

LCMS YOUTH SERVANT EVENTS



"This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him." 1 John 4:9 NIV



Anderson, Indiana—Son Rise Camp



Caro, Michigan—
Fixin' Up The Thumb



Caro, Michigan—
Fixin' Up The Thumb



LIVE LOVE(D)

LCMS Servant Event Bible Study Resource



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Office of National Mission

Youth Ministry



LIVELOVE(D)

2013 LCMS Servant Events

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About the Theme: LiveLove(d)

The theme for the 2013 National LCMS Youth Gathering, **LiveLove(d)**, was selected in January, 2011. The theme is based on 1 John 4:9:

“This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him.” (NIV ‘84)

As theme development continued, it was suggested that existing themed resources be shared and others be developed for use at LCMS Servant Events, Outdoor Ministries, High Schools and others who work with high school youth.

Those participating in the initial theme development process included the LCMS Youth Ministry Staff, the 2013 Gathering Executive Team, Gathering Planning Team members, Paul Krentz of the Texas District (LCMS) and Rev. Dr. Joel Lehenbauer of the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations. Also included in the consultation were Dr. Jacob Youmans, Director of the Director of Christian Education program at Concordia University Texas and five young adults recruited from the campus by Dr. Youmans.

In observing the themes from the past eleven Gatherings, Ben Waldron, one of the Concordia students, said he could not believe that ‘love’ had never appeared in a theme before. Those involved in the theme development process also noted that as God’s people, we live confidently in the love shown to us in Christ and respond in love to others. They also observed that there are many young people hungering to know they are loved and for whom the Gospel of Christ gives the ultimate benefit and encouragement.

Rev. Mark Kiessling, the Gathering Program Director noted, “The theme and 1 John speak to the confidence we have in the Gospel and how Christ’s loving sacrifice gives life to those who believe. This gift of life is secured in our heavenly home and brings us into fellowship and acts of service in our present world. The Gathering program will provide participants opportunities for continued growth in their lives of faith and service.” LCMS Servant Events provides additional opportunities for faith development and service.

The theological focus for the theme was written by Rev. Dr. Lehenbauer, who also serves as the theological advisor to the Gathering. In his first response to the theme, he said, “Love in 1 John is anything but ‘lovey-dovey.’ It’s a matter of life and death. God loved us so much that He could not bear to see us die in our sin. He sent His own Son to suffer and die in our place, that we might live—and love—through Him. In ‘LiveLove(d),’ the ‘d’ makes all the difference: ‘We love because He (God) first loved us’ (1 John 4:19).”

LiveLove(d) Leader's Guide

Greetings in Jesus our loving Lord and Savior!

As you prepare to lead this Bible study, there are a few tips and techniques that you might find helpful. Please read the entire Leader's Guide and Bible study unit before leading the study so you can see each day's study in the context of the whole unit.

Make sure to begin your preparations with prayer! Here is a prayer you could begin with:

Dear Lord,

Please guide me as I prepare to lead others in a study of Your Word. Please send Your Holy Spirit to enlighten me as I read the Scriptures. Open my heart and mind to what You would have me learn. Please remove all obstacles and stumbling blocks so that Your Word would be understood in its truth and clarity. Thank You for giving us Your powerful Word that is living and active! Thank You for Your love and forgiveness in Christ. In His name I pray, Amen.

Each study is opened and closed in prayer. Have participants pray in any way you think is best for the group at that time. For example, they could pray silently on their own, you could speak the prayer aloud in front of the group, or they could pray in small groups.

Each day includes **Verse(s) of the Day**, **Word of the Day**, and **Question(s) of the Day** designed to be the focus of that day's topic. Use the verse(s) as often as you can throughout the day to reinforce its concept and help participants put it to memory by: speaking it to participants as a form of encouragement, incorporating it into your meal prayer, using it as a call and response throughout the day, or incorporating it into your decorations for the event.

There are 5 activity headings in this Bible study:

Discuss

Listen

Read

Hands On

Personal Reflection

Each method of teaching allows participants to interact with the concepts in a different way, meeting various learning styles.

Discuss

It is important participants are allowed ample time to discuss the ideas, concepts, and questions shared in this study. The discussion questions are designed to encourage participation, community building, and engagement with the topic. In order to allow each individual this opportunity, it is important that participants be divided into small groups. Depending on the total group size, the group dynamic, and

your unique event, small groups could be as small as two or as large as ten people. You can vary the size and make-up of the groups from day to day or keep them the same depending on what seems best for your group.

Listen

These sections share key concepts. Read them in advance so that you can share them in your own words without changing the meaning.

Read

These sections of Scripture could be read aloud by a volunteer, individually, in small groups, or by going around the room with each person reading a verse. No matter how the passages are read, make sure that each individual has a Bible to follow along on their own. The more participants handle and interact with the Bible, the more comfortable they will be to do so on their own at home as well.

Hands On

These activities require some materials that you will need to assemble ahead of time. A list of these items is included in the Auxiliary Resources at the end of this resource. Participants will need sufficient light and a surface to write on (for example: a night time devotion at the beach would not be a good environment for this activity).

Personal Reflection: Question of the Day

Some learners require individual time to process and think through concepts before being comfortable discussing them with a group. These learners benefit greatly from some personal journaling time. These activities require some materials that you will need to assemble ahead of time. You will need to provide writing utensils and paper as well as sufficient light and a writing surface (such as tables, the floor, or the back of a notepad).

May the Lord guard and guide you as you prepare to lead your group in His Word!

WHAT IS LOVE(?)

Live Love(d) Introductory Bible Study

Leaders Guide (with notes in italics)

2013 National LCMS Youth Gathering Resource by Rev. Peter Natzger.

This resource may be provided to participants prior to arriving to the Servant Event.

Intro

What is love? Take 30 seconds to write down as much as you can to describe love. You may not mention the words “God” or “Jesus.” Ready? Go!

Ask for a few volunteers (youth, preferably) to share their descriptions.

The reason for not using “God” or “Jesus” in this exercise is to help people think about the fact that, although we speak frequently of love, it can be difficult to describe love apart from God.

Is this statement true or false?

“The greatest thing you’ll ever learn is just to love and be loved in return.”

(Quoted in the movie *Moulin Rouge!*, 2001)

Allow for some discussion.

Based on the numbers of movies and songs and stories that focus on love in our society, it would appear that most people believe this statement to be true. Keep this quote in mind as we go through this study. We’ll return to it at the end.

To the Scriptures

Read 1 John 4:7-12.

Point out that the theme verse (verse 9) is in the middle of this reading.

Where does (true) love come from? (verse 7)

From God

How does verse 8 describe God?

God is love

John says “God is love,” not “Love is God.” **What is the difference?**

Allow for discussion.

*To say “God is love” is to say something about God. God **defines** love. Because He is love, whatever He **does** defines love.*

To say “love is God” is to worship love, and often times a false idea of love.

How do we know what “love” really is? (verse 9)

God has shown us real love in sending his Son.

To what end did God send His Son into the world? (verse 9)

So that we might live through him.

The theme, “LiveLove(d),” is particularly apparent at the end of verse 9.

What does it mean to live “through” Jesus?

Allow for discussion.

To live through Jesus is to find real and abundant life only in him.

To live through Jesus is to view everything in life from the perspective of the cross.

To live through Jesus is to love as he loved us.

Reread verse 11. What do we do with the love God gives us?

We love one another. Or, we “live love.”

Textual note: When John talks about loving one another in 1 John, he is talking primarily about loving our brothers and sisters in Christ (Lehenbauer, 19).

Love Today

When it comes to love, we must constantly “unlearn” what we have been taught by the world even as we learn what God has to teach us.

(Quote from Lehenbauer, 19)

When John talks about loving one another in 1 John, he is talking primarily about loving our brothers and sisters in Christ.

What are some false ideas about love in our society today? How do you know when love is “false”?

Allow for discussion.

Here you might distinguish between “love” and “lust.” Love is self-sacrificial, lust is self-serving. Point out that most of what passes for “love” in our society is actually self-serving “lust.”

Ultimately, the only way to know whether love is true or false is to measure it against the Scriptures.

False love doesn’t always look ugly and disgusting. Sometimes false views of love are very attractive and seductive.

What are some examples of a false view of love that are very attractive? Why are they so attractive?

Allow for some discussion.

False views of love are very appealing because they appeal to our sinful desires and inclination. Satan is the “father of lies” (John 8:44). He (as well as our sinful flesh and the world) lead us to look for love in the wrong ways and the wrong places. Oftentimes, false love looks good and leads us into sin and undesirable places and situations in life.

How did Jesus deal with people who were mixed up about love? Think of specific encounters that Jesus had with such people in the Bible, and discuss what we can learn from his example about reaching out to “de-loved” people today with the love of Christ.

Allow youth and parents to think of examples.

Examples could include the woman at the well in John 4, Zacchaeus in Luke 19, Jesus’ parable of the lost son in Luke 15, the thieves on the cross in Luke 23:39-43.

A Radical Redefinition of Love

The theme for the 2013 National Youth Gathering is *LiveLove(d)*. In many ways this Gathering will try to redefine in biblical terms what it means to love and be loved. It is crucial to recognize that, in the theme “LiveLove(d),” the “(d)” makes all the difference. We cannot even begin to know what it means to love others in the biblical sense of the term until and unless we know and trust God’s love for us in Jesus Christ. “We love,” says John, “because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19). By the same token, once we know God’s love in Christ we cannot help but love God *and* others; “whoever loves God must also love his brother” (1 John 4:21).

Daily Themes

Here’s a preview of how the theme is going to unfold this week.

Day One: Beloved: We gather together as sinners who are “beloved” as God’s forgiven children.

Day Two: Love LIVED: We take an up-close and personal look at Jesus, the love of God in the flesh.

Day Three: Live LOVED: We take a second look at our identity as ones who have been loved purely and completely by God in Christ.

Luther: “Rather than seeking its own good, the love of God flows forth and bestows good. Therefore sinners are attractive because they are loved; they are not loved because they are attractive. . . . This is the love of the cross.”

Heidelberg Disputation (1518), Explanation of Thesis 28 (quoted in Lehenbauer, 24)

Day Four: DE-loved: We confront twisted and distorted views of love that inevitably end in disappointment and despair.

Day Five: Live LOVE: We look beyond ourselves to love others in the name of Jesus.

Luther: “For where works and love do not break forth, there faith is not right, the gospel does not yet take hold, and Christ is not rightly known.”

Prefaces to the New Testament (LW 35:361), on the Gospels (quoted in Lehenbauer, 25)

Conclusion

Earlier we considered this quote: “The greatest thing you’ll ever learn is just to love and be loved in return.” Let’s think about it again. Is it true?

How might this revision be an improvement? “The greatest thing you’ll ever learn is that you *are* loved and that you are able to love in return.”

Unpacking this profound truth is the goal of our time together.

Closing Prayer

Father in heaven,

In Your Son Jesus, You have shown us true love. His sacrifice for us on the cross has opened our eyes to what it means to be loved. With great thanksgiving we ask You to surround us with Your loving Spirit. Empower us to live through Jesus and to love others with His sacrificial love. Guide us and provide for us as we prepare to show Christ’s to those we serve. Let everything we think, say, and do bring glory to Your name and love to this broken world. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Additional Resource: *The LiveLove(d) Thematic & Scriptural Study: A Primer of First John*
By Rev. Dr. Joel Lehenbauer
Found at: www.lcmgathering.com/communitylife

WHAT IS LOVE(?)

Live Love(d) Introductory Bible Study

Participant's Guide

2013 National LCMS Youth Gathering Resource by Rev. Peter Natzger

Intro

What is love? Take 30 seconds to write down as much as you can to describe love. You may not mention the words "God" or "Jesus." Ready? Go!

Is this statement true or false?

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(Quoted in the movie *Moulin Rouge!*, 2001)

To the Scriptures

Read 1 John 4:7-12.

Where does (true) love come from? (verse 7)

How does verse 8 describe God?

- John says "God is love," not "Love is God." What is the difference?

How do we know what "love" really is? (verse 9)

Why did God send his Son into the world? (verse 9)

- What does it mean to live "through" Jesus?

Reread verse 11. What do we do with the love God gives us?

Love Today

When it comes to love, we must constantly “unlearn” what we have been taught by the world even as we learn what God has to teach us.

What are some of the false ideas about love in our society today?

Does false love always look ugly and disgusting, or can it look extremely attractive and seductive?

How did Jesus deal with people who were mixed up about love?

Think of specific encounters that Jesus had with such people in the Gospels, and discuss what we can learn from His example about reaching out to “deloved” people today with the love of Christ.

A Radical Redefinition of Love

The theme for our Bible study is *LiveLove(d)*. In many ways, these studies will try to redefine in biblical terms what it means to love and be loved. What is crucial to recognize is that in the theme “LiveLove(d),” the “(d)” makes all the difference. We cannot even begin to know what it means to love others in the biblical sense of the term until and unless we know and trust God’s love for us in Jesus Christ. “We love,” says John, “because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19). By the same token, once we know God’s love in Christ we cannot help but love God *and* others; “whoever loves God must also love his brother” (1 John 4:21).

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Conclusion

Earlier we considered this quote: “The greatest thing you’ll ever learn is just to love and be loved in return.” Let’s think about it again. **Is it true?**

How might this revision be an improvement?

“The greatest thing you’ll ever learn is that you *are* loved and that you are able to love in return.”

Closing Prayer

Opening Devotion

LiveLove(d)

Scripture: 1 John 4:9

Hymn: *My Song is Love Unknown*, LSB 430

Introduction

Here we are at the beginning of our servant event. We stand at the beginning of an exciting journey, one that will bring new opportunities, new friends, and perhaps even some new challenges as we serve together and learn about our gifts, talents, and interests.

You may be facing other new beginnings uniquely a part of your life. *(If time permits ask participants to share any new beginnings they may have recently experience or are experiencing now.)*

As you begin this servant event and other beginnings, may you 'livelove(d)' always mindful of the gift of love God sent to our world, His son, Jesus Christ, who is with us each day "so we might live through Him."

Outline

- Our theme for this week is, "LiveLove[d]". Love is a word that is so easily thrown around. "I love my new phone. I love hamburgers. I love this TV show. I love _____." Just think how 'love' is used in the lyrics of many popular songs.

Love is also a word that is so often distorted by the world and us in our sinful nature. We want love to be something that we control or something that simply makes us feel good and happy. We want love to be easy. We use 'love' to control people and to get what we want.

- Holy Scripture tells us how love is distorted by us and the world...please don't think this is a new topic in the history of the world.
- However, Scripture tells us about the purest love. It is a love that is sacrificial, forgiving, and everlasting. This love is of our Heavenly Father who sent His Son, Jesus, to walk this earth, die on the cross, and be raised from the dead!
- The theme "LiveLove[d]" is based on 1 John 4:9 in which the Apostle John tells us that God's love was shown amongst us in Jesus Christ so that we might have life through Him.
- This love is for the whole world (John 3:16), but is rejected by some (John 15:18-19). This love is from the beginning (John 1:1-5), and meant for eternity (John 3:16). This love transforms lives for service to God and others (John 13:34-35).

Conclusion

As we study God's Word this week, we will be unpacking the theme and hearing the Good News that God is with you through His Son, Jesus Christ. God's love shown to us in Christ is our source of confidence in our lives.

Yes, challenges will come. Yes, disappointment may occur. Yes, joys and celebrations will also mark our time together this week. Through it all, we pray that the Holy Spirit always keeps us mindful of the love of God in Christ.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we pray for Your blessing upon our time of service. We pray for our leaders who will serve us this week. We pray for Your blessing upon the learning, fellowship, and growth to take place. We ask Your blessing on all those we will serve, those gathered with us now and those we still will meet. Above all, we pray for Your Holy Spirit to continue to call us to faith in Jesus Christ, in whom You showed us Your love and mercy. In His name we pray. Amen.

Day One Overview:

Word of the Day: Beloved

Verses of the Day

1 John 4: 9

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

1 John 3:1a

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

Main points

- Each participant is a beloved child of God for which Christ died.
- We are marked as children of God through the waters of baptism.
- We are not defined by what we have, what we do, but by whose we are, God's beloved.
- (From the Introductory Bible Study) God gets to define what love is; the world's idea of love does not define God.

Questions of the Day

- What is Love?
- How does knowing that we are God's beloved children affect our perspective on life and life's challenges?

Morning Devotion

Day One - Beloved

Opening Response

Leader: In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Group: Amen!

Leader: In the morning, O Lord, You hear my voice;

Group: In the morning I lay my request before You and wait in expectation. (Psalm 5:3)

Leader: But I will sing of Your strength, in the morning I will sing of Your love.

Group: For you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble. (Psalm 88:13)

ALL: Amen.

Song - Father Welcomes, LSB 605

Read

Verses of the Day

1 John 4: 9

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

1 John 3:1a

*How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!
And that is what we are!*

Listen

You may or may not remember the day you were baptized. It was a special day in your life and the lives of your family. Perhaps loved ones from across the country flew in to be a part of the day. You were held by many people as they ooh'd and aah'd over how cute you were. Your parents and godparents and perhaps other relatives stood proudly at the front of the church as the pastor baptized you in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You may even be able to remember the day you were baptized or perhaps when a younger sibling was baptized. A confession of faith was made, the faith that has strengthened you to this day. You were then as you are now: His beloved child!

Discuss

What does it mean to you knowing through baptism you are His beloved child?

Listen

Apart from Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit in our baptism, we are far off from God. God seeks us out and calls us in our baptism to know Him and His grace and mercy. We are baptized to live our lives under His grace, trusting Him and obeying His word. We are baptized to bring glory to God in all we say and do so others will also know that God invites all to Himself.

Sending Prayer

All: Almighty God, our Father, You have set before us a new day filled with challenge and opportunity. Strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit that we might “live loved” as we fulfill our tasks today. We glorify Your holy name through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God. Amen.

Song – Go, My Children with My Blessing, LSB 922 vs. 1

Bible Study

Day One - Beloved

Open with prayer.

Discuss

What are words you use to show you care for others? What are some actions that you may use to show love? *List these words on a sheet of newsprint*

Hands on

If using the box visual, write 'Beloved' on one side of the box.

Listen

Our words and actions can be used to convey our love for others. God also shows His loving care for us through His Word and actions. The word for today, Beloved, describes how God sees us.

God created you to be with Him and loved you even before you were born.

The prophet Isaiah reminds us: "But now, this is what the Lord says—he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine." (*Isaiah 43:1*)

The Psalmist writes: "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." Psalm 136:13-14

God shows us His love by calling each of us by name. He says, "You are mine." He claims us to be with Him. He knew us even before we were born.

Not only does God tell us that we are His, He proves His love for us in the actions of His Son Jesus. Our sin has separated us from being with God in that perfect relationship that God desires. Yet God demonstrated His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners and enemies of God, when we wanted nothing to do with Him, Christ died to save us from our sins and restore that relationship with our heavenly Father. (See Romans 5:8-11).

Because of Jesus, we can now be called 'children of God'.

Read

1 John 2:1, 2:7; 1 John 3:1a; 3:2; 3:21; 1 John 4:1; 4:4; 4:7; 4:11

Discuss:

What phrases are repeatedly used to address the people of God?

Different words are used in different translations. List these words on a sheet of newsprint.

Look at the two lists of words you have written (*first list is from the opening question*). What are the differences and similarities between the two lists?

What do you think it looks like to be a part of God's family?

Listen

Jesus says, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." Mark 16:16a. Our baptism marks us as God's child, a member of God's 'beloved' family.

Sing or read the lyrics from the hymn, *Father Welcomes*:

"Father welcomes all of His children to His family through His Son.
Father giving His salvation, Life forever has been won.

"In the water in the Word, In His promise be assured
Those who are baptized and believe, Shall be born again.

"Father welcomes all of His children to His family through His Son.
Father giving His salvation, Life forever has been won."

Discuss

Where do you find confidence that you are beloved by others (family, friends)?

Where do you find confidence that you are beloved by God?

What makes it difficult to believe that you are truly God's 'beloved'?

What promises does God have for you, His beloved, that are found in His Word?

What reminds you of God's love and faithfulness when you doubt?

Listen:

God repeatedly calls us His 'beloved' in 1 John and throughout the Bible. He shows us His love in Jesus. He saved us when we were unable and uninterested to save ourselves. The Bible is filled with accounts of God's unflinching commitment to His promises and continual care for His people. In times of doubt and uncertainty, we can cling to the truth of God's promises found in the Bible. God has NEVER broken one promise to us. If we're looking to trust someone's word, why not trust someone who has a perfect track record?

Discuss:

How does knowing that we are God's beloved children affect our perspective on life and life's challenges?

Close with prayer or use the Baptismal Remembrance from the Auxiliary Resources.

Evening Devotion

Day One - Beloved

Opening Response

Leader: In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Group: Amen!

Leader: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

Group: to sing praise to Your name, O Most High;

Leader: To herald Your love in the morning,

Group: Your truth at the close of the day. (Psalm 92:1-2)

ALL: Amen.

Song

Read

Verses of the Day

1 John 4: 9

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

1 John 3:1a

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

Discuss "Beloved" Learnings

Find a partner and share:

One highlight for you from today

One surprise for you from today

One way you saw God's love at work today

Come back to the large group and share a few highlights from your conversation.

Hands On

(If your devotion time doesn't lend itself well to this activity (such as around a campfire or in an offsite location) use this activity as a lead-in to your Bible Study time.)

Pass out index cards and an assortment of markers and pens. Have all participants write the Word of the Day and Verses of the Day on one side of the note card. Encourage participants to be creative and expressive in how they write...use of color, drawings, calligraphy, etc.

Participants can write their response to the Question of the Day on the other side of the card:

Personal Reflection: Question of the Day

How does knowing that I am God's beloved child affect my perspective on life and life's challenges?

These note cards can then be used as bookmarks in their Bibles or reminders to carry in their backpacks, pockets, etc.

Song

Group Prayer

(Allow participants to offer prayer requests, pray out loud "popcorn style", or go around the circle having each person squeeze the hand of the person next to them when they are done praying or if they want to pass.

Day Two Overview:

Word of the Day: Love Lived

Verses of the Day – 1 John 4:7-10

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Main Points

- Jesus is the embodiment (example) of love. (Jesus is THE love incarnate).
- Jesus' death is the ultimate display of his love for us.
- Jesus' earthly life is love born, love sent, love died, love lives.
- Tell stories from the Gospel of John that show Jesus' perfect love for others.

Question of the Day

- How did Jesus show God's love for me (and the whole world)?

Morning Devotion

Day Two – Love Lived

Opening Response

Leader: In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Group: Amen!

Leader: In the morning, O Lord, You hear my voice;

Group: In the morning I lay my request before You and wait in expectation. (Psalm 5:3)

Leader: But I will sing of Your strength, in the morning I will sing of Your love.

Group: For you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble. (Psalm 88:13)

ALL: Amen.

Song Jesus Loves Me

My Song is Love Unknown, LSB #430 1,2,5,7

Read

Verses of the Day – 1 John 4:7-10

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Listen

The Second Article: Redemption

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Discuss

How do today's verses

and the Second Article of the Apostle's Creed help you see the "love lived" through Jesus?

Sending Prayer

All: Almighty God, our Father, You have set before us a new day filled with challenge and opportunity. Strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit that we might "live loved" as we fulfill our tasks today. We glorify Your holy name through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God. Amen.

Song – Go, My Children with My Blessing, LSB 922 vs. 2

Bible Study

Day Two – Love Lived

Open with prayer.

Hands On

If using the box visual, write “Love Lived” on the top of the box.

Discuss:

What is the most loving thing someone HAS done for you?

What is the most loving thing someone COULD do for you?

Listen

As we read 1 John and today’s theme, Love Lived, we witness Jesus’ example of love. 1 John 4:8 tells us that God is love. Jesus is Love incarnate. Love was embodied in Jesus’ life on earth.

Just as God loves us, God also says of Jesus at His baptism, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased.” (See Matthew 3:13-17 ESV) God was well-pleased with His beloved Son Jesus because He perfectly lived out love.

As you watch this short YouTube video clip keep a list of how “Love (is) Lived” through Jesus.

Show YouTube video clip on “Life of Jesus” : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mj2SYfPs6g4>

Discuss

What examples did you see in the video of Jesus personifying or bringing alive love in His life on earth?

List these examples on a sheet of newsprint.

What is your favorite “Love Lived” example by Jesus?

Why is this example specifically meaningful to you?

Read

1 John 4:10-14

Discuss

How was the love Jesus showed different from the love of any other person?

Think back to the opening question: “What is the most loving thing someone has done for you?”.

How does what Jesus has done for you in redeeming your life from eternal damnation compare and contrast?

Listen

God's greatest demonstration of love is saving us from our sin and the rightful consequence we deserve of spending eternity in hell. Jesus' death and resurrection offers us forgiveness of sins and the undeserved gift of eternal life with God.

Discuss

With Jesus' demonstration of love in mind, what is the greatest gift of love we can share with others? How much does sharing the gift of salvation cost us? How much does the gift of salvation affect the receiver?

Listen

Jesus commands us to go and make disciples or other followers of Christ (Matthew 28:19). God is pleased when we follow His commands and when His children come to Him.

Discuss

How else can we imitate the love that Jesus embodied and demonstrated?

Read

1 John 3:16-18

Discuss

What does a life of love look like?

Discuss

Can we ever hope to be perfectly loving like Jesus?

Listen

Our emphatic answer to the question would be "No!" but what does John say?

Read

1 John 3:2-3; 5:13

Discuss

What do these verses tell us about being perfectly loving like Jesus? When will this occur?

Listen

It is true we will never love perfectly like Jesus in this world. However, we have the promise of eternal life, and we will someday be with Him in heaven. When God looks at us, He sees Jesus! Instead of treating us as our sin deserves, He treats us as Jesus deserves. Jesus took the punishment we deserve, and we get the reward that Jesus earned, His "Love Lived" for us too!

Close in prayer.

Evening Devotion

Day Two – Love Lived

Opening Response

Leader: In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Group: Amen!

Leader: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

Group: to sing praise to Your name, O Most High;

Leader: To herald Your love in the morning,

Group: Your truth at the close of the day. (Psalm 92:1-2)

ALL: Amen.

Song

Read

Verses of the Day – 1 John 4:7-10

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Listen

Discuss “Love Lived” Learnings

Find a partner and share:

One learning from the theme for you from today

One highlight or surprise for you from today

One way you saw God’s love at work today

Come back to the large group and share a few highlights from your conversation.

Hands On

(If your devotion time doesn't lend itself well to this activity (such as around a campfire or in an offsite location) use this activity as a lead-in to your Bible Study time.)

Pass out index cards and an assortment of markers and pens. Have all participants write the word of the day and verse of the day on one side of the note card. Encourage participants to be creative and expressive in how they write...use of color, drawings, calligraphy, etc.

Participants can write their response to the Question of the Day on the other side of the card:

Personal Reflection: Question of the Day

How did Jesus show God's love for me (and the whole world)?

These note cards can then be used as book marks in their Bibles, or reminders to carry in their backpacks, pockets, etc.

Song

Group Prayer

(Allow participants to offer prayer requests, pray out loud "popcorn style", or go around the circle having each person squeeze the hand of the person next to them when they are done praying or if they want to pass.

Day Three Overview:

Word of the Day: Live Loved

Verses of the Day – 1 John 4:10-11

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Main Points:

- As a beloved child of God, I show love for others.
- As a child of God I am not alone, I am part of a community of believers.
- We celebrate this with confidence and connect to this community of believers (1 John 4:17-18).

Question of the Day

- Who does His love make me?

Morning Devotion

Day Three – Live Loved

Opening Response

Leader: In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Group: Amen!

Leader: In the morning, O Lord, You hear my voice;

Group: In the morning I lay my request before You and wait in expectation. (Psalm 5:3)

Leader: But I will sing of Your strength, in the morning I will sing of Your love.

Group: For you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble. (Psalm 88:13)

ALL: Amen.

*Song There is a Name I Love to Hear, AGPS #236
Love in Christ Is Strong and Living, LSB #706*

Read

Verses of the Day – 1 John 4:10-11

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Listen

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord. Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true

Discuss

What does it mean to “live love(d) as you hear today’s verse and the explanation of the Second Article of the Apostles Creed ?

Sending Prayer

All: Almighty God, our Father, You have set before us a new day filled with challenge and opportunity. Strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit that we might “live loved” as we fulfill our tasks today. We glorify Your holy name through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God. Amen.

Song – Go, My Children with My Blessing, LSB 922 vs. 1, 3

Bible Study

Day Three – Live Loved

Open with prayer.

Hands On

If using the box visual, write “Live Loved” on one side of the box.

Listen

A question people have asked themselves in one form or another since creation, “Who am I?”. There is another question we often hear in the Lutheran church, “What does this mean?” Today’s theme helps us look more closely at these questions and understand how each day we “Live Loved”.

Discuss & Hands On

What are three words others would use to describe you? Think of a variety of people including parents, siblings, friends, teammates, etc. Write these three words on one side of the shape you were given.

Discuss

Are those words consistent with what you think about yourself? Why or why not?

Discuss & Hands On

What are three words that describe who you are in Christ? What are three words that God would use to describe you? Write these words on the other side of the shape you were given.

Listen

Based on our study of 1 John, we know we are really loved by God with a perfect, unceasing, unbreakable love! When God looks at us, He sees Jesus.

Read

1 John 2:29

We cannot do anything to make ourselves right with God. Rather, we are made righteous through what Jesus has done. We are clothed in His robe of righteousness.

Discuss

How do the following passages remind us of our own unrighteousness and sin as well as God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness through Jesus Christ? *You may invite individuals or smaller groups to each take a passage and share their answers with the larger group.*

Romans 3:10, 12, 23

Isaiah 64:6

Isaiah 61:10

2 Corinthians 5:21

Romans 5:17
Philippians 3:8-9

Read

1 John 4:9 (theme verse)

Discuss

Discuss the play on words in the Word of the Day, Live Love(d). How does the bracketed term 'love(d)' help unpack or personalize the meaning and impact of the term "Beloved?"

Listen

What is crucial to recognize is that in the theme, Live Love(d), the '(d)' makes all the difference. We cannot even begin to know what it means to love others in the scriptural, biblical sense of the term until and unless we know and trust God's love for us in Jesus Christ. By the same token, once we know God's love in Christ, we cannot help but love God *and* others.

Read

1 John 4:10-12, 19-21

Discuss

What makes up a loving relationship according to 1 John?

What happens to our relationships with others when we get confused about what love really is?

Why is this reminder and clarification so vitally important?

Discuss

Thinking about what we have just read in 1 John, how could you live loved in your community (home, church, school, work, etc.)?

Share how you or others have live loved during our time together in this community.

End the study by encouraging individuals to add other words of affirmation to each other's shapes and conclude by gluing together the shapes each person created.

Personal Reflection Questions

What is love?

How would I define the term 'love'?

How does God define the term 'love'?

What does it look like to live love(d)?

Close in prayer.

Evening Devotion

Day Three – Live Loved

Opening Response

Leader: In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Group: Amen!

Leader: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

Group: to sing praise to Your name, O Most High;

Leader: To herald Your love in the morning,

Group: Your truth at the close of the day. (Psalm 92:1-2)

ALL: Amen.

Song

Read

Verses of the Day – 1 John 4:10-11

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Discuss “Live Loved” Learnings

Find a partner and share:

One learning from the theme for you from today

One highlight or surprise for you from today

One way you saw God’s love at work today

Come back to the large group and share a few highlights from your conversation.

Hands On

(If your devotion time doesn't lend itself well to this activity (such as around a campfire or in an offsite location) use this activity as a lead-in to your Bible Study time.)

Pass out index cards and an assortment of markers and pens. Have all participants write the word of the day and verse of the day on one side of the note card. Encourage participants to be creative and expressive in how they write...use of color, drawings, calligraphy, etc.

Participants can write their response to the question of the day on the other side of the card:

Personal Reflection: Question of the Day

Who does His love make me?

These note cards can then be used as book marks in their Bibles, or reminders to carry in their backpacks, pockets, etc.

Song

Group Prayer

(Allow participants to offer prayer requests, pray out loud “popcorn style”, or go around the circle having each person squeeze the hand of the person next to them when they are done praying or if they want to pass.

Day Four Overview:

Word of the Day: Deloved

Verse of the Day – 1 John 2:15

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Main Points

- Look at examples of worldly love.
- Understand the consequences of an unrepentant life including separation from God.
- Experience the forgiveness that is ours through Jesus Christ and His atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Questions of the Day

- What do I love more than God?
- How am I led by my sin, Satan, the world around me, etc., to distort love and lead me away from God's intended purpose and devotion of my love?

Morning Devotion

Day Four – Deloved

Opening Response

Leader: In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Group: Amen!

Leader: In the morning, O Lord, You hear my voice;

Group: In the morning I lay my request before You and wait in expectation. (Psalm 5:3)

Leader: But I will sing of Your strength, in the morning I will sing of Your love.

Group: For you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble. (Psalm 88:13)

ALL: Amen.

Song – Take My Life and Let it Be, LSB #783, 784

Read

Verse of the Day – 1 John 2:15

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Listen

We live in a world that tells us we find success in earthly things. We need to get the latest gadget or a new outfit. We have to do something big or noteworthy to be recognized and admired. We wonder how many ‘likes’ we’ll get for posting a new photo on Facebook or how many followers will retweet our clever tweet on Twitter. Basing love by these worldly measures or living to have your fifteen minutes of fame has no lasting worth. It is not the entrance into eternal life.

Discuss

How can a worldly view of love distort love?

Listen

True love is complete because of the love our heavenly Father showed through Jesus Christ. As His beloved children, we live with trust in Him, not relying on the world’s view of love.

Sending Prayer

All: Almighty God, our Father, You have set before us a new day filled with challenge and opportunity. Strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit that we might “live loved” as we fulfill our tasks today. We glorify Your holy name through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God. Amen.

Song – Go, My Children with My Blessing, LSB 922 vs. 1,2

Bible Study

Day Four – Deloved

Open with prayer.

Hands On

If using a box visual, begin by writing 'Deloved' on one side of the box.

Discuss

How does the world define love?

How does this 'love' think? Speak? Act?

Discuss some of the ways that our understanding of love is twisted and distorted by the world, the devil, and our sinful desires and cravings.

Does false love always *look* ugly and disgusting, or can it look extremely attractive and seductive?

Read

1 John 2:15-16

Discuss

How does this speak to the ways in which we get love wrong?

Compare the list of 'everything of the world not from the Father' (1 John 2:16) to St. Paul's description of love defined in 1 Corinthians 13:4. How is worldly love different than God's definition of love?

Read

1 John 1:8

Personal Reflection

Reflect on ways that you have loved the things of this world more than God:

- Sinful cravings
- Lust of the eye (desiring something you see)
- Boasting about what you have (possessions)
- Boasting about what you have done (accomplishments)

Take time to privately confess those sins to God.

Listen

Jesus dealt with people who were mixed up about love. Think of specific encounters that Jesus had with such people in the Gospels. *Encourage smaller groups to read one of the examples below, discuss the questions listed below, and report back to the group.*

Examples include:

Samaritan woman (John 4:1-26)

Woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-11)

Prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32)

Peter's denial and reinstatement (John 18: 15-18; 25-27; John 21:15-19)

Rich young man (Matthew 19:16-22)

Discuss

Encourage smaller groups to read one of the examples above, discuss the following questions, and report back to the group.

Where was the main character hoping to find love?

How did Jesus respond?

What does Jesus' response say to us?

What can we learn from Jesus' example about reaching out to deloved people today with the love of Christ?

Listen

Our sin, Satan, and the world around us cause us to "delove" and distort love. This leads us away from God's intended purpose for love. When we confess this to our heavenly Father, we have the assurance that Jesus' death on the cross was the ultimate sacrifice showing us that God's love and forgiveness are ours.

Read

1 John 1:9-10

Discuss

Have you heard these verses before? *They are used as part of the service of Confession and Absolution in the Lutheran Service Book.*

Personal Reflection: Question of the Day

What do I love more than God?

Close with prayer or use the Confession and Absolution from the Auxiliary Resources.

Evening Devotion

Day Four – Deloved

Opening Response

Leader: In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Group: Amen!

Leader: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

Group: to sing praise to Your name, O Most High;

Leader: To herald Your love in the morning,

Group: Your truth at the close of the day. (Psalm 92:1-2)

ALL: Amen.

Song

Read

Verse of the Day – 1 John 2:15

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Discuss 'Deloved' Learnings

Find a partner and share:

One learning from the theme for you from today

One highlight or surprise for you from today

One way you saw God's love at work today

Come back to the large group and share a few highlights from your conversation.

Hands On

(If your devotion time doesn't lend itself well to this activity (such as around a campfire or in an off-site location) use this activity as a lead-in to your Bible Study time.)

Pass out index cards and an assortment of markers and pens. Have all participants write the word of the day and verse of the day on one side of the note card. Encourage participants to be creative and expressive in how they write...use of color, drawings, calligraphy, etc.

Participants can write their response to the question of the day on the other side of the card:

Personal Reflection: Questions of the Day

What do I love more than God? Alternates: How am I led by my sin, Satan, and the world around me to distort love? How am I led away from God's intended purpose and devotion of my love?

These note cards can then be used as book marks in their Bibles, or reminders to carry in their backpacks, pockets, etc.

Song

Group Prayer

(Allow participants to offer prayer requests, pray out loud “popcorn style”, or go around the circle having each person squeeze the hand of the person next to them when they are done praying or if they want to pass.

Day Five Overview:

Word of the Day: Live Love

Verse of the Day - 1 John 3:18

Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

Main Points

- We live love in word and deed.
- Realize love drives out fear and our excuses so we CAN live love.
- Rely on the Spirit given you in baptism to follow Jesus and love.
- Discover how we will live love at home.

Questions of the Day

- As a baptized, beloved, child of Jesus, how have I lived out my calling to love others, especially this week?
- How will I continue to live out my calling to love others in the days, weeks, and months ahead?

Morning Devotion

Day 5 – Live Love

Opening Response

Leader: In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Group: Amen!

Leader: In the morning, O Lord, You hear my voice;

Group: In the morning I lay my request before You and wait in expectation. (Psalm 5:3)

Leader: But I will sing of Your strength, in the morning I will sing of Your love.

Group: For you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble. (Psalm 88:13)

ALL: Amen.

Song Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service, LSB #848

Read

Verse of the Day - 1 John 3:18

Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

Discuss

What does it mean to love with actions and in truth?

Prayer Activity

We can show our love and care for others by sincerely praying for them. Stand in a circle, holding hands (if appropriate for your group), and at the same time, everyone pray for the person on your left (either out loud or privately). After a few minutes, switch to pray for the person on your right. End with everyone praying Martin Luther's Morning Prayer (see the Auxiliary Resources) or the Lord's Prayer.

Sending Prayer

All: Almighty God, our Father, You have set before us a new day filled with challenge and opportunity. Strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit that we might "live loved" as we fulfill our tasks today. We glorify Your holy name through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God. Amen.

Song – Go, My Children with My Blessing, LSB 922 vs. 1-4

Bible Study

Day Five – Live Love

Open with prayer.

Hands On

If using the box visual, write “Live Love” on one side of the box.

Discuss (You may also want to have this statement printed on a sheet of newsprint)

Listen to this statement and discuss if you think it is true:

Nothing you can do will make God love you more.

Nothing you can do will make God love you less.

Reflecting on your identity as God’s beloved, what makes this statement hard to accept?

Reflecting on your beloved moments, what makes this statement hard to accept?

What makes this statement great news? What thoughts or emotions come to mind?

Listen

Nothing you can do will make God love you more. He already loves you more than you can imagine.

Nothing you can do will make God love you less. You can't earn God's love; He has chosen to love you.

Listen

It is only because God loved us first that we can genuinely love and serve others. Jesus’ greatest command to us is to love Him and each other.

You have been a part of this servant event and experienced opportunities to live love. What a great opportunity you have had to help others, grow in your faith, and enjoy being part of a Christian community!

Being part of a servant event is fantastic but having the attitude of a servant is much more than a servant event. It is a way of life.

Discuss

Describe a time this week when someone served you. Was it hard to let someone else help you? How did it make you feel to be served?

In what ways has God served you in the past week?

Listen

Jesus served us by dying on the cross in our place.

When you were baptized, God loved and served you. He claimed you as His own and created faith in your heart. The Holy Spirit works through God's Word to help you grow in your understanding of that faith. You became His beloved child and a part of His family.

Through Holy Communion, Jesus loves and serves you. He offers you His very self to give you complete assurance of His absolute forgiveness and His sure promise of eternal life.

God also serves us through His Word.

Read

1 John 3:1 and 1 John 4:6

Discuss

We should not be surprised when people resist and resent our attempts to show them Christ-like love. How should we react when this happens?

Read

1 John 3:2 (See also 1 Peter 4:12-16)

Listen

When we love others – people who may or may not be Christians – we are treating them with Jesus' love, with gentleness and with respect. By loving them, we are creating a relationship and showing them God's love in a tangible way. We are showing them what we believe and how God's love changes us. We live love so others will see God's love in us and want to know more.

Read

1 John 3:16-17 (See also Matthew 25:34-40, Hebrews 10:23-25)

Discuss/Hands On

Create a list of specific, practical ways to live love in your home, congregation, school, and community. Use a *sheet of newsprint if desired*.

How can you live love at home with your family?

How can you live love as you hang out with your friends?

How can you live love in your school and/or community?

How can you live love at practice, rehearsal, or other extracurricular activity?

How can you live love in your church?

How can you support and encourage each other to live love in difficult situations or environments?

In which of those settings is it hardest for you to show God's love?

Read

1 John 3:18

Pass out index cards and an assortment of markers and pens. Have all participants write the word of the day and verse of the day on one side of the note card. Encourage participants to be creative and expressive in how they write...use of color, drawings, calligraphy, etc.

Participants can write their response to the question of the day on the other side of the card:

Personal Reflection: Questions of the Day

As a baptized, beloved, child of Jesus, how have I lived out my calling to love others, especially this week? How will I continue to live out my calling to love others in the days, weeks, and months ahead?

Hands On

Distribute paper, pens, and envelopes to participants. Ask each participant to address the envelope to him or herself. Ask them to review the lists you have just generated, select three ways they could personally live love, and write them on the paper provided.

Once each participant has completed his or her list, invite participants in pairs or threes to each share one of the actions they will commit to. These small groups can also write words of encouragement and support to one another on their sheets.

Participants should then place their sheet in the addressed envelope and seal it. Collect the envelopes and mail them to each participant at least one week following your event.

Close with prayer, focusing on gratitude for your time together and asking for God's blessings on the ways participants will live love.

Evening Devotion

Day Five – Live Love

Opening Response

Leader: In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Group: Amen!

Leader: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

Group: to sing praise to Your name, O Most High;

Leader: To herald Your love in the morning,

Group: Your truth at the close of the day. (Psalm 92:1-2)

ALL: Amen.

Song

Read

Verse of the Day - 1 John 3:18

Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

Discuss “Live Love” Learnings

Find a partner and share:

One learning from the theme for you from today

One highlight or surprise for you from today

One way you saw God’s love at work today

Come back to the large group and share a few highlights from your conversation.

Hands On

(If your devotion time doesn't lend itself well to this activity (such as around a campfire or in an offsite location) use this activity as a lead-in to your Bible Study time.)

Pass out index cards and an assortment of markers and pens. Have all participants write the word of the day and verse of the day on one side of the note card. Encourage participants to be creative and expressive in how they write...use of color, drawings, calligraphy, etc.

Participants can write their response to the question of the day on the other side of the card:

Personal Reflection: Questions of the Day

As a baptized, beloved, child of Jesus, how have I lived out my calling to love others especially this week? How will I continue to live out my calling to love others in the days, weeks, and months ahead?

These note cards can then be used as book marks in their Bibles, or reminders to carry in their backpacks, pockets, etc.

Song

Group Prayer

(Allow participants to offer prayer requests, pray out loud “popcorn style”, or go around the circle having each person squeeze the hand of the person next to them when they are done praying or if they want to pass.

LiveLove(d) Closing Chapel

Scripture: 1 John 4:9 and 1 John 4:19

Hymn: *My Song is Love Unknown*, LSB 430

Introduction

It's hard to believe that we are at the end of our week of service. We are gathering at the end of an exciting journey. Along the way, you took on new opportunities and challenges as you met new friends. You used your gifts and talents to serve others. You found new interests in God's created world.

Throughout this week, we heard about how God loves us in Jesus Christ. You heard how Jesus' love is sacrificial and enduring. God's love is one that seeks you out and calls you to Him in your baptism. Jesus is a caring Savior, knowing your hurts, your joys, your secrets, and calling you to receive His grace and love.

Outline

We have much to celebrate from this week. *(Give participants the opportunity to share some of these celebrations.)* We give thanks for the efforts and talents displayed in these celebrations.

We have had great opportunities to serve each other and those around us. *(Invite participants to share a few of these opportunities.)*

We have also been challenged and perhaps even suffered together. *(Discuss any challenges from your time together.)*

Through all these events, Jesus was with you and will continue to be with you. You know what sins were confessed and forgiven. You know which relationships grew by God's grace. You know if any relationships were torn apart by sin and selfishness. Through it all, Jesus was there loving you as you lived in Him. You heard of Jesus' pure, sacrificial love that was given to you – a love that is given freely so that you might freely give it to others.

Jesus will continue to be with you as you move into next adventures in life. The truth of Holy Scripture will continue to be your guide by the work of the Holy Spirit. Keep in the Word and remember God's command to us: "Listen to Him (Jesus)." In times of joy, uncertainty, pain, and suffering look to the cross and know your Savior walks along side you and loves you.

Conclusion

May God continue to bless you as return homes and encounter new opportunities to live love. Cling to God's love shown to us in Christ as your Rock and Confidence in all aspects of life. Challenges will come just as they did this school year. Yes, disappointment may occur. Yes, joys and celebrations will also

mark your future steps. Through it all, we pray that the Holy Spirit always keep us mindful of the love of God in Christ and that we will confidently live loved!

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we pray for Your blessing upon the close of this servant event. We thank You for the service of our leaders and those with whom we served. We thank You for the life given to each one of gathered here and pray Your blessing upon our time of learning, fellowship, and growth to take place as we return home. Above all, we pray for Your Holy Spirit to keep us steadfast in the One who showed us Your love and mercy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

LiveLove(d) Closing Worship

Invocation

- L In the name of the Father
C **whose undeserved love caused Him to make a plan to justify His fallen creation**
L ...and the Son
C **whose life, death and resurrection allows us to rest in His love for us**
L ...and the Holy Spirit
C **who enables us to treat others with love, gentleness, and respect as we serve without fear and show God's love to the world!**
All: **Amen**

Song

Confession and Absolution

- L O Lord, hear our prayer!
C **We are sinful and we need you to save us.**
L We have not loved you with our whole heart, strength or mind.
C **We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**
L We don't deserve your love.
C **Our thoughts, attitudes, words and actions are selfish and greedy. Please forgive us!**
L You have chosen to justify us by grace through faith in Christ.
C **Thank you for giving us faith!**
- L God has forgiven your sins because our Lord Jesus has paid the price and died in your place.
C **Thank you, Lord Jesus!**
L Your sins are gone. You can rest in Him!
C **Thank you Heavenly Father!**

Bible Reading

1 John 4:7-12

Response

- L This is how God showed his love among us:
C **He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.**
L This is love:
C **Not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.**
L Thank you Lord, for loving us!
C **Amen**

The Apostle's Creed

Song

Message

Prayers

L Dear Heavenly Father,

C Thank you for hearing our prayer.

L You showed Your love to us by sending Jesus to be a servant.

C He lived and died to love us.

L He showed love to the poor, the weak, the sick and those who didn't deserve it.

C He wasn't afraid to love sinners,

L Sinners like you and me.

C Thank you, Lord for showing Your love to us.

L Thank you, Lord for loving us. Help us to respond to that love by showing Your love to others.

C Help us to show Your love as we lovingly serve our families, our school, our community and our world following your example.

L Help us to shine with your love.

(Raise up specific prayer requests of the group)

L Thank you for hearing our prayer.

C We love you, Lord.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Song

The Lord's Prayer

L Let's pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us;

C 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; and 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

Song

Order of Communion

Song

Benediction

L God serves us

C through Word and Sacrament.

L He gives us all we need.

C Jesus served us

L through His life and death.

C Because He rose from the dead, we too shall rise.

L It is amazing that God would choose to love and even serve us!

C This makes us want to serve others, too.

L Lord, let our actions show Your love to those around us.

C Guard and guide us!

L Lord Almighty, bless and direct our days and deeds in Your peace.

C Amen

L "The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."

Numbers 6:24-26 (NIV)

Song - Go, My Children with My Blessings, LSB #922

Baptismal Remembrance

All God's People Sing, CPH 1992

Auxiliary Resource

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Leader: There is one body and one Spirit.

People: There is one hope in God's call to us.

Leader: One Lord, one faith, one Baptism.

People: One God and Father of us all.

Leader: As Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father,

People: even so we also should walk in the newness of life.

Baptismal Song

Scripture Reading

Remembering Our Baptism

Leader: In Holy Baptism our sins are forgiven and we are granted a new life in Christ our Lord. We solemnly renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways; we confess the gift of faith in God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

I ask you anew: Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

People: I do renounce them.

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

People: Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?

People: Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit

Suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, died, and was buried,

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People: Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Leader: Let us pray,

Almighty God, we give thanks that Your Son Jesus suffered and died for our sins. We celebrate with joy His resurrection from the dead and ascension into heaven. We are grateful for the work of Your Holy Spirit in us, which brought us to faith by Baptism. We know that You are faithful in Your covenant with us. Keep us faithful as well. Show us the way You would have us live. In Jesus, our blessed Savior,

People: Amen.

Message

Song

Prayers

Lord's Prayer

Blessing

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

People: Amen

Confession and Absolution

Auxiliary Resource

Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service – Setting One

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit

People: Amen. *Matthew 28:19b; (18:20)*

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8-9*

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination.)

Leader: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways. To the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Leader: In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake, God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. *John 1:12; Philippians 1:6*

People: Amen.

Luther's Morning and Evening Prayers

Auxiliary Resource

Martin Luther wrote two short prayers for individuals and families to use in the morning after waking and in the evening before going to sleep. These prayers, taken from Dr. Luther's [Small Catechism](#), can help you begin and end each day with the Lord.

Luther's Morning Prayer

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Luther's Evening Prayer

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands, I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Hands-On Activity Suggestions

Auxiliary Resource

In determining the design for the 2012-13 LCMS Servant Events poster, the artist selected a cardboard box for the background. This box design brought to mind the children's song, *Love in a Box*, included below.

Provided below are two hands-on activities that use boxes to reinforce the daily themes and Verses of the Day from each study. These activities require some materials you will need to assemble ahead of time.

Song: Love in a Box

Artist: CPH Faith Alive

Oh, you can't keep Jesus' love in a box,
Love in a box, love in a box.
Oh, you can't keep Jesus' love in a box,
'Cause His love will come a bubblin' through.

Oh, you can't keep Jesus' love in a bag,
Love in a bag, love in a bag.
Oh, you can't keep Jesus' love in a bag,
'Cause His love will come a bubblin' through.

Oh, you can't keep Jesus' love in a jar,
Love in a jar, love in a jar.
Oh, you can't keep Jesus' love in a jar'
'Cause His love will come a bubblin' through.

Oh, you can't keep Jesus shut in the grave,
Shut in the grave, shut in the grave.
Oh, you can't keep Jesus shut in the grave
'Cause He rose again on Easter Day!

So, I'll just keep Jesus' love in my heart,
Love in my heart, love in my heart.
So, I'll just keep Jesus' love in my heart
So His love will come a bubblin' through.

Cross Box

You will need square boxes; the daily theme sheet (see Auxiliary Resources) printed on cardstock; scissors; glue sticks; and markers, crayons, or colored pencils.

Ask participants to assemble their box. Cut out each of the graphics for the daily themes and attach them to the top and four sides of the box. This can be done in one setting at the beginning of your study or each day as you review the theme.

Encourage participants to decorate their boxes throughout the week with words, phrases, or pictures connected to the daily themes.

Boxes may be stacked to form a cross shape on the last day of the event using a heavy piece of cardboard to provide support for the boxes used to create the arms of the cross.

Distribute boxes to each participant at the end of the event. Provide scissors and ask each participant to cut down the seam on the four sides of the box. The box should now be flat and in the shape of a cross.

During the week, the boxes can also be used as a place for participants to leave notes of encouragement for those serving with them at the event.

Cross Card

You will need copies of the Cross Card (see Auxiliary Resources) printed on cardstock, scissors, glue sticks, and colored pens or pencils.

These cards can be used in a variety of ways. They can be made prior to your event and given to each participant at the closing chapel or worship. They could be an activity for the participants to share with people they are serving during the week. Participants could also create one of the cards for someone they want to thank at their home congregation.

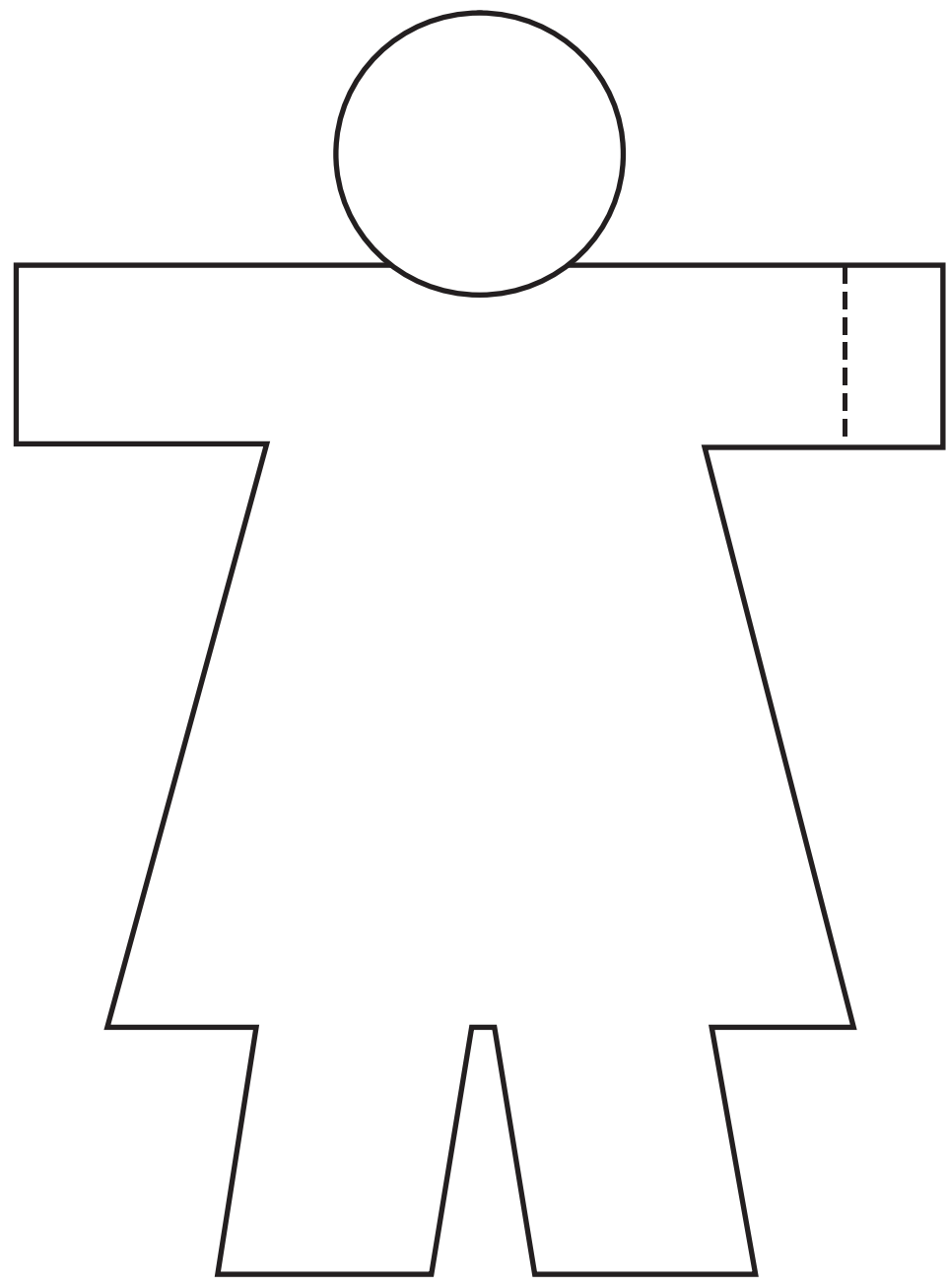
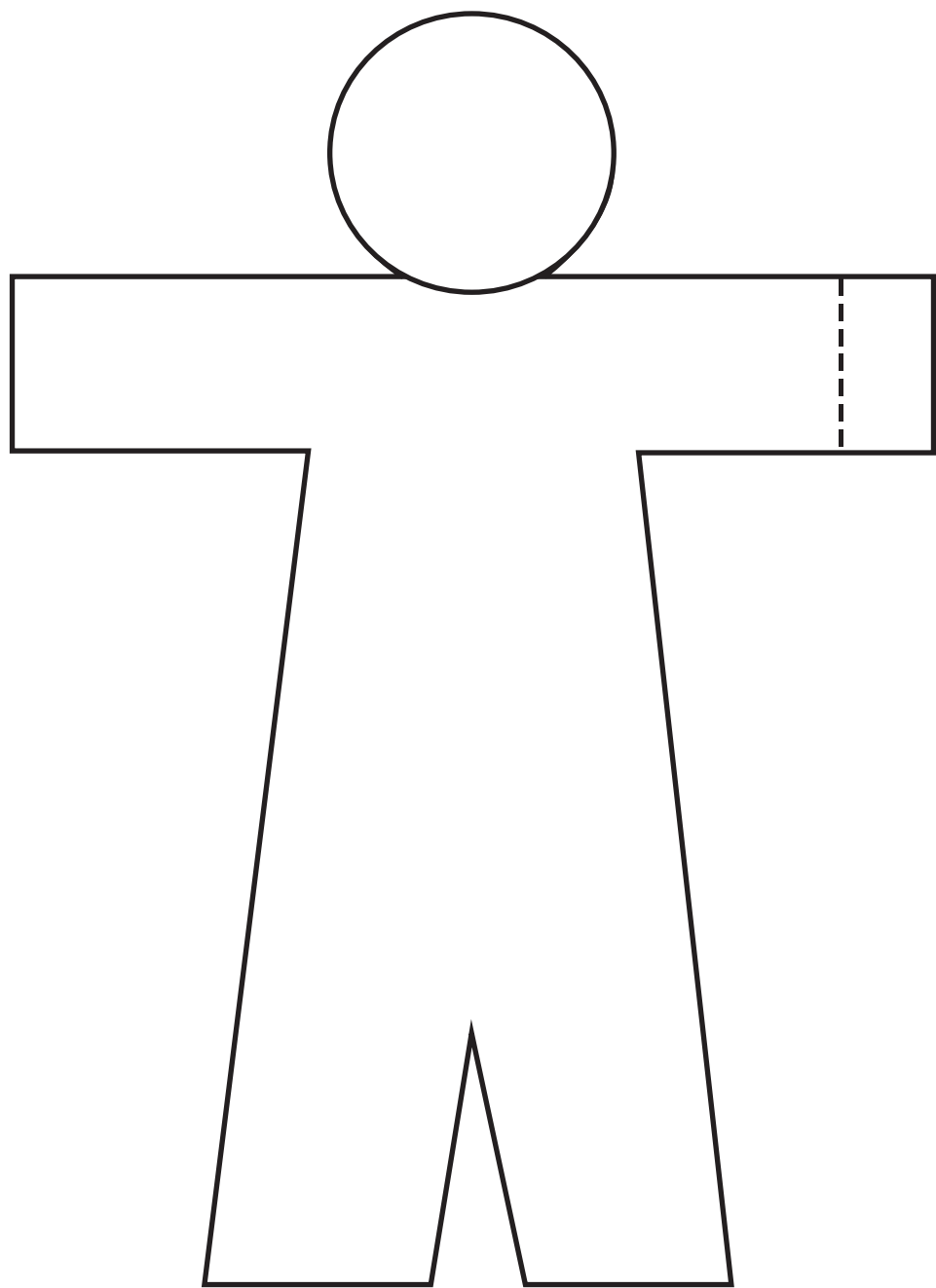
BELOVE(D)

LOVELIVE(D)

LIVELOVE(D)

DELOVE(D)

LIVELOVE



This is how God
showed His love
among us:

He sent His
one and only Son

into the world

that we might live
through Him.

1 John 4:9 NIV 1984

Glue square on the right to back of center part of cross after all other parts are attached.

Fold card as indicated.

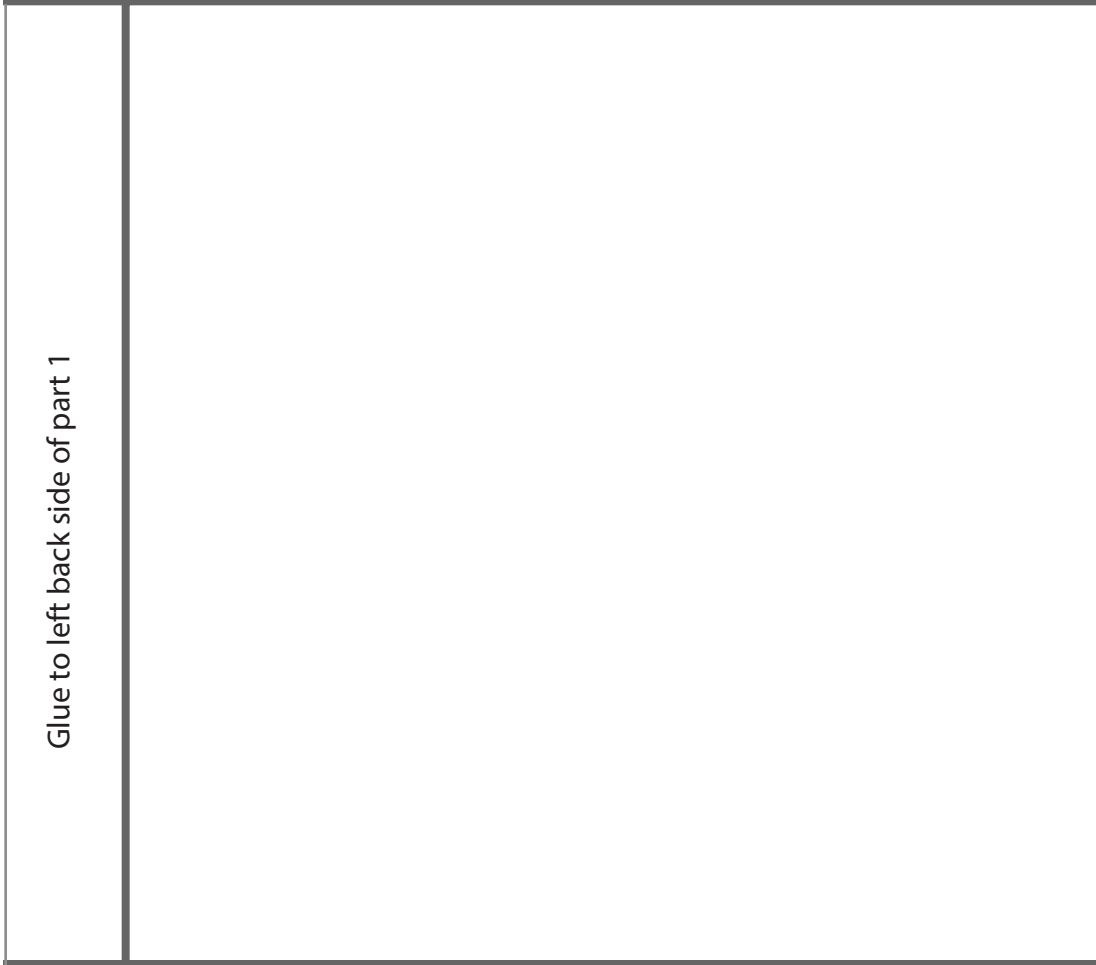


Glue Live Love(d) title on left to front of card after it is folded.

This is how
God showed
His love
among us:

He sent His
one and only
Son

Part 2



Glue these side pieces to the back of part 1 to form the top of the cross

Glue this tab to bottom of center part.

into the world

that we might
live through
Him.

1 John 4:9 1984 NIV