

From the Pastor

## You've been Bonsaied!

The other day, I saw a big bonsai tree. If you need a reminder, *Bonsai* is the Japanese art that attempts to produce small trees that mimic the shape of big trees. So, I found it quite interesting when I saw a *big* bonsai tree as I walked through the Garden of the Phoenix in Chicago's Jackson Park. I have heard it can take five to ten years to shape a small bonsai tree into the correct shape. But a big tree? Like, ten to fifteen feet tall, big? I would need a core sample to know how long it took to shape that one. Make the trip down to the Garden of the Phoenix sometime to check it out. I'll tell you where to look.

Take a moment to think about what it took to bonsai that tree. Here's what I think it took: A bunch of gardeners had to study that tree when it was a small sapling. She had to see its potential. He had to have a plan for its future. They had to trim and chop and prune until they got the right shape. But the work didn't stop there. She had to come back a year later and cut the unwanted branches. He had to wrap branches with wire to train them in the right direction. They had to fertilize it with the right mixture of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. And the work didn't stop there! Year after year, gardeners had to keep bonsaiing that tree until it grew into the big bonsai tree it is today. That was a lot of work!

Recently, I have been thinking about how you have all been "bonsaied." Take a moment to think about what it has taken to make you, you. Specifically, take a moment to think about what it has taken to make you the *Christian* you are. Here's what I think it took: A bunch of Christians had to care for you when you were just a small sapling. She had to sing hymns to you when you were still in her belly. He had to pray with you at the dinner table. They had to teach you Sunday School and Catechism. But the work didn't stop there. She had to come back not just every year, but every night and pray with you before you fell asleep. He had to drive you to church on Sunday. They had to feed you with the right mixture of Law, Gospel, and fellowship. And the work doesn't stop there! Year after year Christians continue to bonsai you so that you grow into the Christian you will be tomorrow. That is a lot of work!

That big bonsai tree in Jackson Park doesn't remember every gardener that shaped it. You don't remember every sermon, every song, and every prayer that you heard. Yet, that tree has its shape. Yet you are the Christian you are. Christ has a way of using the Christians who give us the Word to slowly shape us over time. The Apostle Paul says it more succinctly and clearly than I can in Ephesians chapter four: **"It was Christ who gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."**

The other Christians in our lives shape us and mold us so that we, his people, can be the Christians God has in mind for us to be. It takes time. Years. Decades. Quarter centuries. Over time, you and I start to look a bit like that big bonsai tree in Jackson Park. Shaped. Mature. Finished.

Currently at Jerusalem, we're thinking about this in Sunday morning Bible study. We're looking at how God uses people, experiences, and moments in our lives to bonsai us into his witnesses. I hope you consider joining in that study. It is at 9:45am on Sunday mornings. It will be worth your time. It will be one of those moments that shapes you into the Christian you will be tomorrow.

Pastor Spaude

## PASTORAL CALL ISSUED

On September 15<sup>th</sup>, Jerusalem Church called David Ernest to be our next pastor. Pastor Ernest currently serves at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. He and his wife have four children aged 11 to 19. Please keep him and both congregations in your prayers.

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### *Jerusalem Lutheran and St. Matthew's Lutheran*

Jerusalem Lutheran and St. Matthew's Lutheran are two sister churches serving the Morton Grove and Niles communities. Regardless of which location, you will sing the same songs and hear the same readings and message. For your convenience, three service times are offered on Sunday morning at the times and locations below.

**8:00am – Jerusalem Campus**  
**9:30am – St. Matthew's Campus**  
**11:00am – Jerusalem Campus**

We continue to livestream the 8:00 am service at Jerusalem:

Here is the link to our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWzPzwN7HAE3BLM4ZpybHkQ>

Here is the link to our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/JerusalemMortonGrove/>

## BLOCKTOBERFEST SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 26TH

Noon until 3:00 pm.

Join us on Fernald Avenue for free food, beverages, and family games.

New this year are **Minute to Win It** games and a **Scarecrow Decorating** contest. Each family will be provided with hay, burlap, and a scarecrow head. Please bring old long pants and a long-sleeved shirt and any other items you wish to use to decorate your scarecrow. You can still participate without bringing clothes to decorate your scarecrow – we will have families bring extra materials if they have them available. (If you have any extra old long pants or long-sleeved shirts for another family to use for the contest, please bring them along).

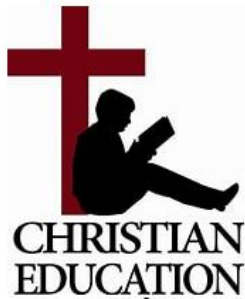
We encourage you to sign up for Blocktoberfest to help us with our planning. Please follow the link below to let us know you will be attending.

<https://forms.gle/ZGhhbzPeoVQHXPCE8>

Not sure you can make it? No problem. You can still attend without signing up. We look forward to seeing you there!

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our next congregational meeting will be Sunday, October 31st after the 11:00 am service. Reports about the ministry of our church and school will be presented.



## **EDUCATION SUNDAY**

We celebrate the blessings of Christian Education on Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. Jerusalem School students in preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> and Sunday school students will sing during the 11:00 am service.

## **TOT CLASS, SUNDAY SCHOOL, AND TEEN BIBLE CLASS RESUME**

Classes run from 9:45 – 10:30 am. Newborn through age two (with parent) will meet in Ms. Tanya's classroom (Room M1). Children age three through 8<sup>th</sup> grade will begin in the kindergarten classroom (Room M2) with music before dispersing to their classrooms. After music, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders will join high school age students for teen bible class in Mr. Kim's classroom (Room 201). We look forward to seeing you!

## **SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS**

Sunday Bible Study has resumed and runs between services from 9:45 until 10:30 am.

Elders will be in a rotation leading a bible study called "One-by-One" that is an evangelism activity based on a presentation given by Pastor David Rosenau.



## **JERUSALEM CALLING COMMITTEE**

Our calling committee has started making phone calls, reaching out to all of our Jerusalem membership.

The ongoing pandemic can bring on feelings of social isolation and loneliness. The goal of our callers is to touch base with our membership in a brief conversation to see if there is anything the church can assist them with, such as a call from the pastor. This is also a chance for church members to ask questions about our church ministry.

Our callers look forward to talking with you! Our membership directory is sometimes out of date as people's phone numbers change. Please contact the church office at 847-965-4750 ext. 5 or email [secretary@jerusalemchurch.org](mailto:secretary@jerusalemchurch.org) if you have not received a phone call from us and wish to speak with one of our callers.



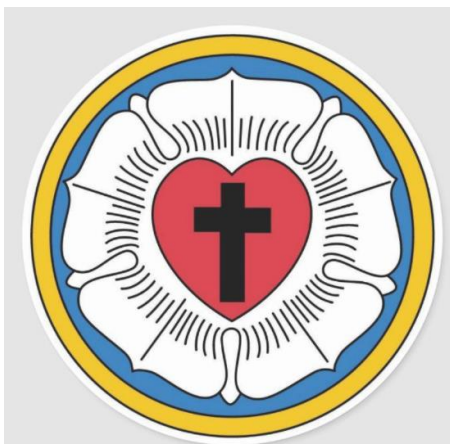
Go to [WELS – Christ's Love Our Calling](#) for more information about National Hymnal week and the new hymnal.

Take a look at the new hymnal - advance copies are on the small table in the church entryway.

National Hymnal week was held September 19-26 for both individuals and congregations. It was about more than a new hymnal. It was about proclaiming the praise of the Lord our Savior in that eternal activity of God's people called worship. National Hymnal week provided our whole church body an opportunity to be refreshed in why we do what we do in worship from week to week, so that more and more thirsty souls may find relief and renewal in Jesus, our living water.

## Reformation Day

### October 31



*The effect of the Lutheran Reformation of the Church on the history of the world can hardly be overstated. In fact, when US News and World Report ranked the most important events of the last 1,000 years, the Lutheran Reformation placed second, right behind Gutenberg's moveable type printing press. Historians consider the Lutheran Reformation to be of greater significance than the discovery of the New World (number 3). Luther was a monk, a priest, a professor at a little university in Wittenberg, Germany, but he is considered the third most influential person of the last 1,000 years. God used his witness and simple faithfulness to the Word to change the world. As heirs of the Reformation, may our witness be as faithful, and the effects of our witness as profound!*

Excerpt from [Reformation – WELS](#)



# School News

## Eagles of the week

Students are selected by faculty members to be recognized as Eagles of the week. Students in preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade are chosen based on their Christ-like attitude and academic effort.

Congratulations to our first Eagles of the week for this school year:

Avi Edamakanti  
 Evan Marbo  
 Leah Jackson  
 Jeremy Park  
 Belle Ng  
 Nicholas Kalbach  
 John Colianne  
 Benny Bagus  
 Rachel Felsing



## Soccer Season Update

3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade soccer players are happy to be back on the soccer field for a competitive season this year. The season is off to a great start! Jerusalem has won their first two games - on September 14th, 4 to 1 against Resurrection in an away game and their second game on September 16th, 3 to 1, against Good Shepherd at home. Coached by Mr. Kim, Ms. Punzel, and Mrs. Felsing, new and returning players are refining skills and improving their game with each practice. Go Eagles!



## Kickball Day

3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders took a break from their academic studies to participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual kickball day held in Bolingbrook, IL.

Jerusalem students were placed on teams with children from Illinois Lutheran Schools (Crete), Resurrection Lutheran (Aurora), and Good Shepherd Lutheran Academy (Downers Grove). All had a great day of fellowship and fun!



# Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

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## **Worship Schedule**

Sunday 8:00 and 11:00 am  
Online Worship on Facebook and YouTube

*“Our purpose is to serve all people  
with the gospel of Jesus Christ on  
the basis of Holy Scripture”*

