

Lutheran Religion Standards That Inform, Equip, and Bless

Teaching the love of Christ is at the heart of mission for all who lead and teach in Lutheran education, and excellence in sharing that Gospel is good stewardship of the gifts we have as a community of ministries throughout the world. Raising the bar of excellence in Lutheran schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod takes a concerted effort of leaders and volunteers who seek to equip all Lutheran schools with tools to teach the Gospel in a holistic way.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's School Ministry, together with educators around the Synod (and with assistance from Concordia Publishing House), created religion standards that provide a concrete, objective framework for schools to utilize in hopes of providing an important tool that reflects LCMS doctrine. In addition, these standards strive to be engaging, accessible, and aligned with the needs of our educational professionals and each school's respective mission. Within the context of Christian education, the teamwork behind this project provides this tool with the goal of propelling Lutheran schools into the future with humility, excellence, and accountability as their hallmarks.

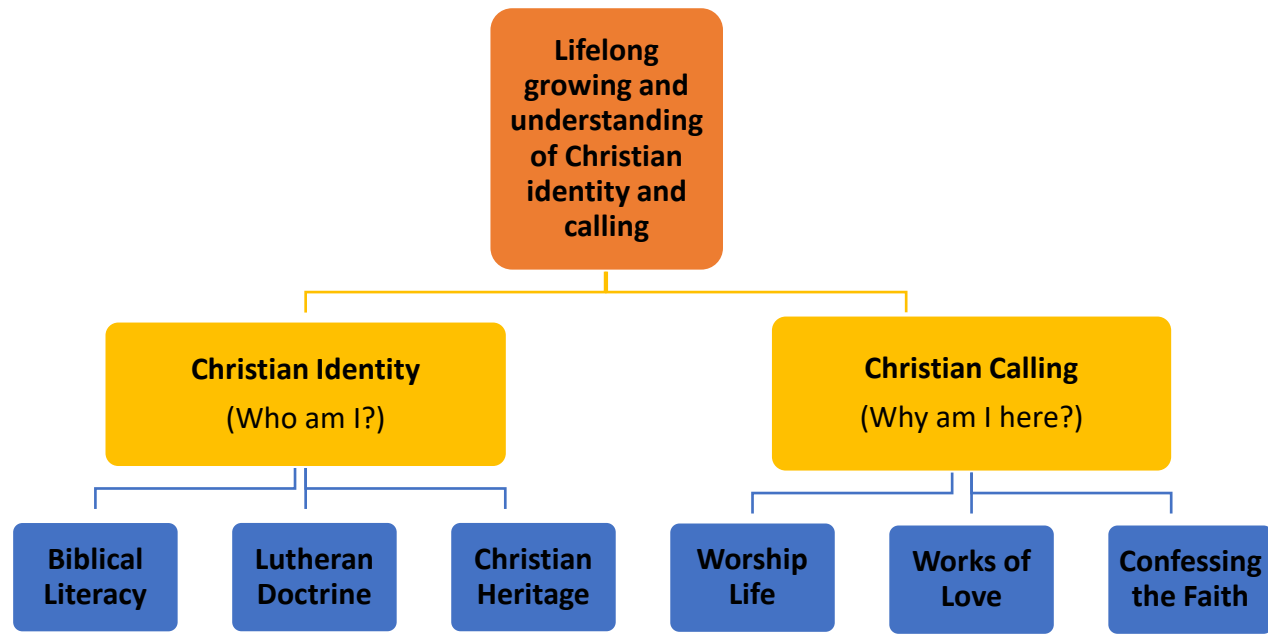
- Standards are a means for a school to measure and assess its effectiveness and its performance.
- Religion standards are a means for a Lutheran school to measure and assess its mission of discipleship by tracking learning objectives as students learn and grow.
- Standards serve an important purpose and have great value to the school as it prepares its improvement goals and plans.
- They are a tool for accountability, and they help to ensure a comprehensive curriculum.
- They enable the school to determine what to assess and to evaluate the vertical alignment of the curriculum.

Our Christian schools can analyze standards according to students' learning needs and the context of each school. This comprehensive differentiation is considered in these new standards, which are interactive and engaging to educators. In essence, the standards will fit into digital curriculum maps or appropriate platforms. Alternatively, they can also be used in a stand-alone format, made available for every Lutheran school.

As we use tools such as these religion standards to strive to serve the Lord more effectively and with gladness, let us all take heart from the apostle Paul, who through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, encourages us:

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.
(Colossians 3:23–24)

Religion Standards Framework



The framework behind these religion standards begins with the goal of nurturing individuals in their lifelong, growing understanding of what it means to be a Christian and in the effort to encourage individuals in their faith through Christ-focused discipleship.

Believers have two key questions to think about as they consider their relationship with God and others. Our relational **identity** as beloved, created, redeemed, and forgiven children of God gives us the certainty of grace as a gift from God. In that certainty, we can thrive in learning more about God's love for us by studying God's Word primarily and Lutheran doctrine and Christian heritage secondarily. Secure in the peace that comes through faith and the reality of grace, we look also at our **calling** to live in relationship with others as a response to the joy we have as forgiven children of God. We therefore practice the daily life of a believer in worship, works of love, and confessing the faith to others so that they, too, may know of their Savior.

Beneath each area of Identity and Calling are three domains, resulting in six domains, described below.

Domains of Religion Standards

Biblical Literacy

Christians are people of the Word. Understanding the content of the Bible and how to navigate God's Word is critical, as "these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31) and "all Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16–17). Anchor standards for biblical literacy involve understanding the overarching narrative of Scripture focused on Christ, understanding the content and navigation of the Bible, and understanding the principles of biblical interpretation.

Lutheran Doctrine

As people of God's Word, Lutheran Christians are to teach and hold firm to sound doctrine by "examining the Scriptures daily" (Acts 17:11), as the Bereans did. This sound doctrine (teachings of the faith) must agree with the "sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness" (1 Timothy 6:3). As God's people learn and confirm the core teachings of Scripture that are faithfully contained in the Lutheran Confessions, they will "be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it" (Titus 1:9), and they will no longer be "tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes" (Ephesians 4:14). Anchor standards for Lutheran doctrine involve understanding the core teachings of Lutheran belief as found in the Small Catechism, focusing on what it means that God the Father created us and all creatures (First Article), God the Son redeemed us to be His own (Second Article), and God the Holy Spirit has called, enlightened, and sanctified us in the true faith (Third Article).

Christian Heritage

Christian identity is tied to our heritage as God's people throughout the history of the Church. At Peter's confession, Jesus declared, "On this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). At His ascension, Jesus commanded His people to be His witnesses to the very ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). Through the ages, God's people have proclaimed Christ throughout the world, and they serve as a "great cloud of witnesses" that inspire people of God's Word today to "run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith" (Hebrews 12:1–2). Anchor standards for Christian heritage involve understanding the history of the Christian Church between the time of the Early Church to today and understanding different Christian groups and their beliefs throughout time up to today.

Worship Life Our Christian calling involves a life of worship. God's people are to "let the word of Christ dwell in [them] richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in [their] hearts to God" (Colossians 3:16). In addition to being in corporate worship, God's people are called to be in daily prayer and meditation on God's Word at all times, and to teach God's Word "when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise" (Deuteronomy 6:7). Anchor standards for worship life involve understanding the elements and practices of corporate worship, understanding the forms and habits of individual and group prayer, and understanding the forms and habits of individual and group meditation on God's Word.

Works of Love Christians are called to love and serve our neighbors. Jesus Himself summarized the Second Table of the Law in this way: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:31). As we love and serve people in our different roles, or vocations, in life, we are to do so “with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:2–3). God’s chosen people in Christ are to engage in continual training “to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age” (Titus 2:12). Anchor standards for works of love involve understanding Christian character, who our neighbor is, and how we are to serve our neighbor within our vocations in the household, the congregation, and society.

Confessing the Faith Christians are called to confess the truth of God’s Word in this sinful world. Jesus stated that “everyone who acknowledges Me before men, I also will acknowledge before My Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 10:32). As God’s people, we are to be prepared at all times to “make a defense to anyone who asks [us] for a reason for the hope that is in [us],” yet to do so with “gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when [we] are slandered, those who revile [our] good behavior in Christ may be put to shame” (1 Peter 3:15–16). Anchor standards for confessing the faith involve understanding why we Christians believe what we believe, understanding the Christian worldview, examining why and what we believe in relationship to different truth claims, and witnessing to others about Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Anchor Standards

Anchor standards have been identified for each domain. There are forty-one anchor standards under the six domains. The anchor standards describe the fundamental foundation of knowledge and skill in each area. Each anchor standard has been further broken down into duo-grade level standards appropriate for the age and developmental level of students. A set of forty-one standards has also been created for each duo-grade level. Duo-grade levels are as follows: prekindergarten and kindergarten (P–K); grades 1 and 2 (1–2); grades 3 and 4 (3–4); grades 5 and 6 (5–6); grades 7 and 8 (7–8).

Individual anchor standards are labeled by domain and number; for example, BL 1 stands for Biblical Literacy, anchor standard 1. Individual grade-specific standards are labeled by domain, grade pair, and number. For example, BL (1–2) 1 stands for Biblical Literacy, grades 1–2, anchor standard 1.

Sub-Standards

Under each anchor standard, two to seven sub-standards have been identified for a total of 128 sub-standards (labeled A,B,C, etc., green font). These sub-standards describe more detailed aspects of the standards.

Religion Standards

Anchor Standard	Pre-K/ Kindergarten	Grades 1–2	Grades 3–4	Grades 5–6	Grades 7–8	High School
Biblical Literacy (BL)						
Overarching Narrative						
<p>1. Recognize and describe God’s great plan of salvation in Christ as it is revealed in Scripture.</p> <p>1A. Recognize that Scripture is God-breathed and points to Jesus; the Holy Spirit inspired the authors.</p> <p>1B. Describe briefly how the Bible tells God’s plan of salvation in Jesus.</p> <p>1C. Articulate Law and Gospel and how God uses them to point us to Christ.</p> <p>1D. Connect God’s great plan of salvation to our lives.</p>	<p>1. Express understanding that the entire Bible, both Old and New Testaments, points to Jesus as the Savior and is God’s Word.</p>	<p>1. Express understanding of God’s plan to send Jesus as the Savior, as revealed in God’s Word.</p>	<p>1. Describe how the plan of salvation is made known by way of God’s Word—Law and Gospel—contained in the Bible.</p>	<p>1. Identify the Bible as God’s Word, using Law and Gospel and the story of Jesus’ life and death to describe how all events in Scripture point to Jesus.</p>	<p>1. Recognize and describe God’s great plan of salvation in Christ as it is revealed in Scripture.</p>	<p>1. Describe the Christocentric emphasis of Scripture and interpret a given biblical text in light of the salvation earned by Christ.</p>
<p>2. Identify and determine the overarching narrative and key individual narratives within that larger plan.</p> <p>2A. Recognize key individual narratives of Scripture in both the Old and New Testaments.</p> <p>2B. Connect key narratives to one another in time and context, including world history.</p> <p>2C. Connect key narratives to one another under the umbrella of the greater theme of God’s plan of salvation.</p>	<p>2. With prompting and support, recognize major Bible narratives and understand how these events point to Jesus.</p>	<p>2. Retell important Bible events from the Old and New Testaments and connect them to God’s plan to save His people.</p>	<p>2. Describe how the narratives of the Old and New Testaments are connected and related to salvation.</p>	<p>2. Describe how people and events in the Old Testament point to the coming Messiah; through the life of Jesus, describe how people and events in the New Testament fulfill what the Old Testament taught.</p>	<p>2. Identify and determine the overarching narrative and key individual narratives within that larger plan.</p>	<p>2. Explain from memory where a Bible narrative falls within the scope of Scripture and describe its importance to the Christocentric drive of the overall biblical narrative.</p>
<p>3. Articulate and summarize God’s plan of salvation in a variety of ways and in different contexts.</p> <p>3A. Summarize the overarching plan of salvation concisely and also in more detail.</p> <p>3B. Summarize the overarching plan of salvation to different groups, including peers, family, and others and in a variety of contexts.</p>	<p>3. With prompting and support, retell major Bible events in a variety of age-appropriate ways.</p>	<p>3. Use a variety of ways to share the Good News of God’s plan to save people from sin.</p>	<p>3. Be able to express how Christ is central in both Old and New Testament events and writings.</p>	<p>3. Recall and describe events in the Old and New Testaments that show how Jesus is the center of the biblical narrative.</p>	<p>3. Articulate and summarize God’s plan of salvation in a variety of ways and in different contexts.</p>	<p>3. Apply a Christological explanation of biblical texts, articulating them according to a hearer’s faith needs.</p>

Bible Navigation						
<p>4. Recognize and describe the organization of the Bible.</p> <p>4A. Describe differences between the Old and New Testaments.</p> <p>4B. Describe general details of when Bible books were written, including their authors.</p> <p>4C. Understand the principles of canonicity of both the Old and New Testaments.</p>	<p>4. Express an understanding that the Bible is made up of the Old Testament and the New Testament.</p>	<p>4. Identify the two main divisions of the Bible and recognize what a “book” of the Bible is.</p>	<p>4. Demonstrate an understanding of the organization of the Bible.</p>	<p>4. Describe the general structure and contents of the Bible.</p>	<p>4. Recognize and describe the organization of the Bible.</p>	<p>4. Articulate the canonical organization of scriptural books in regard to structure, purpose, and biblical context.</p>
<p>5. Describe the characteristics of different books and genres of the Bible.</p> <p>5A. Identify the different genres of the Old and New Testaments.</p> <p>5B. Name the books of the Old and New Testaments in order.</p> <p>5C. Identify the key characteristics of each book of the Bible, including general date, author, theme, purpose, and key verse(s).</p>	<p>5. Express an understanding that there are many different types of books that make up the Bible.</p>	<p>5. Talk about the different books of the Bible and sort them into genres.</p>	<p>5. Describe the books of the Bible and sort them into genres.</p>	<p>5. Identify the similarities and differences between the various books of the Bible.</p>	<p>5. Describe the key characteristics of the different books and genres of the Bible.</p>	<p>5. Identify each book of the Bible by author, genre, and key characteristics, and explain each book’s significance in salvation history.</p>
<p>6. Demonstrate the ability to reference passages and books of the Bible and use study tools.</p> <p>6A. Understand and use the chapter/verse system.</p> <p>6B. Demonstrate the ability to reference any verse.</p> <p>6C. Understand the use of study tools, including concordances, cross-referencing, footnotes, and study notes.</p>	<p>6. Participate in memory work and practice reciting verses, referencing them by book, chapter, and verse.</p>	<p>6. Demonstrate an understanding that the Bible is organized by books, chapters, and verses.</p>	<p>6. Demonstrate the ability to locate books, chapters, and verses in the Bible.</p>	<p>6. Demonstrate the ability to locate passages and books of the Bible.</p>	<p>6. Demonstrate proficiency in referencing Bible passages and using Bible study tools.</p>	<p>6. Utilize and describe the efficacy of a variety of Bible study tools.</p>

Biblical Interpretation						
<p>7. Identify the core principles of biblical interpretation from a Lutheran perspective. (Principles for correctly reading the Bible with understanding: centrality of Christ, Law and Gospel, Scripture interprets Scripture, inerrancy of Scripture.)</p> <p>7A. Demonstrate an understanding of key principles of interpretation:</p> <p>(1) Paying attention to context</p> <p>(2) Sticking with the plain and obvious meaning of the text</p> <p>(3) Understanding that Scripture interprets Scripture</p> <p>(4) Interpreting Scripture in view of Christ</p> <p>(5) Distinguishing Law and Gospel</p> <p>(6) Differentiating between the “then and there” and the “here and now” meaning of a text</p> <p>7B. Demonstrate an understanding of different genres of Scripture, including poetry, prophecy, parables, Epistles, and apocalyptic literature.</p> <p>7C. Understand the principles of Bible translation.</p>	<p>7. With prompting and support, express an understanding that all Scripture is true and trustworthy and points to Jesus Christ as our Savior from sin.</p>	<p>7. Identify the Bible as the true Word of God, which shows the sin of all people and their need for a Savior.</p>	<p>7. Demonstrate an understanding of Scripture as the true Word of God, which contains both Law and Gospel and is centered in Christ.</p>	<p>7. Describe, from a Lutheran perspective, how to correctly read the Bible with understanding.</p>	<p>7. Demonstrate the ability to approach biblical passages from a Lutheran perspective.</p>	<p>7. Articulate the core principles of biblical hermeneutics: 1) the proper distinction of the Law and Gospel, 2) Scripture interprets Scripture, 3) the inerrancy of Scripture, and 4) all Scripture is interpreted in light of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection for our salvation.</p>
<p>8. Demonstrate an ability to interpret different passages of Scripture, using the core principles of biblical interpretation.</p> <p>8A. Demonstrate an ability to interpret different texts in view of the key principles of interpretation (noted above).</p> <p>8B. Demonstrate an ability to interpret different passages in light of their Scripture genres, including poetry, prophecy, parables, Epistles, and apocalyptic literature.</p>	<p>8. With prompting and support, explain verbally that all Scripture points to Christ, that all people are sinful, that Jesus is the Savior from sin, and that everything in the Bible is true and trustworthy.</p>	<p>8. With prompting and support, demonstrate an understanding of the meaning of Bible passages.</p>	<p>8. Demonstrate an ability to read and understand Scripture passages, using sound biblical practices such as distinguishing Law and Gospel and the centrality of Christ.</p>	<p>8. Demonstrate an ability to read correctly Bible passages with understanding, using sound biblical practices.</p>	<p>8. Demonstrate an ability to use sound biblical practices to understand and apply passages of Scripture.</p>	<p>8. Implement the tools and principles of biblical interpretation for a selected biblical text, interpreting different passages in light of their scriptural genres.</p>

Anchor Standard	Pre-K/ Kindergarten	Grades 1–2	Grades 3–4	Grades 5–6	Grades 7–8	High School
Lutheran Doctrine (LD)						
God the Father						
1. Describe the nature of God. 1A. Natural and revealed knowledge of God. 1B. Essence and attributes of God. 1C. Triune God.		1. Describe who God is and what He does for His children.	1. Describe God according to the Scriptures and natural knowledge.	1. Describe the attributes and nature of God, such as Creator, omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, the one triune God.	1. Describe what God has revealed about Himself through Scripture and natural knowledge.	1. Describe the attributes and nature of God using Scripture and the three Ecumenical Creeds.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of God's work of creation and preservation. 2A. Creation of the world. 2B. Divine providence (God's preservation and governance of the world; people are God's stewards to care for the world). 2C. Angels.		2. Recognize that God created all things and continues to care for His creation.	2. Describe how God is Creator and preserver of all things and how humans have been given the role as caretakers of His creation.	2. Describe God's work as Creator and preserver and the task of stewardship that He has given to humankind.	2. Describe God's work of creation and preservation.	2. Describe God's work of creation and preservation, identifying and contrasting the God-given roles of humans and angels in His ongoing work of preservation.
3. Describe the nature of humankind. 3A. Creation of humanity and human nature. 3B. Image of God. 3C. Sin: cause and consequences.	3. Express an understanding that humans were created perfectly in the image of God but sinned, resulting in a need for a Savior.	3. Recognize that humans were created by God in His image but sinned and so face the consequences of sin.	3. Describe God's creation of people in His image, humankind's fall into sin, and the consequences brought by the fall.	3. Discuss how God created people in His image and the result of humankind's fall into sin.	3. Describe the nature of humankind.	3. Use Scripture to describe the nature of humankind, including its creation in the image of God, the fall into sin, and the consequences of sin, which resulted in the need for a Savior.
4. Identify and describe the Ten Commandments. 4A. Summarize the Law and the two tables; identify, recall, and rephrase individual commandments to show understanding. 4B. The Commandments are God's gift to show people how to love Him and to love one another. 4C. The three uses of the Law are a guide, a mirror, and a rule.	4. Express an understanding that God gave people good rules to follow because of His love for them; be familiar with what these rules teach.	4. Recall the Ten Commandments and tell how the commandments show people how to love God and one another.	4. Identify and describe the Ten Commandments as God's gift for people's good, using <i>Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation</i> as a guide.	4. Recall the Ten Commandments and explanations from the catechism by memory; describe how each commandment guides believers to live a God-pleasing life.	4. Identify and describe the Ten Commandments as God's gift to help people love Him and one another. Describe the three uses of the Law and how they guide and protect the Christian life.	4. Using Scripture and Luther's Catechism, identify and describe the Ten Commandments in terms of their prohibitions, their accusations, and their exhortations.

God the Son						
5. Identify and describe the person of Jesus Christ. 5A. True God and true man (two natures of Christ). 5B. The personal union of the natures of Christ. 5C. Names of Jesus Christ. 5D. Why the Savior had to be both God and man.	5. Identify Jesus as God's Son, who became a human to save all people from their sin.	5. Express an understanding that Jesus is both true God and true man and came to earth to save all people from sin.	5. Recognize Jesus Christ as true God and true man and why that is important for our salvation.	5. Describe Jesus Christ as true God and true man and why this matters for God's plan of salvation.	5. Identify and describe the person of Jesus Christ as true God and true man.	5. Using Scripture and the three Ecumenical Creeds, describe the person and natures of Jesus Christ.
6. Recognize and describe the work of Jesus Christ. 6A. Jesus, the Redeemer. 6B. Jesus' states of humiliation and exaltation. 6C. The threefold office of Christ: Prophet, Priest, and King. 6D. The purpose of Christ's work.	6. With prompting and support, express an understanding that no one can pay the price for sin but that Jesus took the punishment for sin on Himself so all people can live with Him forever.	6. Describe the work of Jesus as teacher, healer, Savior, and King.	6. Explain how the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus allows Him to be the Redeemer of all people who have faith in Him.	6. Describe the work of Jesus Christ to redeem the human race.	6. Recognize and describe the work of Jesus Christ as the Redeemer of the world.	6. Describe the work and purpose of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, and identify how Christ fulfills the Old Testament roles of Prophet, Priest, and King.
God the Holy Spirit						
7. Describe justification by faith. 7A. All humans are sinners. 7B. Christ fully atoned for all sins. 7C. God has forgiven all sins. 7D. The Gospel reveals and offers forgiveness of sins to all people. 7E. The promise of forgiveness is accepted by faith. 7F. Justification is a judicial act of God. 7G. The results of justification by faith are reconciliation with God, membership in the invisible Church, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and the initial restoration of the image of God.	7. With prompting and support, express that God has forgiven all sin and that people are saved because He graciously gives the gift of faith.	7. Express understanding that the Holy Spirit gives people faith in Jesus, who died to pay for all sins.	7. Describe how the Holy Spirit offers salvation by grace through faith, apart from good works. This has been accomplished fully by the redemptive work of Christ.	7. Describe how the Holy Spirit works to create faith in sinful humans, who can do nothing to save themselves.	7. Describe justification by faith.	7. Describe the Holy Spirit using Scripture and the three Ecumenical Creeds, particularly in His role as faith-giver, comforter, and the source of the divine inspiration of the Scriptures.

<p>8. Describe sanctification through faith.</p> <p>8A. Sanctification is a renewal of the heart.</p> <p>8B. Sanctification involves a struggle against sin.</p> <p>8C. Sanctification produces good works.</p> <p>8D. Sanctification is never perfect in this life.</p> <p>8E. God sanctifies us.</p> <p>8F. We are not saved through works.</p>	<p>8. With prompting and support, express that the Holy Spirit lives in believers' hearts, helping them to love God and follow His commands.</p>	<p>8. Express an understanding that the Holy Spirit works in believers' hearts, helping them to love God and serve one another.</p>	<p>8. Recognize how the Holy Spirit works in the hearts of believers, helping them to love God and produce good works.</p>	<p>8. Describe how the Holy Spirit helps believers in the struggle against sin and helps them to show faith through serving one another.</p>	<p>8. Describe sanctification through faith.</p>	<p>8. Describe sanctification as the Holy Spirit's work in us, the nature of good works, and the freedom of the Christian to love and serve their neighbor for Jesus' sake.</p>
<p>9. Identify and describe the Holy Christian Church.</p> <p>9A. The invisible Church.</p> <p>9B. The visible church.</p>	<p>9. With prompting and support, express an understanding that the Church is the family of believers all over the world who have faith in Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>9. Express an understanding that the Church is made up of all believers in Jesus Christ in every nation of the world.</p>	<p>9. Recognize the Holy Christian Church as the fellowship of all believers, past and present.</p>	<p>9. Describe the Church as both the visible Body of believers in Christ and also as the invisible Body of believers who have faith in Jesus.</p>	<p>9. Identify and describe the Holy Christian Church.</p>	<p>9. Describe the Holy Christian Church and the communion of saints past and present using Scripture and the three Ecumenical Creeds.</p>
<p>10. Demonstrate knowledge of the Last Things.</p> <p>10A. Temporal death.</p> <p>10B. The resurrection of the dead.</p> <p>10C. The second coming of Christ.</p> <p>10D. The final judgment.</p> <p>10E. Heaven and hell.</p> <p>10F. The new creation.</p>	<p>10. With prompting and support, express an understanding that Jesus is coming back again and promises to take believers to live with Him forever.</p>	<p>10. Express an understanding that Jesus will come again on the Last Day and take all believers to be with Him forever in heaven.</p>	<p>10. Recognize and express that Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead and will take all believers to be with Him in heaven forever.</p>	<p>10. Demonstrate knowledge of Christ's second coming, the resurrection of the dead, and the new creation that is promised to believers.</p>	<p>10. Demonstrate knowledge of the Last Things as well as false views of the Last Things. Express the hope that believers have in the second coming of Christ.</p>	<p>10. Demonstrate knowledge of the Last Things, distinguishing between biblical and unbiblical views of the end times and identifying themes in the Old and New Testaments concerning death, resurrection, and re-creation.</p>
Means of Grace						
<p>11. Recognize and describe the nature, blessings, and power of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.</p> <p>11A. The nature of Baptism.</p> <p>11B. The blessings of Baptism.</p> <p>11C. The power of Baptism.</p> <p>11D. What Baptism indicates.</p>	<p>11. With prompting and support, express an understanding that Baptism forgives sins and welcomes people into God's family.</p>	<p>11. Express an understanding that Baptism makes people part of God's family, forgives sins, and gives the gift of the Holy Spirit.</p>	<p>11. Recognize Holy Baptism as a Means of Grace, offering forgiveness of sins, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and salvation to all who believe.</p>	<p>11. Describe Baptism as a Means of God's Grace that works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives salvation to all who believe this.</p>	<p>11. Recognize and describe the nature, blessings, and power of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.</p>	<p>11. Describe Baptism as a Means of Grace using Scripture and Luther's Catechism, identifying baptismal themes in the Old and New Testaments as well as the nature, blessings, and power of Holy Baptism.</p>

<p>12. Describe the Office of the Keys and Confession.</p> <p>12A. The Office of the Keys is a spiritual power, given by Christ to the Church on earth.</p> <p>12B. The Office of the Keys gives the Church the power to absolve and retain sins.</p> <p>12C. The Church must use this power as directed by Christ.</p> <p>12D. Church discipline.</p>	<p>12. With prompting and support, express an understanding that because Jesus died for all people, God forgives people when they confess their sins.</p>	<p>12. Express an understanding that because of Jesus' death on the cross, God forgives sins when they are confessed.</p>	<p>12. Recognize and express that because of the work of Jesus Christ, God offers forgiveness of sins to all who confess.</p>	<p>12. Describe the Office of the Keys as the power that Christ gave His Church on earth to forgive and retain sins.</p>	<p>12. Describe the Office of the Keys and Confession.</p>	<p>12. Describe the Office of the Keys and Confession using Scripture and Luther's Catechism, identifying the power given to the Church on earth to absolve and retain sins in the stead of Christ.</p>
<p>13. Describe the nature, benefit, and power of the Sacrament of the Altar.</p> <p>13A. The nature of the Sacrament of the Altar.</p> <p>13B. The benefit of the Sacrament of the Altar.</p> <p>13C. The power of the Sacrament of the Altar.</p> <p>13D. How to receive the Sacrament of the Altar worthily.</p>	<p>13. With prompting and support, express an understanding that the Lord's Supper gives forgiveness of sins and strengthens faith.</p>	<p>13. Express an understanding that the Lord's Supper gives forgiveness of sins and strengthens the faith of believers.</p>	<p>13. Recognize and describe Holy Communion as a Means of Grace that offers forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of faith in Christ.</p>	<p>13. Describe the Sacrament of the Altar as Christ's true body and blood, given for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of faith.</p>	<p>13. Describe the nature, benefit, and power of the Sacrament of the Altar.</p>	<p>13. Describe the Sacrament of the Altar as a Means of Grace using Scripture and Luther's Catechism, identifying sacramental themes in the Old and New Testaments, as well as the nature, blessings, and power of the Lord's Supper.</p>

Anchor Standard	Pre-K/ Kindergarten	Grades 1–2	Grades 3– 4	Grades 5–6	Grades 7–8	High School
Christian Heritage (CH)						
Church History						
<p>1. Describe the history and major movements of the Christian Church from the period of the Early Church to today.</p> <p>1A. Summarize the overarching history of the Church, both concisely and in more detail.</p> <p>1B. Understand theological movements and important characters in the Early Church (Apostles to AD 250); the Changing World (250–600); Middle Ages (600–1400); Renaissance and Reformation (1400–1600); Orthodoxy and Enlightenment (1600–1800); Modern Times (1800–WWI); and Present (WWI–present day).</p> <p>1C. Recognize different Christian movements throughout the world in different places and cultures.</p>	<p>1. With prompting and support, recognize important people and events in Christian Church history and how these people shared the Gospel.</p>	<p>1. Recognize critical people, events, and doctrines from Church history.</p>	<p>1. Recognize how the Church grew from the time of the apostles, to the time of the Reformation, to today.</p>	<p>1. Describe how the Church grew from the time of the apostles, to the time of the Reformation, to the present day.</p>	<p>1. Describe the history and major movements of the Christian Church from the period of the Early Church to today.</p>	<p>1. Describe and explain the significance of major events, pivotal people, and theological movements of Church history from the time of the Early Church, to the Reformation, to today.</p>

<p>2. Demonstrate the ability to identify and examine important documents, including creeds and confessions, from Church history.</p> <p>2A. Examine the Ecumenical Creeds.</p> <p>2B. Examine the Lutheran Confessions.</p> <p>2C. Demonstrate the ability to critically examine several other major catechisms and documents from other denominations, including Catholic, Orthodox, and Reformed.</p>	<p>2. With prompting and support, practice saying the Apostles' Creed together and express understanding that the Creed tells what Christians believe about God.</p>	<p>2. Express an understanding that the Apostles' Creed describes what Christians throughout history have believed about God.</p>	<p>2. Recognize the three Ecumenical Creeds and Luther's Small Catechism; be familiar with their importance.</p>	<p>2. Describe and examine the Ecumenical Creeds and Luther's Small Catechism, applying them to everyday faith.</p>	<p>2. Demonstrate the ability to identify and examine important documents, including creeds and confessions, from Church history.</p>	<p>2. Describe and explain the significance of important Lutheran documents, such as the three Ecumenical Creeds and the Lutheran Confessions, comparing and contrasting them with documents from other Christian denominations.</p>
Christian Denominations						
<p>3. Identify and describe the history and beliefs of different Christian denominations and groups.</p> <p>3A. Lutheran.</p> <p>3B. Catholic.</p> <p>3C. Orthodox.</p> <p>3D. Reformed groups.</p>	<p>3. With prompting and support, express an understanding that there are different groups of Christians.</p>	<p>3. Express an understanding that different groups believe different things about Christianity.</p>	<p>3. Recognize the beliefs of various Christian denominations.</p>	<p>3. Describe different Christian denominations and explain their basic differences.</p>	<p>3. Identify and describe the history and beliefs of different Christian denominations and groups.</p>	<p>3. Compare and contrast LCMS Lutheran history and doctrine to those of other Lutheran and Christian denominations.</p>
<p>4. Identify and describe Lutheran history and movements from the Reformation to the LCMS today.</p> <p>4A. Lutheran Reformation history.</p> <p>4B. LCMS formation and history.</p> <p>4C. LCMS structure and polity.</p>	<p>4. With prompting and support, identify Martin Luther and important events in his life.</p>	<p>4. Recognize events in the life and times of Martin Luther and his teachings about the Bible.</p>	<p>4. Describe the life and times of Martin Luther, his teachings on the Bible, and how they led to the formation of the Lutheran Church.</p>	<p>4. Describe the history of the Lutheran Church from the Reformation, to the immigration of Lutherans to the United States, to the different groups of Lutherans today.</p>	<p>4. Identify and describe Lutheran history and movements from the Reformation to the LCMS today.</p>	<p>4. Describe and explain the significance of specific events and people within Lutheran Church history from the Reformation, to the formation of the LCMS, to the structure of the LCMS today.</p>

Anchor Standard	Pre-K/Kindergarten	Grades 1–2	Grades 3–4	Grades 5–6	Grades 7–8	High School
Worship Life (WL)						
Corporate Worship						
<p>1. Identify and describe the worship service as the gathering of God’s people to receive His gifts of Word and Sacrament and respond in thankfulness and praise.</p> <p>1A. General organization of the core components of the worship service.</p> <p>1B. Knowledge of different components of liturgy, including the meaning of Latin names.</p> <p>1C. Christian symbols and their meanings.</p> <p>1D. Physical church layout and articles—including nave, narthex, paraments, vestments, altar, and pulpit—along with what these signify.</p> <p>1E. Hymnody.</p> <p>1F. Christian Church Year.</p>	<p>1. With prompting and support, recognize worship as the gathering together of God’s people to receive His gifts and respond. Identify the areas of the church building and the parts of the worship service.</p>	<p>1. Recognize worship as the gathering together of God’s people to receive His gifts and respond. Describe the parts of the church used for worship. Recognize the main components of the worship service and the major festivals of the Church Year.</p>	<p>1. Recognize worship as the gathering together of God’s people to receive His gifts and respond in thankfulness and praise. Identify the physical layout of a church, the general organization of the worship service, and the times and seasons of the Church Year.</p>	<p>1. Identify and describe worship as the gathering together of God’s people to receive His gifts and respond. Describe the organization of the worship service, the layout of the physical church, and the times and seasons of the Church Year.</p>	<p>1. Identify and describe the worship service as the gathering of God’s people to receive His gifts of Word and Sacrament and respond in thankfulness and praise. Identify and describe the components of a worship service, and the times and seasons of the Church Year.</p>	<p>1. Describe the worship service as the gathering of God’s people to receive His gifts of Word and Sacrament, explaining the importance of the core components of the service, Christian symbols, and the Church Year.</p>
<p>2. Demonstrate the ability to follow along with and participate in a variety of settings of corporate worship.</p> <p>2A. Ability to navigate hymnbooks and different worship services.</p> <p>2B. Memorization of key elements of worship services.</p>	<p>2. Participate in daily worship routines in the classroom as well as weekly large-group chapel.</p>	<p>2. Demonstrate the ability to sing, say, and pray along with familiar parts of a worship service.</p>	<p>2. Demonstrate the ability to use a hymnal and other worship materials to participate in a variety of worship settings.</p>	<p>2. Demonstrate the ability to navigate a hymnbook to find worship settings and hymns; memorize key elements of the worship service.</p>	<p>2. Demonstrate the ability to follow along with and participate in a variety of settings of corporate worship.</p>	<p>2. Participate regularly in a variety of worship services at school and church, demonstrating the ability to navigate hymnbooks and other corporate worship settings.</p>
Daily Prayer						
<p>3. Demonstrate a knowledge of different structures and formats of prayer.</p> <p>3A. Luther’s prayers.</p> <p>3B. Organization of formal prayers, including the Lord’s Prayer and the Psalms.</p> <p>3C. Different styles of informal prayers (e.g., ACTS or ITCP from Luther’s “A Simple Way to Pray”).</p>	<p>3. Recognize the Lord’s Prayer and simple formal and informal prayers.</p>	<p>3. Demonstrate knowledge of the Lord’s Prayer and Luther’s Morning and Evening Prayers, and other simple formal and informal prayers.</p>	<p>3. Demonstrate knowledge of different types and styles of formal and informal prayers.</p>	<p>3. Demonstrate knowledge of the organization, structure, and styles of a variety of formal and informal prayers.</p>	<p>3. Demonstrate knowledge of different structures and formats of prayer.</p>	<p>3. Identify and describe different structures and formats of prayers, including formal and informal prayers.</p>

<p>4. Demonstrate the ability to use set prayers or to formulate prayers in a variety of contexts, both individually and in groups.</p> <p>4A. Demonstrate and reflect upon informal prayer practices.</p> <p>4B. Demonstrate the ability to pray informally with others aloud.</p> <p>4C. Demonstrate the ability to write a formal prayer.</p>	<p>4. Pray together with the whole class; with prompting and support, pray for individual needs and for the needs of others.</p>	<p>4. Pray as part of a group and individually in a variety of contexts.</p>	<p>4. Demonstrate the ability to pray silently and aloud as an individual and as part of a group.</p>	<p>4. Construct a written, formal prayer as well as demonstrate an informal, out-loud prayer with peers.</p>	<p>4. Demonstrate the ability to use set prayers or formulate prayers in a variety of contexts, both individually and in groups.</p>	<p>4. Demonstrate the ability to write and lead prayers for a variety of contexts, both individually and in groups.</p>
Meditation on God's Word						
<p>5. Demonstrate a knowledge of different structures and formats of family, personal, and group study of God's Word.</p> <p>5A. Understand the types and uses of a variety of devotional materials.</p> <p>5B. Understand different strategies of personal Bible study in light of Lutheran principles of how to interpret the Bible.</p>	<p>5. With prompting and support, recognize that there are devotional books and materials that help teach God's Word.</p>	<p>5. Demonstrate knowledge about devotional materials that help teach God's Word.</p>	<p>5. Demonstrate knowledge of various devotional and Bible study formats.</p>	<p>5. Describe various types of family, personal, and group devotions and Bible study.</p>	<p>5. Demonstrate knowledge of different structures and formats of family, personal, and group study of God's Word.</p>	<p>5. Describe and evaluate different formats and uses of devotional and Bible study materials for individuals or groups.</p>
<p>6. Demonstrate the ability to meditate on God's Word in a variety of contexts, both individually and in groups.</p> <p>6A. Demonstrate the ability to use different devotional materials individually.</p> <p>6B. Demonstrate the ability to use different devotional materials in a group context.</p> <p>6C. Demonstrate the ability to use different strategies of personal Bible study.</p> <p>6D. Demonstrate the ability to lead or participate in a group Bible study.</p>	<p>6. With prompting and support, participate in daily devotion time and instruction in God's Word.</p>	<p>6. Participate in devotion time and instruction in God's Word in a variety of contexts.</p>	<p>6. Participate in both individual and group devotion time and Bible study.</p>	<p>6. Participate in and begin to lead devotional study of the Bible, both individually and in a group.</p>	<p>6. Demonstrate the ability to meditate on God's Word in a variety of contexts, both individually and in groups.</p>	<p>6. Create and execute a plan to regularly spend time in God's Word individually or with others and using a variety of devotional materials.</p>

Anchor Standard	Pre-K/Kindergarten	Grades 1–2	Grades 3–4	Grades 5–6	Grades 7–8	High School
Works of Love (WoL)						
Christian Character						
<p>1. Recognize and describe biblical teachings on Christian character.</p> <p>1A. Identify character traits described in the Epistles and the rest of Scripture.</p> <p>1B. Describe the Christian life as illustrated in Scripture.</p>	1. With prompting and support, recognize Bible verses, stories, and parables that demonstrate Christian character.	1. Express an understanding of Christian character traits found in the Bible.	1. Recognize and describe biblical teachings on Christian character.	1. Describe the Christian life and the biblical teachings on Christian character.	1. Recognize and describe biblical teachings on Christian character.	1. Using Scripture, identify, describe, and give examples of Christian character traits and the Christian life as exemplified by people in the Bible.
<p>2. Demonstrate the ability to act out works of love in alignment with Christian character traits.</p> <p>2A. Identify works of love that illustrate Christian character traits.</p> <p>2B. Develop and implement activities that demonstrate works of love.</p>	2. Demonstrate an understanding of Christian character traits and live out these acts of love in the classroom and in the home.	2. Identify ways to act out works of love with family, friends, church, and the world.	2. Carry out works of love and service that reflect Christian character traits found in the Bible.	2. Demonstrate the ability to do works of love that reflect Christian character traits.	2. Demonstrate the ability to act out works of love in alignment with Christian character traits.	2. Create and regularly participate in works of love and service that illustrate Christian character traits at home, in church, at school, and within the community.
Vocation: Service in the Congregation, Society, and the Household						
<p>3. Identify and describe the biblical teaching on vocation in the congregation, society, and household.</p> <p>3A. Describe vocations in the congregation, including the roles of pastors and members.</p> <p>3B. Describe vocations in society, including citizens, and professions.</p> <p>3C. Describe vocations in the household, including the roles of husbands, wives, parents, and children.</p>	3. Express an understanding that God has created each person with special gifts in order to serve people in the church and school, in the community, and at home.	3. Express an understanding that God has given people special abilities and roles to serve others in homes, schools, congregations, and society.	3. Recognize God-given vocations in the congregation, society, and household.	3. Describe vocation as God-given roles within society, the church, and the household; list personal vocations in each arena.	3. Identify and describe the biblical teachings on vocation in the congregation, society, and household.	3. Using Scripture, identify and describe our vocational relationships within the family, the church, and the community.

<p>4. Demonstrate the ability to act out works of love in the congregation, society, and household.</p> <p>4A. Identify and demonstrate works of love in the congregation, including congregational leadership, congregational service, acts of mercy, stewardship, and missions.</p> <p>4B. Identify and demonstrate works of love in society, including serving neighbors, doing honest work, community service, and standing up for what is right.</p> <p>4C. Identify and demonstrate works of love in the household, including learning to submit to one another, honoring authority, and forming habits of daily prayer together.</p>	<p>4. Serve God by serving others and showing works of love in the church and school, in the community, and at home.</p>	<p>4. Identify ways to use God-given abilities and roles to serve God and His people.</p>	<p>4. Carry out God-given vocations through works of love acted out in the congregation, society, and household.</p>	<p>4. Demonstrate the ability to fulfill vocations by acting out works of love in the congregation, society, and household.</p>	<p>4. Demonstrate the ability to act out works of love in the congregation, society, and household.</p>	<p>4. Create and regularly participate in works of love and service, living out vocational roles at home, in church, at school, and within the community.</p>
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Anchor Standard	Pre-K/Kindergarten	Grades 1–2	Grades 3–4	Grades 5–6	Grades 7–8	High School
Confessing the Faith (CF)						
Worldview						
<p>1. Identify and describe different worldviews.</p> <p>1A. Explain how different worldviews affect how people explain life and view reality.</p> <p>1B. Describe different worldviews according to their starting assumption, philosophy, ethical stance, and view of the future.</p> <p>1C. Compare and contrast various worldviews to the Christian worldview.</p>	<p>1. Express an understanding that not everyone believes in Jesus but that all people need to hear about Him.</p>	<p>1. Express an understanding that some people believe in Jesus and some people do not but all people need to know about Jesus.</p>	<p>1. Recognize the difference between the way Christians think about the world and the way non-Christians think about the world.</p>	<p>1. Describe the difference between the way Christians think about the world and the way non-Christians think about the world.</p>	<p>1. Identify and describe worldviews, using Christianity as a central point of comparison.</p>	<p>1. Discuss various worldviews, referencing their formal principles (the sources of key teachings) and their material principles (central doctrines to which all their other teachings ought to conform).</p>
<p>2. Describe and explain the Christian worldview.</p> <p>2A. Explain how the Christian worldview witnesses to reality, the truthfulness of the Bible, and the need for Jesus Christ as Savior.</p> <p>2B. Demonstrate an ability to use knowledge of different worldviews and their false notions to witness to the truth of the Gospel.</p>	<p>2. Express that Jesus is the Savior and that the Bible is how God tells about Jesus and how He saved all people.</p>	<p>2. Express an understanding that Christians are people who believe that Jesus is their Savior.</p>	<p>2. Recognize the Christian worldview as one centered in Jesus and the truthfulness of the Bible.</p>	<p>2. Describe the Christian worldview as a life centered around the reality of God’s saving grace through Jesus.</p>	<p>2. Describe and explain the Christian worldview, professing Jesus Christ as the center of the faith.</p>	<p>2. Articulate the distinction between Christianity and other worldviews, referencing their formal principles (the sources of key teachings) and their material principles (central doctrines to which all their other teachings ought to conform).</p>

Defending the Faith						
3. Demonstrate the ability to explain what Christians believe. 3A. Demonstrate the ability to explain Christian beliefs about the following: (1) God (2) Humanity (3) The natural and supernatural world (4) Faith in Jesus Christ as Savior (5) The Bible (6) The relationship between God and humans.	3. With prompting and support, tell what Christians believe about God, Jesus, and the Bible.	3. Express an understanding about what Christians believe about God, Jesus, and the Bible.	3. Recognize who God is, what He has done through the work of Jesus, and how this relates to the salvation of humankind.	3. Describe who God is, what He has done through the work of Jesus, and how this relates to the salvation of humankind.	3. Demonstrate the ability to explain what Christians believe.	3. Drawing from Scripture and the three Ecumenical Creeds, articulate a biblical understanding of key teachings of Christianity to both Christians and non-Christians.
4. Demonstrate the ability to explain why Christians believe what they do. 4A. Demonstrate the ability to cite evidence from the Bible to support Christian beliefs. 4B. Demonstrate the ability to use scientific concepts to support Christianity.	4. With prompting and support, express an understanding that the Bible tells that God made all people and that Jesus loves them.	4. Express an understanding that the Bible tells the truth about God and Jesus, the Savior.	4. Recognize that the Bible is the basis for Christian beliefs.	4. Demonstrate how the Bible is the basis for Christian beliefs and how the natural, created world supports Christian beliefs.	4. Demonstrate the ability to explain why Christians believe what they do.	4. Attest to the truth of Scripture utilizing evidence and reasoning from both biblical and extrabiblical sources.
Witness						
5. Describe what it means to witness and explain why Christians witness. 5A. Describe witnessing as speaking about Jesus with the people in everyday life. 5B. Demonstrate the understanding that Christians witness so that other people will know the truth about Jesus, the Savior.	5. With prompting and support, express an understanding that Jesus wants believers to tell everyone about Him so all people can be saved.	5. Express an understanding that there are people who need to hear about God's plan of salvation and His love for them.	5. Recognize that witnessing is telling others about Jesus so that they can believe and be saved.	5. Describe what it means to share God's plan of salvation so others will know and believe the truth about Jesus, the Savior.	5. Describe what it means to witness and explain why Christians witness.	5. Describe and demonstrate various witnessing scenarios, explaining the eternal significance of sharing the salvation found only in Jesus Christ.
6. Demonstrate the ability to speak of Jesus with people in everyday life. 6A. Describe and demonstrate an ability to use an approach to relational, contextual witnessing, such as Listen, Ask, Seek, Share, Invite, Encourage.	6. With prompting and support, demonstrate the ability to share faith in Jesus with others in everyday life.	6. Demonstrate the ability to share faith in Jesus with others in everyday life.	6. Demonstrate the ability to speak of Jesus with people in everyday life.	6. Demonstrate the ability to speak of Jesus with people in everyday life.	6. Demonstrate the ability to speak of Jesus with people in everyday life.	6. Demonstrate the ability to speak of Jesus with a variety of people, using an approach that is relational and contextual and that witnesses to the truth of Scripture.