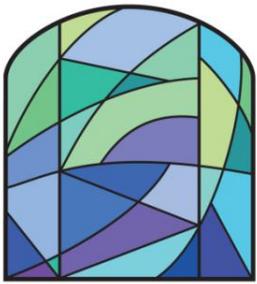


# Leadership



## Pastor's Corner

It's true. Following Jesus is hard. I am saying this in spite of Jesus saying 'his yoke is easy, his burden light' (Matthew 11: 28-30). Many songs we sing call us to follow Jesus and to let Jesus guide us, but what does that mean for you and me?

I was baptized in the parsonage of a country church south of Merrill, Wisconsin. My great uncle was the Pastor. My grandparents and Aunt were my sponsors and along with my parents and the Pastor's wife, were present that day. The Holy Spirit was there too, in the cold splash of water taken from the ceremonial bowl on the dining room table, and in the words spoken by Pastor. The certificate recalling my baptism sits locked in a safe deposit box at Chelsea State Bank. I saw it the other day as I pulled out my birth certificate in order to renew my driver's license and qualify for a 'Real ID' silver star in its upper right-hand corner. My baptism certificate is actually more of a booklet than a sheet of paper, folded, stapled with a little cord and a tassel, it includes bible verses that reminded my parents that I am a child of God, created for a purpose – to love God and to love those around me.

But I don't need to see my baptismal certificate to remember that I am a child of God and am called to live for Christ daily. Neither do you. Some call this kind of living 'walking wet'. What does it look like for us to wake up each day, remembering we belong to God and to a family of faith, and then walking 'wet' throughout our day?

- It means bookending our days in prayer
- It means seeking to know God's will for our walk each day, realizing that our LORD and the Holy Spirit have worked as an advance team preparing the path before us
- It means we sacrifice, putting others first at times, responding to other's needs as we are made aware of them too

*We love, John says, because God first loved us (1Jn 4:19).* We walk the walk, endure challenges, even make sacrifices, because we want to live like Jesus.

Do you look for opportunities to love your neighbor? Do you stand up for those being excluded, against injustice? Do you look behind the smile of someone you greet at the library, a restaurant or in church and see the pain, the loneliness, the need for a friend? Are you willing to be that friend? These are just a few examples of living like Jesus, rather than living the way the world calls us to live.

Following Jesus is hard. But the yoke of sin that we carry is an even greater burden. Maintaining the excuses for why we shouldn't help the homeless man on the street; our continued unwise use of our resources (time, financial, talents, and more); sustaining the shame and blame we carry and casting it upon others so we feel better about our own situation; seems an easy path, but the long-term result will be disastrous.

Jesus' burden is not only light weight-wise, it's literally light – as in the light of life. We are born and baptized to be the bearers of the light of Christ. To do this we need to practice the characters or values we are learning about during Lent – practice being courageous, practice endurance, practice living into God's vision for you and the world, practice a disciplined life, practice compassion, bear sacrifices you make for others with a smile. Practice walking wet each and every day.

Live WET, Love BIG,  
*Pastor Kathy*