



Redeemer News

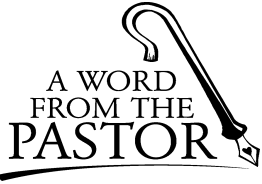
February 2009

Redeemer Lutheran Church

Pastor Michael Wolters

711 10th Ave W

483-4463



Some time ago during one of our catechism classes here at Redeemer we were struggling a little bit with our memory work for the week, and so we paused for a few minutes to talk about why memorizing God's Word is important. In adult Bible studies over the years I have occasionally made a quip about assigning memory work and everyone always laughs. But I've often wondered: why do I make those quips as though I don't really mean it and why do class members giggle in a way that shows they *know* I don't really mean it? Perhaps for pastor and people (of all ages) it is good for us to consider if committing God's Word to memory is worthwhile. And if it is worthwhile, *why* is it worthwhile? It probably doesn't surprise you to know that I think it is important to learn God's Word "by heart," as we say, and following are some of the reasons why.

The first rationale for memorizing God's Word is simply logic. We memorize other things in daily life that are necessary or important to know, so why not God's Word, which, in the end, is the most necessary and important thing we could ever know? Students memorize the combination to their locker. Athletes memorize plays and rules for their sport. Friends memorize phone numbers and email addresses (even though we have speed dial and address books). Music lovers memorize their favorite radio stations. Mothers and grandmothers know children's clothing sizes in their heads. Dads and granddads memorize which wrench to use on a particular part (I always needed a 9/16 to

tighten the bolts on the exhaust manifold on my old AMC Hornet). We memorize thousands of things in our lives, from highway numbers to the Pledge of Allegiance, all because we either need this information or because it is meaningful to us for some reason. Now someone might say, "But these things are different from the Bible. We use them so much we don't even have to *try* to memorize them, they just stay in our heads." And that's the point! Shouldn't it be the same with God's precious Word? Deuteronomy 6:6-9 states: *"These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts... Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."* God's Word is to be such a natural, normal part of our daily lives that it just sticks in our hearts and heads. It only makes logical sense that we give at least equal time to God's Word which, in the end, is far more important than the many other things we have memorized.

Another reason to commit the Word to memory is simply because the Bible tells us to. The psalmist says, "I have hidden your word in my heart" (Ps. 119:11). In Hebrew culture the heart included the mind, which is where we get the saying about learning something "by heart." In Jeremiah 31:33 Yahweh promises, "I will put my law in their *minds*..." This verse is encouraging because it tells us God helps us with our memory work. He is actually putting His Word into our minds. 2 Peter 3:18 states, "But grow in the grace and *knowledge* of our Lord and Savior Jesus

Christ.” Notice that growing in grace is linked with growing in knowledge. We don’t earn God’s grace by doing our memory work, but we do grow in grace as God’s Word sinks more deeply into our minds. Psalm 78:5 specifically states that children are to be *taught* God’s Word. The word “taught” implies systematic learning, not merely casual exposure. These and many other passages of Scripture show us that God’s people *will be* engaged in committing His Word into our hearts and minds.

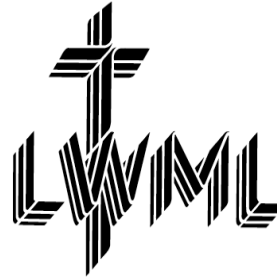
Another rationale for memorizing Scripture is anecdotal in nature and involves, for example, the elderly. I cannot count the times that I have been sharing God’s Word with an elderly person who is either not very alert or maybe even comatose, but because they have that Word committed to memory you know it is registering with them. Their eyes open, their lips move, a smile comes to their face. They may not be able to read, hear, or even logically comprehend the Word as they once did, but because it resides in their hearts and minds, the saving Gospel of Jesus is still doing its work. After spending so many hours with people like that, I have always prayed that when I reach that point in my life, God will grant me the same gift of His saving, precious Word in my heart and mind as I make my way toward heaven. Wouldn’t all of us want the same for ourselves, our children, and grandchildren. At that point, the bank account numbers, sports plays, words to our favorite song, and whatever else we have memorized won’t be nearly so important to us as the message of God’s forgiveness and comfort.

Everyone is different in his or her ability to memorize, but every Christian should somehow be involved in committing God’s Word into the mind. Such memory work helps us develop an exact knowledge of key parts of Christian doctrine, aids us in our personal prayer life, gives us resources for times of crisis, and, if we really trust what God says about His Word, ushers us into eternal life

(James 1:21). I pray that the words of the psalmist toward God will be ours as well: *“I meditate on Your precepts and consider Your ways. I delight in Your decrees; I will not neglect Your Word”* (Ps. 119:15,16).

Love in Christ,
Pastor Wolters

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Our first meeting of the New Year was held on Monday January 12, 2009. We were blessed with a nice attendance, as

well as a few new members and guests. Pastor Wolters lead us in prayer and the installation of the new Redeemer LWML Officers for 2009. A few dates to keep in mind for the upcoming months include:

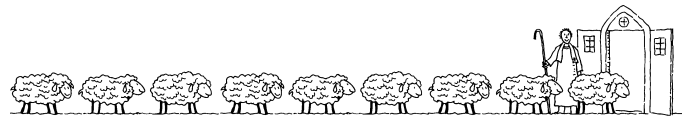
February 27-28, Young Women’s Retreat in Bismarck. All young women of the congregation are welcome to attend, please talk to Marni or Chantel for more information.

April 18th, Spring Rally in Mandan.

June 25 – 28th National LWML Convention.

Our next meeting will be on Monday March 9, 2009 at Redeemer Lutheran Church.

All ladies of Redeemer are encouraged to join us in fellowship at meetings, Bible studies, and other gatherings. God’s blessings always.



Blessings to all in the name of our Heavenly Father

The month of February is now upon us, a time for reflection on love; the love that Jesus shows us and the love

that we in turn show one another. In loving one another we reflect Jesus love for us.



Our stories this month are on the Temptation of Jesus, Jesus calls Matthew, Jesus and the Little Children, Jesus Heals a Paralytic. We will be learning more about the love Jesus has for us; a love is so deep that Jesus paid the ultimate price for our sin by dying on the cross for us.

Attention parents! **February 8th** is bring your parent to Sunday school Sunday. Please mark you calendars and enjoy Sunday school with your children!

There are lots of exciting adventures waiting during our Sunday school time together. We encourage your child to bring friends when ever possible. Please come and learn about Jesus with us!!

If you would like to help with any part of our Sunday school, we welcome the extra hands!

Let us praise God with a reflection of his love in us!!

The Sunday School Staff

Love is in the air at Preschool. This February we will learn all about Valentine's Day and the color red. We will even study Clifford the Big Red Dog!



Our Family Fun

Night was a great success! It was "Cool to Be in Jesus' Flock!" Over 200 parents and other family members attended. Thanks to Pastor Wolters & Christiana Wolters for helping with the program and Doug Theurer for helping with set up.

We are studying Jesus' early ministry this month. We are learning about how he blesses all of our lives.

God's Blessings,
Redeemer Preschool Staff



blessed country we owe respect, loyalty and service to our country and our leaders. By God's goodness we are citizens of this great country and thus have an obligation to love, respect and serve our country as good and Godly citizens.

This privilege of being Americans and serving our country with respect and loyalty reminds us of an even great citizenship, namely that of being the children of God through faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, and the respect and loyalty that we are to demonstrate as children of the Heavenly Father. What an honor! What a privilege! Because of what Jesus has done for us we are *"God's redeemed stewards, in partnership with and encouragement from fellow redeemed stewards, who freely and joyfully manage all of life and life's resources for God's purposes."* As St. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 13:7: *"If you love someone you will always be loyal to him whatever the cost..."* (Living Bible).



When you ask people about what happens in February they will most probably say "Valentine's Day." And that certainly is a day to remember and practice what real love is

all about. How sweet to be part of a family where the love of Valentine's Day is practiced, not only between husbands and wives, but also between family members and friends. As the Bible teaches, "how sweet it is when people live together in peace and harmony."

Some other people may point out that February includes celebrating Ground Hog's Day, a time that according to lore predicts how many more weeks of winter are left. Most people hope that "Punxsutawney Phil" will not see his shadow when he peeks out of his hiding hole. That is supposed to mean that a shorter winter and milder weather are on the horizon.

There is another event that takes place in February and that is "Presidents' Day," when we remember and give thanks to God for good presidents like George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. "Presidents' Day" is a reminder that as citizens of this great and

God has done so much for us in Christ. We can offer only our thanks and praise and that is best expressed when we live as God's stewards *"freely and joyfully managing all of life and life's resources for His purposes."*

May all that we do in giving of our time, talent and treasure reflect our love and loyalty to our God who first loved us! (1 John 4:19)

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Acolyte Schedule

Feb 1 - Emily Tyrrell	974-3959
Feb 8 - David Brevik	575-4030
Feb 15 - Lindsay Tyrrell	974-3959
Feb 22 - Shayna Monson	483-7916
Mar 1 - Tayler Johnson	483-8866
Mar 8 - Kelsie Tyrrell	974-3959
Mar 15 - Reed Johnson	483-8866

Mar 22 - Lindsay Tyrrell
Mar 29 - Kacy Schaper

974-3959
483-6715

Please make arrangements with someone else on the list if you are unable to serve for your assigned Sunday.



You can find us at www.redeemerdickinson.org - many of the areas are still under construction so if you have info that would help get it completed please email the church.

Our Youth Group had a great time skating!



We welcome all the youth of our congregation to join us for our monthly events! February will be a bible study/movie day!



FEBRUARY

- 2 - Barb Silkey
- 4 - Brett Biel
 - Eric Brevik
 - Kody Johnson
- 6 - Lisa Wolters
- 8 - Gail Urbanec
- 9 - Mike Krueger
- 10 - Delvin Zubke
- 11 - Arlene Green
- 12 - Caleb Neubaureur
- 14 - Brian Dvorak
- 15 - Jessica Siefken
 - Lindsay Tyrrell
- 18 - Roger Grau



- Robert J. Siefken
- 20 - Alexis Stickel
- 22 - Betty Anton
- 25 - Justin Hellickson
- 26 - Greg Schneider
- 27 - Ethan Erdman



- 3 - George & Florence Koeplin
- 5 - Jim & Ellen Becker
- 12 - Rick & Quita Hartfiel



“Love
the LORD
your God
with all your
heart...soul
...mind and...
strength.”

Mark 12:30

