



“The Best Is Yet To Come”

Southern Lakes Church
Pastor Ken Brummel 11-2-25

1. Take a few minutes for each person to share how they came to be part of SLC, when that was, and one thing you would like to give God the glory for concerning SLC.
2. Why is the number 40 special in Scripture? Review some references from the sermon notes.
3. READ Lamentations 3:22-23. What is the Book of Lamentations all about and why would this reminder have been so important for God’s people? Why is this reminder important for us?
4. READ and discuss the following verses and the commitment to **Faithfulness**. Prov. 28:20; Gal. 5:22; Matthew 25:23. What are some other biblical examples of people who were or were not faithful?
5. Why is faithfulness important when we are experiencing trials, individually or as a church?
6. What does faithfulness look like? (Review sermon notes and look at the verses as time allows.)
7. READ and discuss the following verses and the commitment to **Unity**. Ps. 133:1; Eph. 4:1-6. In what way is the Godhead unified and what implication does that have for Christ’s Church?
8. Why do you think disunity is so destructive to a church? What are some ways we can work to build and maintain unity? (Review sermon notes and look at the verses as time allows.)
9. READ and discuss the following verses in regard to the commitment to **Mission Focus**.
 - Love God: (Mark 12:30)
 - Love People: (Mark 12:31)
 - Make Disciples: (Matthew 28:19-20)
10. READ the parable of The Lifesaving Station (backside) and discuss why churches start out well but often struggle to stay strong.
11. Anything you would like to add to the discussion of “The Best is Yet to Come?”
12. Spend some time in prayer thanking God for His 10 years of Faithfulness to SLC and praying for His continued blessing upon our church.

The Life Saving Station (A Parable)

An unknown author wrote that on a dangerous seacoast where shipwrecks often occur there was once a little lifesaving station. The building was just a hut, and there was only one boat, but the few devoted members kept a constant watch over the sea. With no thought for their safety, they went out day and night, tirelessly rescuing the lost. Many lives were saved, so the station became famous.

Some of those who were saved, along with others in the surrounding area, wanted to become associated with the station. They gave of their time, money, and effort for the support of its work. New boats were bought, new crews were trained, and the lifesaving station grew.

Some of the members were unhappy that the building was so crude and poorly equipped. They felt a more comfortable place should be provided, so they replaced the emergency cots and beds and put better furniture in a new, larger building.

Now the lifesaving station became a popular gathering place for its members. They decorated it exquisitely because they used it as a sort of club. Fewer members were now interested in going to sea on lifesaving missions, so they hired lifeboat crews to do the work.

The lifesaving motif still prevailed in the club's decorations, and there was a liturgical lifeboat in the room where club initiations were held. About this time a large ship was wrecked off the coast, and the hired crews brought in loads of cold, wet, half-drowned people. They were dirty and sick. The beautiful new club was considerably messed up. So the property committee immediately had a shower house built outside the club where the shipwreck victims could be cleaned up before coming inside.

At the next meeting there was a split in the club membership. Most of the members wanted to stop the lifesaving activity because they thought it was a hindrance and unpleasant to the normal social life of the club. Some members insisted on lifesaving as their primary purpose and pointed out they were still a lifesaving station after all. They were finally voted down and told that if they wanted to save the lives of various kinds of people shipwrecked in those waters, they could begin their own lifesaving station down the coast, which they did.

As the years went by, the new station experienced the same changes that occurred in the old. It evolved into a club, and another lifesaving station was founded. History continued to repeat itself, and if you visit that coast today, you'll find a number of exclusive clubs along the shore.

Shipwrecks are still frequent, but most of the people drown.