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A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE TAPROOT CLUB



## Rev. Dr. Patrick Ferry

Author and President of  
Concordia University Wisconsin  
Featured at Taproot Dinner Event

Next fall's annual Taproot Dinner Event has a special guest presenter. The Reverend Dr. Patrick Ferry, President of Concordia University, WI, will be talking about his new book, *Faith in the Freshman: A Story of Hopes and Hoops*.

Storytelling with a sense of humor are Dr. Ferry's way of entertaining and engaging audiences.

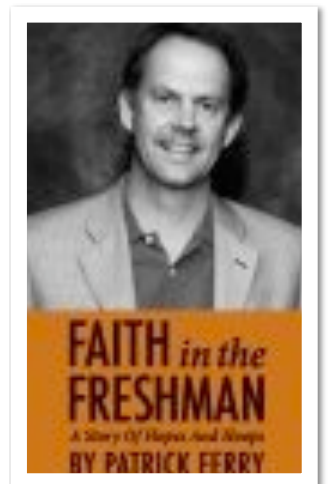
As a college president, Dr. Ferry welcomes brand new students, full of goals and ambitions, to campus each autumn. Ferry had dreams of his own, once upon a time. He enrolled as a freshman at St.

John's College with the aim of playing college basketball. Three decades later his son, Andrew, would take his shot at a similar goal.

In *Faith in the Freshman: A Story of Hopes and Hoops*, using alternating chapters, Dr. Ferry discusses his own freshman experience, at St. John's College — Winfield, which led him to become a Christian, and his son Andrew's experience as a college freshman wanting to play Division I basketball and dealing with diabetes.

Dreams don't always come true. This is not all bad. Trials and troubles off the court resulted in defeat and disappointment. Dr. Ferry will explain why he is thankful to God for these setbacks in his life. Only faith looks at a loser and sees "more than a conqueror." Only faith endures failure and trusts that "all things work together for good."

Dr. Ferry will be talking about much more than basketball. He can speak on topics from A to Z found in his recently released memoir: Athletics and Ambitions; Basketball and Basket Cases; College and Christianity; Dealing with Diabetes; Easter is Everything!; Faith and Family; God and Goals; Hopes and Hoops.... you get the idea! Plan now to join us on Wednesday evening, September 1, at the Bull In Sheboygan Falls.



# Taproot Notes from the Executive Director

Dear Taproot Club Members,

This past spring break, my family and I had the privilege to travel and vacation in the Washington, D.C. area. My two young children, Joshua and Josie, had an experience of a lifetime riding in subways, visiting monuments and museums, and seeing all that our nation's capital has to offer. (I do not think they quite understood when I told them all the money their Mommy and Daddy make from January through April ends up in this one building—the Capital. They will, unfortunately, understand this all too well someday!).

As a history major and enthusiast for studying the Founding Fathers, I also took our family to visit Thomas Jefferson's famous residence, Monticello. His home, sitting atop a beautiful hill overlooking the city of Charlottesville, VA and University of Virginia, truly was a marvel to visit and see. Today, Monticello is one of the most visited historical sites in all of the United States. My kids loved the museum and miniature, hands-on re-creation of Monticello at the Visitors Center. My wife thought the house tour, tour guide, movies, and book store were well worth the visit and trip by themselves. The visit was a very inspirational experience. I highly recommend you visit Monticello someday if you have not done so already.



As I was overlooking the Virginia landscape from Monticello, I could not help think of John Winthrop's famous sermon he gave in 1630 entitled, "A Model of Christian Charity." In this sermon, Winthrop proclaimed that the Massachusetts Bay Colony and their new community would be "a city on a hill" to be watched and emulated by all the world. President's John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan would later use the "city on a hill" saying and imagery to paint a vision of American exceptionalism.



The Sermon on the Mount  
Artist Carl Heinrich Bloch

The "city upon a hill" phrase, however, was inspired by Scripture and the parable of Salt and Light in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. In Matthew 5:14, Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden." What a Calling and challenge for us Christians!

While Lutheran High is actually at the bottom of a hill in a beautiful setting on Taylor Drive in Sheboygan, I have always viewed the school as a ministry that figuratively sits on top of a hill. Not that we are better than anyone or more elite. We can be the "city on the hill" because Christ was our Savior on the Cross.

Because of Jesus, I have always felt and believed that Lutheran High remains in a unique situation—able to touch so many lives at so many different intersecting points in the community. Moreover,



as aspiring and growing Christian leaders, our students—through their thoughts, words, and deeds—can be difference makers in all that they do and wherever they go. They can be excellent students, athletes, musicians, employees, leaders and see to it that Jesus Christ gets the credit, attention, praise, and worship. Our students can be the Christian leaders our world so desperately needs. They can share God's grace and Good News. Indeed, the Lutheran High family can be the positive, uplifting city on the hill for all of Sheboygan County.

When we talk about *Preparing Christian Leaders—One Student at a Time*, we are talking about building, by God's grace and inspiration, a city on a hill that points people to our Savior, Jesus Christ. And, as Taproot Club members, we know what a mountaintop experience that truly is for us.

Thank you for your continued support of Lutheran High. Thanks for looking up on the hill and to Christ for inspiration.

In Jesus' name,  
*Jim Pingel*

Executive Director

## Friends of Taproot Club Endowment Fund

When someone gives a donation to become a lifetime Taproot Club member, 75% of the gift is placed in the Friends of Taproot Club Endowment Fund. Thus, a lifetime membership truly keeps giving to Lutheran High's operating budget in perpetuity. Others simply make contributions (any amount) to the fund throughout the year.

For the past few years, Lutheran High has been blessed to receive a few new lifetime memberships. Some individuals have enjoyed donating and providing lifetime Taproot memberships for their loved ones. Have you considered becoming a lifetime Taproot Club member?

The earnings from the Friends of Taproot Club Endowment are used to contribute to the overall goal of the Taproot Club—which is to provide annual operating dollars for the school. The more money raised by the Taproot Club, the less tuition increases for current parents and future parents of Lutheran High. Created only four years ago, the Friends of Taproot Club Endowment Fund currently stands at \$524,019. To God be all Praise and Glory!

As always, the Lutheran High Taproot Club welcomes all contributions—both big and small—to this noble cause and fund. Thank you for supporting the Friends of Taproot Club Endowment Fund and Lutheran High as we work together to *Prepare Christian Leaders—One Student at a Time*.



## Taproot Members Please Give Us Your Input

Since its' creation, the Taproot Club has been made up of individuals, like you, who have been dedicated and committed to the specific cause of funding the operational budget of Lutheran High. From the very beginning, Taproot Club members have understood the importance of raising significant dollars to pay the bills at Lutheran High. In fact, the annual Taproot Club Dinner event has remained our second biggest fundraising event of the year (after the Dinner Auction). Lutheran High would not be here today without the Taproot Club.

Over the years, however, we have noticed that the Taproot Club membership has not increased despite our very best efforts to invite and entice new membership growth. To be frank, the younger generations, especially, do not seem to be as interested in joining organizations like the Taproot Club, perhaps they will step up in time. What can we do to be proactive and keep the Taproot Club strong and vibrant into the future? This is our question and challenge.

Thus, our hope is that you can provide some feedback and input on the future of the Taproot Club. Would you please take time to fill out the survey (below) and return it to Lutheran High (attention Jim Pingel) at your earliest convenience.

### Taproot Club Member Survey

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Which statement best sums up your feelings about the annual Taproot Dinner Event? (Circle one)**

- a). I very much enjoy and look forward to the food, fellowship, and programs of the event.
- b). I feel obligated to attend.
- c). I really do not have much interest in attending the annual event.

**2. The most important or meaningful part of the Taproot Club Dinner Event to you is:**

Rank (from 1-5, 1 being the most important, and 5 being the least important)

- \_\_\_\_\_ I like the fact that the club raises a lot of money for the operating budget of Lutheran High.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I like getting personalized updates and hearing about the school and all of the things that are happening there.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I like the food, fellowship, and different restaurants club members experience together once a year.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I like the special speakers, presenters, or entertainment that is provided at the club dinner event.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I like being a part of the history and legacy of the Taproot Club.

**3. What suggestions do you have for increasing Taproot Club membership? (Please write and explain)**

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**4. What would you be willing to do in order to help the Taproot Club move forward? (Please write your response)**

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Please return your survey to Jim Pingel at 3323 University Drive, Sheboygan, WI 53081 (or email him at [pingel@lutheranhigh.com](mailto:pingel@lutheranhigh.com)).

Thank you for your response!