



## JOURNEY OF *Faith*

***For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and bestows his riches upon all who call upon him. 13 For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Joel 2:32)***

***14 But how are they to call upon him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? 15 And how can men preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news!” 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel; for Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” 17 So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ. Romans 10:12-17***

One of my predecessors at Trinity was a pastor by the name of G.E. Melchert. I consider him to be one of the very best of the pastors who has ever served in the state of Iowa in any of the denominations....really great in the pulpit (he founded Christian Crusaders with the first broadcast on Sept. 6 of 1936, the date of Marilyn's birth and led that broadcast for many years ), an excellent administrator (he took Trinity with a large building debt through the Depression), a trusted pastoral counselor, a loved family man....a churchman in the best sense of the word. He was much loved.

G.E.'s father was E.G. Melchert. We have noted that E.G. served as pastor here at St. John's from 1924 to 1927....his picture is with the other pastors in the historical display in the narthex on page three, the first folder in. I think that G.E. (the son) would have been a young pastor at that time (I think in Spring Valley, MN.), which was shortly before he came to Trinity.

If I were to ask you if you were a Christian, I strongly suspect that most of you would respond that you are. And you would be correct.

If you have been baptized and if you affirm and claim the standard, normal,

orthodox, classic, catholic Christian faith, you may be identified and you may identify yourself as Christian.

So how do you stay a Christian? One of my very favorite quotations comes from the younger Melchert and we use it often. G.E. Melchert wrote in reflecting on the above Romans 10 text: **“A person may hear the Word of God without believing the Word, but a person cannot believe without hearing.”**

I would contend on that basis that if we want to keep on declaring that we are Christian and would want to go on being the same, that people at St. John’s will have to continue to do the same things they heard about almost 100 years ago: to hear the Word and be about the business of proclaiming, preaching, teaching and living the same.

What do you think and believe about that?

We love you all. God bless us all.

Pastor T.