Pastor’s pen,

What difference does faith make? How would your life be different if you had no faith in God?

The Westminster Shorter Catechism (WSC) deals with that question by directing us to the work God the Holy Spirit in our lives in Q/A 29-38.

First, the catechism says that the Holy Spirit creates faith. In other words, “faith” is not something you muster up; it is something you are given that then unites you to Jesus. In Revelation 3:20, Jesus says, “I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in.” But how do we open the door of our hearts to Jesus? By the Holy Spirit creating faith in our hearts.

Secondly, when we have this faith and are united to Jesus, we are “justified” – that is, declared to be right, holy, and just in God’s eyes. In justification, it’s like Jesus’ perfect and infinite bank account is applied to our own bankrupt books.

But the work of the Holy Spirit doesn’t stop there! Thirdly, the Spirit continues to work in our lives, transforming us in the here and now. This process is called sanctification (or, “becoming holy.”) In “justification,” God declares us to be righteous and just. In “sanctification,” the Holy Spirit begins to make holiness and justice actual, living realities in our lives.

In the late 1800s, the Chicago River was a shallow, sluggish sewer for the entire city, including the Union Stock Yards. Residents called it “The Stinking River” and “Bubbly Creek.” All this corruption flowed into Lake Michigan – the source of the city’s drinking water! Near a hundred thousand Chicagoans died from typhoid and cholera.

Finally, the city took action in 1900. Engineers dug 28 miles of canals (moving more earth than the makers of the Panama Canal), installed locks and gates. Then, on January 2, 1900, (cont.)
a worker opened a sluice gate at Lake Michigan, and the entire Great Lakes flowed into the Chicago River, pushing it a direction it had never flowed. They reversed the flow of the Chicago River. It now flows the opposite way: from Lake Michigan down into the Mississippi, bringing with it a huge flow of fresh, clean water.

There’s a similar principle at work in our relationship with God: the Holy Spirit reverses the flow of the human soul. Instead of the shallow, sluggish, diseased waters of human brokenness, the Spirit opens the sluice gates of transformation. Through the Spirit, we day-by-day become the people God has always intended us to be.

The process of sanctification continues throughout our lives and is completed in our own death and resurrection – when we are completely done with sin and raised up into new, perfect, and everlasting life.

Questions for Reflection:
- How did the Holy Spirit create faith in your life?
- What does it mean to you that you are “justified”?
- Are you making progress in becoming more holy?

Scriptures for Reflection:
- Ephesians 2:8-9
- Romans 6:1-23

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Andrew

Next Month: WSC Questions & Answers 39-62

Catechism Questions & Answers 29-38

Q29. How are we made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ?
A29. We are made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ, by the effectual application of it to us by his Holy Spirit.

Q30. How doth the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?
A30. The Spirit applies to us the redemption purchased by Christ, by working faith in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.

Q31. What is effectual calling?
A31. Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.

Q32. What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life?
A32. They that are effectually called do in this life partake of justification, adoption and sanctification, and the several benefits which in this life do either accompany or flow from them.

Q33. What is justification?
A33. Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

Q34. What is adoption?
A34. Adoption is an act of God's free grace, whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges of, the sons of God.

Q35. What is sanctification?
A35. Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

Q36. What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption and sanctification?
A36. The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption and sanctification, are, assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, increase of grace, and perseverance therein to the end.

Q37. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?
A37. The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately pass into glory; and their bodies, being still united to Christ, do rest in their graves till the resurrection.

Q38. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?
A38. At the resurrection, believers being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment, and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity.
We’ve Got Mail

Thank you for all the prayers, cards and flowers while I’m recovering from knee surgery. I feel blessed to be a member of this church family. A special thank you to Pastor Andrew for his calls and support.

Donna Pietz

Thank you deacons for the colorful poinsettia. It really brightened up my front room for the Holidays and I’ve really enjoyed it.

Sincerely,
Ruth Winter

Thank you Deacons for the beautiful plant and visits. It is appreciated.

Marilyn Rogers

Dear Church Family,

My heartfelt thank you for the plant, church news and visits. It is so good to be remembered!

Happy New Year!

Kathleen Amundson

Greetings! To all and a special thanks to the Deacons for the beautiful poinsettia and also the nice visits by those who bring the cd’s. It is much appreciated. Best wishes to all at First Presbyterian, have a wonderful New Year 2017!

Lorraine Jacobson

Connecting Cultures met Jan 21st for sharing of faith by singing, eating and praying together.

Per Capita Tax for 2017 is $28.80

Coborn Rewards! If you are not using the rewards, please use the church phone number and the church will benefit. Coborn receipts due Feb. 1st.

The months of Nov., Dec. Jan

February Celebrations

Birthdays: Lila Bawdon 85, Helen Clark 88, Norma Bonnes 93, Marilyn Rogers 92, Roland Amick 91
Sunday School begins @ 9:10am
3yrs-K, 1st-3rd, 4th & 5th, 6th-8th, 9th-12th & 2 Adults Classes.
Worship at 10:30
Men’s Prayer Breakfast  The men meet for breakfast the
1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 8:00 am at the Plains for
breakfast.  Sweetheart breakfast, open to anyone, Feb-
ruary 19th.

Wednesday Activities
Praise Team meets at 5:10  Choir at 6:30
K—8th grade, Senior Highs meet for
a meal at 6:00 pm.

February  1 Early release, Movie
          8 Family Time, Bible Study, Worship Arts/Rec
          15 Family Time, Bible Study, Worship Arts/Rec
          22 Family Time, Bible Study, Worship Arts/Rec
March    3 Ash Wednesday.  Attend service as a group
          Parents welcome

Covenant Group will meet February 15 at 11:00
Circles meet the 2nd Thursday February 9
Hope Circle at 9:30 am – Fellowship hall
Joy Circle at 1:30 pm Fellowship Hall

Bible Study  A non-denominational Bible Study meets weekly
at 9:30 am.  All are welcome

Camp Promo
Jason Wiedrich, the camp director
for camps Rimrock and Pioneer
will be here on
Wednesday February 15th to
discuss camp with youth and
adults.  Camp is not just for our
youth, it is for ALL ages of our congregation.  Two upcoming
camps for adults are:
“Unplug”  March 17-19 (a women’s retreat)
“Led into the Wilderness: How faith is forged in wild
places”  April 28-30 (a men’s retreat)
Elementary Camp at Rimrock, June 11-16 kicks off the
Youth camps.
There are many camps in which to participate, as a youth, an
adult and a family.  Additional information is available on the
bulletin board in the East Room.

Members of all ages are invited to attend his promo
at 7:15 on February 15.

Dawn Meink
CE Director
Camp Commission and Faith For-
mation member
Robert Brooks was born in Rapid City and lived in Hot Springs, where he graduated from high school. His mother, Sundae, and stepfather, Jody Stone, live in Hot Springs where he is a meat cutter in a Deli. Alyssa, Robert's younger sister, and her son also live there. After graduation he went to various colleges. He went to Westminster Presbyterian College in MN to become a youth pastor. He then went to Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in MN. He additionally worked for Camp Rim Rock in Rapid, the High School in Hot Springs, at a restaurant, and as the Youth Pastor at the Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Sabrena was born to Alan and Brenda Schmidt in Huron. Both parents work for Jensen's Inc. Her sister, Tabitha, is currently attending Northern St. University in Aberdeen majoring in Musical Education. Sabrena has always been involved with the church. A few of the examples are Logos, played the bells, did substitute teaching, and helped with the children's music. After graduating from high school she attended Northern State University in Aberdeen, receiving a degree in Education and Music. She taught Kindergarten at Buchanan School in 2015 and this year she's is teaching 1st Grade there. She plans to get her Masters.

Robert and Sabrena met when both were working for the summer camp in Rapid City. They were engaged for a year and were married in 2015. They then moved to Huron where both are employed. Robert has worked at Don't Spill the Beans, as a substitute teacher, and now is a Special Education Paraprofessional. serving the students with physical needs.

On September 18, 2016 Ezekiel Brooks was born. He was Baby Jesus in the Children's Christmas Pageant at the church this year. Robert and Sabrena enjoy visiting relatives in the Hills for Thanksgiving and Christmas, and having them come here for such events as Ezekiel's baptism. Robert does miss the Hills but enjoys being a member of First Church. He has been very involved with the church. He has taught a Middle School Sunday School class and helped with the Sr. High group. He is now serving as an Elder and is on the Christian Education Committee. This summer will find both continuing to work at the camps during the summer. Robert as a Cook and Sabrena as a Camp Assistant Manager.
A Day of Sewing and Fellowship

Easy Sew Projects
Dresses, Shorts and Diapers
No Zipper---No Buttons

All for Mission including “Little Dresses For Africa”

Don’t Sew?
No problem.
We need you to cut, prepare and to help clean-up.

Saturday Feb 11
9 AM to 3:30 PM
Come for all or part of the day.
Lunch Will Be Served Around Noon

Items Needed for the Day

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<tr>
<th>New Pillow Cases</th>
<th>Scissors</th>
<th>Ribbon</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cotton Fabric</td>
<td>Pins</td>
<td>Lace &amp; trim</td>
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<tr>
<td>T-Shirts</td>
<td>Thread</td>
<td>Bias Tape</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fabric Pieces</td>
<td>Sweat Shirts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fabric (at least 18”)</td>
<td>Sewing Machines</td>
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Name(s):
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Meal Choice(s):
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Valet Parking and Child Care – Provided
Call the office (352-8789) or place this in the offering plate.

Please feel free to invite any friends or relatives to join us!

This is a fundraiser to send students to Youth Rally
Thank you for your support of the youth program

Beef Lasagna or Chicken Alfredo Lasagna
Includes vegetable, bread, salad, dessert, and beverage

Serving dinner beginning at 6:00 PM
Stay as long as you wish
Only $25/couple or $15/single

First Presbyterian Church
Sunday, February 12, 2017

Beef Lasagna or Chicken Alfredo Lasagna
Includes vegetable, bread, salad, dessert, and beverage

Serving dinner beginning at 6:00 PM
Stay as long as you wish
Only $25/couple or $15/single

Name(s):
________________________________________
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Meal Choice(s):
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________________________________

Valet Parking and Child Care – Provided
Call the office (352-8789) or place this in the offering plate.

Please feel free to invite any friends or relatives to join us!

This is a fundraiser to send students to Youth Rally
Thank you for your support of the youth program
To: The family and friends of Peggy Lindblad Mueller,
The family and friends of Shawn Thelen

Military Personnel and families
President Trump
Government Officials
Prison Inmates
Military Personnel & families
Assisted Living, Nursing Homes & Home Bound
SunQuest Village: Kathleen Amundson, Shirley Fullerton, Mary Haley, Lorraine Jacobson, Idel McDonald, Eva Vilhauer
Violet Tschetter: June Larsen, Ruth Herzberg
StoneyBrook Suites: Darlene Olson, Madelyn Nickelson
SunQuest Healthcare Center: Henry Sievers
Out-of-Town Nursing Homes: Jill Baker
Courtyard Apts: Marilyn Rogers, Ruth Winter
Home Bound: Mahalia Connell

+++++ Attendance +++++

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>01/03/16</td>
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<td>01/10/16</td>
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<td>01/17/16</td>
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<td>01/24/16</td>
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<td>01/31/16</td>
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Elder of the Month: Mike Kopfmann
Deacon of the Month: Ken Shoultz

Volunteers for Prayer Chain

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<tr>
<td>Greg &amp; Donna Hepper 352-3621</td>
<td>Frances Langbehn 352-4079</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vi Magness 352-5377or 8759</td>
<td>Bev Erdahl 352-4746</td>
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<td>Sue Gose 352-8104</td>
<td>Marlene Gambar 352-5219</td>
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<td>Cam Galliger 352-4928</td>
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<td>Mona Kotas 352-9517</td>
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<td>Brad Magness 352-9545</td>
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To join a prayer chain, please call the church office.

Members
Anonymous
Charles (Al) Katz
Lisa Hepper
Ron Hastings
Ron Reed
JoLynne Parmely
Linda Marcus
Madelyn Nickelson

Craig & Bonnie Atkins
Devyn Balster
Roger Bierstedt
Michaela Biel (Dick & Pam Biel’s daughter-in-law)
Kim Crump (Galliger’s daughter)
Lonna Guffin (friend of David Hook)
Larry Claypool (Renea Katz’s father)
Arbadella Huber (Dick Biel’s aunt)
...

Prayer Ministry

Marilyn Schiekoff (Phyllis Lemke’s sister)
Phyllis Schmidt (Alan’s mother)
Sonnie Schimke (grandson of Merle Schimke)
Patricia (Arth) & Louie Timp (friends of Ron & Sharon Hastings)
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<td>Men’s Sweetheart Prayer Breakfast</td>
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