



you matter
HERE.

You Matter Here
Six-Week Worship Series

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The Story Behind 'You Matter Here'

'You Matter Here' is a movement created for the purpose of collaboration and the opportunity to celebrate our differences and creating intentional community where each person matters, is made to feel important, and is accepted and loved for who they are. This concept also is derived from the need that was seen on the two campuses we work at and the struggles seen in our student groups. We became inspired by this idea on the Metro Rail at the National LuMin Campus Ministry Staff Conference in Portland, OR (2018).

-Katie and Laura

Purpose Statement

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other." Mother Teresa

"You Matter Here" is a movement toward collaboration among organizations for the purpose of creating an inclusive community with a common purpose.

Our common purpose is to create a safe and peaceful space where we appreciate individuality and diversity and where every voice is valued.

You matter here; as we gather we are mindful of race, ethnicity, religion, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, ability and political affiliation.

We want to acknowledge that our world is divided. Our response to this division is to create opportunities for this community to learn from each other and grow spiritually and socially.

You matter here; as a people of hope, we come together to celebrate the beauty of humanity and work toward a future abundant in kindness.

You are loved. You are accepted. You Matter Here.

Who We Are

Katie Wagner is the Director of Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Wisconsin-Stout and also serves as the Youth Coordinator at Trinity Lutheran Church in Boyceville, WI. Prior to that, she was a Social Worker at Mayo Clinic Health System. Currently, Katie is enrolled at Luther Seminary in the Master of Divinity program with a concentration in Children, Youth and Family.

Laura Ramlow is the Assistant to the Bishop for Communication and Faith Formation for the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. Prior to stepping into this role, she was the Campus Minister at Journey House Campus Ministry at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. Laura is a Deacon in the ELCA and studied at Luther Seminary.

You Matter Here Six-Week Worship Series

Overview

This series was created for the purpose of your congregation/organization to explore what it truly means to 'matter' in our society and God's kingdom. Each week, we will take you on a journey of self-exploration and discovery to deepen your faith and explore a world of justice and peace. We encourage you to use the suggestions outlined in the series, but feel free to make it your own and what works best for your group.

Theme Verse

"For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another."

Romans 12: 4-5

Weekly Themes and Supporting Texts

We have chosen to highlight the following six passages to coincide with each weekly theme. Each week provides you with a biblical text and a quote to use as you wish. If you feel another text will fit better with your congregation, please feel free to adapt as needed.

Week 1 – You Matter Here

Romans 12: 4-5 – THEME VERSE, One Body, Many Members

"Spiritual identity means we are not what we do or what people say about us. And we are not what we have. We are the beloved daughters and sons of God." Henri Nouwen *Bread for the Journey*

Week 2 – Forgiveness Matters Here

Luke 23: 34-43 – Jesus Forgives A Criminal on The Cross

"Without forgiveness, there's no future." Desmond Tutu

Week 3 – Grace Matters Here

Luke 15: 11-32 – The Prodigal Son

"This grace of God is a very great, strong, mighty and active thing. It does not lie asleep in the soul. Grace hears, leads, drives, draws, changes, works all in man, and lets itself be distinctly felt and experienced. It is hidden, but its works are evident." Martin Luther

Week 4 – Hope Matters Here

Matthew 26: 36-46 – Jesus Prays in The Garden Of Gethsemane

"Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny." C.S. Lewis

Week 5 – Love Matters Here

Romans 8: 31-39 – Nothing Separates Us from God's Love

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." Martin Luther King Jr.

Week 6 – We Matter Here

Luke 10: 25-37 – Parable of The Good Samaritan

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other." Mother Teresa

Order of Worship

Welcome to Worship

Opening Prayer

L: God of day and darkness, into your strong hands we place ourselves and those we love. May we live this day in love to one another and to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

L: We are grateful that you, our Way and Truth and Life, make a place for us and all those you love within the wide universe of the world as we know it and, one day, in the world as it will be in its fullness. Today, we commit ourselves again to making this place a place for all, so that Your wild and holy vision becomes both a present truth and future reality. By our witness in word and deed, may it be so.

ALL: Amen.

Gathering Song

Opening Litany

A: place

B: this place

C: here in this place

D: new light is streaming

ALL: Now is the darkness vanished away.

A: bright places, dark places

B: safe places, dangerous places

C: healing places, harmful places

D: restful places, restless places

ALL: Rain down your love, God of life.

A: settling in a place

B: a place settles in me

C: it took place

D: at that place

A: familiar place

B: out of place

C: have no place

D: chaotic place

ALL: Rain down your love, God of life.

A: was at another place in my life

B: this place grew on me

C: never felt a part of this place

D: this place has been my place

A: places of the body and soul

B: places of the head and heart

C: places of brokenness and pain

D: places of refuge and hope

ALL: Rain down your love, God of life.

Readings

Scripture Reading
Weekly Quote

Message

Song of the Day

Prayers

L: Make us worthy, Lord, to serve our fellow human beings throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger. Give them through our hands, this day, their daily bread, and by our understanding love, give them peace and joy.

ALL: Amen.

L: Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred,

ALL: let us sow love;

L: where there is injury,

ALL: pardon;

L: where there is discord,

ALL: union;

L: where there is doubt,

ALL: faith;

L: where there is despair,

ALL: hope;

L: where there is darkness,

ALL: light;

L: where there is sadness,

ALL: joy.

L: Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand

ALL: to be loved as to love.

Insert any other petitions as needed here.

L: For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

ALL: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

L: The peace of the Lord is with you always.

ALL: And also with you.

L: Please share a sign of peace with your neighbor.

Offering

[Each week we encourage you to choose a different organization within our Synod or your community to give the offering from this service. Toward the back of this booklet, you will find our list of suggested offering locations based off of local and global mission. Feel free to adjust as needed.]

Closing Litany

A: this morning

B: this day

C: this night

D: among us

A: without us

B: before us

C: this place

D: every place

ALL: You are loved, you are accepted, you matter here.

A: You matter here

B: Forgiveness matters here

C: Grace matters here

D: Hope matters here

A: Love matters here

B: We matter here

ALL: You are loved, you are accepted, you matter here.

A: one body in Christ

B: the immediate forgiveness of an unnamed criminal

C: the unexpected grace of a father

D: hope in community when faith is shaken

A: love drives out darkness

B: your neighbor belongs in this place

C/D: we belong to each other

ALL: You are loved, you are accepted, you matter here.

A: faith communities matter here

B: outdoor ministry matters here

C: campus ministry matters here

D: global mission matters here

A: prison ministry matters here

B: chaplaincy matters here

C: seminaries matter here

ALL: You are loved, you are accepted, you matter here.

Sending Song

Sending/Blessing

A: May you know the love of God

B: May you experience the grace of Jesus

C: May you find community through the Holy Spirit

ALL: Amen.

Week One

You Matter Here

Overview

Week one touches on the theme of this series and its' theme verse: You Matter Here (Romans 12: 4-5). The focus is on the concept of being one body with many members. Our own spiritual identity is our own, but nurtured and grows through our involvement in community.

Preaching Texts

⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

Romans 12: 4-5

"Spiritual Identity means we are not what we do or what people say about us. And we are not what we have. We are the beloved daughters and sons of God."

Henri Nouwen, Bread for the Journey

Suggested Songs

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) #581

You Are Mine

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) #595

Jesus Loves Me

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) #496

One Bread, One Body

How He Loves

John Mark McMillan

Suggested Offering

Monetary donations, non-perishable food items, and/or hygiene products for your **local food pantry**.

Week Two

Forgiveness Matters Here

Overview

Week two dives into the story of Jesus' death on the cross and one of his final interactions with a criminal also condemned to die. Jesus offers God's forgiveness for this man, despite his past or reputation. Jesus offers us a glimpse into an eternal future in which we are saved, loved, and accepted no matter our experience in this earthly life.

Preaching Texts

[[³⁴ Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."]]^[a] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah^[b] of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him,^[c] "This is the King of the Jews." ³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding^[d] him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah?^[e] Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into^[f] your kingdom." ⁴³ He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Luke 23: 34-43

"Without forgiveness, there's no future."

Desmond Tutu

Suggested Songs

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) #801

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) #335

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) #453

Change My Heart, O God

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

Baptized and Set Free

Losing

Forgiveness

Tenth Avenue North

Matthew West

Suggested Offering

Benjamin House Emergency Shelter – Rice Lake, WI

<http://www.benamins-house.org>

Week Three

Grace Matters Here

Overview

Week three invites us to take a look at the story of the Prodigal Son. While a challenging text for some, it offers us a better understanding of God's grace – freely given no matter who we are or what we do. In this story, grace accompanies forgiveness and the unconditional love of a father who is on our side.

Preaching Texts

¹¹ Then Jesus^[a] said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with^[b] the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'^[c] ²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ Then the father^[d] said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

Luke 15: 11-32

"This grace of God is a very great, strong, mighty and active thing. It does not lie asleep in the soul. Grace hears, leads, drives, draws, changes, works all in man, and lets itself be distinctly felt and experienced. It is hidden, but its works are evident."

Martin Luther

Suggested Songs

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) #807	<i>Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing</i>
Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) #779	<i>Amazing Grace</i>
Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) #608	<i>Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling</i>
I Am Redeemed	Big Daddy Weave
This Is Amazing Grace	Phil Wickham
Amazing Grace My Chains Are Gone	Chris Tomlin

Suggested Offering

Grace Place - New Richmond, WI

<https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/graceplace>

Week Four

Hope Matters Here

Overview

In week four, we look at where we can find hope in the world. We see hope in the story of Jesus at the Garden of Gethsemane. In this part of the Gospel, we see Jesus at one of His lowest points and struggling with the grave future he faces. In spite of this, Jesus does not go through it alone – He prays to his Father to show him mercy and love, and to empathize with what He feels. By the end of the evening, Jesus finishes His prayer and continues on His path toward salvation and sacrifice.

Preaching Texts

³⁶Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. ³⁸Then he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.” ³⁹And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.” ⁴⁰Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? ⁴¹Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; ^[a] the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ⁴²Again he went away for the second time and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” ⁴³Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. ⁴⁵Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”
Matthew 26: 36-46

“Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny.”
C.S. Lewis

Suggested Songs

Evangelical Lutheran Worship #262	<i>Wait For the Lord</i>
Evangelical Lutheran Worship #325	<i>I Want Jesus to Walk With Me</i>
Evangelical Lutheran Worship #765	<i>Lord of All Hopefulness</i>

<i>Promises</i>	Sancus Real
<i>I Will Rise</i>	Chris Tomlin

Suggested Offering

Bread For The World	http://www.bread.org
Lutheran Disaster Relief	http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/

Week Five

Love Matters Here

Overview

As we near the end of this series, week five is all about the unconditional love God has for us as described in the Romans text. In a world that seeks to divide us and label us into certain categories, the love of Christ brings us together and unites us with a stronger bond than we can fully comprehend.

Preaching Texts

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.^[a] ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8: 31-39

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Suggested Songs

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) #666
Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) #720

What Wondrous Love Is This
We Are Called

One Thing Remains

Hillsong

Suggested Offering

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services

<https://www.lirs.org>

Week Six

We Matter Here

Overview

In the final week of this series, we culminate with the idea of community. The quote from Mother Teresa encourages us to remember that we are part of one body, and as neighbors, we belong to one another. In this well-known parable, The Good Samaritan, Jesus teaches us who our neighbor is and the importance of living a life for our neighbor in service, love and mercy. The least likely person to stop and help someone in need – a person who was often discriminated against because of who they were as a Samaritan – reminds us that love can be found in any place, even ones we aren't expecting.

Preaching Texts

²⁵ Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus.^[a] "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷ He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii,^[b] gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Luke 10: 25-37

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."

Mother Teresa

Suggested Songs

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) #641

All Are Welcome

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) #576

We All Are One in Mission

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) #532

Gather Us In

Hold Us Together

Matt Maher

Suggested Offering

Campus Ministry, (University Lutheran, Eau Claire; Lutheran Campus Ministry, Stout; Journey House, UW River Falls), or Outdoor Ministry

ELCA World Hunger, ELCA Malaria Campaign, or ELCA Fund for Leaders

Malawi

Litany and Prayers Adapted From:

Morning Prayer, Thursday, June 21, 2018

2018 ELCA Campus Ministry Conference

Portland, Oregon, June 20-23, 2018

Theme: "Finding Our Place"

The Prayers (from the ELW)

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The Litany (readers and assembly response)

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