

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**WEEK OF MAY 2, 2021**

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Ashlyn; Jim Cleveland; Aiden Snyder; Emily Slone; Wayne Sembach; Bea Myers; Walt Trier

**THE ELDERS AND CHURCH COUNCIL** meet this coming Tuesday, May 4, at 6:00pm & 7:00pm, respectively.

**THE DOOR LOCKS** have been changed. Please speak with Pr. Mullet or Linda LeFever if you need a key.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO SEM. PAUL MARKS**, who has been called to serve as pastor of Emmanuel Ev. Lutheran Church in Adell, WI. We give thanks to God that Paul and his family have been part of our family of Faith and pray for God's richest blessings upon his ministry.

**SEM. DAVID WOELMER** has been placed as our vicar for the coming year! David and his family will join us "officially" later this summer.

**TIN CAPS!** We have reserved tickets for Sunday, July 11. \$10 each includes lunch at the ballpark beginning at 12:00 and the game at 1:05. Mark your calendars! We will have tickets available to purchase soon.

**CALENDAR**

Sun. May 2 (Easter 5 - Cantate)	8:00 & 10:00am Holy Communion 9:00am Sunday School 9:00am Bible Study
Tue. May 4	6:00pm Elders 7:00pm Church Council
Wed. May 5	11:00am Holy Communion (mask req'd.) 7:00pm Holy Communion
Thu. May 6	7:00pm Bible Study
Sun. May 9 (Easter 6 - Rogate)	8:00 & 10:00am Worship 9:00am Sunday School 9:00am Bible Study

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Today, the Fifth Sunday of Easter, is also called *Cantate* Sunday, after the Latin words which begin the Introit. Today's Introit from Psalm 98 begins **“Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.”**

Lutherans are sometimes known as “the singing church” and Martin Luther has been called “the father of congregational singing.” Before the Reformation there was no congregational singing in most church services. Luther, a talented musician himself, decided to change that. He published the first German hymnal and hymns written by himself and his colleagues, many of which we still sing today.

But why do we sing? Is it just a Lutheran tradition? What if I'm no good at singing? Why can't I just sit or stand there and listen to everyone else? First, we have the exhortation to “sing to the Lord a new song” in Psalm 98. So singing is a proper and worshipful response to God's revealed righteousness! Singing together brings us together as a Christian community. Finally (though there are many other reasons!), singing hymns is a crucial part of learning the faith.

Children certainly have fun singing their Sunday School songs, but they're also learning about people in the Bible (like “Father Abraham”), the essentials of the faith (like “Jesus Loves Me”), and even what it means to be Christian (like “We Are the Church”).

Setting words to music also helps with learning things by heart. Many of you might have learned the books of the Bible in order by singing a song. You might be surprised to see just how many of the Psalms you have already memorized simply by singing the liturgy! Hymns serve to teach and reinforce the themes of the readings of the day, explain theological concepts, highlight the season of the church year, or even be something of a sermon in themselves! In times of trial and tribulation, we may often find that the words of hymns come to mind more readily than particular Bible passages.

Singing the liturgy and the hymns is an important part of the Christian faith. Church music can touch our hearts in a way that is difficult to explain. No wonder Luther called music “a glorious gift of God”! So let us sing! Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. Sing together, as the family of Faith! Sing with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven! Don't worry whether you're perfectly in tune or whether you get the words exactly right. Our hymns and our liturgy are great gifts of God, and it pleases our Father to hear our song.