

# Pastor Kory's Page

Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD

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## Curious Christians



Our kids enjoy watching and reading about the antics of the cartoon character, Curious George. George certainly lives up to his name – he always seems to wander off on some new monkey business! Sometimes this gets him into trouble. Other times, his curiosity helps him to solve some problem, find something that was lost, or learn something new.

While Curious George isn't always the best character to emulate (like when he's making messes or failing to listen), curiosity itself is important. I recently read some thoughts from Christian author Carey Nieuwhof on the blessing of curiosity. This got me thinking about the place of curiosity in our Christian lives. Curiosity isn't just for kids – or monkeys! Have you ever met someone who was well advanced in years, perhaps in their 90s, and yet still craving to learn and grow and expand their understanding and relationships? *Curiosity* drives such individuals and helps them keep going strong!

What about you? Have you been curious lately, especially in your journey of faith? Rather than presuming that we already know “enough” (being unteachable), a curious Christian is ready and open to learn, ask questions, and explore different facets of God's blessings and His revelation to us.

Peter signs off in his second New Testament letter by saying, “*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*” (2 Peter 3:18). These words were originally addressed to Christians who had learned from the great Apostle himself! However, Peter's words make it clear that a Christian's growth in the Lord can't be limited to a temporary period of learning and preparation (such as in confirmation classes today). Instead, such times of growth are only the beginning of a *lifetime* of growth in the grace and knowledge of your Savior Jesus!

You grow in His *grace* as you continue to receive His Word and His bread of life in the Lord's Supper. You grow in Christ every time you stop in wonder and gratitude to consider God's “inexpressible gift” (2 Cor. 9:15) of His love and forgiveness for you! Each of us could know Christ better than we do (and each of us needs His grace!), so we keep returning to where He makes Himself known to us, especially His Word and Sacraments.

Our Epistle reading this weekend says another word for curious Christians: “*try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord*” (Ephesians 5:10). While the Lord has clearly revealed His will to us, not every scenario or life situation is directly addressed in God's Word. We try to discern a God-pleasing response as we consider the things that He *has* said to us in His Word and prayerfully apply that Word to our decisions and approaches. For example, Paul addresses husbands & wives, parents & children, and slaves & masters (the equivalent of employees and employers) in Eph. 5 & 6. This doesn't address every relationship and vocation, but based on what God's word *does* reveal (especially about seeing Christ in every relationship), you can begin to see how He would have you handle other situations.

Curious Christians also ask questions, rather than acting as if they have all the answers. How is God describing Himself in this passage? What is He saying about mankind? What can I do differently on the basis of this Word from the Lord? The same goes in our other relationships: How could I be a blessing to so-and-so? I wonder what could be troubling this person? What does he or she do to have such a living faith in Christ?

Bring your curiosity to a Bible study! Ask some questions. Come and let God show you something you hadn't previously noticed. Get to know Christ and your fellow Christians a little better each time. Curiosity is also great for *teachers* as you learn along with your students in your Sunday school or Lutheran day school classrooms! Martin Luther said in his Large Catechism that even though he was a doctor and teacher of the faith, he always remained a child and a pupil of the catechism. In other words, he remained curious and recognized his daily need to grow in Christ and His Word! May the same be said of us!

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Kory Janneke