



**Pastor Erik Sorenson**

Office: (812) 342-4921  
Cell: (812) 371-1151  
pastoresorenson@gmail.com

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## What Is Catechesis?

- Pastor Sorenson

As a new school year approaches, so too does a new year of Sunday School and youth catechesis. You know what Sunday School is and how important it is for the youngest among us to attend Sunday School. Not only do our youth benefit themselves from hearing more of God's Word (even stories they have heard many times before), but Sunday School is also a wonderful time for the youth in the congregation to grow together. They spend time in the Word together. They do activities together. They share their knowledge with each other. They experience the oneness of the communion of the saints, the Church, together. So, truly, you know what Sunday School is and what a treasure it is for us to have this at our church.

But what is youth catechesis (pronounced cat-uh-key-sis)? Well, you already know what it is, but you probably know it by a different name: confirmation. Youth catechesis is another way of speaking about confirmation classes, but before you dismiss this new terminology, consider why this change of speech is so important.

Let us start by addressing the word confirmation. This is truly a good word as it reminds us that we are "confirming" (that is "establishing the truth of") our adoption by God's grace in Holy Baptism. As such, the word confirmation applies properly to the Rite of Confirmation which comes after a period of instruction. During this Rite, those who have been instructed in the faith confirm all that God has done for them and that they truly are a child of God. As such, it is good to use the word "confirmation" when we are speaking of the actually Rite that takes place within the Divine Service.

But what about the period of instruction which leads up to the Rite? This is where the terminology "catechesis" comes in. Catechesis is derived from two Greek words which, roughly, mean "to sound back" or "to echo back." These are the same words which form the basis for the word "catechism."

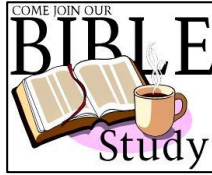
Catechesis, then, is a time when those who are being instructed "sound back" or "echo back" the things they are learning. They hear the Word of God and they echo it back. They learn the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and they learn how to sound back both the content and the meaning of each of these. They are instructed about the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Confession and Absolution, and the Sacrament of the Altar and they echo back the wonders of God's grace given to them in each of these ways.

This period of instruction is truly all about echoing back the truth that God has revealed to us in His Word. It is a time for those being instructed to grow in the knowledge of this truth, but also to have their voices be tuned to speak this truth in a world that so desperately needs to hear it. It is a time for them to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the basic tenets of the faith in order that they may continue to grow in this faith.

As such, it is most fitting to apply the term "catechesis" to this period of instruction. For this term reminds us of what is happening during this period, but it also reminds us that we do not graduate from learning the faith once we "confirm" our faith. Instead, our whole lives as Christians is continually echoing back the truth of God's Word and to sound forth to all the world that Jesus Christ has saved us by His death and His resurrection.

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:**

From 10:15-11:15 a.m. following our worship service, join us for study of the Gospel of Matthew.



**BOOK OF CONCORD:** Pastor's study on the Book of Concord will meet on Sunday, August 11th at 5:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to share for a light supper following our study.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY:**

A Simple Way to Pray - Join us starting Wednesday, August 14th at 6:30 p.m. for a Bible study on prayer. We will be using multiple resources including Martin Luther's short book A Simple Way to Pray, portions of the Large Catechism, and, of course, Holy Scripture. We will learn about the nature of prayer, how to pray, and why prayer is so important in the Christian life. All are welcome to attend!

**\*A special voters' meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, immediately following our worship service.**



Our next **GAME NIGHT** is this Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. Bring your games and your friends for a fun evening of fellowship! Pizza and drinks will be provided. Feel free to bring a side dish or dessert.



**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED!** - As we move through the summer months, now is the time to begin thinking about Sunday School. Sunday School will begin right after Labor Day. If you would like to teach Sunday School or be an assistant in a classroom, please speak to Kevin Schultz or Pastor Sorenson. Ideally, we would like to have two adults per classroom along with some substitute teachers as needed. Included in this is the need for a **YOUTH GROUP LEADER**. We will have a meeting coming soon to discuss more details concerning the upcoming Sunday School year.

**Sunday School classes will begin after Labor Day weekend.**

**YOUTH CATECHESIS (Confirmation)** - Youth Catechesis (confirmation) classes will be beginning soon. If you have a child who has already begun Catechesis, or if you have a child you would like to start this year, please contact Pastor Sorenson as soon as possible. If your child will be going through classes at White Creek, please contact Pastor Sorenson as well, as he would like to have all of our catechumens (confirmands) together in class so they may grow with one another and so he may get to know them and they may get to know him. Thank you!

**The first class will be Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.**

Voters' Meeting Minutes  
32 members present

July 14, 2019

Meeting was called to order by Rick Flohr. A devotion and prayer was given by Pastor Sorenson.

Minutes were read and approved with a 1<sup>st</sup> from Brenda Turner and a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Charlie Spurgeon.

**Practical Services:** Ernie Rotert reported Peak Lawn Care will mow the church grounds for \$3,500 per year.

**Financial Report:** Barb Minor reviewed the current financial position and the budgeted cash flow needs. We are in need of additional funding to meet our current obligations. Rick Flohr said commitment cards are being mailed to assist with preparation of the 2020 budget.

**Elders' Report:** Mike Vandercar reported the transfer of membership in for Dallas and Cheyenne Warnschultz and the Hughes family.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Sorenson reported Vacation Bible School will be held July 22-26. Please spread the word and invite children that may be interested in attending VBS this year.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**ELECTRONIC DONATIONS:**

Some members have indicated that they would be interested in contributing their weekly/monthly offerings through an electronic funds transfer. To set up this process with your bank, you will need the account number(s), type of account, and routing number for our church accounts. Please call or stop in the office and Amy can get you the information that you need. Each bank's process may be a little different, so we will work together to get this set up for anyone interested.

**[www.stpeterwaymansville.com](http://www.stpeterwaymansville.com)**

Pastor Sorenson has been working on updating our church website and making it a useful place for church information again. Visit our website for worship times and information about special events and programs. The church newsletter will also be posted there each month. Things like an events calendar and recordings of sermons are being considered. Useful tools will continue to be added as the website is further developed!

If you are looking for **CHURCH PUBLICATIONS** such as Portals of Prayer and other church magazines, they can be found in the library of the Parish Hall.

**St. Peter Lutheran Church & Preschool Calendar**

**August 2019**

**Usher:** Max Thomas & Camden Jeffries

**Acolytes:**

Aug. 4 – Gus Sciano

Aug. 11 – Jonah Sciano

**Communion Set-Up:** 8/4 & 8/18 – Amy Sciano

Aug. 18 – Jenna Thomas

Aug. 25 – Danica Crowe

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b>  7:00-Elders' Meeting	<b>2</b>   6:00-Game Night	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 9 – Divine Service (Communion) Following Service – Voters' Meeting & Adult Bible Class	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  7:00-Church Board Meeting	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 9:00 – Divine Service 10:15-11:15 – Adult Bible Class 11:30 – Youth Catechesis  5:00 p.m.-Book of Concord Study	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  6:30-Bible Study	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:00 – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15-11:15 – Adult Bible Class 11:30 – Youth Catechesis	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  6:30-Bible Study	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:00 – Divine Service 10:15-11:15 – Adult Bible Class 11:30 – Youth Catechesis	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  6:30-Bible Study	<b>29</b> September Newsletter Deadline	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>