



Epistle of St. Paul

October 2018

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ Jesus,

October is coming! We at St. Paul are preparing for many ministries...scurrying around like squirrels preparing for the food festivals during Zelenople's Fall Festival, our annual pork and sauerkraut dinner and a Reformation Celebration. On Oct. 28th, we will host a showing of the movie LUTHER at 5:30 p.m. for our confirmation class. You are all invited to join us. You are welcome to bring your own snacks to enjoy while you gain insight into the protestant reformation which officially began when Martin Luther posted 95 Theses to be debated at Wittenberg.

Beginning Oct. 3 and continuing the **first and third Wed.** monthly, Pastor Ralph Kusserow has volunteered to teach a **Bible study at 7 PM.** I have not had time during my limited 20 hours a month to take on this wonderful ministry. My thanks to Pastor Kusserow, father of our bishop, for offering to be our study leader. During the month you will also be contacted by a member or a team from our church council or call committee. We would like to bring you up to date on what has happened during the past 9 months and to **ask for your opinion on our future ministries.** The questions are brief and all answers will remain **confidential.** We hope to visit you face to face but know sometimes a phone interview will suffice. As we move ahead, we want to be sure that you are being heard as we prepare for the future of St. Paul.

I want to thank our council and the call committee because you have been diligently and faithfully attending to the process of calling a new pastor to lead St. Paul. I have certainly enjoyed my time, now starting my fourth year, as the local interim. I have been available 20 hours a month and most Sundays during that time. Members who had completed the CAT survey during the summer of 2017 know that it is time to call a minister who can devote more time to St. Paul as spiritual leader and supporter/resource for all the ministries here. **God has a future for us.** I pray daily that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide us into tomorrow. I know that **God will not abandon us and will always be with us** because that's the God we worship.

On the night before Jesus was betrayed, he told his disciples that he would "ask the Father, and he will give you another **ADVOCATE** to be with you forever. This the Spirit of Truth whom the world cannot receive...**I will not leave you orphaned.**" [John 14.15-18] In Matthew's gospel, Jesus commissioned the faithful 11 disciples with the words, "Go therefore and **make disciples** of all peoples, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching them** to obey everything that I have commanded you, **and remember, I am with you always to the end of the age.**" [Matt. 28.19-20]

We know what we must continue to do as the faithful disciples of Jesus!

