**Worship Plan for Sunday, September 8, 2019 10 am**

**SHARING CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS**

**GATHERING SONG** *I Love to Tell the Story ELW 661*

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTION**

**COMMISSIONING OF TEACHERS**

*As we begin this new year of educational ministry here at Advent we are especially thankful for those among us who have answered the call to serve as teachers and assistants in our STORYlife Sunday School. As I call your name, please come to the center aisle.*

*Pre-school – Kindergarten: Cheryl Kravetz & Linda Dideon*

*First – Second: Lori Burchard & Kris Binkowski*

*Third - Fourth – Fifth: Amy Fadeley & Michele Bowman*

*Sixth – Ninth: Jerry Dideon & Dana Lewis*

We are excited to learn and grow with you throughout this year of sharing. And we know that God has called and equipped you with good gifts to share with your students along the way. STORYlife is about more than knowing the story, it’s about Living the Story as we Share, Read, Talk, Pray, and Bless.

Will you seek to Share your story with your students, trusting God has called **you** to this ministry?  
***I will and I ask God to help me.***

Will you read and talk about God’s story with your students, sharing the joy and excitement of knowing God better together?  
***I will and I ask God to help me.***

Will you pray for and with your students, sharing the peace that comes from trusting God with your celebrations and concerns?  
***I will and I ask God to help me.***

Will you make time to bless your students, sharing words and actions that remind us of the goodness of God in all things?  
***I will and I ask God to help me.***

At this time we’d like to have the children who will be in each of these classes come and lay a hand of blessing upon their teachers.

*The children lay hands on the teachers, and the congregation joins in praying the prayer on the screen.*

Almighty God, you fill the earth with the Spirit of wisdom and inspire us to search for truth. You have sent us prophets and teachers to share your word, love, and life with us. Help us to enjoy our learning together. Give us patience in our studies and strength to meet new challenges. Fill us with your gifts of grace, love, joy, peace, and wisdom and lead us as we share your gifts with one another and with all the world, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**SHARING OF PEACE**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE** *This is the Feast (setting 6) (ELW p. 169)*

*(The first reading is read by the lay assistant)***THE FIRST READING**:  Ephesians 2:13-22

A reading from Paul’s letter to the Ephesians

13But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

14For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. 15He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, 16and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. 17So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; 18for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, 20built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. 21In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; 22in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

*The reading may be concluded:*

Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM** *We’re a Family Pamela & Joseph Martin*

*(The gospel is read by the pastor)***GOSPEL:**  Acts 2:43-47

*The gospel is announced.*The holy gospel according to the book of Acts  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

43Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. 44All who believed were together and had all things in common; 45they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, 47praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

*The gospel concludes:*The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**THE MESSAGE**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *A Story for All People Worship & Praise 002  
 vs. 2, 4, 5*

*(The pastor reads the introduction and the ending, the lay assistant reads the indented petitions.)***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Sustained and nurtured by our generous God, we gather as one to pray for the church, the world, and all of God’s creation.

Turn our hearts, O God. Make us attentive to your call to take up the cross-shaped way of life, and to share your good news with a world in need. Lord in your mercy,   
**Hear our prayer**.

Turn our hearts toward life in all its infinite varieties. We pray especially for all vanishing and endangered creatures who struggle to find a home in this world. Open our eyes to the value of our interconnected relationships within your natural world. Lord in your mercy,   
**Hear our prayer**.

Turn our hearts toward all who yearn for calm and fairness. Where there is violence and conflict, grant peace. Where there is disparity, grant justice. Where there is hatred and fear, grant compassion and empathy. Lord in your mercy,   
**Hear our prayer**.

Turn our hearts toward all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. We pray for those in bondage to sin, addiction, poverty, physical slavery or human trafficking, and those incarcerated or detained. For those in any need we pray, *especially…. And others we bring before you, either aloud or silently.* Lord in your mercy,   
**Hear our prayer**.

Turn our hearts toward the ministries of our congregations that feed the hungry, share with the needy, advocate for the silenced, and work for your justice. Embolden our hearts to labor without fear. Lord in your mercy,   
**Hear our prayer**.

Turn our hearts toward your eternal reign. We give thanks for our sisters and brothers who have died, trusting the promise of life forever with you. Marked by the cross of Christ, inspire us by their examples to live in faith. Lord in your mercy,   
**Hear our prayer**.

Assured by your promise to hear us, we lay our prayers before you throne of grace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

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

Let us confess our sin to God who is faithful and just and who has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness**.**

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God.  
**Have mercy on us.**

**We confess to you that 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 trusted you with our whole heart; we have not loved one another in deed and in truth. In your compassion, forgive our sin and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, through Jesus Christ, our light and our truth. Amen.**

With joy, I proclaim to you that Almighty God, rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives you all your sin and grants you newness of life in Jesus Christ. **Thanks be to God!**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks,   
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying;   
“Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying;   
“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Remembering, therefore, his life lived for others, and his death and resurrection which renews the face of the earth, we await his coming in glory, even as we pray…

**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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

These are the gifts of God, for the people of God.  
 **Thanks be to God!**

**COMMUNION**

*(The prayer after communion is read by the lay assistant)***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God of blessing, at this table we have seen you face to face,  
And in the gift of Christ’s body and blood,  
Our hearts have been refreshed.  
Send us not to share your grace with our neighbors  
and bear witness to the one we have received:  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.

**BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you  
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you  
The Lord look upon you with favor, + and give you peace.  
Amen.

*Turn to your neighbor and tell him or her,* ***God bless you. Share Life by the bucketful!***

**Sending Song** *Lift High the Cross ELW 660, vs 1, 3, 4*

*(The dismissal is given by the lay assistant)***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the Good News!  
**Thanks be to God!**