

Spiritual Care and Nurture of Clergy

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This paper is concerned with spiritual care and nurture of pastors serving in a Protestant setting. As we consider our spiritual life and remember the ordination vows we have promised, we look to Word, sacrament, worship and prayer as means to remain focused and nurtured in our lives as pastors. This paper will examine the Holy Scriptures, specifically the Sermon on the Mount, and the writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, particularly as they relate to spiritual care. The question is where can pastors turn for spiritual care as they live in faithfulness to baptismal covenant and ordination vows.

The paper offers recommendations to pastors, judicatories, and the broader church for practices and programs that may help to support the spiritual life of pastors. These recommendations are based on responses returned from synod surveys (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) as well as practices gleaned from the Sermon on the Mount, and the writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

This paper will offer ways for pastors to maintain a healthy spiritual life as they live in covenant with God and serve others.