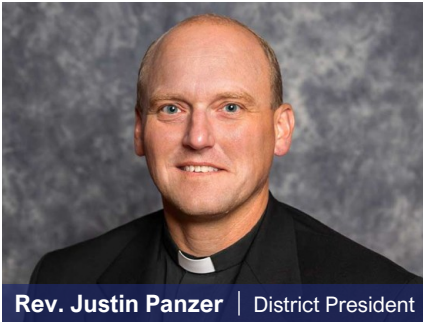


PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



Rev. Justin Panzer | District President



October Devotion

"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

(John 8:31-32)

(Part 3 of 3)

What do we now do with this Word of God? He uses us to proclaim His Word, and He Himself gives the promise that it will do exactly what it was sent forth to do. God's Word goes out for the purpose of saving. It condemns the damned sinner and brings to life those who have been crushed in their sins. What joy the forgiveness of sins brings! What peace that surpasses all human understanding. What mercy God gives to us now and forever. What privilege God has given to His baptized people, His royal priests, to proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light **(1 Peter 2:9)**! The Gospel goes out to all people, to all nations **(Matt. 28:18-20)**. God wants all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth **(1 Tim. 2:4)**. He wants us to witness the Gospel to the family member or neighbor, and the Holy Spirit will do the rest. Invite and bring them to the Divine Service, where ears hear the preaching of Christ crucified. The cross shows God's loves for us! Problems, disappointments, struggles and sin continue in this world and in our lives. But there is one truth we and our loved

ones can cling to for absolute assurance — *Matt. 24:35: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."* This same Word became flesh, lived among us, and went to the crucifixion cross to forgive our sins. And this same Word bodily rose from the dead to proclaim victory over sin, death and the devil for us and all people. By faith, Christ and His Word now live in us and we in Him.

Therefore, as we daily feed on the bread and water of life God has given us in His living and active Word, we are enabled by faith to say with Peter: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." John 6:68.

Dear friends of the LCMS Kansas District, the time of the covid pandemic is over. The time for excuses is over. **The time to plan and plant and grow is right now!** Let us be those people "abiding in the Word" to now live out and share the living Word.

To that end, we must continue to develop a better "kingdom attitude" when it comes to helping our

fellow brothers and sisters in the LCMS. To be sure, we do have active ministries helping one another out right now, to which we give thanks to God. However, so many other opportunities exist that we must be willing to have conversation about. We must actively reach out. We must actively invite. We must actively identify and do "works of mercy" in our contexts. We can't be idle and expect people to come to us. We must go to them. We certainly have a great charge in front of us — to be His priests, His baptized, His salt and light, and His body in this world.

WE PRAY: "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."

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.