

# Central Church

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

8:30 a.m.

May 12, 2024

Central Church is a Christian fellowship whose mission is:

**To Know Christ ~ *as Savior and Lord,***

**To Share Christ ~ *by our Words and Actions.***

## Prelude

## Welcome

## Announcements, Prayer Cards, and Connect Cards

### \*Greeting One Another

### \*Centering *(Moment of silence in preparation for worship.)*

### \*Call to Worship *(Responsively):*

Leader: God loves us, and so we should love one another.

**People: Jesus commands that we love one another as He loves us.**

Leader: If we truly abide in Christ we will love one another.

**People: If we keep the commands of Jesus, we will love one another.**

**All: In our mutual love for one another, we worship You God!**

### \*Opening Hymn

*Sweet, Sweet Spirit x2 – 334*

**\*Opening Prayer *(In Unison): As we gather to worship You today, Lord, we pray that You would: “Bestow on us, O Lord our God, understanding to know You, diligence to seek You, wisdom to find You, and a faithfulness that may finally embrace You, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”. -Thomas Aquinas***

## Sunday School Superintendent Recognition

## Prayers of Celebration and Care

**The Lord’s Prayer** *(“Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us...”)*

### \*Congregational Hymn

*Depth of Mercy – 355*

## Scripture Lesson:

John 15:9-17

As the Father has loved Me, so I have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. I have said these things to you so that My joy may be in you, and that

your joy may be complete. “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are My friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from My Father. You did not choose Me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask Him in My name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

## Children’s Message

## Sermon

“If You....” – Pastor Thom Bowsher

## Pastoral Prayer

### \*Hymn of Response

*What Wondrous Love Is This – 292*

**Affirmation of Faith *(In Unison): I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen. -The Apostles’ Creed***

## Tithes and Offerings

### \*Doxology

95

**\*Offertory Prayer *(In Unison): God of incredible grace, in response to Your great love for us, we joyfully and gratefully offer the fruits of our labor to You. We, with immense appreciation for Your mercy on us, give to You our very lives. Multiply our tithes and offerings that we give out of generosity, for Your Kingdom and may our lives be a witness to the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.***

### \*Closing Hymn:

*They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love – 2223*

### \*Benediction & Postlude

\*Please stand as you are able.

### Check It Out!

- If you are a new visitor to Central, we invite you to stop by the **Welcome Center** and receive a **Welcome Gift** and fill out a **Connect Card** with your information so we can stay in contact with you! We hope you enjoyed your visit! Come back soon!
- If you are in **need of a Bible**, please ask for one from a Welcome Team Member at the Welcome Center.
- A **nursery** is available for children ages 4 and younger South of the Main Entrance.
- **Assistive Listening Devices** are available. **See an usher.**

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