



RIVERSIDE CHURCH

JULY/AUGUST, 2023

RIVERSIDE APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH - NEWSLETTER

Romans 10:17

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

We start July off with celebrating our country and the freedoms we enjoy living in the United States, including the right to gather. We gather in our communities for parades, cook outs, watching fire works together. Many of us enjoy camping. The camper gets pulled out on Memorial Day and stays out through Labor Day weekend. Sometimes we go to local campgrounds with lots of fun activities for kids and families. It is a good time to make some wonderful memories. Other times, we like to go out and see some National Parks, like Yellow Stone, or Rocky Mountains, or Black Hills or the Grand Canyon and many other National Parks. When families go camping, even if it is nearby, the pace can be a little slower, the focus is upon being together, enjoying the outdoors, God's wonderful creation.

When God created the earth, God said it was good, but even creation has become broken. Sometimes the gentle wind can become a storm, a tornado bringing devastation. Sometimes the gentle river can become a powerful flood bringing chaos and destruction.

The apostle Paul wrote that "faith comes from what is heard and what is heard comes through the word of Christ." Creation bears witness that our God is an awesome God. Jesus bears witness that this awesome God is not far away. Jesus said our Creator of all that we see and all of us, we can call Father. God is not a disinterested Creator, simply creating and stepping back to watch what will happen next. No, Jesus reveals our Creator as one who knows you personally, knows your name. The Lord knows when you are joyful. The Lord knows when you are afraid. The Lord knows when you are feeling confident, and when you are feeling overwhelmed. Not only does God know these things about you, God cares. God comes with the power of his love to bless you in abundance. God comes to stand beside you so you don't have to be afraid. God comes and cheers us on as we use our skills and gifts and succeed in serving one another. God comes to overcome the forces that create our fear. God is present to seek us out when we have sinned and feel the separateness and distance in our relationship our sin creates. Jesus comes and brings you into his love, forgiving you and reconciling you. Jesus reveals God's love and God's loving presence.

But what if the only word we hear all summer is the incomplete witness of Creation. What if all we hear this summer is about the fun we are having or hoping to have, about our next business venture or our latest earthly possessions.

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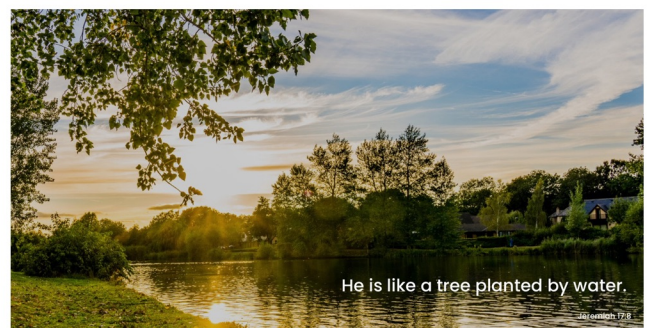
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The Word we need to hear, on a regular basis Apostle Paul declares is “the Word, our Lord Jesus Christ”. We can hear this “Word” as we gather at the campground, if we take time to share the Word. There maybe a worship at the Campground, where Jesus’ revelation of God’s love for you is proclaimed. If not, let’s not neglect gathering together as brothers and sisters in Christ to worship. When we gather to worship, we give the Holy Spirit all kinds of opportunities to proclaim the “Word” so we can hear and faith is created. We hear the “Word” as we sing hymns of praise together. We hear the “Word” as scriptures are read and the gospel is proclaimed in the sermon. We hear the “Word” as we pray together. We hear the “Word” as we share the peace of Jesus with one another. We heard the Word as we gather around the table and receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus through the bread and the wine and we hear those words of love, “It is for you.”

Enjoy God’s creation this summer, we have been waiting for months to have the warm weather to invite us to come out and play. Yet, remember God’s wonderful creation is an incomplete witness about God and God’s love. Our Creator sent his Son Jesus to reveal his word of love. The wonderful time spent in God’s creation can give us some peace from the hectic pace and we can create wonderful memories. But when we return to the hectic pace, we need the “Word” that brings peace and love and hope. During this summer, let us also continue to gather to hear “The Word” bearing witness to God’s love.

Gods Peace!

Pastor Ray

PRAYER REQUESTS

Safe summer plans and travels

VBS

Health and wellness for all

LOOKING AHEAD

Guest speaker on
July 16 and July 23rd

July 16th
Meal following service

He is like a tree
planted by water.

Jeremiah 17:8

July 26, 27 & 28th
Vacation Bible Study
Registration link on our website
www.riversidealc.com