

Ponderings from Pastor Paul – July 2019

I have enjoyed the last few weeks as we have looked together at the social, verbal, logical, visual, and physical aspects of our worship. I hope it has been a blessing for you as well. Perhaps you have been encouraged, challenged, and even stretched as you consider your engagement in worship. I sincerely appreciate the overwhelming attitude of open minds and hearts through this series. I am confident this attitude will continue as we conclude the series with the solitary and the musical aspects of worship.

I generally prefer not to do one sermon series directly on the heels of another. However, as I look at attendance trends over the last few years here at St. John, I see that worship attendance is consistently higher June through August, than during any other time of the year. For me, this indicates that summer is a critical time to address big topics for our congregation.

With this in mind, we will forge ahead with a second sermon series that I have entitled the “Great Sermon Series”. My expectation is not necessarily to preach great sermons, though I do pray God will speak through me, but that we will be addressing some great concepts during this series.

I believe it is critical for us to consider how greatly important the vision and mission of this congregation are. This series will therefore be based on the premise stated in **Proverbs 29:18** (ESV)— “Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law.”

Though we do have a purpose statement, we do not actually have an official mission or vision statement for our congregation. Because I believe it is vitally important that we rectify this situation, I want to prepare your hearts, minds, and spirits as we go through this Great Sermon Series. During each sermon, I want you to consider what the mission and vision of this congregation has been by default, and what you believe it ought to be as an official statement.

In order for this congregation to move forward in the months and years ahead, I believe we must do it with great vision. I believe we must talk about who we are, what God’s will for us is, and how we can keep our eyes on the mission and vision of St. John Lutheran Church.

In September, after we have had some time to reflect on the messages, I want us to begin formalizing a mission statement and a vision statement for our congregation. Having these in place will help us make good decisions for our future as we can more clearly see God's design for this congregation.

I pray that God continues to bless you individually, to bless your family, to bless the family of believers here at St. John, and to bless our community through this congregation.

God loves you and so do I!

Pastor Paul