

WELCOMING WORD *This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvelous things,

C: whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

L: Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;

C: lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

L: Let the rivers clap their hands,

C: and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, who comes to judge the earth

L: The Lord will judge the world with righteousness

C: and the peoples with equity.

OPENING HYMN #315 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (vs. 1, 3)

Love divine, all loves excelling. Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!

Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;

Visit us with thy salvation. Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive.

Suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temple leave.

Thee we would be always blessing; serve thee as thy hosts above.

Pray, and praise thee without ceasing; Glory in thy perfect love.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who is present, who gives life, who calls into existence the things that do not exist.

C: Amen.

L: If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand? Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from your resurrection life. We have strayed from your love for all people. Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new hearts and right spirits, that we may find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever. Amen.

L: Receive good news: God turns to you in love. "I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live," says our God. All your sin is forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ, who is the free and abounding gift of God's grace for you. **Amen.**

INVOCATION

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O God,

C: you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Acts 10:44-48 ⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

SECOND LESSON: 1 John 5:1-6 ¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

GOSPEL: John 15:9-17 [Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

MESSAGE Intern Tamara Siburg

HYMN #370 *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The unity of heart and mind is like to that above.

Before our Father’s throne we pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;
And perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

MAY BENEVOLENCE PRESENTATION - Neighbors Helping Neighbors

OFFERTORY PRAYER God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

Loving God, you call us to be your fruit-bearing church. Strengthen the bonds among all Christian churches. Today we pray for the Moravian Church, giving thanks for the life and witness of Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church and hymnwriter. Lord, in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Creating God, the earth praises you. The seas roar and the hills sing for joy. Fill the earth with your love so that by their song, all creatures of land and sea and sky, burrowing and soaring, may call us to join with them in praise. Lord, in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Faithful Savior, you conquer the world not with weapons but with undying love. Plant your word in the hearts of the nations' leaders and give them your Spirit, so that the peoples of the world may live in peace. Lord, in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Caring Healer, you forget no one and accompany the lonely. Be present with those who are sick or suffering (*especially*). Provide for those needing homes or medical care and point us towards life-changing responses to these needs in our own communities. Be with the dying (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Gracious God, as a mother comforts her child, you comfort us. Bless mothers and mothering people in our lives. Comfort those who miss their mothers, mothers who grieve, those who grieve because they cannot be mothers, and those who have never known a loving mother. Lord, in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Gentle Redeemer, all who die in you abide in your presence forever. We remember with thanksgiving those who shared your love throughout their lives (*especially*). Keep us united with them in your lasting love. Lord, in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

P: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever, Amen.

BENEDICTION *May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again. Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN: #551 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of Love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee; earth and heav'n reflect thy rays.
Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest;
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine.
Teach us how to love each other; lift us to the joy divine.



Kristin Swedlund-Twiton, Connie Peterson, Bonnie Bender, Ginger Quaderer (Diane Mueller's cousin), Norbert Haag (brother of Virgil Haag), Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg), Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson), Delores Bryant, Makenzee Smith, Shirley Thompson, Brock Howe, Dianne Haskins (friend of Char Smith), Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher), Jeannie U'Ren, Ruth Ann Nemet, Mike Olson (Wendy Rasmussen's brother), Sally Gaard (friend of Margie Kahl), Irene Bruflat, Connie Fausett (sister of Diane Twiton & Jean Bower), Bill Steinhauer, Harlan Oimoen, Peter Toniazzo, Grace Aavang

Our partner congregation IGLESIA EVANGÉLICA LUTERANA DIVINO SALVADOR (Divine Savior Lutheran Church) in Cataño, P.R

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 9, 2021

SHARE: What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

READ: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding

Monday, Psalm 93, The Majesty of God's Rule

Tuesday, 1 Timothy 6:13-16, The Good Fight of Faith

Wednesday, Deuteronomy 11:18-21, Rewards for Obedience

Thursday, Luke 24:44-53, The Ascension of Jesus

Friday, Luke 6:12-16, Jesus Chooses the Twelve Apostles

Saturday, John 16:4-11, The Work of the Spirit

TALK: Consider some of these ideas: "You are my friends if you do what I command you... I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another." John 15:14, 17. *On the night of his arrest, Jesus calls his relationship with his disciples as friendship. All they must do is to love one another as God and Jesus first loved them and us.*

- Friends are often your chosen family with mutual love and care. What does it mean to you that Jesus calls you his friend? How does it feel to have a friend in Jesus?
- How do you live out this commandment to love one another as God first loved you?
- What might the world be like if we treated everyone we met like they are one of our beloved friends?

PRAY: O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESS: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELC 'COFFEE TIME' RESUMES Coffee Time will resume on Wednesdays at 10 am AND we will meet 'in person'. Please meet at ELC for time to gather and catch up with our church family.

YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH WEEKLY CLASSES:

- SUNDAY SCHOOL meets on Sundays at 9 am on ZOOM. Outdoor Gathering on May 23rd, at 9:30 am.
- NO CONFIRMATION on May 12th. Outdoor Gathering on May 19th at 7 pm.
- PRE-CONFIRMATION - Our last meeting is May 12th at 3:45 PM.

FUSE NIGHTS (in person) - 9th - 12th graders are welcome to join our high school group at ELC on **Tuesday, May 11th at 7 pm**. Please join us for a Game Night. Please wear a mask. Looking forward to seeing everyone in person!

2021 ELC SUMMER FUN - (Save the dates)

VBS/DAY CAMP 2021 - JULY 12 - 15th 9:30 - 11:30 am (Youth ages 3 - 5th grade)

ONLINE SIGN UP LINK: <https://forms.gle/3FCz1yfrYqQEcxph6> A time to be together outside in God's creation.

EXPLORER DAY AT SUGAR CREEK - July 26th, 9 am - 3 pm

(Children entering 1st - 5th grade in fall 2021) Email Brenda to sign up.

CONFIRMATION CAMP AT SUGAR CREEK - July 25 - 30th,

(7th & 8th) Register online at www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org

GIVE/LOVE/SERVE (Service days) - New for 2021 - Middle - High school youth may join us on **Thursdays**, throughout the summer, to help in various local service opportunities. This provides us with helping our neighbors all summer, and allowing flexibility for our youth with their summer schedules. **REGISTER online:** (Link can be emailed as well) <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4daea929a5ffc70-giveloveservice>

SUGAR CREEK "BACK IN THE SADDLE" – Online Registrations are now available for Sugar Creek Bible Camp Summer programs. They have a variety of programs (new & favorites) listed on their website, <http://wp.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org>, for youth and families. Come and see in 2021!

BRATS IN THE LOT (At Miller's) - It is time for brats! Saturday, May 15th; 10 AM - 2 PM. Bake sale goodies as well. Come and enjoy the first brat/hot dog of the season! Thank you for supporting our youth!

STARLA'S SEASONINGS - Thank you to everyone who supported our youth with our Starla's Seasonings Fundraiser. Orders will be available for pickup after worship or will be delivered.



VETERANS' MINISTRY During the month of May, we are providing some note cards in the narthex to be signed and write notes to our deployed ELC members in the military. We will also have sheets of paper with their addresses on. Take a few cards home, or write them in church and drop in the offering plate. The church can mail them. Help us thank the fine people who help keep us safe here at home. Thank you so much! ELC Inreach/Outreach Ministry/Veterans Ministry.

Grant Schult- Currently lives at home with his parents. He goes to Green Bay one week-end a month for his training. In May, he will go to Texas for 2 weeks. I informed his mother Teresa that we will deliver a box to them by May 1st, so he can take it with him.

Lcpl Jacob Slaney-
1st Battalion, 5th Marines / 1st Marine Division
MCB Box 555463
Camp Pendleton, Ca. 92055-5463

Jacob is currently at a six week assignment, and will return to this address mid- May. Jacob is the son of Elizabeth Field and grandson of Don and Cathie Field

Spc.Kaleb Stapleman
7936 Destiny Blvd.
Fort Campbell, Kentucky 52223

Kaleb is a helicopter mechanic. Kaleb's parents are Adam and Brianne Stapleman

Jacob Werner
USS Nimitz Unit 10003 / Box 1063
FPO: AP 96620
He is the grandson of Janice and Delbert Werner.

Jack Lunaas
241 Lee Road
553 Phenix City, Al. 36867

He just purchased a new house. Will likely not be deployed for another 2 years. Jack is the grandson of Polly Field.

Brynn Lunaas is joining the reserves and is the granddaughter of Polly Field. Polly will update us on her new address.