

Guidelines for Sermon Reports

Catechesis at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Wisner

This year, you will grow in hearing sermons. What makes a good sermon, or a good preacher for that matter? The best preacher ever was Jesus. Mk. 1:15 shows us how Jesus preached in a few words: “**Repent, and believe in the gospel.**” That is, Jesus preached like a Confessional Lutheran. He preached LAW and GOSPEL.

Ultimately, every sermon should proclaim the LAW that SHOWS OUR SINS (S.O.S.), and the GOSPEL that SHOWS OUR SAVIOR (S.O.S.). Each sermon should lead Christians to know and be sorry for their sins, and to trust in Jesus’ forgiveness.

Assignment:

1. First, catechumens will NOT turn in any written reports this year. Instead, we’ll spend time in catechesis talking about what catechumens heard in the sermon.
2. That means catechumens have to pay attention in sermons. It helps to take some notes. It may also help for parents to also take notes.
3. There are 27 sermon reports that each catechumen will comment on in catechesis for the year. (That is, these reports are going to be spoken reports). Do 1 a week unless you absolutely cannot (like you’re sick).
4. If catechumens and families attend another LCMS church during this year, a bulletin needs to be turned in too.
5. Candy may be given to catechumens who show that they paid very close attention to sermons, and that they understood what the Law and the Gospel clearly was.
6. If 2nd year catechumens do not have 27 reports by the end of catechism, they will need to make it up before they are confirmed.

SERMON REPORTS SHOULD HAVE THE FOLLOWING:

- A) An example of how the **LAW** was preached in this sermon.
(Remember S.O.S. - The Law (**S**)hows (**O**)ur (**S**)in. *Here, tell me how the sermon shows you to see your sins. Can you perfectly do the works of the Law? What do you deserve because of your real sins?*)

EXAMPLE: “No one does good works by nature.” Or “I cannot earn my salvation.”

- B) An example of how the **GOSPEL** was preached in this sermon.
(Here also, remember S.O.S. - The Gospel (**S**)hows (**O**)ur (**S**)avior. *Here, tell me how the sermon shows you Jesus, His cross, and His love for you. What does this sermon teach about His forgiveness for you?*)

EXAMPLE: “Jesus paid for all my sins on the cross.” -Or- “Jesus healed the blind man, and by His Gospel He heals us.”