



Message from Pastor Scottie *June 2013: Soul Summer Strength*

Summer is almost upon us and already people are making plans for vacations or are already in and out of worship due to being on the road. God is providing opportunities for us to recreate by recreating our lives in others places away from the routines of life that can sometimes capture our senses and leave us stuck in unhealthy ruts. Praise God for the many beautiful places in California and in this nation where our body and souls can rest and rejuvenate. Jesus certainly did.

Many times we read of Jesus going off to a quiet place to pray. Gearing up for a major sweep through Galilee with the Gospel Jesus prayed in preparation for strength (Mark 1:35). When confronted with a major decision to choose who the final 12 disciples would be Jesus went off to a private place for rest and prayer (Luke 6:12). Tired from a long day of sharing and healing Jesus steals away to a lonely place to pray for replenishment (Matt. 14:23). Marching to Jerusalem Jesus hikes up a mountain and prays with Peter, James, and John and transfigures with renewed resolve before them. In the Gethsemane Garden Jesus prays for final discernment and courage to complete the Father's mission (Matt. 26:36-46). Always Jesus is re-creating in quiet places with prayer (Luke 5:16).

There are two types of recreation for folks. The first worships the sun and the second worships the Son. Both provide rest, but only one instills lasting health, wholeness, and healing of lives. While enjoying the sun of God's creation let us stay wired to the Son of our salvation. While on the road don't forget your devotional material and Bibles. Worship with other Christians when possible. Soak in the richness of God's presence in nature and through the diversity of people God created in his image as yourself. In the rush of different places to be and things to see, take time to enjoy the obvious gifts of God.

"Pray unceasingly," says St. Paul. So let it be our mantra during the summer months of recreating under the sun with the Son in our hearts and upon our lips with praise. It's a great summer plan for renewal.

Lastly, don't forget that Our Saviors has a summer full of activities for re-creating of its own. Vacation Bible School is July 22-26. In June we have the Family Film Fest every Friday evening at dusk in the church parking lot open to all. Central City Lutheran Mission Night at the 66ers Ball Game is July 17. August holds its own surprises. Here or elsewhere, God is present, prayer is unceasing, and we have the joy to recreate with the Creator. Praise be to God. -Pastor Scottie