

**KAOL**  
**PRAYER WALK**  
**JULY 2022**

I am the true vine, and My Father is the vineyard keeper.

Every branch in Me that does not produce fruit He removes, and He prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit.

John 15:1-2



**Equip~Build Up~Serve**

*To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ ... Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.*

**Ephesians 4:12-13,15-16**

**Visual:**

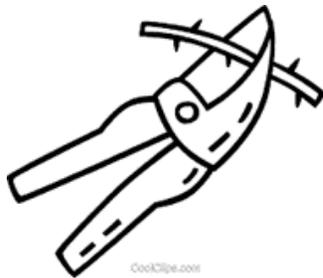
**Reflection:** As we gather to be equipped and built up so that we may serve one another and our neighbors; let's reflect on how Our Father the vinedresser tends the vineyard so that through faith in Christ we may bear fruit.

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11*

*These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants,[a] for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. 17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another.*

**John 15:1-17**

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, we ask that you equip and build us up so that we may always abide in Jesus, The Vine, that we may bear fruit. Help us to keep your commandments, especially to love others as Christ loves us. You are the vinedresser; may we glorify You in our lives as we serve and love our neighbors, friends, and family. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



## **EQUIP**

*“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.*

**John 15: 1-2**

**Visual: Pruning shears**

“My Father is the vinedresser”, with these words Jesus points out that God the Father plants us in our vineyard, tends our tender shoots, and prunes where it is needed. How does He do this? He starts with the *True Vine*, Jesus! We are grafted to the strength of the Lord Himself, nourished with the waters of Baptism, and fed by the Word of the Lord. With the Father tending the vineyard, removing unproductive shoots, and pruning us so that we bear much fruit, we are equipped to serve Him in our own vineyard and the vineyards of the world.



## **BUILD UP**

*<sup>4</sup> Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches*

**John 15: 4-5a**

**Visual: Grape vine/ trellis**

**Reflection:** Here Jesus points out that we cannot “bear fruit” by ourselves. I don’t know about you, but these words are always a relief to me! So often in life we feel like we’re carrying the whole load, but this verse reminds us that we are attached to the strength of the Lord. If we abide in Him, we have His strength, His support. Abiding in Jesus, what a concept! By living in Jesus, we are held up by the Living Word. The Holy Spirit gives us the trellis of faith to prop us up. Just as a branch that is detached from the vine withers and dies, without the Vine, we cannot do it by ourselves. God gives us the brace we need. Through His Word and Sacraments, we are grafted to and built up by the True Vine, our Lord Jesus Christ!

**Prayer:**

Dear Lord, Thank you for equipping us with the strength and support you give us through your Son. I pray that I abide in Him so that I might bear much fruit for your people. I especially pray that you would strengthen and support the members of the Gospel Outreach Committee and the LWML Kansas District Zone Presidents so that that they might serve you in their vineyards. Amen



## **SERVE**

*. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ... You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.*

**John 15:7-8,16-17**

**Visual: Grapes**

**Reflection:** What a gift it is to be reminded that God chose and appointed us to do the work in our lives and serve our people! We would never be capable to accomplish any of the work set before us on our own. As we abide in the Vine we are able to bear fruit. When I think about bearing fruit I think of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23 Yes! Like a cluster of grapes is bound together, the fruit of the Spirit is given to us as a group! We have all these different attributes (from the Spirit) that we can use to serve our neighbors, family, and friends in all the various ways we are uniquely called! Wherever God has appointed us to serve we can do so bearing the fruit of the Spirit as we abide in Jesus.

**Prayer: Father, Thank You for the work You have set before me. Forgive me of selfish sins and desires so that I may ask only that your will be done. Strengthen me with the fruit of the Spirit so I may do my work and service to you in Christian love and joy. Help me \_\_\_\_\_ especially \_\_\_\_\_ with**

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\_\_\_\_\_ ; through Jesus Christ, Amen.



### **CONCLUSION**

*“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”* Ephesians 2:10

As Lutherans, we’re pretty familiar with Ephesians 2:8-9, but we sometimes overlook verse 10. We are God’s masterpieces created for good works. The Greek word translated as “workmanship” is *poiema*, and is the same basic root as poetry, poem, etc. Think about the time and care taken to make a work of art. Whether it’s visual art, poetry, music, or some other expression, the artist spends time at his craft, making sure things are just right. God has spent that time on us, and continues to spend time molding us, preparing us for the works set before us.

**Visual: Consider this outline. How has The Artist (God) created you? How are you uniquely gifted to serve? Use art supplies as you reflect.**



**Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for creating me with a purpose. Thank you for equipping me for service. Help me build up those I encounter with Your message of good news. Bless the work of the LWML as we work together to accomplish what you’ve prepared for us to do. In Jesus’ name, Amen**