Memory Work

Grades 1 & 2

2026–2027

Rooted in Christ

Memory work? Ugh!

I've been asked, "why do we have memory work" on more than one occasion. A good question that is rooted in more than pedagogy and instructional theory. Committing Scripture to memory has always been an important part of Christian education. In early schools learning was done by memory and the basis of that learning was the Bible. That practice hasn't changed, in fact schools are returning to a form of memory learning called logic which is rooted in ancient education practices.

Matthew records Jesus saying, "*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God*" (Matthew 4:4). Jesus teaches His disciples that He wants them to be as familiar with the word of God as we are with the food we eat. Familiar enough to be able to identify what is good and what isn't – much like knowing the difference between healthy food and candy or junk food.

Familiarity is created in a variety of ways as we read the Word, talk about it, put it to creative use through art and music, and commit it to our hearts. In other words, we learn the Bible by using it in a variety of ways so that it becomes part of who we are.

The faculty has provided this framework for learning many of the 'primary texts' (common or foundational) along with parts of the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther's Small Catechism. Each series is graded and builds until our students have a solid base as they continue to learn and grow in their faith. The method is intended to strengthen their learning while instilling familiarity.

This important learning opportunity is a beautiful thing based on the holiest of all things – the very Word of God. Keeping the focus on that fact helps to keep the effort from becoming a distasteful function of 'school'. Instead, talk about the rich and deep meaning of the passages. Share your own memories of studying the Bible and/or Small Catechism while applying abundant positive encouragement regarding this faithful task.

It is my prayer that this foundation will instill a deep love of God's Word as we partner with you in education. Enjoy the time with your child as you share in learning together.

Peace be with you+
Pastor Wilkens

Week	Dates	Catechism		Bible Verse
1	09/14/26	**Martin Luther's Morning Prayer** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You will keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.		*2026-2027 School Theme Verse:* *Rooted In Christ* **Colossians 2:6-7** Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.
2	09/21/26	**Old Testament Books** Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy Joshua Judges Ruth 1 Samuel 2 Samuel 1 Kings 2 Kings 1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther Job Psalms Proverbs	Ecclesiastes Song of Songs Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi	*For what purpose did God give us the Scriptures?* **2 Timothy 3:16** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.

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3	09/28/26	**New Testament Books** Matthew Mark Luke John Acts Romans 1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians	1 Timothy 2 Timothy Titus Philemon Hebrews James 1 Peter 2 Peter 1 John 2 John 3 John Jude Revelation	*How does God's word help us?* **Psalm 119:105** Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
4	10/05/26	**THE FIRST COMMANDMENT** You shall have no other gods.		*How are we to love God?* **Matthew 22:37** And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.
5	10/12/26	**THE SECOND COMMANDMENT** You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.		*What does God promise to do when we call upon his name?* **Psalm 18:3** I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.
6	10/19/26	**THE THIRD COMMANDMENT** Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.		*How does God want us to use his Word?* **Colossians 3:17** And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
7	10/26/26	**THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT** Honor your father and your mother.		*Why are we to treat those in authority?* **1 Corinthians 13:4** Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude.
8	11/02/26	**THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT** You shall not murder.		*How does God want us to treat our neighbor?* **John 15:12** This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

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9	11/09/26	**THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT** You shall not commit adultery.	*What can we pray when we are tempted to sin?* **Psalm 51:10** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
10	11/16/26	**THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT** You shall not steal.	*What does it mean to be humble?* **Philippians 2:3-4** Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.
11	11/23/26	Thanksgiving Week **REVIEW AND CATCH UP**	
12	11/30/26	**THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT** You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.	*How does God want us to speak with our neighbor?* **Ephesians 4:29** Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.
13	12/07/26	**THE NINTH COMMANDMENT** You shall not covet your neighbor's house.	*Why can we be content?* **1 Timothy 6:6-7,10a** Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils.
14	12/14/26	**THE TENTH COMMANDMENT** You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.	*How does God want us to love Him and to have holy desires?* **Philippians 4:4-6** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
15	12/21/26	**REVIEW AND CATCH UP**	

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16	12/28/26	*Christmas Break*	
17	01/04/27	*Grades 1-4* **Commandment Review (Only Commandments, no explanations)**	*Because of our sin, we deserve death, but what gift did we receive instead?* **Ephesians 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,
18	01/11/27	**1st Article of the Apostles Creed** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.	*Why do we praise God?* **Psalm 139:14** I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.
19	01/18/27	**1st Article of the Apostles Creed** *What does this mean?* I believe that God has made me and all creatures;	*How does God lovingly take care of all people?* **1 Peter 5:7** Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.
20	01/25/27	**2nd Article of the Apostles Creed** I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin May, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.	*How did Jesus come into this world?* **Galatians 4:4** But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,
21	02/01/27	**2nd Article of the Apostles Creed** 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 shall come to judge the living and the dead.	*How did God save us from sin and death?* **John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
22	02/08/27	**3rd Article of the Apostles Creed** I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian church, the communion of saints...	*Who gives us faith?* **1 Corinthians 12:3b** No one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.
23	02/15/27	**3rd Article of the Apostles Creed** ...the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.	*How does the Holy Spirit help us live our faith?* **Hebrews 12:1b-2a** Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.

Week	Dates	Catechism	Bible Verse
24	02/22/27	**INTRODUCTION** Our Father who art in heaven.	**Galatians 3:26** for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.
25	03/01/27	**FIRST PETITION** Hallowed be Thy name.	*Whom do we praise?* **Matthew 5:16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
26	03/08/27	**SECOND PETITION** Thy kingdom come.	*What should we seek first?* **Matthew 6:33** But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
27	03/15/27	**THIRD PETITION** Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.	*Even when bad things happen, what does God do for those who love him?* **Psalm 46:1, 10a** God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. “Be still, and know that I am God.
28	03/22/27	**REVIEW AND CATCH UP**	
29	03/29/27	*Spring Break*	
30	04/05/27	**FOURTH PETITION** Give us this day our daily bread.	*What does God promise us when we pray?* **Matthew 7:7** Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.
31	04/12/27	**FIFTH PETITION** And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.	*How should we forgive one another?* **Ephesians 4:32** Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.
32	04/19/27	**SIXTH PETITION** And lead us not into temptation.	*How do we guard against temptation?* **Ephesians 6:11** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

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33	04/26/27	**SEVENTH PETITION** But deliver us from evil.	*Why should we not fear?* **Romans 8:37** No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.
34	05/03/27	**CONCLUSION TO THE LORD'S PRAYER** For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.	Life Verses Application (not graded)
35	05/10/27		Life Verses Application (not graded)
36	05/17/27		Life Verses Application (not graded)
37	05/24/27		Life Verses Application (not graded)

Additional Life Verses: (THE WHOLE BIBLE!!!)

Matthew 5:1-12--*The Beatitudes*--Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Romans 5:1-5--Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

2 Timothy 1:7--For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

Hebrews 11:1--Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Proverbs 3:5-6--Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Joshua 1:9--Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Isaiah 40:30-31--Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Romans 12:21--Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Isaiah 6:8--And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

Matthew 11:28--Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Psalm 27:1--The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Jeremiah 29:11--For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare[a] and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Psalm 121:1-2--I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Matthew 28:18-20--And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in[b] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”