



The Spirit of St. Paul's

www.stpaulslutheran.ca

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN



Above left: At their dress rehearsal the children paused for a photo. On Sunday, December 23, they and the youth did a masterful job telling the story of Jesus' birth.

Above: Crucifer Spencer Neufeld and lectors Reid Neufeld and Wyatt Harper wait for the Christmas Eve lessons and carols service to begin.

Below left: An almost empty dessert bowl testifies to the great food at the annual Christmas social after worship on December 16. Donna Gash, Clara Zirk, Dianne Gilbert and Gail Mitchell were part of the crowd singing Christmas carols at the social.



Top two photos by Elton Harper, bottom two by Owen Mitchell.

Reminders

- Please remember that, because we have a number of members with allergies to nuts, any foods brought to church events should be nut-free.
- Also, several have allergies to fragrances. Please consider them when choosing toiletries and whether or not to wear perfumes.
- LWMLC mites and offerings are collected the first Sunday of each month.

Caring Ministry Coordinator
for January – Dianne Gilbert

Remember to check out the great resources in our library—books, videos and more for all ages.



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Unwrapping God's Gift . . .

LADIES, bring a FRIEND and COME – Come and see what God has done!



**Bring a main dish or a treat
For the lunch that we will eat!**



**Bring a wrapped gift – limit \$10
For exchange till who knows when**





**Plan to be surprised as we
Celebrate Epiphany**

. . . God's Gift Revealed!

**Saturday, January 12, 2019
11:30 a.m. to 2:00p.m.
St. Paul's Lutheran Church basement**

Classifieds

- Large oak desk
Good condition; from the CNR station in 1960; taking offers
- New power chair
Elevates from sitting to standing; very good condition. Original price \$1200; asking \$750.
Contact Bob Kinzel if interested at 306-242-5555
- Apartment size LaSalle piano; excellent condition. Asking: \$2,000
Contact Marion at 306-343-7396

Something to sell or give away? Need something? Services to offer to fellow members? Try The Spirit Classifieds first. No cost. Leave your ads at the church office or give them to the editor.

about five years old, so I don't have much memory of him. I remember asking my mom to tell me about my dad, to which she only retold the same old stories I'd heard before.

During the turmoil of World War II my brother and I were separated from our mother. My grandparents also died during this time. By the time I was about nine years of age, the only family I had left, was my brother. He and I eventually immigrated to Canada. We were separated from our mother for about 17 years but once found, we were able to bring her to Canada.

I have always had the travel bug. I love to travel to far distant places with strange sounding names. In hindsight, perhaps I thought by doing all that travelling, I might eventually find the place where I was born.

It has always been a mystery to me, when I was born in Ukraine, why was I German?

It was explained to me that our ancestors actually immigrated to Ukraine from Baden-Baden Wittenburg, Germany in the 1700s. That is when Katherine the Great, who was married to a Russian tsar, invited people from Germany to come and homestead on land they were given, or had bought at a low cost. The people, who accepted this offer, were also promised they could continue to speak their own language, keep their customs and religion. They built their homes there, worked the land and raised families. That is where my brother and I, my parents, my grandparents and any number of my relatives were born. I assumed that would make us citizens of Ukraine even though we were of German ancestry. We were, until on or before WW II when the land and our homes were taken away from us by a Russian decree.

We were then without a country; we were homeless.

Germany then said, if Ukraine was going to take the land and homes away, they, the Germans, wanted their people back. But the Russian/Ukrainians did not agree. They said no, you can't have them and proceeded to first send away all men from 16-60 years of age, including my father. To this day, I don't know where they sent these men or where my father died and was buried. The men were told to report to a certain place from which they would be sent away. If they didn't report, the communists came to their house and shot them. Once the men were gone, they proceeded to send the families away. Women and children were loaded onto open box car trains and sent to Siberia or Kazakhstan. The Russians/Ukrainians didn't want Germany to get their people back. We heard later that these trains loaded with human lives were sent away to die of starvation.

My only memory of that time is of me sitting on the floor of this large, barn-like building which I now know, because my brother told me, was the railway station. My brother's memory is different. He said we were about to be loaded on one of those box car trains to be sent to our death, but we were saved due to a disturbance in the train station. Also, just at that moment, the German army invaded the area. Everyone escaped in different directions, running for their lives. My family were hidden for a while, in the root cellar of a Ukrainian family. I learned later, that their lives were spared because they had hidden a German family. Otherwise, they might have been shot by the German soldiers.

When we returned to our home, the place was destroyed.



While the well likely has changed in appearance over the years, it served Adele well as a landmark in the village where she was born.

The furniture had been used for firewood and there was nothing much left. What a devastating feeling that must have been for my mother and grandparents. As a young child, it did not make an impression on me. Only after I came to Canada, did I become aware of how serious and bad it had been.

We now had no home; we had to leave. We gathered up our few meager belongings and piled them on a wagon that my grandfather was able to scrounge from somewhere. He must have also managed to find horses to pull it. I only vaguely recall crossing a frozen river with many other evacuees. Many didn't make it across that partially frozen river; they broke through the ice and drowned.

I have much more story to tell and hope to put it into a book for my children and grandchildren, sharing my experiences during the war, living in camps, living in a Children's Home and eventually immigrating to Canada at the age of fifteen.

Stewardship

It is no secret that God calls us to be generous with the gifts He has given us. Throughout the Bible, we read that just as God has generously given to us, so are we to give generously one to another. As Jesus said, *“By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another”* (John 13:35) and *“Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful”* (Luke 6:36).

But God also calls us to give to Him. And He, who does all things well, presses it into service for the benefit of all the people of God. See, for example, what God spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, after he and the people were safely brought out of Egypt across the Red Sea on dry land:

The Lord said to Moses, “Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me. And this is the contribution that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, goats’ hair, tanned rams’ skins, goatskins, acacia wood, oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, onyx stones, and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breastpiece. And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it. (Ex. 25: 1-9)

Notice that the Lord instructs Moses to tell the Israelites to “take for me a contribution” and that from everyone motivated from gratitude for what God has just accomplished and given to them, Moses is to gather up “the contribution for Me.”

Pay attention, though, why the

Lord wants the people of Israel to gather up these contributions for Him. God tells Moses precisely why: *“let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.”* The purpose for the contribution of the Israelites was so that He may dwell with them, that He would live among them. Through the tabernacle and the priesthood, through their rites and ceremonies, through their feasts and festivals, as through means, the Lord God, who brought them out of the bondage of Egypt would live and dwell among them and be their God, and lead them into the promised land, which flowed with milk and honey.

God dwells among us still. In the fullness of time, God’s son was born of woman, born under the law to redeem those under the law. He brought us out of bondage to sin, death, the devil, and Hell, and He did this by His obedient suffering and death, His resurrection and ascension. But He is not gone. He dwells with us through the means of His Word and His sacraments, through the preaching and the teaching of our pastors, through the rites and ceremonies of our liturgy. He dwells with us in the Church through those means. And He is

leading us to the true promised land, to the new heavens and the new earth in the new creation.

In the meantime, as God, even now, continues to call us to give to Him, let us, who have been saved from slavery to sin and death, the devil and hell, be so moved in our hearts as to give generously to Him so that the means of grace, the means of His gracious dwelling among us, would continue now and into the future. For just as He did then so He does now. He presses the gifts given to Him into service for the benefit of all His people. He puts it to use so that we may have Him with us always, even unto the end of the age.

The Board of Stewardship thanks you for your generous support of the Lord’s work here and abroad over the past year. While we do not know yet our final financial results for 2018, we fully expect to end the year with an excess of revenue over expenses. This will enable the congregation to make up for deficits over the past few years and consider ways we can extend our mission and ministry further in the future.

God’s blessings throughout the new year!

Board of Stewardship



Art Timm presents gifts from the congregation to Pastor Keith and Sandy Harper.

Serving

Serving at Friendship Inn



Our most recent serving crew.

Want to help? Contact Dianne Gilbert at 306-343-0219 or sign up next time the dates are posted on the bulletin board.

Thanks for your generosity



When this newsletter was put together the items hadn't been counted but we know the mitten tree was well covered. Thank you to all who contributed. The mittens, toques and scarves will go to the YWCA for their use and to distribute to other agencies.

LET US PRAY

...for the \$12,600 grant being provided during this triennium by LWML-Canada mites for the Rancheria Feeding and Education Program in Nicaragua.

Deaconess Lisbeth and her team of assistants provide a vital feeding program with an educational component, thus encouraging and attracting children to the Word of God and the love of Jesus Christ. This grant helps provide two meals a week for about one hundred children over the next three years and provides help with homework while meeting the most basic physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

Lord Jesus, we pray that the feeding and educational program provided by Deaconess Lisbeth and her team will meet basic needs for physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. We ask also that the Word of God blossom in their hearts and the love of Jesus surround them. In Jesus' name. Amen.



Be a Valentine to the world!

Fill a We Care bag for Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)



Will you be able to fill a We Care bag to be sent to Canadian Lutheran World Relief on Valentines' Day? If you've mislaid your committment card, just put the information on a slip of paper and leave it in the container with the display. Include the number of kits you plan to make if it is

more than one. The information is needed only to be sure we order enough We Care bags and so we know to whom they should be given when they arrive. May God bless many generous hearts.

Evangelism

God's help in times of need

"In my distress I called upon the Lord: to my God I cried for help. From His temple He heard my voice and my cry to Him reached His ears" (Psalm 18:6).

"I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth" (Psalm 121:1).

How does God help us?

- **Through the reading and hearing of His Word.**
- **Through the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion.**
- **Through prayer.**
- **Through Christian resources.**
- **Through people.**

Let's look at some resources God has provided to us

Through Lutheran Hour Ministries we are blessed to have the Project Connect booklets written from a Christian perspective on a variety of topics of situations that life sometimes throws our way.

The booklets in the rack by the front door are free to take for personal use or to share with others. We are thankful to Delia Stevenson, who serves on the Board of Education and manages the rack.

Testing our memories

When the stained glass window project was begun Pastor Dressler also talked about putting together a book about the windows and about the project itself. We're finally working on it.

We've gathered committee materials, notes from the minutes and newsletters and information from Rev. Ted Giese who designed the windows. As the writer on the project I have also been pulling things from my memory. But

memories can be faulty and I'd like to check them out against what others remember so we can be as accurate as possible.

For example, I picture this project starting with some Thursday night Bible studies when Pastor Dressler introduced us to famous art and artists and how they portrayed faith consistent with the art of their time. Then he brought in Rev. Giese (not yet a pastor at the time) to talk about art and the church...or something

like that. Was it a one-time thing? Was it part of Thursday nights?

Rev. Giese produced wooden samples of the disciple windows. Do we still have them? Or does someone have pictures?

Any memories or information you have would be welcome. I'm beginning the writing this month so send an email (hollinger@sasktel.net), phone (306-343-7396) or talk to me at church.

Marion Hollinger

Talking With God: (LHM) "Does prayer really work? Is there a right way to pray? It is ideal for both new and life-long Christians."

Written by Rev. Arden W. Mead this booklet explores why we pray, how we pray, and what happens when we pray. He encourages us to view prayer as an invitation to speak with absolute candor to the One who loves us beyond measure, without fear or rejection.

One paragraph stood out as I read through this booklet. "Prayer begins with God. If He did not exist, there would be neither a reason to pray nor any hope of being heard, Prayer also ends with God. Once we have committed ourselves to His will, the matters for which we pray are out of our hands."

Another thought that stood out: "Beyond the petitions for help we should sense the deeper dimension of prayer, the process by which we declare our dependence on God and express our trust that His intentions toward us are only good. That declaration is a confession that He is our Father and that we are His children."

*May you find peace, hope and comfort in His Word,
The Board of Evangelism*

God's promises in times of need

Every word of God proves true; He is "a shield to those who take refuge in Him" (Proverbs 30:5).

"...and call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me" (Psalm 50:15).

St. Paul's - babies baptized in 2018



Lucas Bararuk
Born: August 19, 2016
Baptized: April 1, 2018



Payton Zabinsky
Born: January 5, 2018
Baptized: February 25, 2018



Maria Dorner
Born: July 9, 2015
Baptized: January 28, 2018



Layla Kuny
Born: September 7, 2018
Baptized: November 25, 2018



Weston Schwark
Born: October 17, 2018
Baptized November 18, 2018



Clinton Steiger
Born: January 10, 2018
Baptized: February 4, 2018



Kaylee Guillaunme
Born: July 6, 2017
Baptized: March 11, 2018



Isabelle Haigh
Born: March 11, 2018
Baptized: June 24, 2018