

August 12, 2009

Dear Grace and Glory congregation:

Even as we look to the important step of engaging the services of an architectural firm (see enclosed letter from Frits Geurtsen), at the same time we continue to focus our energy in the direction of growing as the people of God and doing the ministry which Christ calls us to do through the Word. An important step in the life of our congregation is underway. We have registered as a congregation in the “Book of Faith Initiative” in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. What does this mean?

The Book of Faith initiative is a movement of the whole church to renew its embrace of scripture for the sake of God’s mission in the world. We are striving to be intentional about facilitating a sustained encounter with the Bible in worship, personal study, group study, and devotional life. Here are just some of the ways we are seeking to lift up the Word in the coming weeks and months:

- Each week we’ll have a memory verse in the bulletin, which is a sentence or two from one of the weekly readings which highlights a theme of worship. This memory verse will be in a place in the bulletin that will be easy to tear off and keep with you all week, to give you strength and inspiration.
- On Sunday, August 30, we will dedicate a “pulpit Bible” for use in worship. This large-print Bible will be a visible reminder of the presence of God’s word in our midst. We will also, over time, be phasing out printing the scripture readings in the bulletin. There are two primary reasons for this. First, we want to encourage the congregation to hear the Word spoken by the lay reader or pastor. Secondly, we want to encourage our members to bring their Bibles to church, and to become familiar with where the passages are written in Scripture.
- Educational opportunities abound. On Sunday, August 30 at 9:15 am, Virginia Synod Bishop Jim Mauney will lead a session for Adults and Senior High youth on the value and excitement of being rooted in God’s Word. Then, the first three weeks in September, adults will focus on Sunday mornings on “Rediscovering the Book of Faith.” Senior High youth will also be engaging in an overview of the Bible, and how it has come to be the book of faith for Christians. Then, both adults and Senior High youth will begin by exploring the stories of the book of Genesis.
- We will be ordering more copies of the “Christ in Our Home” daily devotional booklets. This resource will be made available to each household at worship. Twenty-five of our households are already using this resource for devotions. We will hand out more copies of this quarterly publication that it may be an aid in the devotional lives of our members.

This is just the beginning of our journey of deepening our encounter with the living Word of God. Your ideas and feedback will be useful to us as we continue to explore ways of being faithful to God, whose word of truth we have come to know.

Growing in faith together,

Ken Albright
Pastor

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Book of Faith Contact