

PASTOR'S PAGE

Lent 2017: The Small Catechism

***For by grace you have been saved through faith,
and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. + Ephesians 2:8***

This year will mark the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. As part of celebrating a **Year of Faith** at Bethlehem, we will be focusing on some central elements of what it means to be Lutheran Christians. One of those treasures is **Martin Luther's *Small Catechism***. Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, the presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), has encouraged us to read and study the *Small Catechism* during this Reformation anniversary year.

Read along with us! Copies of the *Small Catechism* will be available for purchase sometime before Lent begins on March 1. For \$5 you can purchase a Reformation Study Edition of the *Small Catechism*. For an additional \$2, you can also purchase a devotional booklet, *Free Indeed*. There will be a sign up sheet outside the offices. Did you know there is also a free ***Small Catechism* smartphone app** for both Apple and Android devices? For \$2 you can upgrade to the study edition.

We will be "sharing" Lent this year. Several pastors serving Lutheran congregations in our area (the North Central Conference) will be rotating and preaching at each other's congregations. After Ash Wednesday, worship will remain at Bethlehem, but you will hear from a new preacher each week on one of the sections of the *Small Catechism*.

We will have mid-week Lent worship on **Wednesdays at 11 am and 7 pm** in the sanctuary. We will also have a **meal at 6 pm** in the fellowship hall.

Below is the schedule of the parts of the *Small Catechism* that we will be studying. Feel free to read and prayerfully study the section the week before we hear it in worship.

March 1: Ash Wednesday: Confession (Pastor Matt)
March 8: Baptism (Pastor Bob Noble)
March 15: The Ten Commandments (Pastor Kristina Ahlman)
March 22: The Lord's Prayer (Pastor Holli Burkard)
March 29: Holy Communion (Pastor Rita Bair)
April 5: The Apostles' Creed (Pastor Shawn O'Brien)

+ Pastor Matt