**Members of Trinity and Concordia- the information and survey can be accessed by clicking on the “Catechism Revision Survey” link on the home page of our website.**

**Reminder: Survey open until May 15. Your opinion counts.**

Dear Lutherans,

The 2013 convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod called for a revised “Explanation” section of the “synodical Catechism” — Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation from Concordia Publishing House (CPH) — due to “many changes in the understanding of morals, civil law and natural law in church and society” having developed since the Explanation was last revised in 1991.

In keeping with Resolution 3-13A, the Synod directed the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) to propose a revision of the Explanation portion, in concurrence with the president’s office and working together with CPH in field testing, prior to finalizing and publishing the revision.

A drafting committee has been at work on this project for more than a year. A major proposal of this committee, which has also been approved by the CTCR and the president’s office, is that the revised Explanation would feature a four-part “template” for each section of the Small Catechism.

* **First part — Central Thought:** A summary of each section is proposed, featuring a biblical anchor passage for that section.
* **Second part — A Closer Reading:** A familiar “questions and answers” section that delves into specific details of the section and provides not only specific Bible verses, but also additional Bible sections or narratives and some confessional links.
* **Third part — Connections and Applications:** This section would provide direct connections to life today as it addresses some current questions and challenges, and it would offer brief apologetic materials as appropriate.
* **Fourth part — Prayers and Hymn Verses:** A devotional close for each section.

Three examples of this template approach are [available to view online](http://www.lcms.org/convention/catechismexplanationupdate?srctid=1&erid=7935012&trid=6e564874-9a82-40b2-baaa-581317009def) — one from the Commandments, another from the Lord’s Prayer and a third from the Baptism part of the Small Catechism. You have an opportunity to provide feedback on the suggested template by [filling out a brief survey](http://www.lcms.org/page.redir?target=http%3a%2f%2fsurveys.cph.org%2fs3%2fUpdating-the-LCMS-Explanation-of-The-Small-Catechism&srcid=58493&srctid=1&erid=7935012&trid=6e564874-9a82-40b2-baaa-581317009def).

The goal of this initial field testing is not to gather input on the specific content of these samples, but to gauge reaction to the proposed template or four-part framework for the proposed revision. Later surveys will provide more opportunities to offer reactions and suggestions to the content of the revised Explanation.

Visit [*lcms.org*](http://www.lcms.org/convention/catechismexplanationupdate?srctid=1&erid=7935012&trid=6e564874-9a82-40b2-baaa-581317009def) to view the samples and offer your reactions to the suggested template. Also, look for a [special insert](http://www.lcms.org/page.redir?target=http%3a%2f%2fblogs.lcms.org%2f2015%2fupdate-to-explanation-of-the-small-catechism&srcid=58493&srctid=1&erid=7935012&trid=6e564874-9a82-40b2-baaa-581317009def) in the April issue of Reporter for more details on the revision process.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison