



Pacific Southwest District School Ministries E-Connect

“...speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” -Ephesians 4:15-16

July 7, 2010

Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer

(Written by Beth Howland, director, Hosanna, Mesa, AZ)

“As surely as the snow melts under the hot, summer sun, sinners disappear in the grave.” - Job 24:19 (The Message)

Albeit, here in Arizona most school children have been out of classes since the end of May and looked toward their “summer” vacation - as I am writing this, today, June 21st, it is indeed the first day of summer! For many, however, summer is more than a celestial event or even a trend in temperatures (even though the past few days the temperature has been soaring, yes, I know, it’s a dry heat, then again so is an oven!) but it is truly a state of mind - a state of mind that sends us back to bygone days, of the simplicity of sweet family picnics and of camp-outs in the backyard, of catching fireflies, of the experience of behaving in an innocent child-like fashion whether we are grown-up or not, of sitting on the porch swing in the evening with good friends sipping lemonade, of the excitement of observing a booming summer thunderstorm, of the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer.

Oh, I long for those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer yet, for many, there is no such thing as delightfully *lazy* summers, despite what many people may think. At this time my form of *lazy summer* includes wrapping-up the past school year by completing required forms and reports, addressing the “smoldering rubble” of numerous stacks of stuff on my desk, some of which may now have historical status, looking to the future with new hires and new prospective preschool families, playing “catch-up” for things which I didn’t have time to fully focus on during the school year due to my less flexible teaching schedule as well as tackling current tasks; final completion of VBS letters and evaluations, SONshine Summer Camp, encouraging children in worship...! Oh yeah, did I mention being a wife and always a mom to three young adults who can sometimes demand (and rightfully so) my attention.

And *hazy* days? In many places, summer haze merely reflects polluted air, an eye stinging - nose running environment. Perhaps the haze is more emotional - running to and fro, over-scheduling, “so much to do, so little time” - as parts of our psyche can’t escape the educational headlock of April, May, and June’s whirlwind events and mandates.

Crazy can very much describe our world today - the scary and outlandish thought provoking question..."seriously Lord, was Sodom and Gomorrah worse than our world today that you destroyed those places and yet our earth still is??" Yet we also know that our Jesus has a plan, a purpose to everything under heaven...in this season, in His time and His time is perfect!

Sin and its effect on our lives do not vacation during the summer months. That's not to say that sin doesn't enjoy its own perversity 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days of the year, never needing or even wanting some time off. Oh no, sin is always present, ever stealing, joy, peace and productivity from life.

"Then my God will arrive and all the holy angels with Him. What a Day that will be! No more cold nights - in fact, no more nights! The Day is coming - the timing is God's - when it will be a continuous day. Every evening will be a fresh morning. What a Day that will be! Fresh flowing rives out of Jerusalem, half to the eastern sea, half to the western sea, flowing year-round, summer and winter! God will be King over the earth, one God and only one. What a day that will be!" Zechariah 14: 5b-9 (The Message)

As all sinners have throughout history, we seek relief. We would like some lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer on the other side of sin - a "Zechariah moment" (see Zechariah passage). Yes, read Zechariah's verses a few times. Now that's what we can call living! "What a Day" indeed! But, of course, that is off in the future. Oh much more in the future? Only God knows, yet today we still face the trials and tribulations of passage before we reach the place where there is no night. Sort of like dreaming of next year's summer vacation while working through this year's!

The truth is that though we might feel as though we are teetering above the abyss, through Christ Jesus we stand firmly in grace, which God has given to us. We live as forgiven sinners, members of God's Church on Earth and confident that heaven is on the horizon, where we will exchange our present membership for one in the Church Triumphant.

So I say to each one of you, young and young at heart, enjoy your summer, the time playing and even the time working (be thankful you are able to work or even have a job!). Take eternal life a-day-at-a-time, even as you anticipate the time when that phrase will become obsolete. So go ahead - have the *lazy, hazy, crazy* days of summer! Go on; roll out the pretzels and popcorn and beer. Be joyous and peaceful, relax on the porch swing, catch a jar of fireflies, lie down on the lawn and watch the clouds go by, marvel at the power of a thunderstorm, frolic because you CAN! Jesus Christ lived, suffered, died, and danced on the devil's head for you. Live everyday for the Lord!

PS: It is okay to ask God to lead you to some pleasant *rest and relaxation* this summer too!

OUR APOLOGIES

Last week's E-Connect had some links that did not work. We are so sorry about that! This week's version is very similar to last week's, so please use the links from this edition. Thank you for your understanding!

UPCOMING EVENTS



First Time Teacher/Mentor Workshop

You should have received an email with all the information for this year's annual First Time Teacher/Mentor Workshop on Sunday and Monday, August 15-16th, at Christ Lutheran Church and School in Costa Mesa, CA. *It was brought to our attention that the fees for mentor teachers were incorrect, so please use the following documents in place of the original ones. We are sorry for the error.*

- [Mentor Registration](#)
- [Listing of Fees](#)

Please note that we have a special in-service day planned as well for you to send your entire staff to on Monday August 16th entitled "To a Great School Year...And Beyond!" This can be used for entire staff in-service during your Back-to-School training! This day will be led by two top presenters in our district. Pastor Mike Gibson from Christ, Costa Mesa, will lead a session on being a Missional Leader in the Classroom. Paul Brandt, PSD School Consultant for Strategic Planning and Marketing, will present on the topic "Teachers as Marketing Tools". Even if your school doesn't have a new teacher, you are encouraged to attend this fabulous opportunity for in-service training!

All of the documents and registration materials are on our website, www.pswcic.org, under News and Events.

Administrators' Conference

The Pacific Southwest District **Administrators' Conference** will be held Tuesday, July 27 - Thursday, July 29, at the Hyatt Grand Champions in Indian Wells, CA. The topic for the conference is Visionary Leadership. [Click here](#) for the invitation, [here](#) for the registration form, and [here](#) for the schedule. We hope you are planning to attend!

Accreditation Workshops

Accreditation Workshops are on the calendar for early in the 2010-2011 school year. On Wednesday, **October 6**, workshops will be presented on Introduction to Accreditation, The Self-Study Process, Writing Annual Reports, and Preparing for WASC Mid-Cycle visits. The following Wednesday, **October 13**, training for NLSA visiting team members and training for NLSA consultants will be offered. Please mark these dates on your calendar now. Administrators, if you are an accredited school, please consider yourself and one other teacher to attend Visiting Team member training as your partnership in NLSA to the schools of the Pacific Southwest District. Look for more information on these trainings and workshops as the new school year approaches!

2010 DISTRICT STUDENT AID GUIDELINES AND GRANTS

Student Aid Guidelines for the Pacific Southwest District Grants and the two forms needed to apply for aid are now available on the PSD website. Please go to: <http://www.psd-lcms.org/resources/default.htm#student>.

Children of professional church workers who are studying at one of the Concordia's to become a full-time professional church worker will also be eligible for the "Thankoffering" grant which is annually collected at LEC. There is not a separate Thankoffering form.

Both forms must be completed and received by the District Office no later than August 3 for grant consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Farley at 949.854.3232 ext 201. Thank you for your patience.

MTM ONLINE TECHNOLOGY CLASSES: SESSION 2 STARTS JULY 12

The Ministry Technology Mentor Project (MTM) focuses on providing more affordable, more practical, and more convenient technology online training for Lutheran educators. [Click here](#) for the flyer with more information!

FAMILY-FRIENDLY T.V. VIEWING

On Friday, July 16, NBC will be showing a family-friendly movie called "The Jensen Project". There is no foul language, no sex and no violence. It is not a faith-based movie, but it shows great family values, courage, devotion and commitment to helping others. It is a very well done production; it shows the reality of imperfect people living together in a family and is exciting. If you enjoy the movie and would like to see more programming of this sort, RAAP is encouraging those of a like mind to contact executives at Procter and Gamble, Wal-Mart and NBC to thank them for airing this type of family-friendly programming. [Click here](#) for how you can support this movie and [click here](#) for a promotional piece to share with others to encourage viewing.

2009-2010 HEARTS FOR JESUS – IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GIVE!



Gardens.

There's still time to send your Hearts for Jesus offerings and help us reach the district goal of \$30,000. **We keep receiving generous donations, and currently we have received \$19,433.17 toward our district goal.** Thank you to the schools in our district that have sent in their chapel offerings for the 2009-2010 *Hearts for Jesus* project, Giving

DISTRICT SCHOOL SERVICE DAY: SAVE AND PLAN FOR THE DATE!

On Wednesday, November 17, 2010, we would like to hold the first, of what we hope will be many, **district-wide Lutheran school service day**. The goal of this day would be that all of the schools in the Pacific Southwest District would participate in service to their community. What an impact and witness we could make for Christ if over 23,000 children and their teachers are out in service to the communities!

We encourage you to plan now! What could your school do in service to your community? How about planning this within your school region? If you have schools in reasonable proximity, contact them to see if you could work together on a project. Mow lawns, visit shut ins, collect for a food or clothing bank, pick a family in need to shower God's love! Need ideas? Let us know! The opportunities are only limited by your imagination!

As you make a commitment to join with other Lutheran schools in this district-wide Lutheran school service day, please let us know! Also, please let us know what you are doing! We hope to have media coverage of this also. Who knows, we may pop in and join you! Above all, keep this in your prayers, and in your preparations for a new school year!

NEW WEBSITE COMING – YOUR PICTURES NEEDED!

School Ministries, along with the District Office, are currently working with a designer on a new website. We are excited about this and are looking for ways to personalize and “connect” the website with all of our schools. We would love to populate the website with pictures of our schools in action. **We are looking for pictures of your students, teachers, and administrators doing all the things that happen in a school day and year.** Classroom shots, meetings, programs, events, baptisms, service projects, relationship building, etc.--you get the picture (pun intended!)! Please email us any pictures you would like to share, labeled with your school name and city. Be sure any pictures sent with students are cleared by your school's parent permission form. We need the pictures to be in a jpg file and the highest resolution possible. Please email your pictures to anna.preus@psd-lcms.org. We can't promise your picture will be used but we promise to use as many pictures as possible! Thanks for your help!

ISSUING A CALL? PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED!

As you identify who you will be calling to your school for next year, please keep School Ministries informed. Names of candidates will often show up on multiple Call lists. If we know you are going to call someone, and if (and when!) the candidate accepts the Call to your school, please let us know so we can inform other schools this candidate is no longer available. Thank you!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT CALL DOCUMENTS

Please be aware that **the Call documents for 2010 are updated**. If you have not received information on downloading Call documents since January 2010, please contact our office for the username and password to do so. Please read through these documents carefully, as changes have been made. The current document is 14 pages long, so be sure to check the version you have.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Each week, prayers of thanksgiving and prayers for teachers, administrators, support staff, pastors, students, and families of the Lutheran schools, early childhood centers, and churches of the Pacific Southwest District are listed. To include names on the list, please send information to anna.preus@psd-lcms.org by noon on Wednesday of each week. This week we pray for:

- **The upcoming Synodical Convention from July 10-17. Our district's advisory delegates include Kyle Blake, Paul Brandt, Mike Gummelt, Sanna Klipfel, Wendell Robson, Carolyn Sims, Carol Smallwood, Larry Wooster, and Rachel Klitzing.**



We are all connected in Christ!

Rachel Klitzing

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