

MONTLY DEVOTION



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How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?

Romans 10:14

Good News Delivered

In Christ, God has established salvation for all people. Jesus suffered and died for the sins of the world and rose again in victory over death and hell. This gift of salvation brings forgiveness of sins for all, new and eternal life, and identity and purpose.

So far, so good. But there's a problem, as St. Paul points out in *Romans 10:14*, "How are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?" In other words, what good is the Gospel to those who never hear about it?

Martin Luther addressed the same concern in the Large Catechism. "The work of redemption is done and accomplished. Christ has acquired and gained the treasure for us by His suffering, death, resurrection, and so on. But if the work remained concealed so that no one knew about it, then it would

be useless and lost." Again, what good is the Gospel to those who never hear about it?

Thankfully, God in His mercy has provided not only the gift of salvation, but also the means by which that gift is delivered and applied. God delivers His Good News through the Word of the Gospel as it is preached, taught, heard, written, and read. *"These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."* *John 20:31*

The Large Catechism explains: "So that this treasure might not stay buried, but be received and enjoyed, God has caused the Word to go forth and be proclaimed. In the Word He has the Holy Spirit bring this treasure home and make it our own." LC 3.38-39

And how does God cause the Word to go forth and be proclaimed? He sends you and me! Parents teach their children the

Christian faith. Grandparents, Sunday School teachers, Christian friends and family do the same. God also uses pastors, teachers, DCEs, and deaconesses. By these callings, the Gospel is not left concealed, but is made known so that people come to know what Jesus has done for them.

The LCMS is in dire need of more church workers. President Harrison, in his sermon at the LCMS Youth Gathering, called for a thousand young people to step forward and pursue careers in church work. Have you spoken to a young person lately about this possibility?

Check out the resources available at www.lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve.

Rev. Wehling also serves as pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lawrence.