Summertime Service: Shine Brightly!

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make His face shine upon us,
that your way may be known on earth,
your saving power among all nations (Psalm 67:1).

You combine summertime with our now being free from most COVID-19 restrictions and you get some fine opportunities to shine with the love of our Savior, by way of witness and service. As examples of this, I'm thinking about:

- One of our small town congregations getting ladies of the congregation together recently for a Ladies Night Out. They went out, all right – *outside* on the church property, planting and landscaping. Such a group effort told the neighborhood, "Those Lutherans care about their property. They even smile when they care – they shine!"
- One of our city congregations is planning for their annual Sunday Service Squared during which they send out members in bright yellow T-shirts in service groups, after being served a feast of God's Word in worship.
- One of our small town congregations already completed a four-day VBS for their entire community. 50 kids registered. 20 adults and youth assisted. All of this happened in a town with a population of 375!
- Camp Minneboji is attracting lots of kids this summer for their week of ministering to 4^{th} – 9^{th} grade students, under the theme: "Washed" (June 20-26). Shine brightly, Pastor Otten and Pastor Lehr and the rest of the staff!
- One of our large congregations is doing all sorts of fund-raisers to help send their Mexico mission team on their annual witness and service trip later this year.
- Then there was the excellent news we received from Pastor Al Sutton, our missionary on the Pine Ridge reservation. Al received permission from the tribe to do badly needed repairs to the building Al and his team use for our ministry in the village of Evergreen. Does Al ever have a service opportunity for you and others in your congregation this summer! (Click here to learn more about how you can help.)

And I know that there are many more VBS's and other summertime activities among our churches and schools that will give witness to the wonderful, gracious God who loves us and sent His Son to be the world's Savior.

Let your light so shine before others,
that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father who is in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

Shine brightly this summer, Church!

Pastor Scott Sailer