

# In Community

AN EAU CLAIRE AREA ELCA SERIES ON  
WHAT IT MEANS TO BE CHURCH TOGETHER  
AND WITH ALL OF GOD'S CREATION



## In Community with Our Neighbors

Luther once wrote, "A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all." However, the freedom Christ has given us has a purpose— service for our neighbor. Service, then, isn't a requirement for salvation but the natural result of our joy in knowing we are loved and forgiven.

## Mark 2:1-12

Things move quickly in the Gospel of Mark, so fast that by the end of chapter 2 Jesus has gone from a nobody to a local celebrity. However, for each healing and act of love, there is also a growing sense of conflict and opposition because of a different understanding of Jewish law. Jesus doesn't seem to mind. His ministry functions within the framework that the human need for wholeness, acceptance, sustenance, and healing is much more fundamental to God's will for humanity than maintaining certain rules and rituals.

## Activity

Depending upon your preferences, watch a movie that illustrates being in community with your neighbor (such as Remember the Titans, The Croods, The Goonies, or Strange World). After you watch it consider the following questions:

- How well do the characters get along? Why is it hard or easy for them to be in community?
- How are others welcomed into the group?
- How can you be in community with your neighbors?