

## WHAT IS CATECHESIS?

Catechesis is the life-giving teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ which accompanies all who are baptized. Jesus said to the apostles, “Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you ....” The Church continues this saving work today as her ministers baptize and catechize young and old alike in the Christian faith. Those who “gladly receive” the saving Word and are baptized into Christ “continue steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers” (Acts 2:42 NKJV).

Baptism, confession and absolution, the Lord’s Supper, the Divine Service, ongoing instruction in the Word, daily prayer, and the fruit of loving service to family and neighbor are all part of the baptismal life. This life is lived by faith in Christ as we go about our daily tasks as husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, children, neighbors, and workers of every kind. Living the Christian faith is not merely an “internal thing”; it has very real “external things” by which it is known and sustained. It is about a real faith which is fed and nurtured through preaching and sacraments in real places of worship. It is lived out in the real world where there is real sin and real sorrow, but real forgiveness and consolation through the Gospel of our dear Lord Jesus Christ. This is what catechesis is all about. All this and more is meant by the word of Jesus: “Make disciples of all nations; baptizing them ... teaching them ...; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

- Faith in Christ is the goal of all catechesis.
- Catechesis is God’s way of teaching the Word of God by which faith is established.
- God’s way of teaching always involves the preaching of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
- Catechesis establishes preaching and teaching the Word of God as the center of congregational life.