



# *Loving* LUTHERANS CHALLENGE

## Scripture Guide

Listed below are some ideas for incorporating the ministry of LSS into messages shared in sermons/ children's sermons/reflections. If you desire more information about any of these references or stories, please contact Sarah Halstead, Manager of Community and Faith Partnerships, at [sarah.halstead@lsswis.org](mailto:sarah.halstead@lsswis.org).

### **SUNDAY, JUNE 2: SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST READINGS**

#### **Complementary Series**

#### **Deuteronomy 5:12-15**

"Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy." When Pastor E. J. Homme first began his ministry in Wittenberg, WI it was the start of what is now Lutheran Social Services of WI & Upper MI. Our ELCA Bishops walked upon that very ground last summer and lifted up in prayer thanks for the foundation of faith that has connected so many Lutherans today. Now home to LSS's Youth and Family Program, troubled youth regularly visit the chapel on site and many experience God's love for the first time. Ordained pastor and LSS staff member, Monte Smith, helps them to experience the power of prayer and remember that God loves them. (Youth from all over Wisconsin and Upper Michigan have been served through this program.)

#### **Children's Message**



Just last week we had a holiday, Memorial Day. And throughout the year we have many holidays. The word holiday comes from two words—Holy and Day. We think of keeping such days "holy". (Ask what ideas they have about what that means to keep something holy.) In our reading today God reminds us to remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Every Sunday as we come together to worship and for Sunday School, we keep the Sabbath holy. It is a special way for us to remember God's love and to love him and our neighbors in return.

## Psalm 81:1-10

"In your distress, you called and I rescued you..." Just as the children of Israel coming out of Egypt recalled their moments of trial, we too can recall many of our own. No community is without distress. Daily struggles with addiction, homelessness, mental illness, wanting to remain independent as we age, and yearning for a better life for our families are very real for the people served through our joint ministry with Lutheran Social Services of WI & Upper MI. Just as this Psalm leads us to rejoice for being rescued, we can today rejoice for the miracles brought to so many through the programs at LSS.

## 2 Corinthians 4:5-12

"For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ." It is out of darkness that God brought light, and where does he make it shine? In our hearts! The way that we experience him is through this place of love, this central part of our being and it is not only put there but made to shine. This central theme has always been a big part of the LSS's mission. The logo includes the flame of the Holy Spirit, symbolizing the light it shines in people's lives. You may have received the special e-newsletter LSS shares quarterly called Illuminate, which highlights our joint ministries, the impacts they make and the ways that individuals like you play a part. It reminds us to "let our light so shine", just as we are reminded in baptism, so that others may know God's glory. Certainly, there are many around us in great need, who feel they are in darkness. We praise God that together with LSS our hearts are united as loving Lutherans who let light continue to shine out of darkness and illuminate the way so they too see Christ.

## Mark 2:23—3:6

(Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath and Jesus heals on the Sabbath) "This is not the time or the place"

### Semi-Continuous Series