



Immanuel
LUTHERAN SCHOOL



Knowing & Growing

**The Year
2020-2021**

Ready, or Not?

It is fair to say that few, if any, were prepared for what 2020 has brought so far. We may also wonder if we are ready for what is next!

In a way, that underscores the importance of a Christian education. Parents, students, and teachers do not know what challenges lie ahead. The education of a child is to prepare them to handle an unknown future.

God alone knows the future, and He alone will be with our children through their entire life journey. The better they get to know Him, the better prepared they are for life.

Knowing

The theme verse for this school year is Colossians 1:9-10, *"We have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be **filled with the knowledge of his will** in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.*

Knowing is the first thing that Paul prays for. One objective of education is to pass along knowledge, such as history or math or language. **Not** knowing can prevent students from being ready for the next level of education or of life.

Not Knowing God and His will is even more dangerous. Where knowledge of God's will is missing, the world will work relentlessly to fill the void with other, dangerous ideas.

How Can We Know?

Just as knowing how to write and speak words is important to communication, so knowing God and His will are essential for life.

God makes Himself and His will known in the Bible. Parents are to "Bring up children in the nurture and love of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4)

Parents play a crucial role in helping their children to know God and His will. But they also have help. Immanuel's faculty help to provide guidance each day.

That comes through teaching what God's Word says. Children at Immanuel study the Bible, through which we learn to know God and how He prepares us for life.

Jesus is the way, truth, and life; (John 14:6). He has promised to be with us always, to the end of the age (Matt. 28). *His word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path* (Psalm 119).

Growing Fruitful

What is the point of knowing God and His will? Verse 10 says, *"so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord,*

fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."

Children learn how to walk by seeing how we do it. They watched, they imitated, they stumbled, and finally they learned. Now we can hardly keep up with them!

Walking is an important basic skill, like reading and writing. Knowing how to walk is important but *walking and running* make that knowledge useful.

Knowing letters and facts and formulas is good but knowing how to put them into practice is better. Growing a plant in the garden is good but enjoying the fruit of it is even better.

Knowing about God is good, but practicing that knowledge blesses us. *Walking worthy* is what life looks like when we live like we know God and His will. We bear good fruit.

Walking Worthy

Children learn to **walk worthy** by following in the spiritual footsteps of Jesus as shown them by parents, family, and teachers. That's where *what we know* impacts *how we live*.

Here are some fruits that grow when we apply what we know about God and His will to how we live.

1. Prayer



If we know that God promises to hear our prayers for Jesus's sake, and we know that He is able to do far more than we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20), praying is a fruit of faith. It is part of walking worthy.

As you pray with your children at meals, in the morning, and at night, they learn that God always hears and answers. They learn to look up to Him for guidance.

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thess. 5:16-18

2. Worship & Study



Worship is a fruit of a faith that grows from knowing knows that in worship God connects us Himself and our church family who follow Jesus. Sunday School and Bible Class help us grow fruitful.

The way we spend our time shows what is important to us. As you worship with your children it shows it is important for adults to serve God and receive His gifts.

"Let us ... not neglect to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encourage one another....." Hebrews 10:24-25

3. Devotions



Faith believes Christ is with us always. When parents make a habit of having devotions at home with *My Devotions* or *Portals of Prayer*—it shows that God is part of our home.

Taking a few minutes daily at home for prayer and devotion can make a life-long impact on children. Just a few minutes in the Word each day can redirect our path.

"These words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." Deuteronomy 6:7-9

4. Discipline



Tomatoes and trees *sometimes* need help to support their fruit and to grow straight. Children *always* need support from parents and God's Word to walk worthy and bear fruit.

Like us, they face temptations to say and do hurtful things. While difficult, correcting is how the child learns what is wrong and how forgiveness makes right.

"Do not provoke your children to anger but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." Eph. 6:4

5. Sharing



Like walking, sharing is something that is learned. There is an inherent joy in sharing. Generous people are more content people.

When we share God's blessings to support church and school, it makes a big difference. Christian education shares life-long gifts.

Our church family shares more of the cost than parents because we want to help children know God and grow in applying faith to life.

Jesus said: *"Seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you....For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."* (Luke 12: 31, 34)

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A Covenant of Love

Life with God is about promises. In Baptism, God promises to love us and forgive us for the sake of Jesus. He promises to hear our prayers and when our life on earth is complete, to bring us to His Father's house forever.

We ask you to sign and return a **covenant of love** that promises your support of efforts to help children *"walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."* Colossians 1:9-10