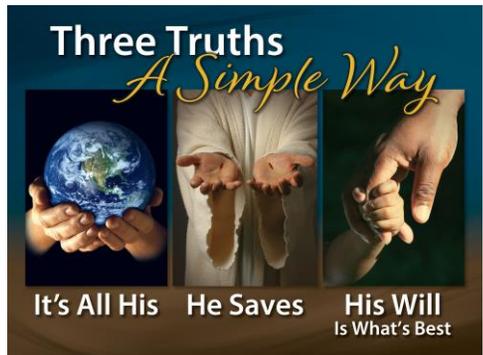## Bible Study: St. John's – West Bend
September 4/5, 2019 (Pastor Jeff Hesse)

Then He said to them, *"But who do you say that I am?"*
(Luke 9:20a ESV)

Opening Prayer / Summer Discipleship Stories (Part 1)

Read the Apostle's Creed & Luther's Explanation - see right →
- What jumps out at you?
- Have you ever heard about the "creedal life"? What does this mean?
- Read & Reflect:
  - *Luke 9:18-20*
    - What intentional comparison is Jesus making?
  - *Romans 10:5-15*
    - What does God say about the importance of confessing your faith with your heart and your lips?

Summer Discipleship Stories (Part 2 – God's Identity)
- How do you know a person's identity?
- How did you encounter the Three Truths this past summer? How would you reflect on your summer experiences based upon the reality of God's identity as: Owner? Rescuer? Leader?
- If God is Owner, Rescuer and Leader… where does this put us? Pick out words that describe who we are and what we are called to do _____.
- How might these realities about who God is (and who we are) influence our lives? Relationships? Attitudes? Vocations?
- What cultural struggles do you see in the Three Truths? Where do you struggle?

Closing Prayer

The Apostle's Creed: The Head of the Household should teach it in a simple way to his household…

The First Article: It's All His (Owner)
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean? I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

The Second Article: He Saves (Rescuer)
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean? I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

The Third Article: His Will is What's Best (Leader)
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean? I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.