

Tuesday  
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# SOW and Grow News

Cultivating Faith Together!

Issue #1

Krista Hess, Project Director

## What is the SOW and Grow Initiative?

Back in the spring, Pastor Vang encouraged me to apply for a grant from the [Calvin Institute of Worship](#). (CIW) After bending the ear of quite a few thoughtful folks and brainstorming ideas with them, a general concept for the grant proposal was developed and an application submitted. Praise the Lord! The good folks at CIW saw that we wanted to *grow together* around a Scripture of the Week (SOW), taking full advantage of the many promises/benefits offered to us as believers (see Nicole's article!)

In brief, we will publish the LCMS Scripture of the Week along with a devotion, links to other resources such as sung version or hymn based on our SOW, and even suggest how to memorize and use them. SOW will appear in our worship services, be recited at meetings, and be expressed through an art installation that will grow each week, helping us to visually track all of the scriptures we will "hide in our hearts."

The S & G team is still working on multiple ways to make the SOW available to all. Please keep your eye out for survey or other registration materials which outline how YOU want to connect with the initiative!

**Other activities funded by the CIW grant will be unfolded in upcoming editions of the SOW & Grow News!**

## Please Plan to Attend our "OctGROWberfest" on September 29th!

A special 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Worship Service and Fellowship Meal will kick off our year-long "Sow and Grow" Program.

On 9/29/24, we will share a German-themed meal (with some "American" favorites, too!) and enjoy "Mt. Olive Family Feud" and other activities.

Please look for the sign-up clipboards in the church entryway and RSVP for the meal!



We already have a "plant-based" church logo! How can we tweak it to add our SOW and Grow Theme? Have a suggestion? Send your ideas to [hesskeg@gmail.com](mailto:hesskeg@gmail.com)!

Nicole Manners, Devotion Coordinator

**Blessed is the man...[whose] delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. 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.**  
*Psalm 1:1a, 2-3*

According to Martin Luther, the "blessed man" of Psalm 1 "has his love, the Law of God, always in his mouth, always in his heart and, if possible, always in his ear." Of course, we know the one Man who has perfectly kept God's Law, also known as God's instruction or teaching, is Jesus Christ. But we also know that in John 17 Jesus asks His Heavenly Father to set apart for holy use, or sanctify, His disciples in His truth. How does He do this?

Jesus goes on to say, "Your Word is truth" (John 17:17). God's people are made holy by His Word! Remember how Jesus kept Satan and his temptations at bay? With the very Word of God! This remains true for all of us in Christ. What better way for God's people to "withstand in the evil day" (Eph. 6:13) than for us to hide this precious, holy-making Word in our hearts? We can trust that when we do, we become more deeply rooted to the tree illustrated by Psalm 1 - the tree whose leaf does not wither and whose fruit ripens in due season. Mount Olive family, I look forward to this upcoming season of SOWing God's Word of truth deep into our hearts and GROWing together with Him in faith and love. May He prosper Mount Olive along the way!