**BIBLE QUESTIONS: SESSION 26**

**Questions: *Why do we worship on the first day of the week and what is worship? When did Sunday worship begin and why on the first day of the week and not the seventh?***

1. **Why do we worship on the first day of the week?**
	1. Because Jesus rose on the first day of the week, also known as the 8th day, the day of the new creation, and “The Lord’s Day” (Rev 1:10).
2. **What is worship?**
	1. Etymologically, worship is that to which you accord worth. The first commandment commands that “You shall have no other gods before me”, meaning that you shall accord nothing of more worth that God. Deuteronomy (and Jesus) say, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.”
	2. Ecclesiologically, in the Lutheran Church we call Sunday Worship “The Divine Service”, indicating that it is the day that God *services* us with His Word and Sacraments. Jesus said, “The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve”.
3. **When did Sunday worship begin.**
	1. It began in the days of the Apostles.
		1. Acts 20:7 “On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread [i.e., *congregated to share the Lord’s Supper*].
4. **Why is Worship on the first day of the week and not the seventh?**
	1. The seventh day is the Sabbath day under the ceremonial law of the Old Testament.
	2. Jesus fulfilled the purpose of the Sabbath with his death and resurrection (Hebrews 4). He is the Lord of the Sabbath (Matthew 12:1-8); and he made the Sabbath for man (Mark 2:27).
	3. St. Paul teaches that observance of the Sabbath, as per the OT regulations, is obsolete to the Christian. (Galatians 4:10; Col. 2:16)
	4. However, the New Testament requires that Christians gather together, hear the scriptures read and preached, pray, and celebrate the Lord’s Supper. This can be done any day of the week, though Sunday is preferred since it is the day of the resurrection, and the traditional day of worship.
	5. The Catechism says of the 3rd Commandment (Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it Holy): “We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching or his Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.
5. **Do I have to go to church regularly?**
	1. Yes, because God commands it, and because Jesus is there bodily for you to give you grace and peace in his Preached Word and Sacrament.