



## From Our Senior Pastor

Summer is nearly upon us. The long-awaited warmth and sunshine has finally arrived and the kids can't wait for classes to end. (Trust me on this, teaching confirmation – as does any classroom teaching – becomes a bit more challenging during May!) I imagine this is true throughout the country, but in Minnesota, where summer is a magical thing, the arrival of leaves and grass, birds and flowers, bring with them a certain change in our blood. It's time for vacation!

I hope you all can take some time away from the normal routine this summer. In the first chapter of Genesis, God takes six days to create all that is, seen and unseen. On the seventh day, the Sabbath, God looks around and, seeing that all he has created is so very good, decides that he simply must take a day off to delight in what he has created. That's right. God, who has infinite time and energy and has no need for rest, takes a day off. If God takes time off, I'm pretty sure we mortals would do well to follow God's lead on this one.

One reason Sabbath-time is so important is that time is precious. If ever there were a non-renewable resource, it's time. How we spend this resource is particularly crucial. And as important as the work we do is, taking the time to unplug from it is crucial as well. One of the reasons the story of the first day off is in the first chapter of the Bible is because it's really important. We were not created for work only. We were also created to relax, take note of, and give thanks for all that God has blessed us with.

Summer brings a few more changes at Saint Paul's as well. First, on Sunday, May 28, we will begin our summer worship schedule. Instead of worship services at 8:15 and 10:30, we will have one worship service at 9:00 a.m. from Memorial Day through Labor Day weekends. (Saturday worship services will remain at 5:30 p.m.) And while coffee will be available before the service, the "official" fellowship time will be *after* the service.

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This spring we are honoring four of our long-time employees who are retiring from their positions. Doug Strandell (Director of Music), Diane Webb (Worship & Choir Accompanist), Laura Gathje and Tracy Barsness (Christian Education Directors) have all served God with excellence in their respective positions. They will all be sorely missed. (Oh, the good news is that they're all going to be staying with us as members of Saint Paul's, so we'll still have them with us!) And while we will honor each of these individuals this May, we will also have a special fellowship hour in the fall to give thanks for these good and faithful servants.

We are actively seeking to fill these positions and could use your help in this endeavor. If you know anyone who is interested in any of these jobs, please let me know. Throughout the recent history of our congregation, we have found most of our staff members through word of mouth.

In addition to spreading the word about these positions we seek to fill, pray that God would continue to guide us and equip us with every good gift needed to do the work God has blessed us with.

Joy and peace in Christ,

**Pastor Darby**     [pastordarby88@gmail.com](mailto:pastordarby88@gmail.com)



## From Our Part-time Pastor

Worship. I led an eighth grade confirmation retreat this past weekend—focused on worship. We visited a synagogue for worship, and toured the Cathedral of St. Paul and St. George's Greek Orthodox Church. Sounds boring? Nah . . . it really is not because the experiences are so dramatic. And the Como Zoo is just a fun place to visit.

People from all religious points of view have worshipped in their own ways for thousands and thousands of years. Acknowledging that there is a power greater than ourselves, people have worshipped this higher power in order to manipulate their environment (rain dances), give love and respect to the higher power, show gratefulness and \_\_\_\_\_ (you provide the reason). Music, chanting, dancing, offering and talking (prayers, messages) have all been part of the ritual of communicating with the higher power.

As a pastor, my wife was a wonderful person of worship, but my children were stinkers. In my first call, when I heard the crashing of the giant clock on the balcony (someone must have been a long winded preacher along the way ☺), I just knew it. My oldest had knocked it off its perch and the only thing that saved those below was the electrical cord. The last five years he has given the Pentecost sermon at St. Mark's Lutheran in St. Paul because, you see, he was a fire eater at the Renaissance Festival a number of years and part of his message was spitting out fire for emphasis. Still a stinker, but a spiritual one.

My youngest crawled all the way from the back pew to the front during my reading of the gospel at a Thanksgiving Eve service and stood in front of the pulpit, pulled up his shirt and began rubbing his tummy. No way was my wife going to leave our other 2 to bring him back to the pew, so I did the honor. He and his family are now involved at the Cathedral of St. John's in the Wilderness, Denver, Colorado and he periodically calls to discuss a sermon or adult forum.

Look, worship isn't always exciting. But God is. We leaders may not always meet your needs during worship, but it really is all about God and higher power and miracles and wonder and hope. I keep hearing about how dark it seems today — it has always been that way. ALWAYS. That is why Jesus is the light of the world and he asks us to carry that light, however dim, into the darkness . . . as a community of hope, as a community of praise and thanksgiving. Please come to worship this week, not to be pleased, but to be thankful and to be reignited. Alleluia! He is Risen!

**Pastor Craig**

[crbreimy@gmail.com](mailto:crbreimy@gmail.com)

## About Your Kids

Hard to believe the Sunday School year ends on the 21<sup>st</sup>! It has been another great year. We have amazing volunteers that keep it all going! We held a volunteer appreciation lunch on the 7<sup>th</sup> after second service. A small gesture toward the huge help all our volunteers are to us.

On Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> our kids worked on making the day special for mom. They made cards and a project and also had a shopping trip to the shekel store. The shekel store featured some pretty nice Mother's Day items. We hope your kid(s) came home with a great gift for you.

This Sunday we will be putting the kids to work helping to clean all the Sunday school rooms and organize the art supplies. It should be a fun time. We will still need some adult supervision so sign up if you can help.



**DON'T FORGET: VBS is August 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.** Registration forms are on the table outside the sanctuary, as well as in this newsletter. The theme this year is Maker Fun Factory. Plan to join us. A lot of

volunteers are needed to make this work – the clipboards have been going around during service and a sign-up sheet is on the volunteer table in the fellowship hall. As always your kids will be guaranteed a fun week with singing, games crafts lessons and snacks.

As another Sunday School year comes to a close, we can never say it enough – first – Thank you for bringing your kids to Sunday School to learn the ways of Jesus, and THANK YOU to all who have helped with the “stuff” that makes our Sunday School program fun and meaningful for the kids.

AND... I will say it again – we couldn't do it without you!

**Laura & Tracy**

## 2018 National Youth Gathering

The 2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering will be in Houston, Texas on June 27-July 1, 2018! “This Changes Everything” is the theme from Luke 19:1-10 (Zacchaeus story). Let's send a throng of youth, presently in grades 8-11, to Houston to bask in God's greater community. Please talk to Pastor Craig if you are interested in attending this awesome event, or if you have any questions about it.



Women <sup>of the</sup> ELCA

**Kitchen Cleaning:** Each month's service group leaders should check kitchen for towels to wash periodically and especially after planned events.

Please clean the kitchen at the end of the month.

**May – Group 2 – Joanne Sanborn & Rhonda Sellnow**

## Church Position Opening

### Part-time Youth Education

\*Lead youth ministries

\*Flexible schedule

\*Competitive wage

Apply today. Email: [stpaulpi@yahoo.com](mailto:stpaulpi@yahoo.com) or call: 507-356-8925

You do not need to be a member to apply.



## Join Worship & Music!

The Worship and Music Committee is looking for lay people to join our committee to give feedback, do research, and help plan potential church services.

Average commitment time would be once a month; however, may be more frequent

initially. This is a great opportunity to get involved as we move forward to enhance and incorporate findings and suggestions that are being presented from the strategic planning committee. Please prayerfully consider joining us. If you have questions or wish to join our committee, please contact Becky Lohmeyer 356-4425 ([bec\\_28@yahoo.com](mailto:bec_28@yahoo.com)) or Sue Flemke 356-8770 ([sue.johnson.flemke@gmail.com](mailto:sue.johnson.flemke@gmail.com))

## Baja “Schwan’s Cares” Fundraiser

Help raise money for Baja with delicious foods delivered to your door. As a supporter, for the first 45 days \$10 will be donated towards Baja for every \$25 gift card sold and \$5 will be donated for every \$25 spent on food purchases. Our goal for this fundraiser is to build one family home and can easily be reached simply by 400 gift cards sold.

**Here is how to order and contribute:**

Call: 1-855-870-7208, and use campaign **31757** with your order, or order online:

[www.tinyurl.com/BajaBuilders2017](http://www.tinyurl.com/BajaBuilders2017).

Thank you for your support!

## Congregational Vote Results

The congregational vote on the proposed purchase of the property at 208 - 3rd St SW in Pine Island, passed by 82%. We had a total of 136 total votes: 112 yes, 24 no. Thank you to our building and grounds committee for their hard work on getting the information together to best inform the congregation; and thank you to our members for supporting the council's recommendation.

## Strategic Plan Completed

The Strategic Plan for Saint Paul Lutheran Church was approved by Church Council on April 27, 2017. It provides a guide for this ministry to follow as it adapts to an ever changing world. The Plan presents opportunities for everyone to engage and be involved.

If you receive your newsletter by email, you have also received an attachment of the completed Strategic Plan. If you receive your email by postal mail, we invite you to pick up a copy of the document in the fellowship hall.

*Thank You!*

## Easter Gifts

Thank you for your wonderful donations this Easter, many in honor or memory of a loved one. We had a beautiful array of flowers adorning

the front of the sanctuary, as well as numerous monetary gifts to different areas of need. Your Easter gift generosity gave the Pine Island Sharing Shelves an additional \$204.50 (besides what was donated during the March food campaign), \$145 to our Campership Scholarship fund, and \$532.50 for the ELCA Global Barnyard.

God's blessings to you all!

## E-mail Prayer Chain

We have recently changed our phone prayer chain to an e-mail prayer chain, in order to have more people praying for those very serious situations that arise.

If you would like to be part of our e-mail prayer chain, please sign up in the fellowship hall, or notify the church office. Nothing will be required of you except to read your e-mail and pray immediately.

If you have a prayer concern for the prayer chain, please notify the church office at 507-356-8925. After hours or weekends, please call Lori Weis at 356-4032 or Diane Webb at 356-4341.

Vacation Bible School August 14-14, 2017  
Registration Form  
"Maker Fun Factory: Created by God,  
Built for a Purpose"  
6:30 – 8:30 pm

For all 3-year-olds (as of Sept. 1, 2017)  
through those entering 5<sup>th</sup> grade this fall

Please complete and return to Church office by  
June 11, 2017.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age by September 1, 2017 (if not in school): \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

Grade for **2017-18** school year: \_\_\_\_\_

Food allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I will volunteer to:

\_\_\_\_\_ Teach, specify age/grade \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Help in Kitchen

\_\_\_\_\_ Help with Crafts

\_\_\_\_\_ Help with Games

**A \$5.00 donation is suggested to help cover cost  
of supplies.**



## We Need YOU for VBS!

Buzz right in and sign up to help with an amazing adventure this summer! Saint Paul's Vacation Bible School will be held August 14-17 from 6:30-8:30pm. **Parents, grandparents,**

**and anybody who enjoys working with kids: please consider being a part of the adventure! A sign-up sheet is available in the fellowship hall on the sign-up table.** Questions? Contact Melissa Rossow.

## NEWSLETTER

### Saint Paul Lutheran Church

214 Third Street SW, PO Box 708  
Pine Island, MN 55963

### Address Service Requested

Website: [saintpaulpi.org](http://saintpaulpi.org)

Staff – Darby Lawrence, Senior Pastor

Craig Breimhorst, Part-time Pastor

507-356-8925

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

### Worship Schedule

Saturday Worship at **5:30pm**

Potluck 1st Saturday of month following worship

Sunday Worship - **8:15 & 10:30am**

Summer Worship – **9:00am** (Memorial weekend – Labor  
Day weekend)

Coffee fellowship following Sunday worship

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

Sunday School – Grades 1-6 - 9:30am

3-year-olds–Kindergarten - 10:30am

Confirmation – 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade – Wednesdays,  
3:30-5:00pm

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**May 16, 2017 - God's work. Our hands.**

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## You Are Invited . . .



Join us as we honor our graduating seniors on **Sunday, May 21**. Our own graduates will receive a quilt from the congregation during the

9:30am coffee hour, and worship

as a class at the 10:30 service. All are invited.

The Ecumenical Baccalaureate Service will be Sunday, May 21 at 7:00 pm at Saint Paul's. This event is open to the public.

We will hear from senior speakers at both events.

## Summer Worship Schedule

Once again we will have only **ONE Sunday worship service at 9:00 am for the summer**, beginning May 28 (Memorial weekend) and going through September 3 (Labor Day weekend). **Coffee fellowship will follow the worship service.** The Saturday evening 5:30 pm service will continue as normal.

## Volunteers Always Needed

Please check the Sign Up table in the fellowship hall for opportunities to help with worship or Vacation Bible School, to join an email prayer chain, mow the church lawn, to bake pies for the Youth Cheese Fest stand, or to bring baked goods for mission Sundays.



## Please Share Your Homemade Pies!

Saint Paul Youth will once again host the Pie and Ice Cream stand during the PI Cheese Festival (June 2-4). This year they are also adding brats and hotdogs meals. Proceeds go towards the 2018 National Youth Gathering in Houston.

**We need your homemade pies to make this happen!!** Please sign up in the fellowship hall, or email the church office if you are able to donate a pie or two. Monetary donations are also accepted, if you are not a pie baker, so that we may purchase pies from Baker's Square.

Thank you for helping the youth of Saint Paul's!