



The Spirit of St. Paul's

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ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

Evangelism/Public Relations

Love first

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you"
John 15:12 (ESV).

As part of my daily devotions I have been using the LAMP 50th anniversary booklet in which I read a devotion written by Roxanne Theroux, a volunteer missionary. Her words in the first paragraph struck a chord with me, the kind that is often described as a lightbulb suddenly being turned on. She wrote **"Love first, then plant the seed of God's love and salvation for all."** The words **"love first"** stood out in my mind.

She talked about how Jesus valued relationships and how much time He spent in investing in other people's lives. As volunteer missionaries for LAMP, one of their main focuses is in building relationships and that requires loving first, then comes the sharing and the planting of the seed.

Here's where my "lightbulb" came on and I questioned myself, how do I approach a situation when I want to share the love of God with others? Do I love first and try to build a relationship to open the doors for sharing or do I judge first, hold back, doubt, make excuses and fail to follow through. To be honest I have done both.

I have discovered taking the time to build relationships very helpful and rewarding when it

comes to loving and sharing my faith in Christ. I have also learned that by judging first I have lost opportunities. For those times I've proceeded without too much thought and feel I have botched it up, I have learned and take heart that it is not I who brings someone to faith but the Holy Spirit working through His Word.

Jesus sets the example, **"...but God shows His love for us that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us"** Romans 5:8 (ESV). HE LOVED FIRST.

God makes it clear **"If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself,' you are doing well"** James 2:8 (ESV).

Another "lightbulb" made me think more deeply. LAMP reaches out to Indigenous people of the North, a different culture and language, most likely different from those who are being sent into their

communities. In the Scripture passage from James we are to love our neighbour as ourselves. Another question pops up, who is my neighbour? **Everyone!**

I look at my own neighbourhood and my personal connections and I see a wide variety of people from many different nationalities, countries and Indigenous people. How will I respond to them when given the opportunity to share my faith? I pray that God will enable me to follow Jesus' example to **"LOVE FIRST."** Be friendly, say hello, start to build a relationship with whomever crosses my path and God-willing **"then plant the seed of God's love and salvation for all."**

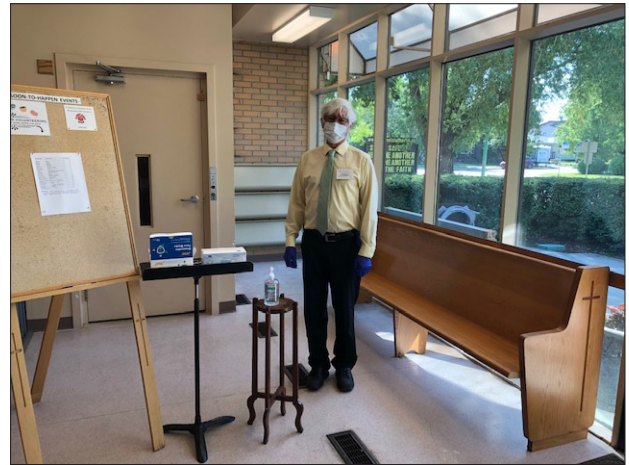
"Let all that you do be done in love" (1 Corinthians 16:14 ESV).

*Clara Zirk
Board of Evangelism*

Check out the photos next page.

Much discussion is happening to determine what activities and how to provide them to everyone in the St. Paul's family. Information will be provided as soon as it is available. In the meantime, we thank Clara Zirk for this thought-provoking submission to a September newsletter that has been delayed.

Pictures taken at the first service after our COVID break



Our thanks to Keith Wallace for recording this historic event.

This will be a Trinity/Apostles' Creed craft.

3-in-1 Trinity Silly Puddy!

What will you need!?!?...

- 1 tablespoon of water
- 2 tablespoons of cornflour or cornstarch
- 2-3 drops of food colouring (green, red or yellow)
- 1 bowl (1 bowl per silly puddy mixture)
- 1 spoon

As the world around us constantly changes we know that one thing will always remain steadfast and true and that is God's love for us! This month's craft lesson is centred around the Trinity and continuing to learn the Apostles' Creed. Now let's make some silly puddy!!!

The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit

Step 1- The Father

God is our creator who lives in heaven.
(Add 1 tablespoon of water to the bowl)

"I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth."

Step 2- The Son

Jesus!! He came to earth to take away our sins and save the world.
(Add 2-3 drops of food colouring to the water)

"And in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead."

Step 3- The Holy Spirit

God lives inside our hearts and helps us do what is right.
(mix in 2 tablespoons of cornflour or cornstarch with your spoon)

"I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen."

As you move your silly puddy quickly in your hands you should notice that it stays tough and together. This reminds us of how life can sometimes be hard and challenging while we go about our day to day activities.

When you stop moving your silly puddy it should now become soft and closer to almost a liquid form. This reminds us that when we allow God into our hearts and daily prayers He eases our worries and doubts.

Marissa Neuberger, St. Paul's Sunday School