

# Pastor Kory's Page

Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD

May 14 & 15, 2016

## A "Top Ten" List

Some thoughts about the blessings of Bible Study

Late-night shows are known for them: top ten lists. This weekend, I offer you one. It won't be as crazy as anything on late-night television; however, it's far more important! So here we go: a top-ten list of the blessings of participating in Bible Study (in *somewhat* ascending order):

10. Enjoy some coffee & sweets—or tea for those of you who somehow survive without coffee!

9. Meet someone you haven't met before in the congregation; after all, there are over 700 of us Faith Lutherans!

8. Read the best-selling book in history!

7. Come and be fed *spiritually*, even as you are also fed relationally and physically—your soul needs nourishment just as much as your body and God provides this through His Word! As Peter says, "Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good." (1 Peter 2:2)

6. Draw closer with those whom you *already* know in the congregation!

5. Draw closer to the *Lord* by listening to His words of eternal life (John 6:68).

4. Study God's Word so that you are prepared to *defend* your faith in Christ! "Have no fear of [opponents or persecutors], nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect." (1 Peter 3:14-15)

3. Be challenged and equipped for Christian living in these dark days! As Paul writes to Timothy, "Continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from who you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be

competent, thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:14-17)

2. Grow deeper in your faith in Christ! As our mission statement says, We are blessed in our journey of Faith to Know Christ, GROW in Him, and Show Him to the World. Where does faith come from? "Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." (Romans 10:17)

1. Come and see Jesus! He says, "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about Me" and John adds, "These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name." (John 5:39; 20:31)

This list is by no means complete—just food for thought about how we might make time in our busy lives for something of foremost importance: hearing God's life-saving Word! Our Sunday morning Bible study is a great opportunity to connect with one another and with the Lord. We are currently studying the book of Acts, the history of the first Christians. Please join us as we also apply "The Acts of the Apostles" to "The Acts of Faith Lutheran Church"!

An additional opportunity is our weekly Thursday morning Bible study at 10:00 a.m. in the Shepherd's Room. In this study, we primarily explore one or more of the readings for the upcoming weekends. I also encourage our youth to participate in Sunday morning Bible studies in the youth room!

I have had several members ask me for new Bible study times and topics! *I hear you!* However, I do not have the capacity at this time to start a new Bible study. When our next Senior Pastor is in place, we will certainly consider how we might add another Bible study opportunity during the week.

Speaking of that, please plan to participate in our next call meeting on Thursday, May 26 at 7:00 p.m. Bring your questions and ideas as we join together to make a prayerful decision and extend a call for our Senior Pastor position. Calling a pastor is a congregation's decision, so we need as many of our congregational members as possible to come and be a part of that decision-making process!

Peace in Christ,

Kory Janneke, Associate Pastor

**P.S. – Check out the reverse side for the District newsletter about the stewardship workshop that Todd Taylor and I took in this past Tuesday.**