



Dear Friends in Christ,

In July my family and I enjoyed a very busy family vacation that included a family reunion, swimming, riding dirt bikes, the National High School Rodeo Finals, handyman projects, bowling, campfires, boating, water skiing, golf, a coal mine tour, Mount Rushmore, hiking, and tubing down the Niobrara.

In August we went to Iowa for our tenth week of family camp at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp. I think all the parents at camp that week agreed that this week of camp is one of the best things we do to renew our families in faith. Our speaker was very entertaining and encouraging as he spoke about change and relationships. As usual the drama events were powerful and inspiring. We still have memorial money available to pay for two families to go to Okoboji Family Camp. I keep praying that some families from Peace will find a way to come to camp next year. There is nothing quite like the experience of faith and community at family camp.

Labor Day marks the last of the vacation season. My family and I will taking an extra long Labor Day weekend to travel to see family in Iowa and Minnesota. We will also get to see the Royals play the Twins, but that's just coincidence.

We plan to be back in time on Wednesday, September 8, to attend our congregational meeting with Bishop deFreese. Bishop deFreese's visit is the final step in our

consultation with the Nebraska Synod regarding our vote to leave the ELCA for LCMC. In May our church council had an open and honest discussion with Bishop deFreese about the issues confronting our congregation and the ELCA. Bishop deFreese said that he didn't want Peace to vote to leave the ELCA without having been asked to stay with the ELCA. I hope that once again we will have good participation from our congregation in this process so that we all can be well-informed about the issues surrounding our decisions regarding our denominational affiliation.

September means Sunday School begins anew. The Adult Bible Class on Sunday morning is viewing The Truth Project. Through a series of video presentations we will explore the dimensions of a Christian worldview. In August we explored the question of truth in a world held captive by lies. In September we will explore philosophy, ethics, and human nature in a Christian worldview. Those who have seen the first video encourage you to join them for the rest of the tour.

Because of a series of schedule conflicts, PACE is beginning late this year on Wednesday, September 22. This is a change from the letter that was mailed out to PACE students and their families. We have 15 students in grades 5 and 6 who will study the Old Testament this year. We have 11 students in grades 7 and 8 who will study the Lord's Prayer and the Sacraments this year.

The Annual Meeting of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ is October 3 to 6. I will be attending to represent our congregation. Anyone else who is interested in attending to represent our congregation is invited to come along with me. The event includes inspiring speakers, informative workshops, and wonderful worship. Just let me know if you want to attend.

Yours in Christ, Phil Nielsen