

## June 2021

The daylight hours have grown longer. This is a welcomed sight along with warmer weather. During the winter, I always seem to get really tired right after dinner but when summer rolls around those cobwebs are easily shaken off by a few more hours of daylight. Longer days mean I can get more things done. It is a welcomed scenario.

It also means more time with my family. The children don't go to bed as early when school is out and Kristen and I can play outside with them until nine or ten o'clock. We love to have more time together because we know before long these children will grow up, leave our house, and, Lord willing, have their own families to grow and play with.

How will you spend your summer? Are there things you're hoping to accomplish? Looking forward to longer days to get that flower bed or garden just right? I hope you have something to enjoy along with your family.

Whatever you have on your to do list for the next few months, I would like to encourage you to a renewed devotion of taking up God's Word. It delivers the Light that scatters all darkness - Jesus. Not scattering the darkness for just a few months of the year but throughout your whole life in Him. Among your plans this summer, make devotional time one of your top priorities. Read the Bible, confess the Catechism, pray, and sing hymns. Consider it a welcomed scenario to grow not only plants this summer but more importantly to grow in the one true faith of our Lord. Of all the things you may find important on your list this summer, this is the most important. And doubly so if you have children. They are watching you. They are learning from you. They are watching and learning to see what is important.



Now is the time to grow deep roots because the ever-changing winds of the world are seeking to blow down that which is shallow. Fundamental truths are being hidden under the cover of darkness so as to stunt growth which comes from the Light. The Christian doctrine of creation is replaced by the evolutionary myth that humans are descendants of animals. The unique traits and roles of men and women as given by the Creator are being eroded all around us. The blessing of family and holy marriage as God's bedrock for a good society is under constant attack. A church which holds to God's truth will be tested by the flaming arrows of political correctness.

Therefore, there is no better time than now to take up God's Word, meditating on it day and night and finding delight in the law of the Lord. The one who does that is *like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither* (see Psalm 1). The roots will be deep and keep the Christian firm in Christ as Jesus and His great blessings are continually revealed anew each day. The doctrine of

orthodox Christianity will continue to delight and comfort the faithful hearer as they put on the full armor of God against the flaming arrows.

If you are looking for help on how to start or continue a practice of enjoying the Light of God's Word this summer, here are a few places to start:

- Regularly attend the Divine Service. This is the place where Jesus meets you tangibly in His Word read and preached, His Absolution, and His Supper. From this, all other things flow. This is the foundation and absolutely essential.
- Choose an order for your devotional time and keep using it to become familiar with its parts. There are simple orders of daily prayer in the hymnal. Perhaps choose a few solid, Lutheran hymns over the course of this time to know and sing by heart. See Pastor Suggitt for suggestions.
- The Sunday bulletin has readings from the Scriptures laid out in day by day chunks. If you read these for a year, you will have read a great portion of the Bible.
- Take up the Small Catechism. You will never outgrow its truth which is based on Scripture. Commit it to memory once again, part by part. This is important for families with children. They are never too young to begin repeating back to you the Commandments, The Creed, and The Lord's Prayer.
- Use one of the pamphlets in the literature rack titled "A Simple Explanation Of..." to explore God's Word on a specific topic during your devotional time. Spend the summer working your way through all of them.
- Make use of the periodical "The Lutheran Witness" in the narthex for additional casual reading. Our synod's magazine has begun to put together some great issues that keep you thinking theologically with Jesus as the center.
- Attend Bible Study. As we continue to be learners (that's what *disciple* means), we learn to see Jesus and His great truth revealed in His Word. This is where you can safely ask questions and have those roots deepened by the Biblical narrative as the Holy Spirit attends to the Word.

The light of summer is great. The light of Jesus is better. Relish in the light of His Word this summer even as you take up other tasks His beautiful creation brings. Rejoice in the Word which is the power of God unto salvation for it showers us with Jesus who was crucified, raised, and ascended - all for you.

*Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly... Colossians 3:16*

Grace and peace to you,  
Pastor Suggitt