

**“Summer afternoon—summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language.” Henry James**

The English author Henry James seems to have nailed this quote and he certainly understood the joys of summer. Summer is here. June 21<sup>st</sup> and the rights of summer begin. This summer is featuring the World Cup 2018 and all the fanaticism that follows. News of World Cup 2026 in the States is exciting. The potential for games in Kansas City is even more exciting, even if eight years away. Is the world getting smaller or what?

Summer vacations are a tradition in this country and I hope each of you choose to enjoy this experience in the coming weeks. Soon July 4<sup>th</sup> will be here and we will celebrate the freedoms we cherish in our country. Bar-b-que and the good old red, white, and blue. It doesn't get any better than that. My fondest recollections of summer are listening to baseball games on a transistor radio on a warm summer's eve. Simple and beautiful at the same time. Thanks to Nat King Cole for ingraining in our minds those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer.

We have so much to be thankful for, and yet there is the tendency to focus on the negative, to berate politicians, to slander one's neighbor, or to twitter criticism about everyone to anyone who will listen. Why? With all the technology, social media, instant communication devices, tracking mechanisms, apps for every occasion known to man, why do we still seem to have less time in our lives? Less time for those who matter the most. What are we chasing and why? Just questions. I think we all have the answers within us.

Here at LHSKC we are busily readying ourselves for the 2018-2019 school year. Historically, it will be year 39 at LHSKC. So, this means year 40 is right around the corner. We all need to be thinking about the celebration that should ensue. 40 years of keeping faith with our youth, of professing the Gospel of our Lord, and of preparing lives for today, tomorrow and eternity. It doesn't get any better than that either.

God Bless and enjoy those two beautiful words,