

The Apostles' Creed: Third Article

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.

The Church, the Communion of Saints

If I were to ask you what the most important aspect of the church is, what would you say? Is it the fellowship, the finances, the programs, feeling welcomed? According to Scripture, the most important aspect of the church is its teaching. **Acts 2:42**, in our excerpt from the Explanation to the Small Catechism, says: *And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.* The first thing mentioned that the early church was centered around was the apostles' teaching. Through the leading of the Holy Spirit, the apostles taught the people what Jesus had taught them. There were many false teachers around, so it was vital that the people stay grounded in the Word. The easiest way for the early church to die would have been to not take the teaching ministry seriously.

One of the things we are learning in our Sunday Bible class is what other denominations believe, teach, and confess. We are learning what makes us different from every other church in the country. There are many false teachers out there today, just as in the days of the early church. If we are in a new place and we are looking for a church, the first question to ask is, "What do they teach here?"