Memory Work

Grades 7 & 8

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 3:14-17** But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 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.
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 119:102-105** I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me. How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Week	**Dates**	**Catechism**	**Bible Verse**
4	10/05/26	**The Nature of Baptism** *What is Baptism?* Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combines with God's word. *Which is that word of God?* Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit…" (Matthew 28:19)	
5	10/12/26	**The Blessing of Baptism** *What benefits does Baptism give?* It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare. *Which are these words and promises of God?* Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:16)	

Week	Dates	Catechism	Bible Verse
6	10/19/26	**The Power of Baptism** *How can water do such great things?* Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying." (Titus 3:5–8)	
7	10/26/26	**2nd Week to work on** **The Power of Baptism**	
8	11/02/26	**What Baptism Indicates** *What does such baptizing with water indicate?* It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever. *Where is this written?* St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: "We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Rom. 6:4)	

Week	Dates	Catechism	Bible Verse
9	11/09/26	**What is Confession?** Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.	**Psalm 32:3, 5** For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long… I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.
10	11/16/26	**What sins should we confess?** Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.	**1 John 1:8-9** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
11	11/23/26	Thanksgiving Week **REVIEW AND CATCH UP**	
12	11/30/26	**Which are these?** Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?	**Proverbs 28:13** Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.
13	12/07/26	**What is the Office of the Keys?** The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.	**Matthew 18:18** Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Week	Dates	Catechism	Bible Verse
14	12/14/26	**What do you believe according to these words?** I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.	**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 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."
15	12/21/26	**REVIEW AND CATCH UP**	
16	12/28/26	*Christmas Break*	
17	01/04/27	**The Nature of the Sacrament of the Altar** *What is the Sacrament of the Altar?* It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink. *Where is this written?* The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."	

Week	Dates	Catechism	Bible Verse
18	01/11/27	**The Benefit of the Sacrament of the Altar** *What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?* These words, “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,” show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.	**John 6:32-33** Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”
19	01/18/27	**The Power of the Sacrament of the Altar** *How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?* Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: “forgiveness of sins.”	**1 Corinthians 11:26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.
20	01/25/27	**How to Receive This Sacrament Worthily** *Who receives this sacrament worthily?* Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepare who has faith in these words: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words “for you” require all hearts to believe.	**1 Corinthians 11:27-28** Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

Week	Dates	Catechism	Bible Verse
21	02/01/27	**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 22:36-40** "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 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. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."
22	02/08/27	**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. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.
23	02/15/27	**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 3:12-17** Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 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.

Week	Dates	Catechism	Bible Verse
24	02/22/27	**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 13:4-8a, 13** 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; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.
25	03/01/27	**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 15:12-17** “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. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.
26	03/08/27	**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 51:10-12** 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. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Week	Dates	Catechism	Bible Verse
27	03/15/27	**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 2:1-4** So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 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.
28	03/22/27	**REVIEW AND CATCH UP**	
29	03/29/27	*Spring Break*	
30	04/05/27	**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 4:25-29** Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. 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.

Week	Dates	Catechism	Bible Verse
31	04/12/27	**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 6:6-10a 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. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils.
32	04/19/27	**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 4:4-8** 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. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.
33	04/26/27	**REVIEW AND CATCH UP**	
34	05/03/27	**REVIEW AND CATCH UP**	
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.”