

# REDISCOVER MACEDONIA

A spirit of gratitude and generosity



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.



## Introduction

In 1529 Martin Luther, a pastor in the German town of Wittenberg, published his explanations to the chief parts of the Christian faith. This little resource, which he designed for use in the home, came to be known as The Small Catechism.

Taken directly from the Bible, The Small Catechism is a summary of the chief teachings of the Christian faith. In a concise way, the Catechism helps us know what we really need to know about living as a Christian.

The Small Catechism contains the Ten Commandments, the Apostles Creed, and the Lord's Prayer. It teaches what we need to know about Baptism, Confession and Forgiveness, and Holy Communion.

Luther wrote The Small Catechism for the home, so that parents could explain to their children in simple terms the most important things in the Christian faith. We never outgrow the catechism, though. Luther himself said, "As for myself, I, too, am a doctor and a preacher — yes, and as learned and experienced as any of those who act so high and mighty. Yet I do as a child who is being taught the Catechism. Every morning, and whenever else I have time, I read and recite word for word the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Psalms, etc. I must still read and study the Catechism daily, yet I cannot master it as I wish, but must remain a child and pupil of the Catechism, and I do it gladly."

Throughout this school year we are going to focus on the catechism. Children, youth and adults will be offered classes to learn about the catechism. Our weekend worship services, including the sermons, will center on the catechism. And, of course, Table Talk will help us talk about the catechism in our homes.

The Bible readings this week give us encouragement as we embark on this journey. The prayers are Luther's Morning and Evening Prayers (which are included in the Small Catechism). These are great prayers to learn and use each day. May God help you to grow in your faith this week.

## Daily Scripture Readings

The daily readings are brief, so take your time and let the word of God sink deep into your heart and soul and mind. Read the verses more than once, perhaps at different times in the day. Write the verse down and post it in a place where you will see it throughout the day.

### **Sunday – Luke 10:38-42**

How can you and your family be more like Mary? Develop a plan and make it part of your regular schedule.

### **Monday – Psalm 119:105**

When it comes to living out your faith, are you stumbling around in the dark? What is the promise in this verse? What can you do to let the light of God's word shine more brightly for you and your family?

### **Tuesday – Psalm 25:4-5**

How does God teach you and lead you to know the truth? How can you and your family be more open to God?

### **Wednesday – John 20:31**

Why is it important to spend time with God's Word? What is God's promise to you in this verse?

### **Thursday – Deuteronomy 30:11-14**

Sometimes it may seem too overwhelming to know God. The Bible, after all, is a big book. What assurance does God give you in these verses?

### **Friday – Hebrews 10:23**

What is the "confession of your hope" that you want to be sure to hold onto without wavering? For example, St. Paul said, "I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." Write yours down and post it in a prominent place so that everyone in your household can see it.

### **Saturday – Luke 2:41-52**

It was important to Jesus to spend time talking about the word of God with others. What was the result of this in Jesus' life (see verse 52)? What does this mean for you and your family?

## Prayer Suggestions

- + Pray that God will help you grow spiritually this year.
- + Pray for your family and friends that they may grow this year.
- + Pray for those in our church family who help us to grow in our faith.

### Luther's Morning Prayer

I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected me through the night from all harm and danger. I ask that you would also protect me today from sin and all evil, so that my life and actions may please you. Into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

### Luther's Evening Prayer

I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected me today. I ask you to forgive me all my sins, where I have done wrong, and graciously to protect me tonight. Into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.