

From the Pastor: On Being a Member “In Good Standing”

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, ‘Far be it from You, Lord! This shall never happen to You.’ But He turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind Me, Satan! You are a hindrance to Me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.’”
(Matthew 16:21-23)

In last month’s newsletter article, I addressed church membership as being a particular confession of faith. We ought always to seek out and affiliate ourselves with that church body (or denomination) that confesses the pure Gospel and administers the holy Sacraments in accord with their institution by our Lord. We are to align ourselves with a particular church precisely because it preaches and teaches the full counsel of God as revealed in the inspired Scriptures. Despite the doctrinal declension of our day, it is still logical to assume that a person belongs to a particular church because of the beliefs or doctrines of that church, not because of an active youth program or the convenience of proximity to one’s home. Differences matter because doctrine matters and, therefore, membership matters.

For many years *American Express* used (and trademarked) the phrase, “Membership has its privileges” – the obvious point being, having an *American Express* card has perks you otherwise would not have access to. As a member of *Faith Lutheran Church*, you also have certain benefits. The old *TLH Agenda* put it this way when new members were accepted, “Upon this your promise, I, in the name of this congregation, give you the right hand of fellowship and love and invite you to join us in the celebration of the Lord’s Supper and to participate in all the rights and privileges of this congregation.” Membership has its privileges – baptism, absolution, Supper, marriage, funeral, etc. But membership also has its responsibilities – to join us, participate, to support the Gospel ministry with your time, talents and treasures, to love one another in care and prayer, and to lead a godly life as is fitting for the baptized.

Sometimes members fail in their responsibilities and might even do or say things that are contrary to the faith. In the above Scripture passage, St. Peter receives the harshest of rebukes from our Lord. Peter’s desire to keep Jesus from going to the cross came forth not from faith but from flesh. As a result, Jesus declares Peter to be a mouthpiece for Satan and therefore a hindrance to Jesus and His

mission. Peter slipped and spoke contrary to faith. The Lord did not dismiss it as unimportant, but immediately rebuked and corrected Peter.

So too at the congregational level. Members who act contrary to faith in word or deed must be gently rebuked and corrected. In a sense, they must be held accountable to their claim as a Christian and to the expectations of such as members of our church. Your responsibilities as a member of *Faith Lutheran Church* are very clearly laid out in our constitution under Article V - Membership:

Communicant membership in this congregation may be held only by those who

1. are baptized in the Name of the Triune God, have been instructed in the doctrines of Holy Scripture and declare their adherence to the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.
2. diligently attend divine services and frequently partake of Holy Communion.
3. willingly contribute towards the promotion of Christ's Kingdom at home and abroad according to ability.
4. do not live in open works of the flesh, but lead a sober Christian life (Galatians 5:19-21).
5. are not members of a secret society or of any other organization conflicting with the Word of God and the conduct of a Christian (II Corinthians 6:14-18).
6. will readily submit to the rules and regulations of this congregation, provided these are not contrary to Holy Writ and the confessions mentioned in Article IV (Confessional Standard).

The membership, and membership privileges, of each communicant member shall remain in force so long as each member shall maintain his/her eligibility according to the six points mentioned above and shall meet the requirements stated or implied in the disciplinary or other provisions, of the By-Laws.

Membership at *Faith* necessarily requires adherence to the six points mentioned above precisely because they reflect the teachings of the Scriptures. A member who violates these points acts contrary to faith and must be admonished and corrected. So, one who lives in "open works of the flesh" and does not "lead a sober Christian life" might still be on the rolls of our church, but is most certainly NOT in good standing (insofar as such is known to the pastor). He who is not in good standing is not eligible to receive the Lord's Supper and may also be forfeiting other privileges (such as a Christian funeral). The status of one's membership is not automatically and always "good." Our words, life and conduct must reflect the presence of a true, living and active faith in the life of the member. It is not as though you are expected to be perfect, none of us could achieve that, for all of us sin and fall short of the glory of God. But the six points above lay out obvious stipulations that are at

the core of what membership means in regard to the life of faith and our common confession.

One of the most common violations of these six points occurs when members do not “diligently attend divine services and frequently partake of Holy Communion.” To be a Christian is to be found regularly in worship eagerly receiving the gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation through Word and Sacrament. To say you believe, but never attend church is utterly contradictory. Our constitution does not explicitly and numerically define “diligently attend” and “frequently partake” – to do so might seem legalistic. Alas, to avoid legalism, we suffer the abuse of vagueness. Truth be told, infrequent attendance usually is indicative of a weak faith and a lack of godly priorities at best, and, at worst, can be symptomatic of the absence of faith. Going to church is not optional and it is certainly not outdated. It is, and always has been central to Christian identity – where the Good Shepherd is, there His sheep will be found.

Where the constitution is vague, I, the Pastor, will be clear. From a pastoral perspective, anyone who has not received the Holy Sacrament for a year or more is NOT in good standing. Simply put, such a person has a faith issue which must be addressed with the Pastor. I think it is absolutely reasonable and with the best interest of souls in mind to interpret “diligently attend” and “frequently partake” in such a way. Martin Luther himself famously stated that a person who does not partake of the Lord’s Supper at least twice a year has no business calling himself a Christian. Like Luther, I regret even the need to put a minimalist equation to the matter. Christians should need no encouragement beyond the great benefits that God promises through the hearing of His Word and the reception of the Sacrament.

Other examples could be given from the constitution’s list above to further describe the responsibilities of church membership, but suffice to say we must take seriously our membership and the commitment it entails. The terms of membership listed in our constitution are theologically sound and for our own good. God Himself has brought you into His Church by grace and has revealed His truth to you in mercy. It is my sincere prayer that we all conscientiously seek God’s guidance as we make the trek of faith, living daily in the lavish grace He bestows upon His beloved Bride, always living in accord with His will and joyously receiving His gifts through the means of grace. The branch that truly remains connected to the Vine will always be in good standing before God.

Sustain the work You have begun, in these united in Your Son,
For in that pure baptismal flood, they have been cleansed by Jesus’ blood.

Deliver them from every wile, from all that would their hearts beguile,
From worldly ways and Satan’s lies, that they may not Your Word despise.

O Father, grant that by Your grace, they may Your will each day embrace;
With fruits of faith their lives now bless, Till they at death Your name confess.

(LSB #599 stanzas 2-5)

In the bond of faith,
Pastor Menet



**Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Christ Alone, Scripture
Alone, and to God Alone be the Glory!**

OUR WEEK AT A GLANCE:

Sunday: Divine Service with Communion at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 10:20-11:30

Thursday: Adult Bible Study 10-11:30 a.m.

<p>Pastor Menet's email address: pdm52@mchsi.com Church Office: faithluth@aol.com</p>

If you would like to add something to the website, send submissions to Katie at faithluth@aol.com. You can read *The Rock* in color on the website too!

Do you have information that you would like to share with the congregation? Please bring it or e-mail it to the office by **July 19, faithluth@aol.com**, to be included in the August newsletter.

Cancellations due to bad weather can be found on www.KWWL.com. Click on weather, then cancellations. Wednesday night classes are cancelled if schools close.

Hospital stay: Pastor Menet does make it a priority to visit the hospitals. However, the hospital will not call us to let us know when one of our members is admitted. If you know ahead of time that you are going to be hospitalized, please indicate that on your record of fellowship or speak with Pastor. If you are admitted suddenly, call or have a friend or relative call the church office, 236-1771, or Pastor.

New addresses this month

Susan Clark: 1180 W. McKinley Rd, Ottawa, IL 61350

Betty Clemmensen: 2603 Orchard Dr. **Apt. 128**, Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Harriet DeBolt: 5018 S. Main #34, Cedar Falls, IA 50613 (phone # 319-260-1453)

Jacob Lanning: 1720 Waterloo Rd, Apt. 6, Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Mark Mohr: Neuro Rehab Care, Room 10, 35 Rachel St, Waterloo, IA 50701

Please email faithluth@aol.com or call 236-1771 with any changes in your phone or address.

Remember our shut-ins:

Steve Boyken and Kathy Boyken,

Sunset Nursing, 235 N Mill St., P.O Box 383, Denver, IA 50622,

Kathy: 984-5092

Mary Jo Elbert, 7517 University Ave #33, Cedar Falls 50613

Flo Fitz, 202 N. Magnolia Dr. #102, Cedar Falls 50613

Ardie Holmes, 2104 Parrish, Cedar Falls 50613

Dixie Krieger, 3415 Destin Dr., Waterloo 50702

Mark Mohr, Neuro Rehab Care, Rm 10, 35 Rachel St, Waterloo 50701

Eddie Swaim, Friendship Village Pavilion, Park Lane #3 Waterloo 50702

Official Acts in June

- **Confirmation:** Samantha McBride, Emily Stitchman, Kaylee Stitchman, Markus Woolery

Thank you to everyone who works behind the scenes to keep up the church! You are truly appreciated!

We always thank God, the Father of our

Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints...

thank you

Colossians 1:3-4

July Anniversaries

11 John & Deb Dalluge (10)

17 Jeff & Lezlie Bowers (15)

23 Kevin & Carey Frost (36)



July Birthdays

2 Martin Elbert

4 Jennifer Holman

5 Steve Woolery

6 Sheryl Hinz

11 Gene Johnson

12 Rebecca Stitchman

13 Kie Maas

14 Susan Clark

15 Betty Clemmensen, Alta Dicken

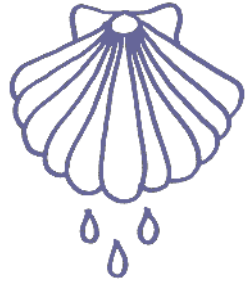
16 Les Douglass



- 17 Zach Dunnwald, John McBride
- 18 Carmen Hinz
- 21 Katie Dalluge, Ted Krieger
- 24 Kathy Krieger
- 27 Lee Thurmond
- 28 Scott Holman

July Baptismal Birthdays

- 1 Sandy Galle, Anthony Holman
- 6 Carrie Carey
- 7 Traci Hewitt
- 19 Steve Woolery
- 30 Deb Dalluge
- 31 Carrie Menet



News & Events



Pastor Menet will be gone July 18-28 for the Synodical Convention in Tampa, FL and will also be driving down to Oklahoma with Carrie and the kids. Vicar Wille will be leading us in Matins on Sunday, July 21, and President Saunders will lead us in the Divine Service and Bible study on Sunday, July 28.

Please keep Pastor, Carrie, and the kids in your prayers as they travel.

Office hours are changing again. I will be in the office from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. If you need to get ahold of me immediately, my number is (319) 215-5711. I also receive the church's emails on my phone. Thanks, Katie

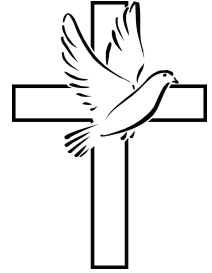
Eat Mor Chikin! On July 10 from 5-8 p.m., Lutherans For Life will be holding a Spirit Night at Chick-fil-A Waterloo to raise money for our annual 40 Days For Life campaign. Mention "Spirit Night" at the register, and 15% of your order will benefit our fundraiser.

In order to more effectively support our missionaries, the Deacons have approved the Board of Evangelism's request to discontinue support for the Federwitz family's work with Lutheran Bible Translators in Ghana. Lutheran



Bible Translators already has a large base of generous donors that the Preus and Wildauer families lack. If you would like to personally support the Federwitz family's work, visit lbt.org/donate or call 800-532-4253.

Volunteers Needed: The Funeral Committee is making some changes and needs your help. Our goal is to help the family of the deceased by providing fellowship and a light lunch. If we have enough volunteers to form two teams, the same people wouldn't have to help at each funeral. Workers are needed before, during, and after the lunch, as well as food donations. You can help in all areas or as your schedule permits. Time to attend the service is available, if desired. Consider how you can help the families with your time and talents. To sign up or for any questions, call Ann at 233-0370 or Sharon at 291-6916. Thank you!



Sunday School Schedule:

July 7: God Protects Us: God Rescues Israel (Ex. 12:1-28; 13:14)

July 14: Jesus Will Return: The Parable of the Ten Virgins (Mt. 25:1-13)

July 21: The Spirit Renews Us: Mary Shows Her Love for Jesus (John 12:1-8)

July 28: The Spirit Makes the Church Grow: Philip and the Ethiopian (Acts 8:26-39)

LWML News: Women of Faith met Tuesday, June 11 with 9 members present. Pastor Menet led us in a Bible study on confessing the faith. New officers were voted in. Becky Wagner-president, Ann Wiechert-vice president and Becky Dalluge-secretary/treasurer. We are looking into someone to do training on our AED device. The training will be open to the congregation. Our next meeting will be July 9th, 6:30pm at the church. This is our annual salad supper...everyone bring a salad to share. Ann Wiechert will be the hostess. All women of the congregation are invited to attend.

Circuit VBS Dates: If you would like your child to attend VBS, please consider one of the following churches in our circuit:

- **Immanuel Lutheran:** July 21-25
- **Ascension Lutheran:** July 22-26 (for younger children—older kids' date TBD)

Higher Things and Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca are pleased to announce the third annual Higher Things Confirmation Camp! This year's camp will be held July 30-August 2, 2019. Over the course of a 4-day camp at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca in Solon, IA, Pastor Jonathan Fisk (Administrative Pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Rockford, Illinois) will lead confirmands in their catechism study and Rev. Sam Beltz (St. John Lutheran Church, Oskaloosa, IA) will preside over our worship times for the week. This will be a week filled with edifying catechesis, distinctively Lutheran worship, and tons of outdoor fun that you won't want to miss! This event is open to all youth grades 5th-8th, or ages 10-14. Registration for each camper is \$275. The registration fee includes all meals throughout the duration of camp as well as all activities, classes, and lodging at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Contact Daniel Sanchez, Camp Director of Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca at (319) 848-4187 or director@iodiseca.org to email you an information packet.



Hiring: Network and Systems Administrator: We're hiring! CTSFW is looking for a Network and Systems Administrator to join our team. The full-time, exempt employee will work 40 hours a week (with additional hours occasionally required) in our Seminary Technology Department. If you possess a positive, can-do attitude and enjoy making a difference through your technical contributions, have years of experience in Networking Architecture & Devices, Windows-based systems, and Microsoft applications, and troubleshooting PCs, laptops, and phone systems, we would love to hear from you. If you, or someone you know, would be a perfect fit for our team, we're now accepting resumes! Please send your resume with cover letter to kali.anderson@ctsfw.edu.

Volunteers Needed: We need volunteers willing to **clean sections of the church**. This is a **one-hour, twice a month** commitment for as many months as you choose. For more information, talk to Carey Frost.

Our missionary families:



Rev. David Preus and family in the Dominican Republic: Rev. David and Jennifer Preus serve the Lord as career missionaries through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in the Dominican Republic. In this role, David plants new churches

in this country. He forms and develops groups of believers into mature, self-sustaining and self-replicating congregations through Word and Sacrament ministry. He also helps with theological education as needed and works with local deaconesses in their mercy care ministries

throughout the country. lcms.org/Preus

Rev. Micah Wildauer and family in

Togo Pastor Wildauer teaches at The Lutheran Center for Theological Studies (CLET) which serves as a regional seminary for the French-speaking countries of West and Central Africa. ***For further updates of our family and life in West Africa, check out Robin's blog at www.wildauersgototogo.blogspot.com***



Faith Life Team Updates

The Faith Lutheran Life Team exists to equip our church to be Gospel-motivated voices for every human life.

The next Life Team meeting will be on Monday, July 15 at 6:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 15! Pastor Salemink, executive director of Lutherans For Life, will be preaching, holding a special Bible study, and hosting a seminar at Faith titled "This Is My Body: Christian Compassion and Courage Concerning Sexuality and Gender". Motivated by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we will examine instruction from Scripture, engage observations of science, and explore opportunities for servanthood. More information will be available closer to that date.

Christian Citizenship

By Linda Bartlett

"You are the salt of the earth . . . You are the light of the world" (Mt. 5:13-16). One way to be salty and let our light shine is by being good citizens on earth. Our vocation as citizens of both the secular kingdom and God's kingdom gives us the responsibility to proclaim God's Word and care for our neighbors. We are called to engage the "public square" with our message of Christ's mercy for all. Please pray for God's will to be done... in Jesus' name.

The LGBT Juggernaut: Time for Christians to Face Our Failure

In the May 2019 edition of *Christian Citizenship*, we explained what will happen if the Equality Act passes both House and Senate. If we stay silent, this may become law. Anyone who understands the implications of the Equality Act knows that it would severely restrict freedom for Christians in America. "LGBT activists will demand access to children through school curricula," writes Robert Oscar Lopez, Ph.D. "They will insist upon the right to groom them and coax

them into identifying as gay or trans. In essence they lay claim to the right to prepare them to be their future sex partners. They will force people who experiment with gay sex to remain in the gay sex pool via laws that ban any counseling to help them leave.”

Lopez, Professor of Humanities at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, explains that the Equality Act “will force everyone to lie. We will have to tell innocent children that they have two daddies, when they do not. Then we will have to tell confused teenagers that they are girls when they are boys. We will have to tell miserable and suicidal homosexuals that their unhappiness derives from external homophobia ... People should oppose this act with all their energy because it will affect everyone in America.

So, Lopez asks, what did we do wrong? He uses himself as an example. He grew up with a gay mom. “Instead of being myself and telling the world what I really thought, I tiptoed around everything and over-strategized ... I had grown up around tons of gay people. Starting from the age of thirteen I had had sex with many men.” Lopez says it was “horrible ... gay courtship mostly involves mutual admiration based on superficial appearances ... Nobody is really gay. Nobody is fated to live the life of a gay man and engage in that kind of degrading sex for their whole lives.” Lopez says that he “got out of the gay lifestyle because I met a girl, fell in love, and gained the confidence to pursue what I always wanted: a lifelong romantic relationship that involved true sexual fulfillment, intimacy, pleasant companionship, and children. That’s heterosexuality. Homosexuality provides none of those things.”

Lopez admits that, at first, he failed to explain to anyone who was interested how shameful, miserable, alienating, painful, filthy, and dangerous homosexuality is. “I oppose homosexuality,” says Lopez. “We should never tell people that it is normal ... We should not expose children to it. In fact, we should teach children that it is bad for them. We should help anyone who falls into homosexual thought or conduct to get away from it.” Lopez notes five failures:

Mistake 1: We inferred that “marriage has been a way of designating who you can have sex with ... [but] the talk about children, religious liberty, and supporting healthy marriages, uncoupled with frank talk about homosexual activity, was bound to end in defeat for our side.

Mistake 2: For too long we have “avoided the fact that gay sex is dirty.” We compromise on homosexuality because of a gay friend or relative. “The problem is that nobody is gay. If you love your friends you should not reduce their being to sodomy.”

Mistake 3: We failed to see that “homosexuality is a life and death issue ... there are vulnerable victims—children brainwashed, groomed, or molested into homosexuality. To show concern for the unborn but disregard for these other impacts reveals conservatives as callous and opportunistic rather than principled.”

Mistake 4: We thought we should be “winsome warriors.” But speaking “the truth in love” means telling “the truth about homosexuality. No human being, created in the image of God, can be reduced to an identity based on sodomy.”

Mistake 5: We failed “to read the Bible dutifully” and lost sight of the fact that “through God’s perspective, homosexuality is a big deal. [It] was forbidden and vilified for thousands of years because it is too vile to be placed on par with normal sex. Homosexuality coincides overwhelmingly with slavery,

rape, prostitution, prisons, drunkenness, and pedophilia precisely because gay sex requires at least one party to be damaged and humiliated by sodomy in real time.” Lopez says that we’ve made terrible mistakes by “avoiding the confrontation with what gay sex has always been and protecting people from its harms.” (Source: *The Stream*, May 27, 2019.)

What can we do? Discuss Romans 1 as a family. Ask your congressmen and senators to vote against the Equality Act on behalf of children, grandchildren, and society. Don’t enable the LGBT juggernaut by being silent; instead, love your neighbors enough to be honest about the dangers of the homosexual act and the slavery that comes with it.

Please pray that we not ruin ourselves through passivity, but take a stand on biblical and biological truth... in Jesus’ name.

Drag Queen Story Hours

Community libraries have become culture war battlegrounds for the hearts and minds of our children. It’s not just in West Hollywood, California, but also in Ames, Iowa. Drag Queen Story Hour (DQSH) is described on-line as “drag queens reading stories to children in libraries, schools, and bookstores” in order to “capture the imagination and play of the gender fluidity of childhood and give kids glamorous, positive, and unabashedly queer role models.” DQSH is supported by the American Library Association.

Some of the books include *The Gender Fairy* (“Only you know whether you are a boy or a girl ... no one can tell you”), *My Princess Boy* (the tale of a 4-year-old who dresses in girl’s clothes), *The Bravest Knight Who Ever Lived* (helps 5-6 year-olds follow their heart and choose a boy instead of girl), *The GayBCs* (LGBTQ-themed alphabet book that encourages 4-8-year-olds to try on different identities while playing with makeup and costumes), and *Gender Identity: The Ultimate Teen Guide* (gender is no longer an either male or female proposition). In March this year, two children’s storytellers at DQSH in American public libraries were exposed as registered child sex offenders. (Source: James Parker in *Mercatornet*, June 27, 2019.)

What can we do? Ask questions: 1) What does God have to say about male and female (Genesis 1:27, 28)? 2) Should we make children comfortable with LGBTQ ideology and behaviors? 3) Is it naïve to think that children can’t be lured into a transgender lifestyle? 4) Is it a good thing to suggest gender reassignment treatment or surgical mutilation for children? 5) Dare we remain silent?

Please pray for courage to resist the liar and deceiver who has no love for boys and girls created by God and... in Jesus’ name.

Parents, Children and the Culture

Modern parents are encouraged to be friends to their children and to affirm rather than correct them. But to do this is to abdicate parental authority and the role of being God’s representatives. When parents aren’t behaving as parents, then it’s too easy for same-age peers and technology—cell phones, tablets and computers—to become the “go-to” authority for curious, confused, and vulnerable children.

What can we do? Because Christian values aren’t going to be taught in public schools, parents need to pray with their children, instruct by way of *The Small Catechism*, establish faith traditions in the home, and regularly take their children to church. When a secular, amoral view of sex and marriage is

taught in the classroom and the LGBTQ agenda is promoted, parents should kindly express their concern and request that their child opt out. Christian parents should meet together to educate themselves, establish credibility, and prepare for controversies and inevitable confrontations.

Please pray for courageous parents to fear and love God so that they might better instruct and defend their children... in Jesus' name.