
HL/PL 429

Preaching the Catechisms

Instructors:

Jann Boyd Office: 966-7855
Gordon Jensen Office: 966-7866

janneb@sasktel.net
gordon.jensen@usask.ca

Time:

Tuesdays, 4:30pm - 6:50 pm.

Course Description:

In Luther's Preface to the 1526 "The German Mass" he proposed that the Monday and Tuesday morning worship services have, as their focus for preaching and teaching, the catechisms. The purpose of these services was to acquaint people with the basics of the Christian Faith, and to develop in the participants a "Lutheran hermeneutic" by which to approach scripture, the sacraments, and daily life. From their outset, the catechisms were produced as pastoral tools.

This course, which can be taken for credit as a history or pastoral course, will begin with an overview of the practice of preaching and teaching the Lutheran, Anabaptist, Reformed, and Anglican catechisms and primers. Attention will also be given to the both the reformation theology contained in the catechisms and the interconnectedness between the *ordo* of worship and the order of topics in the catechisms. Participants will gain experience in incorporating their discoveries about the theology and practical agendas of the catechisms, by preaching a series of sermons that are catechetically informed. There will be an opportunity to preach sermons based on the primarily on the catechisms and also on assigned common lectionary texts. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the theological themes of the catechisms as they relate to the proclamation of Word and Sacrament in daily life, and the practice of learning to effectively communicate them in their preaching and teaching.

Course Objectives:

- 1) To help participants gain an appreciation for a few of the 16th century catechisms which influenced the piety and faith of the people of God.
- 2) To give participants the opportunity to explore the historical formation of these catechisms, their operating theologies, and their practical implications for daily life.
- 3) To explore the content and the context of preaching on the catechisms.
- 4) To provide opportunities for participants to prepare and preach their own sermons on the catechisms, or which incorporate important themes from the catechisms in the lectionary preaching.
- 5) To provide opportunities for participants to reflect upon the tasks of preaching and teaching the catechisms and their differences and similarities.

Course Requirements:

- 1) Participation in class and completion of assigned readings for each class. (Please note that more than 2 unexcused absences will result in an automatic failure in this course). **10%**
- 2) Either a historical theology research paper that either traces the historical development, and the practical implications, of a theological *locus* in one of the catechisms covered in the class, or a research paper that examines and uncovers the catechetical theology that is found in a classical sermon from the 16th century. The paper is to be 20-25 pages long, double spaced, 12 point proportional font, with 1 inch margins, and following an approved referencing style (APA or Chicago Manual of Style). The participant will be expected to make contributions to the class, based on their research discoveries. A proposed outline and abstract of the paper is due on February 28th, and the final paper is due on April 11th. **30%**
- 3) The preparation of three sermons, at least two of which are to be preached in a regular worship setting:
 - a. **one** sermon, based directly on a loci from one of the catechisms studied in the course. **20%**
 - b. **two** sermons, based on an assigned Revised Common Lectionary Text, and which incorporates theological themes from the catechisms. (2 x 20%) **40%**

Required Readings:

Many of the required readings for this course are catechisms, articles, treatises or sermons that are found within various textbooks. It is not expected that the participants purchase all of the volumes in which the readings are located, but it is expected that the participants would have read the texts and have a copy of the texts in the classroom when they are being discussed. Some of the required readings can be found at www.gjlts.com under "Course Resources." See instructor for passwords.

Primary Sources:

Agricola, Johann. "One Hundred Thirty Common Questions." *Sources and Contexts of the Book of Concord*. Translated by Timothy J. Wengert. Edited by Robert Kolb and James A. Nestingen. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001. 13-30.

"A Booklet for Laity and Children." *Sources and Contexts of the Book of Concord*. Translated by Timothy J. Wengert. Edited by Robert Kolb and James A. Nestingen. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001. 1-12.

Campbell, Charles L., *The Word Before the Powers: An Ethic of Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster-John Knox Press, 2002.

The Heidelberg Catechism. Grand Rapids, MI: Board of Publications of the Christian Reformed Church, 1975.

Henry VIII. *The King's Book, or A Necessary Doctrine and Erudition for any Christian Man, 1543*. Introduction by T.A. Lacey. London: Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge (SPCK), 1932.

Hubmaier, Balthasar. "A Christian Catechism Which Every Person Should Know Before He is Baptized in Water." (1526) Translated by Denis Janz. *Three Reformation Catechisms: Catholic, Anabaptist, Lutheran*. Texts and Studies in Religion, Volume 13. Lewiston, New York: Edwin Mellon Press, 1982. 131-78.

Luther, Martin. "The Small Catechism" (1529). *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*, Edited by Robert Kolb and Timothy J. Wengert. Translated by Charles Arand, Eric Gritsch, Robert Kolb, William Russell, James Schaaf, Jane Strohl, and Timothy J. Wengert. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2000. 345-75.

_____. "The Large Catechism" (1529). *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*. Edited by Robert Kolb and Timothy J. Wengert. Translated by Charles Arand, Eric Gritsch, Robert Kolb, William Russell, James Schaaf, Jane Strohl, and Timothy J. Wengert. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2000. 377-480.

_____. "An Exposition of the Lord's Prayer for Simple Laymen" (1519). *Luther's Works*. Volume 42. Translated by Martin Bertram and edited by Martin O. Dietrich. Jaroslav Pelikan and Helmut T. Lehmann, general editors. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1969. 15-81.

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_____. "A Simple Way to Pray" (1535). *Luther's Works*. Volume 43. Translated by Carl J. Schindler, edited by Gustav K. Wiencke. Jaroslav Pelikan and Helmut T. Lehmann, general editors. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1968. 187-211.

_____. "Ten Sermons on the Catechism, November 30 to December 18, 1528." *Luther's Works*, Volume 51. Translated and edited by John W. Doberstein. Jaroslav Pelikan and Helmut T. Lehmann, general editors. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1959. 133-93.

Secondary Sources:

Brouwer, Wayne. "Preaching the Heidelberg: A New Look at the Tradition of Catechetical Preaching." *Reformed Worship* 26 (December 1992), 38-39.

Haemig, Mary Jane. "Preaching the Catechism: A Transformational Exercise." *Dialog* 36 (Spring 1997), 100-104.

Johnson, Donald W. *Praying the Catechism*. Prepared under the auspices of the Division for Parish Life of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In Canada. Winnipeg: Wallingford Press, 1995.

Nesting, James Arne. "Preaching the Catechism." *Word and World* 10 (Winter 1990), 33-42.

Brief Bibliography

- Allbeck, Willard Dow. *Studies in the Lutheran Confessions*. Philadelphia: Muhlenberg Press, 1952.
- Arand, Charles P. *That I May Be His Own: An Overview of Luther's Catechisms*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2000.
- Bedouelle, Guy. "The Birth of the Catechism." *Communio* 10 (Spring 1983), 35-52.
- Beeke, Joel R. "Faith and Assurance in the Heidelberg Disputation and its Primary Composers: A Fresh Look at the Kendall Thesis." *Calvin Theological Journal* 27 (April 1992), 39-67.
- Berg, J.F. *The History and Literature of the Heidelberg Catechism and its Introduction into the Netherlands*. Philadelphia: William and Alfred Martien, 1863.
- Bierma, Lyle D. "How Should Heidelberg Disputation Q/A be Translated?" *Calvin Theological Journal* 26 (April 1991), 125-33.
- _____. "Olevianus and the Authorship of the Heidelberg Catechism: Another Look." *Sixteenth Century Journal* 13 no. 4 (Winter 1982), 17-27.
- _____. "What Hath Wittenberg to do with Heidelberg: Philip Melancthon and the Heidelberg Catechism," Karin Maag, Editor. *Melancthon in Europe: His Work and Influence Beyond Wittenberg*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1999.103-122.
- Brueggemann, Walter. *Finally Comes the Poet: Daring Speech for Proclamation*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1989.
- _____. *Texts Under Negotiation: The Bible and Postmodern Imagination*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993.
- Bruggink, Donald J., Editor. *Guilt, Grace and Gratitude: A Commentary on the Heidelberg Catechism Commemorating its 400th Anniversary*. New York: Half Moon Press, 1963.
- Burchill, Christopher J. "On the Consolation of a Christian Scholar: Zacharias Ursinus (!534-83) and the Reformation of Heidelberg." *Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 37 No. 4 (October, 1986), 565-83.
- Buttrick, David. *The Mystery and the Passion: A Homiletic Reading of the Gospel Traditions*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992.
- The Catechism of the Council of Trent*. Published by command of Pope Pius the Fifth. Translated by J. Donovan. Dublin: Richard Coyne, Capel Street, 1829.
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- _____. *Reformed Confessions of the 16th Century*. Edited, with Historical Introductions. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1966.
- Deutschlander, Daniel M. "Luther's Large Catechism: An Encouragement for Faith and Life." *Logia* 9 no. 2 (Eastertide 2000), 23-32.

- De Yong, Peter Y. "Comments on Catechetical Preaching." *Mid-America Journal of Theology*. 1 (Fall 1985), 155-89.
- Drevlow, Arthur H. "The History, Significance and Application of Luther's Catechisms." *Concordia Journal* 5 no 5 (September 1979), 172-7.
- _____. "How Luther Wanted the Catechism Used." *Concordia Journal* 7 no 4 (July 1981), 152-7.
- Drickamer, John M. "The Religion of the Large Catechism." *Concordia Journal* 8 (July 1982), 139-42.
- Frese, Michael Nathaniel. *Sixteenth-Century Catechesis: Andreas Osiander as Catechist and Expositor of Luther's Small Catechism in His Sermons Delivered to Children in 1533*. Master of Sacred Theology Thesis. Fort Wayne, Indiana: Concordia Theological Seminary, 2004.
- Golladay, Robert Emory. *Sermons on the Catechism*. 4 Volumes. Columbus, OH: Lutheran Book Concern, 1915-1920.
- Hageman, Howard G. "The Heidelberg Catechism as a Means of Christian Nurture." *Theology and Life (Lancaster)* 6 (Autumn 1963), 239-54.
- Hall, Joseph H. "Reformed Catechetics." *Concordia Journal* 5 no. 6 (November 1979), 205-10.
- Hesselink, John. "The Dramatic Story of the Heidelberg Catechism." *Later Calvinism*. Kirksville, MO: Sixteenth Century Journal Publishers, 1994.
- Janetzki, Elvin W. "Teaching Luther's Small Catechism as Law and Gospel." *Lutheran Theological Journal* 14 (August 1980), 73-9.
- Klooster, Fred H. *A Mighty Comfort: The Christian Faith According to the Heidelberg Catechism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Christian Reformed Church Publications, 1990.
- Krodel, Gottfried G. "Luther as Creative Writer: The Explanation of the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed in the Small Catechism: Dogma, Classical Rhetoric, Confession of Faith." *Ad Fontes Lutheri*. Milwaukee: Marquette University Press, 2001.
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- Pederson, Phillip E., Editor. *What Does This Mean?: Luther's Catechisms Today*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1979.
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Course Schedule and Assigned Readings:

Date:	Topics:	Assigned Readings:
Week 1: Jan 24, 2006	Introduction to the course. Why preach? Why catechesis? The History of Catechisms and preaching on Catechisms. An overview of the <i>ordo</i> of catechisms.	
Week 2: Jan 31, 2006	The task of preaching and the task of teaching. The dual role of catechisms. The use of catechism for the devotional and spiritual life of people. An exploration of some of Luther's sermons on the Catechisms.	-Luther, "Ten Sermons on the Catechism." -the articles by Brouwer, Haemig, and Nestingen -Campbell, chapter 1
Week 3: Feb 7, 2006	From Prayer Books to Catechisms: Early Lutheran proto-Catechisms. An introduction to the hermeneutical questions for this course: "What needs to be taught here?" "What needs to be preached here?" How?	-"An Exposition of the Lord's Prayer" -"Personal Prayer Book" -"A Simple Way to Pray" -Campbell, chapter 2
Week 4: Feb 14, 2006	The Development of Luther's Catechisms. The order of the <i>loci</i> in the catechisms. The questions we need to ask: "What needs to be taught here?" "What needs to be preached here?" How?	-"A Booklet for Laity and Children" -Agricola, "One Hundred Thirty Common Questions"
Week 5: Feb 21, 2006	The Small Catechism of Luther. The pedagogical method. The illustrated edition. Theology of the catechisms. The questions we need to ask: "What needs to be taught here?" "What needs to be preached here?" How?	-Luther's Small Catechism. -Begin reading Johnson, "Praying the Catechism." -Campbell, chapter 3
Week 6: Feb 28, 2006	The Large Catechism of Luther. Who is it for? The Commandments, the Creeds, and the Lord's Prayer. The questions we need to ask: "What needs to be taught here?" "What needs to be preached here?" How?	-Luther's Large Catechism, Parts I-III: The Commandments, the Creeds, the Lord's Prayer.
Mid-Term Break: March 6-10, 2006		
Week 7: Mar 14, 2006	The Large Catechism of Luther. The Sacrament of Baptism, Confession and Absolution, and The Sacrament of the Altar. The questions we need to ask: "What needs to be taught here?" "What needs to be preached here?" How?	-Luther's Large Catechism, Parts IV-VI: Baptism, Confession, Communion. -Campbell, chapter 4

- Week 8:**
Mar 21, 2006
Hubmaier's Anabaptist Catechism. It's development. Comparison to other catechisms. Identifying the emphases. The questions we need to ask: "What needs to be taught here?" "What needs to be preached here?" How?
-Hubmaier, "A Christian Catechism Which Every Person Should Know"
-Campbell, chapter 5
- Week 9:**
Mar 28, 2006
King Henry VIII's Primer. The Queen's Prayer Book. Their development. Their relationship to the Book of Common Prayer. The questions we need to ask: "What needs to be taught here?" "What needs to be preached here?" How?
-Henry VIII, "The King's Book, or A Necessary Doctrine and Erudition for any Christian Man"
-Campbell, chapter 6
- Week 10:**
Apr 4, 2006
The Heidelberg Catechism. It's development. Comparison to other catechisms. Its emphases and purpose. The questions we need to ask: "What needs to be taught here?" "What needs to be preached here?" How?
-"The Heidelberg Catechism."
-Campbell, chapter 7
- Week 11:**
Apr 11, 2006
Historical obstacles and challenges to preaching and teaching the catechisms. What needed to be taught and preached in the context of the 16th Century catechisms. Were the catechisms successful at what they were supposed to do? Revisiting their task.
-Campbell, chapter 8
- Week 12:**
Apr 18, 2006
Contemporary obstacles and challenges to preaching and teaching the catechisms today. What needs to be taught and preached for the sake of the church today? Are catechisms only for confirmation classes? What is the place of the catechisms in our worship and preaching? Critical evaluations. Revisiting our task.