

Pastor Kory's Page

Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD
March 16-17, 2019

Letting Go

The past couple weeks have been a whirlwind of decisions, emotions, and “lasts.” I’ve already attended my last Sioux Falls Circuit Pastor’s Conference, my last Elders meeting, and my last worship planning meeting. I will soon be attending my last Council meeting, Spring District Conference, and similar events.

I have mixed emotions as I experience these “lasts.” On the one hand, I will truly miss the people with whom I have been blessed to serve at Faith Lutheran – the staff, the elected leaders, the volunteers, and all the lay members of the church. On the other hand, I am relieved to be able to “let go.” And not only is it a relief, it is a “must.” In order to embrace the ministry that awaits me at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Warrens, Wisconsin, I need to let go of the ministry of which I have been a part in Sioux Falls.

Letting go of things can be tough. Letting go of people is even tougher. However, let’s remember that when we let go, we’re entrusting something or someone into our Lord’s hands. But the truth is, you and I have been in our Lord’s hands all along! *Nothing* can snatch us out of our Father’s hands!

Sometimes I hear pastors say things like “my church” or “my people” or “my elders” or “my _____.” I understand what they mean. I’ve said things like this myself. However, Faith Lutheran is not “my church.” You are not “my people.” **Far better than that, you are Jesus’ people! You are HIS Church! You and I are held in His nail-pierced, risen hands!**

For the past seven years, I have been blessed to be Jesus’ called pastor to His people in Sioux Falls. In the years to come, I will be blessed to be Jesus’ servant to His people in Warrens and Tomah, Wisconsin.

And so now, I let go! Freely, joyfully, and unreservedly, I now get to let go of ministry “here” at Faith in order to begin ministry “there” at St. Matthew!

As I commend you into the perfect hands of Jesus, I also am glad that I can commend you into the care of our ministry team at Faith Lutheran Church. You are in good hands as Pastor Aker continues to lead Jesus’ ministry at Faith Lutheran! You are in good hands as DCE Wiemer continues to serve Faith’s youth, young adults, and families! You are in good hands as Lan Kuhlmann, Tim Symes, Mavis Smith, and other staff continue to handle administrative, facility, musical, and other details of Faith’s ministry! You are in good hands, knowing that there are many other experienced servants of the Lord in this place, including several retired pastors! You are in good hands because Faith continues to nominate and elect faithful men and women to lead and guide the congregation in both spiritual and practical matters!

Best of all, you are in the hands of Jesus! And there is no better place you could possibly be! Because you are *Jesus’* people and because of the reasons stated above, I am optimistic now in Faith’s 90th year for Faith’s ministry in the *next* 90 years!

God bless and keep each and every one of you beloved “Faith Lutherans” in His everlasting and loving arms!

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Kory Janneke

Some additional details about the next few weeks:

- I will be taking time off from Monday, March 25 – Monday, April 8. During this time, the Jannekes will be visiting Warrens, WI, getting our house ready to put on the market, and attending the Spring District Pastor’s Conference in Pierre, SD.
- My final Bible studies at Faith will be on Sundays, March 17 and April 14, concluding our “Angels, Demons, and Us” Bible study. On Sunday, April 28, we will have an informational time during the Bible study hour, led by Faith’s pastors and lay leaders.
- My final weekend and final sermon as one of your pastors will be April 27th and 28th, with a hymn festival in all services. My installation at St. Matthew is set for Sunday, May 12, 2019.