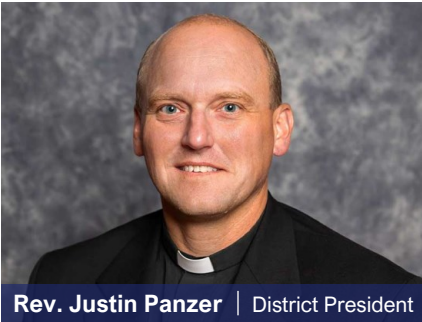


# PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



Rev. Justin Panzer | District President



"For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living."

(Romans 14:7-9)

## **Alleluia! Christ is Risen!**

Christ is concerned about our salvation. If He had not had this great care for us, there would have been no need for the incarnation. Christ took the form of a servant and died on our behalf — the sinless for the sinful. Will He now despise us after we have become His own? Not at all!

Think of the cost of our freedom. What a great price Christ has offered as a guarantee for our lives. He offered His precious blood for us. He died that we might be freed from the custody of the law. He purchased us at full price, even though we were not worthy of its enormous value.

And now that it has been given once and for all, how could you doubt the certainty of the One who offered it, or think that He would just abandon you? How could you imagine that once

purchased by so great a price that the Lord would cast off His dearly won possession? How could anyone dream that such a Shepherd would abandon the one lost sheep and stay behind with the ninety-nine? If He cares so intensely for us poor sinners, what would make us think that He would not send out messengers calling us back to the fold which He created when He died? Once the price has been paid, the Master wants to retain possession of that for which He paid the price. That's you. That's me. That's everyone!

Christ has died and Christ is risen! He is the Lord of the dead and certainly of the living. No one can snatch us out of His hand (*John 10:28-29*). We are His — the sheep of His pasture. And, He offers us the precious food of His Word and Sacrament Sunday after

Sunday. Why would we ever want to miss out on the feast that He provides? He is jealous for us. We are called to be zealous for what He gives.

### **Dear Christian friends:**

rejoice, live in, and receive frequently what the crucified and risen Christ delivers to you, now in the Divine Service for your forgiveness, life, and salvation. He has clothed you with Himself in your baptism. He feeds you with the fruits of His cross in the Supper. He gives you His precious Word of Law and Gospel. Don't take it for granted. Come and receive, for it yours now and always!

**Yes, the bodily resurrection of Christ changes everything — now and eternally. Thanks be to God for the salvation He has brought and continues to bring to us!**

*Devotions written by President Justin Panzer are the exclusive property of the LCMS Kansas District. Permission is granted to Kansas District congregations and schools to share these devotions with their members.*