



# CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

*"Helping others receive grace, purpose and direction by proclaiming Christ's love."*

17 East 27<sup>th</sup> Street  
Scottsbluff, NE  
(308) 632-8023  
[calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org)

**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**January 17, 2021**

## Second Sunday After Epiphany

**Prayer Before Worship:** Insistent God, by night and day you summon your slumbering people. So stir us with your voice and enlighten our lives with your grace that we give ourselves fully to Christ's call to mission and ministry. Amen.

*(In preparation for our worship together, you are invited to take a moment of silence to offer your own prayers of worship and praise.)*

**KEY:** ELW = Worship hymnal (cranberry)

Congregational responses are printed in **BOLD** type.

**A Warm Welcome** to all as we gather as God's people to worship our Lord. We pray our worship together would strengthen your faith and desire to know and serve the One who loves us with an everlasting love as made known to us in Jesus Christ.

***Visitors**, if you are worshipping with us online today, we are glad to have you with us. Please join us again soon!*

### Prelude Music

### Welcome and Announcements

#### ‡WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS‡

Welcome Song:

"This Little Light of Mine"

ELW #677  
vv. 1&2

**This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

### **\*Confession of Sins/Assurance of Forgiveness**

*(All may make the sign of the cross ✠ the sign marked at baptism, as we begin)*

We gather as the baptized people of God in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination)*

Gracious God,

**Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

### **\*Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### **\*Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray,

**Lord God, you showed your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son; even now you call us by name and claim us as your own. May our lives reflect the one who made us, cared for us, and redeemed us by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## ‡GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US‡

### Old Testament Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

<sup>1</sup>Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

<sup>2</sup>At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; <sup>3</sup>the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup>Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" <sup>5</sup>and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down.

<sup>6</sup>The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." <sup>7</sup>Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup>The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup>Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

<sup>10</sup>Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm: Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18

<sup>1</sup>LORD, you have searched me out;  
O LORD, you have known me.

<sup>2</sup>**You know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

<sup>3</sup>You trace my journeys and my resting-places  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup>**Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,  
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.**

<sup>5</sup>You encompass me, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup>**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

<sup>13</sup>For you yourself created my inmost parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

**<sup>14</sup>I will thank you because I am marvelously made;  
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.**

**<sup>15</sup>My body was not hidden from you,  
while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.**

**<sup>16</sup>Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written  
in your book;  
my days were fashioned before they came to be.**

**<sup>17</sup>How deep I find your thoughts, O God!  
How great is the sum of them!**

**<sup>18</sup>If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;  
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.**

### **Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20**

**<sup>12</sup>All things are lawful for me, but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. <sup>13</sup>Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. <sup>14</sup>And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. <sup>15</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh." <sup>17</sup>But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. <sup>18</sup>Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. <sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? <sup>20</sup>For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.**

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation: "Celtic Alleluia"**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!  
Speak, Lord, your servant is listening,  
speak your words of wisdom,  
for the words you speak are everlasting life.**

**A holy day has dawned.  
Adore the Lord, you nations,  
for today a light  
has come on the earth.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!**

**\*Gospel: John 1:43-51**

*Response after the announcement of the gospel:*  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>43</sup>The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." <sup>44</sup>Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup>Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." <sup>46</sup>Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." <sup>47</sup>When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" <sup>48</sup>Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." <sup>49</sup>Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" <sup>50</sup>Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." <sup>51</sup>And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

*Response after the gospel reading:*  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon:**

**Pastor Sheryl**

*(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)*

**‡WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD‡**

**\*Song of the Day:**

**"Here I Am, Lord"**

**ELW #574  
vv.1&2**

**I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin,  
My hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?**

*Refrain:* Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have born my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them,  
Whom shall I send?

*Refrain:* Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

**\*Profession of Faith: The Apostles Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**\*Prayers of the Church:**

**W&P #27**

*(Sung Prayer Response)*

**I cast all my cares upon you;  
I lay all of my burdens down at your feet.  
And anytime that I don't know what to do,  
I will cast all my cares upon you.**

**\*Exchange of Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**\*Offertory Prayer**

Having offered ourselves and our gifts to God, let us pray.

**O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. Amen.**

**†HOLY COMMUNION†**

*Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

**\*Words of Institution**

**\*The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever, and ever. Amen.**

## Invitation to Communion

Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus.  
Come and be fed.

## Distribution of Communion:

*For those interested in receiving Holy Communion, please meet the communion servers in the parking lot for Drive-Through Communion immediately following the worship service this morning from approximately 10:45 a.m.-11:15 a.m.*

## Distribution Music:

Rhonda Boettcher

## \*Post-Communion Blessing

## \*Post-Communion Prayer

Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name. **Amen.**

## ✠WE DEPART TO SERVE✠

## \*Benediction

May God, who led the magi to Christ by the shining of a star,  
Accompany you on your journey this day and always.  
The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

## \*Sending Song:

**"Will You Come and Follow Me"**

**ELW #798  
vv. 1&2**

1. "Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?"

2. "Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare,  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer pray'r  
in you and you in me?"

**\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Copyright Permissions: Liturgy:** From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS103411.

**Music: This Little Light of Mine:** Text: African American spiritual ©Public Domain; **Celtic Alleluia:** © 1985 OCP Publications OneLicense.net A-705226; **Here I Am, Lord:** Text: Isaiah 6; Dan Schutte, b.1947 Tune: Dan Schutte, b.1947; arr. by Michael Pope, SJ, John Weissrock © 1981, Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music. Published by OCP Publications.OneLicense.net A-705226; **Cares Chorus:** CCLI Song # 25974 Kelly Willard© 1978 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) For use solely with the SongSelect®. Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.comCCLI License # 1825044; **Will You Come and Follow Me:** Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949 Text © 1987 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. OneLicense.net A-705226



Duane Aschenbrenner, 1/17; Barb Jensen, 1/18; Jan Van Newkirk, 1/19;  
Penny Stevens, 1/19; Rick Margheim 1/23

If we have missed your birthday, please let the office know. Thanks.

**Prayer Requests**



If you have a prayer request you would like added to the prayers of the people on Sunday morning, during the week you may notify Christy in the church office, let us know by filling out the online Attendance and Prayer Request card under the worship tab on our website or on Sunday morning, inform one of the ushers of your prayer request and they will make a list and give those to the pastor before worship begins.

## ✚In Our Thoughts and Prayers✚

Prayers for healing: **LaDonna Schmidt** (colon cancer), **Bill Steele** (Hospitalized), **Tracy Steele** (COVID-19 health issues), **Gary Eskam** (heart/lung health), **Bonnie** (pneumonia & fluid around her heart—cousin of Susan Martin), **Beth Janecek** (Treatment), **Rich** (COVID-19 recovery—brother of Barb Gorr), **Cathy Rahrs** (rehab @ home), **Nancy Steele** (COVID-19 health issues), **Harlan Meyer** (Lonnie Miller's uncle), **Shelia Colson** (hospitalized—mother-in-law of Nannie Walsh's sister), **Claudia** (bedrest for pregnancy), **Jerry Weekes** (recovering from a horse accident), **Reuben & Gloria Gorr** (health issues), **Alan** (recovery of vision—Kathy Randall's cousin), **Jordan Hein** (cancer treatment—former member of Calvary), **Michael Dietrich** (friend of Dave & Penny Stevens), **Julie** (cancer treatment—Travis Miller family), **Barb** (cancer—Marlene Downer's sister-in-law), **Joan** (cancer—niece of Marj Nikont), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn's sister-in-law).

Prayers for comfort and peace for: Family and friends of **Joann Pullen** (friend of Elnora Sell).

Prayers for our church, community, nation, and world: in this time of Covid-19 and general unsettledness. For everyone in need!



### YOUR GIVING ONLINE

Scan the QR code to the right, go to our website: [www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org) and click on the **Give Online** button OR download the **Give+Church App** on your smartphone. It's safe and secure.



## JANUARY FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

**FOOD PANTRY:** cereal

**BACKPACKS:** 16 oz jars of peanut butter  
Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.  
Thanks for your generosity.



**Fighting  
Malaria**



## **WOMEN OF THE ELCA JANUARY MISSION PROJECT:**

The WELCA mission project for January will be the ELCA Malaria Campaign. \$10 can purchase a treated mosquito net, \$50 provides medicine for 25 people, and \$100 trains a village health team. Donations may be made. Be sure to designate WELCA on the envelope.



## **Congregational Annual Meeting**

Our Congregational Annual Meeting will be January 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:15 a.m. Executive Board will decide on January 24<sup>th</sup> if the meeting will be conducted in person or via Zoom.

**Endowment Fund** application forms are now available in the office. These funds may be used for outreach: Churchwide, Nebraska Synod, and local. The deadline is January 31, 2021.



**Please watch every week for an email with the kid's sermon by Angie with fun activities for the kids to stay involved!**

Due to COVID-19 concerns JAM has been suspended until further notice.

## **Lutheran Family Service Telehealth Mental Health Services Now Available Here at Calvary**

2020 has been a stressful year. If you have found the disruption of the holidays the last straw in your ability to cope there is help available through Lutheran Family Services. LFS (Lutheran Family Services) has partnered with several remote sites to provide counseling and other needs through computer teleconferencing (or Telehealth).

If you would like to take advantage of these services, specifically talking with an LFS counselor, come to Calvary and we can help connect you to a counselor! Or go online at [www.LFSneb.org](http://www.LFSneb.org). (You can also call LFS directly at 402-441-7940 or 1-833-903-2376.) Be prepared to spend about 15 to 30 minutes doing online paperwork, including your insurance information. Counseling fees will be handled directly through LFS, there is no fee for use of the computer here at Calvary, (it was provided by LFS) or for the use of the private space.

If life has you down, know there is someone to talk to and help you work through any of life's struggles including depression, relationship issues, parenting difficulties, abuse, as well as getting through this pandemic. Starting the process is available anytime on your home computer and scheduling an appt. with a counselor is very flexible on any computer with camera and internet capabilities. If you would like to use the computer here at Calvary or begin the process with assistance through the office, please come Monday through Thursday from 9-3 PM. (Not available Friday or Weekends.) You may also contact us for more information.

Please see the January Newsletter for more information!



**6 Weeks on Money-a digital course for ELCA congregations, individuals and families**

Many people suffer post-Christmas guilt realizing they spent more than they should have and come January trying to figure out how to pay for it. The ELCA invites you to participate in a new six-week digital course on money and faith to help you learn how to avoid the cycle of financial strain and the rollercoaster ride when it comes to finances. Discover how a grace-filled way of thinking and feeling about money can bring hope and freedom to strengthen your relationship with Jesus and enhance your generosity.

If interested, please talk to Pastor Chris ASAP!

Please see the January Newsletter for more information!



**Lutheran Disaster Response**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



**Lutheran Disaster Response**

Wildfires in the West. Hurricanes in the South. Tornadoes in the Midwest. Covid-19. Throughout our nation and around the world, disaster strikes with alarming frequency and sometimes it can feel as if we are helpless in the face of it all. But whenever and wherever disaster strikes, you are there through the work of Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR), not only in the immediate aftermath but also long after the disaster has faded from the headlines. Your donations to the work of LDR are critical in allowing LDR to make a difference when disaster strikes. If you have not already done so, please consider making a donation to Lutheran Disaster Response either by going to: <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response> or by making a donation to Calvary specifically earmarked for Lutheran Disaster Response or if you wish you can even be more specific by writing 'wildfires', 'hurricanes', etc. in your memo line. And remember, 100% of what you donate will go for disaster response!



*Connecting faith & finances for good.™*

## **Thrivent Financial**

Are you a Thrivent member? And if you are, do you know that as a Thrivent member (depending on what investments or products you have with Thrivent) you might have Thrivent Choice dollars that you can designate to a non-profit ministry of your choice including Calvary Lutheran and hundreds of other ministries every year? And that you also have at least \$250 dollars (and possibly \$500) per year that you can choose to kickstart a Thrivent Action Project that can make a difference in our church or community.

For example, this fall a member of Calvary used their \$250 to purchase the backpacks and some of the supplies that were used to fill the School Backpacks for Lutheran World Relief. To direct your Thrivent Choice dollars, start a Thrivent Action Project or simply to learn more go to: <https://www.thrivent.com/what-we-offer/generosity/>, talk to Pastors Chris or Sheryl or talk to your Thrivent agent.



## WORSHIP LEADERS

**Pastors Chris and Sheryl Kester Beyer**

**This Sunday – January 17**

**USHERS:** Vicki Howell & LaDonna Schmidt

**LAY READER:** Susan Martin

**COMMUNION ASST:** Colter Burkey

**POWERPOINT:** Matt Payne

**MEDIA:** Jeff Van Patten

**ALTAR GUILD:** Deb Brown, Vicki Howell,  
Tracy Steele

**PIANIST:** Dee Brady

**Next Sunday – January 24**

**USHERS:** Dennis & Barb Gorr

**LAY READER:** Chris Jensen

**COMMUNION ASST:** Bill Huelle

**POWERPOINT:** Andy Dorn

**MEDIA:** Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

**ALTAR GUILD:** Andi Dorn, Shelly Koehler

**ORGANIST:** Rhonda Boettcher

**SONG LEADER:** Jack Martin

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Sunday, January 17**

10 a.m. – Worship

10:45-11:15 a.m. – Drive Through  
Communion

**Monday, January 18**

5 p.m. – Elders

6 p.m. – Stewards

6 p.m. – Worship & Music

**Tuesday, January 19**

8:30 a.m. – Men's Study @ Calvary's  
Fellowship Hall & on Zoom

12 p.m. – Women's Study @ Calvary  
1 p.m. – Quilting

7 p.m. – Pastor's Bible Study

7:30 p.m. – Confirmation on Zoom

**Wednesday, January 20**

7 p.m. – Choir Practice

**Sunday, January 24**

10 a.m. – Worship

10:45-11:15 a.m. – Drive Through  
Communion

JANUARY 17, 2021  
SECOND SUNDAY  
AFTER EPIPHANY



*God reaches out to us.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 1:43-51	Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael
Monday	1 Samuel 3:1-20	The call of Samuel
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	Honor God in body and spirit
Wednesday	Psalms 40:1-11	Happy are those who trust in God
Thursday	Romans 8:26-30	God reaches out to us
Friday	2 Thessalonians 2:13-17	Be faithful
Saturday	Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18	The Lord knows us well
Sunday	Mark 1:14-20	Jesus calls the first disciples

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."*

1 Samuel 3:10 (NRSV)

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Awesome God, for your desire to have a relationship with us through Christ our Lord, we give you thanks and praise. Amen.

#### Mealtime Prayer:

For the food that we eat, for your love that we meet, for this meal that we share as a sign of your care. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May the God that searches you and knows you give you hope and peace through Christ our Lord. (Psalm 139:1)



@ 2020 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

For a larger printable 'Taking Faith Home' go to our website [calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org)

JANUARY 17, 2021  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*Listen, God is Calling*



WEEKLY MILESTONES  
Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Are you more of a listener or a talker? Explain.
- Is it easy for you to tell others about Jesus? Why or why not?
- As a disciple of Jesus, why is listening to God so important?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* 1 Samuel 3:1-20.

Human efforts are important for lots of things in this world, but in the Bible, it is God's efforts that make all the difference. It is not first that we as humans call on God to make God a saving presence in our lives. It is God that reaches out to us. We see this in the story of Jesus calling disciples (John 1:43-51). Jesus takes the initiative with Philip, Nathanael, and with us. We see that same pattern when God calls Samuel. God repeatedly reaches out to a boy who does not know God yet. This is also the theme of Psalm 139:1: "O LORD, you have searched me and known me." According to the psalmist, that is unbelievably awesome news. That news is worthy of our full attention, like the boy Samuel saying to the LORD, "Speak, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:10). With a God who comes to us, knows us, and calls us to do God's work in the world, it is worth taking the voice of Samuel and making it our own: "Speak, Lord, for I am listening." The church, body of Christ, wants to acknowledge that we are listening to Jesus; the faithfulness of each disciple of Jesus says, "Lord, I am listening to you." How do you listen to God? Is it through prayer, reading the Bible, public worship, or listening to the voice of God through others around you? Explain.

*Pray:* Dear God, just as you pursued Samuel and the disciples Philip and Nathanael, we thank you for pursuing us with your love and grace today through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### SERVICE

To care for someone is to listen to them as Samuel listened to God when God called out to him. Is there someone who could use your attentive listening this week?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalm 139 is a beautiful and reflective psalm. Read Psalm 139:1-6 this week using a meditational tradition called *Lectio Divina*. Read it once slowly and pause for reflection. Read it again and pick out a word or phrase that stands out for you. Pause, then read it one last time and wonder how the verses can guide your life this week. Conclude by praying the Lord's Prayer.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)