

FISH CATCHER



JULY 2007

Salem Lutheran Church

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."

Matthew 4:19

Dear Friends,

Summer is here and many of you are embarking on vacations. I am not sure what the Biblical precedent is for vacations, but Sabbath and Jubilee and Jesus' resting habits indicate that time apart from work is important. Perhaps even if your normal work routines must continue uninterrupted, the longer daylight and higher temperatures still urge us to discover respite wherever we can.

I will be returning home to Minnesota in July to reconnect with family and friends, read and play. My son Jonathan will be joining me at the lake where we will likely do whatever the spirit moves us to do each day. Many days that will mean doing nothing at all except enjoying one another's company in whatever weather the dawn of the day will bring. It's a very good routine.

In August Matt Braaten and our youth will be launching their canoe trip from our Lutheran camp a few miles from me on Lake Vermilion. I am hoping to be there when they arrive to show them where I live and orient them a bit for their paddling in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. They will have a wonderful time. I may also have another youth group visit me from my previous church in San Luis Obispo. No doubt the creatures in my forest will be watching these events with great curiosity. And I'll be smiling.

A big part of my joy is you people here at Salem. I am grateful to be able to return to you in August. By then your Call Committee should be well progressed in their pastoral candidate considerations. Also by then more of the continued renovation work on the Mountain Street parsonage should be complete.

I will not be writing for the August newsletter because this is part of what it means to vacation. But my prayers for you will not stop. And I ask that yours not stop either. The Call Committee and all of us need to remain engaged in God on behalf of our life and mission and leadership for ministry in the gospel. This is the gospel of God's love and life for us. And it makes us glad and free.

Happy summer, safe travels, blessings and peace to you all.

Pastor Marcus