

Study of the Book of Concord  
for  
Rafael van Ommeren

Year 2 of Lutheran studies at UTCWI (2021-2022 academic year)

Classroom 2

Lutheran warden: Dr. Carolyn Schneider

[cschneider@utcwi.edu.jm](mailto:cschneider@utcwi.edu.jm)

### Course Description

A study of the classical confessions of the Lutheran Reformation: their origins; their theological and practical content; and their implications for Lutheran identity, pastoral practice, and ecumenical relations, especially in the context of Suriname.

### Bibliography

Kolb, Robert, and Timothy J. Wengert, eds. *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2000.

### Procedure

This study of the Lutheran confessional documents will last for one academic year. It will be a mix of face-to-face lectures and discussions; short written assignments; Zoom calls with participation of members of the church in Suriname, if they choose; and a final paper at the end of the academic year.

### Schedule

First semester:

Date	Topic	Mode	Assignment due
Sept. 6	8-9 am: Introduction to the course  9-10 am: Introduction to the three ecumenical creeds (the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed)	8-9 am: Individual meeting in person  9-10 am: Zoom meeting with the church in Suriname	
Sept. 13	8-9 am: The three	8-10 am: Zoom	Read the three ecumenical creeds and be prepared to discuss the following questions. [Church participants can find the

	<p>ecumenical creeds</p> <p>9-10 am: Introduction to the Small and Large Catechisms</p>	<p>meeting with the church in Suriname</p>	<p>creeds online; Rafael, please read pages 19-25 in the BoC.]</p> <p>Content: Which three similarities and three differences between the creeds do you find most noteworthy?</p> <p>Implications: What does the presence of these three creeds among the basic Lutheran confessions imply about Lutheran identity, pastoral practice, and ecumenical relations, particularly in the context of Suriname?</p>
Sept. 20	<p>The Ten Commandments</p>	<p>8-9 am: Individual meeting in person</p> <p>9-10 am: Zoom meeting with the church in Suriname</p>	<p>[Church participants can find the Ten Commandments in two places in the Bible, Exodus 20: 2-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21; Rafael, please read pages 345-54 and 377-431 in the BoC]</p> <p>Content: 1. Make a diagram showing how Luther numbers the commandments and how he divides them into two parts. With what is each part concerned? 2. In the Small Catechism, what phrase does Luther use in explaining the meaning of each commandment? Use what you read in the Large Catechism about the first commandment (pages 386-92) to explain why. 3. In the Large Catechism, how does Luther relate the first commandment with the second and third? How does he relate the fourth commandment with the fifth through tenth?</p> <p>Implications: 1. What do you find most important in this catechetical teaching about the ten commandments for shaping and expressing Lutheran identity? For putting into pastoral practice? For engaging in ecumenism? 2. In preparation for our Zoom discussion, what do you think is most important for members of the Lutheran church in Suriname to reflect on?</p>
Sept. 27	<p>The Creed</p>	<p>8-9 am: Individual meeting in person</p> <p>9-10 am: Zoom meeting with the church in Suriname</p>	<p>[Rafael, please read pages 354-56 and 431-40 in the BoC.]</p> <p>Content: 1. Which of the three ecumenical creeds is Luther expounding in the catechisms? Use what you know about the historical development of the creeds to explain why. 2. How does Luther relate the Ten Commandments and the Creed and why does he put them in that order?</p> <p>Implications: 1. Pick out one sentence each from Luther's expositions of the three articles of the creed that strikes you either because it gives you a new perspective, because it confuses you, because you disagree, or because you heartily agree. Write one paragraph about each of the three sentences you chose that explains why you chose it. 2. Recalling that members of the church in Suriname have already joined us in an earlier discussion of the creeds, prepare some thoughts to lead us into discussion of what Luther wrote about the creed.</p>

Oct. 4	The Lord's Prayer	8-9 am: Individual meeting in person  9-10 am: Zoom meeting with the church in Suriname	<p>[Church participants can find the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4; Rafael, please read pages 356-58 and 44-56 in the BoC.]</p> <p>Content: 1. How does Luther relate the Lord's Prayer to the Ten Commandments and the Creed? 2. What is prayer and how and why should we do it, according to Luther? 3. Use what you read in the Large Catechism to explain why in the Small Catechism Luther says that God does the things we pray for even without our prayer but that we should pray for them anyway. Give an example of one of the petitions. 4. How does Luther define "daily bread"? 5. Why does Luther call the last petition and the "Amen" a summary of the whole Lord's prayer?</p> <p>Implications: 1. How does your church use the Lord's prayer? 2. What do you think is especially Lutheran about Luther's discussion of the Lord's prayer? 3. How does the prayer express a Christian identity wider than Lutheranism? 4. How can the prayer help with pastoral care?</p>
Oct. 11	8-9 am: The Sacraments  9-10 am: Introduction to the Augsburg Confession and the Apology of the Augsburg Confession	8-9 am: Individual meeting in person  9-10 am: Zoom meeting with the church in Suriname	<p>[Rafael, please read pages 359-75 and 456-80 in the BoC.]</p> <p>Contents: A. Baptism: 1. Whose work is baptism? 2. What reasons does Luther give that even those who already have faith and those who are only infants should be baptized? 3. What are the power and effect of baptism and how can a Christian make use of them? 4. Locate the Lord's Prayer and the Creed in the sample baptismal service Luther provides in the Small Catechism. B. The Lord's Supper: 1. How does Luther relate the bread and wine with the Word and what does he mean by the Word? 2. What does the Lord's Supper bring and what advice does Luther have for those who feel unworthy to receive it? C. Confession: 1. How does Luther relate confession to the Ten Commandments in the Small Catechism and to the Lord's Prayer in the Large Catechism? 2. To whom is confession made? 3. What are the two parts of confession and which is most important?</p> <p>Implications: 1. Why do you think that Luther includes prayers and Bible passages for daily life and a sample wedding ceremony in the Small Catechism? 2. What three things were most striking to you in all that you read this week and why? 3. What did you find most applicable to the situation in Suriname?</p>
Oct. 18	AC and Ap Articles I-III (God, Original Sin, the Son of	8-10 am: Individual meeting in person	<p>[Rafael, please read pages 27-39 and 107-120 in the BoC.]</p> <p>Content: 1. To which creed does Melancthon appeal as a summary of the Lutheran teaching about God? 2. What is</p>

	God)		<p>original sin and what does Melanchthon mean when he says that it remains even after baptism? 3. What does the AC say about the Son of God and was it accepted by the writers of the Confutation?</p> <p>Implications: Why do you suppose that Melanchthon put the first three articles in the AC in this particular order: God, Original Sin, the Son of God?</p>
Oct. 25	AC and Ap Article IV (Justification)	<p>8-9 am: Individual meeting in person</p> <p>9-10 am: Zoom meeting with the church in Suriname</p>	<p>[Church participants will need copies of Article IV of the AC and Ap; all, please read pages 38-41 and 120-73 in the BoC. For further reflection, you may wish to explore the <i>Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification</i> signed between Lutherans and Catholics in 1999 at <a href="https://www.lutheranworld.org/sites/default/files/2021/documents/joint_declaration_2019_en.pdf">https://www.lutheranworld.org/sites/default/files/2021/documents/joint_declaration_2019_en.pdf</a>.]</p> <p>Content: Melanchthon summarizes two scriptural messages, law and promise, relating the law to reason and the promise to faith. Each dynamic carries its own type of righteousness. 1. What is the difference between the two? 2. Which righteousness is saving and why? Why is the other righteousness not saving? 3. How does Melanchthon relate love and good works to the law and the promise? 4. Why is this issue so important, according to Melanchthon?</p> <p>Implications: 1. Identify one issue or passage from this article that you would like to discuss further. 2. How have you experienced the dynamics of God's law and God's promise in your own life? 3. What might be some implications of the article on justification for Lutheran identity, pastoral practice, and ecumenical activity, especially in Suriname? [How fitting that we are studying this article so close to the traditional date of commemoration of the Reformation: October 31!]</p>
Nov. 1	AC and Ap Articles V-VIII (The Church and its ministry)	8-10 am: Individual meeting in person	<p>[Rafael, please read pages 40-43 and 174-83 in the BoC.]</p> <p>Content: 1. What is the church's ministry? 2. Why does Melanchthon say it is correct to call the church the communion of saints in spite of the presence of unholy people in its midst? 3. What makes the church holy?</p> <p>Implications: 1. What might this article have to teach about Lutheran identity, pastoral practice, and ecumenism? 2. Are there questions relating to the church's identity and ministry in Suriname?</p>
Nov. 8	AC and Ap Articles IX-XIII (The Sacraments)	8-10 am: Individual meeting in person	<p>[Rafael, please read pages 42-47 and 183-223 in the BoC.]</p> <p>Content: 1. With what does the Confutation agree in the articles on baptism and the Lord's Supper? 2. With which</p>

			<p>parts of the articles on Confession and Repentance does the Confutation agree and with which parts does it disagree? How does Melanchthon defend the teaching of the AC on these two articles against the criticisms of the Confutation? 3. What is “satisfaction” and did the Lutheran party retain it, according to Melanchthon? Why or why not? 4. What are the sacraments, according to the Ap, and what makes them sacraments?</p> <p>Implications: 1. Would your church’s members agree with what Melanchthon writes about the sacraments, especially baptism and the Lord’s Supper? If so, how has the teaching of your church reinforced this; if not, how might you reinforce it? 2. Does your church practice private confession? 3. What are the implications of these articles for Lutheran identity, pastoral practice, and ecumenism, especially in Suriname?</p>
Nov. 15	AC and Ap Articles XIV-XXI (Order in Church, State, and Individual life)	8-10 am: Individual meeting in person	<p>[Rafael, please read pages 46-60 and 222-45 in the BoC.]</p> <p>Content: 1. Melanchthon has arranged these articles admirably. Write a summary that shows how one article of the AC leads logically into the next. 2. In the Ap, which of these articles does Melanchthon say were completely accepted in the Confutation, which were partially accepted, and which were completely rejected? 3. How does Melanchthon defend the parts of the confession that were rejected?</p> <p>Implications: Many people criticize Lutherans for preaching that faith alone justifies and that good works are not necessary for salvation because, they say, this leads people to the conclusion that, therefore, it does not matter what they do. How might you use these articles to frame a response?</p>
Nov. 22	AC and Ap Articles XXII and XXIV-XXVI (Controversial changes)	8-10 am: Individual meeting in person	<p>[Rafael, please read pages 60-63, 68-81, 245-47, and 258-77 in the BoC.]</p> <p>Content: 1. What changes did the Lutherans make to the Lord’s Supper, the Mass, Confession, and the distinction of foods and other ascetic traditions, and why did they make these changes? 2. What is the difference between a sacrament and a sacrifice and what are the two types of sacrifice that Melanchthon identifies? 3. In what sense is the Mass a sacrifice and in what sense is it not? 4. How does Melanchthon explain why Lutherans do not say Mass for the dead?</p> <p>Implications: 1. Which of these changes are still visible in the churches in Suriname? 2. What impact do they make in shaping Lutheran identity, pastoral practice, and ecumenical activity?</p>

Second semester			
1	AC and Ap Articles XXIII and XXVII-XXVIII (Controversial changes)	8-10 am: Individual meeting in person	<p>[Rafael, please read pages 62-68, 247-57, 80-105, and 277-94 in the BoC.]</p> <p>Content: 1. What changes did the Lutherans make to practice and to understanding on the issues of the marriage of priests, monastic vows, and the power of bishops, and why did they make these changes?</p> <p>Implications: 1. Which of these changes are still visible in the churches in Suriname? 2. What impact do they make in shaping Lutheran identity, pastoral practice, and ecumenical activity?</p>
2	8-9 am: Discussion of Final Paper  9-10 am: Introduction to The Smalcald Articles	8-9 am: Individual meeting in person  9-10 am: Zoom meeting with the church in Suriname	<p>The paper must be properly formatted according to the University of Chicago style as taught in</p> <p>Turabian, Kate L. <i>A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations</i>. 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Revised by Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013.</p>
3	SA and Introduction to the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope	8-10 am: Individual meeting in person	<p>[Rafael, please read pages 295-328 in the BoC.]</p> <p>Content: Part I of the Articles expresses belief in the Triune God; it is not under dispute. Part II, regarding the work of Jesus Christ, is under dispute. Why does Luther discuss the Mass, the Invocation of Saints, foundations and monasteries, and the papacy under this part? Part III of the Articles concerns 15 items that could be negotiated in discussion; what are they and which is most interesting to you?</p> <p>Implications: What aspects of the Smalcald Articles seem to you most relevant for your church, especially in terms of its Lutheran identity, pastoral practice, and ecumenical relations?</p>
4	8-9 am: TPPP  9-10 am: Introduction to the Formula of Concord	8-9 am: Individual meeting in person  9-10 am: Zoom meeting with the church in	<p>[Rafael, please read pages 329-44 in the BoC.]</p> <p>Content: What three claims of the papacy is Melanchthon refuting in this treatise? Summarize his arguments against these claims and his explanation of what the Lutheran party believes the actual power and jurisdiction of bishops rightly is.</p> <p>Implications: How does what Melanchthon writes here reflect the institutional structure and understanding of your church?</p>

		Suriname	
5	FC Article I	8-10 am: Individual meeting in person	<p>[Rafael, please read pages 481-91 and 524-42 in the BoC.]</p> <p>Content: What is the binding principle upon which all the Lutheran parties agree to base their agreement? Why does the Formula of Concord not only present the parties' consensus but also presents the teachings that have been rejected? What was the issue concerning original sin and how was it resolved?</p> <p>Implications: How might the Formula of Concord serve as a helpful model in addressing disagreements in the church?</p>
6	FC Articles II and III	8-10 am: Individual meeting in person	<p>[Rafael, please read pages 491-97 and 543-73 in the BoC.]</p> <p>Content: According to the Formula of Concord, in what sense is the human will free and in what sense is it not free? What is at issue regarding the righteousness of Christ and what is the resolution?</p> <p>Implications: Are these issues alive in your church? What implications might the Formula's treatment of them have for Lutheran identity in Suriname, as well as for pastoral practice and ecumenism?</p>
7	FC Articles IV-VI	8-10 am: Individual meeting in person	<p>[Rafael, please read pages 497-503 and 574-91 in the BoC.]</p> <p>Content: In what sense are good works "necessary" for a Christian and in what sense are they not? What are "law" and "gospel", how do they differ from one another, and what is their relationship to each other? How does the law differ from the fruits of the Spirit in believers and why do believers still need the law?</p> <p>Implications: Imagine or recall some situations in which you think that the distinction between law and gospel might be/was especially helpful.</p>
8	FC Article VII	8-10 am: Individual meeting in person	<p>[Rafael, please read pages 503-508 and 591-615 in the BoC.]</p> <p>Content: What issue arose concerning the Lord's Supper and with which article of the Augsburg Confession was it involved? What was the resolution and on what basis was it reached?</p> <p>Implications: This issue has been significant in the modern ecumenical movement. What agreements or disagreements has your church had with others on this issue? For a taste of the results of the modern ecumenical movement on this issue between the Reformed churches and the Lutheran churches, see <i>The Leuenberg Agreement</i> at</p>

			<a href="https://leuenberg.eu/documents/">https://leuenberg.eu/documents/</a> .
9	FC Articles VIII-IX	8-10 am: Individual meeting in person	<p>[Rafael, please read pages 508-15 and 616-35 in the BoC.]</p> <p>Content: The authors link disagreements over the person of Christ with the disagreements regarding the Lord's Supper. In what way? What is the <i>communicatio idiomatum</i>? How were the arguments over Christ's descent into hell related to the arguments about Christ's person? Why do the authors leave the question of Christ's descent into hell unsettled?</p> <p>Implications: What implications of these articles do you see for Lutheran identity, pastoral practice, and ecumenism?</p>
10	FC Article XI	8-10 am: Individual meeting in person	<p>[Rafael, please read pages 517-20 and 640-56 in the BoC.]</p> <p>Content: The question of predestination did not lead to disagreement among Lutherans but was troubling the consciences of many, especially those aware of disagreements among Calvinists on this issue. What does the Formula say about God's foreknowledge, God's election, speculation about God's mind, and the calling of God? Why does it say that the doctrine of predestination is a comfort?</p> <p>Implications: This article has implications especially for pastoral care. How might it help people who have questions about God's will for them or who doubt God's love for them?</p>
the 11	FC Articles X and XII	8-10 am: Individual meeting in person	<p>[Rafael, please read pages 515-16, 635-40, 520-23, and 656-60 in the BoC.]</p> <p>Content: The article about <i>adiaphora</i> is very important; it is not about a particular doctrine but deals with the question of whether there are circumstances (for example, a time of persecution) in which doctrinal or practical matters that are normally negotiable become non-negotiable. What does the Formula conclude? How do the authors distinguish Lutherans from Anabaptists, Schwenkfelders, New Arians, and Antitrinitarians, and why do they do so?</p> <p>Implications: What is your own response to these articles? On the result of modern Lutheran-Anabaptist dialogue, see <a href="https://www.lutheranworld.org/sites/default/files/dtpw-studies-201602-healing_memories-en-full.pdf">https://www.lutheranworld.org/sites/default/files/dtpw-studies-201602-healing_memories-en-full.pdf</a>, especially the Preface.</p>
12	8-9 am: Discussion of	8-9 am: Zoom	



	<p>the course</p> <p>9-10 am: Submission of Final Paper</p>	<p>meeting with the church in Suriname</p> <p>9-10 am: Individual meeting in person</p>	
--	---	---	--