

MEET Laurie Pangle

My husband and I recently celebrated our 36th anniversary in Rossford, Ohio where we raised our family. Our daughter is a domestic violence advocate in Michigan and has one "soon to be teenage" son. Our son is a Lt. Commander in the Navy, and has two bright and boisterous children. Family time is our priority whether traveling together or just being at home. Last fall, I accepted early retirement from my employer but look forward to returning to my position this fall. I am attending the Diakonia classes offered by the Synod, and encourage anyone wishing to deepen their knowledge of Bible, church or doctrine to enroll in a class.





HOW DO YOU REST?

“Rest” is defined by Merriam Webster as “to cease work in order to relax.” This does not align with my DNA, as I descended from a line of lifelong Lutherans who valued and instilled the virtue of work. My profession as a Corporate Attorney, coupled with the calling to serve God with all my abilities, meant I was always working. As my parents often reminded me, God-given talents were not to be squandered. This entailed dedicating over 60 hours weekly to legal affairs, alongside a comparable commitment to my church, nonprofits, and charitable endeavors. Carving out time for rest, even briefly, was always a challenge.

My rest lay in seizing solitary moments, cherishing quiet spaces, and delighting in the wonders of creation. Engaging in baking, artistic pursuits, and gardening brought me joy—solitary activities that yield delicious treats, handcrafted presents, and beautiful flowers to share with others. Even after my stroke when these activities became challenging, these joys still bring rest to my soul. I find myself drawn to times alone, when I hear God's call to rest my mind and soul, and experience His peace.

While it may sound incongruous for some people, preparing for the upcoming women's Bible Study retreat I lead is rest for my soul. Seeking the right Bible verses to encourage others, teaching others to find joy in their Bible reading and strengthening their faith is calming and restful to me. Rest comes in many forms, and creativity is mine.”

