



Zion
LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWS

May 2024

From the Vicar's Desk...



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Learning Scripture by Heart: The Why and the How

We live in a culture that doesn't put a lot of emphasis on memorization. We're so used to being able to read information in books, write down notes, or just look things up online that most of us go through our lives without ever needing to remember or memorize anything. Our schools nowadays rarely make students learn anything by rote memorization, so it might seem strange when the church has its children memorize Bible verses or learn the Catechism by heart. We don't memorize anything else in our lives, so why should we memorize the Bible?

The Why

It's important to remember that the Bible itself promises many blessings and gives a lot of encouragement to learn its words by heart. There's something very different about having the Word of God stored up in your heart instead of "out there" in a book or read aloud in church. While there are a lot of places the Bible talks about this subject, here are a few to give you a taste of what Scripture teaches:

Deuteronomy 11:18 *"You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes."*

Psalms 119:11 *"I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."*

Proverbs 4:20-21 *"My son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Let them not escape from your sight; keep them within your heart."*

Proverbs 6:20-23 *"My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching. Bind them on your heart always; tie them around your neck. When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk with you. For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life."*

Colossians 3:16 *"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."*

Continued on page 2

Learning Scripture by Heart (continued from page 1)

Notice how the Bible talks about the importance of keeping God's Word *in your heart*. *This is the reason we often like to say "learn by heart" instead of "memorize."* Memorizing implies that you just can rattle off information without thinking; learning by heart implies that God's Word becomes a part of you. While we can't all memorize the whole Bible, learning important Bible verses, passages, and stories by heart is an important part of growing as a mature Christian.

The How

Of course, it's not easy to get started with learning Scripture by heart. A lot of the time people are very intimidated by the idea of memorization. This is because we often treat our memories like a computer—we think that we "fill up" with information and eventually can't remember anything more. But the truth is, neuroscientists have discovered that the human brain's memory could hold as much information as the entire internet. Memory isn't like a glass of water that's in danger of getting too full; it's a lot more like a muscle that gets stronger or weaker depending on how much you exercise it.

So don't be intimidated! Just like exercising or lifting weights, start small and easy, with just a well-known verse or two, and then move on to larger and larger chunks of Scripture. Who knows? Maybe someday you could remember an entire book of the Bible! You can find videos of people on YouTube who have done just that!

Everyone learns differently, and everyone learns by heart differently, so it's important to find a method that works best for you. However, here are some general pieces of advice to help you get started with learning Scripture by heart:

- Read the passage you want to learn **out loud**. *This way you get three kinds of reinforcement: seeing, hearing, and speaking. It's like getting three kinds of input for the price of one!*
- If you're trying to memorize a larger passage of Scripture, **first read the whole thing out loud** so that you can get a sense of its flow and how it's organized. *Even if you're not going to memorize an entire book of the Bible, it can be a great experience to just take a bit of time to read through a whole book in one sitting!*
- This might drive everyone around you crazy, but **pacing around** when you're trying to learn a passage by heart is a really effective way to get your blood flowing and boost your memory!
- The best place to start with learning the Bible by heart is to pick a well-known story (such as the Creation or the Three Wise Men), read through it aloud from the Bible, then **retell the story in your own words aloud**. *Then read it aloud from the Bible again, retell it again, and do it over and over. Eventually, you will find that you are retelling the story using the same words as the Bible naturally, without having to force yourself to remember each word.*
- A lot of people find the idea of a **memory palace** to be very helpful. *Basically a memory palace is a way of associating things you're remembering with places you're already familiar with. Just look up "how to build a memory palace" online, and you'll find lots of helpful instructions on how to do it.*

These are just a few tips to help you get started. There's plenty of other advice online that could be helpful depending on your learning style. The most important thing to remember is: **learning God's Word by heart is a great blessing in many ways!** So let's start learning the Bible by heart! What's there to lose?

In Christ,

Vicar Wessel

Congregational News

Faith Foundations

Christian Foster and Sophie Henrickson, previous campers, did a presentation at Faith Foundations about their experiences at Camp Minneboji. Camp Minneboji is coming up June 16-22, 2024. This year's theme is "Blessed" as we look at the Beatitudes from Matthew 5:1-12. Camp Minneboji is for youth completing 4th grade—8th grade.

**Vacation
Bible
School
July 21-24**



Dorcas Circle

May 2 7:00pm

Topic Leader Sharon Rehorst

Hostess Paula Schnabel

Lydia Circle

May 7 1:30pm

Topic Leader Edie Goldhammer

Hostess Marlys Mutschelknaus

Women are welcome to attend whichever Circle best fits their needs. Come enjoy a time of Bible study and fellowship with your sisters in Christ.



March - April 2024

SERVING THE LORD IN

Japan

News from
Pastor Dan and Joan Jastram

<https://www.lcms.org/jastram>



Pastor Dan and Joan Jastram

Rev. Jastram serves as the
Asia Lutheran Resource
Coordinator:

*Making Lutheran resources of
theology and worship
available in Asia.*



To be added to or removed from
this mailing list, send an email
message to:

daniel.jastram@lcms.org

with the word ADD or REMOVE
in the subject line.

Here's our newsletter archive link:

<https://bit.ly/3Xkd9W8>

Link to join our mailing list:

<https://tinyurl.com/47vyhnae>

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Visitation Snapshots

In a totally typical Japanese small town, the sight of such a grand, magnificent cathedral, pictured above-left in the masthead, startled me.

I was visiting a well-catechized LCMS member far from Tokyo. After getting off the high-speed bullet train, I approached the suburban area by foot. The rice fields began to fade into farmhouses, homes, and a small business district. Suddenly there sprang into view this grand, magnificent cathedral!

In my excitement to learn more about this church, I was totally deflated to learn that a wedding industry company had purchased the building in Europe, shipped it to this location in Japan, and set it up with all the amenities to suit every desire of wedding planners, caterers, photographers, and customers.

Absolutely no worship or congregation associated with the building at all.

In fact, the lone desk clerk on duty asked me to explain the curious features of the sanctuary: "Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus"; "Alpha and Omega"; "INRI" (Latin abbreviation for Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews); along with the carvings and stained glass.

The setting was grand. My sermon was off the cuff and to the point. But the lone congregant must have wondered greatly at the rich meaning imbedded in this European sacred space now used only for show.

By contrast, faithful Lutherans, sometimes scattered by great

distances, eagerly receive the Word and Sacrament even where no cathedral is present.

Whether far south in Kyushu or somewhat north in Gunma, we LCMS missionaries in far parts deliver life and salvation through pastoral visitation.



Numata, Gunma Prefecture

Again, on one such visit I was startled a second time by a humble roadside mirror firmly held in place near the fence by its living tree post: as you can see, the tree had over the years, grown completely around the supporting bar of the mirror.

In some strange way, both the cathedral and the mirror had come to share their incongruity of context.



Roadside Mirror

Prayer and Thanksgiving:

- thanksgiving for life and salvation in the Gospel administered through the visitation of missionary agents sent throughout the world by our supporting partners in mission;
- thanksgiving for the availability and growth of Lutheran resources to meet critical needs in Japan;
- thanksgiving for the start of our first online Japanese Small Catechism study group of 8-10 participants led by Rev. Taguchi;
- prayer for grace at the recent news that the Japan Lutheran College in Mitaka Tokyo will be closing after this academic year;
- thanksgiving for completion of our specially requested project for the translation of Shaw, *Women's Ordination Through the Lens of the Apostles' Creed* (LCMS Church Relations, 2023);
- thanksgiving for God's long-awaited arrangement of a translation proofreader with plans to start project work the middle of April;
- thanksgiving for God's blessings at our three current worship sites: Shinjuku (twice a month), Yokosuka (once a month), Numata (starting up, once a month);
- thanksgiving for our LCMS Asia regional director Rev. Charles Ferry and fellow LCMS Asia missionaries each with individual challenges and blessings;
- thanksgiving for the faithful prayers and support provided by our LCMS Jastram-Asia mission partners.

Lutheran Resources

In preparation for our May Lutheran Theological Conference in Niigata, I have assembled some Lutheran resources: plenty of Japanese Small Catechism booklets; four of the expensive Japanese Book of Concord volumes and four of the reasonably priced Japanese Small Catechism with Explanation books (translation of the LCMS 1943 version) for donation to the Kobari Niigata church lending library.

Our conference is organized according to the historic Lutheran "free conference" pattern in which those of various Lutheran backgrounds can meet for mutual discussion and understanding about unity in confession and practice without engaging in unionism in the process.

Our keynote speaker will be the Wyoming District President John Hill presenting six sessions on "Church and Ministry" interspersed with shorter presentations by designated participants about their local contexts of ministry.

Not to overlook Lutheran resources of the past, my long-standing ambition to accurately organize an up-to-date time-line chart

Chronology of Japan LCMS Career Missionaries

documenting the chronology of our past LCMS career missionaries in Japan, has finally borne fruit. It traces the continuous LCMS missionary presence in Japan—since its 1948 beginning to the present—of 79 LCMS missionary family units, surging to an all-time high in 1964 of 40 LCMS missionary units serving at the same time in Japan. What a cloud of witnesses to cheer on your current individual missionary unit here! ♦



May Conference Supplies

YOUR SUPPORT is vital for our continued mission work in Japan: regular services at our worship sites, translation of theological resources, and nurturing relations with local Lutheran pastors facing individual challenges to the faith. We are humbly grateful for your continued prayers and support. **Thank you!**

Your missionaries, Dan and Joan Jastram

“Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”

(Luke 24:32, Third Sunday of Easter, Liturgical Verse).

To support this LCMS mission work:

Give securely online through the LCMS page:

lcms.org/givenow/jastram

[OR] Mail your tax-deductible gift to:

**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861**

Make checks payable to:

The Lutheran Church —Missouri Synod

Mark checks:

“Support of Asia-Jastram”



As you can see from the LWML South Dakota District Convention flyers in the newsletter, this year they have a couple of servant events called Gifts From The Heart. The Zion LWML would like your help in collecting the needed items. Any help would be greatly appreciated! They will have a collection basket in the north narthex.

The following items are needed:

Safe Harbor - ladies deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, facial tissues, all-purpose cleaner spray, Ziplock bags of all sizes, disinfecting wipes, brooms & dustpans, scrubbing brushes, floor cleaner, bath towels, kitchen towels, Swiffer starter sets, toilet bowl cleaner & toilet brushes

Journey Home - peanut butter, coffee, toilet paper, non-perishable food, hats, any sheets, clothes (baby to adult), USED ITEMS - pots & pans, silverware, drinking glasses

Church Council Minutes—April 17, 2024

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

- I. Call to Order & Devotion-Pastor Grimmer opened with prayer. Members present: Loren Wegehaupt, Eric Schramm, Shannon Bartscher, Mark Nagel, Brian Schuldt, Russell Whaley, Julie Harnisch, Vicar Wessel, Marvin Strand, Pastor Grimmer, Travis Schnabel, Diane Sullivan
- II. Congregation Member Comments - none
- III. Adoption of the Agenda-Eric made motion to accept the agenda with additions to new business. Shannon 2nd'd the motion, motion carried.
- IV. Reports
 - A. Secretary's Report - Shannon made a motion to accept secretary's report, Travis 2nd'd the motion, motion carried.
 - B. Treasurer's Report - Shannon reported \$39,393 of income and expenses of \$43,268. Brian made motion to accept treasurer's report, Mark 2nd'd motion, motion carried. Loren W reported on transferred accounts moved to Vanguard money market accounts. The endowment funds were discussed. This will be brought to the voters to discuss if we want to transfer from LCMS Foundation to Vanguard as the returns are better per past history of the LCMS Foundation. It will still remain an endowment fund.
 - C. Financial Secretary's Report-Eric reported that there was a deposit to the building fund of \$9,066 last week.
 - D. Pastor Grimmer's Report-Zion is now set up at the Greater Goods Volunteers of America store in Sioux Falls. Pastor went to the store to check it out and reported that they have a variety of items. Tamra and the Elders discussed our website. They recommend changing to the Church 360 program. There is a 30/40 day free trial for the Church 360 Suite. It was decided to do free trial of the Church 360 Suite. We will assess at next month's council meeting and decide if it is preferred over how we currently operate our website.
- E. Board Reports
 1. Youth & Parish Education-Julie reported that Faith Foundations is winding down for the season. An educational survey was sent out. VBS will be July 21-24. An end of the year party will be held on May 15th. Confirmation reception will be next Wednesday the 24th as well as the Seminarian Call Service.
 2. Elders
 - a. Official Acts being reported- Baptism of Christopher Wessel on March 30th, parents are Benjamin and Jenny Wessel. Released from membership: Derick, Ashley, Dallas, and Kelly Davis and Matt Johnson. An updated inactive process will be brought up at voters meeting. A thorough explanation of the potential costs of an Assisting Pastor will be presented at the Voter's meeting. Vicar placement service is April 23rd with a potluck at 5:30 before the voter's meeting. A block party is planned for May 15th to be held with the year end party of Faith Foundation.
 - b. Issues brought to Elders by members to report to council - none
 3. Trustees
 - a. There is a water issue in the furnace room when it rains hard. Trustees will work to get it fixed.

Church Council Minutes

- b. A Ring doorbell type system is suggested so Tamra can see who is at the door before she goes to answer the door. Eric suggested getting the same system for the new building and for the church so it is same at all locations where cameras will be placed. He will do research and place an order.
- c. The roof at the bell tower has evidence of leaking. This will be looked into.
- d. Eric reported on the narthex doors. He has talked to Interstate Door. They will come to the church to measure and will give us a quote.
- e. March 25th was the effective date for the new insurance.

1. Committee Reports

- 2. Stewardship Committee-Mark reported it has been suggested to set up a cleanup date at the church. A one call will go out when date is set.
- 3. Building Planning Committee-Eric reported that dirt work is expected to start any time now.
- 4. Building Finance Committee -Eric reported that we are still on track with the 2.1 million budget. 1.236 million has been donated/raised so far. On August 11th there will be a golf tournament fund raiser. There will be a FrameAthon fund raiser on June 19th. A zero interest loan fund raiser is still being discussed. Adam is checking with Mitchell Telecom, our internet provider, regarding the internet access at the church to see if can also be at the new building on the same service.

V. Business

A. Unfinished Business

- 1. Records organized/placed in filing cabinet - being done and is on going
- 2. Shred documents no longer needed - being done and is on going
- 3. Proposal to add an assisting pastor - will be presented at the Voter's meeting
- 4. Agenda for April Voters Meeting

B. New Business

- 1. Endowment fund will be brought up at the voters meeting
- 2. Ministry fund - Russ discussed that there is \$5,490.20 in the Jayson Whaley Ministry Fund. After discussion, Eric made a motion to re-designate \$4490.20 from the Jayson Whaley Ministry Fund to the money market account - leaving \$1000 in the checking account in the general fund. Travis 2nd'd the motion, motion carried.
- 3. Travis discussed that the computer/camera system aren't working as well as needed. Chris Foster is looking into the issue.

VI. Next Council meeting – Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 7:30 pm

VII. Adjournment & Prayer-Shannon made motion to adjourn, 2nd'd by Eric, motion passed. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Diane Sullivan, Council Secretary

Lutheran Women's Missionary League
SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT
63RD CONVENTION
June 7–8, 2024

Best Western Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center
Aberdeen, South Dakota



"Inexpressible Joy † Matchless Savior"

Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls (1 Peter 1:8-9).

Bible Study Leader — Donna Snow, author, LWML Texas District

Keynote Speaker — Kay Kreklau, LWML President 2011-2015,
LWML North Dakota District

LWML Representative — Arlene Naasz, LWML Vice President of
Organizational Resources, LWML South Dakota District

Gifts from the Heart items will be collected for Safe Harbor and Journey
Home of Aberdeen.

Registration forms for the convention can be found at:
sdlwml.org/district-conventions



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June 7–8, 2024

Best Western Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center
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"Inexpressible Joy † Matchless Savior"

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (1 Peter 1:8–9).

GIFTS FROM THE HEART

SAFE HARBOR is a shelter and advocacy organization that provides services in northeastern South Dakota. Any of the following donated items will be appreciated:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Ladies Deodorant | Brooms and dust pans |
| Shampoo and conditioner | Scrubbing Brushes |
| Facial tissues | Floor Cleaner |
| All-purpose cleaner spray | Bath towels and Kitchen towels |
| Ziplock bags of all sizes | Swiffer starter sets |
| Disinfecting Wipes | Toilet bowl cleaner and toilet brushes |

JOURNEY HOME Helping people who have the desire to achieve more physically, intellectually, and socially. Their goal is to provide struggling people in the community with a hand-up not a hand-out, based on the love and wisdom of Jesus Christ. The following donated items will be appreciated.

FOOD BANK: peanut butter, coffee, toilet paper and non-perishable food.

CLOTHES: hats, any sheets, clothes for babies, elderly, men, women, and children.

USED ITEMS: pots and pans, silverware and drinking glasses to give out when going on their own.

Dianne Hemminger
LWML South Dakota District VP of Special Focus Ministries 2022–2026
diheimm@rushmore.com

Sunday School



As Kindergarten-1st Grade Sunday School is nearing the end, we want to thank all the parents and grandparents for giving us the privilege of teaching your children. They are a joy and a blessing to us. Please know how much we've enjoyed having them in our Sunday morning class.

Gwen and Lois plan to teach again this upcoming Fall for any Kdg-1st graders and also wish to open it up to the 2nd and 3rd graders, as well on Sunday mornings after the 1st service, beginning at 9:15am. That being said, depending on the number of students attending; we are looking for an adult teacher/helper for the 2nd/3rd grade class. Please prayerfully consider this and let us know if you could serve the Lord and the children in this way.

The current Sunday morning Sunday School class will hold their last class on April 28, 2024. Enjoy your family and summer activities. We eagerly look forward to seeing you in the Fall.


In joyful service,
Gwen & Lois



Faith Foundations Year End Celebration & Neighborhood Block Party

May 15th

Those Serving

| Senior Appreciation | May 5 - 8am | May 5 - 10:30am |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Head Usher | Marvin Strand | Travis Schnabel |
| Ushers | Adam Schulz Jeff Schuldt Larry Stolz | Mark Nagel Luke Nagel Shawn Nagel |
| Acolytes | Jonah Iburg Isaac Fischer | Hudson Meylor John Keenan |
| Ascension | May 9 - 6:30pm |  |
| Head Usher | Russ Whaley | |
| Ushers | Chris Wehrmann Larry Titze Carl Bode | |
| Crucifer | Need Volunteer | |
| Acolyte | Levi Hinker | |
| | May 12 - 8am | May 12 - 10:30am |
| Head Usher | Randy Holmquist | Loren Brech |
| Ushers | Frank Luczak Frank Luczak Jr. Alan Rickel | Dave Schmidt Carl Bode Rob Ewing |
| Acolytes | Grayson Van Oort | Lucy Thompson |
| | May 19 - 8am | May 19 - 10:30am |
| Head Usher | Chris Wehrmann | Adam Popp |
| Ushers | Zack Flanagan Nathan Flanagan Bryan Flanagan | Chad Popp Carter Popp Larry Schnabel |
| Acolytes | Haylen Buchholtz Maci Wudel | Christian Foster Charlie Patzer |
| | May 26 - 8am | May 26 - 10:30am |
| Head Usher | Russ Whaley | Travis Schnabel |
| Ushers | Chris Wehrmann Chris Fischer Larry Titze | Chris Foster Alex Foster Rod Neugebauer |
| Acolytes | Easton Hohn Carla Keiper | Eli Konrad Henry Patzer |

If you are unable to serve when scheduled, please find a replacement.

Thank you!

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Philippians 3:19

May 2024



LUTHERAN CHURCH

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|-----------|---|--|---|--|--|---|----|--|------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|---|----|---|---|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|---|----|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|----|---|
| 1 Office Closed 1pm COFFEE Bible Study 6pm Faith Foundations 7:30pm Board of Education | 2 7am Men's Bible Study 7pm Dorcas Circle | 3 Office Closed Pastor/Vicar's Day Off | 4 | 5 8am Divine Service 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Divine Service | 6 9:30am Staff Mtg 1:00pm Quilting | 7 7:30am Women's Bible Study Lydia Circle 1:30pm | 8 1pm COFFEE Bible Study 6pm Faith Foundations 7:30pm Elder Meeting | 9 7am Men's Bible Study 4pm Building Committee 6:30pm Ascension Day Service | 10 Office Closed Pastor/Vicar's Day Off | 11 | 12 8am Divine Service 10:30am Divine Service | 13 9:30am Staff Mtg | 14 7:30am Women's Bible Study | 15 1pm COFFEE Bible Study 6pm Faith Foundations Year-End Gathering Neighborhood Block Party 7:30pm Council Mtg | 16 Newsletter Articles Due 7am Men's Bible Study | 17 Office Closed Pastor/Vicar's Day Off | 18 | 19 Basement Reserved/Fosters 8am Divine Service 10:30am Divine Service | 20 9:30am Staff Mtg 1:00pm Quilting | 21 7:30am Women's Bible Study 8:45am Newsletter Assembly | 22 1pm COFFEE Bible Study | 23 4pm Building Committee | 24 Office Closed Pastor/Vicar's Day Off | 25 | 26 8am Divine Service 10:30am Divine Service | 27 Memorial Day-Offices Closed | 28 9:30am Staff Meeting | 29 1pm COFFEE Bible Study | 30 | 31 Office Closed Pastor/Vicar's Day Off |