

**The Receptive Life
Michigan District Webinar
Wednesday, October 16th, 2013**

**Michigan District 2012 Convention
Resolution 1-01**

Resolutions

COMMITTEE NAME: THEOLOGY, RELATIONS, AND PRACTICE
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1-01
SUBJECT: To Encourage "Life Together" Through use of the Word of God and Prayer
REFERENCE: Overturns 1-07, 1-08, CW Overturns pages 8-9

Whereas, the theme for this 100th Michigan District Convention is "IMAGINE...Living as God's Forgiving and Forgiving Family" and was chosen to highlight the "Life Together" aspect of our Synod's three-fold emphasis (Witness, Mercy, and Life Together); and

Whereas, Dr. Luther in his Large Catechism (15-19, Tappert) challenges believers to develop specific spiritual disciplines and practices which would promote a God-hearing, sanctified life; and

Whereas, God invites His people to grow in grace and knowledge through the study of His Word and to remember that the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation; and

Whereas, God invites and commands us to pray and promises that He will hear and answer; and

Whereas, God the Holy Spirit reminds us "how good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity" (Psalm 133:1); and

Whereas, God the Holy Spirit reminds us that "our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." (Ephesians 6:12); and

Whereas, it is only as God's people, believing the Word and living in obedience to it through the power of the Holy Spirit, "make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3), that we can demonstrate that unity, experience many of God's promised blessings, and overcome the spiritual forces of evil; and

Whereas, the Word of God is a Means of Grace by which we are empowered to live as God's people; therefore be it

Resolved, that all delegates at the 2012 Michigan District Convention be encouraged to take the lead in their respective congregation in the area of developing spiritual disciplines, and be it further

Resolved, that all delegates, and all the members of our congregations, be encouraged to read the Bible on a daily basis and work toward reading the entire Bible annually; and be it further

Resolved, that all delegates, and all the members of our congregations, be encouraged to develop a discipline of daily prayer time of 30 minutes or more; and be it further

Resolved, that all delegates, and all the members of our congregations, be encouraged to grow in the grace of giving and focus on returning at least 10 percent of what God gives to them back to Him through the local congregation, and be it finally

Resolved, that all delegates diligently work to purposefully promote, and daily give thanks for, the unity of the Holy Spirit with which we have been blessed.

ACTION: Adopted

**Martin Luther's preface to the
Small Catechism**

"The deplorable, wretched deprivation that I recently encountered while I was a visitor has constrained and compelled me to prepare this catechism, or Christian instruction, in such a brief, plain, and simple version.

Dear God, what misery I beheld! The ordinary person, especially in the villages, knows absolutely nothing about the Christian faith, and unfortunately many pastors are completely unskilled and incompetent teachers."

- The Preface to the Small Catechism

"Yet supposedly they all bear the name Christian, are baptized, and receive the holy sacrament, even though they do not know the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, or the Ten Commandments! As a result they live like simple cattle or irrational pigs and, despite the fact that the gospel has returned, have mastered the fine art of misusing all their freedom."

- The Preface to the Small Catechism

**Martin Luther's preface to the
Large Catechism**

"But this I say for myself: I am also a doctor and a preacher, just as learned and experienced as all of them who are so high and mighty. Nevertheless, each morning, and whenever else I have time, I do as a child who is being taught the catechism and I read and recite word for word the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Psalms, etc. I must still read and study the catechism daily, and yet I cannot master it as I wish, but must remain a child and pupil of the catechism—and I also do so gladly."

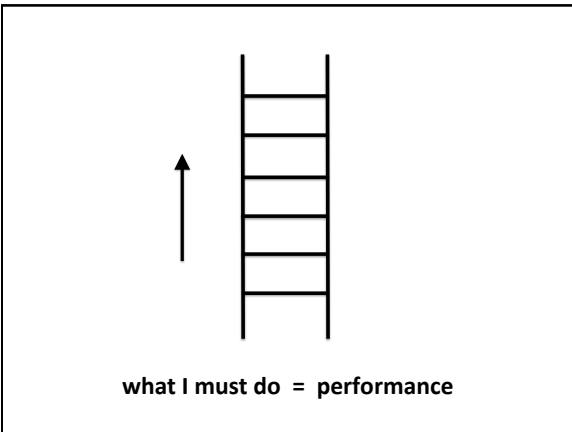
- The Preface to the Large Catechism

"For this reason alone you should gladly read, recite, ponder, and practice the catechism, even if the only advantage and benefit you obtain from it is to drive away the devil and evil thoughts. For he cannot bear to hear God's Word. And God's Word is not like some idle tale, such as about Dietrich of Bern, but, as St. Paul says in Romans 1:16, it is "the power of God," indeed, the power of God that burns the devil's house down and gives us immeasurable strength, comfort, and help."

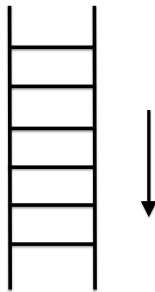
- The Preface to the Large Catechism

**1 Timothy 4:7-8: "... train yourself to be godly.
For physical training is of some value but
godliness has value for all things, holding promise
for both the present life and the life to come."**

**What does this mean?
How is this done?**



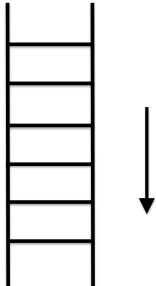
Philippians 2:12-13: "... continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose."



what Christ has done = receptivity

not merit but means

When we work the Word of God, the God of the Word promises to work on us.



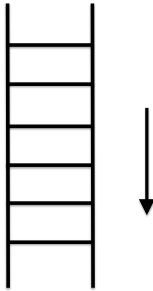
what Christ has done = receptivity

John 1:16: "From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another."

1 Corinthians 4:7: "What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?"

the "receptive life"
spiritual beggars

"all the gifts that only Jesus
can give to you ..."



what Christ has done = receptivity

**"Wherever love goes, the heart
and body follow."**

- Luther LW, 14:297

"for the love of the game"



“What we want and love, on that we reflect inwardly and diligently ... Therefore let delight (desire) be first sent into the heart as the root, and then meditation will come of it's own accord.”

- Luther LW, 10:17

“the pitch”

How is this done?

How do I daily, intentionally, consistently, get myself to the right places?

“a more than Sunday life”

Just because it's the right thing to do doesn't mean that it's an easy thing to do.

“Help me, help you!”

- Jerry McGuire

**Don't tell me it's all about self-discipline
and will power.**

**Don't tell me it's about the latest tools,
skills or program.**

**Remind, encourage and comfort me
with the truth that...**

**"... it is God who works in me to will and to act
according to his good purpose."**

“When we work the Word of God, the God of the Word promises to work on us.”

How is this done?

Psalm 119
Luther: oratio, meditatio, tentatio

“I want to point out to you a correct way of studying theology, for I have had practice in that. If you keep to it, you will become so learned that you yourself could (if it were necessary) write books just as good as those of the fathers and councils. . . . This is the way taught by holy King David (and doubtlessly used also by all the patriarchs and prophets) in the one hundred nineteenth Psalm.”

(Preface to the Wittenberg Edition of Luther’s German Writings, Luther’s Works, vol. 34, Career of the Reformer, pp. 285)

“There you will find three rules, amply presented throughout the whole Psalm. They are *Oratio, Meditatio, Tentatio* [prayer, meditation, Anfechtung (affliction, conflict, severe soul-struggle)].”

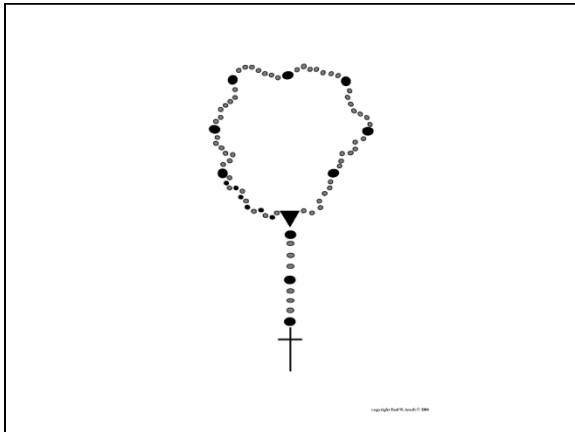
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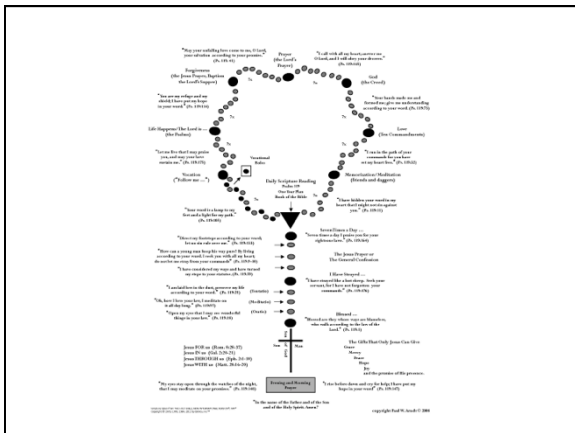
the accent of the Kingdom of God

Mr. Miyagi and the Karate Kid
"wax on, wax off"

"baby steps"

The Psalm 119 Prayer Cycle





The Psalm 119 Prayer Cycle

paulwarndt.com

**I've given you a house.
Go make it a home.**

"for the love of the game"

**Psalm 119:97: "Oh how I love your law! I
meditate on it all day long."**



Resources:

The Bible and Luther's Small Catechism

A Simple Way to Pray, Martin Luther

Grace Upon Grace: Spirituality for Today by John Kleinig

paulwarndt.com

**The Receptive Life Retreat
Using the Psalm 119 Prayer Cycle**

Thursday, November 21st from 9 am – 4 pm
Friday, November 22nd from 9 am – 4 pm

Faith Lutheran Church
Troy, Michigan

Cost \$30 (materials, snacks and
box lunches for Friday and Saturday)

Registration

Michigan InTouch Online Event Calendar

Faith Lutheran Church
248-689-4664
Don Hanney

paulwarndt.com
(The "Receptive Life Retreat" post)