

Pastor Sailer's Page

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Faith Lutheran Church
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CELEBRATE THE SERVANT! BE HIS SERVANTS

As National Lutheran Schools Week begins this Sunday, we rejoice that we have two local Lutheran schools we love and support.

So, what are you going to do about it? The “it” being God’s great love and mercy for us in Jesus Christ. Our forgiveness and salvation are certain. What are you going to do about it? Is it not true that we have been saved to serve? Lutheran schools have the unique opportunity to celebrate the greatest Servant, Jesus, and to encourage their students to be servants. Each of us has the privilege of serving, in response to our serving Lord and Savior.

Jesus came as the fulfillment of Isaiah, chapter 53. He is the Suffering Servant. During His earthly ministry, Jesus was in constant service – feeding the hungry, healing the sick, comforting the grieving, and blessing children. Those actions of service were the prelude to the ultimate act of service “to give His life as a ransom for many.”

Redeemed through our Savior’s sacrificial service, Lutheran school students and staff serve others. This is one of the unique qualities of Lutheran schools. Service is expected. I have witnessed this at Sioux Falls Lutheran School in my 16-year association with the school, and have seen this throughout the 4+ years of the history of Lutheran High School of Sioux Falls. God’s servants teach there and learn there.

The students visit folks in nursing homes, they send cards and letters of encouragement, they package food for the hungry, they take field trips to churches and volunteer their time cleaning and

fixing. They have made blankets, and are in the process of making yarn dolls for medical missions. They gathered offerings for missionary Emily Goddard. They are currently gathering offerings for fix-it projects at Zion Lutheran Church, in Wessington Springs, SD, in the aftermath of the tornado there in 2014.

Impressive! And yet service, out of thanksgiving to God, is His call to each of us. Martin Luther wrote, “The love of God flows from faith, and from love flows a free, willing, and joyful life of freely given service to our neighbor. For just as our neighbor suffers want and is in need of our surplus, so we have suffered want before God and were in need of His grace. Therefore as God has helped us freely through Christ, so we should devote our body and its activities to helping our neighbor. Thus we see what a high and noble life a Christian really is” (Treatise on Christian Liberty, 1520, from *What Luther Says*, Vol. III, p. 1282, Concordia Publishing House, 1959).

Throughout the coming week, we celebrate the ministry of Lutheran schools. Lutheran schools confess Jesus. They teach Him. They worship Him. Lutheran schools serve Jesus by serving others.

Check out Sioux Falls Lutheran School and Lutheran High School of Sioux Falls! There is room for your child. Faith Lutheran stands ready to assist you financially, if money is an issue for your family, as you consider tuition costs.

Serving Jesus with you,

Pastor Scott Sailer