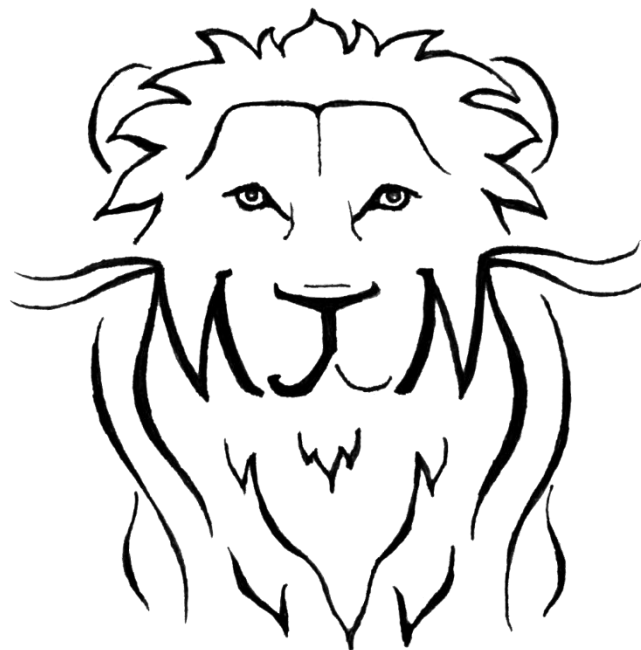


# *Lutheran Recitation*

*Compiled by Deac. Mary J. Moerbe*



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## Introduction

Recitation is an opportunity to learn things outside of a topical class. In its briefest form, you ask a question and the student learns a succinct answer. You gradually add questions until you can ask any number of questions with your student answering each with confidence.

*Students love to know the right answer.* Teach them what *you* want to hear. Recitation is all about giving your student helpful, memorable answers, while allowing a structured routine that builds confidence.

In younger years, sometimes brains have trouble recalling the information. This is *not* a big deal. Instead, this is an opportunity to teach both facts and what you most want your child to learn. *That* is why I put together a Lutheran recitation guide. By all means, recite vowels, days, months, etc., but why skip over “Who do we worship?” and foundational questions of faith? Admittedly, much of this will be simple rote memorization, including days of Creation, 10 Plagues, 12 Tribes of Israel, Books of the Bible, etc.

Note: This is *not* a replacement for religious education, but a supplement. This is *not* a full memory program, although it covers some helpful definitions, places, and lists. And, although Luther’s Catechisms themselves demonstrate a great Q&A format, the catechism is not included here. Luther’s answers are longer than any included here, and should be part of a larger memory work plan.

This list is inspired by the Memoria Press recitation program so biblical literacy questions may have some overlap. Some material is also taken from “Christian Questions with Their Answers” and other material taken from [BookofConcord.org](http://BookofConcord.org).

## INCLUDED

This document includes 7 levels of increasingly challenging material based on a 33-35 week school year, although week numbers are merely suggestions. Material draws upon Scripture, the liturgy, and the Lutheran Confessions.

## INSTRUCTIONS

The first two levels begin with a historic prayer. It is *fine* to take longer than one week to learn those or any other “weekly” assignment. It can be helpful to use a sticky tab to mark your place on the page.

Simply ask the question. The first time, see how they answer in their own words. Maybe a good discussion can follow. Still, don’t let them flounder. Smile and tell them the answer. Repeat the question and answer with the prescribed wording. Give them the answer and be thankful the answer has been revealed to you both, so that recitation time can be grounding for both teacher and student.

Every other day, go down the list of current questions. Keep it brief. Aim for consistent answers, but accept what is correct.

When the cumulative list gets long, narrow your review to what needs additional focus. While recitation can become practice for public speaking, it needn’t be a chore or burden.

These recitation questions can be added to other recitation programs or used independently. Multiple ages can use the same questions. To advance older students more quickly simply ask more than the prescribed questions.

MJM

## Level One

### (General Foundation)

1. Sing the Doxology/"Old Hundredth"
  1. Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye [or you] heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.
2. Who do we worship? The Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
3. How many Gods do we worship? One.
4. Who wrote the Bible? "men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21).
5. What are two parts of the Bible? Old and New Testament.
6. What are two primary messages of the Bible? Law and Gospel
7. How do we receive faith in Jesus? By hearing God's Word.
8. What are three reasons why we go to church?
  1. To receive God's gifts, like faith and forgiveness,
  2. To rest in His care, and
  3. To strengthen one another with our presence, confession, and prayer.

### (The Lord's Prayer)

9. In the Lord's Prayer, what does *hallowéd* mean? God's Name be holy
10. What does trespass mean? Crossing a line, including the line between right and wrong
11. What does Thee, Thy, and Thine mean? You and yours
12. How is thee, thy, and thine different than you and yours? Thee is a traditional way to talk to someone we are very familiar and close with.

### (Creation & the Fall)

13. What are the days of creation? God created for six days and rested on the seventh.
14. What did God create the first day? The heavens, the earth, and light (hand motion: pointer finger up, down, and up as a candle)
15. The second day? God divided the waters, forming seas and sky (2 fingers cutting)

16. Third? Land and vegetation (three fingers waving in the breeze)
17. Fourth? Sun, moon, and stars (1 finger sun, 1 finger moon, 2 fingers stars)
18. Did God create light before the sun? Yes.
19. Then how do we know it was a day? There was evening and morning.
20. Will there be the sun after the resurrection of the dead? No. God will be our light.
21. What did God create on the fifth day? Sea creatures and birds (swimming hand and flying hands)
22. Sixth? Land animals and man
23. Recite the days of creation with God's gifts.
24. Was God orderly in creation? Yes. He prepared a place for all things and filled creation with life and beauty.
25. What happened on the seventh day of creation? God stopped creating and gave rest to His people.
26. What were two important trees in the Garden of Eden? The Tree of Eternal Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.
27. Can we visit these trees? No. They were probably destroyed in the flood.
28. What tree gives *us* eternal life? The cross is where Jesus won eternal life. There will also be trees of life in the perfect world after the resurrection of the dead.
29. What creature encouraged the first sin? The serpent

(The Flood)

30. Who found favor in the eyes of the Lord and built the ark? Noah
31. How long did it rain during the worldwide flood? 40 days and 40 nights
32. How long did water cover the earth? 150 days.
33. What special sign did God show Noah? The rainbow.
34. What happens when there is a rainbow? God remembers His promises to mankind.
35. Does God remember *all* His promises to us? Yes!

## Level Two

### (General Foundation)

1. Luther's Morning Prayer
2. What are the two primary messages of the Bible? Law and Gospel
3. What is Law? What we ought to do or not do
4. What is Gospel? All God has done for us in Jesus
5. What does BC mean? Before Christ
6. What does AD mean? Anno Domini, in the year of our Lord

### (Old Testament and the Holy Scriptures)

7. Who are the patriarchs and their wives? Abraham and Sarah; Isaac and Rebekah; Jacob, Leah, and Rachel
8. What is a patriarch? The male head of a family or tribe.
9. How many books are in the Bible? 66
10. How many books are in the Old Testament? 39
11. How many books are in the New Testament? 27
12. What is the prayer book of the Bible? The Book of Psalms
13. Name the four Gospels. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
14. What is the Pentateuch? The first five books of the Old Testament
15. Who wrote it? Moses & the Holy Spirit
16. What are the books of the Pentateuch?
  1. Genesis,
  2. Exodus,
  3. Leviticus,
  4. Numbers,
  5. Deuteronomy
17. What are two other names for the Books of Moses? The Law and the Torah (pronounced Tor-ah)
18. What follows the Pentateuch in the Holy Scriptures? 12 Books of History
19. What follows the 12 books of history? 5 books of wisdom
20. What follows the Wisdom Writings? 5 Books by the Major Prophets
21. What follows the Major Prophets? 12 Minor Prophets

22. What is a prophet? Someone who speaks what they have received by God according to His command, often to fore-tell and tell forth.
23. How many are the Tribes of Israel? 12
24. Which tribe received the holy sacrificial priesthood from God? The tribe of Levi
25. What tribe was King David? Judah
26. What was the land of Judah sometimes called? Judea
27. Where did King David come from? Bethlehem
28. How do you look up a Bible reference? Book, chapter, verse.

(Definitions)

29. What does incarnation mean? Into flesh.
30. What does disciple mean? Student
31. What does discipline include? Learning and training
32. What does Christian mean? A follower of Christ
33. What does Christ mean? Anointed One
34. What does Messiah mean? Deliverer
35. Why can Christ and Messiah be used interchangeably? Deliverers were commonly anointed, especially if they were sent by God

## Level Three

### (General Confession)

1. Do you believe that you are a sinner? Yes, I believe it. I am a sinner.
2. How do you know you are a sinner? From the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.
3. Are you sorry for your sins? Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.
4. A) Do you hope to be saved? Yes, that is my hope. B) In whom then do you trust?  
In my dear Lord Jesus Christ.

### (Old Testament)

5. What does creation *ex nihilo* mean? Creation out of nothing.
6. Where was the Garden of Eden? At the riverhead of four rivers.
7. Which are those four rivers? The Pishon, Gihon, Tigris, and Euphrates.
8. Who were the first three sons of Adam and Eve? Cain, Abel, and Seth
9. Who were Noah's sons? Ham, Shem, and Japheth
10. Who were Abraham's sons? Ishmael, Isaac, and six later sons
11. Where did Abram come from? Haran, between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers
12. What does Isaac mean? He laughs.
13. What does El mean? El means god.
14. What does Elohim mean? El-oh-*heem* is plural and means Almighty God.
15. What does Adonai mean? Ad-oh-nī means Lord.
16. What is a famine? Severe food shortage, often due to drought
17. What does Pharaoh mean? King of Egypt
18. Where did the Israelites live in Egypt? Goshen
19. What does Moses mean? Drawn out
20. What is a plague? A spreading calamity
21. What were the first five plagues in Egypt? 1. Water to Blood, 2. Frogs, 3. Lice or Gnats, 4. Swarms, 5. Pestilence of livestock
22. What were the last five plagues in Egypt? 6) Boils, 7) Hail and fire, 8) Locusts, 9) Darkness for three days, 10) Death of firstborn
23. How do we know the Triune God? He reveals Himself by the Holy Scriptures.
24. When does He first name Himself? In Exodus 3:14, He says, "I am that I am."
25. What does Yahweh mean? Yahweh means "I AM" and is translated as LORD in all capital letters.

- 26. How else does He name Himself? In Matthew 28:19, Jesus reveals the Name is “of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”
- 27. How many sons did Jacob have? 12
- 28. What is the Exodus? God bringing His people out of Egypt and slavery.
- 29. What is the Passover? When God passed over the firstborn of Israel during the final plague.

(Means of Grace)

- 30. What does the phrase “means of grace” mean? It refers to *how* God gives us His spiritual gifts of faith, forgiveness, and more.
- 31. How else can we describe the means of grace? The means of grace are how God now gives us all that Jesus won with His death and resurrection.
- 32. What are the means of grace? God’s forgiving Word, Baptism, and the Lord’s Supper
- 33. What does *catechism* mean? Questions and answers
- 34. Who wrote the Lutheran catechisms? Martin Luther
- 35. How many did Luther write? Two. The small and the large.



## Level Four

### (General Confession)

1. Who is Christ? The Son of God, true God and man, my Redeemer and Savior.
2. What have you deserved from God because of your sins? His wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation.
3. Recite Romans 6:23: "The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (ESV).

### (Old Testament, Places, and Definitions)

4. What is an idol? An idol is anything wanted or loved more than God.
5. Why are idols sometimes called images in Scripture? People would often make a thing to be a way to approach a god or desire.
6. How did the Israelites seek the Lord? They called upon His Holy Name.
7. What is the invocation? When we call upon the Name of the Lord, saying, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."
8. What does *Imago Deo* mean? In the image of God
9. Who is the image of God? Jesus, as Scripture teaches in 2 Corinthians 4:4 and Colossians 1:15
10. How did death enter the world? "Sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned" (Romans 5:12).
11. Recite John 1:1-5: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, <sup>[a]</sup> and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (ESV).
12. What is a covenant? A legal agreement made with blood. If broken, more blood was due.
13. A) What happened on Mount Ararat? Noah's ark. B) What does ark with a k mean? Box
14. What happened on Mount Horeb? Burning bush
15. Mount Moriah: God spared Abraham from sacrificing Isaac
16. Mount Sinai: The Ten Commandments and the Golden Calf

17. Mount Pisgah: Where Moses first saw the Promised Land and died
18. Mount Carmel: Elijah calls upon God to burn a soaked sacrifice and altar
19. What happened on the Mount of Transfiguration? Jesus shone like the son and talked with Moses and Elijah
20. What happened on Mount Olivet? Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane and later ascended bodily into Heaven
21. What is Mount Zion? Historically, it was part of Jerusalem conquered by King David. It came to symbolize Jerusalem, all of Israel, and now the world to come.
22. Recite the days of creation with God's gifts.
  - 1) Light
  - 2) Sea/Sky
  - 3) Land/plants
  - 4) Sun, moon, stars
  - 5) Fish, birds
  - 6) Animals, humans
23. Recite the first five plagues from Egypt.
  - 1) Water into blood
  - 2) Frogs
  - 3) Dust became lice, gnats or fleas
  - 4) Swarms
  - 5) Diseased livestock
24. Recite the last five plagues of Egypt.
  - 6) Boils
  - 7) Hail and fire
  - 8) Locust
  - 9) Three days of darkness
  - 10) Death of firstborn
25. Recite the 10 plagues of Egypt.
26. What was the tabernacle? A tent designed by God for His dwelling and worship
27. What does tabernacle mean? Dwelling
28. What is God's first dwelling mentioned in the New Testament? Jesus dwelt in the Virgin Mary
29. Who are Jacob's sons by Leah? Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun
30. Who are Jacob's sons by Rachel? Joseph, Benjamin

31. A) Who are Jacob's sons by Rachel's servant Bilhah? Dan, Naphtali B) Who are Jacob's sons by Leah's servant Zilpah? Gad, Asher
32. Did Jacob have any daughters? Yes, Dinah, by his wife Leah
33. Why are the 12 sons not the 12 tribes of Israel? Levi had a special inheritance throughout the Promised Land and within the Temple, therefore Joseph's two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, are tribes rather than Joseph and Levi.
34. How many disciples did Jesus choose for Himself? 12
35. Who were the 12 Disciples (and then Apostles)? Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Nathanael (also called Bartholomew), Thomas, Matthew, James the Younger (or Lesser), Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot who was replaced by Matthias.



## Level Five

### (General Confession)

1. Do the Persons of the Trinity speak with one another? Yes.
2. What is God's united voice toward us? The Holy Scriptures
3. What does Jesus call Himself? Son of God and Son of Man
4. What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him? He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.
5. Did the Father also die for you? He did not. The Father is God only, as is the Holy Spirit; but the Son is both true God and true man. He died for me and shed His blood for me.
6. How do you know this? From the holy Gospel, from the words instituting the Sacrament, and by His Body and Blood given as a pledge in the Sacrament
7. What does sacrament mean? Generally, it means mystery.
8. What are two sacraments confessed by the Lutheran Confessions? Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper

### (Questions about the Catechism)

9. How many chief parts does the Small Catechism have? 6
10. What are the chief parts of the Small Catechism? Ten Commandments, Creed, Baptism, Confession, Lord's Prayer, Sacrament of the Altar
11. What else does the Small Catechism give us? Daily prayer and the Table of Duties. Other questions and answers are also often attached.

### (Book Titles of the Old Testament)

12. Name the Books of Moses.
13. Name the first six Books of History
14. Name the second six Books of History
15. Name the five Books of Wisdom
16. Name five Books by the Major Prophets
17. Name the first six Books of the Minor Prophets
18. Name the last six Books of the Minor Prophets

(Old Testament, Definitions)

19. What is the closing of the Abrahamic blessing? "In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
20. How old were Abraham and Sarah when they had Isaac? Abraham was 100, and Sarah was 90.
21. How is Abraham's blessing fulfilled? In the history of Israel and in Jesus Christ
22. What are Cherubim and Seraphim? Two types of angels
23. Did Israel deserve to be God's people? No.
24. Do any people, or any countries, deserve to be God's people? No.
25. Name two examples of snakes used for good. Moses' staff in Egypt and the Bronze Serpent
26. Did wisdom save Solomon? No
27. How long was Jonah in the belly of the fish? 3 days
28. What body of water did the Israelites cross to leave Egypt? The Red Sea
29. What body of water did the Israelites cross to enter the Promised Land? The Jordan River
30. Should we always pray, "Create in me a clean heart, O God"? Yes.
31. Should we always pray, "I believe. Help my unbelief"? Yes.
32. How did God create and institute marriage? God brought one man, Adam, one woman, Eve, to be his wife.
33. Where in the Bible is it written, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh?" Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:5, and Mark 10:8.
34. What does apostle mean? Sent one
35. What does repentance mean? To turn back to what is right.

## Level Six

### (General Confession)

1. What does justify mean? To adjust and make right
2. What does forensic justification mean? God declares us “not guilty” but right and righteous in His court of law
3. What does sanctify mean? To make holy
4. What does holy mean? Set apart, dedicated, or consecrated to the Lord

### (Timeline)

1. When did Noah live? Around 3000BC
2. When was the flood? Around 2350BC
3. When was the Tower of Babel? Around 2200 BC
4. When did God call Abraham? Around 2000BC
5. When did Moses live? Around 1500 BC
6. What else was developing around 1500BC? Ancient Greece
7. When did Israel leave slavery Egypt? Around 1400 BC
8. When was the reign of King David? Around 1055BC
9. When did Solomon build the Temple? 1011 BC
10. When was the fall of the northern kingdom? 722 BC
11. When was the fall of Jerusalem and Judea (aka the southern kingdom)? 586  
began the Babylonian captivity
12. What does exile mean? Unable to return home.
13. When did the first exiles return? 536BC
14. What happened in 509? The Roman Republic
15. When was Julius Caesar born? 100 BC
16. When did Rome begin to govern Jerusalem? 63 BC
17. When was Jesus born? 4 BC
18. When did Sunday worship become practically universal? 321 AD

### (Historical Trivia)

19. Who was Jesus’ famous cousin? John the Baptizer
20. Who was king when Jesus was born? Herod the Great

21. Who was king and interacted with John the Baptizer and Jesus? Herod Antipas, Herod the Great's son

(Liturgical Terms)

22. What is the Psalter? The Book of Psalms or selections from it
23. What does alleluia mean? "Praise Ya" or "Praise the Lord"
24. What does amen mean? "True and certain," "yes, yes, it shall be so"
25. What does hosanna mean? "Save!" Hosanna asks God to have mercy on us.
26. What does invocation mean? "To call upon," the invocation calls upon the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
27. What does Introit mean? "He enters." Traditionally this was an entrance hymn or psalm while the pastor enters.
28. What does Agnus Dei mean? Lamb of God
29. What is a pericope (per-IK-oh-pee)? A selection of Scripture appointed for the day
30. What does Advent begin? The new church year
31. When is Advent? Advent consists of four Sundays, beginning the Sunday nearest the Feast of St. Andrew, November 30.
32. How long is Lent? 40 days, not counting Sundays
33. Why aren't Sundays included in Lent? Sundays are always mini-Easter celebrations
34. How many days are in the Season of Christmas? Twelve
35. What is the difference between liturgical Ordinaries and Propers? Ordinaries are generally part of every Sunday Divine Service. Propers change to fit the periscope, the assigned readings.



## Level Seven

1. What topic was central to the Reformation? Justification, specifically justification by grace through faith
2. When did Martin Luther live? 1483-1546
3. What were his occupations? Monk, priest, professor, pastor
4. Who was his wife? Katharina von Bora
5. A) Did Luther want the church named after him? No. B) Why do we call ourselves Lutheran? Not to deify Luther, but to make clear that we follow his understanding of Law & Gospel, means of grace, etc.
6. What does communion mean? In common, with unity
7. What is altar and pulpit fellowship? A formal agreement allowing exchange of pastors for both preaching and administering the Lord's Supper

(Book of Concord Stuff)

8. What is the Book of Concord? A collection of Lutheran confessions published in 1580
9. What are the Lutheran Confessions? Ten statements of faith that Lutherans use as official explanations and summaries of what they believe, teach, and confess.
10. What are those ten confessions?
  - a. The Preface
  - b. The Ecumenical Creeds
  - c. The Augsburg Confession
  - d. The Defense (or Apologia) of the Augsburg Confession
  - e. The Smalcald Articles
  - f. Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope
  - g. The Small Catechism
  - h. The Large Catechism
  - i. The Epitome of the Formula of Concord
  - j. The Solid (or Thorough) Declaration of the Formula of Concord
11. What does confession mean? In this context, to say what you believe
12. Are the Lutheran Confessions only for pastors? No
13. What is a theologian? Someone who engages in theology
14. What is theology? The study of God

15. What is a “*quia*” subscription to the Confessions? This subscription honors the Book of Concord *because* it is faithful to the Scriptures.
16. What is a “*quatenus*” subscription or description of the Confessions? This subscription is only “insofar” as the Confessions affirm Scripture as an individual has chosen to interpret it.
17. What are the three Ecumenical Creeds? Apostles’, Nicene, Athanasian
18. What are the chief parts of Luther’s Large Catechism? The Ten Commandments, The Apostles’ Creed, Lord’s Prayer, Holy Baptism, The Sacrament of the Altar
19. What does Apology mean in its more technical sense? A reasoned argument or written justification
20. How many chief articles of faith are affirmed in the Augsburg Confession? 28
21. What are the first four chief articles of faith according to the Augsburg Confession? God, Original Sin, The Son of God, Justification
22. What are five through eight? The Ministry, New Obedience, The Church, What is the Church
23. Nine through twelve? Baptism, the Lord’s Supper, Confession, Repentance
24. Thirteen through sixteen? The Use of the Sacraments, Ecclesiastical Order, Ecclesiastical Usages, Civil Affairs
25. What does Ecclesiastical mean? Related to the church or its clergy
26. How can we quickly summarize the relationship between a) God and the religious and b) God and the secular? God rules over two overlapping kingdoms.
27. What are the articles of the Augsburg Confession from article seventeen to twenty? Christ’s Return to Judgment, Free Will, the Cause of Sin, Good Works
28. Articles Twenty one to Twenty five? The Worship of the Saints, Both kinds in the Sacrament, the Marriage of Priests, the Mass
29. Twenty six to twenty eight? Confession, The distinction of foods, monastic vows, the power of the bishops
30. Why do some books in the Lutheran Confessions have two parts? The first summarizes and the second further defends the theses of the first.
31. According to Luther, what is the handmaiden of theology? Music
32. Who needs our good works? Not God, but our neighbors
33. How do reason and Scripture relate? Scripture shapes our reason by giving us faith and revealing what is true. Reason can help us to avoid misreading

Scripture, but it can also tempt us to read our own desires into God's perfect, holy Word.