

## VERSE OF THE WEEK

"I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart."

Psalm 27:13-14

May we face each day with Resurrection faith, knowing that we can go forth with courage today, knowing we are not alone. God promises that we will be strengthened to face the challenges one day at a time.

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

with Pastor Judith  
April 20 — [Attitudes](#)



## WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday 4:00 pm  
Sunday 8:30 am  
Sunday 10:30 am

## GROUP STUDIES

### Pastor's Bible Study

Tuesdays 10 am

**In-Person in Fellowship Hall**

and/or Conference Call  
339.209.5700

### Men's Bible Study

Thursdays 8:00 am

**In-Person in Education A/B**

and/or Conference Call  
339.209.5700

### Women's Book Study

Fridays 9:00 am  
Fellowship Hall

# MIDWEEK MESSAGES

April 21, 2021

## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR LOWELL A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE

As I left our Conference Pastors' weekly gathering in Education A&B today, I looked skyward to see a large hawk perched atop the cross of our Sanctuary bell tower. What a large and impressive creature! While I'm sure I will never scale our bell tower, I trust the view is fantastic for the hawk's need to have a clear perspective to survey the territory around our church.

It struck me that "a matter of perspective" is so important to our faith life together. As I mentioned, the local ELCA pastors meet weekly to discuss upcoming Gospel readings and to compare notes on key themes and insights. It's so helpful to clarify one's own thoughts through listening to other people's insights as we mutually "dig into" the Scriptures. The perspective of God's Word strengthens our faith in God's amazing and steadfast love.

I was so invigorated after last week's worship services! I am thankful for our online worshipping community and we will continue to support online worshippers near and far who are unable to worship within the Sanctuary. However, it is a beautiful experience to gather for mutual fellowship, joyfully sing, participate in the Word, pray earnestly and depart in peace to serve the Lord for the upcoming week. We need the perspective of a vital worship experience to see more clearly the love of God in Jesus Christ, the invitation to live together in Christian community, and to work together to be blessing in what we say and do as followers of Christ.

The Easter season is seeing life through the perspective of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. We stand together as we stand in faith upon God's redemption of the world and promise of eternal life. As we view life, we have a clear perspective that God's future is far stronger than our sinful past through the atonement of Jesus Christ. We see Christ's love as we perceive we are "children of God" and seek to share this love with the world.

Faith- It's a matter of perspective and I am so thankful to share worshipping the triune God as the main perspective in our life together. Praise be to Christ we are free to worship in grace and truth. See you in worship!

Love,

*Pastor Lowell*

Pastor Lowell



## SCRIPTURE FOR SERVICE

Lesson: 1 John 3:16-24

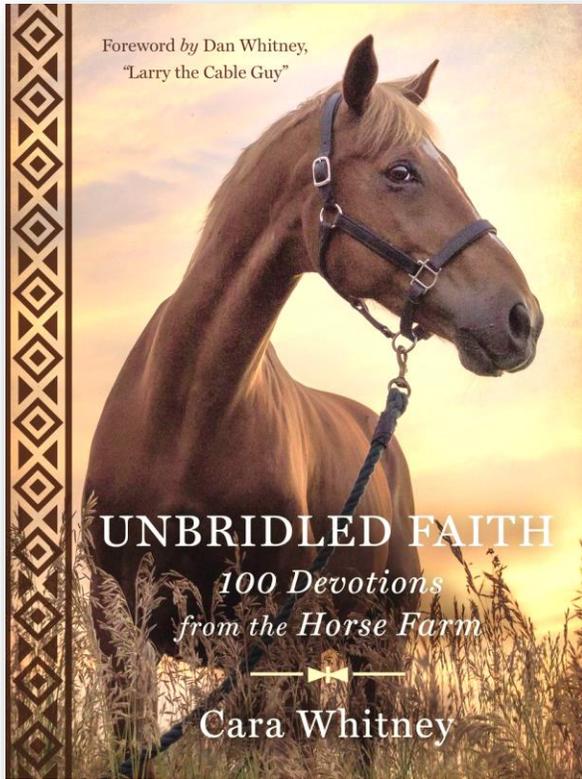
Psalm 23

Gospel: John 10:11-18

## **“IT’S OKAY NOT TO BE OKAY”**

### **PASTOR JUDITH**

It was my turn to share devotion for our staff meeting, and as I am often inspired by animals, I decided to share a devotion from Unbridled Faith by Cara Whitney. Following is the devotion I shared that I wish to share with you:



“Horses are amazing animals. When I feel sad or depressed, my horses seem to sense my pain. They turn their ears toward me and even lean into me. In those moments, they aren't just sweet creatures to ride, train, and enjoy; instead, they are my friends.

Still even, if we're surrounded by comforting friends, at some time in our lives, we will be hit with pain so excruciating we will wonder if there is any point in going on. Whether it's a financial crisis, a health catastrophe, or a relationship implosion, our very souls will cry out, “This is too much! I can't live through this!”

Yet with God, we don't have to pretend everything is okay. He longs to be the “friend who sticks closer than a brother” (Proverbs 18:24). He created us, so He knows us better than we know ourselves. We can be honest and real with Him. And His power can help us endure tough seasons. We just have to be humble enough to admit we need Him. You are not big enough to handle life on your own. Run into the arms of a heavenly Father who loves you and weeps with you. Trust Him to be the most loyal, best friend you've ever had. “

Prayerfully,  
Pastor Judith Rainforth

## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

Thank you to all who assisted with worship and music during Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. Countless members of ALC attended to the many details necessary to prepare and carry out our worship services. Our coming together in worship and prayer is truly enriched through the sharing of your time and talent. Your dedication and contributions are appreciated by all of us.

As we transition into the summer months, ALC continues to need the help of those who are with us year-round. Maybe you can assist us by welcoming all who attend our worship services as an usher or greeter. Could you help us proclaim the Word of God as a lay reader? Our dedicated group of volunteers who clean our sanctuary, keeping us safe and healthy, would certainly appreciate some additional helping hands in the summer months. These are just some of the areas we could use some help, but there are certainly others. Please consider this opportunity to serve our congregation and be a blessing to your ALC family.

**For more information, or to volunteer, please contact James Gerber, Organist and Worship Coordinator via email, [j.gerber@alcsuncity.org](mailto:j.gerber@alcsuncity.org), or by calling the Church Office.**

