

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



Rev. Justin Panzer | District President

January Devotion

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

(Colossians 3:16)

New Year. New Beginnings.

New Goals. How about “new attitudes” in the form of spiritual discipline and your presence in church attendance as well?

“O Lord, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells.” (Psalm 26:8)

“[Do not neglect] to meet together, as is the habit of some, but [encourage] one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:25)

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105)

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42)

“Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she

went up to him and said, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.” But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.” (Luke 10:38-42)

Receiving the gifts of God in Word and Sacrament matters. Prayer matters. Doing good works to the glory of God in love for Him and in service to the neighbor matters.

But most of all, sinners need Jesus. There's someone who died and rose from the dead and will never die again. He's in church every Sunday morning with His forgiveness for sinners. If you haven't been to the Divine Service in a while, don't be afraid! Your pastor and your fellow parishioners aren't waiting for you to show up so that they can gloat, “It's about time!” No! They're waiting for you to come

so they can joyfully say, “Welcome home!” If you are present every Sunday, by all means, keep it up! If you are present 1-2 times per month, strive to increase your attendance by at least one more time.

God's Word is valuable all by itself, but we pray that He would make His Word valuable for us. Psalm 119:37 reads, *“Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways.”*

“Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a Word of power and peace to convert those not yet Your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May Your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as You have promised, Your Word may achieve the purpose for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.”