



**CENetwork Board:**

Rev. Juli Lejman-Guy  
President  
[CENpresident@faithfulteaching.org](mailto:CENpresident@faithfulteaching.org)  
Ohio

Terri Robertson  
Secretary-Historian  
[terri.robertson62@gmail.com](mailto:terri.robertson62@gmail.com)  
California

Teresa Kaldor  
Financial Secretary  
[kaldor.teresa3@gmail.com](mailto:kaldor.teresa3@gmail.com)  
California

Julie Hestermann  
Member at Large  
[j.hestermann@sheridanlutheran.org](mailto:j.hestermann@sheridanlutheran.org)  
Nebraska

Diane McGeoch  
Member at Large  
[dmcgeoch@juno.com](mailto:dmcgeoch@juno.com)  
Idaho

Janet Renick  
Coordinator for Membership  
[CENcoordinator@faithfulteaching.org](mailto:CENcoordinator@faithfulteaching.org)  
Florida

Judy Twist  
Social Media Coordinator  
[judy3927@gmail.com](mailto:judy3927@gmail.com)  
Illinois

**Contact Information:**

Office:  
P.O. Box 9304  
Rochester, MN 55903

Website:  
[www.faitfulteaching.org](http://www.faitfulteaching.org)

*"...that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love..."*  
Colossians 2.2 (NIV)

Dear friends,  
It is always interesting to pay attention to reoccurring themes.

***In 2009 Simon Sinek wrote a book entitled Start with Why. It remains one of my favorite books to study with congregation leaders. Here's how Simon Sinek expresses his WHY: "To inspire people to do the things that inspire them so that, together, we can change our world."***

So, what is your WHY?

A few weeks ago, I participated in an Innovators Academy through our Synod. Part of the presentation focused on knowing our why. I was reminded of a clip by Michael Jr entitled: *Know Your Why* (<https://youtu.be/1ytFB8TrkTo>). In the video, Michael Jr., a comedian, takes a break to talk with the audience. He asks a music teacher to sing *Amazing Grace*. The teacher does an impressive job. Then Michael Jr. asks the teacher to sing but gives a setting. The teacher sings a much different version when knowing his WHY.

So, what is your WHY?

It is easy to lose track of our WHY. It is easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle we forget our WHY. In 2017, Sinek co-wrote another book: *Find Your Why: A Practical Guide for Discovering Purpose for You and Your Team*. Your WHY Statement should be:

- simple and clear
- actionable
- focused on how you'll contribute to others, and
- expressed in affirmative language that resonates with you
- powerful and short

The book provides us with a simple format to use as we draft our WHY Statement:

To \_\_\_\_ so that \_\_\_\_.

The first blank represents your contribution that you make to the lives of others through your WHY. And the second blank represents the impact of your contribution.

So, what is your WHY? And once you know your WHY, I encourage you to repeat this exercise with each of your leaders and your ministry team.

It is easy to get side tracked; especially during this year of Covid. It is easy to get overwhelmed with things that may be important but not our important things. If we know our WHY, we can reset and re-evaluate those things on our to-do list. If we know our WHY, we can let go of those things that distract us.

I must confess that I have scrapped my Confirmation program this year. Yes, we have a road map. We have the usual lessons we know are important. But, I have also listened to our youth.

As a result, the Confirmation Class has applied for a Microgrant through our Synod. The WHY is to connect generations (and re-connect those who have stepped away from the church family) so that we can build relationships.

The way we are going to accomplish this is through play.

Our daycare will play with the residents of the neighboring nursing care center. Our middle and senior high students will play with the daycare children and the residents of the nursing care center. In the fall, our youth will host a monthly pancake breakfast for the local high school students. And, because we are located on a highway with no sidewalks, we will take the games and lunch to the park this summer.

So, what is your WHY?

Even if you know the answer, take some time to spend in and with your WHY. Your WHY can change. The methods in which you live and love in your WHY may change. But the good news of the Easter proclamation is "Christ is risen" – and that will never change. Thanks be to God!

Blessings on your journey,  
The Rev. Juli Lejman-Guy, President