



Dear Friends in Christ,

Summer is here. When I was a child, summer meant life would slow down. Now it just means we shift gears and life continues on full speed ahead. But summer does bring some special opportunities. I would like to highlight four of them for this summer.

**First comes Vacation Bible School.** I am so grateful for Connie Eitzmann and her team and the work they put in to make VBS a fun learning experience. It is an exhausting week, but well worth the effort to share Jesus with children in our community. Everyone is welcome to join the fun.

**Second is mission trips.** I am going on another mission trip this summer. This trip is with the Youth of Peace to South Dakota. We will experience life on the Cheyenne River Indian reservation serving children and adults who are some of our forgotten neighbors. We will also enjoy time together as a group sight-seeing, worshiping, learning, and playing.

Mission trips are a great combination of retreat and service, an opportunity to connect with the church around the world and to serve neighbors who become friends. There are many opportunities with great organizations like Thrivent Builds, East European Mission Network, Hope4Kids, Food for the Poor, and many others. Peace Church has funds to help make it affordable for anyone.

**Third is a great summer concert.** On June 18 Peace Church is hosting a concert with the Watoto Children's choir from Uganda. These young orphans will steal your heart with their smiles and their voices and their dancing and with their stories

of loss and hope. They benefit from seeing the world and we benefit from seeing life through their eyes.

The choir will arrive between 12 and 2 PM that day. They will spend the afternoon with us at the church. We will host a dinner for them at the church at 5 PM and you are invited to eat with them. We need folks to sign up to bring food for the meal.

The free concert is at 7 PM. There will be a free will offering. As always, if you wish to avoid getting on another mailing list, make your check out to Peace Lutheran Church and we will write one check from Peace to the choir.

After the concert we need 9 host homes to provide housing for one adult and two or three children. The children are ages 7 to 12. Host homes will serve breakfast to their guests the next morning. Then we will bring them back to the church and we will have a group here to make up sack lunches for them to take on the road.

Please let us know if you can serve as one of our 9 host homes or if you would like to help put together sack lunches the next morning. Also, please sign up to bring food to the meal that evening. And don't forget to invite your friends and neighbors to this great concert.

**The fourth opportunity is summer camp.** Peace Lutheran Men provide funds to make camp affordable for everyone. There are a couple of Christian camps that we at Peace recommend. See me for details and registration forms.

Finally, we have a member of Peace who is preparing to go to seminary. Stacey Duensing will be attending either Western Seminary in Michigan or Regent College in Vancouver. One of the signs of a healthy congregation is the sending of members into ministry.

Last time a member of our congregation attended seminary, we were able to provide a \$10,000 per year tuition scholarship. Can we do it again? We already have \$1000 in our seminary fund. If you would like to make a contribution, you can mark your offering "seminary fund" and we will add it to our fund.

Yours in Christ, *Phil Nielsen*