

Pentecost 12 2020 - Worship Devotional
Isaiah 51:1-6 Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20

Keys for Life

"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. And whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." **Matthew 16:19**

When I first arrived at FAITH Lutheran, I met up with Pastor Berkedal and his son, James as they were preparing to move everything out of the Pastor's study.

That day we walked the entire campus, as the Pastor deftly took the keys and opened every room, and closet so it seemed at the time. There were codes to punch into the security stations and some keys had to be placed in the keyhole in just the right way for the doors to open.

When I returned in a week or so to begin as the Interim Pastor, I took the keys that had been left for me, and soon discovered that I had no idea which key went where, let alone all of the combinations of keys that would be required to open the doors. Some doors opened easily, others I had to learn the jingle, the hold, the right way to access the keyhole. A lot of doors remained closed and so I found the key box in the Pastor's study, and opened it to find at least a hundred keys, some labeled, many simply filling the box leaving me wondering what door they might open.

There is a life parable in this ministry of transition, and the keeper of the keys.

This week our gospel meets up with Peter once more, and this time he will be lauded for his **"great faith"**. Unlike his experience when he sank into the Sea of Galilee, even as he was beacons by Jesus to take that great leap of faith, to get out of the boat. This time is different, as Jesus asks Peter, *"Who do people say that I am?"* With a little coaching from the other disciples, Peter comes up with a great response. *"You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."* It was and remains a great statement of truth, a confession of faith that inspires and leads us as the people of faith.

That statement becomes the **"Key for Life"**, for Peter, the disciples and the countless Christians who have followed Jesus, confessing, and proclaiming Jesus as the giver of life, forevermore.

Opening to the "Keys of Life" in Jesus Christ is not always easy. Like the many doors that I encountered around Faith Lutheran, some had to be tested with multiple keys, some had to be left for another day, and later to be pursued, some doors even needed to be repaired when an old key was found to be broken inside. And some keys have never worked, and some doors have not been opened, but not for want and effort in trying.

So, what am I trying to say?

First, as we continue to move through this transitional time in our church be attentive to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and the "Keys of Life" found only in Jesus. Second, take a good look inside and around, and ask yourself what kind of "key" have you been, and what kind of key would you like to be, and, what are the doors that will need to be opened for the future of your fellowship at FAITH.

With faith in Christ,
Pastor Dave Beard