

# Pastor Kory's Page

Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD

May 30 & 31, 2015

## Growing In Christ

*A Summer Bible Study & Sunday School Preview*

In a recent e-mail to the congregation, Pastor Sailer wrote, **"Some summer-time encouragement: *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity*" (II Peter 3:18). Take time for plenty of Son-light this summer. It's the key to growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus. There's still plenty of time for fun in the other sun after a refreshing time of corporate worship with the Body of Christ here at Faith or wherever your travels take you!"**

I would like to "echo" Pastor Sailer's words this weekend, specifically inviting you to worship regularly this summertime and to continue your Christian growth through participation in Bible Study and Summer Sunday School.

As a reminder, we hold two Thursday Bible studies. The men's study meets at 6:45 a.m. at Hardees on the corner of Minnesota Ave. & 37<sup>th</sup> St. We also have a 10:00 a.m. Bible study that meets in Faith's Shepherd's Room. Ordinarily we explore the Scripture readings for the upcoming weekend in both of these study groups. The other blessing of participating in one of these studies is the time spent in Christian fellowship and prayer!

Our two LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) groups gather regularly for Bible study. The Goodwill Aid meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. in the Shepherd's Room. The Ladies Auxiliary meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Shepherd's Room. Both of these groups would welcome women of all ages to participate in their growth in God's Word, mission projects, and fellowship.

Next Sunday, we will have our second morning of Summer Sunday School. This will meet weekly throughout the summer from 10:15 - 11:15 a.m., except on June 14 and August 16. Summer Sunday School meets as a combined group, preschool – fourth grade. The theme for this summer's lessons is **"3 in 1: Discovering our Triune God."** The

lessons will explore the saving work of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit throughout the Old and New Testaments.

One of the best ways to *grow* is to *teach*. Please consider teaching a lesson or helping once or twice with Summer Sunday School this summer. Our Sunday School superintendent, JoAnn Hirsch, does a *fantastic* job of preparing the teaching materials for each week. She tries to make the teaching preparation as simple as possible for you! Please talk to JoAnn if you have any questions or sign up to teach or help with a lesson on the door of the Sunday School office in the education hallway. Parents might consider signing up with their middle or high school aged youth to help. Perhaps you could co-lead a lesson with a friend or another family member. In any case, I strongly encourage you to serve in this way!

Finally, I would like to share a bit of a "preview" of our Summer Bible Study. Beginning next Sunday, June 7, I will be leading a new Bible Study. I've decided to call it, **"Heavenly Summer"**!

Together, we will explore a Biblical perspective on death and dying. We will search the Scriptures to gain a clearer understanding of the nature of heaven. We will focus our hope on our Lord's return on the Last Day. We will look closely at what God's Word has to tell us about the New Heavens and the New Earth (Isaiah 65:17).

Because all of us have so many different ideas and questions about heaven and the life to come, I will also be gathering your questions and will hold a dedicated question and answer session toward the end of the study.

What does it mean to be with Christ in paradise? (Luke 23:43) What Biblical words of hope might we share with our family and friends in times of grief? What is the significance of our confession of faith in the Apostles' Creed, "I believe in ... the communion of saints ... the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting"?

We will focus on these and similar topics each week this summer in the Christian Life Center. Please join us, as together, we grow in Christ!