As I minister to you, the congregations of Neighbors in Christ (Augustana Lutheran, First Lutheran and Saint John's Lutheran), I continue to be impressed with how connected our congregations are to so many other congregations in our neighborhood of Christ.

On the last day of June, I was honored to preach at the Midsummer Country Gospel Service at Clear Lake Lutheran Church. What a joyous celebration we had—with a beautiful mural of the resurrected Christ at the front of the sanctuary and with wonderful acoustics of our songs throughout the sanctuary!

Later-toward the end of July-I met a gentleman in Lafayette whom I did not recognize but who recognized me. He is Arden DeBoer-a former mayor of the town. Arden recognized me because he had attended our worship at Clear Lake in June. From Arden, I learned of his history of active involvement with the Clear Lake Cemetery.

We, the three congregations who comprise the Neighbors in Christ, are connected to huge number of Christians—Arden, among them—our neighborhood.

I rejoice in the Christian fellowship that we, the congregations of Neighbors in Christ, have with so many other congregations and their members who are in our neighborhood. I pray that our fellowship with these congregations and their members may increase and be strengthened.

Pastor Leonard Hummel