

**Parish Three Lutheran Churches
9:00 AM St. John's, Woden, IA**



**May 5, 2024
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Pastor John Heille**

Today's introduction:

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.

PRELUDE AND MEDITATION

Nancy Beenken, Organist

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASTER PROCLAMATION (spoken boldly)

P: Christ is risen. Alleluia!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: This is the day the Lord has made.

C: We will rejoice and be glad in it.

P: The angel spoke to the disciples, "Don't be alarmed," he said.

"You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene who was crucified. He is risen."

Alleluia!

C: Christ has destroyed death. Alleluia!

P: Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things;

C: His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

GATHERING HYMN

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

ELW # 733

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING Acts 10:44-48

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 98 (read responsively)

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes
to judge the earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

HYMN / NOISY OFFERING

"Dearest Jesus..."

ELW # 443 vs 1-4

Your noisy offerings are donated to area food banks. Thank you for helping feed our neighbors.

SECOND READING 1 John 5:1-6

God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Alleluia..."

ELW p. 142

GOSPEL John 15:9-17

Response before the Gospel

All: **"Glory to you, O Lord"**

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

[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.

¹²This 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."

Response after the Gospel

All: **"Praise to you, O Christ"**

(Please be seated)

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

"God's Loving Faithfulness"

HYMN

"Beautiful Savior"

ELW # 838

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

ELW p. 234

2024 Class - Janessa Marie Brandt

Parents: Shannon and Melissa Brandt

Birth Date: February 2, 2009

Baptism Date: October 4, 2009

Zion Lutheran Church, Rake, IA

Sponsors: William and Jolene Brandt

Confirmation Verse: John 11:25-26

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

What does confirmation mean to me?

Getting confirmed to me means to become a part of a bigger family of Lutherans. Confirmation is something that helped me through the hard times. This year me and my family have gone through a lot of loss. What sealed my faith to God was my late grandfather, how he turned to God at the end of his life.

PEACE

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

ELW # 186

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

ELW p. 145

BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope † bless you now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

SENDING HYMN

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

ELW # 836

POSTLUDE

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Welcome to everyone worshipping today: those attending in person, those attending the Care Center live-stream and those viewing Iowa Lutherans on YouTube. And a big Thank You to all those participating in worship services: organists, readers, live-streamers, ushers, communion preparers and servers, and all others behind the scenes.

Prayer Concerns

We offer prayers of healing and comfort for those in our church families and communities who are ill, suffering, or coping with a loss. Please include in your prayers: Russ Bruns, all active military, our folks in the nursing homes, those suffering from disasters, and our Bishops Eaton & Halaas.

Pastor John’s contact information: his cell phone is (507)-399-3119 and his email is unlikelyj@icloud.com. His normal office hours are:

Mondays 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM Immanuel office
Tuesdays 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM St. John’s office
Wednesdays 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM Good Hope office

THIS WEEK AT PARISH THREE

5/05/2024 1:00 PM First Communion Workshop @ Good Hope
5/06/2024 6:30 PM Bible Study @ Good Hope
5/12/2024 9:00 AM Worship @ Immanuel w/Communion – Graduate Sunday w/quilts; cake and coffee after worship

PARISH THREE ANNOUNCEMENTS

****A First Communion Workshop** for kids and a parent/other adult will be held TODAY, Sunday, May 5th at 1:00 PM at Good Hope. First Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, May 12th. First Communion is open to children when their parents believe they are ready. Please let Pastor John know ASAP if your child will be attending.

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****Community Meeting – Titonka Care Center Update** - There will be a meeting open to all interested community members on Wednesday, May 8 at 7:00 PM at Good Hope Church. Everyone is invited to come with their questions for the care center board of directors.

****Friends of Titonka Care Center** – A new group open to anyone with an interest in promoting and preserving the Titonka Care Center into the long-term future. Meeting Tuesday mornings, May 7 through May 28, 9:00 – 10:30 AM Multipurpose Room, Titonka Care Center, 312 1st Ave NW, Titonka, IA 50480 Meeting notes will be available at the Titonka Library. Interested? Contact Hilary Ziols, 507-581-3623

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****Thank you from Exceptional Opportunities:**

Dear Friends at Immanuel Lutheran,

I wanted to write a note expressing my gratitude on behalf of Exceptional Opportunities. We deeply appreciate the support Immanuel has given us for many years, including your recent donation from the soup luncheon. Your generous gift will continue to help us in our mission to care for all people with Commitment, Acceptance, Respect, and Excellence. The soups were delicious and your support is even more loved.



Sincerely, Erin Schmidt, Executive Director

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****Immanuel 125th Celebration T-shirts and RSVPs:** Orders for Immanuel’s 125th T-shirt are being taken now. They will only be available if ordered and paid in advance. Order forms are online (www.parish3.com) and at the rear of Immanuel. An **RSVP** letter for the Saturday evening meal was mailed a couple weeks ago; please respond by June 1 using any of the means described in the letter. The RSVP letter is also online at www.parish3.com.

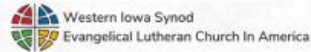
****Immanuel will be collecting memorabilia** to display at the upcoming 125th celebration. Start gathering your things and watch for a Sunday to bring them. All items will be returned; make sure your name is on them to ensure that they are returned.

****Woden’s 125th Celebration** will be held July 20 – 21, 2024. Pictures and information about Woden throughout the last 125 years are being requested and can be sent to woden125th@gmail.com or dropped off at the Woden Library or City Hall. There is more information on the hot pink poster on St. John’s bulletin board.

****125*125*125*125*125*125*125*125*125*125*125*125*125***

How you can help the Western Iowa Synod:

"I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth."
-Psalm 121:1-2



Dear church,

As you know, on Friday, April 26th, multiple tornadoes ripped through Eastern Nebraska and on into Western Iowa, leaving destruction in its wake. The tornadoes were part of a series of severe storms. The destruction included one fatality, many homes and other buildings have been destroyed, and lives are upended.

We write to you today to ask that you give today to help people whose lives have been impacted by these devastating tornadoes. You can help provide hope and practical support to those impacted. Lutheran Disaster Response is working with the Western Iowa Synod to provide aid to those in the impacted area, to respond with immediate relief. We are focusing on giving to small businesses in the area who are actively going into Minden, IA to do the actual cleanup and rebuilding.

Given the extent of the destruction, recovery is expected to take some time. We plan to accompany the synod and community leaders to address the needs over the long haul.

Please continue to hold these communities in prayer as they clean up and recover from this natural disaster.

To give, please go to: <https://www.wisynod.org/give> and use the "Lutheran Disaster" tab from the dropdown menu. Or scan the QR Code at the top of this page.