

Confirmation Ministry Examination Questions

September 2014



**Transforming Lives, Cultivating Communities,
by Making More and Better Disciples for Jesus Christ.**

Trinity Lutheran Ministries

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1. What is Christianity? (1)

Christianity is the life and salvation God has given in and through Jesus Christ.

2. What is the key to the correct understanding of the Bible? (4)

Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, is the heart and center of the Scriptures and therefore the key to its true meaning.

3. What does God teach and do in the Law? (7)

In the Law God commands good works of thought, word, and deed and condemns and punishes sin.

4. What does God teach and do in the Gospel? (8)

In the Gospel, the good news of our salvation in Jesus Christ, God gives forgiveness, faith, life, and the power to please Him with good works.

5. How does the Small Catechism sum up Christian doctrine? (9)

The Small Catechism sums up Christian doctrine by dividing it into six chief parts: the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Confession, and the Sacrament of the Altar.

6. What is the summary of commandments 1-3 (First Table)? (15)

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord you God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

7. What is the summary of commandments 4-10 (Second Table)? (16)

"And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself."

8. Who is the only true God? (19)

The only true God is the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three distinct persons in one divine being (the Holy Trinity).

9. What does God forbid in the First Commandment? (20)

God forbids us to have other gods (idolatry).

10. What does God require of us in the First Commandment? (22)

God requires that we fear, love, and trust in Him above all things.

A. We fear God above all things when we revere Him alone as the highest being, honor Him with our lives, and avoid what displeases Him.

B. We love God above all things when we cling to Him alone as our God and gladly devote our lives to His service.

C. We trust in God above all things when we commit our lives completely to His keeping and rely on Him for help in every need.

11. What does God forbid in the Second Commandment? (26)

In the Second Commandment God forbids us to misuse His name.

12. What does God require of us in the Second Commandment? (34)

We should call upon His name in every trouble, pray, praise and give thanks.

13. When do we sin against the Third Commandment? (38)

We sin against the Third Commandment when we despise preaching and the Word of God.

14. What does God require of us in the Third Commandment? (40)

A. We should hold preaching and the Word of God sacred.

B. We should gladly hear it, learn it, and meditate on it.

C. We should honor and support the preaching and teaching of the Word of God.

D. We should diligently spread the Word of God.

15. How does Christ's perfect keeping of the Law benefit us? (43)

Since Christ was our substitute before God, our Savior's perfect keeping of the Law is part of His saving work for us, and because of Him we are considered righteous before Him.

16. What does God forbid in the Fourth Commandment? (49)

God forbids us to despise our parents and other authorities by not respecting them or angering them by our disobedience or by any other kind of sin.

17. What does God require of us in the Fourth Commandment? (50) God requires us

A. to honor our parents and other authorities by regarding them as God's representatives;

B. to serve our parents and other authorities by gladly providing what they need or require;

C. to obey our parents and other authorities in everything in which God has placed them over us;

D. to love and cherish our parents and authorities as precious gifts of God.

E. to show respect to the aged.

18. What does God forbid in the Fifth Commandment? (52)

A. God forbids us to take the life of another person (murder, abortion, euthanasia) or our own life (suicide).

B. God forbids us to hurt or harm our neighbor physically, that is, to do or say anything which may destroy, shorten, or make his or her life bitter.

C. God forbids us to keep anger and hatred in our hearts against our neighbor.

19. What does God require of us in the fifth Commandment? (54)
- A. We should help and support our neighbor in every bodily need.**
 - B. We should be merciful, kind, and forgiving towards our neighbor.**
 - C. We should avoid and assist our neighbor in avoiding the abuse of drugs and the use of any substance that harms the body and mind.**
20. What does God forbid in the Sixth Commandment? (56)
- A. God forbids divorce except for marital unfaithfulness (adultery or desertion).**
 - B. God forbids sexual intercourse between unmarried persons.**
 - C. God forbids sexual sins such as rape, homosexual activity, incest, sexual child abuse, obscenity, and the use of pornographic materials.**
 - D. God forbids sexually impure thoughts and desires.**
21. What does God require of us in the Sixth Commandment? (57)
- A. God requires us to avoid all temptations to sexual sin.**
 - B. God requires us to be clean in what we think and say.**
 - C. God requires us to use our sexuality in ways pleasing to Him.**
22. What does God forbid in the Seventh Commandment? (59)
- God forbids every kind of robbery, theft, and dishonest way of getting things.**
23. What does God require of us in the Seventh Commandment? (60)
- A. We should help our neighbor to improve & protect that person's possessions & income.**
 - B. We should help our neighbor in every need.**
24. What does God forbid in the Eighth Commandment? (61)
- A. God forbids us to tell lies about our neighbor in a court of law or elsewhere, that is, to lie about, lie to, or withhold the truth from our neighbor.**
 - B. God forbids us to betray our neighbor, that is, to reveal our neighbor's secrets.**
 - C. God forbids us to slander our neighbor or hurt our neighbor's reputation.**
25. What does God require of us in the Eighth Commandment? (62)
- A. We should defend our neighbor, that is, we should speak up for and protect our neighbor from false accusations.**
 - B. We should speak well of our neighbor, that is, we should praise our neighbor's good actions and qualities.**
 - C. We should put the best meaning on everything, that is, we should explain our neighbor's actions in the best possible way.**

26. What coveting does God forbid in the Ninth Commandment? (64)

God forbids every sinful desire to get our neighbor's possessions openly or by trickery.

27. What does God require of us in the Ninth Commandment? (65)

We should be content with what God has given us and assist our neighbor in keeping what God has given that person.

28. What coveting does God forbid us in the Tenth Commandment? (66)

God forbids every sinful desire to take from our neighbor that person's spouse or workers.

29. What does God require of us in the Tenth Commandment? (67)

We should be content with the helpers God has given us and encourage our neighbor's helpers to be faithful to our neighbor.

30. What purpose does the Law then serve? (77)

A. First, the Law helps to control violent outbursts of sin and keeps order in the world (a curb).

B. Second, the Law accuses us and shows us our sin (a mirror).

C. Third, the Law teaches us Christians what we should and should not do to lead a God-pleasing life (a guide). The power to live according to the Law comes from the Gospel.

31. What is sin? (78)

Sin is every thought, desire, word, and deed which is contrary to God's Law.

32. Where alone does God offer the forgiveness of sins? (84)

God offers forgiveness of sins only in the Gospel, the good news that we are freed from the guilt, the punishment, and the power of sin, and are saved eternally because of Christ's keeping the Law and His suffering and death for us.

33. What is the difference between the Law and the Gospel? (85)

A. The Law teaches what we are to do and not to do; the Gospel teaches what God has done, and still does, for our salvation.

B. The Law shows us our sin and the wrath of God; the Gospel shows us our Savior and the grace of God.

C. The Law must be proclaimed to all people, but especially to impenitent sinners; the Gospel must be proclaimed to sinners who are troubled in their minds because of their sins.

34. In what ways does the Triune God make Himself known? (92)

A. Through the existence of the world (natural knowledge of God).

B. Through conscience (natural knowledge of God).

C. Especially through the Holy Scriptures in which God reveals Himself and His gift of salvation in Christ (revealed knowledge of God).

35. Why is the first person of the Trinity called “the Father”? (96)

A. God is the Father of my Lord Jesus Christ and also my Father through faith in Christ.

B. He is also the Father of all people because He created them. Strictly speaking, there is only one human race, because all human beings are equally the children of Adam and Eve and are equally redeemed by Christ.

36. How did God first create life? (103)

God created all living things, both plant and animal, by His Word alone, from nothing. He created humanity specially, from dust, then gave us His own breath as life.

37. What does God do to take care of me? (110)

A. He gives me food and clothing, home and family, work and play, all that I need from day to day.

B. “He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.”

38. Why is He named Jesus? (115)

The name Jesus means “the Lord saves.” Jesus is His personal name.

39. Why is He called Christ? (116)

The title Christ (Greek) or Messiah (Hebrew) means “the Anointed.” Jesus has been anointed with the Holy Spirit without limit to be our Prophet, Priest, and King.

40. What does it mean when you confess, “I believe in Jesus Christ?” (117)

It means that I know and trust in Jesus Christ as my only Savior from sin, death, and the devil and believe that He gives me eternal life.

41. Why was it necessary for our Savior to be true man? (122)

Christ had to be true man in order to

A. act in our place under the Law and fulfill it for us (active obedience);

B. be able to suffer and die for our guilt because we failed to keep the Law (passive obedience).

42. Why was it necessary for our Savior to be true God? (123)

Christ had to be true God in order that

A. His fulfilling of the Law, His life, suffering, and death might be a sufficient ransom for all people;

B. He might be able to overcome death and the devil for us.

43. For what threefold office was Christ anointed? (125)

A. Prophet B. Priest C. King

44. From what has Christ redeemed you? (134)

He has redeemed me “from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil.”

45. How has Christ redeemed you from all sins? (135)

A. He took all my guilt and punishment upon Himself.

B. He freed me from the slavery of sin.

46. With what has Christ redeemed you? (138)

Christ has redeemed me, “not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.”

47. What do the Scriptures teach about Christ’s resurrection? (144)

They teach that on the third day Christ victoriously rose from the grave and showed Himself alive to His disciples.

48. Why is Christ’s resurrection so important and comforting? (145)

Christ’s resurrection proves that

A. Christ is the Son of God;

B. His doctrine is the truth;

C. God the Father accepted Christ’s sacrifice for the reconciliation of the world;

D. all believers in Christ will rise to eternal life.

49. What do the Scriptures teach about Christ’s second coming? (149)

A. Christ will return visibly and with great glory on the Last Day.

B. Christ will return to judge the world, not to set up an earthly government.

C. Christ will return on a specific day known by God alone.

D. Before Christ returns, there will be increasing turmoil and distress for the church and the world.

E. The return of Christ is a source of hope and joy for the Christian.

50. In conclusion, then, why has Christ redeemed you? (150)

The Scriptures teach that Christ’s purpose was

A. “that I may be His own”; that is, that I am now righteous and blameless in the sight of God;

B. that I may “live under Him in His kingdom”; that is, that I am now freed from the slavery of sin and thus freed to serve God;

C. that I may “serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness”; that is, that I honor God with my whole life and rejoice in Him now on earth and forever in heaven.

51. What five points does this article (Third) discuss? (153)

A. The Holy Spirit

B. The Church, the Communion of Saints

C. The forgiveness of sins

D. The Resurrection of the Body

E. The Life Everlasting

52. Why do you need the Holy Spirit to begin and sustain this faith in you? (157)

By nature I am spiritually blind, dead and enemy of God, as the Scriptures teach, therefore, “I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him.”

53. What are good works in God’s sight? (163)

In God’s sight a good work is everything that a child of God does, speaks, or thinks in faith according to the Ten Commandments, for the glory of God, and for the benefit of his or her neighbor.

54. What is the holy Christian church? (169)

The holy Christian church is the communion of saints, the total number of those who believe in Christ. All believers in Christ, but only believers, are members of the church (invisible church).

55. Where is this holy Christian church to be found? (174)

The holy Christian church is to be found where “the Gospel is preached in its purity and the holy sacraments are administered according to the Gospel” (Augsburg Confession VII 1). The Gospel and the sacraments are called the “marks of the church.”

56. What do the Scriptures teach about our life in the church? (179)

They teach that

A. we should seek always to be and remain members of the invisible church, Christ’s body, by sincere faith in Christ, our Savior.

B. we should be faithful to that visible church, or denomination, which professes and teaches all of the Bible’s doctrine purely and administers the sacraments according to Christ’s institution.

C. we should avoid false teachers, false churches, and all organizations that promote a religion that is contrary to God’s Word.

D. we should maintain and extend God’s church by telling others about Jesus Christ, by personal service, and by prayer and financial support.

57. Why must we firmly hold to this teaching of justification by grace, for Christ’s sake through faith? (186)

We must firmly hold to this teaching because

A. it is the most important doctrine of the Christian religion;

B. it distinguishes the Christian religion from false religions, all of which teach salvation by works;

C. it gives enduring comfort to the penitent sinner;

D. it gives all glory to god for His grace and mercy in Christ.

58. What difference will there be between believers and unbelievers in the resurrection? (189)

A. The believers will rise with glorified bodies and enter everlasting life in heaven with God.

B. The unbelievers will rise to eternal death, that is, to shame and torment in hell forever.

59. To whom does God give eternal life? (190)

God gives eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

A. Eternal life is a present possession.

B. At the time of death, the soul of a believer is immediately with Christ in heaven.

C. At the Last Day the believers, in both body and soul, will begin the full enjoyment of being with Christ forever.

60. Are you sure that you have eternal life? (191)

Even as I now believe in Christ my Savior, I also know that I have been chosen to eternal life out of pure grace in Christ without any merit of my own and that no one can pluck me out of His hand (eternal election of grace or predestination).

61. To whom should we pray? (195)

We should pray to the true God only, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, not to idols, saints, or anything God has created.

62. How should we pray? (198)

We should pray

A. in the name of Jesus, that is, with faith in Him as our Redeemer.

B. with confidence, that is with firm trust that for Jesus' sake our prayers will be answered.

C. according to God's revealed will.

63. What prayer did Jesus give us to show us how to pray? (204)

Jesus gave us the Lord's Prayer.

64. How do we keep God's name holy? (210)

We keep God's name holy

A. when God's Word is taught among us in its truth and purity;

B. when we live according to the Word of God.

65. For what do we pray in the Second Petition? (213)

We do not pray that God's kingdom of [power would come, because that is already present every where, but we ask God to

A. give us His Holy Spirit so that we believe His Word and lead godly lives as members of His kingdom of grace;

B. bring many others into His kingdom of grace;

C. use us to extend His kingdom of grace;

D. hasten the coming of His kingdom of glory.

66. What does God want us to do for those who sin against us? (226)

Our heavenly Father wants us to forgive and to do good to those who sin against us.

67. What is a sacrament? (236)

A sacrament is a sacred act

A. instituted by God,

B. in which God Himself has joined His Word of promise to a visible element,

C. and by which He offers, gives, and seals the forgiveness of sins earned by Christ.

68. How many such sacraments are there? (237)

By this definition there are two sacraments: Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

69. What does the word baptize mean? (239)

Baptize means to apply water by immersing, washing, pouring, and the like.

70. Who instituted Holy Baptism? (241)

God Himself instituted Baptism, for our Lord Jesus Christ commanded His church to baptize all nations.

71. What does it mean to baptize "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"? (242)

It means that in Baptism, God, the Holy Trinity, receives me into communion or fellowship with Himself.

72. Who is to be baptized? (244)

"All nations" are to be baptized, that is, all people, young and old.

73. Why are babies to be baptized? (246)

Babies are to be baptized because

- A. they are included in the words “all nations”;**
- B. Jesus especially invites little children to come to Him;**
- C. as sinners, babies need what Baptism offers;**
- D. babies also are able to have faith.**

74. What great and precious things are given in Baptism? (248)

Baptism

- A. works forgiveness of sins;**
- B. rescues from death and the devil;**
- C. gives eternal salvation.**

75. How does baptismal water work forgiveness of sins, rescue from death & the devil, & give eternal salvation? (253)

God’s words of institution put these great blessings into Baptism. Faith, which trusts this word of God in the water, takes the blessings out and makes them our own.

76. With which words do we regularly remember our Baptism? (260)

The words “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” come from the baptismal command (Matt. 28:19) and are known as the Trinitarian Invocation. By repeating these words, in church or by ourselves, we recall, claim, and confess before heaven, earth, and hell all that God the Holy Trinity has given us in our Baptism.

77. What is the first part of confession? (261)

The first part of confession is that we confess, or acknowledge, our sins.

78. What is the second part of confession? (265)

The second part of confession is that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness of sins.

79. How should we regard the absolution (forgiveness) spoken by the pastor? (266)

We should receive the pastor’s absolution as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

80. What is the necessary result of repentance? (276)

“Then good works, which are the fruits of repentance, are bound to follow” (Augsburg Confession XII 6).

81. What is the purpose of excommunication? (283)

Excommunication is not intended to punish the sinner, but to

A. lead him or her to repentance and faith;

B. prevent him or her from leading others into sin.

82. What does Christ give us in this sacrament? (287)

In this sacrament Christ gives us His own true body & blood for the forgiveness of sins.

83. How then are the bread and wine in the Sacrament the body and blood of Christ? (291)

The bread and wine in the Sacrament are Christ's body and blood by sacramental union. By the power of His word, Christ gives His body and blood in, with, and under the consecrated (blessed) bread and wine.

84. Why are we to receive the Sacrament often? (295)

We are to receive the Sacrament often because

A. Christ commands, or urgently invites, us, saying, "This do in remembrance of Me";

B. His words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins" promise and offer us great blessings;

C. we need the forgiveness of our sins and strength for a new and holy life.

85. What is the benefit offered in this sacrament? (296)

A. The chief blessing of the Sacrament is the forgiveness of sins which Christ's body and blood have won for us on the cross. (The Lord's Supper is a means of grace).

B. Together with forgiveness, God gives all other blessings as well, that is, "life and salvation."

C. In the Sacrament Christ gives victory over sin and hell and strength for the new life in Him.

D. As Christians partake of this sacrament together, they make a solemn public confession of Christ and of unity in the truth of His Gospel.

86. When do we receive the Sacrament worthily? (301)

We receive it worthily when we have faith in Christ and His words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins."

87. How are we to examine ourselves before receiving the Sacrament? (303)

We are to examine ourselves to see whether

A. we are sorry for our sins;

B. we believe in our Savior Jesus Christ and in His words in the Sacrament;

C. we plan, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to change our sinful lives.

88. May those who are weak in faith come to the Lord's Table? (304)

Yes, for Christ instituted the Sacrament for the very purpose of strengthening and increasing our faith.

89. What is confirmation? (306)

Confirmation is the public rite of the church preceded by a period of instruction designed to help baptized Christians identify with the life and mission of the Christian community.

90. Does confirmation mark the end of your religious education?

NO! It definitely does not!

91. Do you plan to confirm your faith and baptismal vow every Saturday or Sunday by attending a Bible class and Blessed Savior's worship services and receiving the Lord's Supper (when offered in the service you are attending, provided there is no Biblical reason not to)?

YES! I definitely do!