**WORSHIP PROMOTIONAL TEXTS**

FOR BULLETIN ANOUNCEMENTS, E-MAILS, CHURCH WEB SITE, SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

*The following are similar to what you find on page three of all the* Welcome Home *service folders. That is the page that explains the theme of the day.*

*Send these out mid-week to promote the upcoming Sunday. Edit them to fit your situation. Pair them with the graphics you find in the* Welcome Home *resources.*

**PROMOTIONAL TEXT FOR THE *WELCOME HOME* WORSHIP SERIES** *(Could be shared weeks in advance of* Welcome Home *Sunday, which kicks off the series.)*

Read through Scripture and count the times it refers to believers as “brothers and sisters.” You will reach triple digits quickly. The Holy Spirit is deliberate with his choice of words. If he frequently refers to the Church in those terms, there can be only one explanation. He wants us to think of each other as family. We understand the important roles a mother and father play. We know the joys (and challenges) of having siblings. Do we grasp that it is just as important that we have a spiritual family? Scripture teaches that what unites us to our spiritual family is infinitely more powerful than any biological bond. Moreover, you can lose a blood relative. They can be taken away from you by death. But you will enjoy the companionship of your spiritual family for all eternity. In this worship series, we will look at how our Father knits us together in love and unity into a spiritual family. We will see the benefits of being part of this family. In the Church, Christ has given us a better home.

***WELCOME HOME*: OUR NEED FOR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY – October 20th or October 27th** *(This is the theme of the day for* Welcome Home *Sunday, which kicks off the worship series. The two dates suggested are either October 20th or October 27th.)*

“Army of One” was the shortest lived recruiting slogan in US military history. It was meant to stress the strength of the individual. The Army dropped the slogan relatively quickly because they realized it was contrary to the reality that, in the army, you are completely reliant upon your team. In a stressful situation, the individual can be overwhelmed. He or she needs others. God knows this. The first time God looked at Creation and noticed something was off, the issue was that an individual (Adam) was isolated. “It is not good for the man to be alone” (Genesis 2:18). Humans are hardwired by God to need fellowship, not just with him, but with one another. So, God is determined to bring believers into a loving, nurturing community—the Church.

Perhaps you have been a part of this Christian family for a long time. Perhaps you once belonged to a church, but for whatever reason drifted away. Perhaps you have never belonged to a church. Whatever may be the case for you, please, join us this coming Sunday. May God help us all to realize that this Christian community—this spiritual home—is something we badly need. Welcome home!

***WELCOME HOME*: THE LOST ARE NOW FOUND – October 27th** *(If the congregation opted to hold* Welcome Home *Sunday on October 20th,* *the service is needed for October 27th. The rest of the* Welcome Home *series coincides with the season of End Time, which spans the four weeks in November. If the congregation holds* Welcome Home *Sunday on October 27th, then this service is not needed.)*

Is the church more of a country club or a hospital? Is a Christian community full of people who have it all together, whose lives are perfectly in line with God’s will? Or is the family of God an assembly of individuals who are all flawed and broken in multiple ways? Scripture answers that question. God’s Word tells us everyone within the church was at one point deeply lost. What changed that? How were we “found”? Amazing grace! God, in his grace, sought us out, called us to faith, adopted us into his family, and welcomed us home into his Church. Think of what this means. If the church is a collection of people who were lost in their sin, it is unrealistic to think that in the church everyone will be a perfect model of righteous behavior. No one is like that except Christ! Our salvation is an accomplished fact. But our Christian life is going to be one that often takes two steps forward and then at least one step back.

This is another reason we need Christian community! As a loving Christian family, we love one another, forgive one another, proclaim God’s forgiveness to one another. And when a brother or sister drifts backs towards lostness, we give chase, striving to bring them back home. Join us this weekend, as we celebrate that we who were lost have now been found.

***WELCOME HOME*: YOU ARE FREE TO BE YOURSELF – November 3rd**

One of the joys of being home is you need not put on airs. Out in the world, we do all we can to hide our faults and failings. You might be afraid if your boss knew your secrets, he’d give you your walking papers. You might be afraid that if neighbors knew your personal issues, they might consider moving. But we know that in a healthy family, people will love us in spite of our faults.

As a young man, Martin Luther thought of himself as God’s slave. Thus, he was terrified of God. Luther believed God was a harsh taskmaster, looking for every possible reason to punish him. But as Martin Luther studied God’s Word, he realized that was not the case at all. God is a loving Father. He does not pretend we have no brokenness or sin, but he paid for it all by the death and resurrection of Christ. Scripture says that through faith in Christ, we are completely forgiven. We are part of God’s own family—a family where we are loved in spite of our faults.

God’s grace not only frees us from the fear of condemnation and punishment, it frees us to live a better, more grace-filled life. We want to live as God’s children. We want to love and bear with one another—our brothers and sisters—just as our Father loves and bears with us.

Join us this Reformation Sunday, as we continue our *Welcome Home* worship series, celebrating the freedom Christ has given to us.

***WELCOME HOME*: WHERE YOU ARE PERFECTLY SAFE – November 10th**

This Sunday as we continue our *Welcome Home* worship series, we talk about safety.

Twenty-one billion dollars. That is how much Americans spend annually on home security. We want our homes to be a place that our family can feel safe, where they can be apart from everything that can hurt them. However, the reality is that no matter how many locks and alarms and cameras you might use to guard your house, you and your family are not perfectly safe. There is a greater danger than thieves… a greater threat than bullies. There is even something worse than physical death. Judgment Day is coming, and with it, the destruction of all creation. If that day comes and you are not prepared, you begin an eternal nightmare.

In the Church, our brother Jesus has given us a home that is indeed perfectly safe. Not even Judgment Day can touch it. Christians can look forward to Judgment Day with great anticipation. Even as “the mountains fall into the heart of the sea” (Psalm 46:2), we have Christ’s promise that we will be perfectly safe. In Christ’s house, we need fear nothing. Welcome home!

**WELCOME HOME: YOU HAVE AN EVERLASTING FAMILY – November 17th**

Death is ugly. It does not matter if someone dies after a long protracted fight with some illness or if they die peacefully in their sleep. Either way, the body goes into the ground and begins to decay. Either way, that person is gone, and their absence is constantly noticed.

Death would be overwhelming were it not for the fact that, for the believer, Christ has completely transformed death. Death is not the end. For those who are part of Christ’s family, death is the beginning of a new and better life, one where the deceased has triumphed over sin and all its consequences.

We thank God for this beautiful gospel truth—that Christians have an everlasting family. When Christian loved ones die, they are not “lost.” Something is lost when: a) you don’t know where it is, and therefore b) you will not see it again. We know exactly where our deceased Christian loved ones are. We look forward to being reunited with them soon in our true home—heaven. Welcome home!

Join us this Sunday, as we continue our *Welcome Home* worship series and celebrate the Saints Triumphant.

***WELCOME HOME*: YOU ARE PART OF CHRIST’S GLORIOUS KINGDOM – November 24th**

We conclude our *Welcome Home* worship series this weekend, most appropriately, by talking about the most important member of our spiritual family—our brother, Jesus.

Windsor. Bernadotte. Bourbon-Anjou. Orange-Nassau. Glücksburg. Liechtenstein.

Do you know what those names have in common? They are all names of royal families. A member of each of those families serves as a monarch. The extended members of those families enjoy fabulous privileges, even if the monarch serves largely as a figurehead.

In this *Welcome Home* worship series, we have seen that Christ has welcomed us into his home and made us part of this family. Today, we see that this is a royal family. Our brother Jesus is King. He does more than serve as a figurehead. Christ rules over all creation for the benefit of his family. He promises us that one day we will sit with him on his throne (Revelation 3:21).

You simply must join us this weekend! We celebrate Christ the King Sunday, a beautiful finale to the Church Year. We praise Christ for his glorious reign. And we thank him for making us part of his royal family, giving us a claim to the Kingdom.