



**November 21, 2024**

***Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith - Introduction***

**Social Time**

**Thanks to those who brought Treats!**

**Prayer Requests and Update Prayer List**

**Opening Prayer**

**Hymns**

ELW 576 - *We All Are One In Mission*

ELW 729 - *The Church of Christ in Every Age*

ELW 840 - *Now Thank We All Our God*

**Bible Study Business**

**Background & Discussion**

- What does it mean to honor our neighbor's faith?
- How do you understand "denomination"?
- What are some of the benefits of denominations?
  - What are some of the challenges of denominations?
- Within denominations, how do churches navigate liberal/conservative differences?
- How do we distinguish "ecumenical" and "interfaith"?

**Family Tree of Denominations**

**Scriptures for us to Consider**

- **John 14:6** "Jesus told him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.'"
  - What did Jesus mean by this?
  - How does the context matter?
  - Was Jesus intending to exclude people by saying this?
- **Mark 9:38-40** shows us that even during Jesus' 3-year ministry, different people were approaching his message somewhat differently.
  - How did Jesus respond to people outside their close-knit group doing ministry?

- What did Jesus mean in **John 10:14-16** when he talked about sheep who didn't belong to this fold?
  - How do these other sheep relate to one flock and one shepherd?
- **Acts 10:9-48** tells of Peter being challenged to respond in new ways to address laws about kosher food and welcoming new people into the faith.
  - How challenging must that have been?
  - What challenges do we face in being faithful in a time of change?
- How is **John 3:16-17** relevant to our discussion?

### Birthdays

### Closing Prayer

God of life, you have created every human being in your image and likeness. We sing your praise for the gift of our many cultures, traditions and expressions of faith. Grant us the courage always to stand against injustice and hatred of those not like ourselves. Your Spirit shows us, as we come together in prayer, that we are one in Christ. Teach us to use our roles as one human family created by you so that believers of all faiths may be able to listen to each other, respect one another, share your love, and live in peace.

### Lord's Prayer

### Upcoming Schedule

Date	Topic	Prior to the Session Read and Reflect on:
11/21	<i>Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith</i> – Introduction	
11/28	Thanksgiving Break	
12/5	ELCA & Missouri Synod Lutheran Church	pages 58-61 & 82-85
12/12	Roman Catholic Church	pages 109-113
12/19	Eastern Orthodox Church & Christmas Celebration	pages 42-46
12/26 & 1/2	Christmas and New Year's Break	

**Denomination** - "A religious organization whose congregations are united in their adherence to its beliefs and practices." (*Miriam Webster's Dictionary*)

**John 14:6** "Jesus told him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.'"

**John 10:14-16** <sup>14</sup>"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd."

**Mark 9:38-40** <sup>38</sup>John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” <sup>39</sup>But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup>Whoever is not against us is for us.”

**John 3:16-17** <sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

**Acts 10:9-48** <sup>9</sup>About noon the next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. <sup>10</sup>He became hungry and wanted something to eat; and while it was being prepared, he fell into a trance. <sup>11</sup>He saw the heaven opened and something like a large sheet coming down, being lowered to the ground by its four corners. <sup>12</sup>In it were all kinds of four-footed creatures and reptiles and birds of the air. <sup>13</sup>Then he heard a voice saying, “Get up, Peter; kill and eat.” <sup>14</sup>But Peter said, “By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean.” <sup>15</sup>The voice said to him again, a second time, “What God has made clean, you must not call profane.” <sup>16</sup>This happened three times, and the thing was suddenly taken up to heaven. <sup>17</sup>Now while Peter was greatly puzzled about what to make of the vision that he had seen, suddenly the men sent by Cornelius appeared. They were asking for Simon’s house and were standing by the gate. <sup>18</sup>They called out to ask whether Simon, who was called Peter, was staying there.

<sup>19</sup>While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Look, three men are searching for you. <sup>20</sup>Now get up, go down, and go with them without hesitation; for I have sent them.” <sup>21</sup>So Peter went down to the men and said, “I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for your coming?” <sup>22</sup>They answered, “Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say.” <sup>23</sup>So Peter invited them in and gave them lodging. The next day he got up and went with them, and some of the believers from Joppa accompanied him. <sup>24</sup>The following day they came to Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. <sup>25</sup>On Peter’s arrival Cornelius met him, and falling at his feet, worshiped him. <sup>26</sup>But Peter made him get up, saying, “Stand up; I am only a mortal.” <sup>27</sup>And as he talked with him, he went in and found that many had assembled; <sup>28</sup>and he said to them, “You yourselves know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or to visit a Gentile; but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean. <sup>29</sup>So when I was sent for, I came without objection. Now may I ask why you sent for me?”

<sup>30</sup>Cornelius replied, “Four days ago at this very hour, at three o’clock, I was praying in my house when suddenly a man in dazzling clothes stood before me. <sup>31</sup>He said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. <sup>32</sup>Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon, who is called Peter; he is staying in the home of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.’ <sup>33</sup>Therefore I sent for you immediately, and you have been

kind enough to come. So now all of us are here in the presence of God to listen to all that the Lord has commanded you to say.”

<sup>34</sup>Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.