

The Royal Messenger

From the desk of Pastor Olsen:

When Do We Stop Learning?

Has anyone come up with an answer to this question? Do we ever stop learning? As a young boy, I thought it was funny one day when my uncle said he learned something new. His reply was, *"The day you stop learning something is the day you start to grow old."* Strange, but that sank into my 10-year-old mind.

The highest teacher is Holy Scripture. Certainly, there are other sources of learning such as our parents, nature, the laws God has written upon nature, watching and learning from others, both from mistakes as well as their successes, and from the intentional and the unintentional. We learn from those around us, from generations past as well as generations younger.

As a new grandparent, I am finding that I am learning all over again with my granddaughter, Elaine. While experience, and hopefully some wisdom have come with age, this little one is constantly teaching. If nothing else, she is reacquainting me with the gift of wonder. Everything is new and exciting. Exploring the unknown; new tastes, flavors and watching her face as she rejoices in the exploration of God's creation.

"But grow in the in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"

2 Peter 3:18 ESV

She is teaching me all over again the joy of seeing someone, not just for the first time, but each time. When she sees us, grandma and grandpa, her face lights up. It can't help but bring a smile to your face when she does this. **What if, for a moment, we light up like that when we see one another?** Just that little moment of joy communicates to the other that you matter, you are important in my life and it brings me pleasure just to see you. (Although none of us holds a candle to Uncle Erik! No competing with him.)

Truly I could go on and on, especially after spending every day with her for two and a half weeks on a family vacation. She has reminded me of the joy of learning and the joy of helping her to learn, to watch her grow, to listen to her vocabulary evolve, and watch as her mind works out problems. It reminds us how important it is to pay attention to communication—what signals she is giving when she doesn't know a word, or she gets the word wrong. (She went through this phase where "no" meant both yes and no.) We are learning all over again the importance of how body language works and how to make sure we are paying attention to one another in what we are communicating to her and what she is communicating to us. (I am not sure that her grandpa will be communicating the best things during the Miami Dolphins football games, so maybe we will just leave her out of that for now.)

Continued . .

Is there ever a time we stop learning? I guess that leads me to thinking about how we grow individually and how we grow corporately as the body of Christ. Do we learn independently about what we believe and confess? Do we learn corporately, together, what we believe and confess? *"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* (2 Peter 3:18 ESV) You, in this verse, is **plural**. All of us individually and all of us together. (Back where I grew up, we would call this the "all y'all.") It almost sounds like this is something we are to be doing ALL THE TIME! **Are we ever done growing into Christ?** Have we ever learned all that Scripture has to teach us? Have we sat at long enough at Jesus' feet that we no longer need to learn from the greatest teacher who ever lived? These of course are rhetorical questions. I hope that you know the answer.

These days we are blessed with many avenues to learn about the Bible, but sadly this includes access to things we should **not** learn, teach or confess. It can be confusing with all the "resources" at our disposal, whether it be the local bookstore or Amazon, YouTube or podcasts, social media, etc. — the amount of information can be overwhelming.



But there is one place that you CAN go, a source that you know you can trust: your church. There are so many opportunities to learn, whether it be in the Divine Service with the liturgy, the readings, the hymns, and the sermon as well. Then we have a wonderful opportunity to learn following the Divine Service at Bible Class for adults and Sunday School for the kids. Bible Class is a different learning environment than worship. In Bible Class we sit facing one another. Have you ever noticed that the directionality is quite different? In worship we face forward toward the pulpit and the altar, but in Bible Class we learn not only from the pastor who instructs, but from one another as there is dialogue, stories to share, wisdom to be gleaned from one another and a different opportunity for fellowship.

I would highly encourage you to participate in all the opportunities that you have at your church to grow in the grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Do you know enough about Jesus? Do you have all the answers to what our doctrine is and how we practice it? Do you have nothing else to learn from the Small Catechism or our Lutheran Confessions? Have you learned everything there is no know from our hymns? You have Sunday morning both Divine Service and Bible Class as wonderful occasions to grow, to learn, to inwardly digest the Word of God. There is also Thirsty Thursdays at 10:45 am where we gather in the Library to study God's Word and how we confess our Lutheran faith.

These are but a few opportunities to grow, learn, and inwardly digest that which God has given you in both Law and Gospel. Please join me as one of the great joys I have to teach that Word, to be able to help you understand what we confess together



as both the church at Emmaus, within our Synod and within the history of the Church by those who have come before us. Whether that be from the early Church Fathers, our Reformation Fathers or more recent Fathers who have given us such great tools to grow in our unified confession of faith; there is much to learn! If you have never come to Bible Class, please give it a try for a few weeks. I promise you will not go away empty because your faith will be strengthened as we open God's precious Word, a Word that as we are reminded from Isaiah:

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

Isaiah 55:10-11 ESV

It is a mere one hour of your time in an entire week out of 168 hours. I **promise** you will not regret it. Not because of my teaching or anything amazing that we are doing, but because you are gathered together with your brothers and sisters in Christ to ultimately learn from Christ. Just as Mary sat at Jesus feet learning from him gathering the one thing necessary, the good thing that was not taken away from her, to receive from the Lord His gifts and among them His teaching. [Join us this year as we begin on August 17 after the Divine Service.](#)

I love to teach about the Bible and I pray that you love to learn it, for in this we will "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." May we never stop learning the wonders of God's creation, His glorious will written in nature and His Law written in Holy Scripture, and most importantly His Gospel, the forgiveness of sin through the blood of Christ that was shed for you that **you might have salvation.**

To Christ alone be all the glory,



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.



Please join us for a
fun and joyful

CHURCH & SCHOOL PICNIC

SUNDAY, SEPT 14
10 AM DIVINE SERVICE
11:30 AM PICNIC



Women's Guild Update

We are busy planning the **Church & School Picnic** with the school's PTO. Make sure to **save the date** — **Sunday, September 14**. The Divine Service will be at a special time, 10 am, with the picnic to follow at 11:30 am. We will have sign-up sheets for our congregation's attendance numbers. Look for the sign-up sheets on August 31 and September 7.

The Guild and School Parents will provide the food/treats/activities. School PTO will provide: BBQ pulled pork, and hot dogs, (for the kids) salads, and desserts from parents. Guild members will provide: all paper and plastic supplies, baked beans, potato salad, chips, buns for sandwiches and hot dogs, beverages, and condiments. Guild will also provide the SnoBiz truck for flavored shaved ice treat cups. Join us for a time of great fellowship, food, and activities!

Guild Members: Our next meeting will be Wednesday, **August 13th at 9:00 am** (Yes, I know it is the first day of school). We need to meet to plan our part of the picnic and coordinate with the school PTO. We will NOT meet in September on our regular date, as the picnic is a few days away. Therefore, our next regular meeting after August will be held Wednesday, October 8th. Thanks for your help and dedication to our Emmaus family.

Blessing to all!

Barb Kanning, Secretary

Church Office

The Church Office returns to our normal hours of with the start of the school year:

Mon—Thur 8 am—4 pm
Friday 8 am—Noon

As always, feel free to contact Elizabeth at 459-7722 or email her at eberg@emmausfortwayne.org.



Letter from the Congregational President

Dear fellow members,

As we are at the portion of the church year where we look upwards as Jesus returned to His father in Heaven, I would like to bring us back to here on Earth for an acute need at Emmaus that coincides with the mystery years of Jesus between 12 and 30.

We know Jesus was a carpenter. While He may have done new builds, furniture, or possibly even boats given where he grew up, I would like to think that Jesus did not go it alone at first. He apprenticed on a number of repair jobs to things like shelves, doors, maybe a small team project like small bridge like we see on our nearby walking trails, and of course helping His neighbors in need as He continued until the very end.

We have a critical need for someone to lead our Board of Properties. Unlike Jesus, you do not have to have omniscient powers of all things mechanical, structural, electrical, and landscaping coming in — **just a heart for service and a willingness to learn.**

There are no set meetings as the role centers around projects. We have several active members who can train and coach you in all sorts of Emmaus building and grounds trivia, as well as pitch in.

Your role initially is to be the point of contact for the church, school, and pre-school staff. From there, you help locate who we need to help, where, and when.

Please prayerfully consider this call to action to carry on the legacy of "He sent a carpenter to build his kingdom here".

In His Service,

Paul Stockinger



Letter from the Principal

Dear Emmaus Lutheran Church,

The 2025-2026 school year is almost here! We are thrilled to welcome our students and staff back to school.

As we bid farewell to summer 2025, we rejoice in all that God has done among us. Our soccer summer camp was a huge success—kids grew in friendship, skills, and teamwork while reflecting Christ's love on the field. Meanwhile, staff and volunteers faithfully prepared the building: classrooms are spotless, floors freshly waxed, rooms painted and every corner shining, ready for learning and growing in Christ.

God is faithful and has blessed us with an incredible staff of educators for the new school year. Our fabulous teachers and staff for the 2025-2026 school year are:

Mrs. Stephanie Hardman—Kindergarten
Mrs. Stacy Durlacher—1st Grade
Mrs. Chelsea Emerick—2nd Grade
Ms. Kenzie Hensley—3rd Grade
Mrs. Briana Dickinson—4th Grade
Ms. Sierra Detwiler—5th Grade
Mr. Zachary Karges—6th Grade
Mr. David Stellwagen—7th Grade
Mrs. Beth Stockinger—8th Grade
Mrs. Christie Salcedo—Educational Coach
Mr. Luke Sharin—Athletic Director, PE
Mr. Jeremiah Terrell—Food Service Director
Mrs. Maria Renteria—Administrative Assistant
Mr. Bob Borchers—Custodian
Along with all of our aides and volunteers!

Please **SAVE THE DATE** and join us for our upcoming Church and School Picnic:

Sunday, September 14th at 11:30am.

Divine Service will be held at 10:00am that morning.

Emmaus Lutheran School is a special place to learn and grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord. Together with our dedicated staff, we strive to make connections with the students, to help them feel valued, accepted and safe, as redeemed children of God.

Our Theme for this year is from John 10:27, "*Come, Follow Me*"; as we launch into this new school year, let us cling to our theme; not just in words, but in how we live, learn, and serve together. Thank you for being a part of the Emmaus family.

May God bless our campus, our classrooms, and most of all, our students—with faith that stands strong throughout the coming year while we are **Courageously Confessing Christ**.

Serving Him,

Esther Spanos, Principal

News from Preschool

Summer flew by but now we are ready to go in Preschool. **We have 60 children ready to learn about Jesus' love each and every day.** Our three year old Preschool room has a lengthy waiting list but we still have room for 6 more PreK (4 and 5 year olds) if you now of someone looking for a school!

We are blessed that our teaching staff is all returning. Mrs. Meg Mackenzie will teach Preschool and Mrs. Julie Mueller, Ms. Megan Rosswurm and I will teach the three PreK classes.

We are still in need of one more morning aide for Mrs. Mueller's room. If you know of anyone interested in an 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. position, please have them contact me.

In other exciting news, we received a \$5,000.00 grant from the Lutheran Foundation. With this generous gift we are replacing the Preschool room nap mats, buying new learning materials for all the classrooms, a new assessment tool to track our children's progress throughout the year, a new PreK math curriculum and the new Early Childhood Enduring Faith curriculum for all four classrooms. What a blessing this grant is!

Our playground has been paid for since Spring but unfortunately we still have not received a ship date yet. Our installer is ready to go; we just need the climber to be delivered. **Please pray that this happens soon.**

Do you love little ones and would like to volunteer an hour a week? We always love to have extra hands for reading to little ones or helping at lunch time to open up food so that the teachers have more time to eat their lunch. See me and we will work with your schedule!

Thank you for always supporting our Preschool. We are looking forward to another great year!

In Christ,

Joann Olsen, Preschool Director



DATES TO REMEMBER

August 7	Open House 9 am—Noon, 4—7 pm
August 10	Back to School Sunday
August 13	First Day of School Women's Guild at 9 am
August 17	Bible Class resumes
Sept. 1	Labor Day—No School, Offices Closed
Sept. 4	Thirsty Thursday resumes; 10:45 am
Sept. 14	Church & School Picnic
Sept. 21	125th Anniversary Celebration with guest preacher Rev. Ben Ball

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:

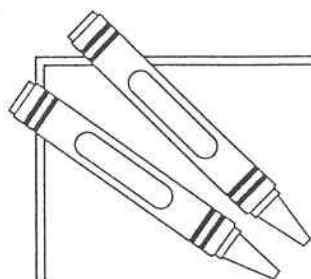
Lay the "Old" and "New" Testament cards on the table. Shuffle the other cards well. Lay them face down on the table.

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

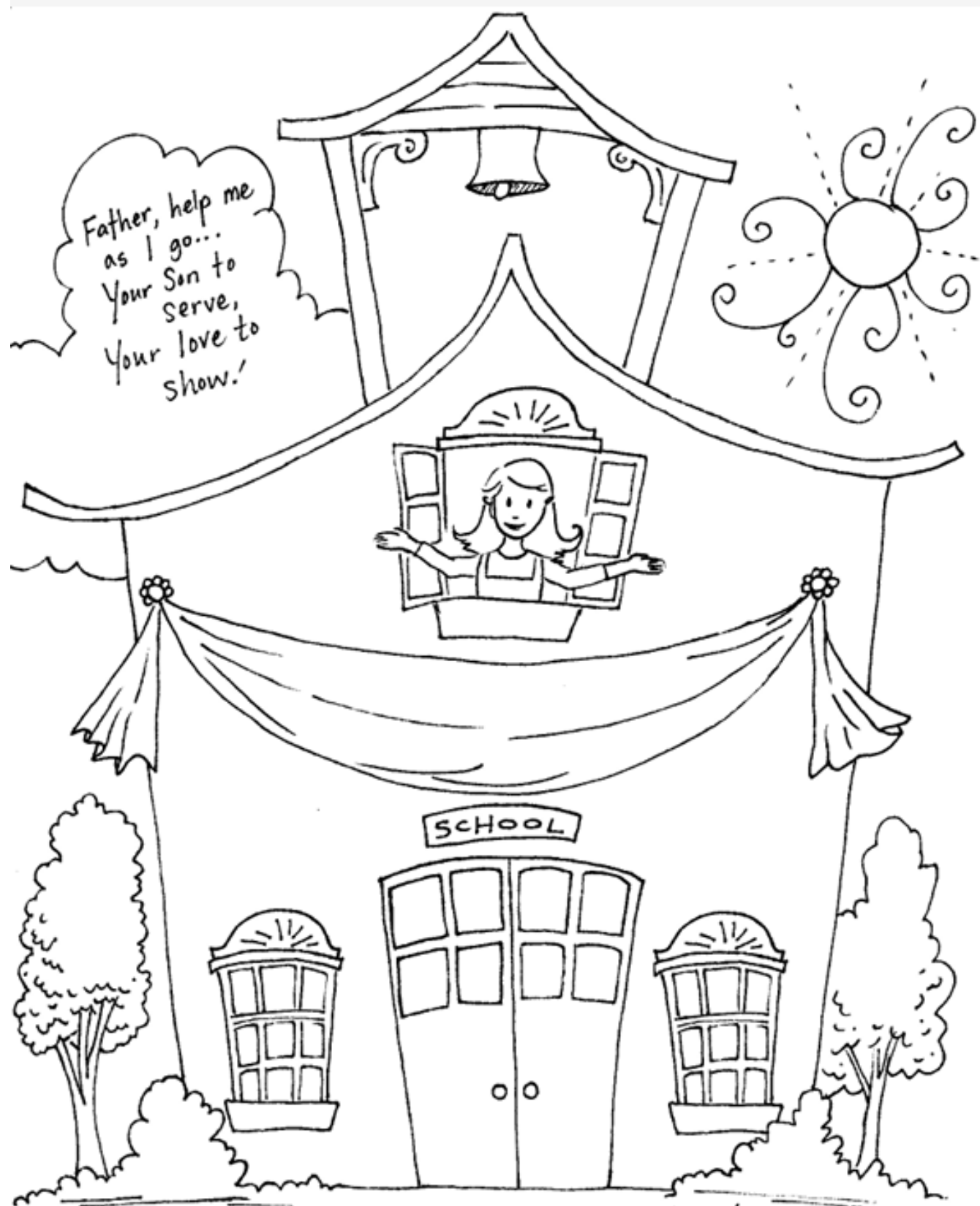
The Old Testament of the Bible contains the story of creation, history, words of prophets, God's law, songs, poems, stories of adventure and stories of love.

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



Mandy Groce '11

ministry-to-children.com

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Stan Veit, Chairman

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

