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“The trees are about to teach us how beautiful it is to let go.”

-Anonymous

Summer is my favorite time of the year, because my kids are out of school. That means they are less stressed than during the school year. And they are home most of the time. I’ve always enjoyed spending time with my kids, but as they get closer and closer to the day, they fly the nest, I am recognizing how precious *these* days are.

In terms of church work, I also like that we have one worship service at 9:30, which combines both the people that normally come to the early service and the later service altogether. Doing that allows me to lead a bible study after worship with people that might not normally spend much time in conversation together. Summer is a time that settles into community.

That said, it is always nice to get the program year up and running again in September. It’s nice, when kids are in school with routines. Sunday School is back in session. And some of our favorite events are planned like Oktoberfest (9/21), Reformation (10/27), and Christmas Caroling (12/4). We have a lot of great things going on at St. Timothy.

As we pick up the pace, I also want to encourage everyone to be intentional about scheduling your time. The world around us whirls with activity pulling us along. It takes some degree of intentionality to ensure we are really living out our own values and not those dictated by coaches, teachers, and bosses. School, work, extra-curricular activities are enriching and important, but we are the only ones that can make the time to care for our own bodies, mind, and soul.

The best way to take care of our souls, is to attend worship every single Sunday. Just like everything in life that is truly meaningful, it will take some work to get into the habit. It may mean letting go of other things, but it is an important part of *practicing* our faith in this world. Time and again, when I provide care to people in distress, those that *practice* their faith, are more able to access it, when they need it, than those that do not.

Attending worship every Sunday is the ideal. Most of us can’t attain the ideal. So, allow me to assure you that anything you do to mature your faith is well worth the effort. If you are someone that only comes on Christmas and Easter, maybe this year, try to add in Reformation Sunday, Palm Sunday, and Pentecost. If you are someone that comes for all the high holy days listed above, then maybe try to increase to one Sunday every month.

No matter what, know that wherever you are, God is there also. Whether you are paying any attention to God in your life or not, God is there with you. And the church is here for you too. You can walk in the door any week and we will just be so happy to see you – no judgement. Attending worship isn’t a moral issue over which you can be judged. It is an opportunity for you to mature in faith and grow deeper in your understanding of just how much God loves you.

This fall, as you watch the trees letting go of their leaves. Think about how God is going to replace them in the spring. Consider what you can let go in your life, to make more space for the beauty that God wants to grow in you this year.