

Commissioning/Installation Of Katie Kohring

Phil. 4: 8

September 13, 2015

My Fellow Redeemed In Christ,

Today We Have The Joy Of Commissioning And Installing **Katie Kohring** To The Faculty Of Concordia Lutheran School In Seattle. And This Day Is Made Extra Special In Knowing That **Katie** Is Not Only A Graduate Of Concordia Lutheran School **But Also** A Long Time Member Of Messiah Lutheran Church. I Have Been **Katie's** Pastor Since **1998...** And She Even Survived My Confirmation Class... Being Confirmed On **June 4th 2006**. **Katie** Joins A Long List Of Church Workers From Messiah Lutheran Church Including Six Pastors, One Deaconess And...Three Teachers.... **Katie** You Have Been Called To A Noble And Godly Profession. Listen To What Martin Luther Says About The Teaching Profession: **"If I Were Not A Preacher, I Do Not Know Of Any Position On Earth That I Would Rather Have Than That Of A School Master.....For I Know That Next To The Ministry This Work Is The Most Useful, The Greatest And Best...My Friend, Let It Be Considered One Of The Greatest Virtues On Earth To Train The Children Of Other People. Very Few People--In Fact, Practically None--Do This For Their Own Children....It Takes Persons Of Exceptional Ability To Teach And Train Children Aright."** (What Luther Says, Edward Plass, St. Louis, Cph, 1959 Vol. Iii, Pp.1337-1338).

The Text That I Have Chosen For This Occasion Is Paul's Letter To The Philippians, Chapter Four, Verse Eight: **"Finally, Brothers, Whatever Is True, Whatever Is Honorable, Whatever Is Just, Whatever Is Pure, Whatever Is Lovely, Whatever Is Commendable, If There Is Any Excellence, If There Is Anything Worthy Of Praise, Think About These Things"**

I. **Katie**, A Primary Goal Of Any Sound Educational System Is To Produce Responsible And Productive Citizens Who Contribute To The Well-Being Of Our Society And Nation As Paul Says **"If There Is Any Excellence, If There Is Anything Worthy Of Praise, Think About These Things"**...And What Are These Excellent Things Worthy Of Praise? Six Things That Are All Connected To One Another.....

A. First Paul Says That You Are To Teach **"Whatever Is True"**. Truth Agrees With The Facts And Is The Opposite Of What Is False. Truth Is Not Mere Opinion But Is True Whether People Know It Or Not Or Agree With It Or Not. The Seeking And Teaching Of Truth Has A Long History In Western Civilization. Your Goal, **Katie**, As A Teacher At Concordia Lutheran School. Is To Teach Your Students The Truth And Nothing But The True.

B. Paul Also Tells You That You Are To Be Concerned About And Teach Those Things That Are **"Honorable"**. When People Leave The Military They Can Be Given An **Honorable Or A Dishonorable Discharge**. **Katie** Many Things In Our Culture...Ways Of Speaking And Ways Of Living... Are Not

Honorable. As A Teacher At Concordia You Will, By God's Grace, Strive To Teach Those Things That Are Honorable, Those Things That Develop A Good Character Which Produces An Honorable Way Of Living.. ...Which Is Especially Necessary For A Democracy Of Free People.

C. To Teach What Is Honorable Paul Says That You Will Have To Teach Those Things That Are **"Just"**. **Katie** There Is A Right And There Is A Wrong. Recently Someone Posted This On **Facebook**: **"Wrong Is WrongEven If Everyone Is Doing It; And Right Is Right Even IfNo One Is Doing It."** This Is What You Are To Teach Your Students: What Is Just And Right.

D. And To Do This **Katie** Paul Says That You Are To Teach About Things That Are **Pure**. **Katie** Never Forget That Your Students Will Have Contact With Movies, Television And The Internet That Are Filled With Impure Images And Messages That Seek To Shape The Minds And Lives Of Your Students. As A Teacher At A Lutheran School You Have The Opportunity To Teach Your Students A Different Way....But Remember. You Teach Not Only By What You Say, But Also By What You Do And How You Live. Your Students Will Not Only Be Listening To You.....But They Will Also Be Watching You.

E. Paul Says That You Will Also Have The Joy Of Teaching Your Students What Is **"Lovely"**. **Katie** We Don't Use This Word Very Often...But It Refers To Those Things In Life That Are Beautiful And Attractive In A Wholesome Way.....Those Things That Are Uplifting And Ennobling To The Human Spirit.....Such Things As Excellent Music, Art, Poetry And Literature. Whether You Teach Those Specific Subjects Or Not, Your Goal, **Katie**, Is To Make Your Teaching **"Lovely"** ...That Is, Wholesome, Uplifting And Good For The Spirit Of Your Students.

F. And Last, Paul Reminds You That What You Teach And How You Teach Is To Be **"Commendable"**...The Things In Life That Have Good Reputations...Things That Can Be Easily And Eagerly Recommended To Others To Make Their Lives Better.....And What Is Commendable? Paul Has Told You: Those Six Things That Are **"True And Honorable, Just And Pure, Lovely And Commendable"** These Are All **Commendable** Because, As Paul Says....They Are **"Excellent And Worthy Of Praise."**

ii. But Best Of All **Katie**, Unlike A Public School Teacher.....You Get To Teach Your Students About God's Love For Them In His Son, Jesus Christ.....Because In All The World There Is Nothing More **"True And Honorable, Just And Pure, Lovely And Commendable...Excellent And Worthy Of Praise"** Than Jesus Christ.

A. **Katie** You Will Have The Joy Of Teaching Your Students That Jesus Is A Human Being Just Like Them ...Except For One Thing.....Unlike Them He Had No Sin.....As We Read In The Book Of Hebrews, **"Who In Every Respect Has Been Tempted As We Are, Yet Without Sin" (4: 15, Esv)**. But There Is Even Something Greater About Him That Makes Him **"Excellent And Worthy Of Praise"**.....He Is God, The Maker Of Heaven And Earth.....The Great **"I Am"** In Human Form....As John

Says At The Beginning Of His Gospel, **"In The Beginning Was The Word... And The Word Was God....And The Word Became Flesh And Dwelt Among Us" (1: 1, 14, Esv).** And Perhaps **Katie** You Will Teach This Wonderful Truth Using The Same Words That You Memorized From Luther's Small Catechism: **I Believe That Jesus Christ, True God, Begotten Of The Father From All Eternity And Also True Man, Born Of The Virgin Mary Is My Lord.**" There Is No One Like Jesus Christ, He Is Unique, One Of A Kind....

B. **Katie** You Will Also Have The Joy Of Teaching Your Students That God Came Into Our World As Jesus To Save Them From Their Sin, From Death And From Eternal Damnation...As Paul Says In His Letter To The Galatians, **"But When The Fullness Of Time Had Come, God Sent Forth His Son, Born Of Woman, Born Under The Law, To Redeem Those Who Were Under The Law, So That We Might Receive Adoption As Sons" (4: 4, 5, Esv).** You Will Make It Clear To Your Students That They Can Never Get To Heaven By Trying To Be Good Because God Expects Them To Be Perfect.. ..Yes, Perfect...And That Is Why...Adam And Eve Lost Everything Over Just One Sin. But **Katie** What Joy Will Have In Teaching Your Students The Good News That All Well Because Jesus Has Done Everything For Them! You Will Teach Them That Jesus Died A Horrible Death On The Cross To Fully Cancel Their Debt Of Sin That They Owed To God And That All Of Theirs, All Of Them, Are Forgiven As Paul So Wonderfully Says In His Letter To The Colossians, **"....Having Forgiven Us All Our Trespasses, By Canceling The Record Of Debt That Stood Against Us With Its Legal Demands. This He Set Aside, Nailing It To The Cross" (2: 13, 14, Esv).** And Perhaps Once Again You Will Use The Words That You Memorized From Martin Luther's Small Catechism About Jesus: **"...Who Has Redeemed Me A Lost And Condemned Person, Purchased And Won Me From All Sin, Death, And The Devil. Not With Gold Or Silver, But With His Holy Precious Blood And With His Innocent Suffering And Death."**

C. And Finally **Katie** You Have The Joy Of Teaching Your Students That They Do Not Have To Be Afraid Of Death Because Jesus Has Defeated Death With His Resurrection On The Third Day. There Is No Doubt That His Tomb Was Empty On The Third Day. And Based On The Known Facts....There Is Only One Plausible Answer.....The Answer That The Bible Gives Us: Jesus Was Raised From The Dead. He Is Alive And Now Is Sitting At The Right Hand Of God The Father Almighty Which Means That Jesus Now Rules Over The Entire Universe. And Because Jesus Is Alive And Well....You Can Teach Your Students That He Is With Them Every Day.. ..And That One Day They Will See Jesus With Their Very Own Eyes.....The Day That He Comes To Judge The Living And The Dead.....And Take All Who Have Believed In Him To That New World Where Sin And Death Will Be No More. ..And Once Again You Might Use What You Learned In Catechism From Luther's Small Catechism, **"And Will On The Last Day Raise Me And All The Dead And Give To Me And All Believers In Christ Eternal Life. This Is Most Certainly True."**

Conclusion: And So **Katie....** On This Day You Are Commissioned And Installed Into A Noble And Godly Profession: A Teacher In A Lutheran School. Never Forget What Paul Tells You In Philippians 4: 8: **Whatever Is True, Whatever Is Honorable, Whatever Is Just, Whatever Is Pure, Whatever Is Lovely, Whatever Is Commendable, If There Is Any Excellence, If There Is Anything Worthy Of Praise, Think About These Things"**. This Is Your Calling: Teaching Your Students Those Things That Will Prepare Them To Be Good And Productive Citizens Of The United States Of America...And Especially Teaching Them About Jesus Who Will Make Them Good And Productive Citizens Of The Kingdom Of God.... Now In This Life..... And Forever In That Life To Come. God Bless You To That End **Katie**. Amen.