



DISTRICT NEWS

KANSAS

Something old ...and new

A Catechism for the 21st Century

LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM has long been a classic for Lutheran learners, but it just got even better. The latest version of the catechism, released by CPH in November, offers something old and something new as it explains what we believe and why.



Rev. Peter K. Lange
District President

As far as something old, the first 40 pages of this catechism — the part that Luther himself wrote — are identical to the most recent previous editions of *Luther's Small Catechism*. Word for word. Not a single change.

This is important because, as Luther himself said in the preface to his catechism, [the preacher should] “avoid many versions or various texts and forms [of the catechism] ... He should choose one form to which he holds and teaches all the time, year after year. For young and simple people must be taught by uniform, settled texts and forms. Otherwise they become confused.”

For pastors, teachers and parents at home who are convinced by what Luther says here, these first 40 pages are the same as they've been since 1986 in LCMS editions of the catechism.

But it's in the “something new” that the

LCMS and Concordia Publishing House have produced a real gem with this 2017 edition of the catechism. In the final nearly 400 pages — the part produced by the Synod — there is so much more helpful and relevant teaching than there has been in any previous edition of *Luther's Small Catechism*.

The 374 questions and answers and supporting Scripture passages (expanded from 306 questions in the previous edition) are wonderfully updated to speak clearly to the most current issues of our day: cohabitation, same-sex marriage, pornography, in vitro fertilization and more.

And even in the many questions and answers that have been carried over from previous editions of the catechism, the theology has been deepened — yet with an economy of language — so that these nearly 400 pages of “Explanation” will engage and enrich readers of all kinds, from curious inquirers to lifelong Lutherans.

In fact, there's so much new and expanded teaching in these 374 questions that it might be too much for a junior high catechesis (confirmation) class. But junior high catechumens mature into young adults, then into mature adults whose hunger for and ability to han-

dle more complex explanations of the Christian faith continues to grow with each year.

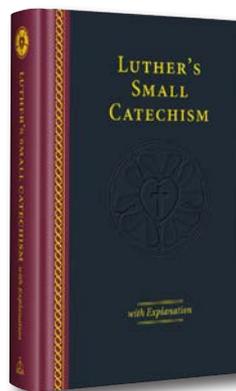
And it's not only baptized and confirmed

LCMS Lutherans who will benefit from this new edition of the catechism. If I were a young LCMS member seeking to share my beliefs with my prospective spouse, or an LCMS Lutheran of any age desiring to explain my Lutheran faith to a non-LCMS friend, this new catechism would be the first book I would share and discuss with them.

There's so much more that could be said about the 17 additional resources (in 83

pages) at the end of the catechism, or about the three different tiers in which each small section of the 374 questions is arranged so that a person can read and study at several different speeds and levels, or about the psalm, hymn and prayer that accompany each small section. But all that would be for a lengthier article.

My hope, prayer and encouragement is that this new and improved edition of *Luther's Small Catechism* would be found in every Lutheran home, dorm room and apartment, and that through its use as a summary of God's Word, many might grow up into salvation (1 Peter 2:2).



INSTALLATIONS



Trinity, Garden City, celebrated the installation of **the Rev. Michael Hageman** as pastor on Jan. 7. Pictured from left, (front row) the Revs. Andrew Wehling, Ervin Daugherty, Hageman, Peter Lange, Gary Wolf; (back row) Dennis Mason, Randy Jahnke, Warren Prochnow, Patrick Gumz and Stan Palmer.



The Rev. Russ Peterson was installed at Christ, Overland Park, on Jan. 7. Pictured above are, from left, the Revs. Jeff Kunze, Lee Hovel, Peterson and Jeff Meyers.

The Rev. Michael Apfel was installed as pastor of Trinity, Fort Scott, on Jan. 13. Pictured are from left, (front row) the Revs. Roger Mackie, Ted Cook, Apfel, Peter Lange, Tom Krause, Jonathan Scheck; (back row) Frank Eberhart, Ed Trost, Kevin Wyssmann, Timothy Roth, Bryan Drebes and Tony Fields.



Scholarships available

Students pursuing a degree in professional church work at one of our LCMS colleges or seminaries, and current workers pursuing colloquy, may apply for a scholarship from the Kansas District. The deadline for applications is June 1 of each year.

The amount of the scholarship is based on available funds and the number of applications received. Grants are sent directly to the university or seminary.

Scholarships are also available from LLL, LWML and St. John's Alumni Association.



Applications and instructions for all organizations are now available on the Kansas District website at kslcms.org. Navigate to "Stewardship," then choose "Scholarship Grants" from the menu.

The Scholarship Committee meets in July to review applications and determine awards.

District convention UPDATE



Preparations continue for the 2018 Kansas District Convention, scheduled for June 7-9 in Topeka.

Here's what you can expect in April:

- Online registration opens Friday, April 6.
- The convention workbook will be posted on our convention webpage by April 6 as well.
- The slate of nominees for office will be published on the web and in the April *Lutheran Witness*.

If you need to communicate with us about convention matters, we invite you to use our convention email address: KSDconvention@gmail.com.

Meet the LYF team

Coordinators



DCE Charity Smith and Jesse Smith
St. Luke's, Manhattan

Representatives



Annalise Fischer
Ascension, Wichita



Hannah Fritz
Prince of Peace, Topeka



Sydney Moore
Christ, Overland Park



Hannah Weers
Risen Savior, Wichita



Jeremy Hinrichs
St. Luke's, Manhattan



Clara Jackson
Trinity, Garden City



Find Youth Ministry Online: kslccms.org > Education & Youth > Youth Ministry



LYF representative Annalise Fischer, left, speaks while on a visit to St. Paul's, Cheney.

Young leaders in the church

LUTHERAN YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

By **Sydney Moore**
LYF Representative

LOVE FOR JESUS CHRIST — that's what brings Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) coordinators and representatives together to spread the Word of God to the youth of Kansas. The LYF representatives — high school students in various grades — are from all over the state. This diversity helps to give all youth a voice while planning events for the Kansas District.

The representatives' main role is to provide input for changes at district events and spread the Word of God to young people in Kansas. Representatives attend two annual meetings with the district Youth Ministry Team and help at events like the Kansas District Youth Gathering (KDYG) and Junior High Rallies. The group has also started visiting churches, a new leadership activity created by first-year LYF coordinators Charity and Jesse Smith (St. Luke's, Manhattan).

"We started doing the church visits because the LYF reps decided they wanted to do more in the district," said Charity Smith. "We decided to target churches that were worshipping 200 or less a week, which were more likely to have a volunteer running the youth programs. By doing these visits, we've

learned more about the needs of smaller churches and the support that volunteers need there."

While at the church, representatives attend a worship service and a Sunday school class for middle and high schoolers. They prepare a Bible study for the class and present it on their own or with another representative. The classes are also a great way to promote events such as Lutheran Valley Retreat, KDYG and Teen Fellowship Retreat. LYF representatives are prepared for these visits by attending training sessions at Teen Leadership Initiative (TLI) in St. Louis and receiving guidance from the LYF coordinators.

TLI also prepares LYF representatives to lead Teen Fellowship Retreat, a youth retreat for high schoolers of the Kansas District. The retreat consists of games, team builders and Bible studies led by LYF representatives with support from

LYF coordinators. In only a day and a half, students learn leadership skills, become closer to each other, and most importantly, become closer to God.

As a group, the LYF team strives to grow in leadership and increase knowledge of God and His Word among youth in Kansas.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

Teen Fellowship Retreat
April 6-7 | Hesston

Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR) Summer Camp
July 15-20
Woodland Park, Colo.

LLL and LWML help clean up in Texas



Eleven members of the Linn Zone LWML and LLL traveled by truck and van to Beaumont, Texas, for a cleanup and rebuild mission during the week of Nov 13-18. The volunteers, sponsored by St. John's Lutheran Church, Beaumont, brought supplies, materials and financial donations with them and set up camp



in church classrooms and one camper (with meals graciously provided by their hosts). The group cut, hung, drilled, mudded and sanded sheetrock in two homes. They shared their faith as well. As participant Michele Voelker reported: "We were able to witness to families in both of the homes."



SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH US!

Send stories and photos to:

- ▶ kbruss@kslcms.org
- ▶ 785-357-5071 (fax)
- ▶ Lutheran Witness Editor
LCMS Kansas District,
1000 S.W. 10th Ave.,
Topeka, KS 66604

The deadline for the **May** issue is **March 15**.

Photos should be in high-resolution with a minimum 300 dpi.



Young Investors (Y.I.) Club

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