

## **You mean church is not something we do for God, but he does for us?**

Yes! God doesn't need our worship. We're not doing God a favor by going to church. If he wanted to, he could raise up children from stones!

Hearing his Word is like resting at a desert oasis. Living water. Burdens lifted. "He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul" (Psalm 23:2). He comes to restore you. The Word is for you.

## **The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. I make excuses: I'm busy. I'm tired.**

If the pastor gave you a \$100 bill each time you came to church, would you be too tired, too busy? Of course not! If you'd go for money that's here today and gone tomorrow, consider how the Lord "is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all we ask or think" (Eph 3:20 KJV). God makes you his heir!

## **Some churches claim to produce "changed lives."**

### **What about that?**

Such claims are misleading. On the one hand, it's great when people straighten out their lives. This can happen in church but also elsewhere. As a result they do less damage to themselves and others.

On the other hand, the Christian life is not visible in specific deeds or life changes. It cannot be measured or judged by us. The Holy Spirit works in us, to be sure, but

there is no visible "more-ness" to the Spirit. All experiences and feelings are ambiguous. As Paul says: "I do not even judge myself" (1 Cor 4:3-4; 2 Cor 11:14).

## **A lot of people seem to get along fine without going to church. They're nice. They do good things. What about them?**

Some of the worst diseases in life have no symptoms until the person is near death. The same is true for sin. Many live in denial of sin and death. Sometimes a crisis wakes them up, but not always. What happens to them? Only God knows. But we know that only in the cross is there certainty of salvation and freedom from sin and death.

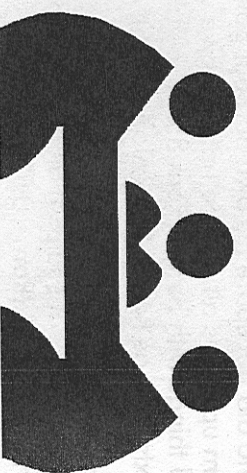
## **I was "forced" to go to church as a kid; I don't want to do that to my kids!**

But you teach your kids habits like brushing their teeth, obeying traffic rules on their bikes, don't you? Habits that protect them for life. You don't say, "My kid doesn't need to brush his teeth until he's 18 years old, and then he can choose for himself what to do." Going to church is a good habit, too!

### **So what's next?**

Give church a chance! You have nothing to lose and everything to gain, because faith comes through hearing the preaching of Christ and his promises!

# Why Go To Church?



Simple Answers from a  
Lutheran Perspective