



Immanuel Lutheran Church
NEWSLETTER
JUNE & JULY 2009

Dear friends in Christ,

Another summer is upon us. Wow, already? If you are like me, you also have noticed that the summers seem shorter each year. They're not, but in our business, we have stuffed our summers with activities.

One thing I can tell you. It's going to be a great summer. It may not look that way for many of you because of various difficulties in your lives – sickness, family issues, financial difficulties and uncertainty in what many are calling difficult times. But there is One who transcends all of these things – Jesus Christ.

Rev. Matthew Harrison tells of an interview that was done with Dr. Norman Nagel, after he had retired from Concordia Seminary, in St. Louis. The host asked Dr. Nagel, "Tell us about faith." "No," came the response. The startled host tried again: "Dr. Nagel, can you tell us what faith is?" "No, I cannot," the professor said, "I will not speak of faith, but I will speak of Christ."

Dr. Nagel made his point. Christ is the content of "faith," or such "faith" is not of Christ. There's nothing wrong with saying, "Let me share my faith with you!" so long as it means, "Let me share Jesus with you!"

Thus, "I have faith" equals "I have Jesus!"

"My faith gives me strength" equals "Jesus gives me strength."

"I find forgiveness in my faith" equals "I find forgiveness in my Jesus."

"I live by faith" equals "I live by Jesus."

In Jesus, you have been given faith in your Baptism and continue to live in faith and are nourished in the faith through His Word and Sacraments. What we face in the future is always known by us Christians who are in Jesus. We may not know the earthly details, but we certainly know our eternal future. Yes, it's going to be a great summer for all of us – because of Jesus.

Have a blessed summer – in Jesus.

With love in Christ,

Pastor Praeuner