

The Royal Messenger

From the desk of Pastor Olsen:

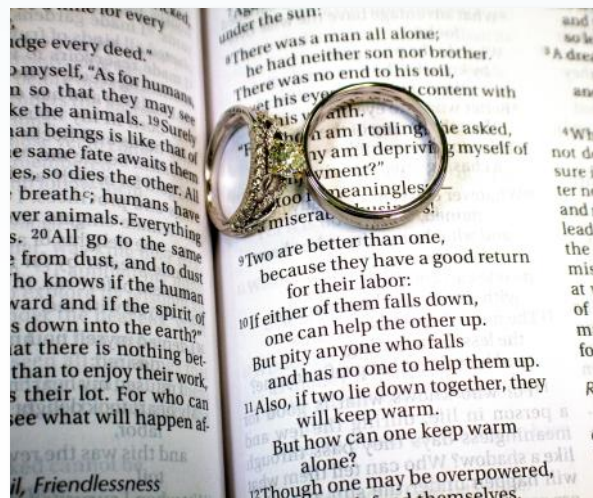
Beginning's End

"Closing time, every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end."

Song writer Dan Wilson, upon realizing he was going to be a father, recognized that the song he was writing was inspired by the birth of his daughter. When you think about this line, one can certainly see how fatherhood would be the beginning of another end in a stage of his life. When asked, Dan stated that his song is about "joy and possibilities and new beginnings."

This is the time of the year for closings and new beginnings. The end of the school year is like that. Graduations, whether they are from grade schools or high schools or colleges, mark the beginning of some other beginning's end. It is not a stretch to say that with the number of graduations going on, we see the endings of one time in life and the beginning of another.

It is also a season of endings and new beginnings for those who are getting married. Recently I had the joy of attending the wedding of Haley, our most recent Deaconess field-worker. The reception was held at Emmaus on a Saturday, then the very next day we had a Sunday afternoon wedding for Jesse and Theresa Steinbacher. People often joke, "Well, this is the end of your freedom." The reality is quite different. **Actually, this is the beginning of your freedom!** There is a real freedom that one is afforded in marriage that sees the ending of being single and the start of a commitment, a support, a companionship, a trust, that brings about freedom, that those who are not married lack.



If you don't believe me, then consider that marriage is intended to point to Christ and His bride the Church. There is no greater freedom than to be in Christ, to be reconciled, redeemed and restored by the Bridegroom who gave His life for the freedom from sin, death and the power of the devil to His bride. Clearly, those who are not in Christ, lack the freedom they so desperate need. This freedom is afforded to you in the waters of Baptism.

"Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end." Baptism is the end of the old life, the end of the hostile takeover of the power of sin, the end of the reign of Satan in your life and even the end of the power of death! **Baptism is a new beginning that comes from the end of your life without Christ!** It is a new beginning that brings forth all the gifts that the Bridegroom lavishes upon His bride. As one who is baptized, each day is that new beginning as the old Adam is drowned daily and dies, raising up the new once again.

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Lamentations reminds us of God's mercies which are new each morning. Lamentations, that's right, in Lam. 3:23, right in the middle of the entire book, we are reminded of the abundance of God's mercy that is shown upon us each and every morning we wake. His mercies, His forgiveness, marks the end of the reign of sin or guilt and shame. It is a new life!

Have you ever thought about Confession and Absolution or The Lord's Supper in this manner? Each time you confess your sin, in worship or in private confession and absolution, each time you receive the very body and blood of Christ upon your lips, that forgiveness is a new life, the old has passed away.

The forgiveness won for you by the shedding of the blood of your Savior has brought you a new beginning. This is what the forgiveness of Christ affords, for where there is forgiveness there is life and salvation. (Go back to your Small Catechism and check this out!)

We are entering into a new season in the church year, the season of Pentecost. We watch and learn of a new birth, the birth of the Church. Christ has ascended, sitting at the right hand of the Father, and now the Spirit is sent forth into the world:

"Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem." Luke 24:46-47

These are Jesus' words as He appears to His disciples following His resurrection. **It is the end of the reign of death and the beginning of life forever in Christ.** Repentance and forgiveness will be proclaimed, preached, in the only name by which we are forgiven, Jesus Christ, starting from Jerusalem and reaching out to the entire world.

This is also a season of ordinations. Men who have been trained to be shepherds, to preach and administer that blessed gift of forgiveness to God's people by His authority, to exercise the Office of the Keys and properly Called according to good order within our Church body, are being ordained into The Holy Ministry and installed in their first congregations. These men of God will now get to administer the end of the old and the beginning of the new.

But there is one final ending and one final beginning that awaits all of us. No, I am NOT speaking of death. For us, death is the doorway to eternal life. In death we still have a problem. Yes, you read that correctly, we still have a problem even though we know we die and go to heaven to be with Jesus. We leave something behind, something we are separated from that was not intended at Creation but is a result of the wages of sin. Our bodies lie in the ground until the resurrection of all flesh on the last day. **The day when Christ returns to judge the living and the dead, the resurrection that Job spoke about so many years ago, that the Apostle Paul declares so joyfully and hopefully that awaits us.** It is the final ending and the last beginning.

Listen to these words of Paul from the great resurrection chapter of 1 Corinthians 15:51-57:

"Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Continued . . .



What great joy! What great hope! **What great Good News! This is the ending and the beginning we await and yet, we already have this in our grasp!** Yes, you have this inheritance given to you, this gift of bodily, resurrected, perfected life forever in Christ, given to you in Baptism. This is your hope and future! This is the promise made to you by God Himself, and as He never failed on any of His promises, this promise is yours now and not yet fully realized until He returns.

But I would be amiss if I ended this article here, because verse 57 is not actually the end of that chapter! There is an oft forgotten verse, a verse that gets overlooked because of all the wonderful Good News that was just given. We should not overlook it. After giving all of this joy and hope, Paul speaks to the Church in Corinth with a "Therefore." In other words, in knowing all of this, in believing this truth, in knowing the work of Christ that has come and has yet to come, St. Paul declares in verse 58,

"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

You see our work here has NOT ended! There is work yet to be done, a good work that is not in vain because it is work done in the Lord! **We are all called, not just pastors, not just teachers, but each of us as the body of Christ, beloved brothers and sisters, to be steadfast.** This Greek word here can also mean to be firm, standing strong. Until Christ calls you home, you have work yet to do, a good work, a necessary work, a work that is done in the Lord.

This work that you do comes from a new beginning, the new beginning in Christ, a baptized child of God, a child who has been created by God's handiwork, redeemed by Christ by His blood, and sanctified by the work of the Holy Spirit. In this work that you accomplish for your neighbor in love, you do so knowing that in Him, that labor, that work, is NOT in vain.

Out of the great love that has been poured out upon you and the ultimate new beginning that you have yet to look forward to, a promise given and make perfect in Christ, you joyfully work in love for your neighbor. You do so as one who is Baptized into Christ, the One who is both the beginning and the end! **AMEN.**

Blessings in the Resurrected and Ascended Christ,



Pastor Olsen

EMMAUS LUTHERAN CHURCH

125
YEARS

1900 - 2025

Join us as we
celebrate God's
faithfulness and the
blessings He has
bestowed on us in
the past, present,
and future!

SEPT 14
2025

Church & School Picnic Celebration.

Divine Service at 10 am with the picnic
to follow.

SEPT 21
PRESENT

The **Rev. Benjamin T. Ball**, second vice-
president and a member of the
Praesidium of The Lutheran Church—
Missouri Synod (LCMS), will guest
preach.

NOV 23
FUTURE

Rev. Gunnar Campbell, former Emmaus
fieldworker, will guest preach. He
currently serves at Christ Lutheran
Church in Jacob, Illinois.

Congratulations

on the Confirmation of your Faith



Cecilia Diehm
with parents Eric and Tiffany



SUNDAY † 5 MAY † AT 9 AM

Women's Guild Update

First, we want to say a special **THANK YOU** to all who helped with the Easter Breakfast - those who set up, prepped food, baked, and helped clean up. We served 104 and have donated money set aside for the 125th anniversary expenses.

Pizza Hut discount cards are still available, and there are two months yet until expiration. See Mary Lunz if you need any for yourself or for gifts.

Our **annual church picnic** will be shared with school families this year and be held on **September 14**. Details will follow as the date gets closer.

We have scheduled an extra Guild meeting on **Wednesday, August 13th** at 9:00am for picnic planning. Mark your calendars now to attend and help with the plans.

The Guild will be taking a break for most of the summer, as we usually do. Our final meeting before the end of our service year is: **Wednesday, June 11th** at 9:00am at Joanna's Restaurant, 3720 W. Jefferson Blvd. to celebrate our labors. Please plan to attend.

Blessing to all for a safe and restful summer!
Barb Kanning, Secretary



Church Office

Summer Hours

Beginning Monday, June 9, to Friday, August 8, the Church Office will be open Monday to Thursday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, and on Friday from 9:00 am to Noon.

Independence Day

The church Office will be closed on Friday, July 4th. We hope everyone has a safe, enjoyable holiday!



Letter from the Principal

Another School Year Comes to a Close.

As the final days of school have passed and the once-bustling halls now rest in peaceful quiet, we take a moment to reflect on an incredible year filled with learning, growth, and countless moments of joy.

We proudly celebrated our **8th Grade Graduation**, honoring a remarkable class of students who are now stepping confidently into their next chapter. From Field Day fun to meaningful moments during our final Chapel at the Cross, this year ended with spirit and grace.

Throughout the year, students enjoyed memorable field trips, including a special **class trip to Washington, D.C.** that brought history to life. We were thrilled by student talent in musical performances, cheered on our teams during athletic events, and even welcomed local heroes for an exciting **K-9 demonstration** that left a lasting impression.

We are deeply thankful for the unwavering support of the church community, whose prayers, presence, and partnership continue to bless our mission and enrich the lives of our students.

Now, with the classrooms quiet and our students beginning their well-earned summer break, **we pause to say thank you**—to our families, teachers, staff, and supporters. You've made this year unforgettable.

We look forward to welcoming you back in the fall for another year of faith, learning, and community.

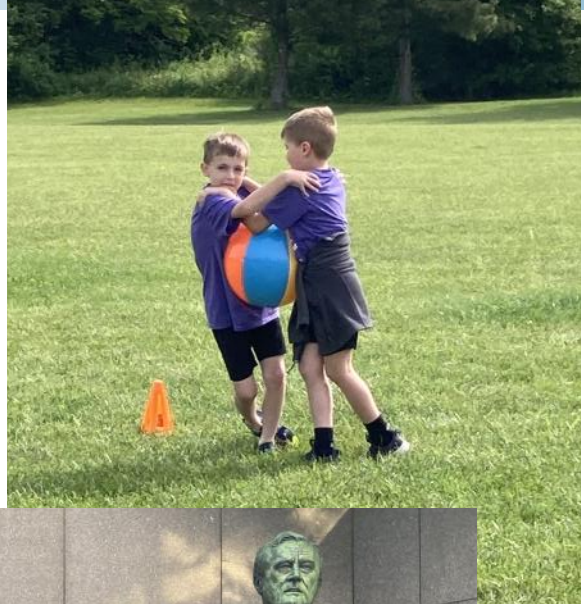
Blessings,
Esther Spanos, Principal



Sukhman Nagra, an 8th grade graduate, receives his diploma from Principal Spanos, School Board Chair Sam Rose, Rev. Olsen, and 8th grade teacher Mrs. Stockinger.



Teachers, church members, family, and friends congratulate the 8th grade graduates.



News from Preschool

On Tuesday, May 27 we closed out another year with our **Closing Program and PreKindergarten graduation service**. Each class sang two songs that they had enjoyed throughout the year. These songs included Jesus songs, Christmas songs and silly songs. They showed their parents how they knew the Pledge of Allegiance and The Lord's Prayer. We are thankful to God for another year of sharing His love to His littlest of children!

On Thursday, May 29 we had our annual Preschool **day at the Zoo**. We had beautiful weather and it was a great day to make some final connections with our Preschool families before summer break!

As we prepare for next school year we are **looking for two part-time aides**. If you know of anyone who would like to work 20 hours a week and enjoys 3-5 year olds and lots of hugs, send them to Mrs. Olsen for more information.

Our Preschool room is full with a waiting list but **we have a few openings yet in PreK** if you know of anyone looking for a preschool, be sure to send them our way!

In Christ,
Joann Olsen, Preschool Director



Summer Travel

Church Locator

As you travel this summer, be sure to check the LC-MS website for churches to visit while away from Emmaus.

Go to locator.lcms.org to find the nearest church to your destination.

SUMMER DATES TO REMEMBER

June 9	Elders at 6:30 pm
June 11	Women's Guild at 9 am Meet at Joanna's Restaurant
June 17	Council at 7 pm
June 22	Rev. McMiller Mission Presentation
June 29	5th Sunday Matins
July 4	Happy Independence Day! Office Closed
August 13	First Day of School



Play A Game

You will need:

- 68 index cards or construction paper cut into 68 card-sized pieces.
- Marker
- Rubber band to keep your game together
- Bible



Prepare:

- Write "Old Testament" on a card. Write "New Testament" on a card.
- Write each of the 39 Old Testament books on a separate card.
- Write the 27 New Testament books on cards.

Old Testament

New Testament

To Play:

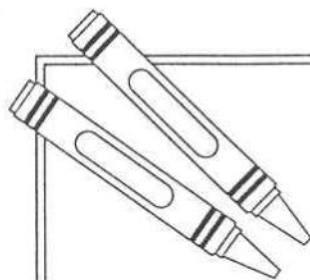
Lay the "Old" and "New" Testament cards on the table. Shuffle the other cards well. Lay them face down on the table.

Draw a card and place it by the correct card – "Old" or "New."

Continue until all cards have been drawn. Check your Bible to see if you were correct!

For an added challenge – arrange the books in order!

Matthew
Psalms
Jonah



Just for KIDS

The Old Testament

The Old Testament of the Bible contains the story of creation, history, words of prophets, God's law, songs, poems, stories of adventure and stories of love.

Find the books of the Old Testament hidden below. Use your Bible or the list below for the names. There are 39. You will find 3 books are listed 2 times each.

Find them → ← ↓ ↑ ↘ ↗

G	E	N	E	S	I	S	A	A	U	H	S	O	J	B	C
D	X	J	U	D	G	E	S	S	J	O	B	N	D	S	H
E	O	S	A	M	U	E	L	E	A	M	O	S	F	E	R
U	D	R	G	H	B	H	A	C	I	M	J	O	E	L	O
T	U	U	H	O	S	E	A	I	O	E	U	L	C	C	N
E	S	T	H	E	R	L	R	L	D	Z	L	E	C	I	I
R	P	H	J	A	E	Z	O	S	A	R	H	V	L	N	C
O	S	M	A	O	I	S	L	K	N	A	A	I	E	O	L
N	A	U	J	G	F	M	U	M	I	H	I	T	S	R	E
O	L	H	N	O	G	K	E	R	E	A	M	I	I	H	S
M	M	A	G	O	K	A	A	R	L	N	E	C	A	C	E
Y	S	N	P	A	Q	H	I	R	E	O	H	U	S	I	Z
S	O	T	B	U	C	V	W	X	Y	J	E	S	T	S	E
S	L	A	M	E	N	T	A	T	I	O	N	S	E	A	K
Z	H	A	Z	E	P	H	A	N	I	A	H	B	S	I	I
K	I	N	G	S	B	R	E	V	O	R	P	C	D	A	E
E	K	I	N	G	S	N	O	O	B	A	D	I	A	H	L
F	J	L	H	M	A	L	A	C	H	I	I	K	P	M	G

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, (1) Samuel, (2) Samuel, (1) Kings, (2) Kings, (1) Chronicles, (2) Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Pentecost



2024-2025 Officers, Board Chairmen & Head Elder of Emmaus Lutheran Church

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Vice President:

{Vacant}

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Dr. David Reichwage

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Emmaus School Board:

Sam Rose

Board of Elders:

James Heeren, Chairman

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

