

# Eastern Mission

## Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

August 2023

Greetings of God's Peace and Blessings to each of you:

I pray that your summer has been filled with Joy. God is with us always and we can find Blessings in each day. As we come to the end of our summer months, we continue to enjoy the goodness of the season. We must always remember to see the blessings and goodness God brings to our lives each day. We find Joy in the times we have in fellowship and sharing with others. We look to our families and friends; we look within our churches and see the wonder of the presence of God with us. We can look back about a month and rejoice in the gathering of our Church Convention in New York Mills, Mn. The theme was Jesus be our Light. We thank the congregation and all those that worked so hard to have a successful and blessing filled weekend together. An amazing time of sharing God's Word and fellowship with so many in attendance.

It is so wonderful that we can reflect back at the convention and really feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in that time. We have this anticipation of attending and that excitement of knowing the fellowship and hearing of the Word we will have. As we left the convention, did we keep that same feeling and excitement as we prepare to attend our local churches on Sundays. The Holy Spirit works within us, and we have this Joy within us, the Joy that only God can bring to us. **The Joy of the Lord is our strength** it says in **Nehemiah 8/10**.

It is easy for us to let down and in our natural tendencies we will let down; that same zeal may not be fully within us. We still yearn for the sharing of the Word; we still yearn to gain the knowledge of his Word in our hearts. Attending a service, or serving the Lord is not a chore, it is bringing our faith and love for the Lord to the forefront of our lives. It is sharing what God has put in our hearts, bringing forth the good fruits of the Spirit to share with the world around us. We can be standing boldly and proclaiming the Gospel and Jesus. This is our strength and Joy, in our life of Faith. **Philippians 4/13: 13I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.**

Oh, brothers and sisters, we will grow weary at times in our lives there will even be times of hopeless feelings when we think the path, we are following should be different. We must remember, Our Father who Art in Heaven does not cause confusion in our lives. It is the enemy of the Soul, that brings doubt and question into our minds and hearts. The enemy can no longer hold us in bondage for Jesus Christ has Risen, he still lives, we are new Holy Children of God. **Isaiah 40/29: 29He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.**

We have the Power and Strength of God looking over us and guiding us. Even in weariness, we can stand strong when we have Jesus Christ. We are attacked daily in our lives by sin, temptation, and deception. This is why we walk by faith, not by sight for we will stumble and sink if we let the chaos and the storms of life distract us from keeping our eyes on Jesus. We saw that with Peter walking on the water. His eyes on Jesus and he stayed on the water, he looked to the storm and began to sink. It is by the strength and protection of Jesus that he was lifted to safety when he called out to him. That is what we read in the **23<sup>rd</sup> Psalms. 4Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.** The shadows of death cannot touch us. What a blessed assurance it is that whatever we face, Jesus walking with and guiding us.

Each day we step into our lives, be an example of holiness in your walk with the Lord and share Jesus and the Gospel. Each day see the world through the eyes of Jesus and by the Love of God.

**A reminder that the Eastern Mission sponsors a podcast called "God's Peace". It is a discussion on different Biblical and church topics. Another podcast sponsored by Apostolic Lutheran church of America is called "God's Word for Today". It is a daily reading of the weekly texts and prayers. You can find them on any podcast app, the ALC community page and Eastern Mission Facebook page. Both are wonderful to listen to; it is an opportunity to be in the Word.**

God's Grace, Mercy and Peace be with you all,

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