

## **May 31<sup>st</sup> Charge to the Confirmands and Congregation, David Jahnke**

I have heard it said that nighttime is when the demons are particularly active. It is true for me. Sometimes I wake up and cannot sleep as worry or fears come over me or I have doubts about myself.

But the other night I woke up from a dream in which I was saying over and over I am who I am who I am who I am...

Immediately, I remembered that this was the name of God. When Moses asked God his name when God was in the burning bush, God told him I am who I am.

So the point of my dream was that the great I am God is a part of me; as God is a part of you. And when we remember this, all fears and worries and self-doubts no longer reign over us.

So my first charge to everyone is to remember that the great God of all creation made all of you and put a piece of Him inside you. Never let this world put you down. You are wonderfully and beautifully made. You are who you are who you are who you are..; just as God intended

So how do we remember this? I heard about a science experiment related to p.t.s.d.-- post-traumatic stress disorder. They somehow traumatized some mice. And they put some of them in cages all by themselves and others in cages with many other mice. The ones in cages all by themselves died before too long. The ones who had other mice around them overcame their trauma and thrived.

Today you became an active member of the church. Here we remember God and receive the healing of the fellowship in God's Spirit. We all experience difficulties and hardships and even traumas. Know that we are all here for you and for each other. We want you to thrive. So I charge you to always look for the love and the support that the church is always willing to give.