

Do you want to strengthen your child's faith?

My last rumination was on a snow day. This time we are dealing with an ice week. For whatever reason Kansas City does not handle ice or snow very well. We should probably just cancel school on any day where temperatures are below twenty degrees. Anyway...

I listened to a sermon the other day and was struck by the pastor and his commentary regarding Romans 10:17 **"Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard from the word of Christ."** The pastor's message emphasized that we must be engaged in the Word of God in order for our faith to grow. Church, Sunday Bible study, and personal devotions are all ways to hear the Word. We cannot grow in faith separate from the Word. OK, I get it. I believe we all believe in the Word of God. So my question is this, **why don't more people send their children to Lutheran schools?** This has been somewhat of a perplexing question throughout my forty year career in Lutheran education. If faith comes from hearing the Word, then why would parents intentionally remove their children from faith strengthening opportunities?

We have many a fine public school system in our country, but that education is limited. Despite the Christian men and women who teach in these schools, the law prohibits them from sharing their faith. The law forbids the use God's Word as a foundation for living a life. In fact, non-Christian schools often teach children that they can find or create truth apart from Christ and the Bible because the school does not teach that absolute truth exists. This can be a devastating way for children to begin to think and reason. We are commanded to align ourselves with God's truths, not create our own or follow the world. Romans 12:2 **"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."**

We know there are fake news outlets and stories. We also need to caution ourselves from accepting a twisted world view on education. Bigger is not necessarily better, and shiny is not necessarily better....but then, again free is free. I once heard a parent tell his child "You can attend the local public school, but if you mess up, I will put you in Lutheran High." There is faulty reasoning at its best(or worst). Lutheran schools are not a punishment, rather a reward. Love your children enough to immerse them in Christ's love and forgiveness each and every day

The one universal aspect of Lutheran education is its intentional dedication to the Word of God. In all of our grade schools we find a rich tradition of the teaching of the Bible. In nearly every Lutheran High school the Old Testament and New Testament are the foundation classes of a religion curriculum. Students and teachers alike discuss matters of our world from a Biblical perspective. Students are emboldened to put on "the whole armor of God" as they battle in a sinful world. We do not shy away from the world, rather we embrace it through Jesus' own words in John 10:10 **"I came that you may have life, and have it to the full."**

I am proud of Lutheran schools and their dedication to teaching God's Word in all its truth and purity. This is not only what our children need, but this is what we all need in order for faith to grow. The world will always be flawed with sinfulness. However, we have been given the answer, the truth. You and I know faith begins and ends with God's Word. Check out your local Lutheran School and acknowledge the priority of hearing the Word. A guaranteed life-changing event.