

President's Note for July and August

"Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer." Nat King Cole

Oh yes, those days of "soda and pretzels and beer." Summer has arrived and along with a little heat we'll enjoy some beautiful mornings and evenings and some of the finest produce in the world from local producers right here in California. Sacramento is now promoted as the farm to fork capital of the world. I know I always look forward to fresh apricots, peaches, tomatoes, corn and perhaps a cobbler or two. While we may be a bit crowded in places and while some things may be a bit pricey here, we are blessed with beautiful, bountiful land and a favorable, pleasant climate. I suppose that at least partially explains why so many folks live in California, whether the real farm to fork capital is here in Sacramento or in Salinas or the Imperial Valley. Okay, enough of my musing on Sacramento summers, though before I conclude my rambling personal reflections I'll observe that I'm pleased to read the city has found a path to keep our historic Land Park golf course open. I hope to play there at least a few times this summer and maybe make it out to a Rivercats game or two as well. Golf, baseball, the Music Circus, concerts in the park, fairs and festivals galore make summer a special time here in the Sacramento valley.

So, what's happening here at St. Paul's this summer? Well, we kick off the month of July by celebrating the Fourth. No, wait a minute, I believe we were reminded a couple of years ago by one of our pastors that this event is most rightly referred to as Independence Day, the day we celebrate our freedom and liberty from oppression and dependence. Oh, if you're still puzzled by which pastor spoke those words and wrote that homily he almost always preaches on the first Sunday of the month and has lots of letters following his name. Exercise your independence and look up that sermon online at our church website, it is still there and well worth rereading. I'm not sure what refreshments we might have on the Sundays before and after Independence Day, but perhaps sometime this summer we'll have those sodas and pretzels and beer!

In August St. Paul's will serve as the host venue as our friends from Lutheran Church of the Cross hold their annual Pancake Breakfast and Car Show on August 18th from eight am until eleven-thirty am. Bring your appetite, love for cars and fellowship and invite a few friends and neighbors too. This annual event is being held at St. Paul's this year as we have much more parking lot space available and are easily accessible and visible. Should be fun! We hope to do more things together with Church of the Cross and other ELCA congregations, particularly smaller ones like ours. And, shhhh, later that month rumor has it the Dias family will be hosting their famous annual barbeque potluck supper which is always a delight, hosted by a great family in a beautiful backyard setting. Stay tuned for the exact date, time and any secret passwords needed for entry.

Nice to see some of those who've been unable to attend church back worshiping with us, like Ann and Lois. Continue to pray for all on our prayer list and for our leaders, nation and fellow believers throughout God's world. Life, storms, ill health and turmoil of all kinds makes me think of the story in Mark 4:35-41 where the worried disciples awaken a sleeping teacher, Jesus, who calms a tumultuous sea. The lesson here, as related by Pastor Unmacht on June 24th, is to "get in the boat" and let Jesus do the worrying and navigating. Amen.

"Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord." Jeremiah 17:7 NRSV

Peace, health and summertime blessings,

Chuck Prewett