

Welcome

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
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**Office Hours:** M-W 9-5 unless otherwise noted. Cell phone is always available @ 651-431-8941

#### IMMANUEL STAFF

**Justin Fenger, Pastor**  
**Momoh Freeman, Organist**  
**Pat Remer, Accompanist**  
**Volunteers Church Custodian**  
**Mark Weslander, Administrative Assistant & Financial Recorder/Secretary**  
**Daryl Abrahamson, Cemetery Groundskeeper**  
**Jason & DeeDee Fredlund, Youth Directors**

## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

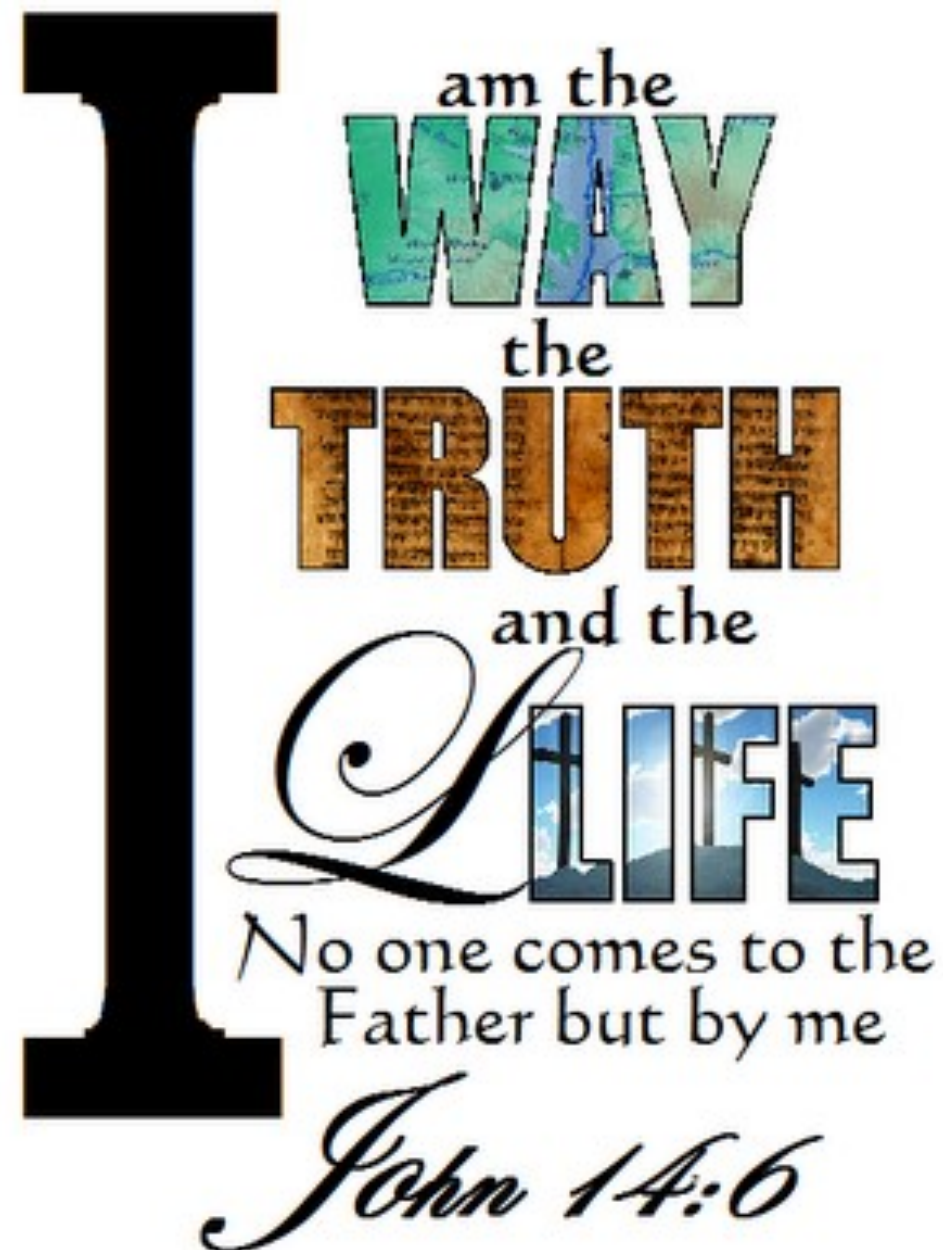
37515 Park Trail, Almelund, MN 55012

Pastor Justin Fenger

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 2023

*A welcoming community rooted in Christ, growing in faith and serving with joy!*



## Welcome to Immanuel!

Thank you for joining us for our worship service. Whoever you are, whatever you've done, or where ever you are in life. You are loved by God which means, You are welcome here at Immanuel. God's grace is given freely, not earned. So whatever journey you are on, God led you here today. We thank you for coming and hope to see you again soon.

**Visitors**, welcome to worship! If you are interested in knowing more about our congregation please speak to Pastor Justin or call the church office! Contact info is on the back of this bulletin.

**We Encourage all Children** who can read, to follow along in the bulletin during our worship service.

## GATHERING

Today's Service is using the ELW; Red Book

### PRELUDE:

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### INTRODUCTION:

*Jesus proclaims himself "the way, and the truth, and the life." His radical invitation to God's home is for all people.*

### CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: At times it can be difficult to look forward in hope, to face the future, to trust that God is working for us.

**C: But in this space, God is with us. Offering us a glimpse of heaven, a teaser of what is to come.**

L: So, however difficult, however challenging, however uncomfortable, put your trust in God and worship him.

**C: God is good, let us worship him.**

**OPENING HYMN:** All Are Welcome (v.v.1,4,5) #641 ELW

### PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Almighty God,  
**your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to following the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** "Lo, the Earth wakes Again" Marco Sherve

### CHILDREN'S SERMON:

**FIRST READING:** Acts 7:55-60  
*Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.*

<sup>55</sup>Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" <sup>57</sup>But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup>Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

<sup>59</sup>While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup>Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

**PSALM:** Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

R: In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

**C: Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.**

R: Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

**C: Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength.**

R: Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

**C: My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

R: Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

**SECOND READING:** 1 Peter 2:2-10  
*Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.*

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation — <sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.<sup>4</sup>Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup>like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.<sup>6</sup>For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." <sup>7</sup>To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," <sup>8</sup>and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. <sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

We invite you to follow the service and take part in a way that feels right to you.

P = Pastor  
L = Leader  
C = **Congregation**  
R = Reader

Sections in **bold** are to be read by the congregation.

### Today's Scripture

Acts 7:55-60  
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
1 Peter 2:2-10  
John 14:1-14

### Today's Hymns

Hymn #641 ELW  
Hymn #676 ELW  
Hymn #763 ELW  
Hymn #873 ELW

**Happy Birthday  
this week!**

8

Peter Johnson

10

Randy Lindblom

12

Lesley Mohn

Christopher Chinander

James Chindander

13

Karmen Johnson

Bert Nelson

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak (v.4)

#676 ELW

**GOSPEL:**

John 14:1-14

**Glory to you O Lord**

*On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going." <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." <sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ**

**SERMON:**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:**

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

#763 ELW

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

**OFFERTORY:**

"When the Daffodils Arrive"

Marco Sherve

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS:**

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

God

**our rock and our fortress, our lives, our time, and our possessions are all in your hand. Receive now our gifts returned to you in joy and gratitude for the good of all that you have made. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.**

**LITANY:**

L: With literal stones, they murdered Stephen.

**C: The psalmist cried out for God to be a rock of protection.**

L: The writer of First Peter calls us to be living stones to build God a temple.

**C: And Jesus speaks of God's house, perhaps built of spiritual stone.**

L: It is the most basic material, found throughout the earth.

**C: It lies beneath forests, towers over us as mountains, and makes rivers laugh as they run.**

L: It can be practical, decorative, meaningful.

**C: It can be crafted into tools or into art.**

L: Give us eyes to see your presence in the smallest of pebbles and the greatest of boulders.

**C: Let it remind us that you are our rock and our redeemer.**

**SENDING:**

As we leave this place, as we step outside the door and choose which direction to head in, whichever way we go we go there with the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, guiding, loving and inspiring us today, tomorrow and always.

**Amen**

**CLOSING HYMN:** Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart! (v.v. 1,2,3) #873 ELW

**DISMISSAL:**

Go in peace, Serve the Risen One.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:**

**Thank you for helping  
lead worship today!**

**Leader:**

Jason Fredlund

**Organist:**

Momoh Freeman

**Special Music:**

Marco Sherve

**Reader:**

Lynn Schultz

**Ushers:**

Steve & Laurie  
Peterson

**Sound Tech:**

Steve Blomquist

**Camera Tech:**

Matt Oknich

**Children's Sermon:**

Jeske Noordergraaf

**Altar Guild: White**

Tora Carlson &  
Diane Rothe

**Coffee Servers:**

Prayer Shawl

**Immanuel Church  
Calendar This Week**

**Sunday, May 7**  
9:30 Noisy Offering Worship  
Service Live and Online,  
Sunday School is after  
children’s sermon  
10:30 Coffee Servers:  
Prayer Shawl Group  
11:00 Counters count offering

**Monday, May 8**  
9-5 Office Hours  
5:00 Property Meeting  
6:00 Council Meeting  
7:30 Zoom Bible Study

**Tuesday, May 9**  
9-5 Office Hours  
9:00 Worship Team Meets  
10:00-2:00 Quilters Meet W/  
Potluck @ Noon  
6:00 Joyful Noise Rehearsal  
@ ILC

**Wednesday, May 10**  
9-4:30 Office Hours  
12:00 Deadline for bulletin  
Info  
2:00 Bulletins Printed  
6:30-8:00 Youth Meeting

**Thursday, May 11**

**Friday, May 12**

**Saturday, May 13**  
2:00 SPRING TEA

**Sunday, May 14**  
**MOTHER’S DAY**  
9:30 Worship Service Live  
and Online. W/The  
“Sunrise River Trio”  
10:30 Coffee Servers:  
Youth Group  
11:00 Counters count offering

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**SPRING TEA**  
Mark your calendars for Saturday,  
May 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM.

Bring your grandmothers, mothers, daughters, granddaughters,  
daughters in law, sisters, nieces, aunts and friends. All ages invited.  
Sarah Circle invites everyone to a fun afternoon with tea,  
fancy sandwiches and scones.

Enjoy a fun program  
**“Pinky’s Up For Tea Time”**  
Presented by **Loretta Anderson.**

She will tell about the background and history of the Tea Party and  
related planning and etiquette involved to achieve a successful and  
fun event. She will cover key points for young kids to guide them as  
they experience various social gatherings.

**Also enjoy beautiful singing by Audra Rambow.**

**Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS)** invites you to join us at  
our Metro Benefit for Youth. Gather with us to support LSS Youth &  
Family Services in helping youth on their journey towards finding  
safety, stability, housing, opportunity and much more.

**Tuesday, May 16, 2023**  
11:30 am Registration and Lunch\*  
12:15 pm Find Seats 12:30 pm Program 1:00 pm Checkout

**Quincy Hall**  
1325 Quincy Street NE Minneapolis, Minnesota

\*Lunch will be self-serve at food stations and will remain open during  
checkout after the program concludes. Please stay and enjoy!

For questions or assistance, please contact LSS Events at  
651.432.4731 or [events@lssmn.org](mailto:events@lssmn.org).

We look forward to seeing you there, Friend!  
With gratitude, Your neighbors from LSS

**Next Sunday:** We will have the Sunrise River Trio for our special music.

**The Immanuel quilters** will meet Tuesday, May 10th, 10am-2pm. Pot  
luck lunch at noon. We're sewing quilts for our graduates and the wom-  
en's shelter. Everyone welcome! Come for coffee or stay the day.

**Attention all 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Graders and Parents** May 21st  
during worship you will be receiving a bible, celebrating a Milestone  
Ministry moment to bring an awareness of the presence of God in our  
lives and provide opportunities to celebrate these milestones in our com-  
munity of faith. After worship we will have a hour long class about what  
is the bible and how to read the bible.

**Confirmation Schedule:**  
Wednesday May 31, 2023; Confirmation End of Year Party @ 6:30 pm.

**Parish Care Team** meets on Wednesday, May 17th at 10:00 am. **AND**  
**The ILC Connection** Meets @ Kaffe Stuga in Harris at 11:00 on  
Saturday, May 20th.

**Naomi Circle** meets on Tuesday, May 16th at 9:30 at Linda Mielke’s.

**Sunday School:**  
The last day of Sunday school for this year is 5/21/23.

**Memorial Day Dinner**  
Group A is in charge of the dinner this year. We are looking for more  
volunteers to help. We are also hopeful that the youth group will be  
available to help with clearing and clean up.  
Look for the sign up board in the gathering area for food and money  
donations. Please check it and see where you can help.

**Almelund Farmers Market Begins its 16th Season on Friday, May  
26th at Rod's Country Corner!**

Come Friday afternoons from 3-6pm and check out the local items...  
annuals, perennials and garden plants, asparagus, rhubarb, eggs,  
maple syrup, honey, breads, jams/jellies, craft items and other goodies!  
Products change with the season. New vendors are encouraged and  
welcomed to join this fun community get-together. If interested, contact  
Pat @ 651-583-2100.

**April 30, 2023**  
**Attendance: 93**

**Weekly Giving Update:**  
**April 30, 2023**

General	\$1,282.00
Building Fund	\$131.00
Loose	\$22.00
Use of Church	\$87.00
Online Serv. Fee	\$1.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,523.00</b>

### **The River Valley Christian Women's Connection**

Invites you to attend our Annual Tea Luncheon being held  
On Monday, May 15, 2023 at 11:30 am.

Chisago Lake Lutheran Church  
1 Summit Ave  
Center City, MN 55012

Come have a delicious lunch, enjoy a good program, and meet a new friend.

Cost \$15 for lunch and program.

### **Class of 2023 Baccalaureate Service**

Wednesday, June 7, 7:00 p.m. North Branch Area High School Auditorium

All senior students, their families, and the public are invited and welcome to this non-denominational service. The service is not required but optional. Baccalaureate is a time where the community and the area churches gather together to honor the graduating class. This year's Baccalaureate will include music, scripture, speaker, prayer, and blessing for the Class of 2023.

### **Youth Group News**

Heggies pizzas are coming in on May 17th!  
Youth has just 2 more meetings left this year.  
May 10th & **MAY 31st** @ 6:30pm  
**MAY 21st** Is Final Mission Trip meeting, after the service.

**Next Christian Ed Meeting** May 22nd 6:30pm to be put on the monthly calendar.

The Zoom Bible Study. The Chosen Season 2 Bible Study, Mondays 7:30pm on Zoom. If interested please contact Pastor Justin

**Tune in our Daily Texts**, Monday through Saturday on our Facebook

Page [@immanuelchurchofalmenlund](https://www.facebook.com/immanuelchurchofalmenlund)

A daily devotional time based on an Old and New Testament bible verse based on a Moravian Church tradition and Ground Up Grace Publications.

### **COFFEE SERVERS NEEDED FOR**

May 21st as well as June 11th, 18th & 25th; please sign up next to kitchen, Thank you

### **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:**

By end of day Monday, May 15th.

Please have all reports, announcements, thank yous and corrections in by this time.

### **PROOFREADING:**

Of newsletter @ 1:00 Wednesday, May 17th. Your help will be greatly appreciated. All are welcome.

### **NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY:**

Will be Thursday, May 18th @ 1:00 in the Fireside Room.

Volunteers can fill newsletters with offering envelopes and label for mailing. On Sunday morning service; May 21st, members can pickup their own newsletter in the gathering area.

**May 7, 2023**

### **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

#### **Are You New Here?**

"You know the way to the place where I am going," Jesus tells his followers (John 14:4), but they aren't so sure. So he goes on, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6), but they're still confused. Finally, he asks, "Have I been with you all this time . . . and you still do not know me?" (John 14:9). It's as if he's asking them, "Are you new here?"

They've had him all this time. They've watched him and listened to him and learned from him. But, suddenly faced with the idea that he won't always be there in quite the same way, it's as if they remember nothing.

Yet, Jesus isn't one of those teachers who says, "Do as I say, not as I do." He lived his very life here on earth as a model for us, even now. Our road map to the place where he is going is to understand his words and actions, not only as *his* way, truth, and life, but as *our own* as well.

It's as complicated as that, but it's also that simple. "Do not let your hearts be troubled" (John 14:1), Jesus tells them. Indeed, road maps are meant to reassure us, by giving us direction and setting us on the right course.

He didn't say it would be easy. He also didn't tell this to any of them alone, and his words are intended for us to hear in community today as well. Living out our understandings of Jesus as the way, truth, and life is a collective act, not an individual one. We do this every time we gather in community, whether that's a congregation, a parent-teacher organization, an extended family, or a neighborhood Buy Nothing group.

"You know the way to the place where I am going," Jesus tells us. We might feel new here, but it turns out we've had the road map all along.

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Mental Health Connect is a collaborative ministry of 39 local faith communities.  
<https://www.mhconnect.org/> or Google **Mental Health Connect Minnesota**  
 MHC is unique because we walk alongside you on your journey and work to build community. We don't refer and forget. We like to call it Empower and Collaborate! Everyone deserves treatment and care. MHC provides resources, appropriate next steps, and a road map when the path seems blurry. We let you know that you are understood and are not going to be alone. We collaborate with 39 faith communities that have a reach of 80,000 people and provide education to reduce stigma. Our Navigation line is free and confidential, providing support and direction, utilizing over 100 trusted local resources. Support from Stories of Hope will provide critical resources to support the mental health of our community. We can't do it without you.

**Mental Health Connect Can Help**

We help remove barriers and complexity so that you can gain access to the right providers or resources for your unique situation. Our navigation and follow-up services are free, individualized, and confidential.

**Contact our Mental Health Navigator -**

- I need help accessing therapy or counseling services
- I need help navigating the insurance system
- I would like to speak to a financial counselor
- I need to connect with housing services
- I would like to support my loved one living with a mental illness

CALL 612.642.1220

TEXT 612.642.1220

EMAIL [navigator@mhconnect.org](mailto:navigator@mhconnect.org)

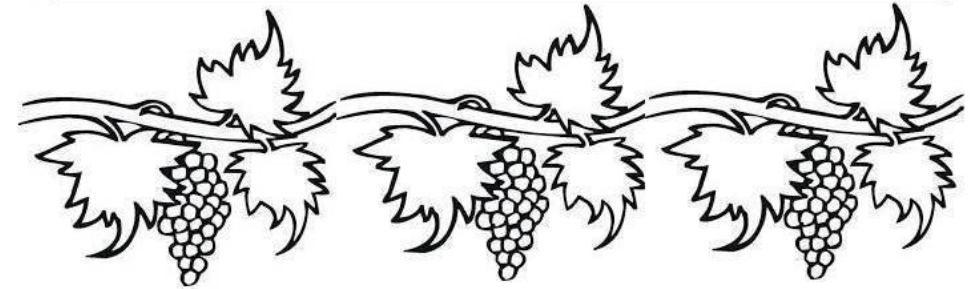
**Need help Developing a Mental Health Ministry contact Vicki Elliott -- Mental Health Connect Director**

Phone 612.312.3414 email [velliott@mhconnect.org](mailto:velliott@mhconnect.org)

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

"I am the True Vine"

P	L	E	N	W	T	E	Y	E	P	VINE	BRANCH	FRUIT	PRUNES
Y	O	G	O	E	N	U	R	P	S	WORD	HOME	PLENTY	THROWN
T	L	R	N	T	H	R	O	W	N	FIRE	BURNT	GLORY	DISCIPLES
N	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S				
E	V	R	U	F	R	O	G	L	Y				
L	S	T	I	U	R	F	E	S	F				
P	A	R	N	I	A	M	E	R	R				
T	E	E	F	R	O	C	U	A	I				
O	S	O	B	H	U	T	I	E	U				
E	H	C	N	A	R	B	A	B	T				



YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY, "LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON!"

I DON'T THINK THAT QUITE CAPTURES IT.

"CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK?"

NO. JESUS IS THE FULL REVELATION OF GOD, BUT THE DISCIPLES DON'T SEE IT.

WELL, "YOU CAN LEAD A HORSE TO WATER..."

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JOHN 14:1-14

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing." John 15:1-8

JESUS SAID I CAN ASK FOR ANYTHING AND I'LL GET IT, BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM TO WORK THAT WAY.

THAT'S STRANGE...

ARE YOU ASKING FOR THE SORTS OF THINGS FOR WHICH JESUS WOULD ASK? ARE YOU DESIRING TO DO JESUS' WORK?

OF COURSE NOT! I WANT JESUS TO DO MY WORK!!

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JOHN 14:1-14