

St. John's Lutheran School Religion Curriculum

1. Know Jesus as their personal Savior.

K Benchmarks:

- a) Come to know their God as the one who made them, chose them as His child, loves and forgives them, is with them always, and always keeps His promises through His Son Jesus.
- b) Recognize sin, learn of its consequences, and rely on Jesus' forgiveness for our sin.
- c) Know that God sent Jesus as a baby.
- d) Know that Jesus died and lives again for them.

1st Benchmarks:

- a) Recognize that God promises to be with them and always to bless them.
- b) Explain that God sent Jesus to be the Savior for all people.
- c) Verbalize that Jesus was born a baby to grow up to suffer and to die on the cross.
- d) Rejoice in the hope that because of Jesus' death and resurrection, they too will live in heaven.
- e) Acknowledge that Jesus is alive.
- f) Realize that s/he is a sinner and needs God's forgiveness through Jesus.

2nd Benchmarks:

- a) Remember the suffering and death of their Savior for them whenever they observe the Lord's Supper being celebrated.
- b) Recognize that Jesus came to save people of all nations.
- c) Express feelings of security knowing the great power of Jesus.
- d) Express confident trust in Jesus' loving care and healing.

3rd Benchmarks:

- a) Express their trust and confidence in God to care for their physical and spiritual needs.
- b) Acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God, yet true man and Savior of the world.

4th Benchmarks:

- a) Acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God, yet true man and Savior of the world.
- b) Identify and verbalize faith in Jesus as the only way to heaven.
- c) Demonstrate an understanding of the meaning of the terms grace and faith.
- d) Demonstrate a desire to trust God for help, strength, and forgiveness.
- e) Rejoice that they are justified and restored to a peaceful relationship with God, through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.
- f) Rejoice that we have been restored to a peaceful relationship with God through Christ.
- g) Acknowledge that God desires all people to receive the gift of eternal life and salvation.
- h) Verbalize that they are saved by God's grace and not their own good deeds.
- i) Acknowledge that at Easter Jesus proclaimed His victory over sin, death, and the power of the devil.

5th Benchmarks:

- a) Acknowledge that through His suffering and death, Jesus earned forgiveness of sins and eternal life for them and for all people.
- b) Acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, the Christ Who fulfilled Old Testament prophecies.
- c) Live in confidence that they are God's children and He controls the events of their lives for their good.
- d) Acknowledge with confidence God's plan of salvation as clearly revealed in Scripture.
- e) Recognize signs of God's love and care in their own lives.
- f) Recognize that God is faithful, strengthens them, and gives them the victory over their enemies: sin, death, and the power of the devil.
- g) Trust that God will accomplish His good purposes in their lives, even in times of conflict and crisis.

6th Benchmarks:

- a) Identify Jesus as the central figure of the Bible.
- b) Describe Jesus' willingness to suffer humiliation, excruciating pain, and death at the hand of earthly rulers in order to earn our forgiveness, life, and salvation.
- c) Demonstrate an understanding of the origin and schemes of Satan and his defeat by the Lord Jesus.
- d) Acknowledge that God seeks to redeem all people and values each person as one for whom Christ has died.

7th Benchmarks:

- a) Recognize the presence of Jesus in Old Testament prophecy
- b) Acknowledge Jesus as the fulfillment of prophecy as demonstrated in the New Testament
- c) Be able to identify God's Messianic promise throughout all of His Word

8th Benchmarks:

- a) Give examples of how people break each commandment.
- b) Apply the Gospel in the terms of each commandment as to how one receives forgiveness for breaking it.
- c) Explain the importance of the incarnation.
- d) Describe the work of Christ in terms of redemption, justification, and salvation.

2. Give witness to their faith.

K Benchmarks:

- a) Recognize our God as the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- b) Know of heaven as the place where God lives, and where, we, too, shall live.
- c) Share God's Good News.
- d) Celebrate God's greatness.
- e) Know that missionaries tell others about Jesus.
- f) Witness to our faith to those around us and to pray for those who speak of God and His love for all men.

1st Benchmarks:

- a) Demonstrate a desire to tell others about Jesus, the Savior of the world.
- b) Tell how Baptism and the Lord's Supper show God's love.

2nd Benchmarks:

- a) Express confident assurance that God keeps all His promises to them, including His greatest promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.
- b) Demonstrate confident trust that God will protect and care for them.
- c) Express a desire to share God's love beyond the close circle of family and friends.
- d) Identify Jesus as God's Son.
- e) Realize that not all people believe in Jesus as Savior.

3rd Benchmarks:

- a) Show acceptance of others as either brothers and sisters in Christ or as fellow sinners with whom one can share the Good News.
- b) Confess Jesus as their personal Savior from sin and eternal death.
- c) Express confident trust that they will go to heaven someday to live forever with Jesus.
- d) Demonstrate a desire to share the Gospel with others through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- e) Explore together situations that cause worry and tell one another of Jesus' love and care.
- f) Express reliance on the power of the Holy Spirit to enable them to live transformed lives.
- g) Explain that the Holy Spirit works faith in our hearts and makes us God's children.
- h) Recognize that God sometimes helps them overcome problems and weaknesses in unexpected ways.

4th Benchmarks:

- a) Describe God as holy, just, and gracious.
- b) Explain that Jesus' miracles demonstrated His power as God's Son.
- c) Acknowledge Jesus as omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent.
- d) Express reliance of Jesus' presence and the power of the Holy Spirit for the courage and ability to witness the Christian faith in their daily lives.
- e) Express reliance on the power of the Holy Spirit to remain firm in their faith, knowing that even persecution and opposition can lead to further opportunities to spread the Gospel.
- f) Witness openly to others that Jesus is their Savior.
- g) Recognize through the study of missions and personal contact with missionaries the need to share the Word with all nations.

5th Benchmarks:

- a) Appreciate the need to witness to all people, including people of every race, color, and nationality.
- b) Encourage classmates to live Christian lives.
- c) Express reliance on God and His Word for courage, wisdom, and direction throughout their lives.
- d) Recognize that no force is more powerful than God and His love for them in Christ.
- e) Explain that Jesus perfectly fulfilled God's law for them in their place.
- f) Acknowledge Christ's forgiveness and rely on the Holy Spirit's power to share God's love with others, especially those who have not yet heard the saving Gospel of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus.

6th Benchmarks:

- a) Describe how cultural barriers can separate and hinder the sharing of the Gospel.

- b) Seek opportunities to share their faith in Jesus Christ.
- c) Share God's promise to give them the Holy Spirit to live in them and to empower them for service.
- d) Explain God's offer of peace to all through forgiveness and salvation won by Jesus on the cross.
- e) Witness to others about God's plan of salvation, especially to non-Christians.

7th Benchmarks:

- a) Understand the assurance that salvation comes by grace, through faith, and not by works
- b) Have a working knowledge of what verses and portions of Scripture are helpful in explaining and furthering God's promises of love for all people
- c) Be ready to share the faith given through God's Word with those who don't believe

3. Lead God-pleasing lives in service to Him and others.

K Benchmarks:

- a) Be thankful for God and His world and to show it by the care we give ourselves, the care we give to our world, and the way we share it with others
- b) Grow in kindness and goodness.
- c) Know that God gives them pastors and teachers.

1st Benchmarks:

- a) Ask to help them grow as Jesus grew.
- b) Recognize that God calls them to be His own dear children so that they may follow His purpose and plan for their lives.
- c) Demonstrate self-control as they realize that God gives them the ability to live as His redeemed children who obey His will for their lives.
- d) Realize that when they have difficult choices to make, God's way is always the best.
- e) Demonstrate their faith through their words and actions.
- f) Trust in the Holy Spirit's power to help him live God's way.
- g) Appreciate the individual, special and unique gifts God has given each person.

2nd Benchmarks:

- a) Celebrate God's love with words and actions.
- b) Show respect for God's house.
- c) Demonstrate a desire to grow in God's peace as they see His power in their lives.
- d) Recognize that God prepares them for their service in His kingdom.

3rd Benchmarks:

- a) Identify the commandments that focus specifically on their relationship to others.
- b) Recognize that even during times of persecution and opposition, God blesses them and leads them to live transformed lives.
- c) Acknowledge that only by God's grace are we empowered to do His will.

4th Benchmarks:

- a) Thank God for His creating and preserving might.
- b) Identify the means through which God equips them to overcome Satan's power.
- c) Acknowledge the communion of saints as a special blessing from God.
- d) Recognize God's plan and purpose in the Scriptures and relate it to their own lives.

5th Benchmarks:

- a) Ask for God's power to live in love and service to all people - even those who are hard to love.

- b) Respond to Jesus' love by acts of kindness to others.
- c) Show respect, out of love for God, to parents, teachers, and others in authority.
- d) Identify opportunities in which the Holy Spirit can use them in service to God.
- e) Realize that the Holy Spirit empowers us to live as God's children.
- f) Identify grace as the motivation for good works and explain that they are saved only by grace through faith in their Lord Jesus Christ.
- g) Express confidence in God's promise to work through the means of grace to overcome temptations.

6th Benchmarks:

- a) Respond to God's love by praying for their government leaders and demonstrating Christian citizenship.
- b) Describe how the Holy Spirit's power enables them to achieve victory over sin and Satan.

7th Benchmarks:

- a) Demonstrate an understanding of the role of good works in the life of a believer
- b) Identify some ways that God has used each of them for the benefit of their neighbors
- c) Look for more opportunities to reflect the love of Christ to the world around them
- d) Be able to locate from Scripture examples of good works and the results they brought about

8th Benchmarks:

- a) Recite the Ten Commandments and their meanings as well as the Close of the Commandments and its meaning.

4. See themselves as forgiven sinners who in turn forgive others.

K Benchmarks:

- a) Know that they are to forgive others just as Jesus forgives them.

1st Benchmarks:

- a) Rejoice that God loves them not because of their looks, abilities, strength, or age, but because they are His own forgiven children, redeemed by Jesus Christ.
- b) Show the understanding that they are forgiven and can forgive others.

2nd Benchmarks:

- a) Acknowledge that because of Jesus they are declared “not guilty” and sinless in God’s eyes.
- b) Recognize that in Baptism we become part of God’s family.
- c) Explain that Satan wants us to stop loving God and tempts us to sin.
- d) Develop the understanding that sin brings consequences.
- e) Show the understanding that they are forgiven and can forgive others.
- f) Understand that when they show love to others they are showing love to God.

3rd Benchmarks:

- a) Demonstrate a Gospel-motivated desire to love and forgive all others, including those who hate them.
- b) Recognize that God uses world events and their consequences to call sinners to repentance in order to strengthen repentant sinners with His grace and love.
- c) Confess their sins, expressing confidence in the forgiveness God offers them freely in Christ Jesus, their Lord.
- d) Recognize that one sin often leads to more sins.

- e) Explain that we are all sinful and deserve eternal death.
- f) Tell how God's plan of salvation has broken down the wall of sin that separated us from God.

4th Benchmarks:

- a) Pray for God's guidance in building Christian relationships.
- b) Acknowledge that God gives them power to forgive others.
- c) Demonstrate reliance on God's strength when they are tempted to sin.
- d) Confess their sins to God, trusting that He will forgive them because of the saving work of His Son, Jesus.
- e) Understand that the law shows us our sin and the need for a Savior.

5th Benchmarks:

- a) Express joy and confidence in the forgiveness God freely offers them through Christ.
- b) Determine whether selected Bible passages reveal God's Law showing our sinfulness and our need for forgiveness or God's Gospel message of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ or both.
- c) Describe the impact of God's Law and Gospel on their lives.
- d) Express confident trust that Jesus their Savior will renew and strengthen them to respond with forgiveness toward others.
- e) Daily remember God's covenant made with them in Baptism as they repent of sin and receive full assurance of God's forgiveness.
- f) Verbalize, with understanding, the struggle between the sanctified nature and the sin that lives in them.
- g) Demonstrate that they recognize some of their own prejudices.

6th Benchmarks:

- a) Use the power the Holy Spirit offers them through their Baptism daily to put to death their sinful selves and to live God-pleasing lives.

7th Benchmarks:

- a) Using the lens of God's Law, understand their own sinfulness and need for a Savior
- b) Be able to explain to those around them the severity of sin and its earthly and eternal consequences
- c) Recognize the promise of the Gospel that is free for all believers, and the necessity of sharing it with anyone who may hurt or sin against them
- d) Point others to the need to forgive and to God's desire to save all people
- e) Identify major accounts from Scripture that detail the command to forgive as we have been forgiven

8th Benchmarks:

- a) Describe the work of the Holy Spirit in terms of regeneration and re-creation and explain the part of original sin in this.

5. Respond to God's love through their stewardship of time, talent, and treasures.

K Benchmarks:

- a) Give opportunities to reach out in love, living out our faith to those in the world around us.

1st Benchmarks:

- a) Demonstrate a desire to share God's gifts to them with others.
- b) Perform acts of kindness as they serve one another in love developing an awareness of servant hood.
- c) Plan ways to offer their love to God by giving Him their gifts of time, praise, money and talents.

2nd Benchmarks:

- a) Praise God by taking care of His creation.
- b) Identify leaders and helpers in their communities who are God's gift to them.
- c) Identify the many blessings of God in their lives.
- d) Understand the many consequences of wasting the material blessings God has given them.

3rd Benchmarks:

- a) Describe and appreciate the work and blessings of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

4th Benchmarks:

- a) Express their love for God in acts of service to other people.

5th Benchmarks:

- a) Wisely use all the gifts God has given them.
- b) Share food, clothing, and money with needy people.

6th Benchmarks:

- a) Identify and demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit in their lives.
- b) Describe plans to use their God-given abilities to their full potential.

7th Benchmarks:

- a) Be able to explain what tithing is and where the practice comes from in the Scriptures
- b) Through the study of God's Word, obtain a comfortable knowledge of why God calls us to support the Church
- c) Identify ways to support the life of the church that do not involve giving money

6. Develop a life-long commitment to worship.

K Benchmarks:

- a) Eagerly learn God's Word.

1st Benchmarks:

- a) Praise and thank God for all His goodness to them, especially for His love for them in Jesus.
- b) Joyfully worship God in obedience, through songs, prayers, and actions.
- c) Acknowledge that they can hear God's Word and learn about Jesus at home or in school as well as in church.
- d) Praise God that He provides for life on earth and forever in the Promised Land of heaven.
- e) Plan ways to offer their love to God by giving Him their gifts of time, praise, money, and talents.

2nd Benchmarks:

- a) Praise God for His goodness in creating and redeeming the world.
- b) Rejoice that God wants them to live with Him in the beautiful place He has prepared in heaven.
- c) Rejoice that God uses His power to set them free from sin.
- d) Thank God for the blessings of forgiveness and salvation.

- e) Offer God joyful prayers and praises of thanksgiving for blessings.
- f) Appreciate the seasons of the church year.

3rd Benchmarks:

- a) Praise and worship God with their songs, prayers, gifts, and lives of service.
- b) Praise God for the worth He gives them in Christ.
- c) Identify worship as a response to what God has done for us.

4th Benchmarks:

- a) Display evidence of a desire for the spiritual food offered through God's Word.

5th Benchmarks:

- a) Define worship as our response to God's grace in which we demonstrate our love, honor, and respect for Him in everything we say and do.
- b) Praise God for His plan of salvation.

6th Benchmarks:

- a) Respond to God's great love in Christ with a life of total worship.

7th Benchmarks:

- a) Explain and understand that worship is not something people do for God, but something that God does for people
- b) See the need for forgiveness as it is delivered in worship, and recognize that there is no better place to be than where God gives His forgiveness by His means of grace
- c) Recognize that our sinfulness goes with us until the grave, and with it our need for forgiveness
- d) Understand the benefit of being with God's people each week and the help it affords to our fellow believers

8th Benchmarks:

- a) Describe the work of the Holy Spirit in relation to the Holy Christian Church.

7. Develop a life of personal prayer, devotional time, and Bible study.

K Benchmarks:

- a) Pray with thanksgiving and in recognition that God loves to hear us call to Him in every need.
- b) Recognize the need to pray at all times.
- c) Recite memory assignments that help to strengthen their faith.

1st Benchmarks:

- a) Define prayer as simply talking to their heavenly Father.
- b) Express appreciation of the special words the Lord taught them in the Lord's Prayer.
- c) Express a desire to go to God in prayer trusting that He will answer the prayers according to His plan for their lives.
- d) Demonstrate a desire to learn more about God and His power for the life of the student.
- e) Recite memory assignments that help strengthen their faith.

2nd Benchmarks:

- a) Acknowledge that our heavenly Father hears all prayer at all times and in all places.
- b) Learn to pray for others.
- c) Recite the Lord's Prayer and the Creed.

- d) Read and listen to Bible stories.
- e) Recite memory assignments that help strengthen their faith.

3rd Benchmarks:

- a) Demonstrate a desire to come to God in prayer regularly and often, confident that their loving Father hears their prayers.
- b) Pray simple prayers on their own.
- c) Find and read passages in the Bible using chapter and verse.
- d) Recite memory assignments that help strengthen their faith.

4th Benchmarks:

- a) Discuss the four elements of prayer: confession, adoration, supplication, and thanksgiving.
- b) Demonstrate a desire to pray more often, confidently trusting in God's promises to hear and respond to their prayers.
- c) Express their joy in worship, classroom devotions, and chapel worship.
- d) Recite memory assignments that help strengthen their faith.
- e) Locate texts in the Bible.

5th Benchmarks:

- a) Pray about every aspect of their lives.
- b) Use Bible reference tools to discover Gospel passages.
- c) Recite memory assignments that help to strengthen their faith.

6th Benchmarks:

- a) Plan for their own personal devotional use of Scripture.
- b) Regularly study God's Word so that their life-preserving faith might be strengthened.
- c) Ask the Holy Spirit to guide them into all truth as they study the Bible.
- d) Recite memory assignments that help strengthen their faith.

7th Benchmarks:

- a) Acknowledge the promise that God promises to hear our prayer at all times, and that dedicating time to this every day is a mark faith in the life of the believer
- b) Embrace the assurance that in His Word, God speaks to us and shows us His love
- c) Set a goal and work toward reading through all of the Bible

8th Benchmarks:

- a) Recite the Introduction, Petitions, Conclusion, and meanings of the Lord's Prayer.

8. Acknowledge that God's Word is the foundation of their faith.

K Benchmarks:

- a) Hear and know the Bible as the true Word of God as He speaks to His children of His love and with guidance for their lives.
- b) Hear the Law/Gospel presented in many ways, through many Bible stories throughout the year.
- c) Grow in faith in God and in thankfulness.

1st Benchmarks:

- a) Hear and know the Bible as the true Word of God as He speaks to His children of His love and with guidance for their lives.
- b) Hear the Law/Gospel presented in many ways, through many Bible stories throughout the year.

2nd Benchmarks:

- a) Demonstrate patience and love as they realize that God is always present and active in their lives, doing what is best for them.
- b) Acknowledge that as the Holy Spirit came to believers at Pentecost, so He comes to them today through His Word and Baptism.
- c) Understand that everything in the Bible is true.
- d) Recognize that children are important to God and that He desires that they grow in faith and knowledge of His Word.

3rd Benchmarks:

- a) Demonstrate a desire to make continual use of God's Word so the Holy Spirit may continue to work saving faith in their hearts.

5th Benchmarks:

- a) Describe Scripture as the work of many human authors and yet the pure, "God-breathed" Word.
- b) Acknowledge Holy Scripture as the final authority for both doctrine and practice.
- c) Study Bible references that describe the joy that awaits them in heaven through faith in Jesus Christ.
- d) Explain that all we need to know about salvation has been revealed to us in Scripture.
- e) Recognize and explain that through the means of grace, the Holy Spirit leads people to identify and trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

6th Benchmarks:

- a) Identify the purpose and primary theme of each of the four gospels and Acts.
- b) Recognize that through His Word God strengthens their faith in time of danger and testing.
- c) Identify the work of the Holy Spirit in inspiring the biblical books and preserving Holy Scripture for them.
- d) Identify key Scripture passages that affirm God's message of justification by grace through faith.
- e) Acknowledge God's Word as the source and norm by which all matters of faith and Christian life should be measured.
- f) Determine when to apply Law or Gospel in various situations.
- g) Apply the Good News of God's love to concerns they feel about themselves, their families, and the world around them.
- h) Recite daily and weekly memory assignments that help strengthen their faith.

7th Benchmarks:

- a) Be able to define the three *solae* of the Reformation.
- b) Appreciate the value of God's Word in the daily life of the believer by using it
- c) Recognize other teachings that are not founded on God's Word and be able to refute them in appropriate ways
- d) Identify where the Six Chief Parts of the Small Catechism have their basis in God's Word

8th Benchmarks:

- a) Relate a Bible story that illustrates each of the Ten Commandments.
- b) Relate Bible stories that illustrate Jesus' divinity.
- c) Relate a Bible story that illustrates Jesus' humanity.
- d) Relate a Bible story that describes what baptism is like.

- e) Relate a Bible story that describes whom baptism is for.
- f) Relate a Bible story that illustrates confession and absolution.

9. Trace the history of God’s people from creation to present (as it relates to their lives).

K Benchmarks:

- a) Grow in awe and wonder at all that God created.

1st Benchmarks:

- a) Appreciate God’s care for them and the wonder of creation.
- b) Believe that God has created them and loves and cares for them.

2nd Benchmarks:

- a) Recognize that children are important to God and that He desires that they grow in faith and knowledge of His Word.
- b) Identify the Holy Spirit as friend and helper.
- c) Appreciate the diversity of people in the Christian church and accept people who are different from us.

3rd Benchmarks:

- a) Identify Jesus as the central character of the Bible.
- b) Describe the unfolding of God's plan to send a Savior.
- c) Profess that Jesus our Savior physically rose from the dead.
- d) Express awe and wonder at God's creation.
- e) Acknowledge that Abraham received God's promise through faith, not through works or self-worthiness.

5th Benchmarks:

- a) Compare the old covenant with God's new covenant in Jesus.
- b) Demonstrate an understanding, in chronological sequence, of the major events of Jesus' life and ministry on earth.

6th Benchmarks:

- a) Recognize that God's faithfulness to His covenant people is the unifying theme of all the historical books.
- b) Demonstrate an understanding of the chronology of Biblical events and characters.
- c) Recognize that God's creation is for their responsible use and enjoyment.

7th Benchmarks:

- a) Study the genealogy of Christ and find the Old Testament connections as they arise
- b) Look back at individual family history and recognize key events that brought them into the Christian faith

8th Benchmarks:

- a) Relate the Genesis account of creation.
- b) Relate a Bible story that describes God's preservation of His creation, especially the preservation of oneself.
- c) Relate the Biblical account of Pentecost.

10 Understand and apply Lutheran doctrine.

1st Benchmarks:

- a) Recognize that in Baptism we become part of God's family.
- b) Tell that Jesus gave the Lord’s Supper to assure His disciples of the forgiveness of

their sins.

- c) Demonstrate an understanding for the life and faith of Martin Luther.

2nd Benchmarks:

- a) Recognize that in Baptism we become part of God's family.
- b) Remember the suffering and death of their Savior for them whenever they observe the Lord's Supper being celebrated.

3rd Benchmarks:

- a) Identify the blessings of the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- b) Understand that Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and the Word are special ways God comes to people to make them strong in faith.
- c) Say the Creed, Commandments, and Bible passages meaningfully.
- d) Identify and demonstrate an understanding and show appreciation for the life and faith of Martin Luther.

4th Benchmarks:

- a) Recognize the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- b) Identify and demonstrate an understanding and show appreciation for the life and faith of Martin Luther.

5th Benchmarks:

- a) Explain that through the Lord's Supper and Baptism our faith is strengthened and our sins are forgiven.
- b) Identify, demonstrate an understanding, and show appreciation for the life and faith of Martin Luther.

6th Benchmarks:

- a) Confess that the Bible is divinely inspired, inerrant, and the infallible Word of God.
- b) Identify Law and Gospel as the key to interpreting all of Scripture.
- c) Explain that the Father created them, the Son redeemed them, and the Holy Spirit sanctified (and sanctifies) them.
- d) Daily remember their Baptism as they repent of their sin and receive the full assurance of God's forgiveness.
- e) Recognize that Baptism's power to forgive sins and create faith comes from the Holy Spirit working through the Word of God that accompanies the water.
- f) Recognize the real presence of Christ's body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper.
- g) Confess faith in the promise of forgiveness, life, and salvation Jesus gives with His body and blood.
- h) Identify, demonstrate an understanding and show an appreciation for the life and faith of Martin Luther.

7th Benchmarks:

- a) Appreciate the Bible as the source of Lutheran doctrine
- b) Recognize connections between the Old Covenant for Israel and the New Covenant established by Jesus Christ, as He is the fulfillment of the Law
- c) Be comfortable with reciting the teachings of the Small Catechism
- d) Embrace the notion that the Lutheran Church does not insist on answering every question the Scriptures may elicit, but instead takes on faith the mysteries of God

8th Benchmarks:

- a) Recite the First Article of the Apostles' Creed and its meaning.
- b) Recite the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed and its meaning.
- c) Recite the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed and its meaning.
- d) Relate a Bible story that explains the meanings of the Introduction, Petitions, Conclusion, and meanings of the Lord's Prayer.
- e) Recite the four parts from Luther's Small Catechism that explain Holy Baptism.
- f) Recite the answers to the three questions in Luther's Small Catechism that explain confession.
- g) Recite the answers to the three questions in Luther's Small Catechism that explain the Office of the Keys.
- h) Recite the answers to the five questions in Luther's Small Catechism that explain the Sacrament of the Altar.
- i) Explain the role of the pastor in relation to the office of the keys.
- j) Give examples from the account in 1 Corinthians of the proper and improper use of the Sacrament.
- k) Give the definition of and an explanation for "closed communion."
- l) Relate a method of self-examination to be used before receiving the Sacrament.