

Our Unchanging God in a Season of Change

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (Heb 13:8)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

June brings a whirlwind of change to our community. High school and college seniors are taking their first steps toward their new chapters in life; summer schedules have been finalized and will be fully upon us, and basically the pace of daily life shifts. Even in our own faith community, we will have left the Season of Easter (Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!) as well as those High Feast Days such as The Ascension of Our Lord, The Day of Pentecost and Holy Trinity; only to enter the “non-festival” part of the church year; you know, remaining in the color of green for five long months.

And so, whether we welcome the summer change or not; overall, change is rarely easy; whether it’s leaving home, altering our routines, or navigating transitions. And, it can also feel scary at times. In fact, the Book of Hebrews was written to a church facing severe trials, tempted to abandon the faith for something “easier” or more familiar. That’s why the author continued to call them, as well as us, to fix our eyes solely on Jesus. That’s also why he deliberately dropped any connecting verb in the Greek text of this verse, making it a powerful, unchanging declaration.

For example, with the word “**Yesterday**”: This encompasses Christ’s life, His perfect obedience to the Law, and His sacrificial death on the cross. It reminds us that the historical reality of our redemption is secure. Next, the word “**Today**”: In the present, Jesus continues to be the same Savior. He remains present with us in our current struggles, continually absolving our sins through His Word and Sacraments. And finally, the word “**Forever**”: We are assured that our eternal destiny is resting entirely upon the unchanging nature of God who will never break His promise.

Therefore, as we move through the warmth of summer, let’s rest and cling tightly to His promises. Let the unchanging nature of our Savior be the source of our confidence, the foundation of our contentment, and the guide for our daily vocations. For remember family, the summer green is not boring or worthless, but rather life-giving through His unchanging gifts of Word and Sacrament.

In Christ,
Pastor Seehafer