

**A word from Pastor Lim:** In May, Yin and I were looking forward to our vacation as we planned to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in South-East Asia. However, this was not to be as I had to go for an emergency open heart surgery at Mercy Hospital on May 25<sup>th</sup>. This was the week we were supposed to fly off on May 24<sup>th</sup>. It was totally unexpected. In retrospect, if we did make the trip, it could possibly be the last trip that I would ever take! By the grace of God, after a routine and heart catheterization tests, the cardiologist discovered I had severe blockage in my arteries even though I did not have any symptoms to indicate so. I was just one of those asymptomatic guys my cardio surgeon said! Members of our LOC family got a shock when I requested special prayer for the unexpected surgery. Our Wednesday night prayer meeting before my surgery was filled with intercessory prayers as our brothers and sisters gathered together to petition before God for His divine will and intervention. I am grateful for the spiritual support and the great outpouring of love from our entire LOC and Immanuel families shown to Yin and me during this time. In short, I was discharged on Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, three days after surgery and have now returned to work just one month after that. My recovery has been remarkable, and I am almost back to normal, if not even better than before. This is nothing short of a miracle! I want to take this moment to thank everyone from both Immanuel and LOC for their cards, gifts, meals, prayers, and visits during this time. Thanks be to God for His grace and goodness. All Glory be to God!



**Family Outreach:**

On Saturday, June 10, the Friday night Family Fellowship group had a potluck gathering at brother Hanwen and sister Tina's home. It was a great turnout with 17 kids and 25 adults and some of these families were new friends that have come recently to join our Sunday services and it provided a great opportunity to introduce them to this fellowship. Brother Sam and Stephanie led the evening with songs and facilitated personal sharings of meaningful bible verses and faith journey with free interactions. Everyone had an enjoyable time!

**Youth ministry and outreach through music:** On Sunday afternoon, June 11, 24 young musicians gathered to start our 2023 Summer season. We are blessed to have an ensemble with 10 violinists, a violist, 2 cellists, a woodwind section, a brass section, several pianists and a percussionist. About half of the youths are friends invited by the LOC youth musicians and their parents. Many of these guest musicians are unchurched. The ensemble will spend every Saturday afternoon rehearsing together. During the rehearsals, there are games, devotion message and fellowship time led by two of the parents. The youth-led ensemble committee has the desire to bring joy and light of Christ to seniors and is planning two performances at senior communities during the Summer. We pray that the youth will grow in faith as they serve, and that the Holy Spirit would work in the non-Christian musicians through the devotion messages. One of the parents, a LOC member, organized a parents' fellowship that meets separately during the rehearsals. The parents are studying teenage children parenting using material from the "Tell the Next Generation" materials that we attended a few months ago.



**Thanks to our LOC Men's Group** for their hard work in organizing the annual Bar-Be-Cue in celebration of Father's Day (June 18) for the lunch fellowship after our worship service. They also organized a special program for college bound students following our lunch. Some of the present college students and a recent college graduate shared their experiences to help them begin a new phase of life and learning.

**Looking ahead –**

**Congratulations to Seminarian Gary Liu** who received a call as associate pastor to St Paul Lutheran Church, Evansville, IN. Gary will be ordained and installed on July 30<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM at St. Paul. He will be in charge of the progress and development of the Chinese ministry at St. Paul. Please keep Gary and Elieen and their son, Enyan in your prayers.

**Youth Baptism and Confirmation Class starting in August.** Pastor Lim and Yin will be leading the class. Please register your child with Pastor Lim. The date will be determined in due time.

**Church Retreat Registration Begins:** The theme for this year's retreat is Alive in Christ. This will be held on-site in the gym from Friday, September 1, to Sunday, September 3. The speakers are our very own Rev. Michael Salemink (of Immanuel) and Rev. Michael Wolfram from Iowa. Registration fee is \$50 per pax which is non-refundable. More details will be forthcoming.