

Report of the Senior Pastor  
June 1 - September 10, 2009

I trust you all had a wonderful, restful, and refreshing summer. Part of my summer was spent helping Barbara recuperate from her knee surgery. I really discovered how exhausting housework, laundry, cooking, etc, can be. I closed the summer with a trip to Dallas to visit with Mark, Azure and Emma. Being a visiting grandparent is such a wonderful experience.

At Trinity, in addition to my regular duties, preaching, and visiting I officiated at one baptism, four weddings, and three funerals, I met with nine people for spiritual direction and had eighty-three significant pastoral conversations. I concluded staff evaluations and goal setting. I attended Synod Assembly and appreciated the addresses given by Pastor Mike Foss, the author of "Power Surge."

Pastor Kevin Shively, Senior Pastor of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, York, celebrated his 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination. Members of his congregation contacted me and asked me to preach that Sunday. I agreed. Pastor Shively was unaware of the arrangement. That meant my visiting in the parking lot and hanging out in the foyer until it was time for the sermon. Then a congregational leader invited Pastor Shively to take a seat and brought me out to preach. Preaching was fun as was watching Pastor Shively's surprise and reaction! I was also privileged to preach at Mount Gretna.

As I have discovered with Emma, little children can be motivating and energizing. So it is with Vacation Church School. I was able to engage the children with a story, help them learn a Bible verse, and join in the energetic singing activity. If you haven't attended a session of this summer activity you are missing a real treat. Equally energizing are the Sundaes in Summer concerts. It was my privilege to present the message at the last concert in the series to a gathering of over 400. What a great ministry to the neighborhood. What are we going to do when we run out of space?

Finally, I was able to attend the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the C. S. Lewis Society of New York at the Immaculate Conception Conference Center in Queens. I was fortunate to be able to meet and hear some of America's leading C. S. Lewis scholars.

All in all a packed summer. Filled with ministry, spiritual growth, and personal renewal. A great blessing indeed.

Respectfully submitted,