

DELC Catechism - 2021-22
October 31, 2021

Howdy!

✝ Let's pray.

Merciful God, thank you that we are sisters and brothers in Christ,
whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism.

You call us to yourself,
enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit,
and nourish us in the community of faith.

Uphold us in the gifts and promises of baptism,
and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.

We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

Thanks for being here!

✝ Thanks for being here, because you don't have to be. Your salvation doesn't depend on it (however, if you thought it did, it is good you're here 😊). Affirmation of Baptism is a completely voluntary thing, just like any travel sport team is a completely voluntary thing. Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation/Catechism is a ministry we offer for those families and individuals who are curious.

✝ To go back to the sports analogy, you don't *have* to be part of a sports team, but you can be and, if you want to be, there are expectations for being part of the team and participating. Same here.

✝ What are those expectations?

- Bring your questions
- Bring your challenges
- Bring a mind willing to risk believing that the God of life and loving and living enjoys life and love and living and enjoys us enjoying life and love and living.
- Bring a note of seriousness . . . seriously, have your watched animals playing in the snow? Did you ever stop to think God created snow just for the fun of it? So, seriously, come giving permission for us to laugh . . . of course, not at one another ("love your neighbor as yourself") . . . but with one another 😊
- Bring the maturity to practice responsible participation
- Bring your stuff:
 - Bible
 - Small Catechism
 - 3-ring binder
 - Writing utensil
 - Walking attire
- Bring your pre-work/homework/Bible reading completed
- Bring your phone super-glued (figuratively) into your pocket and in Star Trek mode - stun/silent [literally]



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- Bring humility - on a sports team, the most unhelpful players are those who are there so they can help themselves along. The more helpful players are those who participate so everybody gets helped along.
- Bring understanding - understand that these couple years together are about development and faith develops in community. Not participating will not grow in you anything to confirm.

Stuff We're Doing & Schedule (Schedule)

- ✝ Usually (but not always - e.g., November), twice a month. The schedule is different than last year [and different than originally thought] due to changes in the overall DELC Sunday morning schedule. The long-term goal is for catechism to be on Sunday evenings. Which means, this year has a transitional/experimental component to it.
- ✝ Acolyting - will be part of the Catechism Program after the first of the year.
- ✝ Worship Reflections
 - 20 reflections in 2 years (all 20 to be completed by March 1st of your 2nd year)
 - Due 7 days after the worship service happens.
- ✝ 2nd year students - Essay & Confirmation Verse due in March.

As a culminating process of bringing together learning and questions, 2nd year people are expected to write an essay designed to elicit your thinking about just who Jesus is and what his life and story mean for you. You will be given a reading to respond to via writing an essay. That **essay** and your **self-selected Confirmation Verse from Scripture** will be the **basis for a conversation with myself and elders** (in the biblical sense) of DELC **during the month of March**. Please note, the tone of this gathering will not be like defending a thesis; rather, the tone of this gathering will be one of sisters and brothers in Jesus walking alongside one another with encouragement and coaching in the spirit of Luke 24 - celebration, learning, sending in His name.

- ✝ Affirmation of Baptism [Confirmation Day] - 1st Sunday in May

Questions