



Dear Friends,

Aug 18-25 was my second **mission trip** this August. It was with Mary, Kath & Tim and grandson John. We did home

improvement projects at their home in Boston and saw some things we hadn't seen before. Some of you have done that with family. Late nights installing doors, floor tile, grout, towel bars, painting and early am with a 2 year old, off to daycare in am to be picked up later on. It was collaborative in many ways and not so much in other ways. Some projects we needed to discuss others we just put our best one on it to take the lead. It's an adventure – right? ☺

What fun getting to know daughter, son-in-law and grandson! Realizing anew what characteristic traits daughter and grandson got from John and Mary. Yeah I know the good stuff and those other traits. And then working in break times to escape from the money pit.

So what's your August been like? Learn good stuff about yourselves and family? Did you work together? What things did you take the lead in doing or being? Did faith factor in? **Did God interrupt** what you planned or envisioned about how summer would go? How did you respond to those interruptions?

I read **The Quants** by Scott Patterson - How a New Breed of Math Whizzes Conquered Wall Street and Nearly Destroyed It and **No One Would Listen** – A True Financial Thriller by Harry Markopolos – the Madoff whistleblower. A Quant is trained in higher math like algorithms used as financial analysis tools. Technical analysis is a discipline that can forecast the direction of prices through the study of past market data, price and volume. Quants use math skills to do that analysis. Some Quants make investment products to attract investors. Greedy Quants almost destroyed Wall Street. But Harry Markopolos a Greek American Quant and 3 financial expert colleagues investigated Berne Madoff from 2000-2008 because his analysis of the numbers show that he ran a Ponzi Scheme. The Securities & Exchange Commission ignored Harry's 5 reports to them! Had SEC acted \$50B of the \$65B stolen investor \$ would've been saved. **No one would listen.** The market that the Quants almost destroyed crashed. Bernie was caught and jailed for his fraud.

Many who knew Madoff was a crook kept quiet. And when the truth is told and no one listens bad things happen to many people, in this case worldwide. It is the same in the faith. When we hear God's truth and refuse to act on it, nothing good comes of it.

God bless your generous giving. We're increasing summer loans to ourselves. So all you do make our mission in Jesus name possible.

Pastor John

Dear Friends,

If you're like me the summer was a blur and you don't know where it went. As people finish up their recreational time in August, **we at Saint Paul Lutheran are getting ready to "begin again."**



For some reason this time of year has always struck me as the right time to "renew myself." I think of those disciplines that have fallen by the wayside. I think of those habits that I wanted to get going on. As the kids get ready to start school, I find myself preparing to start as well. I restart some habits and work to get started on some other ones.

For the Christian these moments in which we "begin again" are all about the discipline of Bible study and worship. If you have been thinking that you wanted to be more disciplined in worship...that you wanted to get your spiritual life on track, I invite you to join us for worship on Saturday evenings or Sunday mornings.

We are also gearing up for some **adult education opportunities this fall.** Our adult forums will begin on Sunday, September 19 in between worship. I will kick things off with a talk about our adoption journey in Russia. We offer two adult Bible studies. Our Tuesday afternoon group meets at 1:30 to look at the scriptures for the coming weekend. Our Wednesday evening Bible study will begin on September 29 at 6 pm with an 8 week study on the Book of John.

Our youth will get going in September as well. **Our high schoolers will kick off their activities on Sept 19 watching the Vikings play the Dolphins.** Watch for location in the near future. Our middle schoolers will go bowling in September as well. Date to be announced.

Our Chicago Mission team is planning a meal and presentation for their stockholders for Sunday, September 26 at 6 pm. The meal will feature hot dogs (Chicago style?) as well as salads, chips, etc... If you invested in the trip, we thank you and invite you to hear the story. Please let your mission student know you plan to attend.

Thrivent members: Please respond to the letter you will be receiving regarding "Choice Dollars" Thrivent is inviting you to decide where you would like some fraternal dollars to go. You may choose among many Lutheran institutions including your congregation, Lutheran college, seminaries, etc... I ask you to consider Saint Paul Lutheran Church among your choices. In the past Thrivent funds have helped provide a means for our youth to attend the National Youth Gatherings. Your contribution guarantees that we will be able to continue to do this as well as fund other meaningful projects through our congregation. Thanks.

Pastor Kip

Upcoming Events

Sun. Sept. 19 - 12 pm HS kickoff:

Sun. Sept. 26 - 6 pm Chicago mission meal

Also coming in Sept: Middle sch. Bowling

Adult Education

Adult forums begin Sun. Sept. 19 - **9:45 am**

Sept. 19: Our adoption story – Pastor Kip

Sept. 26: Offering Counting class

Bible studies:

Tuesday afternoon Bible study - **1:30 pm**

Gospel of John: **Begins Wed. Sept. 29**



Kitchen Cleaning: Each month's service group leaders should *check kitchen for used towels to wash periodically*; **please clean kitchen end of month.**

Service groups for:

August – Group V – Karel Titus & Diane DeBoer

Sept. – Group IV – Carol Krueger & Tammy Aarsvold

Our next WELCA meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 14

at 1:30pm, where we will discuss the fall bazaar.

*September Circle meetings:

Lydia Circle: Wednesday, September 1 at 1:30pm

Bible Study –

Hostess – Erma Mensing

Elizabeth Circle: Tues., Sept. 7 at 1:30pm/City Centre

Bible Study – Marilyn Goff

Hostess – Carol Moreland

Join a Music Group!

You are invited to be a part of an ensemble at our church. They include Chancel Choir, Praise Team, Children's Choir, Handbell Choir, and Faith Journey. In addition, there are often opportunities for vocal soloists and instrumentalists. We also need individuals to lead the congregation as a cantor.

First rehearsals are as follows:

- **Chancel Choir** – Wed., Sept. 8, 7:00pm in sanctuary
- **Praise Team** – Wed., Sept. 8, 8:00pm in music room
- **Handbell Choir** – Sun., Sept. 12 at 9:30am in music room
- **Children's Choir** – Tues., Sept. 21 from 3:15-4:00pm in music room (gr. K-6)
- **Faith Journey** – Saturdays, 4:30 - 5:15pm all year. Leads Sat. night worship.

Education

We had 88 children join us for Vacation Bible School on a “High Seas Expedition” where we explored the mighty love of God. A BIG thank you to all of our Vacation Bible School volunteers. This is such a fun event for the children of St. Paul’s, and without all of you it would not be possible. We “Filled the Well” with \$123.00!! Way to go kids!



Sunday School Teacher

orientation will be held on September 2 at 7:00 pm. We are asking that ALL who have volunteered to please plan on attending. It is very important to receive the information, as this will help you have a successful

experience!

URGENT, Volunteers Needed!!! We are still in need of teachers. In order to have Sunday school for ALL students every Sunday we need more teachers. We need 4 more teachers at the 9:30 Sunday school; two teachers for 4th grade and two teachers for 5th grade. We are in need of one teacher at the 10:30 Sunday school for Kindergarten.

If you think it is important for your child, grandchild or godchild to receive a Christian Education, please consider this opportunity to become involved. We are continuing to use a team teaching approach to allow flexibility. All teams are able to set their own schedule of which individual teaches each Sunday. The curriculum is very easy to use: it gives you age appropriate ideas for games, crafts, skits, etc. Please watch for the Sunday school volunteers sign-up on the clipboard passed during worship services, or call myself or Tracy Barsness.

Sunday school will begin on September 12th.

Students in grades 1st through 5th will have Sunday school at 9:30 am. Students who have turned 3 by September 1, 2010 through kindergarten will attend Sunday school during the 10:30 worship service. Students are released to Sunday school after the children’s sermon. **On the 12th, students will be doing a special project in their classroom, and we will have a carnival set up in room A & B.** We ask that all Sunday school teachers plan on assisting in the classroom on September 12th. - **Laura Gathje**

New Member Sunday

We will be receiving new members on Sunday, October 10th. If you’d like to become a member and have not already been contacted, or if you know of someone who would like to join, please notify the church office.

NEWSLETTER

Saint Paul Lutheran Church
214 Third Street SW, PO Box 708
Pine Island, MN 55963

E-mail: saintpaulpi@yahoo.com 507-356-8925

Website: saintpaulpi.org

Address Service Requested

Staff - John Torris Lohre, Senior Pastor
Kip Groettum, Associate Pastor

Worship Schedule

Saturday worship at 5:30pm

Potluck 1st Saturday of month following worship

Sunday worship - 8:15 & 10:00am

Changes September 12 – 8:15 & 10:30am

Coffee hour between services

Last Wednesday evening worship (8/1) - 7:00pm

Potluck meal prior to worship at 6:00pm

Communion Served on 1st, 3rd and 5th weeks

Sunday school begins September 12

August 26, 2010 - God's work. Our hands.

Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Pine Island, MN 55963
Permit # 17

Note: Worship times change on Sept. 12 to 8:15am & 10:30am. Sunday School begins also!



Thrivent "Choice Dollars"



In past years Thrivent for Lutherans has given charitable funds to your congregation to be used for church programs. In 2010 the charitable funds program was changed to "Choice Dollars". Each eligible member can choose where Thrivent distributes funds to

Lutheran Organizations, including our congregation.

If you are an eligible member, you should have received a letter in the past few days informing you on the amount and how to direct these Choice Dollars.

REMEMBER YOUR CONGREGATION!!

Baja Invitational Golf Tournament

- October 2nd – Shotgun Start at noon
 - 4 Person Scramble
 - \$20 – 18 holes/cart for non-PIGC members
 - \$25 minimum donation from each golfer
 - Prizes, Contests and different flights
- Benefits 2011 Baja Mission Trip**

Thank You Liturgists!

July and August were busy months for our pastors, leaving many Sundays with only one pastor present. **Thank you Sue Flemke, Sheri French and Doug Strandell**, for taking on the roles as liturgist in our pastors' absences. We are very blessed to have so many gifted individuals at Saint Paul's who are willing to fill this role.

LWR "Fill the Well"

Vacation Bible School offering this year went to Lutheran World Relief's efforts to help "Fill the Well". We will also be doing a special congregational offering on **Rally Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 11 & 12**. The demand for water is growing world-wide. Our donations can help build wells & dig boreholes, provide clean water during emergencies & disasters, install irrigation systems, and train communities to properly manage their water supplies. "Fill the Well" in the narthex, with your gifts to help others less fortunate. **Please do not include this gift in your offering envelopes.** LWR has received a grant that will match up to \$100,000 for monies collected for this project!

