

# STATEMENTS OF FAITH BY THE CATECHUMEN

## Assignment:

1. **This is a process**—the drafts will be handed in and passed back several times prior to the completion of the Statement of Faith (usually 5 or 6 times).
2. The draft should be between **300 and 500** words.
3. Drafts should be submitted by email so that suggestions and corrections can be made. (Pastor's email address is: sbillings@trinitymenasha.com).
4. The first draft is due by the first class day in March (Wednesday, March 6, 2024).
5. Bring to class that day (3-6-'24) the sheet containing your choices of dates to deliver your Statement of Faith publicly to the congregation.

The Lord bless your study, your effort, and your learning.

## I. If I were to stand at the door of heaven, how would I respond if God the Father were to ask me "Why should I let you into My heaven"?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is <u>grace</u>?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gods Redemption At Christ's Expense</b></li> <li>• <b>The Undeserved Love of God</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>2. What does <u>faith</u> do?<br/><b>Faith connects a person to the work of Christ (His blood for my sins, His perfection as my righteousness.)</b></li> <li>3. How does one obtain faith?<br/><b>By the power of the <u>Holy Spirit</u> through the hearing of the <u>Word of God</u>.</b></li> <li>4. What should be the <u>result</u> of having saving faith?<br/><b>Good works (which are a demonstration of having saving faith).</b></li> <li>5. What is <u>righteousness</u>?<br/><b>Being in a right relationship with God.</b></li> <li>6. Who has obtained the righteousness of Christ?<br/><b>All who believe in Jesus as their Savior from sin.</b></li> <li>7. Why can't we save ourselves?<br/><b>All have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God.</b></li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. What is <u>justification</u>?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Declared "not guilty"</b></li> <li>• <b>Just-as-if I had never sinned.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>9. How much does justification cost...<br/>a....you? <b>Nothing—God's justification is free.</b><br/>b....Christ? <b>It cost Him his life.</b></li> <li>10. What two things did Jesus do for you?             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>He lived perfectly in my place – righteousness.</b></li> <li>b. <b>He died, shedding His blood for the forgiveness of all my sins.</b></li> </ol> </li> <li>11. What is the message of forgiveness called?<br/><b>The Gospel</b></li> <li>12. What is faith?<br/><b>Being enlightened by the Holy Spirit to the saving knowledge of Jesus as my Savior, so that I trust, rejoice, and find comfort in Him.</b></li> <li>13. Why is the teaching of "<b>Justification By Grace Through Faith</b>" so important?             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>It is the central teaching of Scripture</b></li> <li>b. <b>It is the <u>only</u> way a person can be saved.</b></li> </ol> </li> </ol> |
|---|---|

## II. Why I wish to remain a member of the Church of Jesus Christ.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What was the confession of St. Peter?<br/><b>"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."</b></li> <li>2. According to Jesus, how did Peter come up with the answer? <i>flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven</i></li> <li>3. On what was Jesus going to build His Church?<br/><b>On the confession of Peter—not just Peter</b></li> <li>4. What is meant by <i>"The gates of Hades shall not prevail against it?"</i> <b>The Church of Christ will last forever—nothing will overcome it.</b></li> <li>5. What is the relationship of a husband and a wife supposed to illustrate?<br/><b>The relationship of Christ and His bride, the Church</b></li> <li>6. How did Jesus make her (His Church):             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Clean? <b>with His blood, washing away sin.</b></li> <li>b. Holy and without blemish? <b>giving her His perfection (righteousness.)</b></li> </ol> </li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Who belongs to the holy Christian Church?<br/><b>All who believe in Jesus as their Savior from sin.</b></li> <li>8. What makes the church "invisible" or "hidden?"<br/><b>No one can see if you have saving faith.</b></li> <li>9. Who is the <u>head</u> of the Church?<br/><b>Jesus Christ.</b></li> <li>10. What makes the Church <u>holy</u>?<br/><b>The Holiness of Jesus Christ.</b></li> <li>11. What makes the Church the Church?<br/><b>There is only one church—one spiritual body of believers (fellowship)—whose head is Jesus Christ.</b></li> <li>12. What is our life in the Church to be like?<br/><b>A life of faith (a strengthening of that faith) and good works (according to the 10 Com.)</b></li> <li>13. Who knows if you belong to the <i>"Invisible or Hidden Church?"</i><br/><b>Only you and the LORD God Himself.</b></li> </ol> |
|--|---|

## III. What part do good works play in salvation?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is required in order to please God according to our actions?<br/><b>Faith</b></li> <li>2. How can I come to God?<br/><b>Only by believing in Him.</b></li> <li>3. How does God reward those who "diligently seek Him."<br/><b>The peace of sins forgiven, and the assurance of everlasting life in heaven.</b></li> <li>4. If a person claims to have saving faith, what will naturally also follow?<br/><b>Good Works</b></li> <li>5. If a person has no "good works" what could be said about his or her faith?<br/><b>Such faith is suspect—questionable.</b></li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. What does St. James say about the connection between faith and works?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Faith without works is a dead faith.</b></li> <li>• <b>Faith alone saves, but faith is never alone.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>7. What are good works in the sight of God?<br/><b>Anything a Christian does...</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>To the glory of...God</b></li> <li>b. <b>For the benefit of...our Neighbor</b></li> </ol> </li> <li>8. Can good works save you? <b>NO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!</b></li> <li>9. What is <b>"Sanctification?"</b><br/><b>Being made holy...</b><br/><b>Wide Sense</b> – the whole work of the Holy Spirit, bringing me to faith, and enabling us to lead godly lives.<br/><b>Narrow Sense</b> – <i>That part of the work of the Holy Spirit by which He directs and empowers the believer to lead a godly life.</i></li> </ol> |
|--|---|

# Schedule for the Statements of Faith by the Catechumen 2023

Indicate 3 preferred times with THE NAME OF THE STUDENT followed by preference (1, 2, 3).

Saturday, April 6 – 5:00 p.m.    Sunday, April 7 – 9:00 a.m.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday, April 13 – 5:00 p.m.    Sunday, April 14 -- 9:00 a.m.

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday, April 20 – 5:00 p.m.    Sunday, April 21 -- 9:00 a.m.

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday, April 27 – 5:00 p.m.    Sunday, April 28 -- 9:00 a.m.

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday, May 4 – 5:00 p.m.    Sunday, May 5 -- 9:00 a.m.

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday, May 11 -- 5:00 p.m.    Sunday, May 12 -- 9:00 a.m.

11. \_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday, May 18 – 10:00 a.m. – Confirmation Rehearsal & Photographs**

**Sunday, May 19 – 9:00 a.m. – Rite of Confirmation**