

“For, ‘everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.’

But how are they to call on one in whom they not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’ But not all have obeyed the good news; for Isaiah says, ‘Lord, who has believed our message?’ So faith come from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.” Romans 10:14-17.

Dear Christian friends,

May long week-end we Canadians in the NALC held our Lutheran Youth Together Event (LYTE). The theme title was **ECHO** (Every Christian Holler Out!). We based the gathering upon this passage of scripture from Romans and the core values of the NALC. Discipleship and encouragement for our youth is the goal of each gathering. Discipleship is one of the core values of our denomination. We need to be reminded about the vocation we have as Christians – to live reflecting God’s love in Christ in all places and all times.

The Core Values of the NALC are that we are Christ-centered, Traditionally-grounded, Mission-driven and Congregationally-focused. (I encourage everyone to dwelve deeper into the values by looking at the NALC website theNALC.org) Our values are the closest definition for who we are. Throughout the gathering time our presentors helped us explore each Core value in a multitude of ways . We examined what those values mean for us and we removed some misconceptions that could arise from those statements. Most importantly we were reminded that we are disciples of Jesus Christ for the sake of the Gospel.

“So faith comes from what is heard and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.” Romans 10:17. The youth were invited to explore what an echo does. It repeats back to the speaker (IE noise initiator) what came from the source. When it is our words spoken, we hear those words repeated back to us. We are God’s mouth piece, God’s speaker in the world.

The scripture reading from Romans reminds us about the importance of our spoken words - our proclamation- in our mission for Christ. We proclaim God’s Good News of Jesus Christ as Redeemer, Savior and LORD for us. This is the core of our message and it continues the great theme of Easter season which we just are ending. The significance of the echo is that we also need to hear again and again that great news of God’s saving act for us.

Discipleship is part of the continuing nurturance that Christians are called into. We need to be built up, renewed, encouraged and sometimes exhorted in our relationship with our LORD and our God. It is Christ’s living presence among us that constantly feeds us and constantly reminds us we are children of God; that we are loved! It is food for our soul.

As we grow in the knowledge and grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, the word of Christ goes out to the ends of the world. Every Christian Holler Out! Listen for the ECHO!

In Christ forever,

Pastor Kevin.