

HOPE'S CATECHISM PHILOSOPHY & STANDARDS

Instructional/Classroom Time:

- As students are discovering who they are it is essential to provide experiences for students to explore their faith, Christian values and beliefs, and discover how their identity is an integral part of the way God made them.
- Regular attendance is strongly encouraged, because discussions between instructors and students influences a child differently than discussions between parents and children.
- 100% attendance is our goal.
- If absent, make up materials will be made available.

Church Attendance:

- Members of the Body of Christ gather regularly to express their praise and thanksgiving to God. They bring their prayers and are nourished and strengthened by the reading and preaching of God's Word and by the administration of His sacraments. By our worship we demonstrate to the world our allegiance to Christ and witness to his Lordship over every area of life.
- The word "acolyte" comes from Greek and means "attendant." As an acolyte, you are a server or a servant. Students will serve as an acolyte two times during the school year.
- Active participation with other members of our faith in the formal setting of the church service each week is our goal.

Parent Cue:

- God designed Hope Lutheran Church to shine the light of Jesus. And God designed families to nurture the hearts of children. But something can happen in the hearts of children when our church and your family partner together. Because two combined influences make an even greater impact than two separate influences.
- The word "cue" means something serving as a signal to begin a performance. Students will bring home a weekly Parent Cue, or a prompt. We know you're already busy doing all you can to invest in your kids and help them on their way to adulthood. Our goal is to make it easy for you to remember why what you do is important and to help you focus on what matters most.
- Parents will read the "Remember This", "Think About This", and complete one of the "Do This" options on the Parent Cue.
- After completing the Parent Cue; the parent is asked to sign the Parent Cue to ensure successful completion; the student will place the Parent Cue in the file folder labeled with their year in the Catechism hallway.
- A minimum of 20 Parent Cues per school year is expected.

Service Activities:

- Through baptism, the Holy Spirit makes us both God's children and His witnesses. Each member of the congregation is therefore sent to carry out Christ's mission to the world. Such demonstration of Christian love adds power to the proclamation of the Gospel.
- Each Catechism class will participate in a required class wide service project that will serve those in our church or surrounding community.

Faith Mentors:

- Year 3 students will pair with a Faith Mentor who will discuss faith/life issues with them during four Sundays of the 2020/21 school year on Mentor Sundays. Faith Mentors do not take the place of parents, pastors, teachers, or peers, but provide one additional connecting point to the community of faith. Most Faith Mentors are ordinary people who play important roles in the growth of a young person's faith. Faith Mentors are special people. They offer trust and respect; they are honored to participate in another person's faith journey.

Faith Retreat:

- Year 3 students will participate in a mandatory, class wide faith retreat. This retreat is an expression of confessing and living their faith. This retreat will be held in the Spring of 2021.

Catechism instruction will be held on Sunday mornings 9:10 a.m.-10:25 a.m. Parents are encouraged to use this time to enrich their own faith by participating in one of the Bible studies offered at Hope, such as Parenting Through the Phases.