

# Eastern Mission

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

July 2023

“Remember now thy Creator in the day of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when you shalt say, I have not pleasure in them”. Eccl. 12:1

June has customarily been the month for Confirmation of our young people. Recently I witnessed two of our grandsons being confirmed. This is a solemn time of instruction and confession of the rudiments of our faith in the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is a time that is not to be taken lightly as it pertains to the teaching of God’s Word unto our salvation.

My confirmation 73 years ago was a beginning for me of coming to faith and salvation. I grew up during the years when church services were not held weekly as we did not have a resident pastor. Services were held for the most part at special times when a visiting minister might be passing through the area or when one could be called to hold Christmas or Easter services and when one was available to serve as a teacher for confirmation. When a minister was traveling, he often would hold services in several small congregations in rural Minnesota. We did not at that time have a Sunday School. Although my parents were believers, confirmation was my first experience to have formal training in the Ten Commandments, the Lord’s prayer, salvation by faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the Cross and the Blood of Christ. This brought peace into my heart that I was a child of God.

After confirmation, as it can happen with many children who have been confirmed, I did not continue to attend Sunday morning church services when they eventually became a regular event. God in His mercy and love did call me back by His Spirit and in His way awakened me and revealed to me that I was a sinner truly in need of His Grace and forgiveness.

It is not in our power to remain in faith and continue to remain a child of God. As Peter has written in his first epistle 1 Peter 1:5 “Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time”. 2 Peter 1:10-11 “Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure, for if you do these things ye shall never fall. For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”.

“The Holy Spirit dwells within us to guide and lead us”. 1 Thess. 5:19 “Quench not the Spirit”. “Whosoever is born of God does not commit sin, for His seed remains in him and he cannot sin because he is born of God.” 1 John 3:9

I would encourage the confirmation students to pray for the leading of the Spirit, continue to attend the hearing of the spoken Word and read the Bible. The devil wants you to find other distractions to keep you from going to church, hearing the Word and fellowshiping with other believers. Heb 10:25 “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as a manner of some is; but exhorting one another, and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching”.

May God bless all of the confirmation students of 2023.

God’s Peace,  
Donald Bisila