



## Taking Faith Home January 21, 2018

My Dear Fellow Christians, The Apostle Paul writes in Romans 10:17: ***Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.*** If you have a sincere desire to grow in your faith and be strong in your faith then this promise of God is for you. When you read the Bible passages assigned below, be assured that God Himself is speaking to you. When you take to heart what God is saying to you, be further assured that the faith given to you in your Baptism is being nourished and strengthened. And so when you take this devotion outline and put it into practice, be assured that you are really:

### **TAKING FAITH HOME!**

May God richly bless you! *Pastor Dan Decker*

The following is offered as a daily discipline for your reading, study, prayer, and praise.

**I. Begin with:** *In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

**II. Confess Baptism, Part 2,** *What does Baptism give or profit?*—Answer: It works forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare. *Which are such words and promises of God?* Answer. Christ, our Lord, says in the last chapter of Mark: ***He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.***

**III. PSALM OF THE WEEK: Psalm 111**

**IV. PRAYER OF THE WEEK:**

Lord God, Heavenly Father, I know that my sin is real, for I know myself well. It's every bit as real as my own flesh. I can touch and feel and see who I am very easily, so I am convinced.

Lord God, thank You for making my baptism more real than my sin. You use water that was on earth long before I arrived; water that I can see and touch. You use words that were spoken centuries before I was given earthly life; words I can hear and recall and believe as true echoes of Your promises.

You delivered me from death, good Lord God, before I lived! You provided for my salvation through Jesus Your Son, and You did it all without asking my permission! Thank You, Lord God, for saving me Your way, the only way that works. In and through Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

**V. DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

**Sunday**—Deuteronomy 18:1-14

**Tuesday**—1 Corinthians 8:1-13

**Thursday**—Mark 1:9-13

**Saturday**—Mark 1:21-28

**Monday**—Deuteronomy 18:15-20

**Wednesday**—Mark 1:1-8

**Friday**—Mark 1:14-20

**VI. DAILY PRAYERS** (Please try to focus your prayers on the theme of each day):

**Sunday:** Pray for St. Paul's members to experience the joy of Jesus' resurrection and for the faithful preaching and hearing of God's Word.

**Monday:** Pray in thanksgiving for your Baptism, for your coworkers and the unemployed.

**Tuesday:** Pray that God's Word would guide your daily decisions, for those who have fallen away from the Church, and for all unbelievers.

**Wednesday:** Pray for those who serve in our government, for your family and friends, and for those who are in adult and junior confirmation classes.

**Thursday:** Pray in thanksgiving for the privilege of receiving the Lord's Supper.

**Friday:** Pray for all Christians who are experiencing persecution because of the Faith and for all who experience mental and physical pain.

**Saturday:** Pray that the Holy Spirit would draw His people to His House.

**VII. SPECIAL PETITIONS FOR THIS WEEK:** Pray for God to send more children for our Christian day school, Sunday school, youth group, and children's ministry.

**Our members, who are ill:** Dorothy Johnson; Donna Louison; Frank Splinter; Payden Belk; Presley Belk

**Friends/Family of our members, who are ill:** *These names will remain on the list for three months.* Please remember all who are ill, especially:

JANUARY --- Pastor Paul Garchow; Erric Moen (*friend of Paul & Vicki Fetting*)

**Military and families:** (Capital Letters = Active Military): ZACH BOUTELLE; Dan Caldwell; RYAN CLAUER; MASON CRAWLEY (*son-in-law of Cynthia LeStarge*); MAKENZIE DE WAR; SETH HAFFERY; Kyle Hendrikson; Emily (Oscarson) Keator; Stephen Lenaas; CHAZ and KALON MAGNUSON (*sons of Cynthia LeStarge*); TYLER MOREHEAD; JONATHAN PALSMA (*son of Cynthia LeStarge*); Kathy Seifarth, AMBER SORNSON; KEITH SPOON. *Please note that some military members cannot be listed for security reasons.*

**Missionaries:** Shauen & Krista Trump serving in Africa; Kip & Ivy Hoech serving in Kyrgyzstan; Pastor John Reinke serving the Deaf; James & Christel Neuendorf and Jamielynn Tinkey serving in the Dominican Republic. *Please note that some missionaries cannot be listed for security reasons.*