps youth integrate their faith with their families and into their congregational lives.

This curriculum is designed for groups of up to 10 youth participants and one leader. The leader

engages youth in their personal faith searches—walking with them, staying in dialogue with them, and encouraging them to be open about their questions and concerns. Leadership can come from young adults, parents, lay leaders, or clergy.

In addition to serving as confirmation curriculum, this series can be adapted for use with retreats, camp experiences, service opportunities, and other small-group activities.

Foundations

1. Confirmation is a ministry rather than religious education. This ministry is a joint effort of confirmands, parents, lay leaders, and church staff.
2. Confirmation ministry is Christ-centered, a place for people who need a Savior.
3. Confirmation ministry is not only about gaining knowledge but also about creating experiences in Christian community and serving others.
4. Confirmands exist within a family community. The family bears the primary responsibility for the faith development of the confirmand.
5. It is essential to meet young people's needs for acceptance, self-worth, and community as they prepare for the adult world by testing boundaries and questioning values while learning the message of the gospel.

To Know

Confirmands:

- understand how to read and interpret the Bible.
- learn about important people and events in the Bible.
- learn the central teachings of the Lutheran church.
- discuss the Scriptures and faith-related topics in small groups.
- complete in-class and homework assignments.

To Live

Confirmands:

- see the relevance of biblical events in their lives today.
- understand the church as the body of Christ, which functions by helping people.
- discover appropriate service opportunities in the church and the community.
- accept responsibility for serving God.
- express a willingness to confess the Christian faith.

To Grow

Confirmands:

- discover that Christian growth is a lifelong process.
- understand that Christian growth takes place through worship, prayer, education, and service.
- integrate the Bible and the Christian traditions into their daily lives.
- see how faith affects personal decision-making and the way we treat others.

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Contents

Session 1: Who Are Lutherans?	2
Session 2: The Reformation	5
Session 3: Along Came Martin Luther	9
Session 4: What Makes Us Special? The Sacraments	12
Session 5: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism	15
Session 6: The Sacrament of Holy Communion	18
Reproducible Cards	21

To the Leader . . .

Format

The To Know, To Live, To Grow confirmation curriculum is designed for use in a small group setting with up to 10 participants and one adult leader.

This material is intended for use over several sessions, with each session lasting 60 to 90 minutes. The flexible format allows you to make adjustments to fit your situation.

Many of the session activities can work during your time together as a group or as homework assignments between sessions.

The questions within each session often promote discussion rather than finding a specific answer. Some sessions may require more direction than others. Be prepared to spend extra time on topics of particular interest to your group.

Materials

Each participant should have a Participant book, writing materials, and a Bible. This curriculum uses the NRSV translation.

The Participant books follow the same format as this Leader guide—but with writing space instead of answers and without many of the margin notes that appear here.

Some activities may suggest additional items, such as maps, videos, or outside reading materials. Review upcoming sessions in advance to see what you will need.

May God bless you in your ministry!



Augsburg Fortress
MINNEAPOLIS

LEADER

What Is a Lutheran?

REVISED EDITION

Writer

Terri Martinson Elton

Editors

Jeffrey S. Nelson
Jill Carroll Lafferty
Connie Sletto

Graphic Designer

Marti Naughton

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The original edition of this resource was published by Changing Church, Inc., Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Burnsville, Minnesota.

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ISBN 0-8066-4918-6

Manufactured in U.S.A.

08 07 06 05 04 3 4 5

Session 1

Who Are Lutherans?

This session explores the keys of Lutheran faith and considers how Lutheran beliefs are similar to and different from other Christian faiths.

Leader's Note

What Is a Lutheran? explores the background of Lutheranism beginning with the life of Martin Luther. This resource will help participants:

- relate the Reformation and the sacraments to daily life.
- become familiar with Lutheranism by learning about its history.
- identify key elements of Lutheranism.
- learn what makes Lutheranism unique.

Begin by sharing your name and ...

- how many people are in your family.
- one group to which you belong.

As a group, make a list of groups and/or communities to which you belong.

- Why is it important to be a part of a group or a community?

Where Do I Fit?

Prepare the name cards for this activity before class. You may use the card suggestions on page 21 of this leader guide, or create your own. Each person receives a card with a name on it. The person named on the card is part of a group. The goal is to find the other people who are a part of the same group. Groups may be athletes, musicians, writers, and so forth. For example, Larry, Moe, and Curly would need to find each other to become the Three Stooges. When groups come together, spend time discussing what makes each person unique. Describe how each individual adds to the group. In the case of the Three Stooges, all have different talents and styles of comedy. They look different. They are different ages. Each one of these differences help the Stooges appeal to a larger audience.

- How would the groups change if one individual were missing? If one individual was missing from the Three Stooges, they would be less funny.
- What can a group offer that an individual cannot? **A group is more visible and has a greater impact on others. Individuals can learn from each other within a group.**

Open with prayer.

One group we belong to is the Lutheran church. Certain characteristics are unique to Lutherans, and Lutherans have certain characteristics in common with other denominations. Play the "What Is Lutheran?" game and identify some of Lutheranism's distinct characteristics.

What Is Lutheran?

Form two teams. Teams select a category and point value. You provide the “answer,” and the teams should give the correct “question.” For example, “The answer is: Hebrews 11:1.” The team looks up the verse and responds, “What is faith?” Questions need not be worded exactly. The team with the most points at the end wins.

After you have finished playing the game, review these four categories and write a short description of each, based on answers from the game.

- **Scripture: The written word of God, spoken by the prophets, found in the Bible.**
- **Faith: Being certain of what we hope for, trusting what we do not see, spoken in the creed.**
- **Jesus: The Son of God, baptized by John the Baptist, died for our forgiveness.**
- **Lutheran: Founded by Martin Luther, based on belief in the Trinity, recognizes two sacraments.**

Martin Luther, the founder of the Lutheran faith, said that Lutheran beliefs were based on three concepts: Scripture alone, Christ alone, and faith alone. You will learn more about these concepts in the sessions to come.

Within the Christian church are many branches. These branches are called *denominations*. While all denominations believe in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, each denomination sees things slightly different. You may be familiar with some of these other denominations. In small groups, list some characteristics of the Lutheran faith and compare them to other Christian churches (Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, Assemblies of God, and so forth). What things are similar? What things are different? For example, if we compare Lutherans and Catholics, we might list the following things:

- Both worship one creator God.
- The rituals are different; worship services might be similar; both celebrate Baptism and Communion.
- Confession styles are different. Lutherans practice public confession primarily; Catholics practice private confession.

Lutheran beliefs:

Leader's Note

This is a game like the game show *Jeopardy!* See page 22 for sample categories and questions and answers. Use a whiteboard or place signs on the wall with the category headings. Below each category have papers with 100, 200, 300, 400, and 500 written on them. As the host, you should have the sheet to give the answers.

Others' beliefs:

How are they similar?

How are they different?

What Would You Like to Know? (Optional)

Write one question you would like answered about Lutheranism. In the weeks to come, we'll answer these questions.

- What about ... ?

Timeline

Make a timeline of your faith journey. Place on this timeline important things like birth, baptism, first communion, new church membership, vacation Bible school, Sunday school, choirs, and so forth. If you did not grow up in the church, begin with the time you started going and who influenced your faith.

Close with prayer.

Session 2

The Reformation

Today's Society

Form pairs. Each pair is assigned one of the following roles in today's society.

- single parent on welfare, with three children
- CEO of a successful business firm
- social worker for inner-city youth
- cattle farmer in a rural community
- politician in Washington, D.C.
- pastor of a large congregation

Answer the following questions from the viewpoint of your assigned role.

- How do you view society?
- What worries you?
- What are your hopes and dreams?
- How do the choices of others affect you?
- What is the greatest challenge you face right now?

Our world is changing, just as it was in the time of the Reformation. The changes occurring in the world will ultimately affect the church.

- What are some challenges you see affecting your local church?
How would you deal with them?
- What are some challenges you see affecting the larger church?
How would you deal with them?
- What are the positive things impacting the church?
What influence will they have for the future of the church?

Open with prayer.

Martin Luther was an influential leader during the time of the Reformation. His intent was to reform the Catholic church, not to break away from it. The church and society at this time were in disarray, and people were ready for someone like Luther to offer new ideas and hope for the future. In 1517, Luther posted a list of 95 statements on the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg in the German state of Saxony. These statements, the Ninety-five Theses, were issues he thought needed to be addressed in the Catholic church. Let's discover a bit about the world in which Luther lived.

This session explores the time of the Reformation and the issues the church was facing.

Leader's Note

Participants should share their answers with the larger group. Encourage them to talk about their own society and the problems that will affect their futures.

Leader's Note

This session is informational. While there are not discussion points, encourage participants to ask questions as you go.

You may assign participants different sections. Have them read about their assigned topic. Also, this may be a good time to invite a pastor or someone knowledgeable about Lutheranism to your group.

The Church before the Reformation

The church and government were connected in Martin Luther's time. The Roman Catholic Church was the official (and only) Christian religion in Western Europe. The priests of the church were often uneducated and had little interest in the spiritual life of their congregations. The political ties to the church caused many problems, especially corruption. Money from the sale of indulgences (the sale of forgiveness for the sins of the dead) was used to build elaborate churches and pay extravagant salaries.

One Issue for Luther

Scripture does not require the collection of money in order that people might be forgiven. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross made forgiveness a gift, the gift of grace. Because of this, Luther strongly disagreed with the sale of indulgences.

Social Life before the Reformation

In the 14th century, the Black Plague killed one-fourth of the population, causing many people to fear that the end of the world was coming. As the population began to rebuild, the movement of people from rural areas into the cities began to cause problems between the rich and the poor, and many of the poor revolted against their masters. This movement also caused an abundance of workers in the cities, and people were doing more work for less money. Inflation resulted.

The Reformation happened over the course of many years, and included many different religious figures and movements. This was a time of confusion. Many of the people were not educated, and with changes in the leadership, people did not always know who to follow or believe. Many people voiced discontent with the medieval church concerning its beliefs and practices. Martin Luther was one person who took a leadership role in the midst of these changes. From his observations about what was happening in the church, four major things were changed or addressed in the Reformation.

Theology of the Cross: The church seemed to emphasize the powerful, holy side of Jesus, ignoring his human side. So Luther emphasized the cross and resurrection, pointing out that God chose human form and human weakness as the way to carry out the salvation of humankind.

Luther pointed out that to understand the cross and the resurrection a person must understand that God chose weakness and powerlessness to defeat the powers of Satan and death. This was called the Theology of the Cross, and it led to greater understanding of God. This view of Jesus made God accessible to people who had never had access to God before.

Role of humans: Luther believed it was impossible for anyone to earn his or her way into the kingdom of God. One thing that made Luther angry was the sale of indulgences. By purchasing a piece of paper issued by the church, it was believed that a person could release the sins and the souls of a dead relative from purgatory (the holding place for people, located between heaven and hell). Luther quoted Paul, saying there was nothing humans could do to earn salvation. It was a gift from God, made possible by Jesus' death on the cross. The medieval church tried to convince the people that it could grant this forgiveness, when in fact only God has the power to grant forgiveness.

Free will versus God's will: Luther did not believe humans had free will in matters of salvation. He once said that humans were like a drunk person being put on a mule. Put them on one side and they fall off the other. Put them back on, they fall off the other side. He believed humans would always continue to fall into sinful patterns. Luther believed people were not able to see all the things that shaped and directed them. He believed that the distance between humans and God is enormous, but God's love and mercy allow a relationship to exist between the two.

Scripture versus tradition: The medieval church believed in the authority of Scripture, but it also used tradition and the words of the pope as the basis of its religious practice. During the time of the Reformation, the church was often embarrassed when reformers like Luther pointed out practices that didn't agree with Scripture. The Reformation teaching said we should rely only on Scripture for our understanding of faith. Lutherans have held to this understanding ever since Luther's time.

- Only the sacraments commanded by Jesus (Baptism and Communion) are recognized in the Lutheran church. This is based on the idea of using only Scripture to understand our faith.
- Luther started to celebrate worship in the language of the people, rather than in Latin. Hymns were sung to familiar tunes and the Bible was translated into German so people could read it themselves. Preaching emphasized Scripture, not traditions and rituals. We continue this today when we worship in the language most familiar to us, using music that fits our culture, and basing our studies on Scripture.

Session 3

Along Came Martin Luther

Begin by sharing the name of your favorite teacher and ...

- describe the most famous person you've ever met.
- name two people you admire for what they believe.
- share an example of a person living out his or her beliefs.

Make a list of people who influence you. After each name, list the areas of your life these people affect:

- Who influences me? How?

Open with prayer.

To Tell the Truth

Play the game "To Tell the Truth," where three people claim to be the same person. The goal is to identify which one of the three is the true character. When finished, complete the biography of Martin Luther on page 10.

Person 1 enters. "My name is Martin Luther. In 1512, I became a professor of Bible at the University of Wittenberg. It was here that I fell in love with and married Katharina von Bora. We had six children of our own, and we cared for many orphans. Because of the printing press, I was able to share my works with the general public. My professional works included translating the Bible into German and writing two catechisms as well as commentaries and hymns. Many of my hymns were sung to familiar tunes, which the people enjoyed. I was involved in many religious debates and I worked hard to develop a new religious order. I am known today as the founder of the Lutheran church."

Person 2 enters: "My name is Martin Luther. I was born November 10, 1483, in a small town in Germany, the second of eight children. At the age of 18, carrying out my father's plans, I attended the University of Erfurt, hoping to become a lawyer. After graduating, I attended law school and worked for social justice. Throughout my life, my efforts were well received, especially by German officials. I am known today for my speeches and my actions for civil rights."

This session explores information about Martin Luther's life and the impact he made on the Lutheran faith.

Leader's Note

Have three volunteers dress up and enter the room, one at a time. Person 1 should be dressed like a professor; Person 2 should be dressed like a lawyer; and Person 3 should be dressed like a monk or a pastor. Each person claims to be Martin Luther. Have each "Martin" give his biography, then ask for questions from the group. After several questions, the group votes on the "real" Martin Luther. Once they have voted, have Martin Luther (Person 3) stand up. He is the "real" Martin Luther.

Person 3 enters. "My name is Martin Luther. On July 17, 1505, I began my life as a monk. The sudden death of a close friend prompted me to commit my life to ministry. I was troubled by my relationship with God and I believed the ministry could give me some answers. I became a priest and served in a Wittenberg parish. During this time, I spent many hours studying Scripture. In doing so, I discovered the teachings of the Catholic church were often not entirely based on the Bible. On October 31, 1517, I challenged the Catholic church with my Ninety-five Theses, and was soon excommunicated."

All information given in the biographies from "To Tell the Truth" was correct, except the following:

- Luther did not set out to begin a new denomination; his intention was to reform the Catholic church.
- Luther went to law school, but never finished. Instead he entered the monastery.
- Luther was not well received in Germany, especially by the political figures.
- Luther did not work for social reform, but for church reformation.

Leader's Note

Participants will need to look to other resources to complete their biographies. Consider using published biographies, encyclopedias, and other reference books.

Martin Luther Biography

Date of birth: November 10, 1483.

Birthplace: Germany.

Died: 1546.

School: University of Wittenberg.

Occupation: Professor, law student, priest, husband, father.

Spouse/Family: Katharina von Bora, six children.

Other important information: Founder of the Lutheran faith.

Important works: Translated the Bible into German; author of two catechisms as well as commentaries and hymns.

Discuss

- What things surprised you about Martin Luther?
- What did you already know about Martin Luther?
- Who could you compare him to today?
- What do you think was the most important change Luther made?

Session 4

What Makes Us Special? The Sacraments

This session explores the definition of a sacrament and briefly looks at the two Lutheran sacraments, Baptism and Communion.

Begin by sharing the name of your favorite book and ...

- a time when you had to experience something before you would believe it.
- a time when you experienced doubt.

As a group, make a list of things you have to experience or see in order to believe:

Leader's Note

Reproducible card sheets are located on pages 23-24 of this leader guide. Prepare them before class. Also bring a bell or buzzer.

What's the Word?

This is a Taboo-style game. Form two groups. Begin by having one player draw a card. His or her group must try to guess the word listed at the top of the card. There are five words on the bottom of the card that cannot be used to describe the top word. (If someone uses one of those words, sound the bell or buzzer. They lose that word and move on.) No body movement can be used to help. Give each group a two-minute time limit to guess as many words as possible. The group that guesses the most words wins.

- Was it difficult not to use body movements?
- Were you able to find alternate words to describe each word?
- What was the easiest part of this activity? The hardest?

Open with prayer.

Holy Baptism and Holy Communion are the two sacraments recognized by the Lutheran church. We celebrate them within our worshipping communities. Three characteristics define a sacrament:

- A sacrament is a gift from God, given to show God's love.
- A sacrament uses a physical, earthly element combined with God's Word of promise.
- Jesus instituted the sacraments during his human life.

Let's look at each of the sacraments and see how they fit into the categories listed above.

Holy Baptism

- It is a time when we celebrate the gift of entering the family of God.
- It uses the element of water, combined with God's blessing, "You are a child of God."
- Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist, and commanded his disciples to go into the world baptizing. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Holy Communion

- It is the gift of forgiveness through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.
- Bread and wine are Jesus' body and his blood, along with God's blessing, "A new covenant I give you ... do this in remembrance of me."
- Jesus instituted Holy Communion at the Last Supper with his disciples.

God loves us and wants us to remember that sacraments are very physical ways God connects with us, ones that we can touch and feel. Read the story of Thomas in John 20:19-29.

- What did Thomas need to believe in Jesus' resurrection? **Physical proof, to feel Jesus' pierced hands and side.**
- How are you like Thomas? **Individual answers.**
- Based on this story and your own experience, why did God give us sacraments? **Out of love for us and respect for our human need for proof. As constant signs of God's love for us and our Christian community.**
- What new things did you learn about sacraments from this session? What is different than you thought? **Let the participants share from their own experiences. Some may share about being raised in other faith traditions and the differences between those traditions and the Lutheran perspective.**

Jesus came so we could be connected with God and know God's love. Following his death and resurrection, Jesus gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit to act as a guide for our faith journey. He also gave us the gift of the sacraments as ways we could physically celebrate our faith.

Activity (Optional)

Spend time addressing some of the questions participants wrote down the first week. You may need to come prepared with some resources. Let the participants look up some of the answers, if time allows.

Assignment

- How can you physically show someone you love him or her? Choose at least one idea to carry out this week.
- Ask your parents about your baptism. Fill in the following information to share with the group next week.

Date: _____

Location (church, city, state): _____

Pastor: _____

Sponsors: _____

Other people present: _____

- Next week, bring any special items (photos, special memories, clothing) from your baptism.

Close with prayer.

Ideas

- **Record video interviews with people celebrating a baptism or first communion.**
- **Arrange a visit with a member of the altar guild. Have them talk about the work they do to prepare for Holy Communion.**

Session 5

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Begin by sharing the name of your favorite song and ...

- a story about an experience with water.
- ways water is helpful to you.

Form pairs and share the information you collected about your baptism. Find out what you have in common and what was unique about your baptism.

Open with prayer.

Waterlife

God used water for baptism because the characteristics of water itself help define baptism. Spend some time “watching” water at work and reflect on these characteristics. Afterward, discuss how the characteristics of water help us understand baptism. **Water is cleansing. Baptism washes away our sins and makes us clean in God’s eyes. Water is powerful and gentle. In baptism, the waters are gentle, but God’s love is powerful. We need water to live. The waters of baptism offer us new life in Christ.**

Song (Optional)

Read the words to the song “Singing Through the Water” and then answer the questions below. **Feel free to use an appropriate, alternative song as needed. Questions will need to be adjusted.**

- How is baptism like “singing through the water”? **It is a celebration using water, it is part of worship, and so forth.**
- How does baptism “change everything inside”? **It is a renewal of the spirit, a new beginning, and so forth.**
- In your own words, define *baptism* (what it is and why we do it). **The time when we are welcomed into God’s family, public profession of faith, and so forth.**

The session explores baptism, the role of water, and the Lutheran baptismal service.

Leader’s Note

Consider showing a nature video about water.

Singing Through the Water

Singing through the water
I hear a melody
Singing through the water
I hear a symphony
Singing through the water
The world is in harmony
Singing through the water
The rhythm of life
I hear the song of life
The rhythm is the dance of
life
I feel the Spirit move
Changing everything inside

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Materials

Luther's Small Catechism
Lutheran Book of Worship

Leader's Note

Either move to the sanctuary for this activity or substitute a bowl of water for the baptismal font. If you are in the sanctuary, have participants stay there and write their letters to their parents or caregivers.

Read about baptism in Luther's Small Catechism. Answer the following questions, using your Bible as a reference.

- What is baptism? Read Matthew 28:18-20. **In these verses, Jesus tells us to go and baptize in God's name. *Baptize* means to apply water by washing, pouring, sprinkling, or immersion. In baptism, we apply water in God's name. We are called to teach others about God's promise always to be with us (verse 20). All people, no matter what age, race, social status, and so forth, are invited by God to participate in this sacrament (verse 19).**
- Why be baptized? Read Mark 16:15-16 and Acts 2:38. **In baptism, God not only promises to be with us but also to save us by offering the forgiveness of our sins. Read Acts 22:16; Galatians 3:26-27; and Titus 3:5-7 for more information.**
- What happens after baptism? Read Romans 6:1-4. **Baptism frees us to live new lives. Our sinful self is buried and a new, clean self emerges. Sin no longer has a hold on us. Christ already conquered sin and death.**

Baptismal Service

Read the baptismal service in *Lutheran Book of Worship* as a group. As you read the service, have each person step to the baptismal font (or a container of water) and dip a finger into the water, marking himself or herself with the sign of the cross.

Session 6

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

This session explores Holy Communion and the role it has in our Christian community.

Leader's Note

You may use this study as a family event by inviting parents or caregivers to join you.

Leader's Note

You will need to provide a recipe and ingredients for making bread. Also have a dictionary available.

If you choose not to make bread, you may simply bring several kinds of bread to class. Share it with the group as you discuss the questions. Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for participants who have food allergies. Provide an alternative, if necessary.

Begin by sharing the name of your oldest relative and ...

- a time when you have celebrated a special occasion with a meal.
- your favorite meal.

Individually, write down times when you have felt "broken." Use a separate notebook for privacy. Think about broken relationships, times when you have needed forgiveness, or any other painful times in your life. Then, after each one, write when and how your brokenness was healed, mended, or forgiven. If you are comfortable doing so, share one of these times with the group. Finally, write down one thing you would like mended in your family right now.

Open with prayer.

Bread Making (Optional)

After washing hands, make bread dough. After mixing all the ingredients, take turns kneading the dough. As you are doing this, make a list of different kinds of bread and the ways bread is used. (Time may not allow for the rising and baking of the bread.)

- What does it take to make good bread? **Quality ingredients, lots of kneading, yeast, time to rise, and so forth.**
- Why is unleavened bread used for Holy Communion? **It is a reminder of the Passover.**
- Look up *bread* in the dictionary. Write the definition here: **A staple food, food in general, the necessities of life.**
- What is the importance of bread in our lives? **It gives us nourishment and strength.**

Forgiveness (Optional)

Sit in a circle. In the center of the circle, place a pitcher of water. Pour a teaspoon of salt into each person's hand. If parents are present with the group, begin by asking parents to share quietly and individually with their child a hurt they would like to mend and what they are willing to do to make it happen. Have the confirmation participants think of something they want mended. If they are willing, have them share it with one other person. After sharing, have each person walk to the center of the circle and wipe the salt off his or her hands into the pitcher of water. After everyone is finished, answer the following questions:

- In this activity, what does the salt represent? **Handing over our hurts to God.**
- What does the water represent? **God washing away our sins.**
- How did it feel to give the hurt (salt) away? Is the feeling of hurt really gone? **Individual answers.**

God's Love

Read about Holy Communion in Luther's Small Catechism.

We are all sinners. This means we often choose to rely on our own power rather than on God's power, leading us into loneliness, self-centeredness, and times of hurt. As sinners, left to our own resources, our lives are empty and without meaning. God gave us the sacraments as gifts to change our emptiness into meaningfulness, our brokenness into mended wholeness, and our loneliness into community. The sacraments are Baptism, the initial welcoming into the Christian community, and Communion, the celebration of our forgiveness. It is in Communion that our slate is wiped clean, our past wrongdoings are dissolved, and our hurts are healed with God's love.

Communion is the opportunity to give our hurts to God. We empty ourselves of sin. The bread and the wine are all we need; bread to sustain us, wine to celebrate, both to symbolize God's love.

We join together to celebrate this holy meal as members of God's family. We are joined together, celebrating God's presence in our lives.

Materials

Salt

Pitcher for water

Luther's Small Catechism

Leader's Note

At this point, you will want to invite a pastor to your group to celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion. If you are unable to have a clergy available for distribution, read aloud "The Words of Institution" on page 20, skipping the distribution of the elements.

Leader's Note

To set the tone, play a worship song that focuses on why Jesus died for us.

During communion distribution, you may want to play appropriate music. Also, have the participants and their parents commune together.

The Words of Institution

Leader: We declare ourselves to be Easter people.

People: We come to share in the table God has prepared for us.

Leader: Jesus took the bad news of sin and guilt and changed it to good news by dying and rising for us.

People: We are here to celebrate the good news and the presence of Christ with us.

Leader: And Jesus took the bread, blessed it, and broke it. He said to his disciples, "Take, eat, this is my body." Also, he took a cup of wine. After saying thanks, he gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant. It is poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Do this to remember me."

People: We thank you, God, for these elements given in love for us. Accept us, forgive us, and heal us, so we might live lives that are pleasing to you.

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Each morning this week, thank God for the love offered to you.

Close with prayer.

Reproducible Cards for "Where Do I Fit?"

Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Paul McCartney	John Lennon	Ringo Starr	George Harrison
Linus	Charlie Brown	Lucy	Snoopy
Big Bird	Elmo	Oscar the Grouch	Ernie
God	Jesus	Holy Spirit	Larry
Moe	Curly	Batman	Robin

What is Lutheran?

Remember: Participants should tell you their answer in the form of a question.

	Scripture	Faith	Jesus	Lutheran
100	The written word inspired by God in the Old and New Testaments. What is the Holy Bible?	Hebrews 11:1. What is faith?	Romans 5:8. What is God's love for us?	A statement of faith. What is a creed?
200	Luke 4:16-21. How was the Scripture fulfilled?	Ephesians 2:8. How are we saved?	Mark 1:9-11. Who is God's Son?	God's Word combined with a physical element. What is a sacrament?
300	John 1:1. Who is the Word?	Galatians 3:11. How will we be justified?	2 Corinthians 5:17. What is a new creation?	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. What is the ELCA?
400	A person inspired by God who spoke of the future. What is a prophet?	Creed. What is a statement of faith?	Galatians 3:26. Who are the children of God?	Born in 1483, he was the founder of the Lutheran faith. Who is Martin Luther?
500	2 Timothy 3:16. What is the purpose of Scripture?	Romans 3:21-22. What is righteousness through faith?	Matthew 3:13-17. Who baptized Jesus?	Creator, Savior, Holy Spirit. What is the Trinity?

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Reproducible Cards for "What's the Word"?

<p>HAPPINESS</p> <p>Feeling Excitement Sadness Smile Joy</p>	<p>SATAN</p> <p>Evil Devil Sin Hell Bad</p>	<p>DOUBT</p> <p>Darkness Faith Uncertain Not Sure Question</p>	<p>LOVE</p> <p>Heart Relationship Marriage Husband Wife</p>	<p>ANGRY</p> <p>Mad Feeling Upset Unhappy Hate</p>
<p>COMPANION</p> <p>Friend Mate Spouse Partner Coworker</p>	<p>FORGIVENESS</p> <p>Sin Sorry Confession Cross Jesus</p>	<p>FRIENDSHIP</p> <p>Support Buddy Pal Caring Love</p>	<p>GRACE</p> <p>Prayer God Gift Table Amazing</p>	<p>RECEIVE</p> <p>Give Get Gift Present Accept</p>
<p>CONFIRMATION</p> <p>Wednesday Sunday Bible Participants Leader</p>	<p>SAVIOR</p> <p>Jesus Christ Cross Died Forgiveness</p>	<p>LUTHERAN</p> <p>Martin Reformation Grace Bible Faith</p>	<p>WORSHIP</p> <p>Gospel Song Sermon Choir Congregation</p>	<p>GOSPEL</p> <p>Jesus Matthew New Testament Mark John</p>
<p>COMMUNION</p> <p>Bread Wine Worship Jesus Supper</p>	<p>MARTIN LUTHER</p> <p>Monk Reformer Lutheran Writer Founder</p>	<p>BAPTISM</p> <p>Water Infant John the Baptist Worship Dove</p>	<p>BIBLE</p> <p>Old New Testament Book Word</p>	<p>MAD</p> <p>Angry Feeling Upset Hate Hatter</p>

More reproducible cards on page 24.

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ANGEL
Heavenly
God
Wings
White
Cupid

WATER
Wet
Thirst
Cool
River
Clear

BREAD
Dense
Yeast
White
Wheat
Body

WINE
Juice
Grapes
Glass
Communion
Blood

HEAL
Sick
Hurt
Doctor
Injured
Well

TEACHER
Learner
Class
School
Book
Apple

LAST SUPPER
Passover
Bread
Wine
Jesus
Disciples

RESURRECTION
Easter
Disciples
Women
Tomb
Alive

SERVICE
Helping
Worship
Gas Station
Fix
Project

FAITH
Belief
Trust
Affirmation
God
Doubt

SACRAMENT
Physical
Bread
Wine
Water
Jesus

PASTOR
Worship
Sunday
Preacher
Baptism
Communion

MIRACLE
Amazing
Awesome
Unbelievable
Sick
Jesus



To Know, To Live,
To Grow

Apostles' Creed
Building the Christian Church
Jesus of Nazareth
Lord's Prayer
Meaning of Service: Living in Love
My Faith
New Testament
Old Testament
Ten Commandments
What Is a Lutheran?

ISBN 978-0-8066-4918-4



9 780806 649184

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