

## *Devotion from the past ... 2006*

### **The Way to Live**

“The way you tell me to live is always right: help me understand it so I can live to the fullest” (Psalm 119:144 MSG).

The Lord be with you.

We want our students to be lifelong learners. Many congregations operate education and care programs for very young children on up to very old, um ... children. And isn't that a blessing, especially with present-day emphasis on living longer!

It's anyone's guess why people want to live longer, though the “guess” may be more easily perceived in middle age on upward. Regardless of the guess, one can't miss society's preoccupation with longevity and the ways to reach it. Some statistics, albeit suspicious in origin, suggest that those who exercise regularly, diet with dedication, and drink lots of bottled water outlive the less fastidious by about five years. This leaves those less committed to extended life wondering how the five years rack up against time spent wheezing around a track (and going nowhere), living vicariously via the Food Channel, and lingering in washrooms (therefore increasing exposure to life threatening diseases).

Our approach to life as educators in Lutheran ministries is to focus on living to the fullest, a phrase we hear not only in Psalm 119 but also in John 10. Of course, living a full life means different things to different people. For some, it's running three miles a day; for others it's a jelly doughnut. But for all people—especially for those we teach—living life to the fullest has a common element: The way to live is to live The Way!

Jesus is the role model for every phase and facet of life. When we believe and teach this, the first implication appears Law oriented. We are drawn to Jesus' obedience model, which we never can perfectly follow. Of course, we know that Jesus' obedience was much more than a model. It was the Savior living the life the Father commanded on our behalf; we were previously doomed by our inability and our willingness not to conform to God's will. Jesus lived life to its fullest on our behalf. Lack of diet and exercise didn't end His short life. Our sins were the culprit. But now they are gone; Jesus gave us His righteousness in their place.

The way to live is to live The Way.

The way The Way lived was to love unconditionally and forgive freely. He had

authority and ability to do both, and He authorizes us to do both. May God help us teach our students, whatever their ages, to live life to its fullest.

Praise to You, Lord Christ, for filling our lives with Your love and Your power.

Pray. Dear Holy Spirit, fill us with a zest for living The Way in all that we do and say. Amen.

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*To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Phil. 4:20)*