



Ministry to the Armed Forces
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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Dear Saint John Lutheran Church,

As I write this we are in the middle of "Convention Season" with many of our Districts holding their conventions. I had the privilege of speaking at the Minnesota North District Convention on their theme of "Forth in the Peace of Christ we GO!" What a wonderful theme and how appropriate. There seems to be no peace...with God or with our neighbor, yet we must go forth in the peace of Christ. Our Ministry to the Armed Forces is working tirelessly to answer that challenge, to bring the peace of Christ to those who selflessly serve our Nation. It is only because of your gracious prayers and financial support that we can answer this calling of preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our military personnel and their family. That is what brings "true peace."

Yet, that calling means we will have troubles, challenges, persecutions, and difficulties. It means that we must do the hard things, go to the dangerous places and situations, it means we must make sacrifices, deployments, separations...all to bring the gifts of God to those in our military and their families. We go to those who have no peace as they struggle spiritually and physically with the "peace of Christ." Even when we must endure great trial or cruel antagonism by this world, the Lord faithfully brings His peace and grace to us. He gives us the courage, the strength, the armor to preach the Gospel.

He said to His disciples, so He says to you: Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do, I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid (John 14:27). Likewise, He declares, these things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world (John 16:33).

We have that peace of God that gives us the strength to continue in this vale of tears, in this church militant, the present warfare. We know the end of the line. We know that we are forgiven children of God by the grace of God, for Christ's sake, through faith. God who loves us will never leave us nor forsake us.

Our Jesus has defeated our enemy and has given us the peace we need to endure until either our end comes, or Jesus returns on that Last Day. Together, with your continued support, we move out and share that peace of Christ with those who serve our Nation with joy and courage. Now, may that Peace, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord. Forth in the Peace of Christ we GO! Thank you!

In Christ's Service,

Chaplain Craig G. Muehler
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