Memory Work
Grades 3 & 4

2026–2027



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 3:16-17** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

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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 119:103,105** How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! 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. *What does this mean?* We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.		*How are we to love God?* **Matthew 22:37-39** 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. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
5	10/12/26	**THE SECOND COMMANDMENT** You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie or deceive by His name, but call upon Him in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.		*What does God promise to do when we call upon his name?* **Psalm 18:1,3** I love you, O Lord, my strength. 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. *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.		*How does God want us to use his Word?* **Colossians 3:16-17** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 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.

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7	10/26/26	**THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT** Honor your father and your mother. *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.	*Why are we to treat those in authority?* **1 Corinthians 13:4-5** Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;
8	11/02/26	**THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT** You shall not murder. *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.	*How does God want us to treat our neighbor?* **John 15:12-13** “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.
9	11/09/26	**THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT** You shall not commit adultery. *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.	*What can we pray when we are tempted to sin?* **Psalm 51:10-11** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
10	11/16/26	**THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT** You shall not steal. *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.	*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**	

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12	11/30/26	**THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT** You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.	*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. *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.	*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. *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.	*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**	
16	12/28/26	Christmas Break	
17	01/04/27	*Grades 1-6* **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,

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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 139:13-14** For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. 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; 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.	*How does God lovingly take care of all people?* **1 Peter 5:6-7** Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 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. 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 Jesus come into this world?* **Galatians 4:4-5** But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.
21	02/01/27	**2nd Article of the Apostles Creed** *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 the power of the devil;...	*How did God save us from sin and death?* **John 3:16-17** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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22	02/08/27	**3rd Article of the Apostles Creed** 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.	*Who gives us faith?* **1 Corinthians 12:3** Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.
23	02/15/27	**3rd Article of the Apostles Creed** *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...	*How does the Holy Spirit help us live our faith?* **Hebrews 12:1b-2** Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
24	02/22/27	**INTRODUCTION** Our Father who art in heaven *What does this mean?* With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Himas dear children ask their dear father.	**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. *What does this mean?* God’s name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.	*Whom do we praise?* **Matthew 5:14,16** You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 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.

Week	Dates	Catechism	Bible Verse
26	03/08/27	**SECOND PETITION** Thy kingdom come. *What does this mean?* The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.	*What should we seek first?* **Matthew 6:33-34** But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.
27	03/15/27	**THIRD PETITION** Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. *What does this mean?* The good and gracious will of God is done even without prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.	*Even when bad things happen, what does God do for those who love him?* **Psalm 46:1, 10-11** God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.
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 this mean?* God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.	*What does God promise us when we pray?* **Matthew 7:7-8** Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.
31	04/12/27	**FIFTH PETITION** And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. *What does this mean*? We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them.	*How should we forgive one another?* **Ephesians 4:31-32** Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

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32	04/19/27	**SIXTH PETITION** And lead us not into temptation. *What does this mean?* God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us.	*How do we guard against temptation?* **Ephesians 6:10-11** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.
33	04/26/27	**SEVENTH PETITION** But deliver us from evil. *What does this mean?* We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil.	*Why should we not fear?* **Romans 8:35, 37** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 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. *What does this mean?* This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him.	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."