

# Pastor Sailer's Page

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Faith Lutheran Church  
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## RECENT CONGREGATIONAL ACTIONS: Committed to God's Truth and God's Heart

*The Voters of Faith took stands for God's Word and for reaching out with the Gospel in a unique way in the congregational meeting January 18.*

Voters' meetings get a bad rap in our churches. They're sometimes seen as a necessary evil, as big negativity sessions, as concentrating on paint and carpet color and not on real church work. Sometimes, those are accurate descriptors of what happens in Voters' meetings. But that was certainly not the case in the last Voters' meeting here at Faith, back on January 18.

Your brothers and sisters in Christ voted to stand firm on God's Word with our marriage policy. This statement on marriage was passed unanimously: *The marriage policy of Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, a member congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, is and always has been consistent with the Synod's beliefs on marriage. We believe that marriage is a sacred union of one man and one woman (Gen. 2:24-25), and that God gave marriage as a picture of the relationship between Christ and His bride the Church (Eph. 5:32). The official position of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, as set forth in 1998 Res. 3-21 ("To Affirm the Sanctity of Marriage and to Reject Same-Sex Unions"), is that homosexual unions come under categorical prohibition in the Old and New Testaments (Lev. 18:22, 24; 20:13; I Cor. 6:9-10; I Tim. 1:9-10) as contrary to the Creator's design (Rom. 1:26-27). These positions and beliefs can be found on the LCMS website, along with other statements, papers and reports on the subject of homosexuality and same-sex civil unions and "marriage." Our pastors will not officiate over any marriages inconsistent with these beliefs, and our church property may not be used for any marriage ceremony, reception or other activity that would be inconsistent with our beliefs and this policy.*

The Voters also endorsed the concept presented by some members regarding a so-called "Matthew 28 Project." Matthew 28 contains Christ's Great Commission (or Command) to make disciples of all nations. We already do this at Faith in a variety of ways as we teach, preach, and reach with the Gospel. But the special way to carry out the Great Commission, presented by our members on January 18, is to begin an adoption ministry. Their rationale? As Christian families welcome children into their homes via adoption, they bring these children to Jesus via baptism and the Word of God. God's Spirit creates faith in the hearts of these children – children who might not otherwise know Christ as Savior. Is this not a special, intentional way of "making disciples"?

The *Matthew 28 Project: Adoption Ministry* would seek to promote adoption awareness; would provide encouragement and emotional support, through Faith members who have already adopted, to couples who are going to adopt; and would provide financial grants to couples who have been approved for adoption and are awaiting the placement of a child in their home. (Adoptions are costly! About \$20,000 for domestic adoptions and about \$35,000 for foreign adoptions.)

There is much work to be done on this Adoption Ministry idea, but we are convinced, as pro-life people of God (and as those adopted by His grace to be His own dear children!), that this concept reflects the very heart of God – that these adopted children be His for eternity.

Serving Jesus with you,

*Pastor Scott Sailer*