Pastor Newsletter Article—July 2026

"I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because
you have hidden these things **from the wise and the intelligent**
and have revealed them **to infants**…"
--Jesus (Matthew 11:25)

Some of my favorite ways to seek wisdom involve children, which is what I love about Vacation Bible School: multiple opportunities to seek wisdom. At VBS, wisdom is often hiding somewhere in the chaos of noisy kids. There's an art to training volunteers, creating a schedule, and communicating the adjustments that inevitably need to happen.

Fortunately, Gethsemane Lutheran Church is blessed with volunteers who possess the ability to make this art really beautiful. Because living the Gospel is not just about teaching correct theology: it's really about how you teach it. Grace is available even in the irritability of exhaustion. Forgiveness is always possible. Compassion for oneself and for others is a balm for this world. We're not trying to make everything perfect; we're trying to follow Jesus and his way of love and healing.

Jesus insisted many times that children will lead the way in the kin-dom of God, which sounds bonkers, but I think I kinda get it: caring for a child forces an adult to think about someone beyond themselves, forces adults to reckon with their priorities and what kind of world they prefer to create, and ignites an adult's sense of compassion that motivates us to create a better world beginning with the way we engage with it. And before we adults can get too philosophical, there's a child asking us to play.

But isn't playing just a waste of time?! Or is it an invitation to wisdom? This might just be the wisdom that God has hidden from the wise and the intelligent, those ones who trust their intellect and their experience more than they trust God.

Oof. All of us who take ourselves too seriously, Jesus sees us! And there's good news for us too: the invitation to wisdom remains present. It's only ever as far away as your humility. If you're really lucky, a child might be kind enough to help you find it.

May you always be found in God's love.

Pastor Cheryl Walenta Gorvie