

# WORD ALIVE!

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52 SELECTED SERMONS BY DALE A. MEYER



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*A Celebration of Worship and the Word  
from over 40 Years of Ministry*

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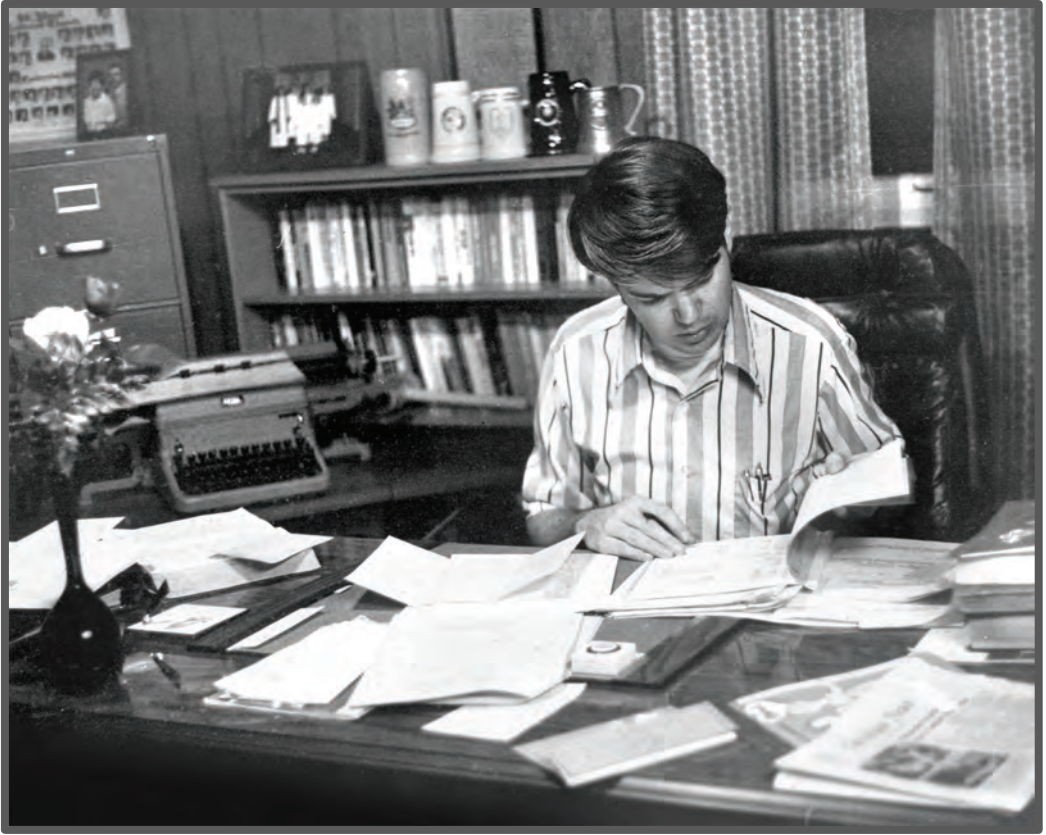
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## Week 33 – Don't Forget!

*Delivered at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Chicago, Illinois  
August 23, 1970*

Text – Luke 10:27

And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”



### Prayer

*Lord, help us to love You more and more with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind. You haven't forgotten us but we often forget You as we go about our daily lives. Our forgetfulness shows when we don't love our neighbor according to Your commandments. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, and give us Your Holy Spirit so that we will remember You as we go about the tasks of this new week. Amen.*



Grace to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ!

Our sermon this morning is based upon both the Gospel and Epistle lessons which were read before. I call your attention especially to these words: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”

One of the most common questions in our day-to-day living begins with, “Did you forget...?” Wives ask their husbands, “Did you forget to cash your check?” “Did you forget to make a doctor's appointment?” And parents ask their son or daughter, “Did you forget what time we told you to be in last night?” This morning in our sermon, we're going to ask whether God has forgotten you and me, His children, and then we will hear His answer. May the Holy Spirit be with

us in the coming minutes, that we may grow stronger in our faith and remember more and more to put our faith into practice during the week.

First, then: Has God forgotten you and me? In the hustle and bustle of modern life, it often seems just that way. We were created to live in the peaceful and green Garden of Eden, but today we live in the noise and smoke of concrete and steel cities. We were created to live at peace with all creatures, but today we can't even live at peace with ourselves. We were created above all to live as children of our heavenly Father, but today all too many people have forgotten the God who created them. It doesn't seem to make sense. The Church has always said that God is good, but look at all the troubles in the world today. Has God forgotten us?

Or perhaps we should ask: Have we forgotten God? The trouble with the world today might not be that God has forgotten us, but that you and I have forgotten God. Have you? Many times in our lives, we have made promises to remember God and His will for us. We've often thought, *Yes, I want to love the Lord my God with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my strength, and with all my mind. And I want to love my neighbor as myself.* But have we always remembered to do that? If you're like me, the answer is *no*. We forget God so many times every day. For example, do you remember yesterday when you swore? Yet God has told you, *don't forget*, "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain" (Exodus 20:7). Or do you remember yesterday when you were idly gossiping about so-and-so behind her back? Yet God has told you, *don't forget*, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor" (Exodus 20:16). Or do you remember yesterday when an immoral thought crossed your mind? Yet God said, *don't forget*, "You shall not commit adultery" (Exodus 20:14). We could go on and on and on. It comes down to this: You and I haven't loved the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind. And we haven't loved our neighbor as ourselves. Yes – all too often, we have forgotten God.

God's Law tells us that the trouble with the world today is with us, and not with God. God is still good, and He still offers His promises of life. But God's good promises of life are given in only one way – through our Savior from sin and death, Jesus Christ. This is the Good News for you and me and our troubled world. The answer to finding the fulfillment of God's promises is not by ending pollution, or stopping a war, or anything else we might come up with to solve.

The only answer for modern living is the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He came down to earth and lived the kind of life that you and I could never live. Where we break the commandments, our Lord has kept them all. Where we deserve to die the death of sinners, Christ died for our sins so we might live as God's forgiven people. Where we should fear the grave, Christ was raised by the Father to overcome the grave. No, God has not forgotten you and me. The proof is present for all to see – the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

God hasn't forgotten, and you and I know this by faith. We hear again and again the words of God's promise of forgiveness in Jesus Christ as they are preached and taught – and we believe. By faith we remember that God never forgets His people. No longer do we think quite so highly of ourselves, but by faith we believe the Good News that Jesus Christ lived and died for us. We need to guard and strengthen that faith. That's why we come to church each week – to strengthen our faith in our Savior. That's why we read, or should read, the Scriptures every day – to strengthen our faith in our Savior. That's why we pray, or should pray, every day – to strengthen our faith in our Savior. For the promises of God are given to those who have faith in Jesus Christ.

Now, we have said so far that God has not forgotten you and me, but has sent His Son to die for us, and by faith we remember this Good News. But what does this mean for us when we have to face a rough world every day of the week? It means: *Don't forget God this week!* Put your Sunday morning faith into practice Monday through Saturday. Our Savior tells us just how to do that: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." Don't forget your God. He suffered and died for you. Let your love for Him guide you in all you do this week, whether it be working, playing, or praying. And don't forget your neighbor. When he needs help, lend a hand. If you can cheer her up, do so. If you can share his sadness, do that. If you can tell her about your faith, do that. And who is your neighbor? Her, and him, and her, and me, and people who aren't Lutheran, and people who aren't even Christian, white people, black people, and yellow people. Our Lord tells us that everyone is our neighbor.

People often tell each other not to forget this or that. This morning, the Holy Spirit is telling you and me, *don't forget to* "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind,

and your neighbor as yourself.” Don’t forget – because your Savior Jesus Christ didn’t forget you, but loved you enough to suffer and die for your sins.

*The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Amen.*



## For Further Reflection

**“You shall have no other gods.”** (First Commandment)

- Put yourself in the story – Genesis 17:1; Exodus 32; Isaiah 42:8; Proverbs 8:13; Matthew 4:10; Luke 16:19-31
- What God does for us – Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 3:13-17; Hebrews 9:14; 2 Corinthians 13:14
- Therefore, “We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.”<sup>1</sup> – Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Proverbs 3:5; Psalm 139:23-24; Psalm 73:25-26.

*Lord, Thee I love with all my heart;  
I pray Thee, ne'er from me depart,  
With tender mercy cheer me.  
Earth has no pleasure I would share.  
Yea, heaven itself were void and bare  
If Thou, Lord, wert not near me.  
And should my heart for sorrow break,  
My trust in Thee can nothing shake.  
Thou art the portion I have sought;  
Thy precious blood my soul has bought.  
Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord,  
Forsake me not! I trust Thy Word.<sup>2</sup>*



## Retrospective

*Ordinarily, a seminarian preaches in churches only after having completed the first course in homiletics, a fancy word for preaching taken from the Greek word for conversation (Luke 24:14). I had that first course during the 1969-1970 academic year, and preached this sermon the following summer, just before beginning my second year at the Seminary. I'll never forget how scared I was when I first began preaching, but I got into it. I thank the pastors who gave me opportunities to substitute for them. This was one of those preaching opportunities to help me get my "pulpit legs." What students learn in preaching classes needs to be practiced, or their newfound skills and learning will slip away. So thanks to every pastor who welcomes our seminarians into his pulpit!*

*About to read this sermon almost 50 years later, I was anxious. What will I find? Relieved to find the doctrine correct, I also noticed several "tricks of the trade" – the preaching techniques that I learned as a young student, and still use and teach to seminarians. One example: There are many parallelisms and antitheses in this sermon. That simply means you say something positive with several similarly constructed sentences, though using slightly different wording (parallelism). Similarly, if you're saying something negative to highlight the positive, you make that contrast with several sentences, again with slightly different wording (antitheses). This device of oral style has several benefits. It makes the task of memorizing easier for the preacher because in delivery you know you're about to say the same thing in several ways, rather than several different thoughts. Most importantly, it makes it easier for the hearer to get the point. Just because I've said something once, doesn't mean you've heard it. If I say it several times in different ways, you will hear the basic point. I don't expect the people to work through the sermon with me. They pay the pastor to do the work! Our job is to be as persuasive as possible, so the Holy Spirit can plant and nurture faith in their hearts. "Tricks of the*

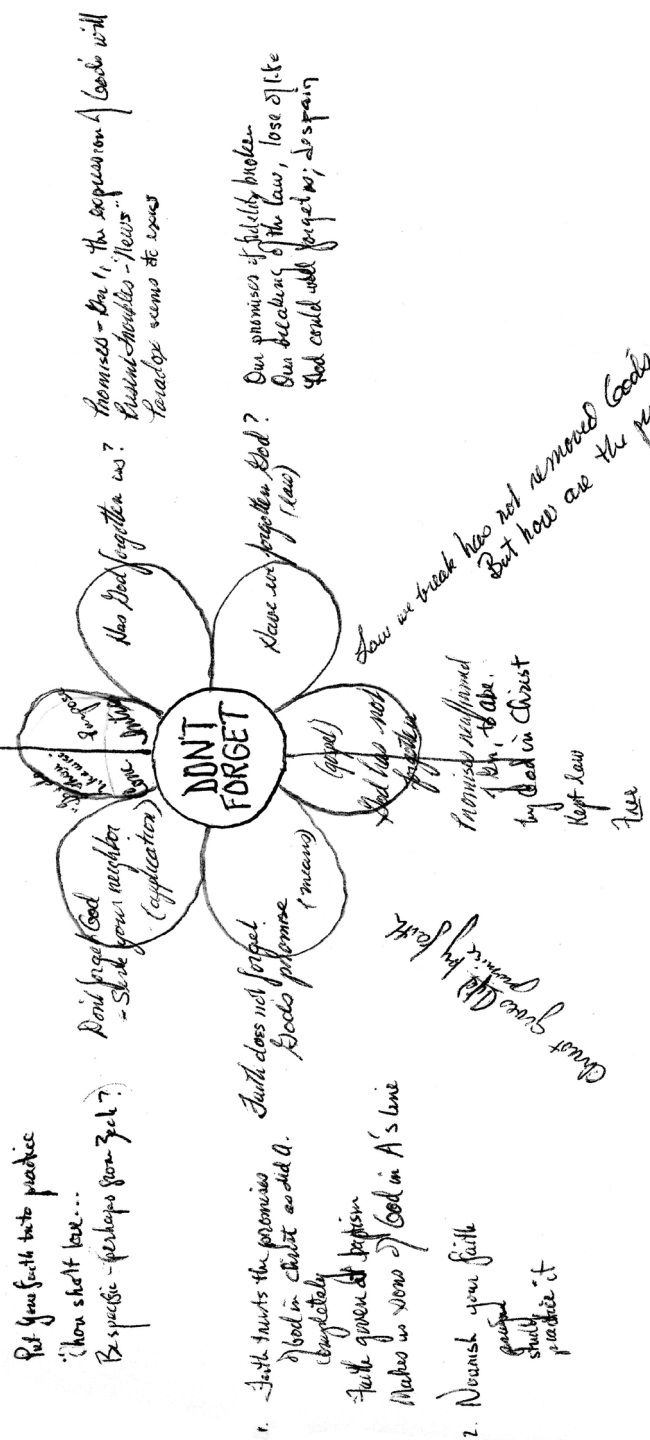
*trade,” used in service of the text and pastoral care of souls, can give the Spirit more room to work on hearers’ hearts.*

*These days, students sometimes ask if I’m nervous when I’m about to preach – nervous because it’s the Word of God. No, I say, that fear of God should be dealt with in my studies and devotion. I usually enter the pulpit eager to preach. My anxiety is that I’ve studied, outlined, written, and memorized well, and that I’ll execute to the best of my ability so the Spirit can work conviction. Martin Luther said that you should never pray the Lord’s Prayer when you leave the pulpit because you shouldn’t pray “forgive us our trespasses” after preaching God’s Word.<sup>3</sup> Entering and leaving the pulpit, the focus is on the audience, that they will “fear, love, and trust in God above all things.”<sup>1</sup>*

*How interesting, this flower outline! (See next page.) A homiletics (preaching) professor, Andrew Weyermann, taught it to us and I still teach it to students. In school, we're taught outlining that starts at the top of the page, Roman numeral I, then II, and so on. That's fine for something to be read, but for people who are not reading but listening, and listening at the mercy of the speaker, it's important to keep bringing the hearers back to the central thought of the sermon. The flower outline does that. Each petal should relate in an obvious way to the center, the central thought. Furthermore, if one "petal" does not relate directly to the central thought, you don't need it. Take it out. These days, almost 50 years later, I usually don't draw out a flower outline for my sermons, but I'm disciplined to make sure each paragraph relates directly to the central thought. That's one of the benefits of aging in preaching or any craft; you instinctively and more efficiently do things that in earlier years took more time and work. The moral for young preachers: Do the details you've learned in seminary until they become your own instincts.*

*The church bulletin (p. 309) brings back memories. Rev. Weber, the pastor of St. Peter's, wouldn't have known me from the man in the moon, but he was a friend of my 3<sup>rd</sup>- and 4<sup>th</sup>-grade teacher, Mr. Clifford Braun. Hence the invitation to preach. I'm glad to know that St. Peter's is still serving its South Chicago neighborhood. Take a look at the youth car wash. \$1.25 per car, but if you had whitewalls, 25 cents more! By the way, that car wash was August 29th, Diane's birthday. We would meet two years later, and the rest of the story is history!*

People, DON'T FORGET your God II I God, DON'T FORGET your people



Put your faith into practice  
"how shall we...  
Be specific - perhaps from Zech.?"

Don't forget God  
- Start your morning  
(application)

How God forgets us?

Promises - Gen 1, the suspension of Gen 2 will  
be...  
Paradox seems to exist

DON'T FORGET

Faith does not forget  
God's promise  
(means)

Have we forgotten God?  
Our promises of fidelity broken  
Our breakings of the law, loss of life  
that could well forget us; despair

1. Faith trusts the promises  
of God in Christ as did A.  
(completely)  
Faith grows stronger by faith  
Makes us strong of God in A's love

2. Nourish your faith  
practice it

Faith grows stronger by faith

Law we break has not removed God's promises  
But how are the promises given?  
Promises reaffirmed  
by God in Christ  
Kept law  
Free

God has not forgotten



Vol. 13 SAINT PETER'S No. 34

EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

Eighty-Sixth and Kedvale Ave.

W. M. Weber, Pastor

P. E. Wackenhuth, Minister of Music

Parsonage: Phone: Church - 582-0470  
8555 S. Keeler Ave. Parsonage - 585-2912

DIVINE WORSHIP: 8:15 and 11:00 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASS: 9:45 A.M.

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY - August 23, 1970

Epistle, Gal. 3:15-22 Gospel, Luke 10:23-37

MUSIC FOR WORSHIP:

Prelude: "We Now Implore God the Holy Ghost"  
Walther

Voluntary: "Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart"  
Alberti

Postlude: Finale, from Sonata VI Mendelssohn

8:15 and 11:00 A.M. Worship  
HYMNS: 231 - 442 - 45

TODAY'S WORSHIP speaks of the covenant which God made to Abraham. The words of the introit petition God to remember His covenant of mercy to us. The promises of the covenant are obtained when—in the words of the collect—we "love that which Thou command." The law which Christ gave us was to love our neighbor, as exemplified in today's Gospel lesson of the good Samaritan. The old law, given to Moses, was given—as Paul explains in the epistle for today—"till the Seed should come;" now that the Seed (Christ) has come, we are to be "Christ's" to our neighbor. For He says: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me." (Today's propers are found on page 78 in the hymnal.)

FOR YOUR MEDITATION:

Hymns 397, 439, 440 or other hymns of consecration and stewardship.

OUR GUEST PREACHER today and next Sunday is Dale Meyer, student at Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis and member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Chicago Heights. We welcome him into our midst in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A CAR WASH will be held on Saturday, August 29th, from 9:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M., sponsored by Youth in Action. Proceeds will help them finance their retreat to Walcamp. Donation is \$1.25 (25¢ extra for whitewalls).

# “FOR THE WORD OF GOD IS LIVING AND ACTIVE...”

Hebrews 4:12

From the pulpits of small country churches, large urban congregations, and the seminary chapel — and across the airwaves as Speaker of *The Lutheran Hour* — Dr. Dale A. Meyer has been bringing God's Word to the people for over 40 years. These 52 inspirational sermons, spanning decades of Dr. Meyer's ministry, will encourage, comfort, and challenge you through God's living and active Word!

**“A pure passion for preaching! That’s what you’ll find as you ‘hear’ the Word of God shared in this collection for daily devotions and inspirational reading!”**

- Patti Ross, President, Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML)

**“Thought-provoking, insightful, Christ-centered... Dr. Meyer brings sound theology down to earth with sincerity, humor, and love for the people of God.”**

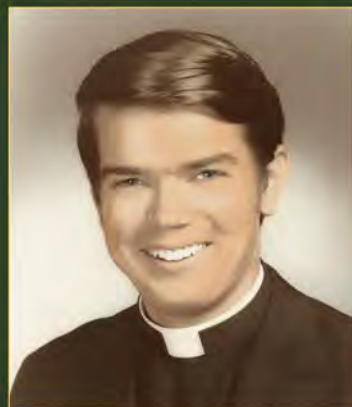
- Karen Shimkus, Retired Director of Music, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Collinsville, IL

**“A feast for the soul and encouraging direction for daily living! Dr. Meyer preaches with childlike wonder, scholarly precision, and the heart of a pastor.”**

- Rev. Dr. Thomas R. Ahlersmeyer, Senior Pastor, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, IN

**“Relatable. Inspirational. Memorable. Dr. Meyer points us to a stronger confidence in our Lord Jesus, and motivates us for faithful service in His name.”**

- Rev. Craig Reiter, Pastor, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Ste. Genevieve, MO; 2017 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis



Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer currently serves as President of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO. He was the Speaker of *The Lutheran Hour* radio program from 1989 to 2001. Dr. Meyer continues to be a beloved and well-known preacher and conference speaker. He and his wife, Diane, have two grown daughters and five grandchildren.



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