



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ Jesus,

Usually we think of June as the beginning of the "lazy hazy crazy days of summer." Not so at St. Paul this summer! June is the month of preparation, just as Advent is the month of preparation. We are preparing for July and August, we are preparing for Hymn Sing Sundays, we are preparing for Horse Trading Days meals and Vacation Bible School. Yes the sign for the elephant has been removed to announce this year's VBS, willing workers are planning for three days of feeding folks, and council is planning for future meetings with Zion's council. Things have been stirred up in eager anticipation for a new day.

One of my favorite hymns is "Earth and All Stars." It is a hymn of celebration and anticipation. The contemporary Lutheran pastor and hymn writer wrote:

Loud praying members  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
He has done marvelous things  
I too will praise him with a new song! (verse 6, "Earth and all Stars")

I hope and pray that we are loud praying and singing members of St. Paul as we gather weekly for worship, during Hymn Sing Sundays, and every time we gather for worship. You may have noticed that in the prayers of the church we intentionally include a prayer for our council and call committee as they prepare for a new day. We have been invited to worship with Zion on July 1 and we have invited Zion to worship with us on August 5. On each of those Sundays there will be one worship service. Our council has decided that it is appropriate that we get to know one another and worship with each other as we continue to explore the possibility of jointly calling a pastor to serve both congregations.

We continue to collaborate with Zion and English Lutheran congregations for VBS and confirmation. We know that youth like to be with other youth. My fondest memories of Sunday school as a preschooler were playing in the sand box and singing with other youngsters, some who have been life-long friends. I pray that our collaborations will expand to be attractive to families and to invite and include the dozens of our children who do not know the love of Jesus Christ.

During June we are making preparations. Tim Brosenitsch and I will represent St. Paul at our synod's convention June 14-16. John Bulger will be installed as a lay worship leader during the closing worship on Saturday. Bible school leaders will continue to meet and prepare for VBS, including building a float for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. Young folk are needed to ride in the parade. Volunteers are needed for VBS. Please see me if you can help. My thanks to Mary Albert and Becky Tomei for again being registrars for VBS

Yes, we eagerly anticipate a new day and a new song for St. Paul and the other area Lutheran congregations. We are caring and loving people of God who trust that the Holy Spirit will lead us where it will. We remember our past and look forward to singing to the Lord a new song.

Shalom,  
Pastor Bev+