

Come Away and Rest Awhile

Everyone likely has a place that exists in their lives that brings joy, comfort and rest. For many it might be a cabin in the woods, or perhaps a grandparent's home, or maybe a stunning national park. For me, that place is the Association Retreat Center near Osceola, Wisconsin. I have been going to the ARC for nearly my entire life. The first time I got the opportunity to go to the ARC was at Annual Conference 1995 at one month old, and it has become a place that I have cherished deeply ever since.

What is it that makes the ARC so special? As a former radar base turned camp, it certainly does not have the beauty the Grand Canyon or Rocky Mountain National Park can offer. The staff does a wonderful job maintaining the facilities, but they will not match a five-star hotel. What makes the ARC special isn't so much the place itself, but rather what takes place there. The ARC is a place where one can "come away and rest awhile" (Mark 6:31). To receive rest and restoration for one's soul is of much greater worth than anything else this world can offer.

When God made a covenant with Abraham, one thing that God promised to Abraham was that He would provide for him land. "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you" (Genesis 12:1b). The promise of land also included the promise that God would provide rest for His people. In their own land they would have rest from their enemies. "The Lord your God is providing you a place of rest and will give you this land" (Joshua 1:13b). The promise of "rest" is something that not only was given to the nation of Israel but also is given to believers today.

God has graciously given us a place to find rest in the Association Retreat Center. A place where we get the opportunity to hear God's Word and fellowship with other believers. A place where we can disconnect for a time from the outside world and grow closer to Christ. The ARC is special because Christ is at work, and in Him we find our true rest.

*Mr. Scott Olson
Solid Rock Free Lutheran Church
Minneapolis, Minnesota*

AFLC Promotion for July is the ARC