

Thursday - April 10

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2 (NIV)

This school year, I decided to step outside of my comfort zone and accept a student teacher into my classroom. Many of you are very aware that handing over control is a challenge for me, but the experience is going very well for both me and my student teacher.

The experience also caused me to reconnect with my mentor teacher from my student teaching fifteen years ago. There are so many parts of my teaching style that I have showed my student teacher this year, and I now realize many of them contain elements of what I learned from my mentor teacher...some of which she likely learned from HER mentor teacher.

Faith works the same way. While we often think of faith as the connection directly between each of us and God, faith also involves, and is greatly impacted by, our connection with others. My faith has been shaped by the faith of many mentors, who were impacted by the faith of their mentors. In answering the call to serve in youth ministry, it is my hope that I can "pay it forward" for everyone who impacted my faith by helping the development of faith in the next generation of our church.

I invite you to take time to reflect on, and give thanks for, the members that have helped you grow in your faith over the years. Ponder further on those who had a positive impact on the faith of your mentors, those who mentored those mentors, so on and so forth...and then consider how God may be nudging you to help foster that same growth in others to keep our church flourishing for the next 200 years.

Drew Thiele

Prayer: Ever-knowing and ever-present God, I give thanks to everyone whose paths you led to cross mine during our walks of faith with you. Thank you for the mentors who embodied your grace toward me, taught me of your love for us, and nudged me when I was stuck in my faith. Continue to open my heart and mind so that I may continue to grow in my own faith, and guide me so that I can honor my mentors by helping others grow in their faith. All honor and glory be yours. Amen.