

Pastor Kory's Page

Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD

April 9 & 10, 2016

This past Monday and Tuesday, LCMS pastors from throughout SD gathered at Peace Lutheran Church in Brookings for our Spring Conference. The theme was **"Faith and Medicine."** Faith lay members, Scott Peters and Amy Ross, also attended. (Amy also served by providing blood pressure screenings for the attendees!)

I wanted to briefly share a few "takeaways" from the conference:

- Pastor Rynearson, who has an extensive background in teaching ethics, shared about the ethical principles used in making difficult medical decisions: non-malevolence ("do no harm"), beneficence ("do good"), justice ("treat everyone fairly"), and autonomy ("self-rule"). These principles must all be weighed when making decisions, particularly regarding a difficult course of treatment or end-of-life care.

- Dr. Nathan Miller, a hospitalist at Avera McKennan, explained hospitalist medicine to the pastors. What is a hospitalist? Answer: a doctor who is specially trained to care for hospitalized patients. They do so in partnership with patients' primary care physicians and with other specialists, as needed. If you've been hospitalized in recent years or in case you are ever hospitalized, you will likely receive care from a "hospitalist" doctor.

- Jason Merkley, CEO of Brookings Health System, spoke to the pastors about the concerning state of healthcare in America. However, he also reminded us (and asked us to pass along!) the importance of regular check-ups and screenings and also attending follow-up appointments after procedures. Doing these common-sense things to care for ourselves also benefits our loved ones and our communities!

- Dr. Carla Dieter, Chair of the USD Department of Nursing, stressed the importance of having conversations with our loved ones about end-of-life care. Almost everyone agrees that it's important to have the conversations with family members and our doctors and to put these things in writing, but the majority of Americans have not actually done so.

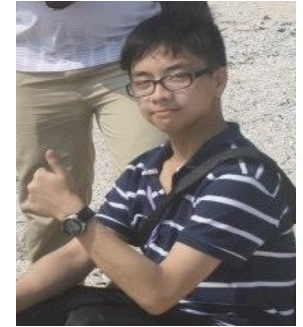
- Do you have a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care, also known as a Health Care Agent? In other words, if you are unable to speak for yourself, who have you authorized to speak for you? If you haven't done so, choose a trusted person in your life to do this for you. (One resource that was shared was www.theconversationproject.org.)

I hope to share more about these and other takeaways soon. One pastor connected to the conference to Luther's words: *"Deliver us from evil. What does this mean? We pray that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorry to Himself in heaven."*

Amen to that! - Pastor Kory Janneke

(The following pertains to a young friend in Christ from Hong Kong. Please keep Michael in your prayers!)

Micheal Chan is a student at MCDH secondary school in Hong Kong well-loved by his peers and teachers alike. His positive attitude, concern for others, and personable nature have also endeared him to members of our short-term mission teams.



Micheal was diagnosed with a brain tumor and underwent urgent surgery in early March. While the tumor was successfully removed, the cancer had spread, and Micheal is now undergoing chemotherapy and electrotherapy treatments.

Micheal and his sister Tiffany, who also attends MCDH, are from a low-income family. Micheal's father has now had to take time off from his job, and various expenses associated with Micheal's illness continue to arise. It is even quite costly for Micheal's family to travel to the hospital 1½ hours away from their home by public transportation to visit him.

Because Micheal has American friends from teams across South Dakota and in Wisconsin, a fund has been created to help with expenses. If you would like to contribute to this fund, you can place your donation in the box in the narthex through next weekend. Please make checks to **Faith Lutheran Church** with "Micheal Chan" in the memo.

Please keep Micheal in your prayers. He has a strong Christian faith and is very grateful for the support of his Christian family. His steadfast trust in God through his illness is a beautiful witness to his classmates and the entire school, and has already impacted many who have joined prayer groups.

For more information, contact Krista at 366-4372. Thank you for your support!