



God the Father Almighty is why we can Connect with Others with Hope

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#WeAreNotAlone25



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Others with Hope

We know we should look to connect with others and engage our communities. But how can we do so with hope and confidence? Clear reasons are as close as the Small Catechism. We will look at how faith in God the Father Almighty gives us reasons to live with and for our neighbors with hope and confidence.

The Small Catechism and the Apostles Creed

We will look to the Small Catechism because

- It's common to all Lutherans
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- It gives true shape to identity and right direction for living

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The key is the confession: I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth

The Creed comes first.

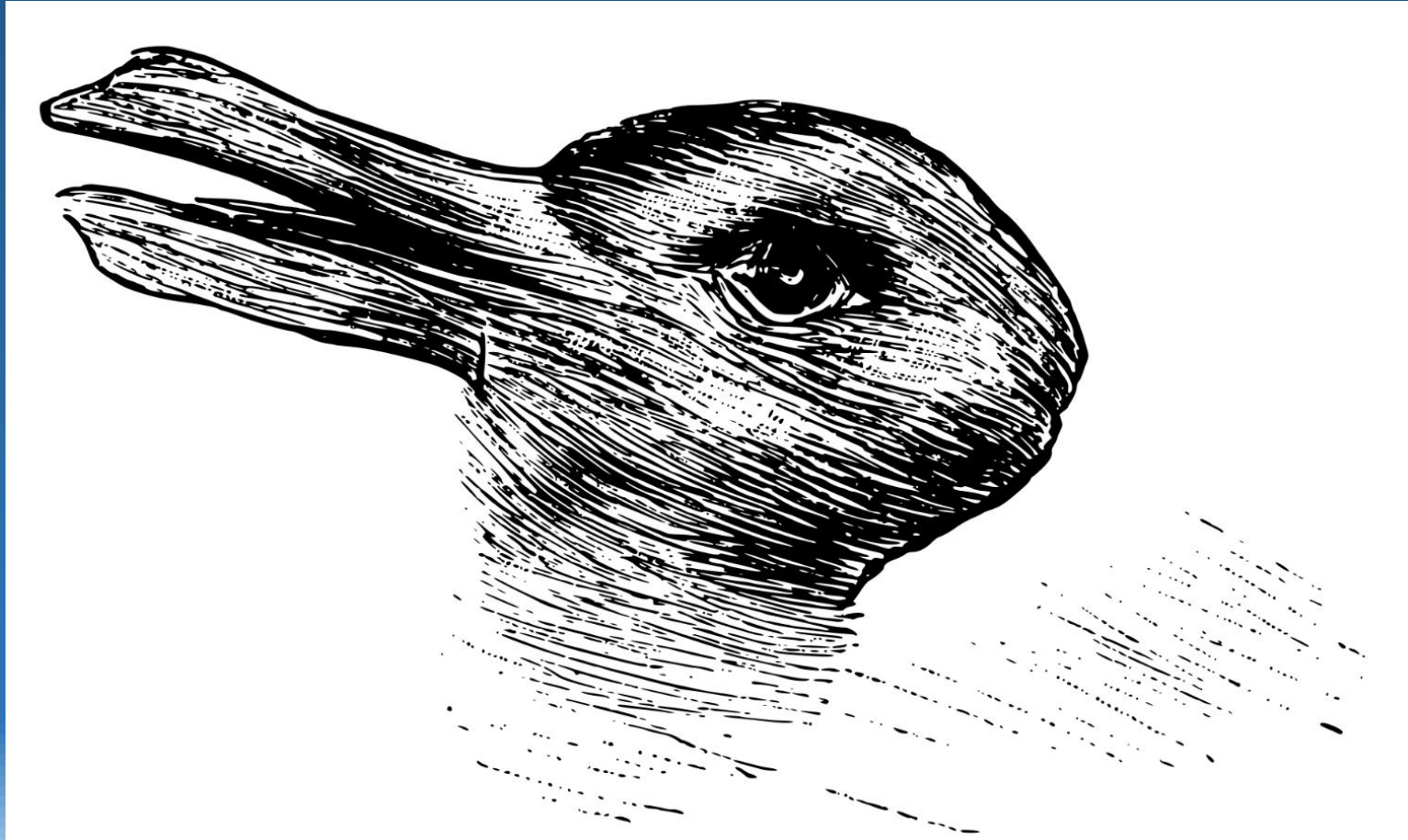
- It comes first in the life of the Christian—at baptism
- It comes first for the Christian, because you live by faith
- It comes first, before words and deeds. The Creed does not only *tell* you what to believe. It *shows* you how to see all things properly.

What do you see?



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What do you see?



Review

Take one minute to review

- *Why* we can connect with others
- Using the Small Catechism
- Starting with the Creed
- Learning how to *see*

I believe in God the Father
Almighty, maker of heaven and
earth

The First Article

This means God made *me*, so...

- I believe that God gave me my body and soul, provides me all I need, and protects me from harm and evil
- I trust in him above anything or anyone else
- I call upon him in all times of need and trouble

This means God made *me*, so...

For our purpose today, we will focus on what the Small Catechism teaches about the First Article: “I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.”

But we will also consider the Fourth Petition: “Give us this day our daily bread.” Why? Because this petition reflects how believers in the First Article pray about everyday life.

What the First Article and the
Fourth Petition teach us

First Article and Fourth Petition

They teach us

- How we are creatures
- How God takes care of us creatures
- How God works through other human creatures for our well-being
- How we creatures can live in confidence and hope

First Article and Fourth Petition

From the Small Catechism on the First Article:

God has made me ... Given me my body and soul ... also clothing and shoes ... He defends me ... All this he does purely out of fatherly divine goodness and mercy ...

From the Small Catechism on the Fourth Petition:

Everything that belongs to the support and wants of the body, such as food and drink ... a pious spouse ... pious and faithful rulers, good government ... good friends ...

The First Article and daily life

The First Article teaches us that God is the Creator and that we are creatures. This teaching also has implications for hope and confidence even in our daily lives, because it teaches

- What it means to be human
- What it means to live with others

The First Article and daily life

The First Article teaches us that human beings will live by faith and will live by hope. They must, because they are creatures, products of sheer grace and mercy.

- They must depend on something outside themselves—living by faith.
- They must live prospectively, looking for something good to come—living by hope.

The First Article and daily life

The First Article teaches us that human beings will depend on each other and look for good from others.

Human beings will put their trust and pin their hopes on others because

- They are creatures
- God works through human creatures to do good and protect from danger and evil.

Process

- How do “creation” and “grace” always go together?
- How do “being a creature” and “living by faith” always go together?
- How does “being a creature” mean we’re made to trust in other human creatures?

Why we can connect with others
with hope

The First Article and living by hope

Hope is basic to Christian life. So, we confess “I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.” No matter what we face now, we have the promise that things will be wonderful.

But the First Article shows that we can be hopeful in our lives right now. God made creatures not only to depend on himself, but also to trust and put our hope in others.

Some implications include:

The First Article and living by hope

A few implications

The First Article tempers fear, suspicion, resentment, and anger about “others,” “society,” “the world,” those with whom you disagree, and people who aren’t like you.

The First Article and living by hope

A few implications

The First Article shows how we can expect and work for a common life together. “I believe God has made me together with all creatures ...”

(The concepts of estates, stations, and vocations, and the distinctions between two realms and two kinds of righteousness are relevant.)

The First Article and living by hope

A few implications


The First Article implies not only that we can relate to fellow human creatures but also that we might learn from them about leading our common life together.

The First Article and living by hope

A few implications

Those who live by a different creed will see the world differently. And there are always sin and evil to account for. So, others may not be ready to trust you. Now what?

Be children of God. God gives; God forgives; God is merciful and gracious and loving; God is trustworthy. Let the same things be said about you.



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We Are Not Alone:
Engaging your Community Together

1 Kings 19:18