

## **“SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER?”**

***“Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord.”  
Philippians 4:1***

As a kid in 1966, one of the big hits on the radio that summer was “See You in September” by The Happenings. It’s a song about a boyfriend and girlfriend (weren’t they all about that back then?) who would be apart for the summer. The boyfriend is wondering if he’ll see his love again after the summer, or if she will have found someone else. He sings: *Have a good time, but remember there is danger in the summer moon above. Will I see you in September, or lose you to a summer love?*

Oddly enough, I’m wondering the same thing – oh, not about losing my beloved to the summer moon, but how many of the folks of Our Savior will not be returning to worship in September because they’ve gotten so used to being away from church doing “summery” things.

Attendance at Divine Services this summer has really taken a hit and, along with that, so has giving. I understand that when folks are away on vacation, camping or at the summer cottage, they can’t be here. But I also understand how easy it is, after missing a few Sundays during the summer, to continue missing church come September. By then, the habit’s ingrained. It’s not necessarily what we intend, but it is the reality for so many. They are captivated by another, summer love.

In the few weeks left in this summer, if you are at home, come to church. Your need for the gifts and strength Christ gives in Word and Sacrament do not diminish with warm weather and summer activities. Neither do you become less of a sinner during the summer, that you have no need for the forgiveness and life Christ gives. These are daily, not occasional needs that only He can fill.

If you are away in these next weeks, find a church to attend where you are, so that you will not become comfortable missing to the point that you no longer *need* (you think) church. God’s grace, love, mercy and forgiveness don’t take a vacation from us, so please don’t take a vacation from Christ.

So, for the rest of this summer, in the words of The Happenings: *Have a good time, but remember there is danger in the summer moon above. Will I see you in September, or lose you to a summer love?*

See you in September, if not before. God bless!

Pastor Lueke