

Pastor Randy's short devotion for Thursday, March 9th:

“For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am of the flesh, sold into slavery under sin. I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.” (Romans 7:14-15)

This verse from Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans is the beginning verse of my Confirmation class this week as we talk about Luther's description of our identity being a “Sinner and Saint” at one and the same time, always. Apostle Paul describes our situation with precision. We are flesh, that is we are born into and still exist in a world broken by sin. We inherit this brokenness. It is part of who we are. Apostle Paul declares that we know what is right, but we find ourselves doing what we hate. Apostle Paul knew the Law inside out. He tried to keep the law. But we know that Paul had a temper and lost it with Peter and it created pain and brokenness in their relationship. We are all captive to sin. We want to do what is right and we may succeed in living it out for a good deal of time. Then just like that, in a second, we can spit out a hurtful word or a word of judgment or seek out the darkness. At the same time, Luther holds up, we are Saints. We are Saints, for Jesus sets us free from our sin, with his authority to forgive, and giving us the gift of his righteousness. So, we live each day as a forgiven sinner with the love and righteousness of Jesus claiming us. Blessed are you, O Saint of God.