

Authentic Christianity  
An Adult Exploration of the Lutheran Expression of Faith

Synopsis

**Session One: *Introduction and Welcome***

During this session we are introduced to the course, its purpose, and its content. Listeners are given an overview of the complete course.

**Session Two: Being Word-Centered**

During this session the class will explore the concepts of the biblical canon, the authority of scripture, the canon within the canon principle, the uses of scripture, the focus of the concept of *sola scriptura (By Word Alone)*, and the role of scripture as the foundation of the Catechism.

**Session Three: Being Confessional**

During this session the class will explore the confessional factor in the Christian faith, the role of the *Book of Concord* as the authoritative standard for the expression of Word-Centered faith, the role of *The Small Catechism*, and the function of the confessions as the interpretive lens for understanding and living out the Christian faith.

**Session Four: Being Ecumenical**

During this session the class will explore the concept of *church*, its connection to the original call of the apostles, its catholicity, holiness, and unity despite its diversity of traditions, as stated in the Apostles' Creed presented in *The Small Catechism*

**Session Five: Being Trinitarian**

During this session the class will explore the question of God as presented in natural theology and the revelation of the Word of God in scripture, and the concept of *The Trinity* as expressed in the ecumenical Nicene Creed.

**Session Six: Being Justified**

During this session the class will explore the concept of *salvation* as a path to the justification and liberation of broken people through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the focus of *sola fide (By Faith Alone)*, and what it means to live as a justified Christian in a broken world.

**Session Seven: Being Sacramental**

During this session the class will explore the concept of *sacraments* as the means of grace and as visible expressions of the Word of God, and the sections on *Baptism, Confession, and Holy Communion* in *The Small Catechism*.

**Session Eight: Being Sanctified**

During this session the class will explore the concepts of *law and gospel* as core elements the Word of God, the focus of *sola gratia (By Grace Alone)*, the *ordo salutis (order of salvation)* as depicted in different Christian faith traditions, the role of prayer as expressed in the section on *The Lord's Prayer* in *The Small Catechism*, and what it means to live *sanctified* (made holy) in Christ.

**Session Nine: Being a Citizen of Two Kingdoms**

During this session the class will explore the concept of *two kingdoms* as expressed in scripture and the *Book of Concord*, Christian perspectives on government, the nature of law and society for Christians.