



From Our Senior Pastor

There are lots of exciting things happening at Saint Paul's these days! Let me tell you about some of them.

- Pastor Wal Reat, one of the two pastors behind getting the Lutheran Center in South Sudan built, is going to preach here on Sunday, August 6. We are one of only four congregations in the synod that he will preach at this summer, so this is quite an honor!
- The ELCA Youth Gathering will be held in Houston, TX next summer and the first informational meeting will be held after church on August 6. Students entering grades 8-12 are eligible to go. If interested, bring your parents to this meeting.
- Ashly Matzek and Cindy Dentz are our new Christian Education Directors. They have been busy preparing for the fall and for VBS, which will be held August 14-17. We will officially welcome and install them this fall.
- We have hired Tianyao Xie as our accompanist. She recently received her doctorate in piano performance from Boston University and her husband has begun a fellowship in oncology at Mayo. You will see Tianyao at our worship services during August and she will officially begin in September.
- We are interviewing two candidates for our Director of Music position this week. Both individuals are gifted musicians with years of experience. Hopefully, I'll be able to share good news with you about this in the very near future.
- We will start a new stewardship program, Stewardship for All Seasons (SAS), in September. This may sound strange, but I'm very excited to begin this new program!
- The Synod office has invited us to consider being a part of a new way to educate and train our pastors. It's called the Master of Divinity Collaborative Learning Program and is a joint venture between Wartburg Seminary (my alma mater), the synod and the congregation. Rather than spending the first two years at seminary, the third at an internship congregation, and the fourth back at seminary, the student is placed in a congregation for all four years. They will do most of their classwork remotely and will help in the congregation half time. We are still in the exploratory stage, but this could be a great blessing to Saint Paul's.

I am happy to be your pastor during these exciting times and look forward to the journey God is leading us on!
Joy and peace in Christ,

Pastor Darby pastordarby88@gmail.com



From Our Part-time Pastor

Fellowship after worship is both wonderful and enlightening at Saint Paul's

where I admit, more people stay for cookies and coffee than any other church I have served. A great deal of theology and shenanigans plays out at the round tables graced with sugar and cream.

This past week I was sharing the fact that I cleaned a few sunfish and crappies the old fashioned way—taking off the scales with a spoon. I called it “spooning” to which a few chortles were heard followed by a comment: “That’s not what they called “spooning” where I come from!” After looking up the phrase, I was explaining to our table that I cuddled a few sunfish and crappies—awkward! I think my comment was punishment for a long sermon.

But the next question was theological: “Since we have 2 pastors here, why are we training members to distribute communion to shut-ins?” Good question. My response was that one of the privileges of being a leader is to train the baptized to be ministers. Why should the leadership have all the fun? The gospel lessons the past few weeks are about Jesus training the disciples to do ministry including healing, prayer, and sharing the good news. It's very important that the faith community is strengthened to DO ministry, not to just talk about it. Great growth to both the trained and the people touched by the training is the core of ministry—Jesus recognized that and trained his followers by example, parables, and preaching. Pentecost is the season of the church—the faith community gathering around word and sacrament and then sharing God's grace with others. Let's go!

By the way, there is a reason why a picture of a fish was the sign of early Christians. According to Torah, fish with scales. So, don't forget your spoon when you go out and be the minister you are called to be in your baptism. But please, do not use the term “spooning” 😊.

Blessings,

Pastor Craig

crbreimy@gmail.com

If you receive your newsletter by postal mail, please check the fellowship hall for copies of the May and June church council minutes.

About Your Kids

† Hello from your new Youth Education Directors! I would like to thank the people whom I have met and the ones who I have reconnected with for your warmest welcome back to Pine Island. I look forward to working with the Saint Paul Church and Youth Committee to help your child(ren) flourish in Sunday School this year! Never hesitate to contact me with any suggestions or questions on the upcoming Sunday School year!

New this year: all people that come into contact with the children will need a background check done. This will be an easy process and paid for by Saint Paul (link and info below).

I will have registrations for Sunday School set out at VBS and on the table near the Sanctuary. I look forward to seeing you all during VBS! Cindy Dentz will be joining me at the beginning of August ☺ .

Items we could use:

- Snacks
- Craft Items
- Play kitchen food (nursery)
- Used or gently used Crocs (VBS—Baja Mission)
- Soccer balls (VBS—Baja Mission)

Important Dates:

VBS - Mon., Aug. 14 – Thurs., Aug. 17, 6:30-8:30pm
Rally Day, Carnival - Sunday, September 10th
Christmas Program - Sunday, December 17th 10:30am

Background Information:

www.oxforddoc.com

- right hand side, **click** “Applicants”
- client # 2961
- position code: 6

Ashly Matzek – A.Matzek@hotmail.com

Background Check Information

Please complete a background check between now and November 1st. **You will need a background check if you plan to have any contact with children, as well as if you volunteer to count the offering or work with money in any aspect.** The background checks are good for 2 years. These are at no expense to you.

Steps:

www.oxforddoc.com

Right hand side—Click under the Applicant

Client #: 2961

Position Code:

Money Collectors = 4

Sunday School Teachers = 6

Thanks in advance for your cooperation!



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.

July – Group 6 – Barb VanDeWalker & Linda Krambeer

August – Group 5 – Diane DeBoer & Karel Titus

***August Circle meeting:**

The Elizabeth and Lydia Circles meet together and discuss the Bible Study from the Gather Magazine. Spare copies of the magazine can be found in the church library. On **Tuesday, August 1** the circles will meet at the Pine Haven Care Center Chapel for Bible Study at **1:30pm.** (This is for August only.)



2018 National Youth Gathering Informational Meeting

Sunday, August 6, 10:00am (after worship)

For interested youth and parents

1. ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas, June 27-July 1, 2018
 - Houston is the 4th largest & most diverse city in the U.S.
 - Home of the best Major League Baseball Team, the Astros
2. *Youth in grades 8-12 this fall* are eligible to attend
3. Adult leaders need to be 21 at the time of the Gathering
4. Cost of registration only: \$350 if sent in by November 15, 2017
5. Cost #2: Transportation, meals, t-shirts, sightseeing (with fundraising covering a part of this)
6. Theme: **THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING**
7. Periodic gatherings of Saint Paul's youth will be held September – spring of 2018 to prepare for the adventure!
 - Devotional experience around theme
 - Games and song around theme
 - Planning time
 - Food
8. This event has been life changing for thousands of young people of the years. Saint Paul's has a great record of participation and memorable experiences in the past. We are excited to have the privilege of doing this again! **THIS WILL CHANGE EVERYTHING!**
 - Pastors Darby Lawrence and Craig Breimhorst

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

July 25, 2017 - God's work. Our hands.

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



God's Work, Our Hands

Our yearly God's Work, Our Hands community service weekend this year will be Saturday and Sunday, September 16 & 17.

As this date approaches, **we are looking for individual and community project needs.** Whether we make or fill cloth school bags for children in Baja, help with painting at Pine Island Area Food Shelf, or clean up the Douglas Trail, we are using our hands to do God's work to reconcile and restore our community in Jesus' name throughout the world.

Please let us know if you know of needs in the Pine Island Area. You can write it down on the project need sign-up sheet on the fellowship hall table, contact the church office at 507-356-8925, or email Kim Aarsvold at aarsvold3@gmail.com with ideas.

Welcome Home Wal!

Rev. Wal Reat will be back in the synod for 3 weeks this summer. He serves as a missionary supporting the developing Lutheran Church in South Sudan.

Rev. Reat went through candidacy in our synod.

While he is back, **he will preach at our 9:00am worship service on Sunday, August 6.** Please join us for worship, as well as an opportunity to hear more during coffee hour following worship.

Mission Opportunities

August 5-6 Special Food weekend for PI Sharing Shelves is Jam and Jelly weekend. Please bring your jars to either church entry way shopping cart.

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 some extra vegetables.

Mission Coffee Hour offering on August 6 will go to **Pine Island Area Home Services.** Please donate generously to this wonderful organization.

VBS Mission Project



Vacation Bible School will be **supporting the Baja Mission trip by collecting new and used children's Crocs or similar footwear** (this is a specific type of all-weather shoe) **and soccer balls.** We will also accept

monetary donations. VBS students are encouraged to bring collected items during the week of Bible School. Thank you to others who also wish to donate! Look for the designated suitcase in the fellowship hall for these items.

