Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Bible Study for 9.6.2026

Opening Question:
Jesus tells us what love means to him in the story of the Good Samaritan. What does love like that look like in today's world? In our everyday lives?

First Reading: Psalm 119:33-40

33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,
and I will observe it to the end.
34 Give me understanding, that I may keep your law
and observe it with my whole heart.
35 Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight in it.
36 Turn my heart to your decrees
and not to selfish gain.
37 Turn my eyes from looking at vanities;
be gracious to me[a] according to your word.
38 Confirm to your servant your promise,
which is for those who fear you.
39 Turn away the disgrace that I dread,
for your ordinances are good.
40 See, I have longed for your precepts;
in your righteousness be gracious to me.[b]

Discussion Questions:
What stands out to you in this text? What questions do you have?

This is a small portion of the longest Psalm. It is a beautiful section that seems to be asking for God to help them live into their calling. What might cause someone to ask these requests of God? Why would these things be a desire?

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14

8 Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

11 Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; 12 the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off[a] the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; 13 let us walk decently as

in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. [14] Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Discussion Questions:

What stands out to you in this text?

In first century Rome what did it mean to owe someone something? They had a strong and strict hierarchy. To put it into current context what obligations do we have to others? What would it mean to put those aside and simply love?

What does it mean to love one another? How does it sit with Pastor Nadia's mention in her sermon that to leave those you dislike or disagree with out of the equation is not authentic love? How do we love them?

Paul is echoing Jesus' words from Luke just before he tells the Pharisees the story of the Good Samaritan as a result of their question who is a neighbor. "…summed up in this word you shall love your neighbor as yourself." Why do you think it is important for Paul to reiterate this to the people in Rome? Why do you think it is important for us to read it over and over again throughout scripture?

So often people equate the Old Testament with "the law" and the New Testament with "grace." Paul is saying here that love is the fulfillment of the law. How do they go hand in hand? How does this help us understand more about the law? About grace?

In Matthew chapter 5 Jesus says that he came not to abolish the law but to fulfill it. How does that connect to what Paul is saying here? Why do you think Paul put it a little differently? Does it matter or not? Why?

Paul is pulling from Luke and Matthew, as well as Exodus with the commandments, in this text. How can pulling from different scripture help us understand the text better?

Verses 11-14 are a reminder that Paul believed Jesus was coming back right away, that he would see Jesus' return. How does that knowledge help us put these verses into context?

What might works of darkness and armor of light look like?

How do our texts connect with one another? Or do they not?

How is our journey through Romans going for you so far?