



Love above Knowledge

- 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 -

"Weak Need"

January 31, 2021

Friendship Celebration

Lutheran Church ~ Missouri Synod

765 E Chinden Blvd. Meridian, ID 83646

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

January 31, 2021

Preservice Song: *"Draw Me Close To You"*

Draw me close to You;
Never let me go.
I lay it all down again,
To hear You say that I'm Your friend.

You are my desire;
No one else will do,
'Cause nothing else could take Your place,
To feel the warmth of Your embrace.
Help me find the way;
Bring me back to You

You're all I want;
You're all I've ever needed.
You're all I want;
Help me know You are near.

Draw me close to You;
Never let me go.
I lay it all down again,
To hear You say that I'm Your friend.

You are my desire;
No one else will do,
'Cause nothing else could take Your place,
To feel the warmth of Your embrace.
Help me find the way;
Bring me back to You

You're all I want;
You're all I've ever needed.
You're all I want;
Help me know You are near.

You're all I want;
You're all I've ever needed.
You're all I want;
Help me know You are near.
Help me know You are here.

CCLI Song # 1459484

Kelly Carpenter

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Welcome & Announcements

Invocation and Opening Prayer

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

Congregation: Amen.

Leader: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

Congregation: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs.

Leader: Know that the LORD is God. It is He who made us and we are His;

Congregation: We are His people, the sheep of His pasture.

Leader: Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name.

Congregation: For the LORD is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.

Opening Song Set: *“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”*

O, for a thousand tongues to sing,
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad,
The honors of Thy name.

Jesus! The name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin;
He sets the pris'ner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood avails for me.

Look unto Him, ye nations own
Your God, ye fallen race.
Look and be saved through faith alone,
Be justified by grace.

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"Our God"

Water You turned into wine,
Opened the eyes of the blind
There's no one like You, none like You!
Into the darkness You shine
Out of the ashes we rise
There's no one like You, none like You!

Our God is greater, Our God is stronger,
God You are higher than any other.
Our God is Healer, Awesome in power,
Our God! Our God!

Into the darkness You shine
Out of the ashes we rise
There's no one like You, none like You!

Our God is greater, Our God is stronger,
God You are higher than any other.
Our God is Healer, Awesome in power,
Our God! Our God!

Our God is greater, Our God is stronger,
God You are higher than any other.
Our God is Healer, Awesome in power,
Our God! Our God!

And if our God is for us,
Then who could ever stop us.
And if our God is with us,
Then what could stand against?

And if our God is for us,
Then who could ever stop us.
And if our God is with us,
Then what could stand against?

Our God is greater,
Our God is stronger,
God You are higher than any other.
Our God is Healer, Awesome in power,
Our God! Our God!

And if our God is for us,
Then who could ever stop us.
And if our God is with us,
Then what could stand against?
And if our God is for us,
Then who could ever stop us.
And if our God is with us,
Then what could stand against?
What could stand against?

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Psalm 111

Leader: Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Congregation: Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.

Leader: Full of splendor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness
endures forever.

Congregation: He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and merciful.

Leader: He provides food for those who fear Him; He remembers His
covenant forever.

Congregation: He has shown His people the power of His works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

Leader: The works of His hands are faithful and just; all His precepts are
trustworthy;

Congregation: They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

Leader: He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is His name!

Congregation: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

Sharing of the Pics

Old Testament

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

8:15am Karl Bokenkamp

11:00am David Reinke

¹⁵“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—¹⁶just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ ¹⁷And the Lord said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. ²⁰But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’

Epistle

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 ESV

Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. ²If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. ³But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

⁴Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? ¹¹And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. ¹²Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:21-28 ESV

²¹And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. ²²And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. ²³And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴“What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

Affirmation of Faith

All: Christ elects the church to proclaim the Word and celebrate the sacraments, to worship God as our Father, and to live as true disciples. He creates this community to be a place of prayer, to provide rest for the weary, and to lead people to share in service.

The Holy Spirit sends the church to call sinners to repentance, to proclaim the good news that Jesus is personal Savior and Lord. The Spirit sends the church out in ministry to preach good news to the poor, righteousness to the nations, and peace among all people. The Holy Spirit builds one church, united in one Lord and one hope, with one ministry around one table. The Spirit calls all believers in Jesus to respond in worship together, to accept all the gifts from the Spirit, to learn from each other's traditions, to make unity visible on earth.

Christ places baptism in the world as a seal of God's covenant people, placing them in ministry, assuring them of the forgiveness of sins.

God knows those who are baptized in Jesus' name, guiding the church to lead us, calling us back when we go astray, promising life amid trials and death.

Christ places the Lord's table in this world.

Jesus gives us His body and blood with the bread and the wine to bind His ministry to our daily lives, to unite us in His righteousness. Here Christ is present in his world proclaiming salvation until He comes, a symbol of hope for a troubled age.

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.*

Sermon Song: "Prayer of St. Francis"

Make me a channel of Your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow Your love,
Where there is injury, Your pardon, Lord
And where there's doubt, true faith in You.

Make me a channel of Your peace,
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope,
Where there is darkness, (pause) only light,
And where there's sadness ever joy.

O Master grant that I may never seek,
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of Your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.
In giving to all men that we receive,
And in dying, that we're born to eternal life.

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Sermon: “Weak Need”

1 Corinthians 8

Christian freedom is not about asserting our rights over and against others. Being a Christian involves gladly living in such a way that honors and protects those who are weak in the faith. In other words, each Christians is to think more of and more about his fellow believers than himself. Love is the way to build someone up.

Comfort Food?

knowledge _____ up; love _____ up

“Sinning against your _____ and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against _____.” (v. 12)

Whom’s on First?

from Whom =

through Whom =

Caring for the Weak

“But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.” (v. 9)

“Eat This, Not That”

Life Group Questions

Head (what?)

What “knowledge” was Paul referring to in v. 7?

What’s the difference between knowledge that “puffs up” and love that “builds up”?

How can insisting on our rights be harmful for others?

Heart (so what?)

How does God regard the weak?

Why is the conscience of the weak more important than our opinion?

How does God heal a wounded conscience?

When we sin against our brother/sister, whom are we really sinning against?

Hands (now what?)

Are there certain things God is calling you to give up for the sake of others?

When it comes to gray areas, do you live more by what you “could do” or “should do”?

How can we better take into account other people’s perspectives and needs?

Song of Response: *“They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love”*

We are one in the Spirit, We are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit, We are one in the Lord.
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, We will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other, We will walk hand in hand,
And together we’ll spread the news that God is in our land.
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, We will work side by side,
We will work with each other, We will work side by side,
And we’ll guard each man’s dignity and save each man’s pride.
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.

All praise to the Father, From whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

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Prayers

Leader:

Almighty God, gracious Father, in the presence of Your bounty keep us humble, in the presence of all people's needs make us compassionate and caring.

Give us faith in our praying and love in our serving, knowing that by Your power all may find a new balance in living and a new victory in adversity.

We pray for all unhappy lives, those who are bitter and resentful, feeling life has given them a raw deal, those who are sensitive to criticism and quick to take offense, those who desire their own way, whatever the inconvenience or cost to others. May Your judgment and mercy be for their healing.

We pray for those who are lonely, who are shy and self-conscious, who find it hard to make friends; those who are nervous and timid, whoever feel themselves strangers in a world they can scarcely understand. May Your presence inspire confidence and ensure companionship.

We pray for those who live with bitter regrets, for loving relationships brought to ruin, for opportunities freely given and woefully abused, for the bitterness of defeat or betrayal at another's hand, or for failure in personal integrity.

May Your grace give new hope to find victory in the very scene of failure.

We pray for all in illness and pain, weary of the day and fearful of the night. Grant healing, if it be your will, and at all times through faith the gift of your indwelling peace.

Bless the company of Christ's folk, the church in every land. Make her eager in worship, fearless in proclamation of the gospel, and passionate for caring.

Bless our country. Bless our leaders.

Bless our children and grant us peace within our borders.

Grant us as a nation to be found effective in establishing peace throughout the world.

Bless us, each one, in the communion of the saints, and keep us ever mindful of the great cloud of witnesses that, following in their steps, as they did in the steps of the Master, we may with them at the last receive the fulfillment promised to your people. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Congregation: Amen.

Sending

Leader: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Blessing

Leader: May the grace of Christ, which daily renews us, and the love of God, which enables us to love all, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, which unites us in one body, make us eager to obey the will of God until we meet again, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Congregation: Amen

Closing Song: "If We're Honest"

Truth is harder than a lie
The dark seems safer than the light
And everyone has a heart that loves to hide
I'm a mess and so are you
We've built walls nobody can get through
Yeah, it may be hard, but the best thing we could ever do, ever do

Bring your brokenness, and I'll bring mine
'Cause love can heal what hurt divides
And mercy's waiting on the other side
If we're honest
If we're honest

Don't pretend to be something that you're not
Living life afraid of getting caught
There is freedom found when we lay our secrets down at the cross, at the cross

So bring your brokenness, and I'll bring mine
'Cause love can heal what hurt divides
And mercy's waiting on the other side
If we're honest
If we're honest

It would change our lives
It would set us free
It's what we need to be

So bring your brokenness, and I'll bring mine
'Cause love can heal what hurt divides
And mercy's waiting on the other side
If we're honest
If we're honest
If we're honest

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Friendship Celebration Announcements ~ January 31, 2021

Special Voters' Meeting Today: There will be a special voters' meeting at FCLC on Sunday, Jan. 31 at 9:30 am. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on the proposed schedule for District and Synod convention cycles. Because of restrictions related to the pandemic, many Districts are not able to meet in large numbers. The proposal from the Synod leadership is to push back the convention cycle by one year. This means District Conventions would occur in 2022 (not 2021) and Synod Convention would occur in 2023 (not 2022). Current officers would remain in place for this "stretch" year. Regular three-year cycles would resume thereafter. A minimum of 25% of all LCMS congregations need to participate in this vote. Like last time, we'll have Zoom available, but in-person attendance and signing in is required to vote. It should be a very quick meeting! For more information: <https://www.lcms.org/convention>.

Director of Music: Friendship Celebration Lutheran Church in Meridian, Idaho is searching for a Director of Music. The position involves approximately 12 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.

Red Letter Challenge: 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 Zender, a LCMS pastor. These books have been ordered and are soon to be 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. The challenge begins Feb. 16! Stay tuned...

Greeter List: Donnette House is starting up the Greeter List again. If you are interested in being a Greeter, please contact her at: (208) 297-0775 or donnette15@gmail.com. Let her know your preference of early or late service, as well as months available/not available.

Carpet Cleaning: A big *thank you* to Mike Sivey for coordinating the cleaning of all the carpets in the church. They look great!

Preschool Registration for 2021-2022: Preschool registration for the 2021-2022 school year opens to the public on February 1st. A registration form can be picked up in the office or by going to this link:
http://www.fclcpreschool.org/uploads/1/2/8/0/12807459/2021-2022_registration_form.pdf

Concordia College in NY to Close: Concordia College New York announced Jan. 28 that it will close after this school year and the campus will be purchased by Iona College. A teach-out plan is in place, enabling most students to continue their degrees to completion at Iona. Concordia College New York's classes will cease beginning with the fall 2021 semester. In recent years, Concordia University has closed in Selma, AL, Portland, OR, the Law School in Boise and now Bronxville, NY. Closures are hard for students and faculty alike. We seek God's guidance for those affected and give thanks for the legacy of this school.

The green Friendship Cards are back! We ask all who attend worship service to please fill one out and place in the basket at the front of the sanctuary during the time of offering. If you have a prayer request, please include it on the card.

FEAR NOT or FEAR GOD: Beginning Sunday, February 7th 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.

In Christ,
Brett Lindemood

P.S. Fear not... Childcare will be provided ;)

Church Office Hours Update: The church office hours are Mondays-Wednesdays-Fridays from 8:30am-2:00pm. The office remains closed on Tuesdays and Thursday.

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

Offering Envelopes: Offering envelopes for 2021 are now available in the Fellowship Hall. With all the changes of this last year, we are especially grateful for the continued support of the congregation. For those who would like offering envelopes, extras are available. Email Kayla at kliche@friendshipcelebration.org with your request.

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!

Corinthian Sunday Bible Study: Come join this Bible study led by Pastor Matt on the books of 1&2 Corinthians. You can catch up by going to the church website and downloading the handout and audio from 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'll also use one of the smart TV-equipped classrooms on campus. Our hope is to cover a couple chapters at a time, so the class will run about 16 weeks with some flexibility! These are great letters from Paul and very useful for the times we are in. For Zoom invite, please send an e-mail to mhenry@friendshipcelebration.org.

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.

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