



From Our Senior Pastor

The church is a strange place. Nearly every Sunday, one of the

first things we do in worship is to make a group confession. In it we admit that we have sinned against God and against people. We acknowledge that we are not all we should be and that our sin has damaged ourselves, others and the communities we belong to. We offer no excuses, no justification, no lengthy explanation, just our confession. We simply throw ourselves on God's mercy.

I've tried to think of any other organization that does anything like this, especially at the beginning of the gathering time. To my knowledge, the only other organization that comes close to doing something of this nature is Alcoholics Anonymous. A typical meeting would begin with the chairperson introducing him or herself like this: *I'm Barb and I'm an alcoholic.* I've never been at a meeting but I'm told that there may be one or more people who speak about their struggles with their addiction as well. In addition to this, the Fifth Step of this twelve step program involves admitting "to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs."

A good friend of mine has been a recovering alcoholic for twenty-five years. Not a week has gone by during that time when he didn't go to at least one AA meeting. The reason? If he forgets his addiction to alcohol and the damage it has done, he's knows that he'll start drinking again. His addiction is simply part of who he is. It's not *all* he is, that's for sure, but it is vital that he remember that he's an alcoholic.

Likewise, we are all recovering sinners. So, we begin our "meetings" in much the same way: *I'm Darby and I'm a sinner.* This is not the only thing we are, but if we're going to continue "recovering," we need to remember that we are still sinners.

We don't stop there, of course. In throwing ourselves at God's mercy, we find that, in fact, God is gracious and merciful, continuing to forgive, heal and restore. But we must begin with speaking the truth about what is wrong with us. We are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. And the only way through this mess is to continue to throw ourselves at God's mercy, discovering again and again, that, for the sake of and by the command of Jesus Christ, all of our sins have been completely forgiven.

God bless you all, my fellow recovering sinners. And I hope to see you at our one of our weekly "meetings."

Joy and peace in Christ,

Pastor Darby pastordarby88@gmail.com



From Our Part-time Pastor

Last Tuesday evening was delightful as I spent the time with my wife at a third grade musical in

St. Paul — our granddaughter Matilda was the focus. She was a delight as usual. Afterwards, my wife and I took out Tilly's older sister for supper and our conversation somehow went in the direction of church experiences beginning with Boundary Water trips, baptism and first communion. Since Cel has had both Lutheran and Baptist experiences, it was very interesting.

She shared that one of her powerful "God moments" occurred at church camp — Good Earth Village in this case. She attended at least four summers and noted how often God seemed so "real" at camp. Last summer after a week at Good Earth Village with my then 8-year-old granddaughter Tilly, the two of us were star gazing on our roof after dark and she asked, "Papa, could we sing some camp songs?" I think part of the reason for the question was that a couple of teenage boys a few houses south of us would wonder where the sound was coming from, but the other reason was that Tilly loves to sing camp songs. So here we were singing J is for Jesus, O is for others and Y yi yi yi yi is for you and you and you followed by "It's a big, big house, it's my Father's House!" from the rooftop at 10:30 pm. I was moved to tears both because of the awesomeness of singing camp songs from the rooftop as well as the wonder coming from a few teenage boy neighbors.

Each year for the last 12 years I have accompanied children and youth to Good Earth Village for a week including 2 of my oldest grandchildren. It has been a wonderful experience. Last summer as our family gathered at the lake for a week, Tilly helped lead a Sunday family service by singing camp songs and leading a round of "Christ Sightings." Camp builds faith experiences and develops leadership skills in our young. Our youth are affirmed for who they are in Jesus' eyes, challenged to grow in a safe environment and are influenced by college leaders who are awesome with kids.

I challenge you to send your young to camp this summer; whatever camp you care about. I am going to be at Good Earth Village the week of July 23 and would love to hang out with kids from Saint Paul's. It is a powerful faith investment that has borne church leaders for decades. Think about it — I would love to share my enthusiasm with you.

Blessings as we head into graduations, weddings and many new beginnings — 'tis the season!

Pastor Craig cbreimy@gmail.com

About Your Kids

We had quite a busy Mother's Day of activities at Sunday School. We hope you all enjoyed the gifts that the children made or purchased at the shekel store.

The last day of Sunday School was May 21st. Our kids helped clean the rooms and sort out some of the art supplies. All of them were great workers! Once again we had a successful year thanks to our awesome kids and volunteers.

Get Ready --- VBS will be August 14th – 17th from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. The theme this year is "Maker Fun Factory", Created by God, Built for a Purpose. Get your kids registered so we know how many supplies to buy. Registration forms are on the table outside the sanctuary or contact Melissa Rossow

melissamrossow@gmail.com to get your kids on the list. There are still many opportunities to help either before VBS for set up and planning and during the week of. We have openings for teachers, craft help, game help and kitchen help. Sign up – it is an action packed fun week to be involved with your kids. If you are interested please contact Dana Njus dana.sellnow@bonton.com the planning has already begun.

We will be helping to make props at the Calvary Church in Rochester at the beginning of June. If we help, we get to use the goods! If you are interested in a day of painting, cutting, building and making 'stuff' let us know so you can join the fun!

Have a safe and fun summer.

Laura & Tracy



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 or wishing to get on board? Contact Dana Njus by email at dana.sellnow@bonton.com



Women ^{of the} 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
June – Group 1 – Nadeen Lunde & Judy Hartl

***June Circle meeting:**

The Elizabeth and Lydia Circles will meet together on **Tues., June 6, 2017** with a noon potluck luncheon, followed by a group Bible Study. New members are always welcome!

Music Positions Available

Director of Music

Job Description:

- Part-Time Music & Choir Director
- Competitive wage

Responsibilities/Duties:

- Direct the Chancel Choir & Praise Team
 - Rehearsals – weekly (September – May) at 7pm
 - Monthly performances during two Sunday Worship Services
 - Some additional rehearsals as needed
- Oversee all vocal and instrumental programs
- Promote active participation of the congregation through music

Accompanist

Job Description:

- Part-Time Accompanist – midweek rehearsals and Sunday worship services
 - Could be made into two positions
- Competitive wage

Responsibilities/Duties:

- Reinforce our worship ministry with excellence in playing
- Accompaniment for two Sunday Services
- Accompany the Chancel Choir & Praise Team
- Midweek choir rehearsals
- Available for extra church services as needed

Interested applicants should contact the church office for a complete job description as well as an application. Call 507-356-8925 or email saintpaulpi@yahoo.com.

NEWSLETTER

Saint Paul Lutheran Church

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

Address Service Requested

Staff – Darby Lawrence, Senior Pastor
Craig Breimhorst, Part-time Pastor

Website: saintpaulpi.org
507-356-8925

Worship Schedule

Saturday Worship at **5:30pm**

Potluck 1st Saturday of month following worship

Sunday Summer Worship – **9:00am**

(Memorial weekend – Labor Day weekend)

Coffee fellowship following Sunday worship

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

May 30, 2017 - God's work. Our hands.

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



We invite you to wear **RED** to worship on Saturday and Sunday, June 3 & 4, to celebrate Pentecost!



Join us for Worship!

Our summer worship schedule began last Sunday, May 28, with **ONE**

Sunday worship service at 9:00 am. This worship schedule will continue through September 3 (Labor Day weekend). *Coffee fellowship will follow the worship service.* The Saturday evening 5:30 pm service will continue as normal.

Youth Food Stand During Cheese Fest

Stop in at Saint Paul Lutheran during the annual Pine Island Cheese Festival, June 2-4 to rest and replenish your energy with delicious homemade **pie and ice cream**, as well as **brats or hotdogs**, served by our own youth group!! This fundraiser will help raise money for the 2018 National Youth Gathering!

Hours of the stand will be: *Friday:* 3:00-8:00 pm, *Saturday:* noon-8:00 pm and *Sunday:* 2:30-5:00 pm. See you there!

My Neighbor is Muslim Wrap-Up

On Sunday, June 4, following worship, we will wrap up our “My Neighbor is Muslim” adult forum series, with conversation with our pastors. Grab your coffee and join us in room A.

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.

