

From the Pastor . . .

We are in the midst of the “Dog Days of Summer.” According The Old Farmer’s Almanac, the Dog Days conjure up the long, most sultry days of summer. The traditional timing of the Dog Days is the 40 days, this year beginning July 3 and ending August 11, coinciding with the rising of the Dog Star, Sirius. The phrase is often associated with the extreme heat we endure this time of year.

So, what are your plans for the “Dog Days of Summer?” I’ve already heard the phrase, “where did the summer go?” as if we are no longer living in the present time, but already thinking our time to relax and renew is gone and the season of fall is upon us. But that’s not true. We still have plenty of summer yet, plenty of time to live life in the present moment, plenty of time to give thanks for the bounty of the earth. I’m enjoying seeing your pictures of tomatoes ripening on the vine and flowers blooming in your gardens. What a beautiful array of colors we have during the summer!

Jesus, throughout his teaching, invites us to pay attention to the bounty all around us. He says, “Whoever has ears to listen should pay attention!” (Mark 4:9) and “Happy are your eyes because they see. Happy are your ears because they hear” (Matt. 13:16). Jesus wants “those with ears to hear” and pay careful attention to the goodness all around us.

I am grateful to have some time away during the Dog Days of Summer to rest and relax and renew my soul. It feels like a lot of us have been laboring extra hard during these last several months and to get a time to relax and be away is a blessing. May you have such days of rest and relaxation and renewal during this time. The season of fall will come soon enough and will come whether we worry about it or not. “Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these” (Matt 6:28-29).

I’ve always thought of the Dog Days of Summer as a good time to slow down and take the time to notice what is happening right here, right now. You can’t move too quickly or you’ll break out in a sweat, so you might as well sit back, enjoy some iced tea or lemonade, and give thanks for the day.

May you have time during these Dog Days to relax and enjoy God’s good earth.

~ Pastor Holly

August Sermons

This August we’re focusing on the teachings and healings of Jesus, who continually taught and preached and healed not only for the sake of those he taught and healed, but as signs of the beginning of the reign of God. We’ll also explore together how we see God’s reign coming to fruition in our lives today.

August 1

A Place to Belong

Romans 15:5-7

Linda Richnofsky, Guest Preacher

August 8

The Trouble with Testifying

Matthew 9:37-38, 10:5-15

Alaina Boettcher, Guest Preacher

August 15

Scattering Seeds

Mark 4:26-34

August 22

Calm in the Storm

Mark 4:35-41

August 29

Freedom

Mark 5:21-43



Celebrations

Birthdays

- 8-1 Shirley F.
- 8-2 Shelley B.
- 8-5 Kaylin F.
- 8-6 Devantay K.
Monique K.
- 8-9 Alex I.
Carol S.
- 8-13 Jim L.
Karyla P.
- 8-14 Chuck S.
- 8-17 Chris S.
- 8-19 Pam T.
- 8-27 Rita P.
- 8-30 Augustus L.
Lee P.

Anniversaries

- 8-12 Jim & Donna K.
- 8-14 Paul & Lisa S.
- 8-25 Dennis & Lisa R.
- 8-28 Ben & LeAnne P.

Thank You(s)

To my church family: Cards and calls and visits— Oh my! And then, best of all, the prayers! I am so blessed to have the best church family in the whole wide world. Thank you from my whole newly repaired heart. —Pat R.

Thank you for contributing to New Pathways gift cards for families experiencing homelessness this past month! We were collecting funds to purchase food gift cards and have raised over \$650 as of the writing of the newsletter. Thank you for your generosity, good & faithful servants!

From Alaina Boettcher

Hello Everyone! This message is a bittersweet one as I am approaching my last Sunday as your ELI intern. I have loved every moment of this opportunity and hope that you have enjoyed seeing me take on a new role for our congregation. I have visited, volunteered, read, and spoke throughout this whole process and the end feels as if it were just the beginning. I look forward to preaching on August 8th and am diligently working to make a sermon that will for one entertain, but more importantly allow you to see and take pride in what I have accomplished in my time as an intern.

I am proud to be your intern, but I have more work to do whether it be continuing my degree this fall or moving forward as I find my place in the world.

I want to thank every single person in the congregation, whether it be in person or virtual, whether you spoke with me or just listened, regardless of your role you have impacted my internship and me as a person as I learn and grow. I will always be appreciative for this opportunity and grateful for the support that WUMC has given me. Thank you!

Emma Norton

You are invited to support Minnesota's own Emma Norton Services, which helps house homeless families, single women and offers support for those suffering mental illness, medical impairment and/or a substance abuse disorder and helps them gain independence and self-sufficiency. During August we will have a jar available in the entryway of the church for you to drop your pocket change into to help support this worthwhile ministry.

American Cancer Relay for Life

The Chisago County Am. Cancer Relay for Life will again have an event on Wednesday, August 18th, 6-10pm at the Chisago Lake Lutheran Church in Center City, MN. We will have food, music, and a display of hundreds of candle lighted luminary bags honoring and memorializing persons who have been affected by cancer. Please consider donating and joining us at this beautiful full-moon event www.relayforlife.org/chisagomn. Or contact Jill Behnke, Chairperson 651- 329-3105, jillmbehnke@gmail.com

Looking Ahead

Stagecoach Days is going to be a one-day event this year on Saturday, September 18. Our Missions Team is looking at hosting the community again at our church building during this event, but is looking at alternatives to booya and pie. We've been told that our hospitality during Stagecoach Days has been everything from popcorn and lemonade to booya and pie. We're taking the time to figure out what sort of hospitality we'd like to offer our community without taking business away from the vendors who come to this event. Your Missions Team will let you know of further developments.