

The Spirit of St. Paul's

www.stpaulslutheran.ca

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN



Pastor's Corner

This Sunday, July 5, St. Paul's will be reopening and having our first in-person church service in more than a couple of months. It has been very difficult to be apart like this for such a long period, but I rejoice that God's living and active Word continued to be proclaimed and heard through online services, studies, radio, and in print. This pandemic has helped me more clearly recognize the need for providing these alternatives to those who are unable to physically attend services. I have often heard a comparison between the impact of Gutenberg's printing press with the impact of the digital revolution on the proclamation of the Gospel, and I think there is merit to that comparison. The more means we have for telling the Good News that sin and death have been defeated by Christ Jesus, the better!

However, I do think we need to be cautious and thoughtful about how we move forward with the so-called "virtual church" and be on guard against a significant and permanent transformation in how the church operates and in how people receive God's gifts. In other words, the extraordinary measures we have taken to deal with the pandemic as a church should not become the ordinary.

During this time of being apart, many of us have turned to digital

means to stay connected with our family and friends and coworkers. What a blessing it has been to be able to keep in touch through email, texting, and video platforms like Zoom. But it sure isn't the same as being together in person, is it? It would be a great detriment if these digital means replaced our in-person gatherings and interactions with each other permanently. Sharing Christmas dinner with our loved ones through screens is simply not the same as being physically gathered around the table together. This is also true for our being together as the Body of Christ.

God did not send us a text or email or a Zoom meeting invite to reveal Himself and His plan for our salvation. He became one of us: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). He dwelt among us, and He continues to dwell among us, though His Means of Grace today. He has given us His Word to be read and preached. He has given us Holy Baptism to cleanse us of our sin. He has given us Holy Absolution that speaks us forgiven. He has given us His true body and blood in the Sacrament of the Altar for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. As God's people, we gather together to receive

life and salvation through Christ's Means of Grace. Even if there are only a few gathered, Jesus promises, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them" (Matthew 18:20).

We are passing through extraordinary times and we have taken prudent measures in how we operate for our health and safety. We will continue with these unusual measures as long as necessary. For some, the extraordinary continues even after the pandemic because of health issues and other circumstances. I am thankful that the technology exists so that they can continue to hear and receive God's gift of salvation. There should be no guilt when someone is unable to make it to church for legitimate reasons and there should be no doubt that God is continuing to work through His Word and Sacraments in their life.

As we pass through these extraordinary times—and God-willing return to the ordinary—we remember these words of encouragement from the writer to the Hebrews: "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near" (Hebrews 10:24-25).

God's blessings, Pastor Keith

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 will once again be collected the first Sunday of each month when we return to worship in our church building.

Caring Ministry Coordinator

for July - Ron & Ludy Jeschke

Classifieds

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.



Pastor: Rev. Murray Keith
 Office Secretary: Sandy Harper
 phone: 306-343-9535
 e-mail: stpaulslcc@sasktel.net
 web: www.stpaulslutheran.ca
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpaulslutheran
 Instagram: www.instagram.com/stpaulslcc
 Spirit Editor: Marion Hollinger
hollinger@sasktel.net

Next deadline: Aug. 15, 2020
Publication: Aug. 22, 2020

Evangelism/Public Relations

Focus on Jesus

The latter part of June I gave my attention to the question, what is my main focus for today, tomorrow and the rest of my life?

As I have listened to talk about COVID-19, it is often stated that “we will get through this together,” a point well taken. These words resonate hope and encouragement, something we all need to hear. As a Christian I am reminded that I need to take this idea one step further and add, yes, with the help of God. I need to hear and listen to God’s Word saying with a certain and confident hope—

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart” (Hebrews 12: 2-3 NIV).

“He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God” (1 Peter 1: 20-21 ESV).

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer” (Romans 12: 12 ESV).

Note: The ESV Version of Hebrew 12: 2 states “looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.”

Both translations clearly answer my question, what is my main focus for today, tomorrow, the rest of my life? It is to fix my eyes on Jesus, to look to Jesus and to focus on Him for all things. (As a personal preference I liked the word “fix” in the NIV translation, it spoke to me with a stronger intent.)

*May God bless you and keep you
 always in His Grace
 Clara Zirk for the Board of
 Evangelism/PR*

Women’s online seminar focuses on one-ness in Christ



*There is one body and one Spirit,
 just as you were called to one hope
 when you were called; one Lord,
 one faith, one baptism; one God
 and Father of all, who is over all
 and through all and in all.
 Ephesians 4:4-6*

All women of LCC congregations are invited to participate in this three-hour seminar (in webinar format) produced and led online by women of LWMLC.

July 18, 2020 at 8:00 am
 (an early time to accommodate women from Northwestern Ontario where it will be 10:00 am.)

To reserve your “seat” email Patti Kreutzwieser at vpchristiangrowth@lutheranwomen.ca before July 14. Use “Central District Seminar” in the subject line. Only 95 seats are available so register early.

Next Spirit

On page 2 of each issue of *The Spirit* you will usually find the deadline for content for the following issue and the date when it will be published. Instead of a newsletter at the beginning of August, I've set the deadline for August 15 with the hope it will accommodate any plans being made for fall. Those dates can be adjusted if needed.

While we may not yet be able to meet for Sunday school, youth group, Bible study and the like, there are ways we can do so online. Let's get planning.

Marion, Editor

Enjoy VBS all summer long

Lutheran Church–Canada has been advertising something called Virtual VBS. Despite their promotion I still had questions so I did some asking on everyone's behalf.

I thought it was a one-week program available online that families could access some time during the summer but that is not at all how it works.

There are a number of congregations putting together a week-long VBS experience with crafts, games, stories, songs, the whole package, using videos and handouts but also requiring participants to gather the materials

needed for crafts, etc. When you register, a list of needed supplies will be provided in advance of the week or weeks you register for. All summer you can experience VBS with a different congregation every week.

The first week of VBS is already online so you can get started right away. After the service in Dryden last Sunday Pastor Timm said they would be putting together their VBS this week and it will be available any week after that.

To learn more and to register visit www.lutheranchurch.ca/ website and look under the events tab for virtual VBS.

Marion, Editor

Stewardship

“Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, “You know the commandments.” And the ruler replied, “All these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me” (Luke 18:18–22).

As we listen to this, one question is raised in our minds: Is Jesus speaking to us also or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor? As good Lutherans, we answer: No! But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor?

The simplest explanation is this: If we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell

everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn't mean it isn't to be used for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbours. These stations are the church, the family, and society. We are members of all three of these by birth.

We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from either our birth into the church or the birth of others by Baptism into it.

We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from either our birth into that family or the birth of others into our family.

Finally, we are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are is to be pressed into service for the church, the family, and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and our duties toward them would falter.

So consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You provide food, clothing, and shelter for the members of your family. You save for college for your children.

But the one station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is

Stewardship, continued

often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits—the best from off the top—even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

This requires forethought and intent. It means that you sit down and make a plan for what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems there are other more immediate and pressing things.

This is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time while giving is low due to high unemployment or restrictions on meeting in church to give. If we love God, His gifts of forgiveness given through the means of grace we receive at church and only at church, then we will support the church just as we love our country and our family.

For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious and giving God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son into death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What is more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of the church, the family, and society, are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three by birth.

Don't let the church, your divine family, be ignored or even an afterthought. The church is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation by Word and Sacrament for eternal life.

Board of Stewardship

Financial update to May 31

As we are preparing to resume worshipping together as part of God's family, we see that many things we have taken for granted in the past will be delayed or practised differently. This might be greetings at church among our friends, communion practices, use of public hymnals and the passing of offering plates to return a portion of our gifts to God. While the offering plate being passed up and down the pews might need to be restricted for the short term or longer, the generosity of our members will not change. Indeed, we have seen just that generosity continue over the past five months— including the two and a half months we have not been able to worship together.

At our last Board of Stewardship meeting we reviewed financial statements for the period ended May 31.

At the end of May with total revenue of \$104,753 and total expenses of \$103,207 we are reporting a year-to-date surplus of \$1,546. This compares to a deficit of \$975 at the end of May 2019 and a three-year average deficit (2017 – 2019) at the end of May of \$6,270.

As you know the Board of Stewardship has provided additional options for members to make their offerings and members have

taken advantage of them all. Of the \$104,753 total revenue, we received \$53,600 from offering envelopes dropped off or mailed to the church, \$30,025 from pre-authorized remittances (PAR), \$10,176 from e-transfers and \$1,205 from offerings through Lutheran Church—Canada. In addition, we received \$9,863 from federal subsidy programs and \$18 from provincial subsidy programs for which we were eligible and applied.

We continue to see a strong bank balance to carry us into the summer months. Additionally, the federal subsidy we received has helped us in a significant way and we are thankful for that support. As you can appreciate, the strength of our offering support continues to be through regular offering envelopes. We are extremely thankful for your generosity in supporting the work of the church in whatever method you find most convenient and we encourage you to continue to support our programs and ministry in the ways that work for you.

As we start to worship together again, we pray that you remember we are not finished with these challenging times. We continue to pray for God's strength and guidance as we move forward.

Board of Stewardship

Jesus wants to become part of your life,
not to demand something from you,
but to give something to you —
the gift of Himself,
the gift of eternal friendship with Him.

from You Are Precious by Alma Kern

Mask Mate Ear Savers

As businesses re-open from the pandemic shutdown, workers are required to wear face masks which attach around the ears. As a result, some workers have sore ears and blisters. Ear savers provide relief! Central District LWMLC is launching a mission service project, "Mask Mate Ear Savers," and is encouraging Central Region LCC

congregation members to help make these ear savers. Some of you may choose to crochet, knit, and/or sew on buttons, while others may prefer to provide buttons. Or maybe you know where ear savers from St. Paul's would be appreciated.

Please report how many ear savers were made and to whom they were given (hair dressers, chiropractors, grocery clerks, home

care workers, lab workers, hospital workers, etc.) Please email Arletta Wood at arletta@sasktel.net or phone 306-949-2504 to give her this information. The standards and patterns are included in this article. If you have any questions, please contact Verla Schmirler (306-382-2721 or schmirler@sasktel.net) or Arlene Kish (306-221-8504 or a.kish@sasktel.net).

For both patterns:

Standards: Small = 4½ inches (no smaller than this); Medium = 5 inches; Large = 5½ inches

Button Style: FLAT Backed only. No shank style, crocheted or wooden buttons.

Button Size: ¾ inch and 1 inch are preferred. No larger than 1¼ inch and no smaller than ¾ inch

Yarn: Cotton yarn preferred. No wool yarn.

Crochet Pattern: Mask Mate Ear Saver

Abbreviations: Ch = chain; Fasten Off = chain 1, pull loop out;

Hdc = half double crochet; Sc = single crochet; Sl st = slip stitch; Slip knot; St, sts = stitch, stitches

Base Pattern

Make slip knot, leaving long (roughly 10 inch) tail at beginning, do not weave or crochet this in, as it will be used to attach one of the buttons.

Using a H/5.00mm hook, ch 13.

(NOTE: You can replace Round 1 hdc stitch with sc stitch. This will be a tighter weave.)

Round 1: 2 hdc in 2nd ch from hook, 1 hdc in each remaining ch across, place 4 additional hdc in end chain (5 total), turn 180 degrees (do not flip to back), 1 hdc in each remaining loop working up other side of ch, place 3 additional hdc in end/starting chain (5 total), sl st into first hdc made (30 hdc)

Round 2: ch 1, 2 sc in first st, 1 sc in each of next 12 sts, 2 sc in each of next 3 sts (three sts on end), 1 sc in each of next 12 sts, 2 sc in each of the next two sts, sl st into top of first sc (36 sc)

Fasten off, leaving long (roughly 10 inch) tail, to be used attach the second button.

Finished Size: When finished, ear savers measure about 5 inches long. Adjust your number of chains for smaller or larger sizes.

Knit Pattern: Mask Mate Ear Saver

Worsted acrylic yarn or cotton yarn

Size 4 US needle

Tapestry needle, 2- 1 inch buttons

Worked flat.

Cast on 20 stitches with a cable cast on. You want a *slightly* stretchy edge, but some firmness. Knit 11 rows of garter, being sure to slip the first stitch each row for a neat, firmer edge.

Bind off semi-loosely. Tug gently to make sure cast on and bind off have similar amounts of stretch.

Make sure your bind off tail is on the opposite end to the cast on tail! You'll use the tails to attach your buttons! Weave your tails lightly over to the center of each end and sew on buttons. Darn away tails on the wrong side.



St. Paul's re-opens with the following protocols in place

It is with great joy that St. Paul's Lutheran Church resumed in-person Divine Services on Sunday July 5.

The following changes have been made to align with the guidelines set out by our provincial government.

- If you are feeling unwell, we kindly request that you not attend.
- Registration for services will be required of everyone who plans to attend as we are only able to accommodate 75 people according to provincial guidelines. Registration will be on a first come first served basis. Each week an email with a registration link will be sent to everyone who has provided the church office with an email address. The deadline to register will be posted each week when the registration email is sent out. If you need to cancel your registration please email or call the church office to let us know. We will be reaching out with a phone tree to those who are not connected digitally.
- Although service will not begin until 10:00 am, please plan to arrive by 9:30 am so ushers have time to seat everyone and the line up doesn't get too long. In case of rain, please dress appropriately and bring an umbrella as we will still need everyone to line up to enter the building.
- Please line up with anyone you wish to be seated with, as we will be unable to accommodate changes once you are seated.
- Wearing a mask is encouraged. Please bring your own if you have one. We will have some disposable masks available at the church if you do not have one.
- For now, congregational singing and Holy Communion are on

hold until restrictions are lifted and we have proper protocols in place.

- Social distanced wait lines will be taped on the sidewalk outside and in the church. Please use these to ensure proper physical distancing.
- One door will be propped open to enter through. Please minimize touching surfaces including door handles, walls, windows, etc.
- There will be a greeter at the door to welcome you, offer a mask if one is needed, spray your hands with sanitizer and guide you to an usher.
- Please keep all belongings, including coats, with you in your pew where you are seated.
- The ushers will lead you into the sanctuary and seat you in a pew, marked to ensure proper distancing, and provide you with a printed bulletin. We ask that once you are seated you remain in your marked pew until the end of service. The ushers have been instructed to seat people from the front of the sanctuary to the back on both sides.
- Ushers will lead people out after service from back to front, through the narthex and out the front doors.

Additional information

- To maintain proper social distancing, we ask that there be no visiting inside the church and be mindful of distancing once you are outside.
- Washrooms will be in full use. Lysol wipes or sanitizer spray will be available to wipe down surfaces after use. Please observe proper hand washing hygiene with the soap and paper towels provided.

- We encourage you to continue to use the e-transfer and PAR options to send in donations electronically to help cut down on contact made by the counters each week. However, an offering drop box will also be available in the narthex. Please use your church envelopes for your offering as no envelopes will be available at the church for loose offerings. If you do not have church envelopes, please clearly write your name, address and phone number on the outside of a regular envelope so a receipt may be issued.
- Protocols and reminders while in worship will be printed in your service bulletin and Pastor Keith will also announce highlights as we come across them.
- At end of service we ask that you discard your bulletin in the garbage cans provided as you leave the sanctuary.
- There will be no access to the mailboxes, however an usher will be present to pass you any mail that was left in your mailbox before COVID if you would like to pick it up as you are being ushered out after service. All new materials will continue to be sent to you electronically or in the mail.
- No food or beverages will be allowed into the building.
- We will have many volunteers on the day of service to guide you through this new procedure as well as offer help and reminders when needed.
- If you are unsure of anything please don't hesitate to ask one of the ushers for guidance or assistance.