

Jesus Calls Us Friends!

1st Sunday after Epiphany
January 12, 2025 – 11:00 AM

AS WE GATHER

Your friends may know quite a bit about you – and still call you their friend. That's a good thing! There is another Friend who actually knows everything about you – and loves to call you "friend." Not only "friend," however, but also beloved family! The One who fully knows you fully loves you!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE SING *"God so Loved"*

WE PRAY

HOLY BAPTISM
Caleb Steven Presler

PRESENTATION OF CALEB STEVEN PRESLER

PLEDGE OF PARENTS & SPONSORS

SIGN OF THE CROSS

WE CONFESS OUR FAITH – APOSTLES' CREED

BAPTISM & BLESSING

CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT TO PARENTS

P: We, as part of the whole Body of Christ, will pray for you, Adam & Natasha, that you may faithfully carry out the great and joyful responsibility God has entrusted to you as parents. We pray that as you grow in Christ you may bear the fruit of wisdom and godliness day by day.

C: We promise to support you in serving and loving Caleb, and helping to teach him, that from his earliest days of memory, Caleb may see the face of Jesus mirrored in us. We encourage you as you share in your family God's gift of Jesus, who became a child, that we might become the children of God. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF THE LIGHTED CANDLE

DECLARATION OF WELCOME

P: Through Baptism God has added Caleb to His own people to declare the wonderful deeds of our Savior, who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

C: Caleb Steven Presler, we welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the Body of Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father, and a worker with us in the Kingdom of God.

P: Peace be with you.

C: Amen.

WE SING *"Hello My Name Is"*

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN HIS WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING

1 John 3:1

God lavishly pours out His love on us in calling us His children through Christ Jesus.

⁸How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

GOSPEL READING

John 15:9-17a

Jesus calls those who follow Him His friends – and calls us to love one another.

[Jesus said,] ⁹“As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My love. ¹⁰If you obey My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have obeyed My Father’s commands and remain in His love. ¹¹I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are My friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from My Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in My name. ¹⁷This is My command: Love each other.”

GOSPEL READING

John 1:40-42a

Andrew loved his brother Simon, and shared with him the greatest gift he could give!

⁴⁰Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). ⁴²And he brought him to see Jesus.

KIDS’ TIME

DCE Liz Peters

MESSAGE

“He Knows You; He Loves You”

Pastor Aaron Asmus

(Today’s Readings)

Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep – and I lay down my life for the sheep.” – John 10:14

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

WE ACKNOWLEDGE AND CONFESS OUR SINS

P: Through Jesus, God has reached to us, calling us His friends. Our sin, however, causes trouble in that friendship. Only God can restore that which is damaged. Therefore He lovingly calls us to repent of our sin and confess our wrongs to Him as He reaches to us with the promise of forgiveness in our Savior Jesus.

C: Dear Lord, forgive me for settling for friendship with those things that cannot fulfill my life. Forgive me for the times when I've broken the promises I've made in my relationship with You; to follow You and trust You in all things. Forgive me for trying to keep Your friendship from being shared with others. Lord Jesus, forgive my sins. I need to hear You call me Your friend once again. Amen.

Silent time for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

WE REJOICE IN GOD'S FORGIVENESS THROUGH JESUS

GOD COMES TO US IN THE LORD'S SUPPER

WORDS OF PREPARATION & INSTITUTION

SHARING OF PEACE

WE RECEIVE OUR LORD'S BODY AND BLOOD

**"Good Good Father"
"Faithful God"**

COMMUNION BLESSING

WE BRING OUR PRAYERS BEFORE THE LORD

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING BLESSING

WE SING

"Good God Almighty"

OUR OFFERINGS

All that we have and all that we are belong to the Lord. He fills us with what is good! We pray: "Fill us, Lord, to overflowing, that others may receive blessed through the blessings we ourselves have received from You."

You can give online memoriallutheran.net or drop in the offering boxes located throughout the worship center.