

Pulpit Reflections: Saying good-bye after 13 years

By Rev. Robert Grossmann
Providence Reformed Church

Dear friends and neighbors, fellow citizens of Vermillion,
Thirteen years ago in July, my dear wife Polly and I moved to Vermillion so I could serve as pastor to a new church congregation being established here.

We have truly enjoyed our time in Vermillion, learning to appreciate and love a large circle of friends, including of course the members of Providence Reformed Church.

These thirteen years have closed out more than 50 years of ministry for me in the Reformed Church in the United States that have included seven congregations and teaching in four seminaries.

But now it is time to move on, this time into retirement at the age of 76. We plan to be snowbirds, bouncing back and forth between Vero Beach, FL, and Menno as

long as good health continues.

At junctures like this, it is common to take stock, to ask not only where we are personally, but also as a nation. As a Christian pastor, I am reminded of Isaiah's assessment of Israel during his own time. If we take God's word in the Bible seriously - as we should - Isaiah's words about Israel fit our country well.

We are an immoral mess. Isaiah says, "Alas, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a brood of evildoers. They have forsaken the lord, they have provoked the holy one of Israel." The United States has forgotten God and become a nation that calls immoral acts like adultery, abortion and sexual perversion "good."

The result has been a national outwardly functioning pretty well, as was Israel in Isaiah's day, but one in which we suffer many rational and

irrational fears. Without God, fear takes over.

Where will the next mass murder occur? When will al Qaida attack again? Will we ever be able to pay back the national debt? Will universal health insurance degrade the quality of our health care? Will global warming ever actually happen? (So far global temps have receded slightly since 1998, and the north polar icecap grew by 60 percent last year.) Were we insane to get on airliners like we did up into the 1990s without a shred of airport security, or was our country more sane 20 years ago?

Now, like Isaiah, I point these things out not to wring my hands and say all is lost. Not at all. Our common purpose is to bring the real God back into the picture.

Sin is real, but so is God's forgiveness. By the end of chapter one, Isaiah is calling Israel to repent of

its sin and saying, "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow."

Fifty-two chapters later, Isaiah is describing the sufferings of Christ, declaring, "All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way, and the lord has laid upon him the iniquity of us all."

Yes, things have changed echnologically, but in real human terms, things have not changed at all. Like sheep, we have all gone astray, some farther than others, of course. But the real, true remedy is the same: God's forgiveness. Real forgiveness comes with real repentance, and real repentance is turning away from sin.

John the Baptizer had it right when he said to the self-righteous Pharisees, "Bring forth fruits worthy of repentance."

That is, quit sinning and live your life for God.

Gov. announces \$225,000 for Verm. landfill project

Gov. Dennis Daugaard announced today that the state Board of Water and Natural Resources has approved a grant for \$225,000 to Vermillion for a new baler building at the regional landfill.

"I am pleased to announce that Vermillion will receive this assistance," said Gov. Daugaard. "This grant will help replace a baler building that was destroyed by fire last year."

The project involves constructing a solid waste baler building at the regional landfill site to replace a baler building destroyed in an October 2012 fire. The total estimated

cost of the project is nearly \$1.2 million.

The grant is from the Solid Waste Management Program, which provides grants and loans for solid waste disposal, recycling and waste tire projects statewide. Revenues come from dedicated state solid waste fees that are deposited in the state Water and Environment Fund. The Legislature appropriates Water and Environment Funds annually to the Solid Waste Management Program through the Governor's Omnibus Water Funding Bill.

The board met Friday over the Digital Dakota Network.

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sapa:

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NEED A CHANGE? Interested in exploring an opportunity with a **stable company** that has the backing and resources of a large corporate conglomerate with a domestic and international presence? **READ ON!**

Sapa Extrusions Inc., Yankton, SD (World's Leading Aluminum Extruder) is looking for two **(2) Maintenance Technicians.**

Skills required: Must have Maintenance experience, including Hydraulics/Pneumatics, some PLC knowledge, Crane/Mobile equipment systems.

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Sapa offers a very competitive compensation (hourly wage dependent upon experience with \$1.00 shift differential, paid weekly) performance based merit increases every 3 months/benefits package (where else can you get Medical, Vision and Dental Insurance and pay only \$14.41 a week for single coverage and \$42.81 a week for family coverage) Sapa also offers quarterly profit sharing, (how would **you** like to get an extra paycheck every four months just because **you** helped the company make a profit), company paid life insurance, short and long term disability and ten paid holidays. If you are a hard working, dedicated person who wants to work only sixteen days a month than come join us.

Interested candidates please apply in person and/or by mail:
Sapa Extrusions Inc.
2500 Alumax Rd.
Yankton, SD 57078
Attn: Jane Larson, Mgr. HR
Or e-mail: Jane.Larson@sapagroup.com
EOE/Affirmative Action Employer

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Sunset Manor Avera is now accepting applications for the following positions to join our excellent team of caring professionals:

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For application materials contact the Personnel Office at **Sunset Manor Irene, S.D. at (605) 263-3318**

CITY OF Vermillion SOUTH DAKOTA

The City of Vermillion Solid Waste Department is seeking a full-time Recycling Equipment Operator. The position is responsible for the operation of equipment used to sort and process recyclable materials. \$14.12/hr plus benefits.

Visit www.vermillion.us/careers for a complete job description and application instructions.
Closing date: October 15, 2013.
EOE

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Sapa Extrusions Inc., Yankton, SD (World's Leading Aluminum Extruder) has several production positions available for qualified individuals. Those with Manufacturing Experience will be given first opportunity and must be capable of working a 4 days on 4 days off (12) hours a day shift schedule with overtime, must be able to lift up to 50# on a regular basis. Must be reliable and willing to work your way to the top. These positions are full time and include both night and day shift openings.

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Interested candidates please apply in person and/or by mail:
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Attn: Jane Larson, Mgr. HR
Or e-mail: Jane.Larson@sapagroup.com
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