

Sisters and Brothers:

What do we want for our children? What do we, St. Timothy, want for our children?

That question became important to me shortly after I came to St. Timothy in April of this year. A request from the Church Council to help with some remaining confirmation classes triggered the question. Ever since, the question has been in the forefront of my mind.

What **do** we want for our children?

To begin to address the question, I assembled three dedicated ladies who work with our youth and then some twelve sets of parents of junior high youth. Together they gave me input based upon an historical reading of what Confirmation Ministry has sought since the Reformation.

Among the top twelve priority goals that St. Timothy parents felt strongest about are the following:

1. Bring the child into the presence of the living Christ.
2. Enable them to know and understand what they are confessing and to be able to confess their faith.
3. Equip them to live with the Lord intelligently.
4. Explore the significance of Christianity for life situations.
5. Develop the regular practice of personal Bible reading and prayer.
6. Guide them into becoming whole persons – blending emotions, understandings, actions and human will.

To achieve those goals is a challenge of high order. Yet, they are fully worthy of our effort and resolve. In fact, we might ask ourselves: “What else do we exist for?”

It has been said that the measure of a people is what they do with and for the youngest and oldest. Of course, what happens for all those in between is critical to making good on a promise as high minded as the goals stated above.

My hope for St. Timothy, at this moment in history, is that they will take advantage of the opportunity that is presented in the **“21 Days of Renewal”** and in the **Sunday morning season** that lies before us.

In Christ,

Pastor Dean Hunneshagen