

## Blessed Savior Lutheran Church

1205 North Lincoln Ave  
O'Fallon, IL  
(618) 632-0126  
www.mybslc.org  
Worship –9:30 am.

Pastor Tony Troup (618-340-8375), Vacancy Pastor  
Pastor Perry Schefelker (618-322-7498), Vacancy Pastor

Cheryl Vohlken, Organist  
Care & Share Fellowship Group: 10:45am

**Sunday Morning Worship Service for Friendship Sunday**

**June 9, 2024**

### WORDS OF WELCOME, SHARING OF THE PEACE

#### CALL TO WORSHIP:

P: Shout with joy to God, all the earth!

C: **Sing the glory of His name; make His praise glorious!**

P: Say to God, "How awesome are Your deeds! So great is Your power that Your enemies cringe before You.

C: **All the earth bows down to You; they sing praise to You, they sing praise to Your name."**

P: Come and see what God has done,

C: **How awesome are His works on man's behalf! (Psalm 66:1-5)**

P: We begin our worship of our awesome God in the name of the Father,

C: **Who created us to be His friends and to bring Him glory;**

P: In the name of the Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord,

C: **Who made us God's friends through His reconciling death on the cross;**

P: In the name of the Holy Spirit,

C: **Who calls us to be God's friends through the Gospel.**

**OPENING SONG:** "Brothers and Sisters in Christ," Terry Dittmer

**Sing Alleluia! Amen!**

**Let your prayers and your praises ascend.**

**Lift up your voices and sing to our Lord God, our Savior, our King!**

**Here brought together by grace, we are gathered as friends in this place.**

**Chorus:**

**And assembled as one, in the name of the Son,**

**Lifting hearts, lifting hands, celebrating as friends,**

**And proclaiming the Lord, all our praises afford.**

**We are brothers and sisters in Christ.**

**Man walked alone and in need.**

**Without faith, hope or promise or creed;**

**Wandering aimlessly lost unaware of the staggering cost;**

**That God in his mercy would save all his people from death and the grave. Chorus**

**Lord, teach us how to proclaim**

**All your goodness, your love and your name!**

**Lord, teach us how to forgive, and in love, teach us Lord, how to live.**

**Raising our voices in song, help us tell all the world we belong. Chorus.**

## RESPONSIVE PRAYER:

P: Blessed Lord, we come into Your presence today, rejoicing in the knowledge that Your Son, Jesus Christ, has made it possible for us to be called not just Your friends, but also Your children. Help us to not only hear, but to inwardly grasp the implications of this kind of relationship today.

C: **Take away our fears, our frustrations, and our feelings of futility. Come to us this day and be our friend!**

P: May our worship and fellowship be pleasing to You in every way, and enable this day to be a celebration of our friendship with You through Jesus, and our friendship with one another.

C: **Let Your Holy Spirit move mightily among us today through song, prayer, and preaching so that we leave here fully aware of Your great love for us.**

P: We love You, Lord, and we look forward to the precious words of comfort and direction which You have prepared for us this day.

C: **Hear us, bless us, and challenge us to receive the friendship that You offer to all people through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT Genesis 2:7-9, 15-17; 3:1-7 (*man's friendship with God is ruined by sin*)

Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE READING Romans 5:6-11 (*God reconciles us makes us His friends through Jesus' death on the cross*)

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** John 15:9-17 (*Jesus calls His disciples and us His friends.*) (*Please rise.*)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

*(After the reading)*

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH:** Apostles' Creed (*Please remain standing.*)

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**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.**

**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. Amen.** (*Please be seated.*)

**SERMON HYMN – LSB 770 “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”**

**What a friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Ev'rything to God in prayers!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;  
Oh, what needless pain we bear  
All because we do not carry  
Ev'rything to God in prayer!**

**Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.**

**Are we weak and heavy laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee;  
Thou wilt find a solace there.**

**SERMON**— “What a Friend,” John 15:9-17

Rev. Perry Schefelker

**OFFERING** – VBS Theme Video Song

**THE PRAYERS:**

- P:** Let us pray for our friendship with Christ.  
Jesus, our dearest friend, remain in us that we may remain in You. By Your Holy Spirit, deepen our relationship with You and make it the most important part of our lives. Jesus, friend of sinners,
- C: Be our friend.**
- P:** Let us pray for those whom Christ will soon call His friends.  
Holy Spirit, work mightily in the hearts of people today that life-changing friendship with Jesus that spans time and space and brings new life and salvation. Bless them today with friendship in Christ, that knowing and trusting Him as their Savior, they might attain everlasting life. Jesus, friend of all,
- C: Be their friend.**
- P:** Let us pray for those who are sick or recovering.  
Friend of the suffering, bring healing and health to those who are ill, especially all whom we've named before You, as well as anyone that we might name in our hearts right now. Give them patience and strength, courage and endurance, that in good health or poor they may render You service and praise. Jesus, friend of the sick,
- C: Be their friend.**
- P:** Let us pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones.  
Friend of the grieving, as You visited the home of Your friends, Mary and Martha of Bethany, so visit all who mourn at this time, sharing their sorrow and assuring them that You are “the Resurrection and the Life.” Jesus, friend of those who mourn,
- C: Be their friend.**
- P:** Finally, let us pray for our congregation.  
Friend of this church family, give us Your heart for the lost, the poor, the outcast, and the lowly. Send us into our community and area with the glorious message of the Gospel so that all may know Your love and live in Your friendship. Jesus, compassionate friend of all in need,
- C: Be their friend through us.**  
*(Other special prayers and intercessions may be offered here)*
- P:** These and all the prayers of Your faithful friends we offer this day in Your precious and powerful name, Lord Jesus.
- C: Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER:**

**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.

## BENEDICTION

**CLOSING HYMN**– LSB 725 “Children of the Heavenly Father”      *(Please rise.)*

Children of the heav’nly Father  
Safely in His bosom gather;  
Nestling bird nor star in heaven  
Such a refuge e’er was given.

God His own doth tend and nourish;  
In His holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things He spares them;  
In His mighty arms He bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever  
From the Lord His children sever;  
Unto them His grace He showeth,  
And their sorrows all He knoweth.

Though He giveth or He taketh,  
God His children ne’er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely  
To preserve them pure and holy.

## SENDING

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and one another.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

\* \* \* \* \*

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRESENCE WITH US!**

Friends, thank you for joining us for worship.  
And do come back again, for Blessed Savior Lutheran Church  
is a place where friends become family!

FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY 2024