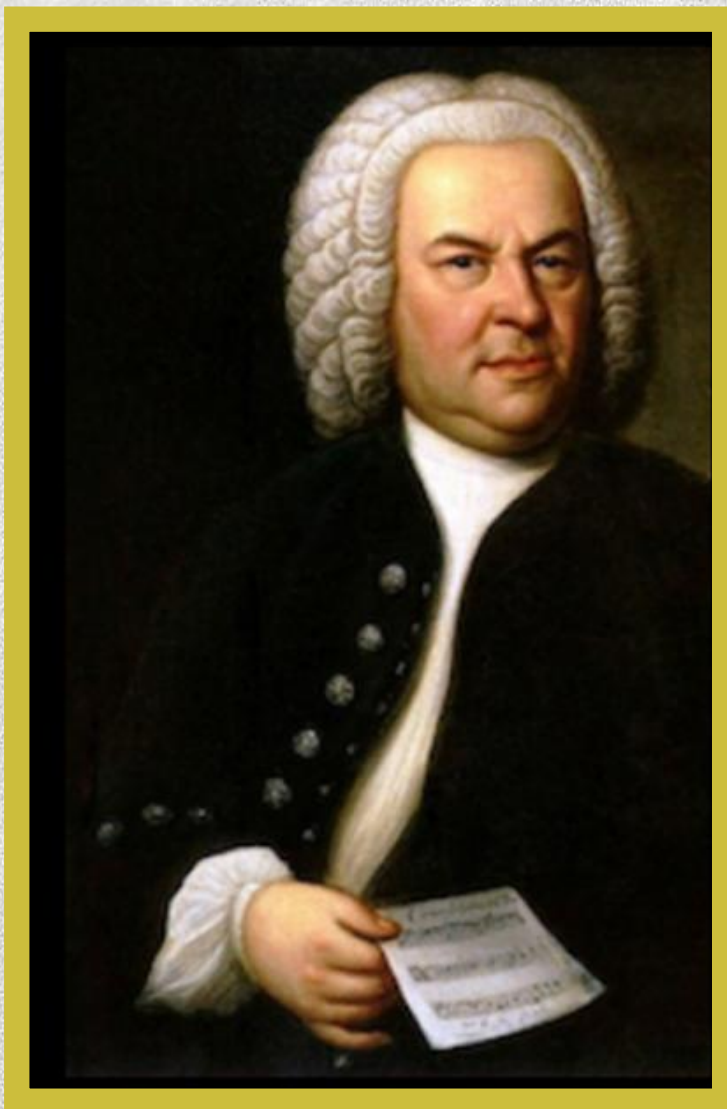


SEASONS

Be prepared in season and out of season
2 Timothy 4:2

Volume 23, Issue 7

July 2025



The aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God
and the refreshment of the soul.

~ Johann Sebastian Bach
March 21, 1685 - July 28, 1750

On July 28, Lutherans commemorate J.S. Bach, whom many consider the greatest composer of all time. This German cantor and pious believer devoted most of his musical career to serving the Lutheran church, expressing the wealth of Lutheran theology through his music and composing a prolific oeuvre based on the church's weekly Gospel readings and feast days. (source: Dr. Kristen Einertson and Tessa Muench, Lutheran Witness June/July 2025)

From Your Pastor

Report of the District President to the SWD 57th Triennial Convention:

Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrod-den, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing exactly where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

When the Rev Dr John Wille died suddenly on June 10, exactly a year ago tomorrow, after a multi-year battle with cancer, as you know, as 1st VP I became the District President, serving out the last year of John's 6th term. Yes, I have been the DP, but not as the man you elected to the position. I think humility demanded that I view this past year as an interim. Almost immediately after the shock of John's death wore off, I realized that I wanted to keep one foot in the parish during this interim year.

But to keep the work of the District running smoothly required me to lean more heavily upon the District VPs and Circuit Visitors than perhaps they had been relied upon in recent years. Know that this was done intentionally, however, and not simply as expedient. Yes, I needed the support but I operated with the conviction that the regional VPs were also elected by you, the Synod in this place, and as such ought to be involved as appropriate. Therefore, a sincere thank-you to Bryan Osladil, Charlie Brandt, Jonah Burakowski, and Hal Senkbeil! You were all involved to various degrees in making sure that the wheels on the District bus kept rolling. We are all different men with different strengths, but I am convinced that we share a love for the well-being of the church, and as such, sought to do what was best for her.

Allow me to speak candidly as a fellow Christian and Parish Pastor who has had the opportunity to see the Office of District President from a unique vantage. A year ago I would not have fully appreciated the good that can be accomplished from the District Office, simply because I was preoccupied with the business of my own church. After just a year in this position on a part-time basis, I now see and appreciate more fully the benefit of having a DP and a District Office intentionally supporting pastors and congregations, as well as teachers and schools, in their work. It's not just the conflicted situations where the DP gets pulled in.

From my seat this past year I have had the joy of witnessing and celebrating many events that testify to God's goodness and mercy among us in this District. Indeed that is one of the things the DP ought to do on a regular basis – help the rest of us to see the good that is taking place, for example, the planting of new congregation where God's Word will be faithfully proclaimed in all its truth and beauty and where the Sacraments will be administered faithfully according to Christ's institution. Every new, faithful congregation is another invasion of God into this dark and dying world, and as such ought to be celebrated. Kudos to mission-planting Pr Josh Benish in Monroe!

We all know that we are not living in 1950's Mayberry anymore, where the culture once reinforced what we teach in the church, and where church was often the center of our social lives as well. That is no longer the case. We can no longer count on the culture and the government to carry water for us. Throw in the reality that demographic studies reveal that church attendance in our circles is half what it was 50 years ago, and there would much cause for wringing our hands. I think you will find these statistics sobering: that 40% of Synod congregations worship 50 or less on a Sunday. 71 out of 517 electoral circuits Synod-wide are "underweight," meaning either they lack a sufficient number of congregations or communicant membership in that visitation circuit to form an electoral circuit for the sake of next summer's Synod convention. Here in the SWD we're not feeling that pressure as acutely, but my approach was simply to say, let's be honest with ourselves and combine some visitation circuits, rather than asking for exceptions from President Harrison.

So, in light of our demographic challenges, it is that much more rewarding then to see congregations intentionally working together, sharing resources, and simply socializing together, creating those bonds that can carry us through some of the depressing news around us. What we share in common confessed in the Nicene Creed is so much greater than what might separate us otherwise. Kudos to Pr Erdmann and the four congregations in Madison engaged in that very thing of intentionally working together for the sake of the Church! This is Kingdom thinking rather than simply focusing on our own perceived needs. I think their model is worth considering where pastors, parishioners, and finances are in short supply.

Last week I was invited to attend the North Wisconsin District convention, at the invitation of retiring President Dwayne Lueck, who has been a good friend to this green horn in the office. At that convention Synod President Harrison preached at the opening service and gave the Synod report also. A couple of things Harrison said should be repeated among us today. As Book of Concord Lutherans we are not lacking in anything necessary to be the Church here in this place and time. We don't need episcopal orders, obscure Roman practices, or any additional gift of the Holy Spirit to be more evangelical in our mission efforts. We can just be who we are in Christ, and that can be a great blessing to the world around us. There is no need to compromise on any aspect of our confessional Lutheran identity.

With that in mind, be thinking about the year 2030 and the 500th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession. 5 years from now we ought to have a bigger observance and celebration than we had in 2017. Yes, Oct 31, 1517 was a big day as it ushered in a movement to reform the Church, but we can all easily agree that Martin was not yet Lutheran in 1517. Whereas by 1530 when Christian Beyer read the Augsburg Confession before Emperor Charles V, what it meant be Lutheran was firmly developed and articulated. Let's us take courage from the last paragraph in the Book of Concord, where our forefathers in the faith confessed that they planned to stand before

God on judgment day with intrepid hearts:

"Therefore, it is our intent to give witness before God and all Christendom, among those who are alive today and those who will come after us, that the explanation here set forth regarding all the controversial articles of faith which we have addressed and explained – and no other explanation – is our teaching, faith, and confession. In it we shall appear before the judgment throne of Jesus Christ, by God's grace, with fearless hearts and thus give account of our faith, and we will neither secretly nor publicly speak or write anything contrary to it. Instead, on the strength of God's grace we intend to abide by this confession."

With fearless hearts, we will stand before Christ on judgment day and say, here, this is what you taught us. Not only have we held onto that truth, but we have confessed it to the world. You and I can only have that kind of confidence when you know the Christ of the Nicene Creed and His Gospel. This is not a time to go wobbly on the article of justification.

While we hold on to that beating heart of Christianity, we have to be faithful in believing and teaching – in church and in our schools – godly sexuality, the doctrine of creation, and apologetics in general. We cannot allow the unbelieving world to frame the conversation for our young people. We must seize the time we have at home, in church, and in our schools to teach them what it means to be a man, a woman, a father and a mother. Nature hates a void, and the unbelieving world is actively striving to catechize our kids and us. How many of our young people become worldlings because we did not strive to give them everything the Lord commanded, including Genesis 1-11?

While we are on the topic of creation, let me take a moment to highlight another topic that President Harrison has brought to the attention of the COP several times this past year – racism. I'm bringing this up not because I am aware of something particular going on in our District. It could be that I'm simply ignorant, and there is a problem. But, sharing a sinful, fallen heart with you, I know that the sin of despising fellow human beings lodges in every human heart, so it's easy enough to address with you

today as a fellow sinner.

Let me explain with a personal illustration that may not be obvious to my German brothers. I grew up in a household that fully appreciated our Danish and Norwegian heritage. The Norwegian part was definitely more prominent, however. The Norwegian language was considered the language of the angels, while Danish was described as not being a language but a disease! (Hardangervida brides.) However, the nastiest jokes were always reserved for the Swedes! I had no real interaction with Swedes in my growing up years for comparison, but that was prejudice at work. Once I arrived at UVA in Charlottesville, VA, and joined the Scandinavian Interest Club, I quickly discovered real Scandinavians and had my prejudice severely tested! Then, when I started taking Swedish language courses, my Dad told me that my ancestors were rolling over in their graves! Years later when I got to Seminary and started reading Bo Giertz' The Hammer of God, it was just too much. I called my dad and said, we gotta repent of all those things we've been saying about the Swedes. There are good Swedes out there!

More to the point, let us remember what the Scriptures themselves say. Not only were all men made in the image of God, an image we have all equally lost, but we learn that God is no respecter of men. St Paul makes the point in his address on the Areopagus to the Athenians that God "made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him." We all share a common, fallen humanity, and God wants all men to repent and come to a knowledge of the truth. Confessional Lutheranism is so well positioned to speak this truth via sin and grace, law and gospel. But for the grace of God, not even my Norwegian heritage would save me!

Thank you.



Pastor Skougaard



Elm Grove Lutheran Church had the joy of welcoming the Rev Tyler McMiller into the pulpit on Sunday, June 15. He spoke during the adult Bible study hour also regarding his work as a called missionary in Italy. In particular he has been catechizing new converts to Lutheranism and mentoring young men to serve the new Lutheran church in Italy. To think that this is all taking place in the shadow of the Vatican! If only Luther were alive to see it happen! Tyler is a son of the congregation, having attended our elementary school for several years while his dad, Dan, served the South Wisconsin District as mission executive and later as the executive director of the Luther Academy. Tyler met his future wife, Yanella, in the Dominican Republic, where he was serving as a short-term missionary. Yanella has a degree in education. They have two daughters, Lia and Alessia. They have served and lived in Italy now for three years and are now back on furlough, visiting various congregations in the States and sharing the mission with them. Rev Sam Lee and Rose hosted them in their home over the weekend.



Greetings in Christ,

The South Wisconsin District (SWD) of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) held its 57th triennial convention on June 9-10, 2025, at Concordia University Wisconsin (CUW). There were over 150 congregations represented by Pastors and lay delegates. Our own Pastor Skovgaard, acting President of the SWD, lead the convention and I represented Elm Grove Lutheran as a lay delegate.

The business of the convention included: the election of officers, deliberation and voting of various resolutions, reports from the committees, reports from the LCMS, a report from the president of CUW, reports of mission work, a report of the financial condition of the SWD, a report from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, lectures on Luther and his times, especially with respect to the encroaching Ottoman Empire into Europe, and worship in the beautiful CUW chapel.

As you may have heard, the Reverend Doctor Nathan Meador was elected as President, while Pastor Skovgaard was elected as the First Vice President. With respect to the various resolutions, in my opinion there were no very controversial issues and the Convention delegates were generally unified. Notable among the resolutions approved were, a vote to ask the synod to review Recognized Service Organizations' views of human sexuality and confirm agreement with the Biblical teaching thereof. In addition, the Convention commended the Board of Regents and Administration of Concordia University Wisconsin and Ann Arbor for using wisdom and Christian love in addressing the financial troubles with Ann Arbor. The Convention celebrated the SWD's mission support in the Dominican Republic. Finally, among notable resolutions passed, the Convention encouraged further church planting and efforts to revive faltering churches in our district. A full list of resolutions voted on can be obtained by contacting Pastor Skovgaard or myself.

This was my first experience with attending a convention of our synod and I would like to share a few additional thoughts. First, no one could leave the Convention without knowing that the SWD is unified in extolling Jesus Christ as our master, our Redeemer and our God. There was much edifying discussion of what our Lord has done for the world and his church. Even where we had disagreements (and there were not many), it was apparent that the goal of every speaker was to share the love of Jesus and how best to ensure his church in the SWD is striving toward that goal.

Rick Ewert played the organ for our two worship services and it was a wonderful experience to worship with so many faithful Christians. I heard many comments about the excellent organist as many do not have the privilege of hearing such high-quality music very often. It reminds me to give thanks to the Lord for the treasure of music we have at EGL. The music, the organ, the preaching and the fellowship were blessings I will not forget.

Finally, we celebrated that the Lord has given us a good confession in the Athanasian Creed and our Lutheran Confessions. We are truly blessed to have so many faithful pastors, to live in this part of the world where God's Word is freely expressed, and for our Lutheran heritage. I am honored to have represented Elm Grove Lutheran and I feel very blessed to have such a faithful church and to be a part of the LCMS, where Christ crucified is our treasure.

Thank you for sending me as EGL's lay delegate! – *Mr Jason Krueger*



During the months of July and August, the morning group of LWML does not meet. It might be a good time to read the articles in the summer issue of *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*. The theme for this issue is bearing one another burdens. There are some really

touching stories about how friends and relatives helped in traumatic situations and how Jesus was the strong rock.

The evening group will meet in the Fellowship Library at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, July 14. They will be working on plans for the Fall Retreat held in Brookfield and discussing plans for future mission projects.

Check out the LWML Bulletin Board to see how the Thermometer of the giving of mites has increased by several thousands of dollars during the month of May. Mission grant#5 for Journeys Lutheran School for \$50,000 is getting close to being funded.

Thank you for contributing to LWML mites. Put them in Sherry Bond's church mailbox. These mites add up from the 21 zones in our South Wisconsin District.

Be sure to keep the dates of September 26-27 open for the inspiring Fall Retreat to be held at the Embassy Suites, 1200 S. Moorland Road in Brookfield, WI. The speaker is Donna Snow, an author who will speak on "Armor of God – Your Strong Suit," based on Ephesians 6:10-18, "Put on the Whole Armor of God....." The cost of the retreat is \$80, which includes Saturday's lunch.



Author Donna Snow will be the speaker at the Fall Retreat.

Gifts from the Heart are the following:

- toothpaste
- toothbrush
- deodorant
- shavers
- lotion
- soap
- hand towel
- wash cloth

These hygiene items will be given to the Prison Ministry of Free at Last.

"Serve the Lord with gladness." Psalm 100:2

Barbara Kurth

A Heartfelt Thank You from Trinity Lutheran Classical High School

Dear Members of Elm Grove Lutheran Church,

I want to personally thank you for the incredible gift you have given to Trinity Lutheran Classical High School. Your generosity has not only saved our school—it has given us hope, support, and a home. Because of you, we now have a future.

Without your intervention, our returning students would be left with only part of the classical high school education they've come to value, faced with the difficult choice of returning to home-schooling or enrolling in a different school. Our dedicated staff would be without a place to teach and live out their calling to provide a classical Lutheran education.

Words fall short of expressing the depth of our gratitude—on behalf of our faculty, our parents, and especially our students. Thank you for forming a new governing body and for opening your facilities to us. Your support is nothing short of a blessing—a powerful example of God's hand at work.

It is my sincere hope and prayer that this new chapter marks the beginning of a strong, lasting relationship between Trinity Lutheran Classical High School and Elm Grove Lutheran Church, as we work together to faithfully educate the next generation of God's children.

In Christ,
Jason Eggold

Interim Headmaster
Trinity Lutheran Classical High School

Meet Our Interim Headmaster – Jason Eggold

We are pleased to introduce Jason Eggold, who is currently serving as the Interim Headmaster of Trinity Lutheran Classical High School. A Grafton native and member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Mr. Eggold brings a rich background in both science and education.



He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Molecular and Cellular Biology from Vanderbilt University, along with a minor in bassoon performance and a Master's degree in Secondary Education. Before helping launch Trinity Lutheran Classical two years ago, Jason taught AP Biology and Anatomy & Physiology for four years at Father Ryan High School in Nashville, Tennessee.

Jason has a passion for classical education and is very committed to growing the TLCHS community at Elm Grove Lutheran. Jason and his wife now reside in Grafton with their six-month-old daughter, Anastasia. Outside of school, he enjoys cooking, golfing, playing role-playing games, spending time with his family, and playing bass with the St. Paul worship team twice a month.

What Makes Trinity Lutheran Classical High School Unique?

At Trinity Lutheran Classical High School, our identity is clear: we are **Lutheran first, classical second**. This approach reflects the rich tradition of Lutheran education that dates back to the Reformation and remained the standard for centuries.

What is Classical Education?

At its core, classical education is about pursuing the *good*, the *true*, and the *beautiful*. It is built on the belief that these things are real, objective, and knowable—because they come from God, our Creator. In a Christian classical school, everything is taught through the lens of Scripture and Lutheran doctrine. Faith is not a subject we teach once a day—it is the foundation of everything we do.

Instead of separating history, literature, theology, and philosophy, our students engage in a four-year integrated course called **Omnibus**. In Omnibus, students read the Bible, theological works, classic literature, historical texts, and original philosophical writings. These are not merely studied—they are discussed deeply through Socratic dialogue. The result is a rich understanding of how Scripture is the cornerstone of all knowledge and wisdom.

Even in science classes, we begin with the question: *What is truth, and how do we know it?*

How Do We Teach?

We use the classical model of the **Trivium**—Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric:

- **Grammar** focuses on memorization, foundational knowledge, and the structure of language.
- **Logic** develops critical thinking, understanding, and sound reasoning.
- **Rhetoric** teaches students how to speak and write persuasively and clearly.

These are not just academic exercises; they are tools our students use to seek after truth and express it with confidence and clarity. Our seniors culminate their learning by writing and defending a **Senior Thesis**, drawing on everything they've studied over four years.

Worship at the Heart of the Day

Each school day begins with **Matins at 7:30 a.m.** and ends with a shortened **Vespers** service. Worshiping together reminds our students that faith isn't confined to Sunday mornings or an occasional chapel service. It is the living, breathing center of daily life. If you're an early riser, we warmly invite you to join us for Matins. We've heard your congregation sings beautifully—and our students would be blessed by your voices!

Let's Connect

If you're curious about who we are, what we teach, or why we do what we do, please don't hesitate to reach out. We would love the opportunity to speak with you, and we hope to connect with many of you in the weeks ahead. You can sign up for our newsletter on our website www.trinitylutheranclassical.org/ and you can follow us on Facebook and Instagram.



This talented Lutheran musician continues to influence our music in church, in the symphony, and on the radio.

Imagine you're sitting in the pew of St. Nicholas Church in Leipzig, Germany, on April 7, 1724. It's Good Friday, and you've come for the Vespers service. The music director that the city hired just last year, Johann Sebastian Bach, has written a new piece of music that will be performed tonight. The 39-year-old kantor is clearly a genius, with a massive personality to go along with his incredible talent: sociable but sensitive, profoundly pious but with a great capacity for anger, you and the rest of the city have had a bit of a hard time figuring him out. But one thing's for sure: This man lives for music, especially music that shares the Word of God.

"Shh!" someone hisses at a pair of chattering adolescents as the oboes, flutes, basso continuo and strings begin to undulate with the opening notes of Bach's new piece: St. John's Passion. The music itself begins to tell the story of Our Lord's passion, even before the words begin: The sounds are somber and dissonant, but then meld together into a beautiful melody, breaking your heart as they seem to represent in music the piercing agony endured by Christ on the cross. Then the choir begins:

Lord, our ruler, Whose fame
In every land is glorious!
Show us, through Your passion,
That You, the true Son of God,
Through all time,
Even in the greatest humiliation,
Have become transfigured!

From ten-year-old orphan to kantor of Leipzig

Johann Sebastian Bach was born in 1685 to a very musical family in the city of Eisenach, the same city where a young Martin Luther had attended Latin school and later had translated the New Testament into German while hiding under an assumed name in Wartburg Castle. Johann Sebastian, the youngest of eight, was orphaned at age ten. He then moved to live with his 24-year-old brother, Johann Christoph.

The young Bach received a thorough musical education from the many other gifted musicians in his family, and he also attended *gymnasium* (secondary school) where he learned Latin, Greek and theology. Johann Sebastian received further education, both in the broad liberal arts and in music, at the prestigious St. Michael's parochial school in Lüneburg, where he also played the organ and sang in the church choir. By 1703, at age 18, he was done with school and looking for work.

Bach's first position as a church musician was for the recently founded *Neue Kirche* (New Church) in the Thuringian city of Arnstadt, in central Germany. Bach's reputation while he was there was rather poor. The adolescent Bach was infamous for his temper, poor relations with other musicians, and lazy attitude. He got into a street fight with his bassoonist, and, after being granted a four-week absence from his duties so that he could hear the composers Johann Adam Reincken and Dieterich Buxtehude perform, he did not return to Arnstadt for four *months*.

After four tumultuous years, Bach landed another organist position, this time in the city of Mühlhausen. With a substantially higher salary and a wife, his second cousin Maria Barbara Bach, Johann Sebastian seems to have settled down for the time being — though he was jailed for a month in 1717 in Weimar after he found himself on the wrong side of the duke and his court. Though he held several positions over the course of his life, Bach's longest and most significant role was as Thomaskantor, music director for the churches of Leipzig (including St. Thomas, hence the name). Bach worked in Leipzig from 1723 until his death in 1750, from complications of a botched eye surgery.

God's Word in music, proclaimed across the centuries

Bach showed a profound gift for music from an early age, one that he clearly cultivated in his adult life. Johann Sebastian Bach wrote over 1000 pieces of music that are still extant today. He wrote both sacred and secular music, in both vocal and instrumental forms. Bach believed that music should strive to give glory to God and provide recreation for the soul. Further, he held that music played a very important role in the life of the Christian: A marginal note he wrote next to 2 Chronicles 5:13 in his Bible reads, "Where there is devotional music, God with his grace is always present."

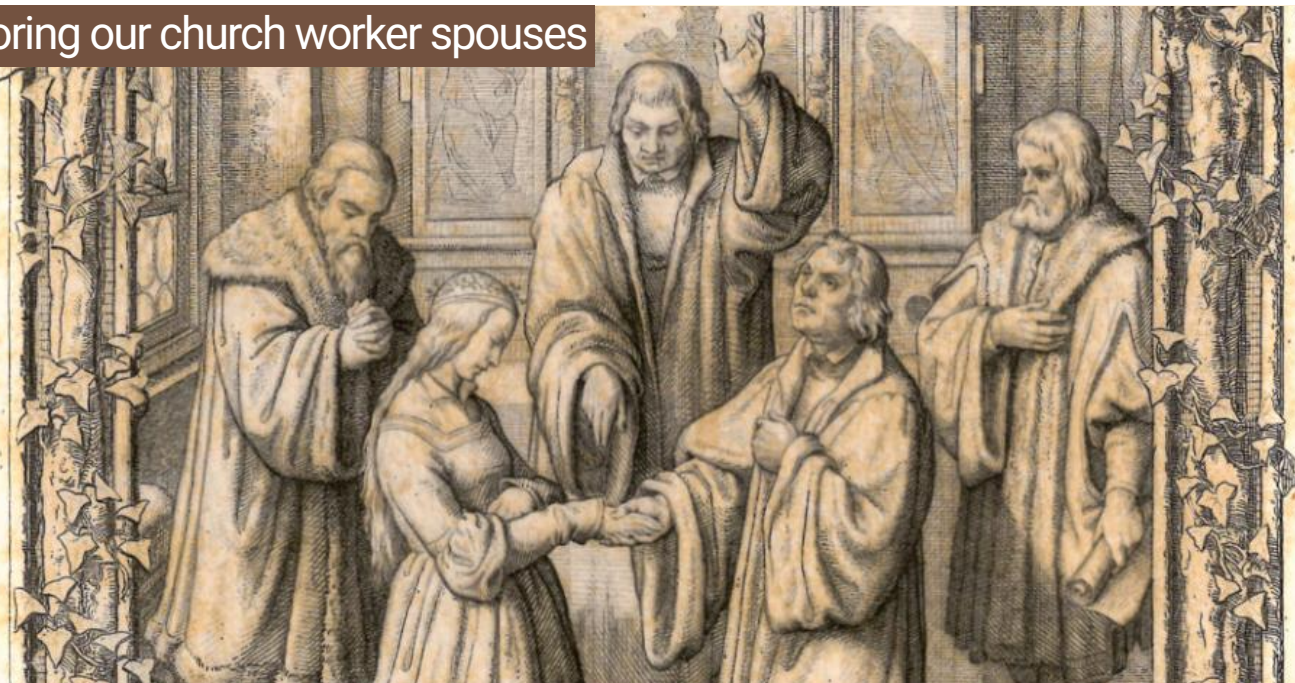
This view of music has endured within the Lutheran church, especially with regard to worship. Bach has inspired countless other church musicians — internationally regarded composers like Felix Mendelssohn and Carl Schalk, and innumerable organists, pianists and choir directors whose largely anonymous labor keeps the Word of God in the mouths of His people from generation to generation.

Further, Bach is known far beyond the confines of the Lutheran church, or even of Christendom broadly. Bach's works are among the most performed musical pieces *of all time*, beloved by Christians and non-Christians alike. In fact, in the early 1950s his St. John's Passion was performed as a complete service — as it was originally composed and performed in Leipzig in 1724 — in Hungary while it was under an anti-Christian communist regime, as a way to get around strict rules regulating what kinds of music church musicians were allowed to play.

The Word of God is living and active, including whenever and wherever it is sung. The beautiful music of Johann Sebastian Bach continues to bring glory to God and catechesis, consolation and recreation to Bach's neighbors — even those of us living more than 250 years after his death.

(source: Lutheran Witness, July 24, 2024)

Honoring our church worker spouses



The wedding of Martin and Katie Luther. From Gustav Ferdinand Leopold König, *The Life of Luther in Forty-Eight Historical Engravings*, Concordia Publishing House, 1900. (Concordia Historical Institute)

By Eleonore Wagner

Last month, on June 13, the church remembered the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's marriage to Katharina von Bora. Also last month, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) honored church worker spouses, both for their support of their spouses who serve the church and for the ways they bless others through their own skills and gifts. Katie Luther's life of service to Martin and to the church is a great example for all of us, but especially for those whose family members serve the church.

The Luthers met when Martin arranged for Katie's escape, along with a few other nuns, from their convent. He then personally arranged their marriages into good homes, taking Katie as his own wife. Martin's letters and the writings of their friends make it clear that Katie managed their home with great skill and joy: She kept track of their finances, oversaw a garden, prepared food and wine, and graciously hosted their near-constant stream of guests. She bore the primary responsibility for rearing the Luthers' children and was Martin's greatest supporter in every trial and success. She admired him for his work in the church even though it often led him away from home.

Spouses of church workers have been serving their spouses — and by extension, the church — in the same way ever since, whether that spouse is a pastor, deaconess, DCE, teacher, musician or other church worker. George Miller, whose wife, Patti, serves as deaconess at Village Lutheran Church, Ladue, Mo., says, "Being a servant in the church requires much patience, perseverance and prayer. The needs of God's people can come at any time ... day or night. The challenge [for the spouse] is being able to remain flexible when your spouse is suddenly called away."

This flexibility allows for the people of God to be served. When church workers are supported at home, they are better able to serve the church. Miller goes on to highlight the greatest service he can provide for his wife: "As a spouse [of a worker], we continue to pray for and support our loved one in their vocation, giving thanks for their gifts being utilized in service to God's people."

God also richly blesses these spouses of church workers. Although the hardships are real, the gifts are abundant. "Our whole lives are shaped by theology," says Glenda Mumme, whose husband, David, is pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Waterville, Minn. From discussing Scripture at the dinner table to being able to ask questions about the readings and the week's sermon, Mumme has found a much greater appreciation for theology through her marriage.

Potential church workers who have concerns about how their studies and vocation will affect their relationships should look to the Luthers for encouragement. Although they experienced struggle and hardship, Martin and Katie Luther strengthened each other and cheered each other. Together, they endured the plague, persecution and even the death of a child. Yet they also encouraged each other in God's Word, raised children together with joy, and enjoyed God's good gifts to them.

God invites His people to trust Him, and to trust that He provides for those who serve His church. Often, it is the church worker's family who encourages him or her to pursue church work. *Set Apart to Serve (SAS)* has been sharing this message for years now, acknowledging the influence that we all have to motivate someone to consider church work. Certainly no family member has more ability to encourage and support a church worker than his or her spouse or future spouse. LCMS Worker Wellness provides resources for church worker families to care for one another as they serve their neighbor. Like Katie Luther, the church encourages church worker spouses to view church work as a blessing, and to uplift their spouses as they perform the most holy work of tending to Christ's church. (source: LCMS Reporter, June 2025)

Volunteer Gardeners work to beautify our property

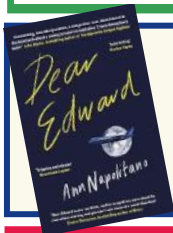
During the summer months our property is enhanced by a team of gardeners who plant and maintain the flower beds. Compost gets added to enrich the soil. The colorful annuals are purchased with Thrivent grants. Each of the team members volunteers for a portion of the church site and waters and weeds their areas as needed.



EGL Gardeners gathered at church on May 24 to prepare the beds and plant flowers. Pictured above from left to right are Linda Seroka, Helen Moore, Carole Braun, Meg Grell, Linda Hoffmann, Luanne Schaefer, Joan Knuteson, Judi Pritchard and Jean Bennett. Gardeners not pictured are Cynthia Mitbo, Mary Tischer and Irma Witzke. The women are grateful to Dennis Braun and Dave Bennett for their work to support the flower bed clean-up and planting efforts.

Book Discussion Group

The EGL Book Discussion Group will meet on Thursday, July 17 at 9:30 a.m. in the BAAC to discuss the book, ***Dear Edward*** by Ann Napolitano. This is a historical fiction book about a 12 year old boy Edward, who is the lone survivor of a plane crash. He finds hope and meaning to life among the trauma of losing his family.



Memorial Day Commemoration at historic Oak Hill Cemetery



Oak Hill Cemetery Association, in partnership with Behling Kutchera American Legion Post 296, held their annual Memorial Day commemoration to remember and honor all those who died in military service to the United States during peacetime and war.

As was the tradition for many years, Pastor Skovgaard gave the invocation and led the attendees in singing chosen verses of the hymn, *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*. Ed Paloucek accompanied on the violin. Bruce Bessert, EGL member and vocalist, led the group in singing the National Anthem.



*"You will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom.
I hope you will make a good use of it."*

— John Adams



July Birthdays & Wedding Anniversaries ("A")

If your birth date or wedding anniversary is not included, please be sure to contact the church office.
Thanks!



July 1
Elizabeth Pond

July 2
Sharon Katzer

July 3
A-Ken & Lisa Schuppner
Jeraldine Bechtel

July 4
Andrew Alles
Eva Midtbo
Anna Myatt

July 5
Barb Stamm
John Thompson

July 7
A-Lamont & Kathryn Colucci

July 9
Aaron DeWitt
Kirk Midtbo

July 10
Stephanie Carstedt
Matthew Morateck

July 11
Jason Krueger
Patricia Morateck
Christine Rahardt

July 12
Sydney Anderson
Nathan Pfeifer

July 13
Jacqueline Hohn (92)

July 14
A-Andrew & Lianne Peters
Jim Olson
Susan Taylor

July 15
A-Ron & Brigid Harmeyer
A-Fred & Irma Witzke
Jacob Wunsch

July 16
Bev Wegner

July 17
Tom Crowell
Claire Schuppner

July 18
A-Tom & Lynn Crowell
A-Tim & Teresa Stritesky
David Bangle
Emily Krueger
Bernice McCloskey (103)
Tim Stritesky

July 19
Mike Huxsol
Carter Klein
Teri Nitschke

July 20
A-Ben & Brae Nelson
Rachel Wunsch

July 21
A-Ron & Meaghan Hessenthaler
A-Mark & Karen Kennedy
Owen Krueger
Jean Kruse

July 22
Jeff Timm

July 23
Sue Knutson

July 24
Jeffory Burke
Juliette Gresley

July 25
Emma Stroh
Ryan Wegner
Sue Wilcox

July 26
Kyle Schmalzer
Helen Schmidt

July 27
A-Mary & Prakash Mhambrey

July 29
A-Jim & Diane Olson
Amber Alles
Tyler Nelson

July 31
Jane Neill
Stacey Setzer



"Liberty cannot be preserved without general knowledge among the people." – John Adams

July

Elm Grove Ev. Lutheran Church Calendar - 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (228)	2 10:00 a.m. LWML (BAAC) 1:00 p.m. Sheepshead (BAAC) 5:30 p.m. Gym Rental	3 6:30 p.m. Worship – C	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5
6 9:00 a.m. Worship C 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Joshua Teggatz Ordination, Installation, and dinner 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting (FH)	7 Packer Camp 7:00 p.m. Barbershop Group (FH)	8 Packer Camp 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (228)	9 Packer Camp 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study (BAAC) 1:00 p.m. Sheepshead (BAAC) 5:30 p.m. Gym Rental	10 Packer Camp 6:30 p.m. Worship	11 Office Closed Packer Camp	12 Fellowship Hall Rental
13 9:00 a.m. Worship C 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting (FH)	14 7:00 p.m. Barbershop Group (FH) 7:00 p.m. Board of Directors (228)	15 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (228)	16 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study (BAAC) 1:00 p.m. Sheepshead (BAAC) 5:30 p.m. Gym Rental	17 6:30 p.m. Worship – C	18 Office Closed	19
20 9:00 a.m. Worship C 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting (FH)	21 7:00 p.m. Barbershop Group (FH)	22 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (228)	23 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study (BAAC) 1:00 p.m. Sheepshead (BAAC) 5:30 p.m. Gym Rental	24 6:30 p.m. Worship	25 Office Closed LWML Board Meeting (BAAC)	26
27 9:00 a.m. Worship C 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting (FH)	28 7:00 p.m. Barbershop Group (FH)	29 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (228)	30 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study (BAAC) 1:00 p.m. Sheepshead (BAAC) 5:30 p.m. Gym Rental	31 6:30 p.m. Worship – C		

1 Go forth, my heart, and seek delight,
While summer reigns so fair and bright,
View God's abundance daily;
The beauty of these gardens see,
Behold how they for me and thee
Have decked themselves so gaily.

4 Fast grows the wheat, like waving gold,
And gives delight to young and old;
All nature with thanksgiving
Lauds Him whose mercy measureless
Vouchsafed the soul of man to bless
With goods that grace his living.

Paul Gerhardt's summer hymn, "Geh Aus und Suche Freud," translated by Catherine Winkworth as "Go Out and Seek Delight." This hymn captures a mood that the church has lost, which celebrates nature as a gift from God.

5 Thy splendor, Lord, doth brightly shine
And fills my heart with joy divine
While here on earth abiding;
What, then, may be in store for me
And all who heaven's glory see,
In golden halls residing?

6 O choose me for Thy paradise,
Let soul and body till I rise
Still flourish, tiring never.
With Thee alone will I abide,
Thine honor serve, and none beside,
Both here and there forever.



Elm Grove Ev. Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
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Phone (262) 797 - 2970 • Fax (262) 797 - 2977
Web Site: www.egl.org • E-mail: astroh@egl.org

Rev. Eric C. Skovgaard, Administrative Pastor

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

The deadline for articles and photos to be submitted for the next *Seasons* is:

Tuesday, July 15

Submissions can be sent to
seasons@egl.org



Follow Elm Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church on Facebook!



Prayer Warriors at Elm Grove Lutheran Church are ready to pray for you.

If you have a prayer request or wish to become a part of this great mission, please contact:

Linda Hoffmann – LindaHoffmann@yahoo.com or call 262-786-1203, or email Meg Grelk, mgrelk55@gmail.com

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

The Lord's Supper is celebrated every Sunday

(Unless there is a fifth Sunday in the month, when Matins is observed)

Bible Study will follow the service
10:30-11:30

Thursday 6:30 p.m.

The Lord's Supper is celebrated on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursday

SAVE THE DATE



Blood Drive

Wednesday, August 13
2:00 - 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Scan the QR Code to make an appointment or visit the Versiti website:



donateblood.versiti.org
and click on DONATE NOW
Or, use the direct link
to make an appointment:

https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11599494

Thank You Coffee Servers!

We all greatly appreciate those members who volunteer to bring treats and serve coffee on Sunday morning after the 9 a.m. worship service. It provides a valuable opportunity for fellowship, not to mention fuel for the day!

Please continue to volunteer. There is a sign-up sheet on the counter during coffee hour, or call Luanne and John Schaefer at 262-784-3106 or 262-617-0561 for information and available dates.



The Beauty of Altar Flowers

Celebrate an anniversary or birthday, remember and honor a loved one, or give thanks for blessings received by sponsoring Altar flowers. Take the beautiful arrangement home to enjoy after the Sunday worship service. The cost is \$35. Please call or email Amy Stroh in the church office to request a date and to provide a message for the bulletin; 262-797-2970 or astroh@egl.org.

