LSS Sermon Starter Story

November 22, 2026
Christ the King Sunday

You are welcome to use the following "sermon starter" content in your own sermon. Feel free to use content verbatim or edit as you see fit to adapt to your own voice and context.

Readings

- Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
- Psalm 95:1-7a
- Ephesians 1:15-23
- Matthew 25:31-46

This Sunday's texts give us an image of Christ the King seated on the throne of his glory, surrounded by the angels. The chief concern of this King is the welfare of the vulnerable: those who hunger and thirst, who are strangers, who are naked, who are in prison. The righteous are surprised to learn that they have encountered this king before, and that they had helped him in a time of great need:

Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?

The king answers them:

Just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.

Every person we encounter is a precious child of God. And so is each and every person we choose to ignore, and likewise every neighbor near and far whom we fail to even notice.

Through Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, we serve neighbors we will likely never meet face to face. LSS works with clients in every single county across Wisconsin, and much of the UP as well. And

although we don't get to meet the formerly homeless family who gets an apartment, the refugee family fleeing from a war-torn land, the father struggling to overcome addiction, the teen being coached through a mental health crisis, the grandma stepping in to be the guardian for her grandkids – we are able to be a loving presence in their lives and help them meet their needs.

You probably didn't know it, but by supporting LSS, you have helped to make a life-changing difference for a mom named Zunen and her son, Dayron.

For Zunen, some of the most meaningful moments with her son Dayron are also the simplest: riding a bike, exploring Discovery World, walking through the zoo or spending an afternoon together. Dayron, 16, has autism. Through Wisconsin's Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Program and support from Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan (LSS), Zunen says her family gained something powerful: more opportunities to experience the world together. In this video interview, Zunen shares how Dayron has surprised her with what he can do, how their lives have expanded beyond the walls of home, and why the memories they are creating today mean so much to her. "CLTS means security. CLTS means you're not alone anymore."

Featured in this video:

- Zunen — Dayron's mother
- Dayron — Zunen's 16-year-old son
- Rose — LSS CLTS Service Facilitator

By serving our neighbors in need, we serve our King, Jesus.

Learn more about Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan and our work alongside children, individuals and families at lsswis.org.