



Our God is Greater!

Our world looks like a very different place compared our last newsletter. We have watched this COVID pandemic blanket the globe with fear, anxiety, and panic. In my humble opinion, many leaders across this country have also succumb to fears and/or leveraged the issue for political reasons and have reacted in ways that reflect the uncertainty and instability of “worldly” wisdom. We have been bombarded with opinions, statistics, and strategies that I sense are all rooted in fear or with a specific agenda. I have heard a myriad of conspiracy theories as what might be behind all of this and if you believe any of them, they leave you in fear. People are concerned for their health, their jobs, their rights, their freedoms, their loved ones, their future, their sobriety, their sanity, and the list goes on. This is the truly darkest time my generation has ever lived through.

Well Church, I've got some really good news!!!! **Our God is greater!!!!** The God who holds all things together is still on the throne and overwhelming victory is still ours in and through HIM! I believe that God is using those things that the devil is doing (trying to kill, steal and destroy) to help us understand that our total dependence needs to be in Him. The devil has caused the ground to shake for almost everyone on the globe and God is going to respond mightily to anyone and everyone who seeks Him during this time. His promises are still promises and they are YES and AMEN!

Church Services:
Sunday 8:30 - 9:30am
10:30am -12pm

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Check out the NEW church website!!

<https://thechurchinthepines.org/>

My encouragement to each of us is to press into Him and cast all you cares onto Him. He promises to those who remain in Him and seek His Kingdom above all else, that HE will produce much fruit in our lives!!!!

He is the source of our protection, provision, direction, love, comfort, peace and hope. Our part is to remain in Him and be radically obedient to what He's leading us to do and where He's leading us to go step by step. Rise up church! We have the antidote to the world's problems and it is JESUS!!!! “Greater is He that is in us the he who is in the world!” GO GOD!!!!

Children's Church (6-12yrs)
Nursery (0-5yrs)
After worship 2nd service

Pines Family & Focus Group



Come check out our Youth & Focus groups!

When: Sunday nights

Where: The Church in the Pines
(small building)

Who: Youth ages 12 -17 (**DONE** for the summer)

Focus ages 18-25 (5:30-7pm)

About Focus: Focus is a group that gets together every Sunday evening to go through Bible teachings and have fellowship with one another. Our goal is to grow every individual in their walk with the Lord and help them to understand their incredible value in Christ.

WHOM I ALWAYS NEEDED

I must give credit,
Where credit is due.
It is all from our Father that I'm able
To do , what I do.
The evil one is hard at work,
Although, we are working harder.
I ask everyone, let us,
Allow ourselves, to become smarter.
Than the day we were before,
Let us learn from our mistakes.
When we feel like we're moving too fast.
Let us remember, it's alright to pump the brakes.
Slow down a bit,
Stop to think, and dare to act.
Always remember, our feelings,
They do not care about the facts.
The fact is God Loves us,
More than we could possibly imagine.
In the recesses of our minds,
It is something we could never fathom.
All of my effort goes in to these words,
Although, it's not as simple as you may think.
When our Father calls us home,
It will be over in a blink.
He did not bring me to His Kingdom,
No matter how many times I pleaded.
And so, I truly thank our Father,
For being the dad, I always needed.

Chris Hurley
Child of God- Warrior in Christ

The Paulson Family

LOST IN AMERICA TOUR

“...may you be fully capable of comprehending... the width and length and height and depth of His love [fully experiencing that amazing endless love]; and [that you may come] to know [practically, through personal experience] the love of Christ which far surpasses [mere] knowledge...”
Ephesians 3:18-19 Amplified.

The biblical quote describes the unworldly experiences of Penny and Dan Paulson in their adventures of life together. Picture a college girl and a townie boy meeting at a grocery store during work. He prays for her because he “knows she is the one,” his prayers are answered and they marry 10 months later. They found out from the get-go that theirs was a blessed bond. Heading out on their honeymoon the second day of marriage the car they were driving was hit by a semi. Their car was completely demolished but they walked away unscathed. The two become soul mates, have 3 kids (two daughters and one son), and six grandkids. During their forty years together, Dan and Penny laugh over the wild ride of parenting their kids, the kid’s antics of adopting an orphan baby duck that (when turned loose) would return to their home, and the tailless squirrel that seemed to follow the family from one state to the next. They have spent their professional careers in grocery retail, dealing with the public. For those unaware grocery retail is a very stressful, high energy, long hours, time management type job due to the perishable dates on items as well as keeping stores shelves fully stocked- sometimes requiring stocking two times a day seven days a week. Like other work situations managers and owners can be temperamental, verbally abusive, rude and ornery. These two thrived in that environment. WHY? Because they love dealing with people by getting to know their stories and building on those relationships.

These two knew how they wanted to live their lives and made it a mission that they wanted folks they came into contact with to know “someone cares” and care they did and still do. By and through their closeness with each other and the Lord

they easily recognize hurt and isolation of others. Penny believes that personal separation from others is usually caused by pettiness, lies, jealousy, money, and pride. (Sounds like the calling card of the one who comes to kill steal and destroy our joy). For example, they were able to facilitate two elderly brothers, reuniting brothers - who had not talked with each other most of their adult lives. When the first brother passed away family members came up to Penny explaining how they had missed each other’s families’ for many years and how they were blessed due to the reconciliation and the treasured time they were able to spend together. Based upon these types of healing and nurturing experiences Dan and Penny decided to take this compassion on the road during vacations across the country.

There have been 15 trips of “Lost in America Tours” as Penny named it their first time out. They embrace the magnificence of God’s beauty, meet strangers and share in the Lord’s bounty. Their first experience was when, at a hotel, they observed a woman placing plastic over her entire car during a huge rainstorm. They looked at each other and knew the Lord wanted them to give her \$100, yet that was a too much for what they had budgeted. They prayed and decided if she looked at them, they would do it. That instant the woman looked out through the hotel window directly into their eyes. Penny got out of their car, knocked on the hotel door and Penny handed her the money stating that God told them to give her the money. In disbelief the woman cried stating her husband and mother had died, her kids didn’t want her around, she did not know her next step, and that her leaky car held everything she owned. The \$100 was heaven sent. Dan claims God has such a love for those that listen to His voice that the two of them received a free \$300 hotel suite that same night but you, dear reader, will have to ask how that and other wonderful blessings came about.

Throughout those 15 tours this couple has asked for the Lord’s discernment for those He seeks them to lay love on and it’s all inclusive: homeless, veterans, all races, folks living in vehicles on the brink of suicide, folks with catastrophic terminal illnesses, the invisible person sitting at a store or walking through a crowd, a church youth group during their ocean baptism, and tons of Christians like themselves full of the Lord’s joy. Penny and Dan

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now hand out “Jesus Calling” books along with food, water, funds, smiles, love and prayers. Penny explains that when folks don’t know the Lord or have left their faith walk, the “Jesus Calling” book is not as intimating as the bible yet gives them the Word plus a direct conversation with the Lord. Penny states, “We never know what the person will do with what we give but the God does. We don’t judge people by the chapter they are in because we don’t know their prior chapters and details. We just keep our eyes open for who God brings us. We even backtracked a few times thinking we missed our opportunity to share the Lord’s blessing. When the Holy Spirit gives you that compulsion - ACT ON IT! - we ALL have those divine appointments every day, don’t miss them, as true blessings flow through them.” Pine people will recognize this is the Paulson’s form of “one anothering”.

Note: As you do your “one anothering” with what you pass along to others from the daily-bread table, take time to introduce yourself to Penny and Dan. They will enjoy meeting you. BTW - Dan procures the bread and they are the gardeners around the Pines. The Pines is truly blessed!



Dan & Penny Paulson

I SAID “GOD I HURT”
 AND GOD SAID ‘ I KNOW’
 I SAID “GOD I CRY A LOT”
 AND GOD SAID ‘THAT’S WHY I GAVE YOU TEARS’
 I SAID “GOD LIFE IS SO HARD”
 AND GOD SAID ‘THAT’S WHY I GAVE YOU LOVED
 ONES’
 I SAID “GOD MY LOVED ON DIED”
 AND GOD SAID ‘SO DID MINE’
 I SAID “GOD IT WAS SUCH A LOSS”
 AND GOD SAID ‘I WATCHED MINE NAILED TO A
 CROSS’
 I SAID “BUT GOD YOUR LOVED ONE LIVES”
 AND GOD SAID ‘SO DOES YOURS’
 I SAID “GOD WHERE ARE THEY NOW?”
 AND GOD SAID ‘MINE IS ON MY RIGHT AND
 YOURS IS IN MY SIGHT’
 I SAID “GOD IT HURTS”
 AND GOD SAID ‘I KNOW.’

Unknown Author: submitted by Patti

The Church in The Pines
 3992 Hwy 27 W Alexandria MN 56308
 Phone: 320-760-6190

Website: thechurchinthepines.org
 Upload our App in the Apple App or Google App Store

Connectivity

PINES GARDEN PARTY

"I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

...various fruits from a garden grown to nourish the church body and beyond...

The above is a vision of a beautiful hearted young Pine woman Kara Goff. One evening Kara was having a discussion with fellow Pine folks and within one week her vision was birthed and sown into a reality. YES there is now a community garden being created on the west side of the church property. Please come check it out! The location is found by walking over the west parking lot's gravel, through the pine trees and up to the clearing.

After Kara's vision was known, some heavy equipment and skill was donated and a Pine's field was dug up, turned and plowed by our very own Dan Paulson, Dennis Cann and Jim Blanchard. Within the two weeks oodles of various seeds and plants were donated and folks, including but not limited to, Neil, Ruth, Kelly, Jeremy, Gabe, Penny, Dan, Tina, Linda, Deb, Melissa, Dennis, and his muscled fence post digging grandson Josh, Tiffany, Jonah, Meredith, Kara, Jacob, and the guys from the men's bible study have created a beautiful garden. Seeds and plants have been planted, plastic tarp placed over others and a deer fence is underway. Tiffany made colorful ROCKS labeling each variety of plant!

As a little nonrelated background, you need to know and meet Kara, the garden's creator. She met her wonderful hubby Jacob at NDSU in Fargo. The two electrical engineer geniuses had known each other from classes and Jacob was friend with and studied with Kara's housemate... but nothing as far as them hanging together. BUT GOD- because one day when Jacob was studying his bible in the engineering building Kara noticed his reading material. This one God-incident started the journey for these two. They have now been married two years and Kara's roommate was her maid of honor at their wedding.

You Pines folks may know Kara and Jacob from Valentines eve this year as they were the hosts. Another interesting fact about these two is that they own a naked (ok furless but it looks naked), cat named "Archibald." Jacob let it be known that Kara makes sweaters for "Archie" but you dear reader will have to explore and ask them yourself about that. WOW and MEOW

Oh yeah... back to the garden, Kara is looking for anyone willing to help weed, nurture, water, and hang out with the plants. An open group meets each Monday at 6pm at the garden and hopefully YOU WILL COME JOIN. We are looking for some more folks who are willing to meet Thursdays to water or weed. THIS GARDEN PARTICIPATION IS OPEN TO ALL AGES. Please come and be nourished by the beautiful scenery on the Pines property.

Kara can be reached at 701-367-0194.

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Drive-through Prayer

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. **Matthew 25:35 NIV***

When the governor issued a shut-down order for the state of Minnesota - including Churches - Pastor Jay heard from the Lord and the rest is supernatural. The Pastor listened and decided The Pines would have an open door on Sundays to assist those in need by offering abundant prayers, wonderful bread products, other foodstuffs and a "blessing table" of household necessities. The Church inside was rearranged, all seating moved around to provide for social distancing. Due to The Pine's awesome techie folks (Jeremy and Rochelle - with assistance from Renee), and some newly acquired programs, Pastor Jay was able to LIVE STREAM SERVICES FROM THE CHURCH EACH SUNDAY during the state's shutdown and stay at home orders. The praise team was able to social distance so they joined him, played their instruments and beautiful song filled the sanctuary!!! **GO GOD!**

Within the first week of the shutdown the Pines was offering DRIVE- THROUGH PRAYER. Hearing wisdom from God and realizing the needs of members now unable to attend service along with folks throughout the community, Pastor Jay and Rochelle immediately created a social distancing/mask option way to be prayed over in person. **OUR GOD IS A WAY MAKER!** Located in the church parking lot during afternoons these two were quickly joined by Christ warrior Jasmine, baking queen Melissa and others. The drive through was offered five days a week. Prayers were answered and various types of healing occurred on those open - door Sundays and parking lot sojourns.

Between March 20 and June 9 over 165 vehicles came through the lot seeking prayer or offering blessings. People had a place to go where they could pour out their fears, concerns, and hearts...ALL were loved on and cared for.

Here are some examples of what occurred during that time frame:

- The first open door Sunday folks donated enough funds to provide for all the needs of the first week's drive- throughs.
 - An estranged daughter and father both came to the drive through and made amends with each other after years of disaffection- because of the love and prayers for forgiveness prevailed over their hardened hearts and years of bitterness. Both individuals eventually came and knelt at the cross. HEALING!
 - A man lost a job and had only a few payments left on the family truck. Providing for his family left no funds from which to make truck payments, The Pines was able to fulfill that need.
 - One day four families were blessed with needed cash.
 - One man drove through for prayer for his upcoming shoulder surgery. He returned one month later stating his doctor told him that his shoulder no longer needed surgery and that his shoulder was healed! HEALING!
 - One day two families received gift cards to help them get what they needed.
 - A mother with small children (diaper young) was moving and desperately needed a washer and dryer. The church was able to procure both and had them installed at her new place.
 - One day a vehicle came through offering a cash blessing for others- amazingly... this donation was able to bless the woman in the next car who needed some assistance.
 - Requests for a DVD, TV, and computer monitor were met.
- (CONT'D Page 7)

- Pines was able to put a homeless family in a hotel for a night as they were passing through - the husband/father had just “walked out” and the mom and kids were washed with grief and in need of compassion and wisdom to get through the coming days. The mom whose heart was so heavy, scared and overwhelmed, got out of the vehicle to give Rochelle a hug after they received prayer. IT’S A MIRACLE THEY FOUND THE DRIVE THROUGH.
- A Pines family donated an entire butchered hog to the church and this food has provided meals to many in need.
- A woman who was prayed over told Jay and Rochelle her chest pain had released during prayer even though the prayer was for other needs. HEALING
- Throughout the months of shutdown, cash, multiple gift cards for groceries, eateries, and gas cards have been donated by Pine people for the drive through and open-door Sundays.
- Local folks who do not attend Pines have made huge cash donations because they heard of the drive through prayer and what the church was doing with its funds.
- One day a woman needed compassion and prayer because her father had recently died and she was unable to visit him before or during his death due to the virus. She was beyond heartbroken. She stated she had no clue what she would have done if Pines did not have the drive through and she had nowhere to go. She received life and Spirit from those loving prayers.
- On Mother’s Day women and men received healings over their devastating loss of life via miscarriages and abortions.
- A woman drove in stating she “had nothing” to offer yet came anyway to ask if Pines would accept some little girl baby clothing. The clothes were just precious. The church was aware of a baby girl needing clothes and this donation was the perfect size for our blessed little Pine child.
- A new heavy-duty grill was purchased from a Pine person’s tax rebate check for church festivities. YUMMY DAYS AHEAD
- Prayers and words of wisdom were provided to those experiencing life shattering circumstances: a woman drove in for prayer because her very best friend had just committed suicide. This woman was grieving and devastated. That same day another person came through whose father had just attempted suicide. Both vehicle’s occupants praised the LORD and prayer warriors the drive through was open. SUPERNATURAL GRACE
- So many individuals have told Pastor and Rochelle that due to the drive through and open-door Sunday’s they are getting “better” with growing hope for their future and excitement for LIFE! That **because of** the drive through and open-door Sunday’s suicides were planned and NOT committed. Many were blessed with Christ’s grace and received deliverance from overwhelming circumstances.

In the world you will have tribulation and distress and suffering but be courageous; I have overcome the world. John 16:33

LET US ALL PRAISE GOD FOR PINE’S BRAVE NONCOMPROMISING SELF-SACRIFICING SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP OF JAY AND ROCHELLE JENSON AND THE RECEIVING BY MANY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
GO GOD

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SHAKEN SERIES

*“Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you, he will never let the righteous be shaken. **Psalm 55:22***

Who of us haven't had our Jacob type battle with the Lord when we really need his care and the responses/healings do not come? The times when our spirit and soul are decimated by an unfathomable circumstance and our grief so deep that there is no light and we truly wonder if we can or even want to survive and live. Our reflections of: do we believe in the triune God as our Savior and Redeemer-YES and how awesome is that, but the battle of why does the living Word tells us to cast our cares on him and we will not be “shaken” when we are shaken to the core, close to wanting it-to-end type “shaken”?

Does that mean we haven't met the threshold of not being righteous enough? Pastor Jay states the truth is that we are “righteous and pure before the Lord,” because of what Christ did on the cross and that once “reborn” our old self died on the cross along with Christ. OK, so once that is comprehended and being walked out,- how is it that we can still be “shaken” by our circumstances? When “shaken”, how can we surrender our entire being, mind, actions, life to, and trust in that same God who although did not create but allows unbearable tragedies and/or sufferings of physical, mental, spiritual, to occur to those we love or even ourselves- regardless of age. This walk/key of trusting and surrendering to the Lord (along with various other God lessons), requires the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit living within each of us.

“Where do I belong?” is the true story of a Pine's person and the Holy Spirit's intervention as she experienced the vacant dead days of life. The second are a few lines from our dear Pine brother Jonah. In this series **we invite any Pine folk willing-** to share their walk with the Lord during/after their dark times so that we as “his body” can continue to realize we are not that different from each other after all, we can support and encourage each other and explore the supernatural power of our loving God manifesting himself in us as we do our walk on earth together.

“It’s not reality till it’s yours” quote from C.S. Lewis- A Grief Observed

Where do I belong?

Where do I belong?

Four- and one-half years ago God took my precious husband home.

Greif and life is like a roller coaster.

At times the journey of life just floats along like a red balloon up in the clouds.

But yet again an overwhelming darkness comes over you like a canopy over a forest of trees.

That is what came to pass in the early part of this spring.

The plan was in place:

1. Be sure all responsibilities were taken care of
2. Drop off the tables to be donated at the church
3. Ice water in the refrigerator
4. Bottle of Ambien on the counter

Finally

Satan had won

I surrendered

And **GOD said:**

“NO...YOU CAN’T HAVE HER. SHE IS MINE”

Pastor Jay and Rochelle were prompted to pray.

Standing in the church parking lot they put their arms around this wounded spirit and filled me up with God’s love as only HE can do.

By using these two precious children of His: that He anointed to Serve and Glorify him.

The black holes in my heart were healed.

AMEN

Postscript: and where do I belong?...only God knows

Written and submitted by a lovely Pine sister . She speaks truth as I personally walked a parallel road when my precious hubby died about the same time. The grief is debilitating. BUT GOD... ML

“Awake sleeper and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine [as dawn] upon you and give you light.”

Ephesians 5:14 Amplified

LEFT TO OURSELVES IT IS NOT POSSIBLE- J.B.

It amazes me how my Heavenly Father took a man who never found his way and had so many failings and shortcomings in life and led me along to where I am now. Thirteen years ago, He brought me to a place where I could receive complete healing from a wide variety of mental health issues, a long-standing addiction, and so much more. At the time, I was extremely discouraged and frustrated with the “Christianity” I knew. If God truly was the way I heard others represent Him, I didn’t want any part in that. Fortunately, as I sought Him with all my heart, I not only found Him, but I found Him to be more wonderful than I ever imagined!

Without Him, I would have never arrived here. In fact, I know I would not even be alive today. He miraculously intervened during my suicide attempt during my high school years, and He’s come to my rescue many times since during times of peril. I should have died so many times before now. Because of Jesus and my personal relationship with Him, I am not only alive, but I am living the best life — so much better than I ever figured possible. And the best is yet to come! If you don’t know Him yet, I’d love to introduce you to Him so you can live your best life too!

JB

Anyone of any age can contribute to this series. You can write out your story or if you’d prefer Meredith will meet you and write it out. Nothing will be printed without the approval of the story’s owner. Your Identity isn’t necessary to print unless you want. merelake13@gmail.com
Let’s share our life’s tribulations and how GOD flipped the script and is miraculously building up HIS people.

Small Groups (Located at the Church)	Volunteer Opportunities
<p><i>Women’s Group</i> – Monday’s @ 6:30pm <i>Garden Party</i> – contact Kara @ 701-367-0194 Word of the Day Facebook Live 10:00am <i>Church Ladies</i> – Wednesdays @ 2:30pm with Melissa <i>Men’s Group</i> – Wednesdays @ 6:30pm <i>Prayer Group</i> – Sundays @ 9:30-10:15 am <i>Focus Group</i> – Sundays @ 5:30-7pm FREEDOM WEEK - Contact Jordan Gulbranson 320-305-4686 for info</p>	<p><i>Helping with Events at the Church</i> – Connect with Melissa <i>Worship Team</i> – Connect with Jasmine or Rochelle <i>After Service Clean-up</i> – Connect with Jasmine or Jeremy <i>Weekly Church Clean-up</i> – Connect with Melissa <i>Communion</i> – Connect with Jasmine</p>

Church Finances & Ways to Give

Ways to Give

- Mail check to The Church in the Pines 3992 Hwy 27 W Alexandria MN 56308
- Weekly Offering: Donations received in regular Sunday offerings will first go to offset our monthly expenses
- Online: Go to our website www.thechurchinthepines.org ; Click "Give" and follow the instructions.
- Text to Give: 888-364-4483. CODE : TCITP

Church Events

June 14th : THE CHURCH IN THE PINES FOURTH YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY at the Church

- Come join your Church family as we celebrate four years of being in the body of Christ!
- We will celebrate after the second service, 12:30-2:30 pm

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