

I know it is time for school to resume when we have foggy mornings and can hear the crickets and locust at night. These are signs of the changing season. Our lives continue to adjust to changing seasons, changing living arrangements, changing jobs and schools and social and intellectual interests. Change is necessary for life to continue. Change can be uncomfortable or exciting. Change is stressful and at times exhausting. During our adjustments to the summer heat, my thanks to all who assisted in moving our worship essentials to our social hall so those who suffer from the heat could worship in a safe environment. Now our thanks go out to those who arrive Saturday night and early Sunday morning to open windows so our worship environment is comfortable for all. I must say we have a very "warm" worship service with the wood and windows and banners that make our sanctuary a truly holy worship space. Thanks be to the ancestors who arranged for such a beautiful space.

Fall also means that our schedule changes. We will begin our fall schedule with Rally day on September 10th with Sunday school for all ages and then worship. My thanks to all who share of their time and talent to enhance our learning and worship. My thanks to all who participated in the CAT survey this summer. I promised that we would have an ice cream social if 40 people participated in the survey. 40 did respond and my thanks for all who responded so that the survey had statistical significance. On September 10th following worship, we will have the promised ice cream social for all members.

On Wednesday, August 16th half of the CAT survey respondents met with Michelle Snyder who began to interpret the results for us. We will continue to work with Michelle and with Melissa Stoller, one of the assistants to our bishop, as we envision our future and plan for tomorrow. Change is necessary, more minor adjustments than a major overhaul. That is good news! A congregation is a living organism that must always adjust to the changing circumstances. We know we cannot continue to do things as we have and expect congregational growth. [Continuing to do the same thing and expect different results is a definition of insanity.] We will work with these pastors as they guide us into new ways of being St. Paul Lutheran. These are exciting times for St. Paul and we live with the assurance that the Holy Spirit will be with us and guide us as we move forward.

Bible school was a success with 42 youth participating. My thanks to Becky and Mary who assisted with the week's activities. Confirmation classes will resume beginning Sept. 10th with our annual meeting with parents and students.

During this year of Commemorating the Reformation, sermons will continue to focus on the wisdom of Paul's letter to the Romans. The 500th anniversary of the Reformation is a time for us to reflect on the theological and historical implications of our Lutheran heritage. A bible study will begin in October as soon as I can determine what time is best for those who would like to attend. Does a morning or evening class best work with your schedule? Let me or Colleen, our secretary know.

May God's peace and wisdom be with us as we adjust our schedules to the changing season and the changes which will eventually lead us into God's future.

Shalom,

Pastor Bev

