

Pastor Aker's Page

Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD

September 1 & 2, 2018

If you're like me, you don't have to try hard to remember the precious moment when you first looked into the eyes of your children! In that moment, everything else disappeared and was replaced by pure joy. Hopes for the future were fervent and potential seemed endless. Reality set in within 48 hours when we brought our bundles of joy home and quickly realized I had no clue what I was doing. I began making it up as I went along. Some successes and many mistakes later, I'm still learning.

I find that's the way it is with my faith too. Just when I think I'm grabbing hold of something the Lord has done, He reveals how much deeper the subject actually is. I study and teach Luther's Small Catechism every year and each time, without fail, I learn and grow in deeper ways. I read the Scriptures every day. I study and prepare for sermons and Bible Studies. I teach you from God's Word. Without fail, the Lord instructs and teaches me more each time. He is growing my faith in Jesus Christ all the time.

As a father, the Lord has entrusted me with the care of my children. It's hard, but rewarding work. Of all that I am to do as Alyssa, Ethan, Drew, and Ella's dad, the absolute most important is to teach them about Jesus and raise them up in the true faith. God told His parents of old in Deuteronomy 6:7 "You shall teach [God's Word] diligently to your children, and shall talk to them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise". There literally is no more important work for us to be doing. As clumsy and bumbling as I was with diapers and bottles, I also found it difficult to know how to instruct my children, so

we started with worship and Sunday School. Still we didn't know how to bring it home and I didn't feel equipped. Even in these challenges, the Lord spoke His word to me, "teach them diligently".

What became apparent to me is that in order for me to be effective in teaching my children, I had to know what I was teaching. I needed to be in regular Bible Studies with other Christians. I needed to be reading my Bible every day. I needed to struggle with challenging passages and receive the joy and comfort of Gospel texts. I needed to be filled and fed before I could adequately bring the Lord's Word to my family.

Our most recent way of sharing God's Word together is over breakfast every morning. We eat together, listen and discuss a brief passage (usually from the Gospels), and we pray about what's coming our way that day. The long-haul approach is what the Lord has been doing with me; it seems good to take the same approach with my children!

Whether your children are 5 or 55 (or even if you have no children of your own), we want to partner with you in sharing Christ's love with them. Just as I needed instruction and support, we offer the same to you! Each Sunday, beginning next week, Pastor Janneke and I will be offering two simultaneous adult Bible Study options during the Sunday School hour. Pastor Janneke will be teaching from Luther's Small Catechism in the CLC and I will be exploring Apocalypse in the Shepherd's Room. We want to provide you with meaningful opportunities to grow in your faith so that you will be equipped to share the love of Christ with everyone in your life, especially your family.

In Christ,
Pastor Corey Aker