



*“Therefore we must pay greater attention to what we have heard,  
so that we do not drift away from it.  
For if the message declared through angels was valid,  
and every transgression or disobedience received a just penalty,  
how can we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?”  
Hebrews 2:1-3a*

Dear Summer Time Lutherans:

The seven weeks of Easter are over. The Day of Pentecost and Trinity Sunday have come and past. Music Sunday with the beautiful music was celebrated and the choirs will begin their summertime break. The Sunday school ended with a carnival of fun and games and a special thanks was made to all the teachers and helpers this past year. Vacation Bible School is being planned for the first week of August. Father's day breakfast is being planned for June 19<sup>th</sup>. Graduation Sunday will be celebrated at St. Mark the morning of June 6<sup>th</sup> for all our graduates and we will even host a special Hanover Area Council of Churches Baccalaureate Service here at St. Mark this year that same evening at 7:00 for all three of our area schools. All the children are finishing their school year and counting down till summer break. Many of the adult members are also counting the days till their vacations. With all these things happening in our lives and at the church we know it can only mean one thing; it must be summertime.

Summertime traditionally is that time of year that we expect things to slow down, even just a bit. Maybe this is because of the humidity and heat of summer. Maybe this is because our minds start wondering to the sunshine and the warm beautiful days after a long cool spring. Or maybe it is because we just need to have some time during the year to look forward to; a time to relax, to unwind, to rejuvenate, to find a moment or two to do what we enjoy. Whatever the reason, summertime is the time to find those moments in our lives. It is a time to slow down and smell the flowers. I hope you have planned to take some time this summer for your family, yourselves, your friends, to refresh yourself and enjoy the beauty of all God's creation, be that at Codorus, the mountains, the beach or anywhere you find rest.

But, let me also remind you to take time to worship. Summertime is not an excuse to fall away from church. As the Hebrews text states above, we can not neglect the Gospel and Love of God, if we expect to be followers of Christ. God is still Lord, Jesus is still our Savior, and the Holy Spirit is still comforting and supporting us, yes even in the summertime.

Use this summer to set aside time to be with God. You could pray a half an hour or an hour each morning. Do it while your walking in the coolness of the morning before work. Do it while sitting under a tree in the dusk of the day. You can even do it while on vacation; many people do such a thing telling me or giving me bulletins of churches they visit around the country while on vacation. Whatever you do this summer don't fall away from the Gospel and the Love of God. Make it a discipline of your faith to find a way this summer to keep the faith and learn and worship in new ways wherever your summer takes you.

In the Peace and Grace of God,

