

Pastor Aker's Page

Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD

February 2 & 3, 2019

Following Jesus at Faith Lutheran

From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. John 6:66

What makes the Superbowl so *super*? For a select few, it's because your team made the big game. For others, it's the commercials. Still others tune in for the spectacular half-time show. And for the vast majority of people who tune in, the game is merely a catalyst that has brought them together for a fun evening of snacks and fellowship with friends. Most people couldn't care less about the actual game itself. (The obvious exceptions this year are Rams and Patriots fans!) Isn't that a strange commentary on the NFL? Its biggest day isn't *super* because of football, but because of all the other things that revolve around the game.

During the days of Jesus' ministry, this is exactly the way that He was treated by some of His followers. They were there for the show. They enjoyed watching Him heal people. They lived for the large crowds who came and hung on His words. They loved being associated with this "Rising Star". But when the going got tough, they were the first to leave Him. When they were called to actually believe in Jesus and His Words of radical love, they were quick to walk away. Like the "seeds planted on stony soil", they were quick to believe, but just as quick to dry up and die.

These wandering disciples ought to stand out as warnings to us. If they could hear and witness so much of what Jesus had done, yet still turn away from Him, we all the more need His grace and mercy to keep us strong in our faith. For the sake of our faith, our lives, and our eternity, we need the Holy Spirit to keep a tight grasp on our lives.

Knowing our desperate need, it is the Father's good pleasure to give us the Spirit who keeps us connected to His Son, Jesus Christ. The Lord has given our congregation the gift of two faithful pastors who

love and care for His people. A DCE who loves and watches after His young people. Elders who check up on and pray for you. Strong ministry leaders who guide and encourage the faithful work of His congregation! Here in Sioux Falls, the Lord has built a wonderful home for the distribution of His gifts at Faith Lutheran Church.

Regular worship, Bible Study with others, and personal Bible reading with prayer are three ways the Holy Spirit promises to keep us in the true faith. These opportunities are so key to your spiritual maturity that we strive for excellence in each area at Faith. Dynamic worship services are designed to bring the Word of Jesus to your life and are conveniently offered at three different times each weekend. If there is something that is preventing you or someone you know from attending worship, please let us know so we can address it! There is little we do in a week that is more important than our time of worship.

Pastor Janneke, DCE Rebecca, the Board for Parish Education, and I work together to offer solid, Christ-centered Bible Study for members of **all** ages each weekend. We hold Bible Study in such high regard in fact that we have added a second option each Sunday to encourage more adult participation. If you haven't joined a regular Bible Study yet, why not give it a try today?

Additionally, it is good for God's people to be in daily prayer and study of the Bible. To help you, we have printed out several different Bible reading plans for you to try out. They are located in folders on the information desk. Take one and set to the task of prayer and Bible reading; this is a practice I promise you will not regret starting!

Your faith is such a precious thing; call upon the Holy Spirit to guard and protect it! Be like Jesus' true disciples who recognize that "He has the words of eternal life" (John 6:68). You are a Christian! For you, every day is *super* because every day is a new encounter with the Lord. We Christians don't live our lives as mere spectators; on the contrary, filled with and gifted by the Holy Spirit, we follow Jesus!

In Christ,

Pastor Corey Aker