

Trinity Season, 2024

Four Rivers  
LUTHERAN



School of Music

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### Ascension Hymn Sing

Our Franklin County Ascension Hymn Sing on Saturday, May 4 was heavenly! We joined voices in unison and in harmony as we reviewed favorite Easter and Ascension Day hymns. We learned about and sang hymns that most of us had never sung before including TLH 211 "Lo, Judah's Lion Wins the Strife" and LSB 460 "Victimae Paschali". We had the opportunity to preview the new "Te Laudamus" hymnal which will be released this fall. It is replete with all 150 Psalms, a Psalm tone for each, much beautiful artwork, the extra catechetical stanzas to the rich hymns of our heritage, and handbell accompaniments for several propers.

Thank you to all 17 people who came and joined in 2+ hours of singing and fellowship. We also are filled with gratitude at the Lord bringing us a new piano teacher for FRLSM. Kathy Britton played beautifully for and with us as we broke out in song again after our delicious lunch.

### New Teacher, Mr. Nathan Pennington

A new teacher has joined our ranks! We welcome Mr. Nathan Pennington to FRLSM. He graduated from Concordia University, Nebraska in 2023 with a Bachelor's in Church Music. Mr. Pennington is the Director of Parish Music at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Washington, MO where he plays organ on Sunday, directs choir, bells, and other instrumentalists, teaches part-time at Immanuel's K-8 school, as well as teaches piano and organ lessons. He loves reading, painting, writing his own music, and spending time with his wife, Kathryn.

### FRLSM is seeking teachers, volunteers, and students!

Our website provides student registration and financial aid forms, as well as a form for music teachers and volunteers.

## Upcoming Events

**Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 3PM**

Joyful Ringers Handbell  
Concert @ Immanuel  
Lutheran Church, Washington

**Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @  
3PM**

"Songs of Gladness" A Hymn  
Festival through the Church  
Year guided by the Hymns of  
Paul Gerhardt @ Immanuel  
Lutheran Church, Washington

**Saturday, October 12, 10AM-  
Noon**

"Hymns of the Season" Hymn  
Sing and Potbless @ St. Paul  
Lutheran Church, Union

**Thursday, October 3, 7:00  
p.m.**

Reformation Circuit Service @  
St. Paul, Union

**Saturday, December 7, 1 – 3  
PM**

"Hymns of the Season" Hymn  
Sing and Potbless @  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church,  
New Haven

**Monday, January 6, 2025,  
7PM**

Epiphany Circuit Service @  
Trinity, New Haven

**Saturday, May 17, 2025, 10:00  
a.m. – noon**

Ascension Hymn Sing and  
PotBless @ Ebenezer, Port  
Hudson

## Hymn Study: Lord, Thee I Love With All My Heart

Some of our greatest hymnody, it seems, comes out of the crucible of suffering and pain. Often, it is only as we reach the end of ourselves and our own efforts that we finally come face to face with the truth of the immensity of God's love, revealed in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Rev. Martin Schalling, the composer of *Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart* (LSB 708, TLH 429), could indeed attest to that truth.

Rev. Schalling served at a time of great upheaval in the churches of the Reformation. Living in a time of confessional conflicts, as state and church leaders turned away from the truth of God's Word to pursue the so-called "wisdom" of human reason, Schalling was removed or run out of two parish pastorates, because he refused to give up the truth of the Word, restored to the Church through the Reformation. It is in these moments of suffering and hardship that he penned the words of this hymn.

*Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart* is a hymn that directs our attention to the great love of God, revealed and given through the suffering and death of the Son, Jesus. The simple request of this prayer set to music is that the Lord, in His great mercy, would never depart from us. Nothing that we have in this life can compare to the riches that are ours because of what Jesus has done to redeem us and make us children of God. "Thou art the portion I have sought; Thy precious blood my soul has bought. Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord, Forsake me not! I trust Thy Word."

Even in the midst of the attacks of our enemy, Satan, who tries to get us to doubt the truth of Jesus' Word, we have no other place to turn. Not in this poor life of labor. It is the grace of God, lavished on us through Word and Sacrament, that finally gives us the strength and the patience to "bear my cross and follow Thee."

Especially as the reality of death draws near, where do we have to turn but Jesus, and Jesus alone? He alone has defeated death for us. He alone has left that tomb empty, the first fruits of a much greater harvest to come. We trust, that because Jesus has suffered the judgment of God for us, because He has died in our place on the cross, and because He has left the tomb forever empty, we too shall rise. "And then from death awaken me, That these mine eyes with joy my see, O Son of God, Thy glorious face, My Savior and my fount of grace."

May we all, strengthened by the Word, even the Word that comes to us in this hymn, look with hope and trust to the truth of the victory that is ours, because we have received the gift of faith, forgiveness, and salvation through the work of Jesus!

## Who is Paul Gerhardt?

Born in 1606 not far from Wittenberg, it's impossible to remember Pastor Paul Gerhardt apart from the 30 Years War, which carried with it plagues and famines, resulting in somewhere between 5 and 8 million deaths in Europe. Within two years of the start of the war, Paul, only thirteen years old, lost both his parents. In his teenage years, his school was almost closed because of a plague. Four of his five children died young, and his wife likewise died relatively young. Gerhardt reflected on these crosses in his hymnody. As he wrote, "Der es schickt der wird es wenden;/ er weiß wohl,/ wie er soll/ All mein Unglück enden," which is well translated as, "God my Loving Father sends them. He who knows all my woes knows how best to end them" (LSB 756/TLH 523).

Gerhardt's crosses were not only in plague, war, and family deaths. He should be remembered best for his unyielding stance on the Formula of Concord, especially the biblical teaching of the Lord's Supper, which resulted in his dismissal from his parish in Berlin by the Calvinist prince.

Gerhardt's hymns reflect his strong doctrinal teaching as well as an unyielding trust in Christ under many crosses and afflictions. Lutherans today would do well to learn them, to confess the truth with boldness, and trust our Savior in the face of conflict and death. For this reason, we invite you to attend "Songs of Gladness," at Immanuel in Washington on October 6<sup>th</sup>. See the Calander on the front page of this newsletter.