



**October  
2015**

# Pastor's Page



**Zion Lutheran Church**

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## **“Suggested Bible Verses to Learn By Heart”** *(In addition to the Small Catechism)*

In our struggle against the devil, the world and our sinful flesh, it is important to study and learn God’s Holy Word by heart. The Holy Spirit working in the Word creates and sustains our faith; so when we find ourselves alone in times of trouble and we don’t have a Bible handy, we can receive comfort from God’s promises that we know from memory. This is why our liturgy contains God’s Word and is repetitive week after to week. You might be surprised at how much of God’s Word you know by heart by just being in church often. But, outside of Sunday services, what are some practical ways during the week to learn God’s Word, mature in the faith, and be protected by the armor of God?

First off, repetition is the mother of all learning. Even though most of us have been confirmed using *Luther’s Small Catechism*, we never master it or put it away. The catechism is the teaching of God’s Word, so we better never say, “I have mastered God’s Word so I don’t need it anymore.” Therefore, our catechism, which goes through the central teachings of God’s Word, is my first and foremost recommendation to you for this purpose. God’s Word from the catechism is what we expect our youth in catechism class to memorize and study for all the reasons above, so we should lead by example, showing them that learning and studying God’s Word isn’t just something we do for two years in junior high or 2 hours on Sunday.

And, in addition to reading, meditating, praying, and memorizing God’s Word in the catechism throughout our lives, below are some additional suggested passages. Certainly, this list isn’t exhaustive, but a good place to start. I have grouped the verses under the six chief parts of the catechism. After these verses, I will give a few practical suggestions for helping you learn and study God’s Word during the week with the goal of learning It by heart..

May God’s promises continue to comfort you and keep you in the faith all the days of your life!

In Christ,

Pastor

P.S. I took a break from my Pastor’s Page series this month, but it will resume.

### **10 Commandments**

Mark 12:30-31 (ESV)

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. . . . You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Romans 6:23 (ESV)

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 20:31 (ESV)

These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

## **The Creed**

Genesis 1:27, 31a (ESV)

So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. .... God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good.

John 3:16-17 (ESV)

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.

1 Corinthians 12:3 (ESV)

No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.

## **Lord's Prayer**

Psalms 145:15-16 (NIV)

The eyes of all look to You [O Lord,] and You give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

2 Tim. 3:16-17 (ESV)

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 competent, equipped for every good work.

Matthew 7:7-8 (ESV)

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.

## **Baptism**

Titus 3:5 (ESV)

He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.

John 3:5-6 (ESV)

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

John 14:6 (ESV)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Romans 10:17 (ESV)

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

## **Absolution and the Office of the Keys**

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

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."

1 John 1:8-9 (ESV)

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. {9} If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Ephesians 4:11

It was He [Christ] who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers.

James 5:16 (ESV)

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

## **Sacrament of the Altar**

1 John 1:7 (ESV)

The blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 (ESV)

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? { 17 } Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

Galatians 4:4-5 (ESV)

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.

## **Some tips for learning:**

- Start small. Like training your body physically, you don't go run 20 miles if you haven't ran in 10 years. Try learning by heart one commandment from the Ten Commandments, which is the first chief part of the catechism. Take one small verse of Scripture from the list above or the catechism and make it your goal to memorize it in a week or month.
- How to memorize that one verse? Put it on a sticky note and put it on your fridge—somewhere that you see often. Maybe even write it several times and put it all over---front door, back door, car (not while you drive), desk at work, etc.
- Read it out loud and not just in your head.
- Test yourself. Read it out loud and then look away and see if you can recite it. Again, start small. Do it one word or phrase at a time—working your way up to the full verse or verses.
- If you have a spouse or children, make it a game. Race to see who can learn it first. Offer a reward. Quiz each other. If you live alone, find a friend at church and test each other over the phone or on Sunday morning. \*At this point you can see that the above would only take minutes here and there every day. This is a doable start, especially for households with busy schedules.
- If you have more time or are working your way up to running 20 miles, try setting aside 5 minutes every morning to just read through the *Small Catechism* and/or the verses above. Like the liturgy every Sunday, you are not 'trying' to learn it by heart, but it just happens over time in the repetition.
- And, if the above still doesn't make sense or you want more tips and ideas, please talk with me. I can show you how to incorporate this memorization into your regular home devotion. Or, if you are struggling getting into the discipline of home devotions, talk to me—don't be embarrassed to get some direction and encouragement. The devil, world, and your flesh are against you—don't fight this battle alone.

## **TABLE OF DUTIES MONTHLY REVIEW: TO YOUTH**

Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. **1 Peter 5:5–6**

## **OCTOBER IS MISSION MONTH AT ZION**

Zion’s Board for Evangelism and Missions has planned special speakers and a Mission display for the month of October. Displays will be set up both at the back entrance and the Fellowship Hall, so be sure to check one out.

### **The schedule for October is:**

**October 4:** Rev. John Fehrmann chairman of the Confessional Lutheran Education Foundation (CLEF) will preach and during the educational hour he will update us on the work of the CLEF. Following this we have a pot luck meal. Plan to join us and bring a dish to share. FYI for Facebook people: CLEF can be found at [TCLEF.org](http://TCLEF.org)

**October 11:** Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) Sunday

**October 18:** Life Sunday

**October 25:** We will celebrate Reformation Sunday. Our guest speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram, who is the LC-MS coordinator of Theological Education at Seminaries in our sister churches in the Far East. He will be moving to Japan in the New Year. He will share his mission work with us during the education hour. Plan to join us also for the potluck meal following his presentation. Bring a dish to share.

## **LWML ZONE 9 FALL RALLY**

October 17<sup>th</sup> is the LWML Zone 9 Fall Rally. See LWML bulletin board for details.

**JOIN THE ADULT CHOIR:** If you are a confirmed member no longer in Sunday school, you are eligible to graduate from the Children’s Choir to the adult one. This means if you are roughly 14-114, you should consider joining. You don’t have to read music. Additionally, there have been some recent changes in the choir; we are going to suspend trying to sing unfamiliar older Lutheran hymns (many written by Luther himself) and sing the newer hymns that were brought into Lutheranism from other denominations that are more familiar to American Lutherans today. So, if you can make a joyful noise to the Lord and sing hymns like, *Abide With Me*, *Amazing Grace*, and *Go Tell It on the Mountain*” (this should include everyone), please consider joining the choir. Finally, you will find that we pay the same as other LC-MS churches!

## MARRIAGE POLICY (Adopted at September Elder's Meeting)

The marriage policy of Zion Lutheran Church, a member congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, is and always has been consistent with the Synod's beliefs on marriage. We believe that marriage is a sacred union of one man and one woman (Gen. 2:24-25), and that God gave marriage as a picture of the relationship between Christ and His bride the Church (Eph. 5:32). The official position of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, as set forth in 1998 Res. 3-21 ("To Affirm the Sanctity of Marriage and to Reject Same-Sex Unions"), is that homosexual unions come under categorical prohibition in the Old and New Testaments (Lev. 18:22, 24; 20:13; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 1 Tim. 1:9-10) as contrary to the Creator's design (Rom. 1:26-27). These positions and beliefs can be found on the LCMS website, along with other statements, papers and reports on the subject of homosexuality and same-sex civil unions and "marriage." Our pastor will not officiate over any marriages inconsistent with these beliefs, and our church property may not be used for any marriage ceremony, reception or other activity that would be inconsistent with our beliefs and this policy. Marriage at Zion Lutheran Church is reserved for active members in good standing (Those not under church discipline).

## **A Letter to the Editor**

On Friday, September 25, I submitted a letter to the editor of the *Religion* section of *The Leader Telegram*. I am not sure if they will run my article or not, or if they do, how they will edit it. I give it to you unedited. I will put a copy the article and my response on the bulletin board near the back entrance. – **Pastor**

## **Go Looking for The Truth**

I would like to point out some logical fallacies and hypocritical irony from Ms. Virginia Wolf's September 19<sup>th</sup> article, "Go looking for a church." Her article can be summed in her sentence, "But the biggest reason [people don't attend church] is the failure to find relevance or meaning in church—a lack of belief in what a church espouses." This is the popular post-modern absolute truth statement that "there is no such thing as absolute truth, but truth is whatever you believe it to be or find to be relevant." I hope you caught the irony!

Ms. Wolf then goes on to say, "First and foremost, we support freedom of belief." She then lists other religions, like Christianity and Islam and says, "...all are welcome who search for truth." Here again, what is truth? She defines truth as, whatever you think is relevant is true. She, for example, didn't tolerate, welcome, or celebrate her American Baptist upbringing, but judged it to be untrue because she found it irrelevant. With this logic, should a serial killer who believes that murder is the true way to go, look for a church community that welcomes and tolerates that truth?" No, believing that serial killing is good, and even finding others who agree with you and find it relevant, doesn't make it true. Even the religions she mentions are not so open minded that their brains fall out.

However, Ms. Wolf's church's doctrine and the doctrines of all the other religions she mentions, save Christianity, do have one thing in common. They all only teach what a person must do. She says, "...we are sure that we are called to help others..." Many churches simply tell you what you need to do. A Christian congregation is unique in that it tells you what the One True God has done for you. Jesus, God's Son, says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one gets to the Father, but by Me." Yes, I know this isn't the popular dogma of "all roads lead to heaven." Yet, the absolute truth is that we are all sinners, from serial killers to pastors, and there is nothing we can do to save ourselves. Jesus alone, truly loved His neighbor as Himself, and He then died on the cross for all our sins. A truly Christian church is always relevant because it speaks the truth of what we need to hear not what we want to hear or find relevant this week. The absolute truth is that we are sinners, but for the sake of Jesus alone, God declares us righteous. Do Christians love their neighbor and do good works? Yes, but out of thanksgiving to God for His love and grace.

Finally, Jesus also says, "Beware of wolves in sheep's clothing who try to lead you to hell with lies in the name of truth." I doubt Ms. Wolf sees the irony. Instead of looking for a church that will tell you anything you want to hear, why not go looking for THE truth, and attend a church that teaches It. I invite Ms. Wolf to attend my congregation—Gods wants all to believe the truth.

*Rev. Clint Stark is the pastor of Zion Lutheran Church (LC-MS) in Chippewa Falls.*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL  
THE MEMBERS WHO HAVE  
OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!!

Kortney Blake	10/1
Isabel Lenz	10/1
Lois Eichinger	10/3
Laurie Schweisthal	10/5
Roger Ewings	10/6
Erna Welke	10/8
Gerald Hoepner	10/10
Karen Clark	10/15
Jenna Ewings	10/15
Mark Klemke	10/15
Vicki Bellore	10/17
Beth Welke	10/17
Ethel Vance	10/18
Arlene Hakes	10/20
Ben Ziebarth	10/24
Cheyenne Bellefeuille	10/25
Cody Bellefeuille	10/25
Dianne Schroeder	10/25
Diane Leland	10/27
Mary Gettler	10/30
Amanda Ziebarth	10/30

♥ HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO: ♥

Bradley & Carol Sundell	10/1/2006
Roger & Laurie Ewings Jr.	10/2/1993
Greg & Diane Leland	10/4/1975
Shawn & Mandy Schoelzel	10/5/2002
Gene & Dottie Neumann	10/10/2003

Tom & Judy Benson 10/22/1994  
Herman & Sharon Sahr 10/24/1964

### WOMEN'S SOCIETY NEWS

Women's Society met on Thursday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>. Hostesses were Mary Gettler & Rosa Blake. They served assorted cookies, cupcakes and ice cream.

Pastor Stark opened devotions reading I Corinthians 4:1-7.

A short business followed with 12 members, 1 guest and Pastor present. There will not be an "Advent by Candlelight" this year. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting is Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. Geneva and Coila Ziebarth are the hostesses.

### WE ASK YOU TO REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS THE HOMEBOUND MEMBERS:

Mavis Berry

Helen Hempelman

Isabel Lenz