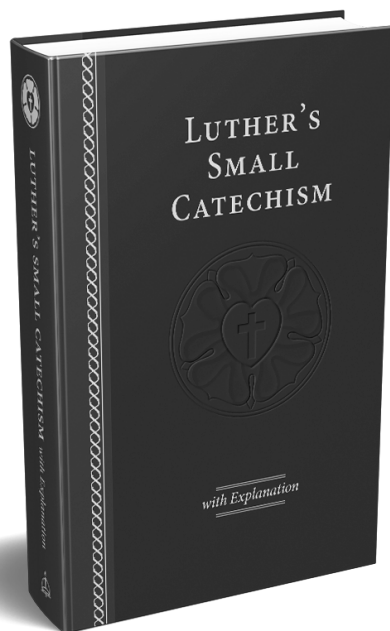


Timeless truth for every generation

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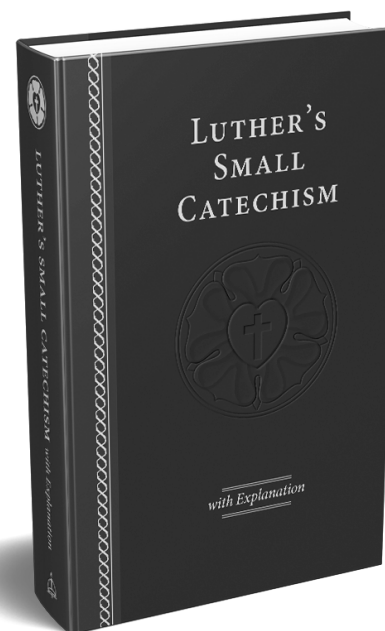
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By Rev. Paul McCain, Publisher at Concordia Publishing House

Written in 1529, the “Small Catechism,” has stood the test of time for nearly 500 years, and each generation has used Luther’s core text and offered elaboration and further explanation in a question-and-answer format.

The reason the Catechism endures is because it is such a clear explanation of the Christian faith and lends itself well to further explanation and use as a key tool in the Church’s life and ministry and in the home of every single Christian. Proof of this is the fact of how many editions of it have been printed and how every generation of Lutheran Christians have crafted explanations that speak to the issues of their time.

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During its 2013 convention, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod directed its Commission on Theology and Church Relations to prepare a new explanation with the concurrence of the President of the Synod and the support of Concordia Publishing House. The necessity for this new expanded and improved explanation was underlined by the Synod when it noted that such an effort was necessary due to “the many changes in the understanding of morals, and civil and natural law in both the church and society.”

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This new Explanation offers expanded discussions of issues that are pressing upon the Church at this time and that require us all to be grounded firmly and surely in the Word of God as we respond to the dramatic changes in our culture. These include a wide range of issues, such as “hot button” topics like homosexuality, same-sex marriage, abortion, end-of-life issues, and artificial reproductive technology. There is additional biblical content and more question and answers. The best features of the new Explanation are its passionate focus on the comfort of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for sinners and its thorough grounding in the witness of the Holy Scriptures as it carefully provides faithful answers to a wide variety of questions.

And so, while each generation prepares new explanations of the Small Catechism, the Catechism itself continues to endure for now nearly 500 years because of its beautiful articulation of the Word of God, which as the Lord promises, endures forever.

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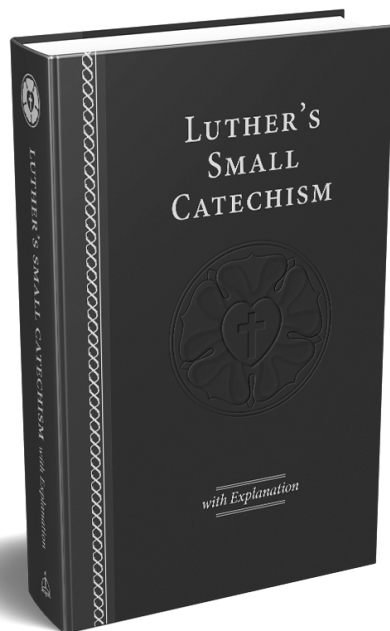
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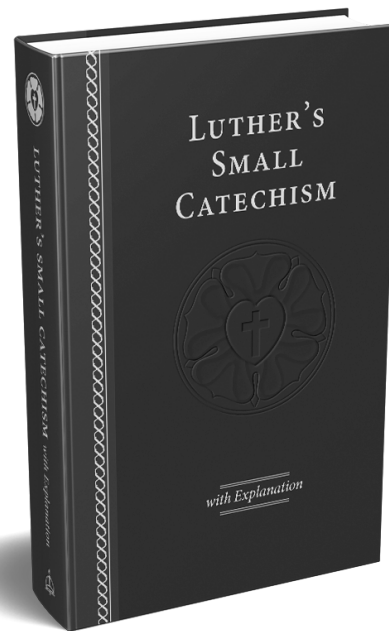
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