Dear students,

As you know Confirmation did not turn out the way we planned for it. We missed several classes, and we will be missing Confirmation Camp this summer as they are going to keep Lutherlyn closed for the summer camping season. I am sad about this.

So one lesson we are learning is how life works. Often life doesn’t go the way we think or want, but we need to keep on going by doing what is right and faithful and trust that in the hard times, God is working among us and in the end we are going to be stronger and more faithful.

I have been thinking about how to best connect with all of you. I know you are now fully adjusted to online school classes, so I feel like now is a good time for you to do a little church work! Don’t’ worry, it will not be too bad, but it will help get “church brain” working again.

I believe the most important information to have memorized are the “Two Commandments” and Martin Luther’s Small Catechism, and in particular, the Ten Commandments, the Apostles’ Creed and the Lord’s Prayer. If you have these memorized it will help you when you need to make a moral decision. Having these memorized helps us to “know” what God wants us to do, what to believe about God, and how to pray to God.

So I am going to list out these things to have memorized, **and then I am going to follow with questions in red to answer.**

* Please save this word document on your computer
* Answer the questions (feel free to create more space for your answers between the questions)
* resave the document (and then)
* email the document back to me at bcoleman@luthermemorialonline.org

**by Monday June 8, 2020**

*If you can’t do it on a computer and email it back to me, call me at the church 814-454-0106 and let me know that you are going to fill it out manually and mail it to the church.*

**So here are the questions:**

Jesus said all of God’s Commandments are summarized in two commandments:

1. Love God
2. Love your neighbor as yourself

**Question:**

How do you:

Love God?

Love your neighbor as yourself?

How do you **NOT**

Love God?

Love your neighbor as yourself?

**What does God expect you to do (or not to do)?**

1. You are to have no other Gods
2. You are not to misuse the name of you God
3. You are to hallow the day of rest
4. You are to honor your father and your mother
5. You are not to kill
6. You are not to commit adultery
7. You are not to steal
8. You are not to bear false witness against your neighbor
9. You are not to covet you neighbor’s house
10. You are not to covet your neighbors’ property

**Question:**

Which commandment is the “easiest” for you to follow and why?

Which commandment is the “hardest” for you to follow and why?

Pick one commandment, **and in at least fifty words, tell me the deeper meaning of the commandment.** For instance, using the first commandment as an example, share with me, what are other gods in our lives?

Tell me what benefit is there to having the Ten Commandments memorized?

**What does God expect you to believe?**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

**Question:**

It is very difficult to “understand” who God is and how God acts, but the Apostles’ Creed is given to us to “attempt” to describe who God is, how God acts, and how God is present among us.

So my question is in reading the above Apostles’ Creed is:

What is one thing you are noticing about it for the first time?

Or what is something you finally understand or you don’t understand at all?

Finally, if you could ask God one question… what would it be?

**How God wants you to pray….how you can talk to God?**

Our Father, who art in heaven,

 hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,

 thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

 And forgive us our trespasses,

 as we forgive those who trespass against us;

 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,

 and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

**Question:**

What is one thing you are noticing about the Lord’s Prayer for the first time?

In being honest (no judgment on my end) answer the following:

Do you pray every day…. Yes or No

When you do pray, do you pray: in the morning, afternoon, evening, when you need something, before you take a test, or when someone is sick in your family?

Who first taught us the Lord’s Prayer? Yes Jesus, of course, but can you think of a person who taught it to you?

Thinking about all the people in your life, who do you think is the most spiritually connected with God?

What are some things that you can copy in lessons of faith from that person?

Finally, there are three videos about wisdom that I would like you to watch and you can get to them by following this below link:

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/wisdom-series/>

The videos are on Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Job. Watch each video and tell me what is the most important thing you learned in each video, and how will this video better help you dealing with this pandemic and the future struggles you may have in life?

**Question:**

Proverbs Video

What is the most important thing you learned in this video?

How will this video better help you dealing with this pandemic and the future struggles you may have in life?

Ecclesiastes Video

What is the most important thing you learned in this video?

How will this video better help you dealing with this pandemic and the future struggles you may have in life?

Job Video

What is the most important thing you learned in this video?

How will this video better help you dealing with this pandemic and the future struggles you may have in life?

Thanks for the time you will spend on this. I look forward to seeing how you answer these questions. If you are confused about what I am asking you to do, please contact me by calling me or emailing me.

Peace and be well.

Pastor Bill Coleman