2026-2027 Confirmation
Year 3: Lutheran Christianity
The Tomorrow River Lutheran Parish

Lesson 3: The Small Catechism: The Second Commandment

The Second Commandment

You shall not make wrongful use
of the name of the Lord your God.

What is this? Or what does this mean?

We are to fear and love God, so that we do not curse, swear, practice magic, lie, or deceive using God's name, but instead use that very name in every time of need to call on, pray to, praise, and give thanks to God.

7 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

– Exodus 20:7 NRSV

We are to fear and love God so that we don't do the following things:

- Curse
  - Using God's name in any of its forms to curse
    - Makes God unreal…
    - Makes God's name simply a filler word like "um" or "like"

- Swear (as in "I swear to God…")
  - Jesus says don't swear. "Let your yes be yes and your no be no"

    - We, of course, are bound by this! Except when swearing honors God and serves our neighbor. (Jesus' Two Great Commandments)
        - In Court
        - In a public ceremony like Marriage

- Practice magic
    - We will include this for the sake of completeness… no dark arts. No rituals using God's name. None. Not ever.

- Lie
    - In our personal lives whether with words or without – We are Christians! We wear the name of Christ!

- Deceive using God's name
    - False Preaching
    - False Teaching
    - Misrepresenting the faith

INSTEAD use that very name in every time of need to:

- call on
- pray to
- praise
- and give thanks to God

And What is God's Name:

- Exodus 3 God Shares God's name with Moses: "YHWH"
    - Quick Translation: "I AM"
    - Fuller Translation: "I am who I am, I am what I am, I will be who I will be, I will be what I will be, I was who I was, I was what I was…."
- Father
- Jesus
- Spirit