

Happy Summer, Friends.

With the arrival of summer, we have finished our Easter Season and have entered Ordinary Time. The Church traditions mark this time between Pentecost and the Advent season as a time of further growth in our 'ordinary' Christian Life. We don't have a special focus like we do during the other seasons of the year (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter). Yet, do we ever stop growing? Do we ever stop meeting Christ? Have we arrived at total holiness? Of course, not! May this summer be one of wonderful, grace-filled growth for you and your family.

As we move through the summer, we still have plenty of events at Salem. Please mark your calendars in order that you can make plans to participate.

On July 29th, we will begin this year's **Vacation Bible School**. We are super-excited to offer this again for our area youth and those children of your (extended) family. VBS will run Mon-Thurs. The students will gather at 5:15 and have a simple supper. Then, they will have their lesson, crafts, games, and songs until 7:15. The theme is "God is good". Deb Stenberg is coordinating this and needs help. Please consider reaching out to her at debstendberg6@gmail.com or 651.497.4171. Registration is required. A registration form is sent along with this newsletter; you can fill it out (one/kid) and email it to Deb. You can also pick up paper registration forms at the parish or find it on-line through the parish website.

On August 4th, our parish will have its annual **outdoor service and picnic**. The VBS students will present during the service. Mark Scherer will play piano before and after the 10:30 service, while Becky Fiske will play during the service. We will have a potluck picnic as well as lots of games. Please make a point of attending! Also, please consider helping with the planning by contacting Vicki Bengtson at 651.462.1178 or with the set-up on Saturday, the 3rd (time TBD).

We will again have two different opportunities to help with the **mission** of spreading the Good News: contributing to the Military Bible Sticks and to the Gideons. Both organizations use our help to get God's word out to those who need it. MBS presentation/collection will be on July 7th and 14th and the Gideons will present/collect in August (likely Aug 11th).

Please pray for our confirmation students as they are formed in and make choices regarding their faith commitment. They are: Ryan and Kasey Frantzick, Mady Hockert, Ava and Eden Krajewski, and Charlie Templin. They will be meeting every Wednesday this summer for two hours and will be confirmed on Sept 15th during the 9:30 service.

Sunday School is not meeting during the summer months. Thank you to Gina Nechal, Terrienne Lindholm, Eden Krajewski, and Deb Stenberg for teaching this past year. Sunday School will start meeting again on Sept 8th. Please consider being a part of the team.

Also, both the men's and the women's spirituality/study groups will not meet during the summer; they will resume again in September.

Plenty going on...both at Salem and in your lives. Hopefully, the two will 'affect' each other continually...God keeps on giving us the grace to grow in our daily lives, amid everything that is happening. May you realize the blessings you receive from the Almighty.

In that Great Love...

Rob. 651.261.7333 robkrajewski72@gmail.com