

FaithBIT



Reunited-Faith and Friendship

Reflection by Marc Beyer

(Marc and Eric are pictured both then, and now!)

God sometimes has a funny way of reuniting people.

My dad is a (now retired) Lutheran Pastor. He graduated from Luther Seminary in 1973 and began his first call at Lakeview Lutheran Church in Madison, Wisconsin shortly thereafter.

After arriving at Lakeview, he soon met Rev. Paul Lovstrand. Paul, too, was fresh out of the Seminary, and was serving at a 2-point Lutheran Parish in nearby Marxville, Wisconsin. During Seminary, Paul had served his internship at Lakeview, so Paul had connections to Lakeview as well. This is how my dad and Paul met.

As new pastors, my dad and Paul became fast friends. So, too, did their wives. Paul's son, Eric, was born in 1974, and I was born in 1975. My dad and Paul soon began moving to different churches throughout Wisconsin. But our families remained close friends. We got together as often as we could. Every time we got together it was as if we had never been apart. We always had a great time when we got together. The laughs never stopped. (The first-generation Beyer and Lovstrand families alternate hosting New Year's Eve get-togethers to this day).

The kids got older and life took us in different directions. I eventually settled in Eden Prairie with my family and joined Immanuel. Years later, I learned that Eric and his wife Julie and daughter Ellie had moved to Minnetonka and were looking for a church.

I encouraged Eric to check out Immanuel, and he did. The rest is history! Eric and his family joined the church, and now we see them all the time. We even sometimes perform together musically (Eric in the choir and me with the brass).

What started out as a friendship when we were both in diapers in Madison, Wisconsin continues to this day at Immanuel! Thanks be to God!