

We live by faith, not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7)

I have done this particular faith activity with a number of groups, most recently at 1G. I have the participants pair off with one of them being blindfolded. The partner that can see then guides the “blind” partner through a maze of obstacles that I have pre-arranged. The key rule is that the seeing partner can not touch the blind partner. The guidance comes only through voice directions.

As I watch the blind participants, I have noticed few things that say a lot about our faith in Jesus:

(1) **They are very tentative.** The ones who can not see take very small, baby steps. They do not run, rather they are very careful and listen; which is complicated by the fact that there are other people; other voices out there. Trying to decide whom to really listen to can be tricky, especially when someone like me is trying to cause chaos for them.

(2) **There is a certain amount of fear.** The blind participants walk with their arms outstretched and sometimes waving wildly. Not knowing what to expect can be scary. The blind participants desperately want to “live by sight” so they can decide how to handle the obstacles themselves instead of waiting for their guide to tell them how to handle it. It is hard to be in the passenger seat.

(3) **There is a certain amount of distrust.** Some people at the beginning are very hesitant to participate because they do not want to get hurt. They are thinking right off the bat that they will trip or bang their shin into something even though their guide is supposed to do everything they can to prevent that. And, after I couple bumps, the trust level drops even more.

(4) **Success is eventually achieved despite running into obstacles.** The blind participants generally run into something because they either did not trust their guides, did not listen carefully enough, or took matters into their own hands. But in the end, they do make it through the maze.

It is a difficult thing to live by faith and not by sight. We are creatures who like to be in control. We want to be the ones to size up the situation and decide for ourselves what to do. We think we know what is best. But what we fail to realize is that we cannot see the whole picture...only God can, and thus we do not know what is best. We may run into obstacles from time to time. We may get banged up

from time to time. We may stray off the path, but in the end, God is faithful and will bring us through.

As a church we need to remember to live by faith and not by sight. Let us not become overly fearful of situations and circumstances when we can not see the whole picture ourselves. This does not mean we just sit back and wait for God to do something, it just means we should not grab the steering wheel and attempt to drive ourselves.

Let us lift our prayers to God and place our trust in him. After all, this ministry here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church does not belong to us, but to God. Let us take that bold step of faith, trusting in God's faithfulness. Let's live by faith and not by sight and see what God has in store for us. Amen.