

# FOOTPRINTS

The monthly newsletter of

## Followers of Christ Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Pastor

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Dear Followers of Christ,

I'd like to begin this month's newsletter by reflecting on and celebrating the growth I've seen at Followers of Christ during the past year. I'm blessed to have a wonderful group of volunteers who assist me in many ways. From the help I receive planning and leading worship, to the assistance I get in the office, the volunteers are instrumental to everything going smoothly. There is a growing team-oriented approach to ministry among our volunteers, for which I am very grateful. I also want to thank all the members of Council who have served faithfully, including those whose terms are ending. Thank you for serving as leaders of this congregation. And thank you to the new members of Council for agreeing to serve as leaders of this congregation.

Earlier this spring, I was honored to officiate the first wedding to be held in this building. Derek and Tammy were married here on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018, and we are blessed to welcome them as new members. Braden and Jack celebrated their Confirmation here on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Mitchell, Charlie, Olivia, and Abby all received their First Communion. I am blessed by how much I see our youth growing in faith through our Catechism, Sunday School, and Vacation Bible School programs. I am also privileged to teach the Tuesday evening Adult Bible Study Class and Adult Sunday School, which provide wonderful opportunities to learn, discuss, and grow in faith together. For me, highlights of the past year included reading and discussing C.S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters* during Bible Study, teaching Catechism, and watching and discussing the "Living Generously" videos during worship and Adult Sunday School.

Part of my mission as a pastor is to build up the members of the Body of Christ. For me, that starts here in our own congregation, Followers of Christ. Through my preaching, teaching, and pastoral care, I am dedicated to building up the members of this congregation, which is part of the Body of Christ. I see the body being built up here as members serve one another, grow in faith together, and enjoy fellowship with each other. I also see the Body of Christ being built up as we reach out, show hospitality, and support the ministry of Young Life. Young Life appreciates our ministry partnership,

and I know our congregation does too.

There are certainly challenges our congregation faces at this time as well. We mourn the first death of a member of this congregation, Roger, even as we rejoice that he is with his Savior. We walk with his family during this time of grief.

We are challenged to discern what the church's mission is in this community. We are challenged to grow by looking outward, forming relationships with others, and inviting them to church. I'd like to see the Council and I lead an initiative to figure out where people are moving into the Plainfield community. In other words, where are the people living who are new to town? Can we be the church that welcomes our new neighbors, asks them if there's anything we can pray for, and then invites them? Through prayer and the leading of the Holy Spirit, can we discern what part of the Body of Christ God intends this congregation to be? Rather than try to be something we're not meant to be, can we become that part of the Body of Christ that God wants us to be?

During this upcoming year, my hope and prayer is that we'll see these challenges as opportunities for ministry – for growing into that part of the Body of Christ that God would have us be. And we'll continue to celebrate the growth that God is already bringing, both in us and through us.

Thanks be to God!

Pastor Brad