



Greetings from south Florida! Late July is wonderful here: the crowds are away and it's never too hot for the beach. This is also the next-to-last week of our time apart this summer. Dana and I have enjoyed the sabbatical leave. We appreciate this opportunity for renewal. I am grateful that this leave also provides time to teach at the seminary this Fall on Tuesdays.

During the first week of sabbatical (at the end of May), Dana finished out her school year while I visited the seminary to begin groundwork for the course. The next four weeks were spent in Europe: England and France, London and Paris, boats, trains, subways, buses, Ubers and lots of walking. It was a fantastic month.

Then Dana returned to work, and I resumed working on the course. This month has been a time of reading, writing and creating. It has also been a time to be with our sons. Kyle has been home from the summer working between two years of graduate school. Last week I helped Evan move to Winona, MN, where he now serves as the Youth Director at Central Lutheran.

We look forward to seeing you soon. We have missed our home parish. In fact, we "slipped in and out" for the 8:30 service earlier this month to hear Matt Canniff-Kesecker preach. Needless to say, his message, the music, the congregational warmth and the leadership of Pastors Rachel and Gregg were a bright spot in our Sunday morning journeys during this time apart.

After a final week of study, I will return to the office Monday morning July 31. I will be back in Sunday worship on August 6. Please join me for coffee in the North Fellowship Hall between services that Sunday and the next for a sabbatical report and catching up.

+ Pastor Mark

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