



From Our Senior Pastor

May 31st of this year was the 25th anniversary of my ordination

into the ministry of word and sacrament. Although I didn't throw a big party or anything, it did give me pause for a couple of reasons. First, has it really been 25 years? Second, what does it mean to be ordained into the ministry of word and sacrament?

The answer to the first question is easy. Yes, it's been 25 years; time's just weird that way.

The answer to the second question is a bit more complicated. One of the most significant changes brought about by the Reformation was a shift from our effort to win God's favor, to a belief that God has already decided to favor us, despite our unworthiness. That's what grace means. There's nothing we can do to win God's favor. It's all a gift! But this very good news led to another question: how does grace get from God to us? In other words, what are the means of grace?

And the answer to that question is succinctly summed up in the Augsburg Confession's definition of the Church: *the assembly of all believers, among whom the Gospel is preached in its purity and the holy sacraments are administered according to the Gospel* (emphasis mine). In other words, the means of grace are the preached Gospel (i.e. "word") and administered sacraments. And in order that this may be carried out, God established the office of word and sacrament, which is what being a pastor is all about.

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Another significant milestone in my family took place this year as well. My last two children graduated from college. And while this is a marvelous thing in and of itself, it also means that Vicki and I have less parenting responsibilities and can focus more on ourselves.

The intersection of my ordination anniversary and our kids leaving has led me to think some new thoughts about marriage. In the Lutheran branch of the church, marriage is not considered a sacrament; in the Roman Catholic branch, it is. (Don't worry. We hold marriage in the highest regard; it's just that we define sacraments differently.) So, here's what I've been thinking. What if the Catholics are right about marriage? What if it is a sacrament? That would make marriage a means of grace. That means that my marriage – and Vicki herself – is one of God's chosen ways to get grace into me. Which is pretty cool.

I know that we will still be parents to our children, even though they're leaving us, but I'm really looking forward to having the time to focus on my marriage and the grace that is imparted in this blessed relationship.

Joy and peace in Christ,

Pastor Darby pastordarby88@gmail.com



From Our Part-time Pastor

Lutherans don't forget the church in the summer months — we ARE the church in June,

July and August. Meeting and greeting downtown on Thursdays at the hot dog stand, or at Subway, or in the grocery store; at Berne on Wednesdays, or in our travels, vacations, and at the workplace.

We have a great impact in places that we live and visit in the summer — bringing good cheer, a flower or treat to those who live at Pine Haven or are hospitalized. I have had people bring fish to my door in the summer — a welcome gift especially when they are cleaned and ready to cook. Or maybe a hello to the neighbor when gardening or mowing the lawn, or going for a walk or run.

When teaching in Tanzania 14 years ago, I was told by my fellow teachers that I was not well liked by the villagers. That was troubling and I asked why? "Because, Breimhorst, you do not stop to visit everyone on the dirt paths when you are taking morning and evening walks." Well, there go my plans for exercise! "But, I do not know enough Kiswahili to converse," was my defense. "Use the few words you know and smile." Ok. (Sawa in Swahili).

The next week I was told that I am loved in the village. We can and do make a difference when we remember we are bearers of the Good News everywhere we go. Some of us are more awkward than others visiting, but God made most of us with the ability to smile.

From Mother Teresa: "Some people came to Calcutta, and before leaving, they begged me: 'Tell us something that will help us live our lives better.' And I said: 'Smile at each other, smile at your spouse, smile at your children, and smile at each other — it doesn't matter who it is — and that will help you grow in a greater love for each other.' And one of them asked, 'Are you married?' and I said: 'Yes, and I find it difficult sometimes to smile at Jesus.' And it is true, Jesus can be very demanding also, and it is at those times when he is so demanding that to give him a big smile is very beautiful."

May you share your life giving smile everywhere this summer. And use Chapstick if you are having difficulty.

Blessings,
Pastor Craig

crbreimy@gmail.com

About Your Kids

We would like to **thank you** for sharing your children with us during Sunday school. We have enjoyed teaching them, as well as them teaching us many life lessons. It has been quite the ride. *After 15 years for Laura and 7 years for Tracy, we are going to pass the program off to Ashly Matzek and Cindy Dentz.* Ashly and her husband have moved their family back to the area after being gone for 4 years. Cindy has taught Sunday school with us for many years and is looking forward to helping continue the program. Please support them as they take over this position (volunteer, volunteer, volunteer). We wish them the best and will be around to answer their questions and continue to help out in this transition time.



DON'T BE LATE! --- 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. We ask for a \$5.00 donation per child to help with the cost of the materials. 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. Signup sheets are on the volunteer table in the fellowship hall or if you are interested in volunteering to help, please contact Dana Njus dana.sellnow@bonton.com the planning has already begun!

Laura Gathje & Tracy Barsness

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.

June – Group 1 – Nadeen Lunde & Judy Hartl

July – Group 6 – Barb VanDeWalker & Linda Krambeer

****Elizabeth and Lydia Circles will NOT meet in July.**

Male Mentors Needed



We are working with the Pine Island Elementary School to provide some **male mentors** (possible retirees) who could have lunch on a regular basis with some young boys in need of male guidance. If this interests you or you'd like more information, please contact Pastor Darby. This would be for the 2017-18 school year.



Lay Communion Servers Needed

We are looking for members who would be willing to visit some of our shut-ins and serve them communion.

You will be trained by the pastors as to what to do and say. Please contact the church office or one of the pastors if you are interested in volunteering for this, or would like more information.

Martin Luther Book Collection

Did you know we have a group of Martin Luther books as part of our church library? Did you know you may check these out and read at home? If anyone wishes to do so, we have a checkout sheet hanging on the wall between the kitchen and the library, for you to record your name, book title, and date. The books can be found on the mobile bookcase located in either the narthex or the church library.

We are currently missing *Luther the Reformer (The Story of the Man and His Career)*. If you borrowed it, please either notify the office, or return it to the mobile bookcase.

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

June 27, 2017 - God's work. Our hands.

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

There will
be **NO**
mid-July
newsletter.



Christ in our Home

Copies of **Christ in our Home for July-September 2017** are available in the pews for your home daily devotionals. Thank you to WELCA for providing this gift. Large print editions are available in the narthex if you, or someone you know, could use one.



Sharing Shelves Weekend

July 1-2 Special Food weekend for PI Sharing Shelves is Cereal. Please bring your boxes of cereal and place in the shopping carts in either entry way at church.

During the summer months the food shelf also **gladly accepts fresh garden produce**. If your gardens are producing more than you can use, please consider donating your extras. We are open every Wednesday morning from 9-11, and the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings from 5:30-7:00pm, or you can drop it off outside the food shelf door prior to our opening, if it's more convenient. Our entrance is located in the alley behind Henry's Hair Design on Main Street.



July Mission Coffee Hour Offering

Mission Coffee Hour offering on **July 2nd** will go to the **Pine Island**

Sharing Shelves. Your donations are greatly appreciated to help with the summer slump at the food shelf.

2018 National Youth Gathering

Attention 2017-18 ninth through twelfth graders:

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). We hope to send a throng of youth 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.

Watch for an informational meeting in August.

