

Pastor's Page for September 2016

Dear Saints,

I appreciate the “welcome back” several you have expressed after my family and I returned from our annual vacation trip to our cabin up in Canada. You asked: “Did you have a good time? Did you get lots of rest?” It makes me smile. Yes and no ... as whenever we own aging property, there are always maintenance projects. As it is 850 miles away, we just get there once a year usually. This time I was greatly relieved in turning on the water pump to discover there were no burst pipes. For the last ten years, there have been plumbing problems and pipes to replace annually. Well, we did have to replace a septic pump this summer, but it was less stressful than usual. My lawn mower conked out on me, and we couldn't locate a needed part for repair, so I borrowed my cousin's mower. Our kids requested new mattresses, which was a bit expensive. I replaced six torn screens in the porch, cleaned, sanded and repainted all the white trim on two buildings. The roof soffit on one was rotten and had to be replaced, so I re-shingled four rows by the gutter. We installed a new light fixture, cleaned gutters, picked blueberries, and helped my brother lay stone and cement in building the foundation for his place. So, we stayed busy; but yes, we had fun. I did baptize a cousin's grandson in the lake, and we did bring our All Saints flat Jesus to church in Kenora. We had a singalong and meals with relatives and friends. Some projects remain for next year ...

In returning to All Saints, it was great to worship with the congregation, and hear our new Minister of Music, Sue Ellen, play organ and piano. The Romej's were the counters on August 14th, and Sunday afternoon, they discovered water in the basement at church. While I had escaped my usual plumbing problems in Canada, a huge one confronted us in our home church! In contacting plumbers, we would discover the sewer pipe beneath our concrete floor was badly corroded and cracked all the way from the hub near the drinking fountain to the clean-out in the back yard. Three days of jackhammers and a Bobcat backhoe has left us a bill over \$11,000, with more repair projects looming. It is our stewardship challenge in caring for aging resources. The pipe has been in the ground 52 years. It's easy to take water and bathrooms for granted until they don't work, making new investment necessary for the system to rally.

Rally Sunday is upon us, September 11th, restarting the 8:15 traditional and 10 a.m. praise services schedule, jumpstarting Sunday School and other education and fellowship ministries. It is followed with our congregational picnic, so please plan to spend the morning with us! As Americans, we remember this date is the fifteenth anniversary of 9/11's tragedy, and make the commitment to celebrate patriotism and faith. Confirmation Orientation will be Wednesday, 9/14 at 6:30, so encourage students 6th grade and older to enroll. Each of us makes a difference in helping this faith community to rally. May our Lord say: “Well done, good and faithful servants!”

Blessings, Pastor Nathan