

A Year in the Confessions

Read the Formula of Concord with us in 2025!



A pastor once told me, “Interpreting the Bible through the *Book of Concord* is like the first time you put glasses on as a child: Oh, I didn’t see that before!” Lutherans affirm the *Book of Concord* because it is in accord with the Word of God. It helps us to see the fullness of God’s grace in Christ throughout Scripture with clarity.

The last document in the *Book of Concord*, the Formula of Concord, is a treasure for us as Lutherans. After Luther’s death in 1546, the Lutheran reformers began infighting about theological topics like conversion, the real presence in the Sacrament, the necessity of good works and the third use of the Law. Yet the Lord worked through these controversies, by His Word, to help the church bring clarity to God’s people.

We invite you to join us in reading through the Formula of Concord (and related writings) in the coming year — just a few pages a week! Each 2025 issue of *LW* will include an introduction to that month’s readings. □

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Formula of Concord Reading Plan

Tear out this page to keep in your *Book of Concord* or find an online version at witness.lcms.org/2024/reading-plan.

Note on readings: There are two parts to the Formula of Concord. We will be primarily reading the Epitome (“Ep”), the first and shorter part. Page numbers refer to the *Reader’s Edition of the Book of Concord* (CPH 2006), but you can use the section and line numbers to follow along in any edition.

<p>JANUARY Original Sin</p> <p>WEEK 1: Ep “Summary” 1–8 (p. 473–474) Ep I 1 (p. 474) AC II (p. 31–32)</p> <p>WEEK 2: Ep I 2–10 (p. 474–475) Ap II (p. 76–81)</p> <p>WEEK 3: SA I (p. 270–271) SD 133–49 (p. 515–517)</p> <p>WEEK 4: Ep I 11–25 (p. 475–477)</p>	<p>APRIL Good Works</p> <p>WEEK 1: Ep IV 1–4 (p. 482) AC XX (p. 41–44)</p> <p>WEEK 2: Ep IV 5–15 (p. 483) Ap V 257–279 (p. 140–143)</p> <p>WEEK 3: Ap XX (p. 199–201) SD IV 6–13 (p. 546–548)</p> <p>WEEK 4: Ep IV 16–19 (p. 483–484)</p>	<p>JULY The Lord’s Supper</p> <p>WEEK 1: Ep VII 1–5 (p. 487–488) AC X (p. 35) AC XXII (p. 45–46)</p> <p>WEEK 2: Ep VII 6–20 (p. 488–489) Ap X (p. 153–155) Ap XXII (p. 208–210)</p> <p>WEEK 3: SD VII 91–128 (p. 576–581)</p> <p>WEEK 4: Ep VII 21–42 (p. 489–491)</p>	<p>OCTOBER Church Practices</p> <p>WEEK 1: Ep X 1–2 (p. 496) AC XIV (p. 38–39) AC XV (p. 39)</p> <p>WEEK 2: Ep X 3–7 (p. 496–497) Ap XIV (p. 186–187) Ap XV (p. 187–194)</p> <p>WEEK 3: SD X (p. 597–602)</p> <p>WEEK 4: Ep X 8–12 (p. 497)</p>
<p>FEBRUARY Free Will</p> <p>WEEK 1: Ep II 1 (p. 477) AC XVIII (p. 40–41)</p> <p>WEEK 2: Ep II 2–6 (p. 477–478) Ap XVIII (p. 197–198)</p> <p>WEEK 3: SD II 48–73 (p. 529–533)</p> <p>WEEK 4: Ep II 7–19 (p. 478–479)</p>	<p>MAY The Law & Gospel</p> <p>WEEK 1: Ep V 1 (p. 484) SA Part III, Article II (p. 271–272)</p> <p>WEEK 2: Ep V 2–10 (p. 484–485) SA Part III, Article IV (p. 278)</p> <p>WEEK 3: SD V (p. 552–557)</p> <p>WEEK 4: Ep V 11 (p. 485)</p>	<p>AUGUST The Person of Christ</p> <p>WEEK 1: Ep VIII 1–3 (p. 491) AC III (p. 32)</p> <p>WEEK 2: Ep VIII 4–18 (p. 492–493) Ap III (p. 82)</p> <p>WEEK 3: LC Part II, Article II (p. 401–402) SD VIII 1–15 (p. 581–583)</p> <p>WEEK 4: Ep VIII 19–39 (p. 493–495)</p>	<p>NOVEMBER Election</p> <p>WEEK 1: Ep XI 1 (p. 497–498) SD XI 1–12 (p. 602–604)</p> <p>WEEK 2: Ep XI 2–15 (p. 498–499) SD XI 13–32 (p. 604–607)</p> <p>WEEK 3: SD XI 33–49 (p. 607–609)</p> <p>WEEK 4: Ep XI 16–23 (p. 499–500)</p>
<p>MARCH The Righteousness of Faith Before God</p> <p>WEEK 1: Ep III 1–2 (p. 479–480) AC IV (p. 32–33)</p> <p>WEEK 2: Ep III 3–11 (p. 480–481) Ap IV 1–47 (p. 82–88)</p> <p>WEEK 3: SA Part III, Article XIII (p. 283) SD III 6–17 (p. 536–539)</p> <p>WEEK 4: Ep III 12–23 (p. 481–482)</p>	<p>JUNE The Third Use of the Law</p> <p>WEEK 1: Ep VI 1 (p. 485–486) SC Table of Duties (p. 346–348)</p> <p>WEEK 2: Ep VI 2–7 (p. 486–487) Gal. 5:1–26</p> <p>WEEK 3: SD VI (p. 557–561)</p> <p>WEEK 4: Ep VI 8 (p. 487)</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER Christ’s Descent into Hell</p> <p>WEEK 1: Ep IX 1–4 (p. 495) SA Part I (p. 262) SC Part II, Article II (p. 329)</p> <p>WEEK 2: LC Part II, Article II (p. 401–402)</p> <p>WEEK 3: SD IX (p. 596)</p> <p>WEEK 4: 1 Peter 3:18–22; Heb. 10:10–13; Psalm 16</p>	<p>DECEMBER Other Factions & Sects</p> <p>WEEK 1: Ep XII 1–11 (p. 500–501) SD XII 1–27 (p. 616–617)</p> <p>WEEK 2: Ep XII 12–19 (p. 501–502) SD XII 28–36 (p. 617–618)</p> <p>WEEK 3: Ep XII 20–31 (p. 502) SD XII 37–40 (p. 618–619)</p> <p>WEEK 4: Off for Christmas!</p>

Abbreviations

Ep—Epitome of the Formula of Concord
SD—Solid Declaration of the Formula of Concord

AC—Augsburg Confession
Ap—Apology of the Augsburg Confession
SA—Smalcald Articles

LC—Large Catechism
SC—Small Catechism