

NEWSLETTER

Time To Grow

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UPCOMING DATES

June 2
Elders Meeting

June 5
Community Lunch

June 9
Church Council

June 12
Bible Academy
starts

Songwriters have used it. Thinkers have used it. Investors have used it. You probably have used it yourself. Even Jesus Christ used it. Used what? They used the picture of planting seeds to make a point. Jesus told a story about planting seeds. Recorded for us in Mark 4:3-8, this simple story speaks volumes for our lives.

Jesus teaches us that seeds are being planted in hearts at worship services each Sunday. That's also what is happening in a children's Sunday school lesson—seeds are being planted in their hearts. That's what is happening when you learn what the Bible teaches—seeds are being planted in your own heart. They are being planted by God through his Word.

Seeds need time to grow. In springtime, when gardens are first planted, there's not much to see. Yet, as every gardener knows, when it comes to seeds, it takes time. As sunlight warms the moist earth where seeds are embedded, seeds take time to sprout and grow.

Sometimes, a person checks out a church one Sunday and decides not to go back. But that's not much time to let the seeds sown that Sunday grow, is it? Sometimes, people are glad to attend a particular Bible class or workshop at a church. But when it is done, they lose interest. In a way, they are like a child who excitedly plants a seed in a foam cup and waters it regularly. But a couple of days later, the child forgets about it, and the seed dries up.

Sometimes a person goes to worship regularly so that the seeds of God's Word start to grow, but then he lets the cares of life grow up like thorns. They crowd out time for the Word, and so the planting of faith in his soul gets the life choked out of it.

Jesus said, "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times"

-- Mark 4:3-8



But sometimes, an amazing thing happens. The person keeps coming back to hear the Word. And the seeds grow and keep growing. The plant of faith is made strong by God's complete forgiveness won by Jesus. It flourishes under God's unconditional love given in Jesus and is made resilient by heaven's guarantee paid for by Jesus.

Season of Pentecost Divine Service Themes

The phrase “from the top down” is often used to denote a hierarchical system of management or governance. The will and beliefs and directives of those “at the top” are imposed—sometimes aggressively, sometimes even oppressively—on those below. From the top town.

We have entered the second half of the Church Year, the half that focuses on the teachings of the Christian faith. We will see that Christianity is very much a top-down faith. Christian teachings come “from the top down,” but not in the sense that those teachings are oppressively imposed on us. When we call Christianity a “top-down faith,” we mean that it tells us things about God that are so beautiful and good—teachings that couldn’t possibly have originated from human thinking. The Christian faith contains teachings that are so wonderful that we would never even believe them unless God himself revealed their truthfulness to us. So, God sent his Spirit from heaven to earth—from the top down—to empower his children to believe that which would otherwise be totally unbelievable.

June Worship

- ✠ June 2nd – Second Sunday after Pentecost – Rest Is A Gift, Not Something To Be Earned
- ✠ June 9th – Third Sunday after Pentecost – The Devil Does His Worst, Yet Jesus Always Wins
- ✠ June 16th – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost – From The Tiniest Seed Grows The Largest Kingdom
- ✠ June 23rd – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – Our Gracious God Is With Us Through All The Storms Of Life
- ✠ June 30th -- Sixth Sunday after Pentecost – The Living Lord Completely Changes Our View Of Death

Summer Schedule

Service time on Sundays remains the same. A short family Bible class will be held after treats and coffee. Thursday evening services will be held at 7:00 p.m. and is the same as the Sunday that follows it. The final Thursday service of the summer will be on August 29th.

Christian Life Ministries Baby Bottle Fundraiser

We will again do the baby bottle fundraiser for Christian Life Ministries beginning Mother’s Day, May 12th to Father’s Day, June 16th. You can either take a baby bottle home or give a donation, writing a check to Immanuel with Christian Life Ministries on the memo line.

Community Lunch

The evangelism committee will host a community lunch on Wednesday, June 5th from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. We will be sharing information about our congregation as well as distributing invitations for our summer Bible and music lessons.

Lawn Mowing

A sign-up sheet for the lawn mowing is posted in the narthex. Please consider helping out. If you have any questions about using the lawn mower or getting into the shed, please speak with Scott Claussen, Jim Buffington or pastor.

Pill Bottle Collection

Thank you to all participated in our recent pill bottle collection. We will be sending approximately 250 medicine bottles to Malawi.

A Meditation on the Address of the Lord’s Prayer Written by Professor Em. Daniel Deutschlander and adapted for use at Immanuel.

The Address: *Our Father who art in heaven*

Father, dear Father! That’s what I dare to call you. For out of your inestimable grace and mercy it has pleased you to call me your child. In spite of the sin and shame in which I was conceived and born, you adopted me to be your own. Yes, and you did it not by laying aside your own holiness. You did it by sending your only begotten Son to bear my sin and shame and then to wash it all way in the sacred flood of Baptism. Purchased by his blood, washed and reclaimed by your free grace in the Sacrament, I now dare to call you *Father, dear Father*.

And such a Father you are! You dwell in heaven, high above all earthly toil and turmoil. Over it all you reign and rule. So exalted and powerful are you that I, your child and a joint heir with your beloved Son, my Savior, need fear nothing in time or in eternity. You will not and can never abandon or forsake me. Too precious was the price you paid for my redemption, too dear the blood that bought me.

Yes, Father, dear Father, you who inhabit the praises of the saints and angels in heaven, you bring me a glimpse of your glory in heaven even now. For where is there a heaven on earth? It is not in perishing wealth or fleeting popularity. It is not in perfect health that one day is here and tomorrow gone. It is not in any earthly joy or success or prosperity, as thankful as I am to you for these when you send them. No, you give me a glimpse of heaven whenever you draw near to me in your Word and sacraments. There I see Jesus, my brother. There I hear his sweet voice assuring me that all of his holiness is mine when sin is forgiven. There I see him when he comes with his own true body and blood to feed my soul that longs alone for his presence. There he raises me up with the assurance that those who come to him he will never, no never cast out.

Church Council Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2024

Members Present: Rollie Nissen, Jim Buffington, Kent Larson, Tom Jurgenson, Pastor Engel, Jay Remmele

MMSP = Motion Made, Seconded, Passed

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nissen at 11:25 a.m.

Opened with the Lord's Prayer.

Agenda: MMSP to accept the agenda with the addition of Church Clean Up under Trustees

Secretary's Report:

- MMSP to accept the minutes from March 10, 2024 council meeting as presented
- MMSP to accept the minutes from March 24, 2024 special council meeting as presented

Reports of Officers and Standing Committees

Chairman's Report: No report

Elders Report:

- There have been some discussions on adjusting communion delivery to make it easier on the distributors.
- MMSP to release Alvin DeVries and Jenna Hentges (see Remmele) from membership.

Trustees Report:

- The lawn mowing list will be posted soon.
- Church cleanup will be Saturday, April 27, 9:00 a.m.

Financial Secretary's Report: MMSP to accept the Financial Secretary's report as presented.

Treasurer's Report: MMSP to accept the Treasurer's report subject to audit.

Planned Giving: No report. The next quarterly meeting is in May.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor will be gone 5-2 through 5-6 if he can find a replacement for the service.
- Pastor thanks the council and congregation for allowing him to attend the ministry retreat.
- There was discussion on the Minnesota Human Rights Act as it was currently being discussed by the MN house and senate and how it would affect our church and other churches if passed in its current state.

Old Business and Action Committees

AV Committee: The downstairs TVs are now connected.

New Business

Church Pews:

- Todd received an estimate of \$1,050 per pew to replace the eleven darker pews with lighter pews which would match our current lighter colored pews.
- Total cost of pews \$11,550
- There was discussion on current funds gifted to pews and future gifts or CPGC funds.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- May 12, 2024 at 11:30 am council meeting
- June 9, 2024 at 10:30 am council meeting
- July 14, 2024 at 10:30 am council meeting
- July 21, 2024 at 10:30 am voters' meeting

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Closed with the blessing.

Respectfully,

Jay Remmele, Recording Secretary

Crow River Circuit Spring Rally

Was held April 27th and was hosted by Trinity Mt. Olive Lutheran of Johnson. Pastor Main led the devotion, and Pastor Newmann presented the Bible study. The guest speaker was Pastor Ben Tomczak of Sioux Falls, SD, who shared the background process that initiated the plan to send WELS missionaries to Australia this summer.

All are invited to attend the International Convention in June at Sioux Falls, SD and the Fall Rally in Alexandria, MN. Members can follow the circuit by joining the LWMS Crow River Circuit Facebook page.



A Meditation on the Address of the Lord's Prayer

(Continued from Page 2)

As an earthly father disciplines his children when they misbehave, so you also show your love by discipline when I stray from humble obedience to your Word. Ah, but this is my comfort in the suffering that you send to me as a result of my sins: You never send the full consequences of my sin, else I would perish forever. You chasten me neither too much nor too little as an earthly father often does. You are not fickle or arbitrary in your fatherly acts in my life. Always you are the perfect Father, the Father who sees everything, knows everything and then acts in love to bring me to repentance and to draw me ever closer to you. What an amazing thing that is! With all world before you, the great and the small, the pious and the wicked, you never run out of time or wisdom or energy to act as my heavenly Father!

What a delight then it is for me to address you, Father, dear Father, you who are in heaven and you who by Word and sacraments brings heaven so close to me. Unseen and veiled is now the view. But that does not make it any less real. And so, prompted by your Word and trusting in your promise, I dare to claim you as my Father and to now draw near to you, exalted as you are in the heaven above the heavens. For as far as that may be, you are nevertheless as near as your Word and promise on which I rely and in which I place my trust. So then, dear Father, hear me as I pray.



SUMMER BIBLE AND MUSIC ACADEMY

Hello, Parents and Families!

I am so thrilled to begin working with your children this summer through Immanuel's summer music program! My name is Emma Berg, and I am a current student at Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota. I have completed four out of my five years at MLC and will complete my student-teaching experiences next school year. I am a double major in Elementary Education and Secondary Education, emphasizing Vocal Music. When I graduate in May of 2025, I will be licensed to teach in the general education classroom from K-8 and vocal music from K-12.



At MLC, I have been blessed to continue my musical studies in my classes and extracurriculars. I have taken four years of organ lessons: two years with Mrs. Joyce Schubkegel and two years with Mrs. Kate Carlovsky. While I am still most comfortable with piano, my organ skills will continue to improve with practice and experience. I have taken voice lessons for four years with Ms. Jenny Haugen, and learning from her has been such a joy and blessing. Along with the voice lessons, I've taken a vocal pedagogy course to further my understanding of the science behind the human voice. I've also had the blessing of being a part of College Choir at MLC and have toured many states, sharing the Gospel in song with many of our sisters and brothers in Christ.

I pray that God will continue to use my gifts to his glory as I work with your children this summer. I will be offering private voice, piano, and beginning organ lessons to any students who want to learn and grow in these areas. All levels are welcome, especially those who are just starting. I will be running Immanuel's VBS this summer as well. Please consider signing your children (or yourself) up for these lessons!

Music is a wonderful gift, and I cannot wait to experience it together this summer. Sing to the Lord a new song! Soli Deo Gloria!

Blessings,

Emma Berg

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*As a father shows compassion
to his children, so the LORD shows
compassion to those who fear him.*



PSALM 103:13, ESV