

**IF YOU ABIDE
IN MY
word,
YOU ARE
TRULY MY
DISCIPLES.**

John 8:31

"Human Being"

February 21, 2021

Friendship Celebration

Lutheran Church ~ Missouri Synod

765 E Chinden Blvd. Meridian, ID 83646

www.friendshipcelebration.org

Email: office@friendshipcelebration.org

www.fclcpreschool.org

Church and Preschool Phone: 208-288-2404

Senior Pastor: Matt Henry Cell: 208-957-9364

Email: mhenry@friendshipcelebration.org

Founding & Kuna Lutheran Church Pastor: Tom Hausch Cell: 208-860-1274

Email: thausch@friendshipcelebration.org

Director of Christian Education: Brett Lindemood Cell: 208-982-1461

Email: blindemood@friendshipcelebration.org

Preschool Director: Lori Jensen Office: 208-288-2404

Email: ljensen@friendshipcelebration.org

Elders Serving: 8:15am Ralph Cavalieri ~ 11:00am John Wiemer

Red Letter Challenge: Week 1

February 21, 2021

Preservice Song: "You are Holy (Prince of Peace)"

Men (Women Echo):

You are holy (You are holy)
You are mighty (You are mighty)
You are worthy (You are worthy)
Worthy of praise (Worthy of praise)
I will follow (I will follow)
I will listen (I will listen)
I will love You (I will love You)
All of my days (All of my days)

Men (Women sing at same time):

I will sing to and worship (You are Lord of lords, You are King of kings)
The King who is worthy (You are Mighty God, Lord of everything.)
I will love and adore Him (You're Emmanuel, You're the Great I AM)
I will bow down before Him (You're my Prince of Peace Who is the Lamb)
I will sing to and worship (You're the living God, You're my saving grace,)
The King who is worthy (You will reign forever, You are Ancient of Days)
I will love and adore Him (You are Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End)
I will bow down before Him (You're my Savior, Messiah, Redeemer and Friend)

All:

You're my Prince of Peace
And I will live my life for You

Men (Women Echo):

You are worthy (You are worthy)
Worthy of praise (Worthy of praise)
I will follow (I will follow)
I will listen (I will listen)
I will love You (I will love You)
All of my days (All of my days)

Men (Women sing at same time):

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The King who is worthy (You will reign forever, You are Ancient of Days)
I will love and adore Him (You are Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End)
I will bow down before Him (You're my Savior, Messiah, Redeemer and Friend)

All:

You're my Prince of Peace, and I will live my life for You.
You're my Prince of Peace, and I will live my life for You.

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Welcome & Announcements

(Please stand.)

Invocation and Call to Worship

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

Congregation: Amen.

Leader: Our worship is in the name of the Father,

Congregation: The one eternal God in whom we live and move and have our being,

Leader: And of the Son,

Congregation: Our crucified and risen Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom the love of God is made manifest among us,

Leader: And of the Holy Spirit,

Congregation: The Counselor by whom we become the children of God.

Opening Set: *"Forever"*

Give thanks to the Lord our God and King, His love endures forever
For He is good, He is above all things, His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise

With a mighty hand and outstretched arm, His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn, His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise
Sing praise, sing praise

Forever God is faithful, forever God is strong
Forever God is with us, forever

Forever God is faithful, forever God is strong
Forever God is with us forever, forever

From the rising to the setting sun, His love endures forever
By the grace of God we will carry on, His love endures forever

Sing praise, sing praise
Sing praise, sing praise

Forever God is faithful
forever God is strong
Forever God is with us, forever

Forever God is faithful, forever God is strong
Forever God is with us, forever, forever, forever.

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"Build My Life"

Worthy of ev'ry song we could ever sing
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You

Jesus the name above ev'ry other name
Jesus the only one that could ever save
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You
We live for You

Holy there is no one like You
There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder
And show me who You are
And fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me

Jesus the name above ev'ry other name
Jesus the only one that could ever save
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You
We live for You

Holy there is no one like You
There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who You are
And fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me
I will build my life upon Your love
It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone
And I will not be shaken

Holy there is no one like You
There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who You are
And fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me

And I will build my life upon Your love
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Confession of Sins *(Based on Psalm 14:3, 7; Romans 3:23; Ephesians 5:26–27)*

Leader: Brothers and sisters, let us together acknowledge that we have turned away from our faithful God. None of us is good. We all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Therefore, let us come before our Father in heaven in repentance and faith, seeking His pardon and restoration for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In silent prayer, we bring our sins to the foot of the cross. (A moment of silence is observed.)

With humble hearts, let us pray.

Congregation: Faithful Father, have mercy upon us. We have failed to obey Your commands. Loving Savior, have mercy upon us. Wash us clean in Your saving blood. Comforting Spirit, have mercy upon us. Restore us to be Your own.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: Because of God's mercy and grace, salvation has come to you! You are forgiven in your Father's eyes. You are washed spotless by the cleansing blood of Jesus. You are sealed by the Holy Spirit for the day of redemption. Rejoice and be glad!

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

(Please be seated.)

Sharing of the Pics

Old Testament

Romans 6:6-14 ESV

8:15am Kevin Krafft

11:00am Greg Schweigert

⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

¹²Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. ¹³Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. ¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Epistle

Ephesians 1:3-14 ESV

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

(Please stand.)

Holy Gospel

John 8:31-38 ESV

³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

³³They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. ³⁷I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. ³⁸I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.”

Affirmation of Faith

All: Through Christ's death our old selves are crucified, put to death, and buried with Him, so that the evil desires of the flesh may no longer rule us, but that instead we are raised to newness of life in order to dedicate ourselves as living sacrifices of gratitude to Him.

(Please be seated.)

Children's Message

Friendship Cards/Prayer Requests

Offering *You may give your offering by giving online through the church website at www.friendshipcelebration.org, by signing up for automatic withdrawal which links to savings/checking account or debit/credit card (form is also available on church website), or by mailing your check to the church office.*

Hymn of the Day: "Abide with Me"

Abide with me fast falls the eventide
The darkness deepens Lord with me abide
When other helpers fail and comforts flee
Help of the helpless O abide with me

I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r
Who like Thyself my Guide and Stay can be
Through cloud and sunshine O abide with me

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day
Earth's joys grow dim its glories pass away
Change and decay in all around I see
O Thou who changest not abide with me

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness
Where is death's sting where grave thy victory
I triumph still if Thou abide with me

Sermon: “Human Being”

John 8

In the Red Letter Challenge, the first concept of discipleship is “being”—knowing who we are in Christ. Since God has given us a new identity, a mark of discipleship is abiding in His word and delighting in freedom. It’s good to first just be. Then we can do.

Human Being, Not a Human Doing

“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples...”

The Cause of Freedom

“...and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.”

Son = truth

Gal 4:7

Do we know who we were?

Do we know who we are?

Like Father, Like Son

From “abide” to “abode”

Finding a place for His words

Life Group Questions

Head (what?)

- What does abiding mean?
- Why is reading the Bible often overlooked?
- Why is freedom important to our being?

Heart (so what?)

- What place do you give the Word in daily life?
- Compare your life from before you knew Christ until now. What changes has God made in your life?
- How does the truth set us free?

Hands (now what?)

- Whom is God leading you to disciple?
- How often do you bring God into your daily conversations with others?
- How can speaking the truth lead to trouble?

(Please stand.)

Prayers of the Church

Leader: Let us pray for the church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess Your name may be united in Your truth, live together in Your love, and reveal Your glory in the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

Congregation: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace, that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Lord in Your mercy,

Congregation: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Give us all a reverence for the earth as Your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to Your honor and glory. Lord in Your mercy,

Congregation: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of Your salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

Congregation: Hear our prayer, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Leader: Everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being: You have made us for Yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they rest in You. Give us purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing Your will, no weakness keep us from doing it; that in Your light we may see light clearly, and in Your service find perfect freedom through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Leader: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Congregation: 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.

Words of Institution

Preparation for The Lord's Table

Holy Communion: We celebrate the Lord's Supper today by receiving the Body and Blood of Christ which is given in, with and under the bread and wine. In this meal, we receive the forgiveness of sins, the promise of life everlasting and the strength we need to live faithfully. We invite to the Lord's Table baptized believers who are truly repentant of sin and seek the grace in this meal, forgiving of one another as we have been forgiven, and gladly believe and confess the Real Presence of Christ in this meal. All people are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Participating in the meal is how the church proclaims the Lord's death, resurrection and imminent return. **Red wine** is used to best visually convey the blood of Christ. For personal or medical reasons, **white grape juice** is also available in the center of the trays.

Distribution Song: *"Worthy Is the Lamb"*

Thank You for the cross Lord
Thank You for the price You paid
Bearing all my sin and shame
In love You came and gave amazing grace

Thank You for this love Lord
Thank You for the nail-pierced hands
Washed me in Your cleansing flow
Now all I know Your forgiveness and embrace

Worthy is the Lamb seated on the throne
Crown You now with many crowns
You reign victorious
High and lifted up Jesus Son of God
The Darling of heaven crucified
Worthy is the Lamb
Worthy is the Lamb

Thank You for the cross Lord
Thank You for the price You paid
Bearing all my sin and shame
In love You came and gave amazing grace

Thank You for this love Lord
Thank You for the nail-pierced hands
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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: Almighty God, You provide the true bread from heaven, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Grant that we who have received the sacrament of His body and blood may abide in Him and He in us, that we may be filled with the power of His endless life, now and forever.

Congregation: Amen.

Benediction

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Congregation: Amen.

Closing Song: “Glorious Day”

I was buried beneath my shame
Who could carry that kind of weight
It was my tomb 'til I met You

I was breathing but not alive
All my failures I tried to hide
It was my tomb 'til I met You

You called my name
I ran out of that grave
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day
You called my name, I ran out of that grave
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day

Now Your mercy has saved my soul
Now Your freedom is all that I know
The old made new Jesus when I met You

You called my name
I ran out of that grave
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day
You called my name, I ran out of that grave
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day

I needed rescue my sin was heavy
But chains break at the weight of Your glory
I needed shelter I was an orphan
Now You call me a citizen of Heaven
When I was broken You were my healing
Now Your love is the air that I'm breathing
I have a future my eyes are open

You called my name
I ran out of that grave
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day
You called my name, I ran out of that grave
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day

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RED LETTER CHALLENGE

This 40-Day study is a challenge to live more like Jesus so that our lives become a better testimony to the world. Jesus had a lot to say about how we as His followers are called to live our lives. The RLC takes Christ's literal words and gives us practical daily challenges based on those words. (In some Bibles, Jesus' words are printed in RED LETTERS.) You'll learn how to deepen your relationship with Jesus, receive God's forgiveness and give grace to others, increase your heart for serving, live more generously, and gain confidence to speak about what Jesus has done in your life.

Do you have what it takes to really follow Jesus— to truly do what He said?

We believe you do!

Friendship Celebration Announcements ~ February 21, 2021

Upcoming Lenten/Easter Services:

- **Lenten Evening Services (Red Letter Challenge)**
 - Wednesdays, worship @ 7:00 pm
- **Palm Sunday, March 28th – 8:15 & 11:00 am**
- **Maundy Thursday, April 1st – 7:00 pm (Holy Communion)**
- **Good Friday, April 2nd – 7:00 pm**
- **Community Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 3rd – 11:00 am (up to 6th grade)**
- **Easter Sunday, April 4th**
 - Sunrise Service 7:00 am—outside!
 - Worship Services (Holy Communion) 8:15 & 11:00 am
 - Children's Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 am

Red Letter Challenge: *It's not too late to pick up your copy today!* FCLC is taking part in the 40-day Red Letter Challenge in the season of Lent! This will be a congregation-wide endeavor of focusing on and doing the words of Jesus. Whether you are home, or in-person, this challenge is for all of us. Four districts, including the Northwest, are taking part in this as well. The book "Red Letter Challenge" is written by Zach Zehnder, a LCMS pastor. These books are now available for \$10. We want each household to have a book so we can do the challenge together. If cost is an issue, we are happy to cover the cost of the book. Books may be picked up in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays, or in the Church Office Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 8:30-2pm.

Synod Vote Result: About 63% of LCMS congregations voted on the resolution to delay the convention cycle by one year. It easily passed with 91% in favor. Thanks for helping the Synod make informed decisions. District convention is now scheduled to take place in 2022 and Synod in 2023.

Eisenbarth Estate Gift: In December, FCLC received a generous gift from the estate of Jo Eisenbarth in the amount of \$17,700. In January, the LLC voted to designate a third of it to pay down our mortgage with LCEF, a third to benefit the preschool, and a third to cover upgrades to the sound booth and AV system. As someone who loved her family and her church family, we give God thanks for Jo and her example of faithful and humble stewardship.

Seeking Room to Rent: Nicole Morgan is looking to rent a room at the end of March and can pay \$450 in rent plus utilities. If you have a lead on a rental or have space for rent in the Boise/Meridian area, please contact Nicole at: morgan-316@hotmail.com. Thank you!

Are You Ready for Easter? We aren't ready either, and that is why we need your help. We are going to have two Easter Egg Hunts this year. The Easter Egg Hunt for the community will be held on April 3rd at 11am (up to 6th grade) and the egg hunt for the children from our congregation will be on Easter Sunday, April 4th at 10am.

How you can help: We are looking for families to donate candy (No nuts because of allergies), small toys, and empty plastic easter eggs. Donations can be dropped off in the fellowship area of the church. Thank you in advance for making this a fun event for our local community and for our church community. ~*Brett Lindemood, DCE*

Registration is open for Camp Perkins' Summer Camps! Register now for summer camps at Camp Perkins Lutheran Outdoor Ministries. Info can be found at: <https://www.campperkins.org/summer-camp.html>

Preschool Registration for 2021-2022: *So far the Preschool has 31 children registered for the 2021-2022 school year!* If you are interested in signing a child up for preschool, a registration form can be picked up in the office or by going to this link: <http://www.fclcpreschool.org/registration.html>

Lutheran Hour Ministries Lenten Devotions: You can pickup the 2021 LHM Lenten Devotions in the Fellowship Hall or you can download it online at: www.lhm.org/lent/

Director of Music: Friendship Celebration Lutheran Church in Meridian, Idaho is searching for a Director of Music. The position involves approximately 15 hours per week which includes: selecting music, holding rehearsal, and leading worship music for two Sunday morning services each week. For a full job description, compensation details, and application requirements, contact Aaron Hubler at: aaronhubler5@gmail.com.

Corinthians Sunday Bible Study: Come join this Bible study led by Pastor Matt on the book of 2 Corinthians. You can catch up by going to the church website and downloading the handouts and audio from the previous sessions. This class will be at 9:30am on Sunday mornings on Zoom, but if you want to gather in person with others, we will also use the smart TV in Room 130. Our hope is to cover a couple chapters at a time with some flexibility! These are great letters from Paul and very useful for the times we are in. For Zoom link, send an e-mail to: mhenry@friendshipcelebration.org.

Greeter List: If you are a steady or weekly attendee of either service, would you be willing to stand at the sanctuary door and greet folks? You don't have to shake hands or hug. Just acknowledge people and welcome them. If interested, please contact Donnette at: (208) 297-0775 or donnette15@gmail.com and let her know your preference of early or late service, as well as months available/not available.

FEAR NOT or FEAR GOD: Meets from 9:45am to 10:30am we will be looking throughout Scripture on how we as followers of Christ should be handling fear. Do you fear anything (Covid, politics, people, punishment, death,... God)? Can fear be a good thing? Throughout history fear is often used to control and subvert. Can fear be used to guide and direct? Franklin D. Roosevelt famously said, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." He was speaking to the fear that surrounded the Great Depression of the 1930s. As Christians we have more freedom than fearing fear... In our fear and love of God, there is not one thing that this world can throw at us that we should be in fear of.

"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear." - 1 John 4:18

"Fear God. Do what is right. Trust in Him. Hope for grace." - Martin Luther

I ask that you and your family prayerfully consider joining me at FCLC in the multi-purpose sanctuary in-between services for a family-friendly look into what or whom we should or should not be fearing. Children have the option of staying with their family or attending their own Sunday school class upstairs that will be focused on what the church is doing with the Red Letter Challenge.

*In Christ,
Brett Lindemood*

Sharing of the Pics Continues! Send in your fun photos, family photos, or anything that shares what you have been up to. Pictures should be landscape orientation, high resolution, and .jpg format. Email to: office@friendshipcelebration.org by 9am Friday mornings to be included in the following Sunday's video.

LWML Spring Western Zone Event: Saturday March 20th from 9:45-12:00 at Grace Lutheran Church, 2700 S Kimball, Caldwell, ID. The ladies at Grace will start welcoming you at 9:30. Bible Study with Pastor Matt Henry. CDC/LWML protocol will be followed, which means masks will be required and social distancing. If you carpool together you will be able to sit together but there will still be some distancing requested. Morning snacks will be offered, but no lunch will be served at this event due to COVID. Ingathering is to benefit the Veterans Memorial Hall in Caldwell. Men's undergarments (no socks) are being gathered. (sizes 32-40).

Zoom Meeting Info:

Meeting ID: 861 6400 5866

Password: LMWL

Coffee Volunteers Needed: We have found a potential new supplier of coffee and would like to start coffee service back up again on Sunday mornings, but we need volunteers, *especially for early service!* If you would be interested in helping to get this popular fellowship ministry up and running, please contact us at: office@friendshipcelebration.org.

Attention Life Group Leaders and Ministry Leaders! We have a paid Zoom license available that can be shared among different ministry teams and groups. No time limits. Zoom for as long as you need. We want our groups to stay connected. For more details, contact Pastor Matt. Thank you for building relationships and encouraging one another!

Prayer Chain-Prayer Requests: Contact Jenny Kandler at: bob54109@msn.com to request prayer chain or updates. In the event that Jenny Kandler cannot be reached, call, Donnette House@ 208-297-0775 or donnette15@gmail.com.

Stay Connected! FCLC's Friendly 411 is a weekly e-newsletter that comes out on Thursdays directly to your email inbox. If you are interested in signing up to receive the Friendly 411, email the church office at office@friendshipcelebration.org and mark the subject "Subscribe 411". You may also request a PDF copy of our monthly Friendly Findings newsletter. Just include "Subscribe FF" to the subject line in your email. Our newsletter is also available online at our church website: www.friendshipcelebration.org.



Friendship Celebration's *Top Ten Core Values*

1. **Bible-centered Preaching, Teaching and Discipleship**
(2 Timothy 3:16-17; Ephesians 2:8-10)
2. **All People Matter to God**
(Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 28:18-20)
3. **Praise and Worship**
(Acts 2:42; Psalm 26:8; Colossians 3:16)
4. **Well-Mobilized Lay Leadership and Ministerial Staff**
(Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Peter 4:10)
5. **Life, Nurture, Support and Other Small Groups**
(Hebrews 10:25)
6. **Prayer**
(Matthew 7:7-11; James 5:13-18)
7. **Excellence, Process and Evaluation**
(Romans 8:32; Colossians 3:23)
8. **Financial Responsibility**
(2 Corinthians 8-9)
9. **Fellowship, a Loving Christian Community**
(Acts 2:42; 1 Timothy 6:17)
10. **Evangelism, Outreach and Lifestyle Witness**
(Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 3:15)

Our Mission Statement

Celebrating: God the Father's love for us in creating us and giving His Son

Connecting: In faith with Jesus, Our Savior, and with others in love and care

Communicating: God's love in the power of the Holy Spirit