

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings from the parsonage! Fall is here, or at least the weather has been over the last few days. Mid-70s with cooler evenings, the perfect time to read pastor's newsletter article. This month, though, I'll be doing something a little different. The Central Illinois District sent out an e-mail about chaplaincy and it is good to hear how the Lord is using them to serve as well as pastors. It is printed below for your use.

## Mercy through chaplains

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's Specialized Pastoral Ministry (SPM) and Ministry to the Armed Forces military chaplains deliver Christ's mercy through their words and service, providing much-needed spiritual care for His people in unique and challenging environments.

SPM includes ordained and commissioned church workers who bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ into institutions and emergency contexts, serve hurting and broken people who are often in crisis. Where people are experiencing spiritual and emotional pain on top of physical suffering, there you will find an SPM chaplain.

LCMS military chaplains serve in similar ways, but in the ever-changing, pluralistic and increasingly dangerous environments where our nation's armed forces serve. While they are non-combatants, military chaplains still eat, sleep, train, work and exercise with their flock, both in combat and in garrison, bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to distressed service members and providing counsel to commanders on morale and ethical issues.

Whether serving through SPM or Ministry to the Armed Forces, LCMS chaplains are eager to bear witness to Christ and His forgiveness, coming alongside people of all faiths or no faith: listening to what burdens hearts, praying for troubled souls and asking Christ's mercy for all.

### Prayer

*O Lord almighty God, as You have always granted special gifts of the Holy Spirit to Your Church on earth, grant Your continual blessing to all who minister in Your name in the armed forces, in institutional and emergency services chaplaincy, in pastoral counseling and clinical pastoral education, that by Your grace, they may honor Christ and advance the good of those committed to their care, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

[lcms.org/focus/chaplains](http://lcms.org/focus/chaplains) >>



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Next month we'll return to our study of the Second Commandment. Blessings to you in our Lord Jesus Christ, and to our brother pastors, missionaries, and chaplains!

Your brother and under-Shepherd in Christ,

Pastor Josh