



## FORMING RELATIONSHIPS

### WEEK ONE

*“At Our Savior’s Way Lutheran Church, we make disciples to follow Jesus by forming relationships.”*

Our Savior’s Way is a community that loves God and loves people. Forming relationships is at the heart of all that we do and all that we are. We matter to God, therefore people matter to us, no matter who they are.

When Bobbie and I first came to Our Savior’s Way more than eleven years ago to attend worship services, we were greeted outside the front doors of the church by Jim and Pat Sheehy. Pat wore a big audacious hat that captured our attention and both Jim and Pat’s warm smiles captured our hearts. They made us feel at home and welcome to be part of the community inside. We knew this was the church for us.

Jesus was all about relationships. He never invited people to come to synagogue meetings without first inviting people to come to Him, to know Him and to experience God’s love. Jesus’ love is personal even as it is very extravagant. Jesus poured His life out for us by suffering for our sins on the cross and dying the death we deserved so that we might receive the blessing of God and eternal life.

Faith is not about following a set of rules or trying to improve ourselves. Faith is not about making ourselves acceptable to God, or about being good, or even about going to heaven. Faith is living out a relationship with God that is made possible by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and the working of the Holy Spirit. This relationship begins now and will continue for all eternity.

When you know God’s love and have experienced His embrace, His love compels us to reach out to others with the same love we have received. Forming relationships is at the heart of being a disciple and following Jesus. So put on a big smile and make room in your heart and in your life for someone today.

**I John 4: 7-21** *Dear Friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.*