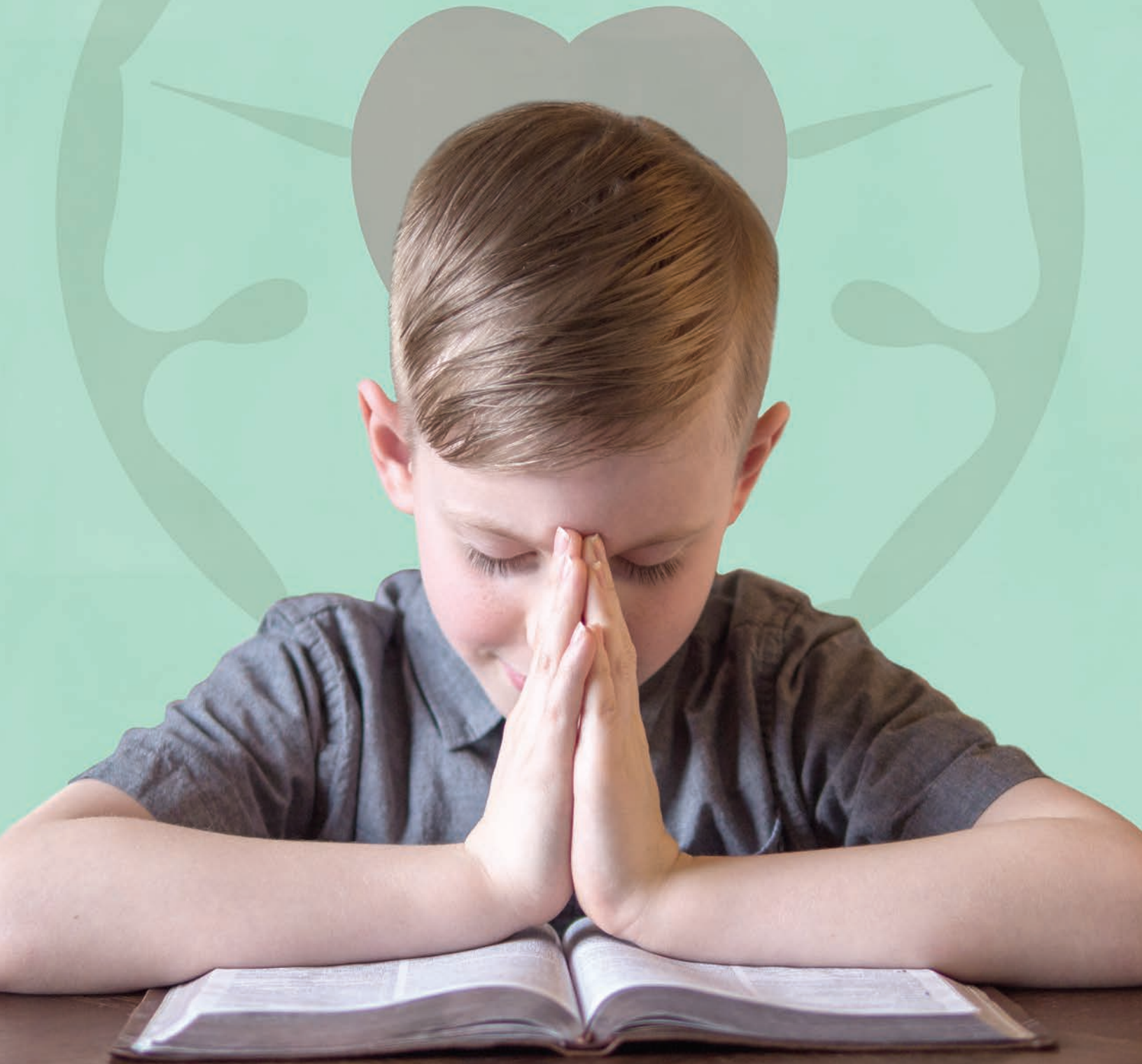


2017-2018 CHAPEL TALKS FOR LUTHERAN SCHOOLS

IT'S STILL ALL ABOUT JESUS

BY REV. BOB RIGGERT



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR: The Rev. Bob Riggert was welcomed into God's family in the name of Jesus in his Baptism at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Bremen, Kan. The name of Jesus was learned in a Christian family and in Lutheran schools in elementary years and at Concordia University, Seward, Neb. Bob was privileged to teach and preach the name of Jesus in classrooms of Lutheran schools in Ohio and Indiana, and in pulpits and church classrooms in Lutheran churches in Iowa. He was privileged to equip and encourage others to share and live Jesus' name as executive assistant in LCMS Iowa District West. Bob prays that his family, wife, four children and 13 grandchildren will continue to grow and rejoice in Jesus' name. Continuing in baptismal grace, "It's *Still* All About Jesus."



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod

School Ministry



"IT'S STILL ALL ABOUT JESUS" – CHAPEL TALKS

"AT THE NAME OF JESUS EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH AND UNDER THE EARTH, AND EVERY TONGUE CONFESS THAT JESUS IS LORD, TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER" (PHIL. 2:10-11).

ABOUT THE THEME:

"It's Still All About Jesus"

From the first promise of a Savior to Adam and Eve in the Garden, it is about Jesus. It was about Jesus who would come to crush the head of the tempter. God's covenantal relationship with Abraham and His descendants was about Jesus. Truly, all nations and all people would be blessed. Proclamations and promises through the Prophets were about Jesus.

God's fulfillment is shared in the Gospels. Jesus, born in Bethlehem and raised in Nazareth, comes to announce and fulfill His Kingdom. Ultimately, it's about Jesus' payment for sin, His suffering and death on the cross. It's about Jesus' victory over sin, death and the devil shown to His followers and to His church through His resurrection. The Apostles' proclamation to the early church was about Jesus. We are blessed to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. This occasion gives opportunities to learn about the lives of reformers and the confession and history of our church. The Reformation is about Jesus. We confess and celebrate the truth of Scripture that only through Jesus is there justification. Lutheran theology in every age is all about Jesus.

As the church gathers for the Divine Service, it's all about Jesus. We begin in remembrance of our Baptism in His name and into His grace. We hear the Good News of Jesus in His Word. We receive the body and blood of Jesus at His table. Lutheran worship is always and only about Jesus.

"It's *Still* All About Jesus" is a significant theme for Lutheran school ministry. Lutheran schools have always been about Jesus as His story has been shared and lived in every context. This theme not only provides an opportunity to reflect on our history, it also commends us to review our ministry and refocus our mission.

May these "Chapel Talks for Lutheran Schools" bring glory to Jesus. May each Lutheran school student proclaim throughout the year and throughout their lives, "It's *Still* All About Jesus!"

USING CHAPEL TALKS:

There is only one Jesus. There is only one Jesus who is the Son of God who came to earth as our Savior. There is only one Jesus who went to the cross of Calvary and rose again. There is only one Jesus in whose name we are saved.

Throughout the passages of Scripture, the person and work of Jesus is divinely revealed to us in the names of Jesus. "It's *Still* All About Jesus" explores the various Old and New Testament titles for Jesus. Some of them will be very familiar to children and adults. Others of them are less commonly used. These chapel talks provide a worship exploration into the names of Jesus. The talks in the month of October have a more intentional Reformation application. Names in the seasons of Advent and Lent explore some traditional applications for those seasons. Songs and psalms supportive of the theme have been selected.

An attempt has been made to have some progression in the selection and designation of names (sequence of I am's, related prophetic names, etc.). There is no strong pericope connection. Local chapel leaders may want to alter the order and selections.

Each chapel offering includes, "SEEING Jesus", a section which provides a lesson visual or conversation starter; "CONNECTING with Jesus" which provides an introduction to the week's theme; "TEACHING Jesus" which provides a teaching of the name and the text of the day; and "PRAYING to Jesus" which concludes the worship in the name of Jesus. Several chapel talks include a "LIVING for Jesus" section which offers experiences and applications beyond the service. Local chapel leaders are encouraged to explore and apply the name of Jesus to the age and context of the worshipping assembly. Additional Biblical exegesis on the text and significance of the name is encouraged. Celebrate the salvation significance of the name with the children and other worshippers.

May your use of the "It's *Still* All About Jesus" chapel talks bring the power of Jesus' name to everyone connected with your Lutheran school.

THEME HYMN

“Yesterday, Today, Forever”

BY DR. JEFFREY E. BURKART

Based on Heb. 13:8 “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

1. Yesterday, today, forever,
Our Lord Jesus is the same.
He, the Alpha and Omega,
Christ, the Lamb of God, His name;
Who was there in the beginning
And will be there at the end,
The Almighty One, our friend,
There, with all the saints and angels,
We shall stand before His throne
Where unending joy is known.
Heb. 3:8; Rev. 22:13; John 1:29; Rev. 7:9-17

2. Yesterday in Beth’em’s manger
Jesus made His earthly bed;
Giving up His heav’nly mansion
To become our Living Bread.
With His blood He paid our ransom;
Died and rose that we might be
Freed from Satan’s tyranny
To inherit life eternal;
Thus, our praises we employ,
Bathed in endless grace and joy.
Luke 2:1-20; Phil. 2:1-8; John 6:22-51; Gal. 3:15

3. Here on earth today we wander
Knowing not what may betide.
Even so our Savior’s near us,
Never changing, by our side.
Though our pilgrim path’s uncertain,
We remain in His embrace
As we run this earthly race.
Therefore, trust in Jesus solely,
In His grace now rest secure
Joyful in God’s promise sure.
1 Peter 2:25; Heb. 12:1-3

4. Christ will stay with us forever;
With Him we shall e’er remain.
When our time on earth is over
He will call us by our name;
For our Savior will remember
How in Him we were baptized.
He will say to us, “Arise!
Come, partake of God’s own promise
That was made so long ago,
And My joy forever know.”
*John 10:3; Rom. 6:1-10; Luke 7:11-17;
Luke 8:41-42, 49-56; John 11:17-44*

△ *All stand in honor of the Trinity.*

5. Glory be to God the Father,
Author of all life and light;
Honor bring to Christ the Savior
Who has set all things aright.
Praise sing to the Holy Spirit
For the gift of faithfulness.
To the Three in One address
All our thanks and adoration
Till that joyous day when we
Dwell in God’s infinity.
Genesis 1; Isaiah 61; Rom. 15:13; Ps. 23:6

“Yesterday, Today, Forever”

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Tune: Georg G. Boltze, 18th century.

LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN

Music: Public domain

Meter: 87 87 877 877

“Yesterday, Today, Forever” is sung to the tune of “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus,” which can be found in the following hymnals: *Lutheran Service Book (LSB)* 685, *Lutheran Worship (LW)* 381 and *The Lutheran Hymnal (TLH)* 409





TABLE OF CONTENTS

It's Still All About ...

OPENING SERVICE THE NAME OF JESUS	8	WEEK 22 THE SON OF DAVID	30
WEEK 1 (AUG. 20) THE ALPHA	9	WEEK 23 THE TREASURE OF ALL NATIONS	31
WEEK 2 CHRIST	10	WEEK 24 THE FOUNDER AND PERFECTER	32
WEEK 3 THE WORD	11	WEEK 25 (TRANSFIGURATION) THE LORD OF LORDS	33
WEEK 4 THE LIGHT	12	WEEK 26 (1ST WEEK OF LENT) THE LAMB OF GOD	34
WEEK 5 THE VINE	13	WEEK 27 THE HIGH PRIEST	35
WEEK 6 THE BREAD OF LIFE	14	WEEK 28 THE ROSE OF SHARON	36
WEEK 7 THE DOOR	15	WEEK 29 THE ADVOCATE	37
WEEK 8 THE GOOD SHEPHERD	16	WEEK 30 THE SAVIOR	38
WEEK 9 THE LIFE	17	WEEK 31 THE MAN OF SORROWS	39
WEEK 10 THE WAY	18	WEEK 32 (EASTER) THE LIVING STONE	40
WEEK 11 (REFORMATION) THE TRUTH	19	WEEK 33 THE LION OF JUDAH	41
WEEK 12 (ALL SAINTS) THE FAITHFUL WITNESS	20	WEEK 34 THE REDEEMER	42
WEEK 13 THE NAZARENE	21	WEEK 35 THE ROOT OF JESSE	43
WEEK 14 THE KING OF KINGS	22	WEEK 36 THE BRIGHT MORNING STAR	44
WEEK 15 (ADVENT 1) THE MIGHTY GOD	23	WEEK 37 THE ANGEL OF THE LORD	45
WEEK 16 (ADVENT 2) THE EVERLASTING GOD	24	WEEK 38 THE HOPE	46
WEEK 17 (ADVENT 3) THE WONDERFUL COUNSELOR	25	WEEK 39 (PENTECOST) THE CREATOR	47
WEEK 18 (ADVENT 4/CHRISTMAS) THE PRINCE OF PEACE	26	WEEK 40 (TRINITY) THE MYSTERY	48
WEEK 19 (NEW YEAR) IMMANUEL	27	WEEK 41 THE TEACHER	49
WEEK 20 (BAPTISM OF OUR LORD) THE BELOVED SON	28	WEEK 42 THE OMEGA	50
WEEK 21 THE SON OF MAN	29	CLOSING SERVICE JESUS	51

— OPENING SERVICE —

It's *Still* All About THE NAME OF JESUS

SCRIPTURE: ACTS 4:5–12

PSALM: PS. 119:105–112

TEXT: ACTS 4:12

SONG: LSB #900, “JESUS NAME OF WONDROUS LOVE”;
AGPS #145, “JESUS, NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES”

SEEING Jesus:

Object Lesson/Visual

List of names: class list, list of new students in the school, etc.

CONNECTING with Jesus:

Introduction

We have a lot of names in our school. I've just included a few of them (that represent one class; that include all the new students to our school, etc.) It will be exciting to get to know all the names on the list and many more students, teachers and staff this year. There is one name that we will hear more often than any other name in our school: it is the name of Jesus.

TEACHING Jesus:

Lesson

When the angel appeared to Joseph to tell him that Mary was going to be the mother of Jesus, the angel also told Joseph to name the Child Jesus: “for he will save his people from their sins” (MATT. 1:21). Joseph followed the angel's instruction. Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Jesus grew up as a boy in Nazareth. When Jesus was about 30 years old He began His ministry. Many of you have learned various details about the life of Jesus. Others of you will learn more about Jesus' life this year — His teachings, miracles, disciples and more.

Jesus lived a perfect life following all of God's prophecies about Him. Jesus came to do much more than show His wisdom and power. Jesus came to die for the sins of the whole world. Jesus died on the cross. Peter reviews some of the details in his message in today's Bible reading. Most importantly, Peter shares that Jesus rose from the dead for us.

Believing in the death and resurrection of Jesus, we are saved from our sin. God's Word tells us that there is no other name which saves us. Because Jesus is the only name that saves us from our sin and gives us the promise of life forever with Him, we teach about Jesus' name; we sing about Jesus' name; we tell others about Jesus' name.

Our school year will be about many things. It will be about subjects that we will learn; games we will play; programs and concerts we will present; and more! This year you will learn the names of new students and staff, the names of important people in history; important people in the news. Most of all you will hear and learn and share the name of Jesus.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, we praise Your name, the only name that saves us and saves the world. Bless us as we hear and share Your name this school year, in Jesus' name.
Amen.

It's *Still* All About THE ALPHA

SCRIPTURE: REV. 1:1–8

PSALM: PSALM 105

TEXT: REV. 1:8

SONG: LSB #869, “WITH THE LORD BEGIN YOUR TASK”;
AGPS #165, “LORD, BE GLORIFIED”



SEEING Jesus:

Object Lesson/Visual

Starting points: starting line for a race; first page in a book, the letter a, etc.

CONNECTING with Jesus:

Introduction

What do these items have in common? They all start something — a race, a book, the alphabet. What are we starting? We are starting another school year together. Where do we start? We start with the name of Jesus. This year we will learn that the Bible teaches many names for Jesus.

TEACHING Jesus:

Lesson

Today's Bible reading from the last book of the Bible, Revelation, includes a rather unusual name for Jesus. Jesus called Himself the Alpha.

The Apostles, who were inspired by the Spirit to write the New Testament, wrote it in the Greek language. It was the primary language for communication at the time. Like our language, the Greek language has an alphabet. The English language has the letters a, b, c, d ... The Greek alphabet has the letters alpha, beta, gamma ... (If a writing area is readily available share letters of both alphabets.) As part of his seminary training, your pastor learned the Greek alphabet and learned to read and translate Greek words.

The first letter of the Greek alphabet is alpha. As this letter begins the alphabet, Jesus begins all things. Jesus was present with the Father and Spirit at the beginning of time. The story of our salvation begins with Jesus. Our new life begins at the empty tomb of Jesus. We began our life as God's children as Jesus joined us in the waters of Baptism. We begin every worship service in Jesus' name. We begin every school day in Jesus' name.

Sometimes our days get off to a bad start. We may forget something at home, we may have forgotten an assignment; someone says something unkind to us. When we get off to a bad beginning, we can begin again, in the forgiving and loving name of Jesus.

Let's begin every day, every lesson, every game, every activity and everything we do at our school this year with Jesus, the Alpha!

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, thank You for revealing Your name as Alpha. We dedicate all our beginnings in Your name. Bless us as we begin this day and this school year, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

— WEEK TWO —

It's *Still* All About CHRIST

SCRIPTURE: MATT. 16:13–19

PSALM: PSALM 2

TEXT: MATT. 16:16

SONG: LSB #861, “ALLELUIA! SING TO JESUS”;

AGPS #81, “CHRIST BE MY LEADER”



SEEING Jesus:

Begin a selection process: select members for a team; a learning group or some other activity. “I choose Joe, Mary, Amy ...; “ or have a variety of foods or snacks available: “I choose a healthy snack.”

CONNECTING with Jesus:

I am looking at this group of students and the choices that I made for the team/activity. Every day we make choices. You may choose what you wear to school, what you are going to have for a snack when you get home and the television show you are going to watch.

TEACHING Jesus:

Do we always make good choices? Obviously not. Sometimes we are tempted to make bad choices. Our bad choices make things difficult for ourselves and others. Our bad choices show our sinfulness. Adam and Eve chose to disobey God. God chose to love them and to bring them back into His family. Jesus was the Father’s choice to save the world from sin. Jesus was the choice the Father made because He was the only perfect Son of God who could save us from our sin, and He was God’s perfect plan!

Because Jesus is the Father’s Choice, he is called the Christ, the Chosen One. When kings were chosen in the Old Testament, the choice was made public by pouring oil or anointing the king. As the Christ, Jesus was also known as the Anointed One.

In today’s Bible reading, many people were wondering who Jesus was. Some who saw Jesus thought He might be another prophet like John the Baptist, Elijah or Jeremiah. The Holy Spirit had opened Peter’s eyes and heart, so that Peter could confess that Jesus was the Christ, the one Chosen by God to be the Savior.

The Good News for us is that the Chosen One has chosen you. God chose to make You His child in Holy Baptism. There may be times where we may be disappointed when we don’t get chosen for the team or activity. We remember that we are always God’s Chosen because Jesus has chosen us.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, we celebrate You as the Christ, the Chosen One. Because You have chosen us, help us to make choices that give witness to You, in Jesus’ name. *Amen.*

— WEEK THREE —

It's *Still* All About THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 1:1–4; 14–18

PSALM: PSALM 89

TEXT: JOHN 1:14

SONG: *LSB* #578, “THY STRONG WORD”;
AGPS #246, “THY STRONG WORD”



SEEING Jesus:

Scrambled word puzzles (available in book stores, etc.)

CONNECTING with Jesus:

How many of you like to look for words in scrambled word puzzles? There are books of these puzzles for all ages. Hidden in all the letters are words. The words may be found horizontally across the page; vertically down the page; slanted across the page; and sometimes even from left to right rather than the usual right to left. The puzzles are entertaining and even educational.

TEACHING Jesus:

In today's text we find the Word. The Word was not hidden in a puzzle or hidden in the pages of Scripture. The Word is clearly found.

Today's name for Jesus is the Word. Not only is Jesus found in the words of the Bible, He is the Word. The Apostle John tells us that Jesus, the Word, is God. As God, Jesus is eternal. Jesus was before the creation of the world and at the creation of the world.

The Word is our salvation. Jesus, the Word, came to earth as a human being, the baby Jesus. The Word went to the cross to suffer and die for us. The Word rose again from the dead on the third day. Sometimes

we use words that do not glorify God. Sometimes our words hurt others. Jesus, the Word, gives us His Word of forgiveness.

Whether you are a kindergarten student, a third-grade student or an eighth-grade student, you are going to learn many new words this year. You may learn a basic word to gain new reading skills. You may learn a new science term or history name. Most importantly, we will learn from the word of God that Jesus is the Word of salvation.

Many people have not found the Word that is Jesus. For many Jesus seems to be part of a scrambled puzzle. God uses our school and each of us as His witnesses to help others see the Word, Jesus. Our school will support missions and missionaries this year so that others see The Word with us.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, sometimes it may seem that you get scrambled and hidden from my eyes. Open my eyes and my heart to see You more clearly and to share Your Word with others, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

It's *Still* All About THE LIGHT

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 1:6–13; JOHN 8:12

PSALM: PSALM 27

TEXT: JOHN 8:12

SONG: *LSB* #852, “O GOD OF MERCY, GOD OF MIGHT”;
AGPS #182, “O GOD OF MERCY, GOD OF LIGHT”



SEEING Jesus:

Share and demonstrate sources of light: flashlights (all shapes and sizes), light bulbs, candles, night lights etc.

CONNECTING with Jesus:

What do all these objects have in common? (They are lights.) Where and how might we use some of these lights? Are there any disadvantages or limitations to these lights? (They won't work unless they are plugged in; light bulbs burn out; candles run out of wick and wax; batteries run out, etc.)

TEACHING Jesus:

Today I'm going to tell you about a Light that never goes out. It never runs out of fuel. It never needs an outside source of energy. Today's Bible text tells about another name for Jesus. Jesus is The Light.

The Bible tells us that we live in the darkness of sin. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the garden of Eden it was as if the lights went out. The light of God's perfect presence was no more. Sometimes the darkness can be frightening. (Think of the lights going out in a storm.) To live in the darkness of our sin without God is very frightening.

We do not have to be scared. Jesus the Light shines into the darkness of sin. On the darkness of Good Friday, Jesus died to drive away the darkness of sin. Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday brought more than the sunrise of the day. It was the Son rise of Jesus.

The Light of Jesus shines in us through our Baptism. We are His lights at our school, at home, with our friends and wherever we go with Jesus. We shine in Him and with Him.

There may be some dark times for our family, our school and other places this school year. When we see and feel the darkness, we are blessed to know that the Light will come on again. Jesus will shine on us.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, the darkness of sin makes us sad, lonely and scared. Thank You for being the Light and bringing the Light to our hearts. Let Your Light shine on us and through us each day, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

LIVING for Jesus:

Share the significance of the eternal light in the sanctuary. Younger children may enjoy singing, “This Little Gospel Light of Mine.”

— WEEK FIVE —

It's *Still* All About THE VINE

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 15:1–11

PSALM: PSALM 1

TEXT: JOHN 15:5

SONG: *LSB* #955, “LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL”;
AGPS #240, “THIS IS MY COMMANDMENT”



SEEING Jesus:

Display various vines: grape vines, pumpkin vines, vegetable (beans, pickles, etc.) vines, etc.

CONNECTING with Jesus:

What grows on vines? (Share items from above and others.) Why are vines a necessary part of the plant? Would there be any vegetable or fruit to harvest without the vine?

TEACHING Jesus:

Have you ever seen a vineyard with rows of vines and bunches of grapes hanging down to be picked? Where Jesus lived and taught there were many vines, especially in vineyards where the grapes grew. Jesus often used items that He and others saw in daily life to teach lessons to His disciples and to us. In today's Bible lesson, Jesus compares Himself to a vine and calls us the branches.

As the vine brings the life-giving water and nutrients to a plant, so Jesus gives us life. The water of Baptism flows to us. The nutrients of His Word keep our faith growing.

What happens if the branch gets disconnected from the plant? (It dies.) When we are not connected to

Jesus through His Word, it is as if we dry up and do not serve God. We stay connected when we listen to God's Word in church and school. We read the Bible and attend church because God connects us to Himself, the Vine, through those means.

What happens if the branch stays connected to the vine? (It bears fruit.) Connected to Jesus we bear the fruit of faith. In Gal. 5:21–22 we hear about the fruits with us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. What is your favorite fruit?

We are a fruitful Lutheran school because we are connected to the Vine that is Jesus. How can we be fruitful in our classrooms, in our church, in our community and in our family?

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, thank You for connecting us to Yourself, the Vine. May the water of our Baptism and the nutrients of Your Word continue to keep us healthy and fruitful. Bless us as we share Your fruits in the places You send us, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

It's *Still* All About THE BREAD OF LIFE

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 6:25–40

PSALM: PSALM 104

TEXT: JOHN 6:35

SONG: *LSB* #821, “ALLELUIA! SING TO JESUS”;
AGPS #60, “ALLELUIA! SING TO JESUS”



SEEING Jesus:

Display different kinds of bread from a bakery or grocery store: white, wheat, French, sourdough, etc.

CONNECTING with Jesus:

What's your favorite kind of bread? Some of you like your sandwich with white bread and others with wheat bread. Maybe some of you like cinnamon bread or raisin bread. There are many kinds of bread for different tastes and occasions.

TEACHING Jesus:

In today's Bible lesson, Jesus calls Himself the Bread of Life. Jesus' teaching follows one of His miracles where Jesus used a boy's lunch of five loaves and two fish to miraculously feed 5,000 people. Obviously, the people were thankful and amazed.

Many people in Jesus's time saw Him as a miracle worker who could give them anything they wanted or needed. The people wanted to make Jesus their king because they wanted a ruler who could provide for their selfish needs. Do we ever find ourselves thinking or saying, “I want this,” or “I want that”? Jesus did not come to be a king who would only provide for our physical needs. Jesus teaches His audience that

He has food more important than food for the stomach. Jesus had food that gives eternal life.

Jesus gives us a food more important than bread (or anything else we'd like to put in our stomach). Jesus gives us Himself through His Word. When we hear His Word and learn about Him from His Word, Jesus is feeding us the Bread of life. This is the Bread that tells us that Jesus gave His life for us on the cross and became alive again so we could live in Him now and forever.

What's the best kind of bread? The Bread of Life. We can have as many helpings of this bread that we want. We will never get full.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, thank You for bread, the food that fills our stomachs and keeps us strong and healthy. Thank You especially for the Bread of Life that fills our empty lives and gives us eternal life. Thank You for feeding us Your Word at our school and church, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

— WEEK SEVEN —

It's *Still* All About THE DOOR

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 10:1–10

PSALM: PSALM 24

TEXT: JOHN 10:7

SONG: LSB #901, “OPEN NOW THY GATES OF BEAUTY”;
AGPS #216, “SOMEBODY’S KNOCKING AT YOUR DOOR”



SEEING Jesus:

Display a door (from a local building materials store) or unhinged from a school location.

CONNECTING with Jesus:

We focus on a door today. There are many types of doors in our church and school. (Perhaps some adventurous students would want to count the doors in the facility.) There are wooden doors, glass doors, cupboard doors, etc. We go through doors to get from one place to another. Doors protect us from weather or intruders. Doors are necessary and helpful. Doors remind us of Jesus.

TEACHING Jesus:

Jesus calls Himself a door. In today’s Bible reading Jesus is describing a pen that held a flock of sheep. Sheep and shepherds were very common in the time and place where Jesus lived. Shepherds went through the door of the sheep pen to be with the sheep. When the shepherd was with the sheep they were safely in his care. The shepherd would lead the sheep through the door to the pastures to be fed.

Like a door, Jesus provides protection for His sheep. Those who followed Jesus and believed in Him were the sheep safely in His care. Only through the door that is Jesus would the sheep be safe from those who tried to harm them.

Jesus also taught about those who wanted to steal the sheep. The devil wants to steal us from the safety of Jesus’ care. Through His suffering, death and resurrection, Jesus, the Door, provides protection from the devil. Nothing will ever break down the Door of our salvation. Jesus is the Door and the keeper of the Door to eternal life!

Jesus the Door opens to the blessings of eternal life. This month our school will remember and celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. During Martin Luther’s time, some taught that faith in the Door (Jesus) alone was not enough to make one not guilty before God and thereby be welcomed into heaven. Martin Luther studied God’s Word and explained that Jesus is the only Door to heaven. Only by believing in Him could we find eternal blessings. We are thankful for the Door that is Jesus and His grace that opens the Door to us.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, as we walk through doors, we are reminded that You only are the Door of salvation for us and for the world. Thank you for opening Your Door of grace to us. Use us to open the Door for others, in Jesus’ name. *Amen.*

It's *Still* All About THE GOOD SHEPHERD

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 10:11–18

PSALM: PSALM 23

TEXT: JOHN 10:11

SONG: LSB #740, “I AM JESUS’ LITTLE LAMB”;
AGPS #125, “I AM JESUS’ LITTLE LAMB”



SEEING Jesus:

Display a shepherd's staff or a picture of Jesus, the Shepherd, with His staff. (Alternative: get staff shaped candy canes for children.)

CONNECTING with Jesus:

In the Bible's times there were many sheep. Shepherds took care of the sheep. Shepherds took the sheep to places where there was plenty of grass for them to eat. Shepherds made sure the sheep were safe. Sometimes they used the staff to chase away wild animals. If a lamb got caught in some bushes the shepherd might use the staff to catch them and pull them out. What are other ways the staff can be helpful to a shepherd?

TEACHING Jesus:

Jesus calls Himself a shepherd. If Jesus is the Shepherd, who are the sheep? (We are!) Like a good shepherd, Jesus takes care of us. Jesus protects us from things that might hurt us. Jesus makes sure we have plenty to eat. Jesus is the really good and perfect Shepherd who provides for our every daily need. Jesus, our Shepherd, does something even more important. Jesus says: “The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” When did Jesus lay down His life for us? (The cross!) In John 10, Jesus describes other shepherds who see threats to the flock and they run away for their own protection.

Jesus did not run away from the enemies of Satan and death. Jesus stayed on the cross and fought to His last breath. Having given His life for His sheep, the Good Shepherd came back to life to be with His flock forever.

The shepherd's staff was used to help guide and protect the sheep. Our Good Shepherd has the staff of His Word to guide and protect us. Many times, we are like wandering sheep. We wander away from our Good Shepherd. Jesus guides us back to do His will and to follow Him faithfully.

This month we especially remember the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. During Martin Luther's time, there were many wandering and lost sheep. The Good Shepherd used Martin Luther, and other faithful followers, as the staff of the Shepherd to guide the church back to the truths of God's Word.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, thank You for being the good and faithful Shepherd who gave Your life for each of us, Your little lambs. Thank You for shepherds like Martin Luther and pastor shepherds today whom You use to guide sheep of the church to faithfully follow You, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

It's *Still* All About THE LIFE

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 11:17–27

PSALM: PSALM 16

TEXT: JOHN 14 “I AM ... THE LIFE”

SONG: *LSB* #420, “CHRIST, THE LIFE OF ALL THE LIVING”;
AGPS #82, “CHRIST, THE LIFE OF ALL THE LIVING”

SEEING Jesus:

Boxes of Life brand cereal. Depending on size of student body/worshipping assembly, small bags of Life cereal could be shared with students.

CONNECTING with Jesus:

What's your favorite kind of breakfast cereal? (Get responses from children.) Have any of you ever tried Life cereal?

TEACHING Jesus:

Life and other kinds of cereal may be healthy or tasty. However they only fill us for a short time. By lunch time (or even before) we are hungry. Jesus does more for us than just satisfying our body's needs. Jesus gives us life forever.

Our Bible story tells us about the death of Jesus's friend Lazarus. Lazarus's sisters, Mary and Martha, were very sad. Jesus comes to not only comfort them. Jesus comes to raise Lazarus from the dead. Jesus gave life back to Lazarus.

Jesus does more than give life to His friend. Jesus came to give His life on the cross. On the third day in the grave He rose from the dead. Because He rose again, Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life.

Sometimes our lives are like empty bowls. There are many times where we wish that a bowl of cereal or some other food would take away our hunger for happiness. Sometimes we feel very lonely or hopeless. When loved ones die, we are obviously very sad. Jesus comes with the Word of life. Jesus comes as Life. Jesus promises that all who believe in Him will live forever with Him. He will make us alive again. With the promises and presence of Jesus, we are blessed to enjoy life in Jesus' name.

This month we join Lutheran churches around the world in remembering the Reformation 500 years ago. During the time of the Reformation the church was sick and not full of life because the rules of the church could not give life. Only Jesus, the Life, could give life to all who believed in Him. Jesus is the Life 500 years ago and today!

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, thank You for giving us food, drink, clothing and everything that gives us physical life every day. Thank You especially for being the Life that gives us joy and hope now, and the promise of life with You forever, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

It's *Still* All About THE WAY

SCRIPTURE: MATT. 3:1–6

PSALM: PSALM 86

TEXT: JOHN 14:6A, “I AM THE WAY.”

SONG: LSB #526, “YOU ARE THE WAY”;
AGPS #247, “THY WORD”



SEEING Jesus:

Way finders: maps, Google maps, Garmin, apps, etc.

CONNECTING with Jesus:

Imagine that you are traveling with your parents to a place that you've never been to before. How would you find the way? (Get responses from children: maps, GPS, Garmin, etc.)

TEACHING Jesus:

Have you ever been lost? Perhaps you have been on a hike in the woods and felt uncertain about your location. Perhaps you got separated from your parents or friends and panicked when you couldn't see them. It's frightening to be lost.

The Bible tells us that we are lost in sin. There is no map or other means that helps us find our own way out. We would be lost forever! Jesus comes and says: “I am the Way.” Jesus is the Way out of the darkness of sin. Jesus came and walked the ways of the earth. Jesus came and invited His disciples to follow Him to Jerusalem and to the Way of the cross. Jesus came out of the tomb and showed His followers, and all of us, the Way of salvation.

Usually there are several different ways to find a destination. There is only one Way to heaven. Jesus said: “I am the way.”

Sometimes in our lives, we still get lost and confused. In God's Word, we find the Way that is Jesus and are blessed to follow Him.

We are blessed to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation this month. During the time of the Reformation there were many people who were lost. The Roman Catholic church believed in a false justification doctrine of God's grace combined with works which could make one right with God. Martin Luther taught God's Word that stated that Jesus was the only Way to salvation. Only by believing in Him could we find the Way back to God. We tell the world today and Jesus is the only Way!

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, I confess that sometimes I get lost when I try to do things my own way. Help me to see again that You alone are the Way. Help us to follow Your Way, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

— WEEK ELEVEN (REFORMATION) —

It's *Still* All About THE TRUTH

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 17:12–19

PSALM: PSALM 25

TEXT: JOHN 14:6B, “I AM THE ... TRUTH.”

SONG: *LSB* #656, “A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD”;
AGPS #50, “A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD”



SEEING Jesus:

Some innocent or white lies untruths: Today is Monday (when it may be Wednesday). The principal is sick today (when he is present in the sanctuary). Reformation Day is December 25 (when it is October 31).

CONNECTING with Jesus:

Have you ever been told something that wasn't true? Have you ever shared something that wasn't true? Certainly the Explanation to the 2nd and 8th Commandments warn us about lying about God name's or about anyone else. I shared these untruths not to lie, but to emphasize the importance of Jesus as the Truth.

TEACHING Jesus:

Some statements about things that are untrue are only a game. Statements that hurt others or deny God's Word are not only hurtful, but they may affect our relationship with God. The Bible describes the devil as the father of lies. The devil would lie and tell us that it doesn't hurt someone to lie about them. The devil would have us believe the lie that it doesn't matter what we believe about faith and God.

Jesus comes in His Word and says: “I am the truth.” Every word of the Bible is true. The story of salvation is true. The truth is that we are sinners and without God's action we would be lost forever. The truth is

that Jesus came as God's only Son to be the Savior of the world. The truth is that Jesus lived the perfect life and was the perfect sacrifice for our sin. The truth is that Jesus died and rose again so that we might be with Him forever. Jesus makes every promise of God true.

We continue our special celebration of the Reformation. This week (October 31) marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther going to the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany and nailing 95 Theses, or statements of truth on the church door. The church of Martin Luther's time was telling the lie that people could buy forgiveness of sins and buy their way into heaven. Luther shared the Truth of God's Word that Jesus alone is the Truth that saves us. We are thankful that the Truth of Jesus has come to us and is taught in our school and preached in our church.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, thank You for being the Truth and sharing Your Truth with us. Forgive us for the lies we have heard and the lies that we share. Help us to share Jesus as the Truth every day. Bless Your church and through Your Spirit help us to always be Truthful, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

— WEEK TWELVE (ALL SAINTS) —

It's *Still* All About THE FAITHFUL WITNESS

SCRIPTURE: REV. 1:4–6

PSALM: PSALM 145

TEXT: REV. 1:5

SONG: LSB #677, “FOR ALL THE SAINTS”;
AGPS #218, “SOON AND VERY SOON”



SEEING Jesus:

Set up a simple court scene: chair for the accused; chair of judge. Prep two students or teachers as witnesses. One witness makes false accusations against the accused (he was late for school; he didn't have his homework done, etc). The other witness makes accurate and freeing statements (he came into school with me well before the opening bell, I saw him bring in his completed homework).

CONNECTING with Jesus:

Welcome to our imaginary court scene today. Let's explore what we say. Which witness is telling the truth? Which witness is helpful to the accused? Which witness is faithful?

TEACHING Jesus:

In today's Bible reading, Jesus is called the Faithful Witness.

Imagine that we are on trial before God as our judge. Different witnesses could come forward and truthfully testify against us. The accusations could come from the 10 Commandments. We have used God's name in vain; we have not worshipped God as we should; we have not obeyed our parents and teachers; we have hurt others with our words; we have coveted things that are not ours. The witnesses against us emphasize that we are guilty.

Jesus comes into the trial setting and He testifies that He has taken all of our guilt upon Himself. Any punishment that we have deserved, He has taken with Him and experienced our punishment on the cross. Jesus is the Faithful Witness that declares that since our sins have been paid for, we are declared not guilty. We are set free from any punishment we deserved.

Jesus is the only Witness that can testify for us. He is the only Witness who has the power to free us. Freed by Jesus, we are blessed to be His witnesses to the world. This past Sunday, the church celebrated All Saints Sunday. Our worship celebrated those who by faith witnessed Jesus' death and resurrection and who had Jesus as their Witness. Thankful for His freeing message, they gave witness to Jesus with their words and lives. Remembering our Reformation celebration, we give thanks for those who were witnesses for Jesus in the early history of our church.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, thank You for Your faithful Witness on our behalf. Thank You for giving courage to Your witnesses in the past. Bless us to be Your faithful witnesses, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

— WEEK THIRTEEN —

It's *Still* All About THE NAZARENE

SCRIPTURE: MARK 1:21–28

PSALM: PSALM 144

TEXT: MATT. 2:23

SONG: LSB #555, “SALVATION UNTO US HAS COME”;
AGPS #217, “SOMEONE SPECIAL”



SEEING Jesus:

School t-shirts, uniforms and other school clothing with the school name.

CONNECTING with Jesus:

These clothing items indicate where we are from. We are from (*insert name*) Lutheran School. We are proud to represent our school.

TEACHING Jesus:

Jesus didn't wear any uniforms to show where He was from. We know that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. He grew up in the home of Mary and Joseph in a town called Nazareth. Jesus played in the streets of the town. Jesus helped in Joseph's carpenter's shop. Jesus most likely played with His friends in Nazareth. Because Jesus grew up in Nazareth, He would be called a Nazarene. We are reminded that Jesus lived on earth. He was true man. Jesus had a hometown, just like we have places where we live. Some people tried to make fun of Jesus for where He came from and said that: “Nothing good can come from Nazareth.”

More important than Jesus' earthly location was that He came from heaven. Jesus came from the glory of

heaven down to earth to be our Savior. Jesus chose to leave His perfect and holy world to enter our world of sin. Jesus came as the Savior for Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jerusalem and every town in the world.

No matter where we are from or where we go, Jesus is there with us. The Jesus who came to earth ascended again to heaven after His resurrection. The ascended Lord is present in all places. Jesus is in every heart, home and school that welcomes Him. Through His Word, Jesus, the Nazarene, is here with us.

We welcome Jesus to our places as we are blessed to worship Him. We wear our school clothing with pride. We rejoice that Jesus is in this place.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, we rejoice that You came to earth to live in Nazareth. We rejoice that You come to live in our hearts. May this church and school be a place that welcomes You and wears Your name with humble pride, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

— WEEK FOURTEEN —

It's *Still* All About THE KING OF KINGS

SCRIPTURE: REV. 19:11–16

PSALM: PSALM 93

TEXT: REV. 19:16

SONG: LSB #554, “O JESUS, KING MOST WONDERFUL”;
AGPS #227, “THE KING OF GLORY”



SEEING Jesus:

A crown for a child. Select a child to be a king or queen for the chapel service.

CONNECTING with Jesus:

Let's imagine we crowned (*insert name*) king/queen of (*insert name*) Lutheran School. What powers could we give to our ruler? What might it be like to live under their rule?

TEACHING Jesus:

Some of us might be uncomfortable having a student (or anyone else) be ruler of our school. We might be jealous of their position. We might not like the rules that they make. Whether it would be a student, teacher, pastor or anyone else, the ruler would not be perfect and we would not be perfect subjects.

The Good News is that our school has only one King! Our King is Jesus. The Bible celebrates Jesus as king. When the wise men came to see the Baby Jesus, they asked for the King of the Jews whom they wanted to worship. When Pontius Pilate met Jesus and asked Him if He was a king, Jesus answered: “My kingdom is not of this world” (JOHN 18:36). Jesus was the King of creation who came to this world.

Pilate and others mocked Jesus as a king. The sign on Jesus' cross read “King of the Jews”, and was the truth of who Jesus was. Jesus was the King of the Jews and of everything. He died for all His subjects. The King rose again victoriously to rule His church for eternity. Jesus has chosen us to be with Him in His kingdom. Because Jesus is our King, every place He rules is His kingdom. Our church and school are kingdom places where Jesus is worshipped as King.

We respond with respect for all our leaders: president, governor, principal and teachers. However, we worship only King Jesus. We look forward to worshipping at His throne forever. With all the angels and saints of heaven we honor the “King of kings and Lord of lords” (REV. 19:16).

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, we rejoice that You alone sit on the throne of glory. Thank You for welcoming us into Your kingdom. We give You alone all glory and honor today and into eternity, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

— WEEK FIFTEEN (ADVENT 1) —

It's *Still* All About THE MIGHTY GOD

SCRIPTURE: REV. 21:22–27

PSALM: PSALM 24

TEXT: IS. 9:6

SONG: *LSB* #801, “HOW GREAT THOU ART”;
AGPS #122, “HOW MAJESTIC IS YOUR NAME”



SEEING Jesus:

Picture or objects of mighty things — mighty machines, mighty storm, mighty characters like super heroes, etc.

CONNECTING with Jesus:

What do you think of when you think of might? It could be a huge machine, a powerful storm, a strong person, etc. We are fascinated by and maybe intimidated by might.

TEACHING Jesus:

The prophet Isaiah described the Messiah 700 years before He was born. We are going to learn about Isaiah's descriptions the next three weeks in our Advent worship.

We may think we are strong, and we may have powerful machines and tools. However, there are many times when we are powerless. We don't have the might to heal all diseases or prevent destruction in storms. Our lack of might in our daily lives reminds us that we are powerless against sin. Sometimes we can't fight temptations. Sometimes the devil's tricks seem mightier than our resistance. We need someone mightier than ourselves as a Savior.

Isaiah describes the Savior who was promised to the people of Israel as “Mighty God.” Certainly as the Son of God, the Messiah would have all the power of God. He was the almighty creator. Jesus would be the almighty healer, calmer of the storms, etc. His miracles would show His might.

Only Jesus would have the power to save us from sin. Jesus chose to be as powerless as a tiny baby to save us. As Jesus hung on the cross, He seemed to have no power. However, it was God's plan to make Jesus powerless to save us. We see the might of Jesus as He rose from the dead.

Sometimes we are reminded that by ourselves we have little power. The power of problems overwhelms us. The power of death makes us sad. The power of sickness makes us weak. Because Jesus came to be our Savior, His might is our might. We have a Mighty God. We trust in His mighty power.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, many times we are reminded how weak we are. We rejoice that You came as the Mighty God to save us from sin. Help us to trust in Your might at all times, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

— WEEK SIXTEEN (ADVENT 2) —

It's *Still* All About THE EVERLASTING GOD

SCRIPTURE: DAN. 7:13–14

PSALM: PSALM 90

TEXT: IS. 9:6

SONG: *LSB* #338, “COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS”;
AGPS #202, “PROMISE FULFILLED”

SEEING Jesus:

Canned and packaged foods (or other items) that have an expiration date.

CONNECTING with Jesus:

Did you know that many grocery store items have expiration dates? (Share examples.) The dates are printed on the foods to make sure that we eat safe foods. Even items that don't have an expiration date expire — our clothes wear out, our toys break, our electronic pieces go out of date and aren't as useful as they once were.

TEACHING Jesus:

When God made the world, nothing had an expiration date. God made the world perfect and everything He created would last forever. When Adam and Eve sinned, everything in creation had an expiration date. Everything, including human beings, would die and decay.

God made a promise that He would send a Savior. One of the names for the Savior is the name that Isaiah shares in his prophecy. Jesus would come as the “Everlasting God.” When Jesus came to earth, it seemed to everyone that He too would have an expiration date. He came as a human being. As Jesus died on Good Friday, everyone thought that He too

had expired. Jesus rose again on the third day. He would live forever. Jesus would reign from everlasting to everlasting.

We still have an expiration date. Our clothes wear out. Our bodies wear out. Because of sin, each of us will die someday. However, because Jesus came to save us, we will join Him on the last day to be with Him. The blessings of eternal life will be everlasting.

During the Advent season, we celebrate Jesus' coming to earth. We also celebrate that Jesus will come again on the last day to receive us into His eternal kingdom. That kingdom will be everlasting. There will be no temptations. There will be no sickness. There will be no death. We will be with an Everlasting God in a glory that is everlasting.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, thank You for Your presence that has been from everlasting and will be for everlasting. Thank You for the assurance that our joy with You with last forever, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

LIVING for Jesus:

Since foods are perishable and every community has people in need of food, consider a food pantry drive for needy families or a community food pantry.

— WEEK SEVENTEEN (ADVENT 3) —

It's *Still* All About **THE WONDERFUL COUNSELOR**

SCRIPTURE: IS. 40:9–18

PSALM: PSALM 2

TEXT: IS. 9:6

SONG: LSB #332, “SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME”;
AGPS #205, “SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME”

SEEING Jesus:

“Peanuts” cartoon illustration of Lucy at a booth with sign, “Advice 5 cents.”

CONNECTING with Jesus:

A favorite cartoon showed a little girl, Lucy, offering advice for 5 cents. What is advice? Where do we get advice? We may get advice from our teachers, school counselor, parents, grandparents, friends and others.

TEACHING Jesus:

There are times when we all need advice. Sometimes we choose not to listen to the advice given to us. Sometimes the advice we get is not helpful. Even the advice from our parents or teachers is not always perfect. Today’s name for Jesus is shared by Prophet Isaiah. Jesus is the “Wonderful Counselor.”

God’s people, Israel, had often ignored the advice given to them by the Prophets. They had chosen to listen to the false prophets. Ignoring God’s advice, they had separated themselves from God. God had not forgotten them. He promised that He would send the Savior who would be the Wonderful Counselor.

As a perfect teacher, Jesus gave advice on many things. His advice was always perfect because He was the Son of God. Jesus counseled His followers to repent. They were to confess their sins and confess that they did not have the solutions to their problems or their sin.

Jesus counseled His disciples to believe in Him and follow Him. Jesus’ counsel was more than wonderful. It was the only counsel that could save them. God chose the apostles to continue to be His counselors to the church. They too gave the only advice that would save, “Believe in Jesus.” Our pastors and teachers continue to be God’s counselors who direct us to God’s Word and His will for us.

There are many times we need counsel and certainly we should go to adults who love us and adults whom we can trust. We can always go to Jesus in prayers. His advice is always wonderful.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, we confess that we don’t have the answer to our sin. Only You are the Wonderful Counselor who directs us to Your cross and empty tomb. Counsel us to follow You faithfully and obediently, in Jesus’ name.
Amen.

— WEEK EIGHTEEN (ADVENT 4/CHRISTMAS) —

It's *Still* All About THE PRINCE OF PEACE

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 2:1–14

PSALM: PSALM 34

TEXT: IS. 9:6

SONG: LSB #361, “O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM”;
AGPS #183, “O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM”



SEEING Jesus:

Chaotic scenes: role play of two students arguing; newspaper headlines of wars, local disturbances; pictures of unrest.

CONNECTING with Jesus:

There are many things that we see and hear every day that aren't peaceful. There may even be times in our school or family when things are not peaceful. People may say or do things that are unkind and even hurtful.

TEACHING Jesus:

Things had not always been peaceful for the children of Israel. There was little peace as slaves in Egypt. There were arguments and discontent in the journey through the wilderness. There were battles to fight in conquering the Promised Land. Their disobedience brought words of judgment from the prophets. God's prophet Isaiah tells this people that their Savior will be the Prince of Peace.

Two thousand years ago things were not always peaceful in Bethlehem. The Roman government had made a decree that everyone must come for a census so they could tax the people. There were Roman officials and soldiers monitoring the land. Joseph and Mary take a stressful journey to Bethlehem to complete the census.

Into that world God sent His Son. The Good News came to shepherds from angels. An angel choir sings praise to God as they announce: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased” (LUKE 2:14). Not everything would be forever peaceful for the shepherds, but they went to Bethlehem to see the Prince of Peace in a manger. The shepherds returned at peace with God announcing God's Gift to the world.

Things are not always peaceful in our school classrooms. Things may not always be peaceful among our family and friends as we gather with them during Christmas break. We may see things on the news that show that our world is not always peaceful. The Good News is that Jesus, the Savior is born. Jesus came and fulfilled God's plan of salvation so that our sins are forgiven, and we can be at peace with God.

Because of the Prince of Peace we can have a peaceful Christmas and peaceful eternity.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, we celebrate the angel's announcement of peace on earth. Thank You for coming as the Prince of Peace. Bring Your peace to our school, our families, our community and to the world, in Jesus' name.
Amen.

— WEEK NINETEEN (NEW YEAR) —

It's *Still* All About IMMANUEL

SCRIPTURE: MATT. 1:18–23

PSALM: PSALM 95

TEXT: IS. 7:14

SONG: *LSB* #357, “O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL”;
AGPS #186, “O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL”



SEEING Jesus:

Sign: “Don’t go alone!”

CONNECTING with Jesus:

When might a sign like this be helpful? Our answers depend on our age and circumstances. Parents tell a little child not to go alone across the street. Older children may be advised not to go alone to the park or the mall. Even adults are warned that there are places where it is unsafe to go alone.

TEACHING Jesus:

As we enter the new year of 2018, we might put up a sign that says, “Don’t go alone.” There may be changes and challenges that we don’t want to face alone.

As God’s people, Israel, faced temptations and challenges. God reminded them through the prophet Isaiah that they did not have to go alone. God had promised to send their Savior, and His name would be Immanuel, which means “God with us.”

Seven hundred years after Isaiah’s promise, an angel came to Joseph and told him that Mary, the woman to whom he was engaged, was expecting a baby, who

was the Son of God. It had to be a very confusing message to Joseph. The angel told Joseph that Mary and he would not be alone because the Baby would be “Immanuel,” which again means “God with us.”

The Baby Jesus came and He was with Mary and Joseph as their son. More importantly, He was with all sinners as He came to be the Savior of the world. God was with mankind in His Son Jesus. Immanuel was not only with His people; He came to die for His people! As the risen Lord He would be with us forever.

Immanuel is with us in the waters of our Baptism. Immanuel is with us as His Word is taught in our school and church. Immanuel is with us in worship. Immanuel is with everyone who believes in Him. We don’t know what will happen in 2018. We do know that whatever happens, we have a God who is named Immanuel.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, sometimes we feel alone. It’s Good News that You came to be with Your people at Your birth in Bethlehem. It’s Good News that You are with us today. Bless us as we begin a new year, in Jesus’ name. *Amen.*

— WEEK TWENTY (BAPTISM OF OUR LORD) —

It's *Still* All About THE BELOVED SON

SCRIPTURE: MATT. 3:13–17

PSALM: PSALM 85

TEXT: MATT. 3:17

SONG: *LSB* #405, “TO JORDAN’S RIVER CAME OUR LORD”;
AGPS #238, “THIS IS A JOYOUS HAPPY DAY”

SEEING Jesus:

Sign, cards, etc. with “I love you!” message. (Alternative: have candy hearts with “I love you” message for children.)

CONNECTING with Jesus:

It’s a blessing to get a gift, card or note from our parents, grandparents and others that says, “I love you.” Maybe your mom surprises you with a note in your school bag, “I love you.” “I love you” messages make us feel special.

TEACHING Jesus:

We have just celebrated Jesus’ birthday. The Bible tells us that Jesus was taken to Egypt by his parents to keep Him safe from Herod. Jesus’ family went to Nazareth where Jesus grew “strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him” (LUKE 2:40).

When Jesus was 30 years old, His heavenly Father had planned that Jesus was to begin His ministry of teaching and miracles. It was time for the plan of salvation to be fulfilled. Jesus ministry begins with His Baptism.

Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. The Spirit of God descended like a dove and rested on Jesus. The Father’s voice from heaven announced, “This is My Beloved Son.” The Father

says, “I love you” to His Son. The Father loved His perfect only Son. The Father loved the obedience of His Son. The Father loved the willingness of His Son to come to earth and finally to give His life for the sins of the world.

There are many things about us that are not loveable. We don’t always obey our parents, teachers and our Heavenly Father. We don’t always do and say the things that please others and please God. Even though we may disobey our parents, they still say, “I love you” to us. God says “I love you” to us because Jesus paid the price for our sins so that God sees us as loveable again.

As we review Jesus’ Baptism, we remember the blessings of our own Baptism. In our Baptism we were made part of God’s family. His “I love you” is shared with us as we hear that our sins are forgiven. Now we can share His love with others.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, we rejoice in Your Father’s statement of love to You. We rejoice that You announce His love to us, in Jesus’ name. *Amen.*

LIVING for Jesus:

Have the children shared God’s “I love you notes” with nursing home residents, home bound members or others in the family of the church and school.

— WEEK TWENTY-ONE —

It's *Still* All About THE SON OF MAN

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 19:1–10

PSALM: PSALM 2

TEXT: LUKE 19:10

SONG: *LSB* #394, “SONGS OF THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE”;
AGPS #217, “SOMEONE SPECIAL”



SEEING Jesus:

Identify several students by their family connections.

_____ son of _____

_____ daughter of _____

CONNECTING with Jesus:

Jesus had identifications: Son of Mary, Son of Joseph, Son of God and Son of Man.

TEACHING Jesus:

About 600 years before Jesus was born one of God's prophets had been called the Son of Man. Ezekiel was just another son of human parents, but he had been chosen to share God's messages of judgement and hope with God's people.

Jesus also comes as a Son of Man. Jesus is born to a human mother, Mary. Jesus is true man. He had all the human features we have. Jesus felt happiness and sadness just like we do. As we learn about Jesus it is important to remember that Jesus did many of the things that we do. Jesus learned from His parents and teachers in the temple. Jesus was tempted just as we are. Jesus had to be human to experience our world. Jesus had to be human to die for our sins on the cross.

However, in everything He was and everything Jesus did, He was the holy Son of God. Jesus never gave into temptation. Jesus never disobeyed His earthly parents or His heavenly Father. Jesus had to be perfect so that He could pay for our sins and not His own. Only the sacrifice of the perfect Son of God would save the world.

Sometimes it may get confusing to think that Jesus was both Son of Man and Son of God. Only Jesus could be both at once. What isn't confusing is the Good News that we are sons and daughter of God because of everything that Jesus was and did. We are sons and daughters from imperfect families. Because of Jesus we are God's sons and daughters in His perfect family forever.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, we celebrate You as Son of Man and Son of God. Thank You for being perfectly both. Thank You for welcoming us into Your family. Keep us in Your grace so that we might be in Your family now and forever, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

It's *Still* All About THE SON OF DAVID

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 18:35–43

PSALM: PSALM 123

TEXT: LUKE 18:38

SONG: *LSB* #398, “HAIL TO THE LORD’S ANOINTED”;
AGPS #95, “FATHER WELCOMES”



SEEING Jesus:

A small tree (live or artificial) or chart showing the parts of the tree.

CONNECTING with Jesus:

In science class, we learn about the part of the tree: the roots, trunk, bark and branches. Today we’re also going to explore another kind of tree — a family tree.

TEACHING Jesus:

Sometimes trees are used to help us picture families. The family name may be on the trunk of the tree. The children in the family are the branches that go out from the trunk. (Share a simple example of the family tree of the presenter or another individual. Some of your parents or grandparents may have explored their family tree.

Jesus had a family tree. Jesus had a family tree that the Bible traces all the way back to the beginning of the world! The Bible shares Jesus’ family tree in Matthew 1 and in Luke 3. God arranged every branch of Jesus’ family tree in a special place and way. Even though every branch was part of God’s tree, each branch had some imperfections. Jesus’ ancestors were also sinners.

One of the branches of Jesus’ family tree was especially important to the Jewish people of Jesus’ time. They had heard of King David. During King David’s reign

their country had been very powerful. To hear that Jesus was the Son of David gave them hope for a powerful earthly kingdom.

Jesus’ family tree was not about power or prestige. Jesus’ family tree was about saving the world. Jesus was the Son of David as the promise of the Savior had been made to David. Despite his sins, King David knew that the Savior born from his family had forgiven him and that forgiveness was for everyone. Jesus came from a family tree to die on the tree of the cross.

Jesus came from a family tree for every family. Our families too are imperfect. The Son of David comes to bring us forgiveness and hope. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if every branch of our family tree was connected to Jesus?

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, David was blessed to have You come from His family. We are blessed that You came from a family to bless our families. Help us to stay connected to You, in Jesus’ name. *Amen.*

LIVING for Jesus:

Children may want to explore their family trees. School families who have explored and developed their tree may want to share those trees with students.

It's *Still* All About THE TREASURE OF ALL NATIONS

SCRIPTURE: HAG. 2:1–9

PSALM: PSALM 135

TEXT: HAG. 2:7

SONG: LSB #743, “JESUS PRICELESS TREASURE”;
AGPS #143, “JESUS IN THE MORNING”

SEEING Jesus:

Treasure chest with some surprises. Depending on the size of the worshipping group, the treasure may be a witness book mark or other items.

CONNECTING with Jesus:

What's in a treasure chest? There are all sorts of adventure stories where people discover a treasure chest. Treasure seekers often look for precious coins or jewels in a treasure chest. We have an even more exciting Treasure that has been brought to us.

TEACHING Jesus:

God's Old Testament people often looked for earthly treasures. When other nations were conquered, the winning army would go in and collect all the valuables of the enemy. They hoped that the Messiah would be one who would come and give them all sorts of earthly treasures. The temple where the people worshipped held all kinds of golden treasures. Selfishly they hoped for more.

God's prophet Haggai shared the prophecy that the “Treasure of all nations” would come. Haggai is telling about Jesus. Jesus did not own any earthly treasures. Jesus did not own a home. Jesus had very few earthly possessions. Jesus is a treasure chest not of gold or silver but of salvation. Because of Jesus'

suffering and death God opens up the treasures of the forgiveness of our sins, life and salvation. Jesus is not a treasure that we find. Jesus is not a treasure that we deserve. Jesus is a treasure that God gives to the world and to us.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is like a treasure chest. Through the splashing of water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, God opens up to us all the treasures that Jesus has to give.

Jesus is called the “Treasure of all nations.” During this Epiphany season of the year, our church focuses on the mission message. We want every person in every nation to have the treasures of God's grace that we have. Through our chapel offerings we share our treasures so that others can have Jesus as their Treasure.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, You alone are the priceless Treasure. Thank You for shedding Your blood so that the treasures of Your grace might be mine. Bless us as we share our treasure to bring this Treasure to others, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

It's *Still* All About THE FOUNDER AND PERFECTER

SCRIPTURE: HEB. 12:1–2

PSALM: PSALM 124

TEXT: HEB. 12:2

SONG: LSB #702, “MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE”;
AGPS #175, “MY FAITH LOOKS TRUSTINGLY”

SEEING Jesus:

Pictures or list of church/school founders; or pictures/
list of founding fathers of our country (George
Washington, Thomas Jefferson, etc.)

CONNECTING with Jesus:

Does anyone know what a founder is? A founder is one
who founds or starts something. Many years ago, there
were individuals whom God used to be founders of
our church and school. In our social studies lessons we
learn about the founders of our country. (Some of you
may have even seen their faces on Mount Rushmore.)

TEACHING Jesus:

God's Word (HEB. 12:2) calls Jesus the “Founder of
our faith.”

We know that Jesus as Creator is the Founder of
everything. With the Father and the Holy Spirit,
everything was created at the beginning of time.

As our Savior, Jesus is also the Founder of our faith.
Everything we know and believe is based on the story
of Jesus. We have been learning and reviewing His
story as we study God's Word in our school. Jesus'
suffering and death is the foundation of everything
we believe.

After Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into
heaven, God used the Apostles to start His church.
Peter, Paul and the other proclaimers shared that
their message was only about Jesus. Earlier this year
we reviewed the Reformation of our Church. Martin
Luther and others emphasized again that our faith
is founded on Jesus. Jesus is not only the Founder;
Jesus is the One who found us. We are not able to
find Jesus, but through His Spirit He welcomes us to
His family, the church.

It's important to remember the founders of our
church and our school. God uses many people to
share His message. We thank God for the pastors
and teachers and other leaders who share God's
Word with us today. However, our church and school
are never built on a person. Our Founder is Jesus.

A word close to founder is foundation. Jesus is the
foundation of the church. Jesus is the foundation of
our church and school. We always build on Him.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, we celebrate You as the Founder of Your
church. Thank You for finding us and welcoming us
into the family of this church. Help us build our lives
only on You, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

— WEEK TWENTY-FIVE (TRANSFIGURATION) —

It's *Still* All About THE LORD OF LORDS

SCRIPTURE: REV. 19:11–16

PSALM: PSALM 146

TEXT: REV. 19:16

SONG: *LSB* #655, “LORD, KEEP ME STEADFAST IN YOUR WORD”;
AGPS #151, “KING OF KINGS”

SEEING Jesus:

Explore “Lord of the Rings” or other fantasy stories with lord characters.

CONNECTING with Jesus:

Who likes fantasy stories? Some of our favorite fantasy stories take place in magical and mystical kingdoms where officials called lords reign over the land. Today we are going to learn about a Lord who is not a fantasy creation. Jesus is Lord of Lords.

TEACHING Jesus:

Many times during His ministry Jesus had spoken of His kingdom. His kingdom was unlike any other kingdom. Jesus did not come to be a lord who would conquer earthly kingdoms. Jesus did not look like an earthly lord. He did not ride in chariots or wear royal robes. Jesus did not have servants serving Him. Jesus was serving others.

This week the church has celebrated Transfiguration Sunday (MATTHEW 17). Jesus goes to the top of mountain with disciples Peter, James and John. Jesus is joined by Old Testament heroes Elijah and Moses. Jesus shines with holy glory. Jesus shows that He is Lord of Lord.

The Jesus who showed His glory on the Mount of Transfiguration is the Jesus who rose from the dead. Jesus has ascended into heaven where He is seated on His throne of glory. The book of Revelation shows us the eternal reign of Jesus. Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords. He is above any and every earthly ruler. He reigns over all creation now, and He will reign forever.

Sometimes we are tempted to make other people or others things our lord. Sometimes we may even consider ourselves an important lord seeking the recognition of others. Jesus is the only Lord who came to earth, revealed Himself as Lord on a mountain and is now Lord of glory and Lord of Lords.

We celebrate Jesus as our Lord as we worship Him in our church and school, in our family devotions and in our own time in God’s Word.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, thank You for taking Your disciples and us to the Mount of Transfiguration to get a glimpse of Your Lordship. Bless us as we celebrate You as Lord of our school and our lives, in Jesus’ name. *Amen.*

— WEEK TWENTY-SIX (1ST WEEK OF LENT) —

It's *Still* All About THE LAMB OF GOD

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 1:29–34

PSALM: PSALM 32

TEXT: JOHN 1:35–36

SONG: *LSB* #547, “THE LAMB”;
AGPS #229, “THE LAMB”



SEEING Jesus:

Display pictures of lambs, stuffed lamb toys, or other lamb reminders.

CONNECTING with Jesus:

What do you know about lambs? (Lambs are cute; lambs have wool; lambs are stubborn and need a shepherd; etc.)

TEACHING Jesus:

Lambs were very common in Bible times. Abraham and other patriarchs owned lambs. Moses and David were shepherds who watched lambs. Jesus told stories about lambs.

Lambs were also used for worship. Before the children of Israel left Egypt, they were to put the blood of a perfect lamb on the doorpost, and they would be saved from the angel of death. God gave specific instructions for the sacrificing of lambs to take away the guilt of the people. As God's people confessed their sins and brought their lambs for sacrifices, God took away the guilt of their sins. Generation after generation, lambs were sacrificed. All of the Old Testament sacrifices were remembering God's promise to send the Savior who would be sacrificed for the sins of the whole world.

As Jesus begins His ministry and His journey to the cross, John the Baptist introduces Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. As the Son of God, Jesus was the perfect Lamb. Jesus would shed His blood on the cross. There would never have to be another sacrifice.

When we gather for worship, we often sing a chorus called the “Agnus Dei.” Those are Latin words for Lamb of God. We worship the Lamb who gave Himself for us.

We have started a new season in the church year, the Lenten season. During this season we see Jesus' cross as an altar where The Lamb gave His life for us.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, You are the Lamb of God. You are the only sacrifice that could take away my sins and the sins of the whole world. Bless us as we worship the Lamb this Lenten season, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

LIVING for Jesus:

Look for lamb illustrations in the architecture of the church and other Lamb references in the liturgy and hymns.

It's *Still* All About THE HIGH PRIEST

SCRIPTURE: HEB. 8:1–7

PSALM: PSALM 110

TEXT: HEB. 8:1

SONG: LSB #431, “NOT ALL THE BLOOD OF BEASTS”;
AGPS #153, “LAMB OF GOD”



SEEING Jesus:

Begin the message with messy hands.

CONNECTING with Jesus:

Notice my messy hands. Have you ever had messy hands? Perhaps you had been playing in the dirt or sand; perhaps you helped your mother do some baking and messy ingredients covered your hands (and clothes). What other situations have left you (or someone else) with messy hands? In the Old Testament the High Priest had messy hands.

TEACHING Jesus:

The Old Testament high priest had important assignments. Aaron first served as the high priest as the people of Israel gathered for worship in the desert on their way to the Promised Land. God gave very specific directions to Aaron for the sacrifices on the Day of Atonement (LEVITICUS 16). Aaron was to put his hands in the blood of the sacrificed animal and sprinkle the blood on the altar. God accepted the sacrifice as an atonement (payment) for the sins of Aaron and his family and the sins of the people. Can you imagine how messy Aaron's hands were? Other priests carried on the sacrifices throughout the Old Testament. The messy sacrifices in the Old Testament were God's message that a perfect sacrifice was coming for them.

Our New Testament lesson for today calls Jesus a High Priest. Jesus is the High Priest who offers the sacrifice. He offers Himself as the sacrifice. On the

cross, Jesus had messy hands and feet because there were nails through them. Jesus had a messy forehead because there was a crown of thorns on His head. Jesus' death on the cross was messy. In His death, Jesus made the sacrifice for our sins and the sins of the world.

Sometimes we make messes with more than our hands. Sometimes we say or do things that hurt others and it makes things messy. Sometimes we disobey our parents and teachers and our lives are messy. Sin makes all sorts of messes. Jesus' blood cleans up the messes of our lives.

Our pastor serves as a kind of priest in the worship service. Fortunately he doesn't need to get his hands messy to share God's forgiveness with us. He puts his hands in the waters of the baptismal font. His hands hold the bread and wine as the body and blood of Jesus at Holy Communion. His hands open the Bible. His hands remind us of the hands of Jesus serving us. Lent is a special season of the church year. Lent reminds us of the messy hands of Jesus, the High Priest, who cleans us from our sin.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Lord Jesus, thank You for being the High Priest who sacrificed Himself, in Jesus name. *Amen.*

It's *Still* All About THE ROSE OF SHARON

SCRIPTURE: SONG OF SONGS 2:1–4

PSALM: PSALM 4

TEXT: SONG OF SONGS 2:1

SONG: *LSB* #359, “LO, HOW A ROSE E’ER BLOOMING”;
AGPS #266, “WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS”



SEEING Jesus:

Display a rose or roses.

CONNECTING with Jesus:

Have you ever given your mother, teacher or others flowers? Some people enjoy receiving flowers on their birthday, Valentines’ Day or other special occasion. A very special kind of flower to give or receive is a rose.

TEACHING Jesus:

One of the unusual (and perhaps unfamiliar) names of Jesus is Rose of Sharon. This name is shared in a book of the Bible that we don’t read or study very often in our lessons. King Solomon was inspired by God to write a book that is called Song of Songs. Much of the book is a love story which reminds us of the story of God’s love for us.

God, the creator of everything, created the roses and all the beautiful plants. Jesus used plants (lilies, grass, etc.) to teach lessons about His kingdom. Solomon’s rose can also teach us about Jesus and His love for us.

Roses are beautiful. Jesus was true man. He looked like any other man of His day. However, as the holy Son of God, Jesus was beautiful. One of our hymns describes Jesus as a beautiful Savior. In our sinful

nature, we are not beautiful. Jesus, the Savior, washes us in Baptism, takes our sins away and now God sees us as beautiful.

Roses have thorns. Kings of Jesus’ day wore crowns of gold and jewels. Even though the sign of Jesus’ cross said, “the King of the Jews,” Jesus was not treated as a king. A crown of thorns was put on His head.

Roses are often given as a gift. God gave the greatest gift of all, Jesus. The gift of Jesus takes our sins away and welcomes us into God’s family! We have the joy of sharing the gift of Jesus. Sometimes the gift is a kind word to a classmate. Sometimes the gift is a can of food to a hungry person. Sometimes the gift is a rose to a mother, teacher or friend.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, we celebrate Your beauty as our Lord and Savior. Teach us to see Your beauty and Your story in the things of Your creation. Bless us as we show and share Your love, in Jesus’ name. *Amen.*

LIVING for Jesus:

Share the rose(s) with a teacher, secretary or other school friend or servant.

It's *Still* All About THE ADVOCATE

SCRIPTURE: 1 JOHN 2:1–6

PSALM: PSALM 132

TEXT: 1 JOHN 2:1

SONG: LSB #770, “WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS”;
AGPS #261, “WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS”



SEEING Jesus:

Stage a gossiping scenario: two student gossiping about another; students gossiping about a teacher, etc. Another student/teacher enters to question the activity and stops the gossiping.

CONNECTING with Jesus:

Our little drama which began our message was an example of someone being an advocate. An advocate is someone who comes in to defend and help someone who is being mistreated or accused.

TEACHING Jesus:

Imagine another drama. The devil and all his forces are accusing you of breaking the commandments. There are statements that you tell lies about others; that you don't always obey your parents; that you sometimes cheat in school; that you don't always pay attention as the Bible is read or the sermon is shared. All of the accusations are true! We are sinners, and we are always disobeying God and sinning against His Word.

As the accusations are being made, you get very frightened. You know that you deserve to be punished. What will happen? How will God punish you?

Jesus steps into our drama. Jesus faces the devil and all your accusers. Jesus says, “Yes, this person is guilty of everything you have said. However, when I went to the cross I took all of those sins with me. My blood shed on the cross washed all those sins away. I declare this person, not guilty and I free him from all punishment.” Jesus, the Advocate, has spoken as your defense!

Jesus does more than free us, He claims us as His children. His response to the devil continues, “Because this is my child, I will protect and keep him as mine forever.”

Jesus is the perfect Advocate. As Jesus' children, we can speak as His advocates. We can defend those who others may bully. Older students can be advocates for younger students. Teachers can be advocates for children. Our church can be advocates for the needy in our community.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, without Your advocacy, we would be hopelessly judged and lost. Thank You for the assurance of Your forgiveness. Empower us to be advocates for those who need Your mercy and our help, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

— WEEK THIRTY —

It's *Still* All About THE SAVIOR

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 1:46–55

PSALM: PSALM 6

TEXT: LUKE 1:46–47

SONG: *LSB* #537, “LORD, ‘TIS NOT THAT I DID CHOOSE THEE”;
AGPS #70, “BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR”

SEEING Jesus:

Display life-saving equipment (life jacket, etc.) or invite a life-saving representative (fireman, paramedic) to be present at the chapel presentation.

CONNECTING with Jesus:

If you are swimming or riding in a boat, it's important to have the proper life-saving equipment available. (If a life-saving representative is present, emphasize the role in saving lives.)

TEACHING Jesus:

Life-saving equipment and life-saving volunteers and professionals are important to make sure that we are kept safe and healthy. They are God's gifts to us to protect our lives.

Can any of these items or people save us from our sin? NO! Only Jesus is our Savior from sin.

Today's Bible reading takes place months before Jesus is born. Mary shares a song of thanks for being blessed to be the mother of Jesus. Mary says, “My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.” Mary needed a Savior. Mary, who had been chosen by God to be the mother of the Son of God, was herself a sinful woman. Mary knew that the baby she would carry

and who would be born from her womb would be the perfect One to save the world from sin.

This Lenten season we are blessed to review again everything that Jesus did to save us. We follow Jesus through His arrest, trials and all the way to the cross. Jesus saves us from our sin by giving His life on the cross.

We need a Savior from sin. Jesus is our Savior and the Savior for the sins of the world. If we are drowning in water, a life jacket will save us. If we are injured in an accident, paramedics use bandages and equipment to save us.

To save us from our sin, Jesus has put on us the life-saving life-jacket of faith. With faith in Jesus, we will be safely in His care.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, without Your rescue I would be lost eternally. Thank You for being my Savior. Help me to share Your saving work with others, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

It's *Still* All About THE MAN OF SORROWS

SCRIPTURE: IS. 53:1–5

PSALM: PSALM 22

TEXT: IS. 53:3

SONG: *LSB* #451, “STRICKEN, SMITTEN AND AFFLICTED”;
AGPS #235, “THERE IS A GREEN HILL FAR AWAY”

SEEING Jesus:

Display a sad face. Develop a list of things that make us sad.

CONNECTING with Jesus:

There is a sad face! What are some things that make us sad? Do you think Jesus was ever sad?

TEACHING Jesus:

Jesus was true man. He had the same emotions we do. He was happy, angry and sad. The Bible tells us that when Jesus heard that His friend Lazarus died, He cried (JOHN 11:35). Jesus showed all of His emotions without ever sinning.

Today's Bible reading calls Jesus a “Man of Sorrows.” Jesus had all the different sorrows of life. However, Jesus' greatest sorrow was the sins of the world.

Seven hundred years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah was blessed to picture and describe the sadness of Jesus. Through the Holy Spirit, Isaiah shares the sad picture of Jesus' suffering and death. The treatment that Jesus received from the audience and soldiers was sad. Jesus' loneliness on the cross was sad.

Isaiah gives Jesus the name, “Man of Sorrows.” Jesus was sorrowful not for Himself but because of our sin. It was the burden and agony of our sin that caused His sorrow and death.

Lent is a sorrowful time. It makes us sad to think of all the suffering that Jesus endured. It makes us sad to think that Jesus did it because of our sin. However, we don't have to stay sad. Out of Jesus' sadness came the gladness of Easter.

Because Jesus is risen from the dead, we go from sad to glad. (Show a happy face.) We are glad that Jesus came. We are glad that our sorrows are taken away by the “Man of Sorrows.”

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, picturing You on the cross makes us sad. Remembering that our sin put You on the cross makes us sad. Thank You for taking our sadness and sorrows to the cross so that we can have the gladness of Your presence now and eternally, in Jesus' name.
Amen.

— WEEK THIRTY-TWO (EASTER) —

It's *Still* All About THE LIVING STONE

SCRIPTURE: 1 PETER 2:1–7

PSALM: PSALM 118

TEXT: 1 PETER 2:4–5

SONG: *LSB* #461, “I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES”;
AGPS #127, “I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES”

SEEING Jesus:

Gather and display several stones of various types and sizes.

CONNECTING with Jesus:

Give directions to the stones: move, roll over, etc. Why don't these stones obey my commands? They're stones! They can't respond!

TEACHING Jesus:

The land of Jesus's day was a stony place. Walls and buildings were made from the stones that lay across the landscape. Builders were careful in finding just the right stone that would fit properly in place. God chose Jesus to be the Stone that held His house of salvation together.

Jesus was not just another random stone, even though many in Jesus' day saw Him only as another common stone. They didn't expect anything unusual from Jesus. The Bible says Jesus was a “living stone.” He was the stone that could move and do anything else at His Father's command. Jesus was the living stone that came from behind a stone. When Jesus was buried in the tomb, a large stone was put in front of the tomb. When Jesus arose on Easter Sunday morning, the large stone was moved. The women and disciples

looked into the tomb and saw that Jesus was not there. The angel announced to them that Jesus was risen from the dead!

God's Word in 1 Peter shares that because Jesus is the Living Stone, we are called living stones (1 PETER 2:5). The life of Jesus' resurrection is our life through Baptism. We were baptized into Jesus' death and resurrection. No longer are we worthless rocks to be discarded or ignored. God chose us. God takes us and uses us as stones in the building of His church. Each of us is an important piece in this building.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, You are the Resurrection and the Life. You bring life into everything. You are the Living Stone. Thank You Lord for giving us life and choosing us to be part of Your building, the church, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

LIVING for Jesus:

Put each of the names of the students on a stone and erect a monument of living stones in some prominent place on the school grounds or in the church/school facility.

It's *Still* All About THE LION OF JUDAH

SCRIPTURE: REV. 5:1–5

PSALM: PSALM 93

TEXT: REV. 5:5

SONG: LSB #484, “MAKE SONGS OF JOY”;
AGPS #228, “THE KING SHALL COME”



SEEING Jesus:

Share pictures (videos) of lions.

CONNECTING with Jesus:

What do you know about lions? They are wild, frightening, the kings of the jungle, etc. Are there any Bible stories about lions? (Daniel in the Lion's Den) One of the Bible's names for Jesus is “Lion — Lion of Judah.”

TEACHING Jesus:

Certainly no name of Jesus should ever be frightening. When the Apostle John shares his vision of heaven, he is not sharing a frightening picture. Therefore, we should not be frightened as Jesus is celebrated as “the Lion of the tribe of Judah.”

We are in the Easter season of the church year. It is a time of celebration and victory. Jesus has conquered death. Jesus is alive! The Lion has captured the prey. The Bible also describes the devil as a lion (1 PETER 5:8). Ever since his success in leading Adam and Eve to disobey God, the devil has been trying to capture others. After Jesus' death on the cross, He descended into hell to show the devil that Jesus alone was the victor. The Lion had devoured the lion.

Jesus is called the Lion of Judah because He was born from the family of Jacob's son, Judah. God had

chosen this family through which He would fulfill His promise. Judah was the den in which the Lion of salvation grew.

Jesus, the Lion, is our conqueror and protector. When the devil tempts us, Jesus' Word roars so that the devil is frightened away.

There are times when the devil and the world have us feeling defeated. We may feel that we have failed others. We may feel that we can't do many things right. In those times we have a Lion on our side. This Lion is more than the king of the jungle. This Lion is the King of all creation. This Lion is Jesus!

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, You are the Lamb and the Lion. You have devoured sin, death and the devil. You rule on Your throne for us. Bless our Easter roar of Your victory, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

LIVING for Jesus:

The C.S. Lewis classic, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, might be shared with some classes.

It's *Still* All About THE REDEEMER

SCRIPTURE: JOB 19:20–27

PSALM: PSALM 19

TEXT: JOB 19:25

SONG: *LSB* #539, “CHRIST IS THE WORLD’S REDEEMER”;
AGPS #239, “THIS IS HE”

SEEING Jesus:

Demonstrate selling an item (ball glove, electronic device, etc.) to a student or teacher. Request the item back again. The buyer of your item agrees only to sell the item back to you.

CONNECTING with Jesus:

Describe the dynamics of the transaction. You sold something and had to buy back the item you originally owned.

TEACHING Jesus:

Our little business deal showed you what the word redeem means. Redeem is a word that we hear often in the church and in our Bible lessons. One of the names for Jesus that we often hear and use is Redeemer.

When Adam and Eve were first created they totally belonged to God. When they gave into Satan’s temptation they sold themselves over to the ways of the devil and the world. If Adam and Eve (and the rest of creation) were to ever belong to God again, God would have to buy them back. In his explanation to the 2nd Article of the Apostles’ Creed, Martin Luther explains the truth of God’s Word: “Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil; not

with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.” Jesus is our Redeemer, He has bought us back with the only payment, possible, “His holy precious blood.”

In our Baptism, the payment Jesus made becomes a payment for each one of us. We belong to God. He bought us and brought us back to Him.

Jesus is called the Redeemer already in the Old Testament by God’s servant Job. Job had many tragedies in his life. Job knew that no problem or tragedy would separate Him from God’s eternal care. Job’s Redeemer and ours rose from the dead. We can celebrate with Job that because we belong to Jesus, we will see Jesus on the Last Day.

Sometimes our parents (and we) look for the best sale to buy something we want. The best purchase ever made was the purchase of the salvation of all sinners by the Redeemer.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, thank You for the most precious purchase ever, our salvation, in Jesus’ name. *Amen.*

It's *Still* All About THE ROOT OF JESSE

SCRIPTURE: IS. 11:1–10

PSALM: PSALM 52

TEXT: IS. 11:1, 10

SONG: LSB #571, “GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO THAT HE GAVE”;
AGPS #108, “GOD LOVED THE WORLD”

SEEING Jesus:

Display the stump of a small dead tree or a section of a log cut from a tree.”

CONNECTING with Jesus:

Do you think anything can grow from this stump (piece of wood)? Why not? (It's dead; there are no roots going into the soil, etc.) It doesn't take much knowledge about plants (botany) to know that it's impossible for this piece of wood to grow branches and leaves again.

TEACHING Jesus:

Our Bible lesson for today shares something even more impossible. Jesus, as true Man, came from a human family. Earlier this year we learned about Jesus as the Son of David. David's father was named Jesse. (Perhaps some of the children will remember the story of David being chosen as the next king. David was God's choice over the other older and more likely sons of Jesse.)

Jesse and His family are compared to a stump. They were an ordinary family in Bethlehem. God chose to have His Son come from this stump. Something divinely miraculous happened. From this stump a root began to grow into the soil of God's grace. The promise of the Messiah continued to grow. The root grew deeper and brought more life to the stump.

With the birth of Jesus, the root into the deep history of God's plan gave life to a tree that began to grow out of the stump.

The Good News is that the God's tree picture continues. Jesus, who grew from the stump of the family of Jesse was Himself hung on a tree. Jesus died on the tree of the cross.

Experts who work with trees do something called grafting. A branch from one tree is neatly cut and attached to another tree. If done correctly and carefully, the new branch will grow on another tree. In our Baptism, God has grafted us onto the stump of Jesse and the tree of Jesus. God takes us, the sinful lifeless branches, and blesses us to grow in Jesus. Not only do we grow on His tree, we produce fruits to give Him glory and bless others.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, we thank You for the story of the life You rooted from the family of Jesse, and the life You give to Your church through the tree of the cross. Bless us as we are connected to and rooted in Your life-giving Word, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

It's *Still* All About THE BRIGHT MORNING STAR

SCRIPTURE: REV. 22:16-21

PSALM: PSALM 147

TEXT: REV. 22:16

SONG: *LSB* #872, "COME, THOU BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR";
AGPS #86, "COME, LET US WORSHIP"

SEEING Jesus:

Pictures of star-filled sky.

CONNECTING with Jesus:

Who likes to look up at the stars? What do we call the science of studying the stars? (Astronomy.) Today we are going to imagine that we are astronomers looking up at a beautiful star-filled sky on a dark evening. We will see one Star that dominates the sky.

TEACHING Jesus:

Can you think of Bible stories that include stars? (God created the stars — *GEN. 1:16-17*; Abraham looked up at the stars and heard the promise to his family — *GEN. 15:5*; the Wise men saw the star and came to worship Jesus — *MATT. 2:2*.) It's exciting to not only look at the beauty of the stars in God's creation, it's special to have God's Word share His truth and promises through the stars.

One of the last verses in the Bible has another special name for Jesus, the Bright Morning Star. Jesus the star appears in the darkness of sin. Imagine a place so dark (like deep inside a cave) where there is absolutely no light and it is impossible to see anything. Without Jesus the world is a very, very dark place. Sometimes we see and feel that darkness when we have problems and pains. Sometimes we say, "It is a dark time."

Like the first and brightest star in the morning sky, Jesus appears. The Star of Jesus not only shone to wise men but shone brightly to the whole world. In the darkness of a Sunday morning, the women who went to Jesus' tomb not only saw the sun rise, they saw a Bright Morning Star. The Good News of Jesus' resurrection brought light and joy to their lives.]

When things are dark in our world, we look to God's Word. His promises are like a bright star in our life. His truth and presence shine and give us hope.

Because we have faith to see the Bright Morning Star, God's Word (*PHIL. 2:15*) tells us that God places us as His stars in the world. We are more than classroom stars or athletic team stars, we are Jesus' stars. May we shine with Him and for Him.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, thank You for being the Bright Morning Star in our lives, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

LIVING for Jesus:

Explore additional astronomy themes or visit a planetarium.

It's *Still* All About THE ANGEL OF THE LORD

SCRIPTURE: GEN. 22:9–19

PSALM: PSALM 34

TEXT: GEN. 22:15–17

SONG: *LSB* #785, “WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD”;
AGPS #257, “WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD OUR REDEEMER, CREATOR”

SEEING Jesus:

Share an angel collection. (A teacher or parent may have an Willow Tree or other angel collection. Christmas angel decorations could also be used.)

CONNECTING with Jesus:

Some people enjoy collecting angels. While angels may make interesting decorations or conversation pieces, the Bible tells us the facts about angels.

TEACHING Jesus:

What does the Bible tell us about angels? (Note questions 99 and 100 in the “Explanation to Luther’s Small Catechism.” Share Biblical truth about angels.) God’s Word tells us about several angel appearances. The angel appears to Mary, Zachariah, Joseph and other individuals sharing God’s message. Who is greater than any angel? (Jesus!) God’s Word tells us (HEB. 1:1–8) that all the angels worship Jesus alone. Our Bible lesson for today tells us about a special messenger that appeared to Abraham. God has promised Abraham that He would give him a son.

God kept His promise and Isaac was born. God tested Abraham’s faith and asked him to sacrifice His son, Isaac. Abraham was faithful and was about to sacrifice Isaac when “the Angel of the Lord” (GEN. 22:11–15) told

Abraham that God had another sacrifice available. God provided a ram for the sacrifice. Isaac was set free.

The special messenger, the Angel of the Lord, was Jesus who came down to Abraham many years before He was born. Jesus was the messenger with a special message. This Jesus who came down to Abraham came down as the Baby Jesus many years later. Jesus came down to be the special sacrifice that God had promised to Abraham and to the world. Jesus would sacrifice Himself on the cross.

Abraham listened to the Angel of the Lord and obeyed Him faithfully. God doesn’t speak to us through angels. The Angel of the Lord, Jesus, speaks to us through His Word. He shares His message that through His sacrifice our sins are forgiven. Like Abraham, we listen and obey faithfully.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, we thank You for Your special appearance to Abraham and Your special message of sacrifice. Thank You for being the Sacrifice for our sins. Bless us as we faithfully listen to and obey Your Word, in Jesus’ name. *Amen.*

It's *Still* All About THE HOPE

SCRIPTURE: 1 TIM. 1:1–2

PSALM: PSALM 130

TEXT: 1 TIM. 1:1–2

SONG: LSB #738, “LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS”;
AGPS #167, “LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS”



SEEING Jesus:

Hope statements or a hope sign. What do you hope for? (I hope I got an A on that test. I hope we get to go to the lake this weekend. I hope my friends can come over.) ”

CONNECTING with Jesus:

We do a lot of hoping. What are some of the things you hope for? Do you always get what you hope for?

TEACHING Jesus:

Our hopes are often more like our dreams. Sometimes our hopes are selfish. Sometimes the things we hope for aren't really important or necessary. Sometimes we do a lot of hoping only to be disappointed.

When the Apostle Paul writes a letter to his friend and young pastor Timothy, Paul calls Jesus our hope.

Thousands of years before Jesus was born, God had made a promise to Adam and Eve, Abraham, the children of Israel and generation after generation that He would send their Savior. They put their hope in God's promise. Their hope was not like a wish that they hoped would come true. Because God had made this promise, this was something that they knew would happen.

When Jesus came, everything they had hoped for was seen as absolutely true. Jesus, the Hope of Israel, came into the world. Jesus fulfilled every promise God had ever made. Because Jesus is risen from the dead, everything we hope for is true. We don't have to hope that Jesus is alive. God's Word tells us that His resurrection is sure and that all of His promises are true.

Our parents or teachers may say things that we hope will happen (and usually they do). Sometimes what we hear and hope for doesn't happen and we are disappointed. God's Word is always sure.

We don't have to hope that our sins are forgiven. Jesus has forgiven us all our sins through His suffering and death. We don't have to hope that we are God's children. In our Baptism, God assures us that we are His children. We don't have to hope that we will be with Jesus someday. We know that we will be with Jesus forever when He comes again.

Let's celebrate, Christ Jesus, our hope. We want everyone else to have the sure hope and joy of Jesus.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, we sing, “Lord of all hopefulness.” Help us to always find our hope in You, in Jesus' name.
Amen.

— WEEK THIRTY-NINE (PENTECOST) —

It's *Still* All About THE CREATOR

SCRIPTURE: 1 PETER 4:12-19

PSALM: PSALM 143

TEXT: 1 PETER 4:19

SONG: LSB #500, "CREATOR, SPIRIT BY WHOSE AID";
AGPS #252, "WE ARE THE CHURCH"



SEEING Jesus:

Display student creations. Student art or other creative projects from throughout the school year might be selected and displayed.

CONNECTING with Jesus:

We are blessed today with some of the creations of our students. God has blessed our students with many abilities. Through our art and other activities, we have the opportunity to explore and develop the gifts God gives us.

TEACHING Jesus:

The perfect creator of everything is God. In Genesis 1 and 2 we read how God created the whole world with the power of His Word. As we look at the beauty of creation, we celebrate that God still creates. We often think of God the Father as Creator. The First Article of the Apostles' Creed teaches us that God made us and everything else. Jesus was also present at the creation of the world (JOHN 1:3). Jesus is Creator.

Our hymn today also teaches us that the Holy Spirit is Creator. Through Holy Baptism and through God's Word, the Holy Spirit creates faith in us. The Third Article of the Apostles' Creed reminds us that we can-

not come to faith by ourselves. By ourselves we would stay lost in sin forever. The Holy Spirit brings us to know the Good News of Jesus who has saved us from our sin. The church celebrates Pentecost remembering that the Spirit created faith in the people present in Jerusalem (ACTS 2). The Holy Spirit created the church.

How would we feel if someone came and destroyed all the wonderful creations we have before us today? Our Bible reading for today tells us that there are people and things that want to destroy our faith and destroy the church. We have the promise that because we have Jesus as the victorious and perfect Creator of salvation, and because we have the Holy Spirit who creates and keeps us in faith, we as God's special creations, will never be destroyed. We can celebrate His work with our creations.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, David prayed "Create in me a clean heart" (PSALM 51) and You did. Thank You for the creation of our faith through the Creator Spirit. Bless us as we create songs and works of praise, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

— WEEK FORTY (TRINITY) —

It's *Still* All About THE MYSTERY

SCRIPTURE: EPH. 3:1–6

PSALM: PSALM 29

TEXT: EPH. 3:4

SONG: LSB #507, “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”;
AGPS #119, “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”



SEEING Jesus:

Display several mystery books or share a favorite short mystery story.

CONNECTING with Jesus:

Who likes to read or watch mysteries? What makes a book or movie a mystery? (We aren't sure how the story will turn out.)

TEACHING Jesus:

There are many different kinds of stories: adventure, biography, etc. The Bible includes different kinds of stories. The Bible is the biography of Jesus and others. Jesus told parables to teach lessons. The Bible includes poetry. The Bible is really many different kinds of books written by God's inspired authors.

While the Bible has exciting and adventurous stories, the Bible is not a mystery book. God has only one plan of salvation and that was to send Jesus into the world to be the Savior.

What Jesus did is not a mystery. The Bible tells us about Jesus' life, death and resurrection. As we have learned the names of Jesus this year, we have seen everything He did for us.

Today's name for Jesus may be a little confusing. Jesus is called the Mystery. Many people did not understand God's Word and God's promises. God's

story was a mystery to them. When Jesus came, the mystery was solved! There are many things about God that we don't understand because we are sinful and God is perfect. We can't fully understand how and why God would love us. As we read God's Word we learn more about Him. We learn that He has died for all our sins. We learn that He has risen from the dead. Reading God's Word is like finding more and more clues about God and His plan for us.

To many people Jesus is still a mystery. Perhaps some in our family and some of our friends don't know about Jesus. Some people in parts of the world have never heard about the true God. God's Word is a mystery book to them.

We have heard and read the Mystery that is Jesus and we know the truth. We have the privilege of sharing God's Word with others so that they too know all the clues to salvation.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, thank You for the truth and facts of Your Word. As I read Your word, help me to understand all the clues to godliness that You have given me. Help me to share Your truth with others, in Jesus' name.
Amen.

It's *Still* All About THE TEACHER

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 1:35–42

PSALM: PS. 119:97–104

TEXT: JOHN 1:38–39

SONG: *LSB* #861, “CHRIST BE MY LEADER”;
AGPS #165, “LORD, BE GLORIFIED”



SEEING Jesus:

Recognize the teachers in the assembly.

CONNECTING with Jesus:

Thank God for our teachers! (Perhaps have them stand.) We are very thankful for the teachers who have taught us God's Word, reading, mathematics, science and every other subject this year. By their example, our teachers have taught us more than subjects. They have taught us how to be disciples of Jesus.

TEACHING Jesus:

The most important Teacher this year has been Jesus. As Jesus was on this earth, many called Him Rabbi or Teacher. In the Jewish classrooms of Jesus' time, the teacher was often called rabbi. (Jewish students and worshippers still call their leaders rabbi today.)

Some who listened to and followed Jesus saw Him as just another interesting instructor. They were fascinated with the lessons He shared. Jesus was more than another rabbi. Jesus was the only Teacher sent from God. Jesus was perfect in everything He said and did. Jesus did more than share the lesson. Jesus was the lesson. Everything that Jesus said He would do, He did! Jesus followed every direction that His Father had given Him. Jesus finished His lesson on the cross. Jesus made His final point when He

rose from the dead. All the lessons about our Teacher and from our Teacher, Jesus, are found in His textbook, the Bible.

There may have been times this year when not everything our teachers said were accurate. Jesus always shares the truth. There were times this year when not everything our teachers did was perfect or helpful. Everything Jesus does is holy and helpful. There were times this year when we didn't listen to everything our teacher said or do everything our teacher asked us to do. As His students, we are to obey everything that Jesus our Teacher asks us to do.

In a few days, the school year will be completed and we will no longer be in the classroom of our teachers. Next school year we may have new teachers. But remember, we never leave the classroom of our Teacher Jesus. Even in the summer (and always) Jesus continues to teach us from His Word. As we continue to worship in church, we hear from the Teacher. When our family gathers for devotions, we listen to our Teacher. We thank God for teachers and the Teacher.

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, thank You for being my Teacher this year and forever, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

It's *Still* All About THE OMEGA

SCRIPTURE: REV. 21:1–7

PSALM: PSALM 150

TEXT: REV. 21:6

SONG: *LSB* #922, “GO, MY CHILDREN, WITH MY BLESSING”;
AGPS #102, “GO, MY CHILDREN, WITH MY BLESSING”

SEEING Jesus:

Display the message “THE END!”

CONNECTING with Jesus:

You come to the final page of a book and it's the END. You come to the last scene of a movie and it's the END! What endings are you anticipating? (The end of the school year.)

TEACHING Jesus:

Does anybody remember (from one of our first chapels) what the first letter of the Greek alphabet is? (Alpha.) We began the year with a letter of the Greek alphabet and we conclude the year with another Greek letter, omega. Omega would be the z of the Greek alphabet. It is the last letter.

Jesus calls Himself the “Alpha and Omega” (REV. 21:6). We began the year in the name of Jesus, the Alpha. We conclude the year in the name of Jesus, the Omega. Jesus is the first in everything and the last in everything and everything in between.

In Jesus we have the perfect ending to our salvation. Jesus ended the punishment for our sins by His death on the cross. Jesus ended the power of the devil with His resurrection. Any doubt about our being with Jesus forever is ended because He has claimed us as

His children in baptism. Any doubt about the power to fight the temptation of the devil is ended because God gives us the power of His Word.

In a few days, we say the end to another school year. Another grade level ends; an athletic season ends; many special experiences come to an end. We thank God for all of them. The truths that we learned about Jesus this year will never end. The power and promises we learned through the names of Jesus will never end. We look forward to learning more together in worship this summer. We look forward to a new beginning this fall.

The Bible says that someday, everything on earth will conclude: the end. Jesus will come back to judge the world. Jesus will come back to bring all of His children into His holy presence forever. Our time with Jesus will a new beginning — an Alpha!

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, we were blessed to begin in Your name. We are blessed to end in Your name. Thank You for being the Omega — the perfect ending to the salvation story. As we come to this Omega time of the school year, we give You thanks for Your presence, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

— CLOSING SERVICE —

It's *Still* All About JESUS

SCRIPTURE: PHIL. 2:1–10

PSALM: PSALM 51

TEXT: PHIL. 2:9–11

SONG: LSB #588, “JESUS LOVES ME”;
AGPS #144, “JESUS LOVES ME”

SEEING Jesus:

Review some of the names of Jesus learned this year. Review the meaning or significance of some of the names. What were some of your favorites? Why?

CONNECTING with Jesus:

Names are important. We like it when people remember our name. Think of all the names we have heard this year. We began the year perhaps learning the names of new children in our school. We thank God for those new names who are now our friends and school family members. We learned the names of important people in history and science.

TEACHING Jesus:

We may not remember all the names of our school family members. We won't remember the names that we heard about and learned about in our school subject. We may not even remember the almost 50 names of Jesus that we heard about in chapel this year. It is important that we remember who and what all those names were about. They were about Jesus.

The Apostle Paul loved the name of Jesus. After Paul met Jesus on the road to Damascus, he spent his life teaching others about the name of Jesus. In today's Bible reading, Paul tells about Jesus who became true Man who “humbled himself by becoming obedient to

the point of death, even death on a cross.” Paul also exalts the name of Jesus who has risen from the dead. Paul wants everyone “in heaven and on earth and under the earth,” to bow at the name of Jesus. We worship the name of Jesus because it reminds us of everything that Jesus has done for us. We will continue to adore the name of Jesus as we come to worship this summer.

Sadly, there are people who misuse the name of Jesus. As we play with friends and meet other people this summer, there may be some who make fun of Jesus' name or curse with His name. We keep Jesus' name holy and tell others to do the same.

We may also meet people who have never heard of the name of Jesus. Jesus has made His name known to us. We have salvation in Jesus' name. It is our privilege to share His name with others. We can invite others to come to vacation Bible school, Sunday school, or church with us. It was about the name of Jesus when we began the school year. “It's *Still* All About Jesus!”

PRAYING to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, Your name has been revealed and glorified this school year. Bless us as we continue to adore Your name. Help us to live and share Your name, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

