

Dear Members and Friends of St. John Lutheran Church,

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Philippians 4:6*

Webster defines the word **anxiety** as "pain or uneasiness of mind respecting some event, future or uncertain." This seems to describe our world today rather well, especially considering the present state of our economy. Anxiety is the kind of illness that strikes people of all ages, in all levels of society.

Much of our anxiety has to do with our hectic way of life. And when we add the fact that our ethics and morals are continually battered in a misguided world, it is no wonder that many people consume pills and other medications by the boxful.

**With all this uneasiness and confusion, the Lord says to us, "Don't be anxious; don't despair. Bring all your worries, cares, and concerns to Me. Let Me carry your load!" How awesome is our God! May we let Him carry the load!**

In His love for us, God has already removed our heaviest load - our sin. And yet, some of our anxiety comes from the knowledge that **we still sin daily**, hurting our relationship with God and others. Our Lord, however, has lifted this anxiety from us, as well. The article in this issue of the Messenger, entitled "*The Answer to Your Daily Struggle*" is Martin Luther's explanation of how this could be true.

We know the outcome of Christ's passion. Jesus came into this world to take our load of sin from us and place it on Himself. Jesus came into this world to suffer and die for us. But death was not the end for Him.

When the body of Jesus was laid in the tomb, His little church seemed doomed to fade away. There were only about a dozen followers, and even the bravest one had denied Him. Then the victorious words were heard through the land: "He is risen!" It was time for Christ's followers to strike up songs of joy and triumph. The celebration of Easter is our time to thank and praise our mighty God. Each Sunday is a celebration of that moment in history, when God made all things new. The resurrection of Jesus proves everything we believe. It proves that Jesus is the Son of God. It proves that the Bible is God's Word. And, it proves that our faith is founded on fact. We need not fear the future!

Christ's suffering and death accomplished our salvation. His resurrection assures us that His promise is true. Our future is in His gracious hands. We have no need to be anxious. May we trust Him and bring our concerns to Him in prayer. He will listen, and He will act. We can count on it!

Pastor Travis