

Confirmation Final Interview Study Guide

You will be expected to know:

1. **The Lord's Prayer**
2. **The Apostle's Creed**
3. **The Ten Commandments**

These are all found in Luther's catechism, the Bible. Here are some of the basic concepts that you are expected to understand. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Steve.

**SIN: The problem between God and us. Sin is basically our *selfishness*.
(the opposite of love)**

Sin is like a disease that we all have. We are not able to get over it by our own efforts, no matter how much we want to or how hard we try.

The **Ten Commandments** are a good summary of what God, who created us, expects from us. We fall short of God's intention that we be perfectly loving of God and other people. **Our sin separates us from God as we push God's will aside in order to do our own self centered thing.**

JUSTIFICATION: This is God's solution to our sin problem.

We cannot justify ourselves. God wants to be in **right relationship** with us. The whole story of the Bible is basically about God overcoming the barrier between us and God. **We are justified, or made right, or put into a right relationship with God, when God forgives our sin.** Jesus has already absorbed our sin into himself on the cross. † **We are FREE!**

GRACE: God's forgiveness is a free GIFT.

We are put into a right relationship with God, by God who overcomes all the barriers. It is a done deal. You are saved. You can't earn that or deserve it. God expects us to love and God does not condemn us for our failure to love.

JESUS:

God came into the world in the person of Jesus. In Jesus we see what can be seen of who God is in a human life.

Jesus gave his disciples a model for prayer that we call "**the Lord's Prayer**". In that prayer the first thing we actually ask is for **God's kingdom** to come and for **God's will** to be done.

Jesus gave signs of the rule of God. He taught that when God is in control:

- All people's **needs are met**.
- People do not dominate or control other people – no violence
- **Love rules the affairs of the citizens of God's kingdom.**
- **Jesus healed people**, demonstrating that it is not God's will that people be whole.
- **He accepted the "unacceptable"**.

In Jesus' death and his resurrection from death **the power of sin and death has been destroyed**. God has done for us what we could not do for ourselves. Jesus has won a great victory for us. He is our champion.

FAITH: Faith trusts the sweet promise of God concerning the gift of justification.

God's promise of the forgiveness of our sins is true even if we don't believe it. Trusting God's promise, however, transforms or changes us. We can only have peace if we believe that our ultimate future is secure. **To have our life grounded in a living relationship with God is to know that whatever happens to us, God loves us and will never let us go.** This is the good news guarantee that Jesus' death and resurrection makes possible. We proclaim this good news with Joy! **Faith is simply to trust that it is true and then to live as though it is true.**

RESPONSE: We respond to the good news of God's love for us by using our gifts and talents to serve God.

We don't do good deeds to **get** God to love us. God **already** loves us! We live as the people of God doing God's will because that is what we were created to do. Living a life of loving service is a delightful thing. We forgive as we have been forgiven. We serve as we have been served. *"We love because God first loved us."* (1 John 4:19)

HOW DO WE COME TO HAVE FAITH? We can only receive the gift of faith when we hear the promise of God's love and forgiveness.

"Faith comes by hearing the message, and the message comes through the Word of Christ." (Romans 10:17) We need to hear the challenge and promises of God again and again, because we tend to forget it. We need ongoing participation in a Christian community to nourish our faith. We need to hear the Word of God and we need to be fed at the Lord's Table. **We experience God in Christian community and when we experience the presence of God, our faith comes alive.** If you want to be a Christian, a person of faith, then you must involve yourself in the life of the church. Put yourself in the place where the Word of God is proclaimed and practiced.

THE HOLY TRINITY: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

God the Father - Almighty **creator** of heaven and earth.

God the creator is infinite in power is responsible for all that exists. And yet, relates to us **personally as a loving parent providing for all our needs.**

God the Son - Jesus Christ, God's only Son our **Lord**.

God **saves us** from sin and death.

Jesus is our **Lord**. That means that Jesus is the one that we follow and serve in a cross shaped way.

We give our lives in service like Jesus.

God the Spirit - **The Holy Spirit is the constant presence of God with us.**

The Holy Spirit helps us to believe the promises of God. The Holy Spirit empowers us in our serving.