Sermon Notes: "Jesus Knows When We Are Hurting, He Knows How to Help Us"
John 5:1-9

I. Jesus Knows Our Situation – Our Needs and Hurts

"In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years."

_____ years, sitting by the water. Waiting to be _____

Does _____ know about me? I am really in trouble!

II. Jesus Knows All that We _____ Need

"When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me."

Healed = "Be made _____ "

Body and _____ made completely healthy and at _____ with God…

for _____

III. Jesus Gives True Life

Jesus said to him, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk."

Get up = _____ = Be _____! You can do your _____!

Our Chaplains bring the news of Jesus to our men and women in their particular settings.

Jesus comes to us, "Be _____ !"

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod – Ministry to the Armed Forces
Sunday, May 15, 2022

Our Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's "Ministry to the Armed Forces" (MAF) is a crucial part of our synod's work. The U.S. military takes persons from established religious organizations; one cannot just go in and be a free-lance chaplain. One has to be trained and approved by a religious organization to even be considered by the military to be a Chaplain. Moreover, the sending religious organization protects and limits the work of its Chaplains. My son, Chaplain Paul Rockrohr, is bound to the teachings and practices of the LCMS. He helps all Sailors and Marines of all beliefs in many ways, but his teaching and pastoral care aligns with LCMS teaching. In fact, US Navy regulations for Chaplains are that they must abide by the teachings of their sending religious organization. That is, if a sending organization is a conservative Lutheran church the Navy requires the Chaplains from that organization to be conservative Lutheran. If the sending organization is Sunni Muslim, the Chaplain must do all things according to the beliefs of a Sunni Muslim, and so forth.

Alicia Hinton
Assistant to the Director, Ministry to the Armed Forces

Rev. Dr. Steven Hokana
Assistant Director, Ministry to the Armed Forces

Rev. Craig Muehler
Director, Ministry to the Armed Forces

Staff of the Ministry to the Armed Forces, St. Louis, Missouri

Our LCMS Chaplains have many opportunities for Christian outreach and they support the work of the men and women of our military in many ways. They provide moral and ethical support roles for their Commanding Officers, as well as take care of the religious and physiological care of the men and women in their unit.

Current Number of LCMS Chaplains:

        Active Duty Chaplains: 58
        Reserve Chaplains: 44
        Guard Chaplains: 26
        Coast Guard Auxiliary: 2
        Director of Religious Education: 2
        Civil Air Patrol Chaplains: 7
        Chaplain Candidates: 7

The Chaplains have full salary and benefits as all military personnel. However, the three people of the LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces office are completely supported by donors. There is no other budgeted synod money which supports the salaries and program costs of LCMS MAF except direct donors. So not only do Rev. Craig Muelher, Rev. Dr. Steven Hokane and Alicia Hinton (all retired military) recruit, train and support our LCMS Chaplains (and their families) throughout their military careers, they also have to fund-raise for their own salaries and all their program costs. Any donations to LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces goes to support the MAF program costs and the salaries of these three people.

On May 16, LCMS Chaplain Gregory Todd was promoted to the Chief of Chaplains of the U.S. Navy. This means he has charge of all Chaplains of all beliefs in the Navy, Marines and Coast Guard. What a blessing and opportunity our synod has to serve our men and women all branches of the U.S. military! Without the staff and work of the LCMS Office of the Ministry to the Armed Forces such opportunities could not happen.