

May 2022

When you plant your garden this month (or next month), you will be careful in how you plant the seed. Just the right depth, spacing, and fertilizer applied in order to get a healthy plant which grows to produce mature fruit. You watch and plan as it grows. What's the weather going to be like? Is there frost in the forecast? Are we going to get any rain? You are careful and diligent to give what is needed. Protection from cold weather and wind; enough moisture to withstand a mid-season dry spell. You have to do this. You have to be intentional and specific in how you care for what is planted lest that which has spouted be stunted and wither.

This is your life as a Christian. Faith which is planted in you in Holy Baptism has to be cared for. This is why Jesus says baptize and teach in Matthew 28 and says make learners (disciples). Learners continue to learn. It's an ongoing action. Faith must be continually nurtured in order to grow. There will be hard times. There will be attacks against the Lord's planting. This must be planned for and intentional nurturing must take place.



Psalm 1 is beautiful to lead and guide us in this regard: *“1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord [the full counsel of God's Word], and on his law he meditates day and night. 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. 4 The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.”*

Protected from prevailing winds and cold, lifeless teaching, the Christian who delights in grounding themselves in God's Word and teaching is like a tree planted with a constant water source. It grows. It matures. It produces fruit according its kind. Its leaf is broad and soaks up that which is necessary. In fact, this is what is it to be a Christian. It is to be about God's life giving Word from which springs all hope in Christ. It is our protection from the lies of the devil and the world which attempt to stunt the growth and deceive and destroy the crop our Lord's Christians through false teaching.

God's Word is truth (John 17:17). It most especially brings us the life and salvation granted by our loving Lord who gave Himself up for us and then rose from the dead. Yet it also directs us on how to live as His redeemed. God would not have us guess as to how we are to grow as men and women, husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, children, and citizens. Find your Small Catechism and read the Table of Duties. Look up the Scripture passages and see what our Lord intends for your position in life. If you tend to your plants in the garden, tend your soul all the more. Come to church, read the Bible, read the Catechism, hear the Word and grow.

In the Large Catechism, Luther instructs us to be diligent in God's Word for our benefit: “For let me tell you this, even though you know it perfectly and be already master in all things, still you are daily in the dominion of the devil, who ceases neither day nor night to steal unawares upon you, to kindle in your heart unbelief and wicked thoughts against the foregoing and all the commandments. Therefore you must always have God's Word in your heart, upon your lips, and in your ears. But where the heart is idle, and the Word does not sound, he breaks in and has done the damage before we are aware. On the other hand, such is the efficacy of the Word, whenever it is seriously contemplated, heard, and used, that it is bound never to be without fruit, but always awakens new understanding, pleasure, and devoutness, and produces

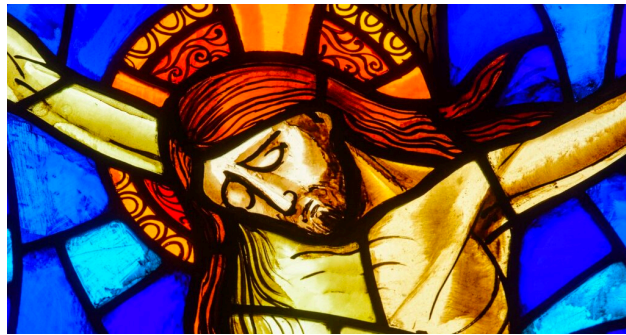
a pure heart and pure thoughts. For these words are not inoperative or dead, but creative, living words.” (LC 1: 100-101)

May God in His mercy mature us into the harvest of His faithful Christians.

*Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word:
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
And bring to naught all He has done.
(LSB 655:1)*

In Christ,
Pastor Suggitt

The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod Celebrates 175th Anniversary



Only Jesus: No Other Name

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) was founded on April 26, 1847, when 12 pastors representing 14 congregations from Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Michigan, New York and Ohio signed the church body’s constitution at First St. Paul Lutheran Church, Chicago. Since that time, the LCMS has endured many trials and triumphs — all by the grace of God.

The LCMS believes, teaches and confesses faith in Jesus Christ as taught in the Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions. For 175 years, the Holy Spirit has kept us in the one true faith and still continues to gather sinners into the Holy Christian Church by grace through faith — all on account of Christ. As we give thanks for our Synod’s founding in 1847, we rejoice in the 175th-anniversary theme, “Only Jesus: No Other Name,” based on Acts 4:12. Until Jesus comes, the LCMS will continue to trust in, teach and preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

+ 50TH ANNIVERSARY +

On June 26, 2022 at 11am Good Shepherd will celebrate 50 years of God's grace and mercy in this place. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, sinners have found life and salvation in the Name that is above all names proclaimed here since 1972.

The anniversary service will include former pastors of Good Shepherd, a combined choir from St. Paul, Linkville and Good Shepherd, and will feature a catered luncheon following the service. Photos and documents of our history will be on display in the parish hall as you mingle and converse with your brothers and sisters in Christ from over the years.

To God be all glory!