

TITONKA, IOWA

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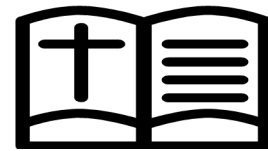
GOOD HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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GOOD HOPE WOMEN OF THE ELCA



CIRCLE NEWS

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Study Leader</u>	<u>Hostess</u>
Morning Circle	Thurs., Nov. 14 9:15 a.m.	Church	Sandra Harms	Sandra Harms

COMMUNION SET-UP

November 10 & 24
Mike & Denise Heyer



COMMUNION CLEANUP

November 10
Mark & Brenda Heesch

November 24
Wally & Sue Heyer



ALTAR FLOWERS

Nov. 3 & 10
Debi Spear

Nov. 17 & 24
Karen Hamilton

USHERS



USHERS:
Brian Bartelt,
Kevin Hamilton,
Randy Tjaden, and
Nick Trunkhill

ACOLYTES:

Karly Lium
Jeremiah Trunkhill



Who is my family in Christ?

There's plenty of ways to divide people—but 2000 years ago Paul talked repeatedly about unity in Christ. Paul said other Christians are his family when he called his fellow believers his brothers and sisters in Christ. Paul wrote to brothers and sisters who came from different places and distinct cultures. The early church had members who spoke different languages and with a variety of religious histories. And Paul said this is his family. The differences between people in the early days of the church didn't mean division—what held them together was a common faith in Jesus' death and resurrection. That's the key—our common faith in the Risen Lord is greater than all the differences between different believers. It's faith that makes all believers in Christ into a new family. We are brothers and sisters in Christ—not just with people in our own congregations—we are family with all believers in Jesus. This family relationship has been a core belief of from the earliest days of the church.

As I look at this world with all its conflicts and divisions it's good to remember that we have family in so many different places. God the Father is making us into a new family in Jesus. God is taking people with all kinds of different histories and giving us a common future in Christ. In Paul's day the church grew fast by including Jewish people as well as Greek speaking people. The church grew in the first years despite persecution and trials. The church family grew because early believers included all kinds of people. Slaves and free people found a new identity in Jesus family. People from Europe, Africa, and Arabia saw one another as family—as fellow children of God.

A lesson from Ruth

One great story that helps me remember what it means to be family is from the book of Ruth. The plot is challenging, a young woman named Ruth refused to give up on her mother-in-law Naomi. They weren't blood relations—and Naomi even told Ruth to leave—but this daughter in law wouldn't abandon her grief stricken mother-in-law.

I keep remembering Ruth's words to her mother-in-law.

Ruth 1:16-17 (NRSV)

¹⁶ But Ruth said,

“Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people, and your God my God.

¹⁷ Where you die, I will die—there will I be buried.

May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!”

May we continue to grow as family in Christ. Amen
Thanks for your partnership, Pastor John Helle

**10 Minute Bible Study November 2024:
The Book of Ruth**

One little book in the Bible has a whole lot to teach us about faith and family: Ruth. This little book is full of tragedy and blessing in the lives of two women, Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi.

Read Ruth 1:1-2

The story starts in a dry part of the Holy Land called Moab. A family settled in this dry country moving from Bethlehem.

What was it like to relocate far from home?

Read Ruth 1:3-7

Tragedy struck. Three women were left alone, Naomi and her two daughters-in-law were all widows trying to survive in a dry country in a time of famine. The situation looked hopeless.

What does it feel like hope is gone?

Read Ruth 1:8-13

Naomi knew the stakes—survival would be difficult. Naomi gave advice for her daughters-in-law.

What do you think of this advice?

Read Ruth 1:14-18

Naomi was overwhelmed—but one daughter-in-law, Ruth, wasn't going to abandon her.

What does Ruth's statement to her mother in law have to teach us about commitment?

What does Ruth's concern for Naomi have to teach us about living out our faith?

Young couples choose Ruth's declaration as a reading for their wedding. How does this reading help us make sense of our relationships.

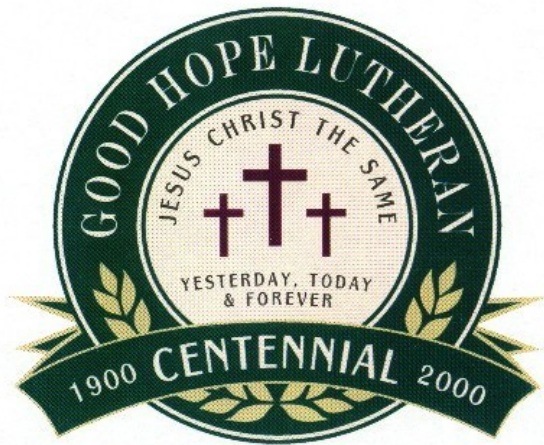
Read Ruth 4:14-17

There are some great twists and turns in chapters 2-4—but in the end Ruth has welcomed Naomi into her new home—and Naomi is seen holding Ruth's baby in her arms.

What does the book of Ruth have to say to us about being family in Christ?

give thanks
♥ WITH A ♥
grateful heart

The Thanksgiving Eve Service
will be held at 7:00 p.m. at
St. John's Lutheran Church in Woden.
Please join us!



TITONKA, IOWA

JOHN HEILLE, PASTOR

GOOD HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Return Service Requested

A Payer of Thanksgiving

**Lord God, on this day of Thanksgiving,
We ask your blessings on our family,
Our friends, our homes, our health, and on
The food we are about to eat.**

**We thank you for this time together and
The many gifts that you have given us.**

**Help us to remember in this time of bounty
Those less fortunate. And may our love
Consume us all that we might share
In your glory.**

Amen.

