



The Spirit of St. Paul's

www.stpaulslutheran.ca

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

Congratulations to our newest confirmands



Joel Kitsch



Isabelle (left) and Allison Piprell (right)



Jenna Schuler

Four young members were confirmed in private ceremonies (because of COVID) on June 26 and 27. A date is yet to be set for a fifth. We share with you their pictures and confirmation verses.

Joel Kitsch

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. (Romans 15:13)

Allison Piprell

Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever! (Psalm 106:1)

Isabelle Piprell

[Jesus said] I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst. (John 6:35)

Jenna Schuler

[Jesus said] Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

Parker Zlipko

[Jesus said] I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. (John 8:12)



Parker Zlipko



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 eventually be collected the first Sunday of each month when we all return to worship in our church building. For now you may include your mites with your congregational offering but as a separate cheque clearly marked as LWMLC mites.

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.



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Pastor's Corner

The summer holidays are beginning and for many it provides the opportunity to have a break and some rest from school, work, and other activities that keep us busy during the rest of the year. It is important to rest. We need to take a break from the busyness of our lives and recharge. God set the pattern when He rested on the seventh day after six days of creation (Genesis 2:2). In the Third Commandment God commands and invites us to set aside a day to rest, reflect on His Word, and to receive His forgiveness and strength (Exodus 20:8-11). Rest was part of the rhythm that God put into place for His people and it included physical rest (Exodus 23:12) and spiritual rest through worship, fellowship, and devotion to God's Word and promises. Even Jesus, God in the flesh, took time for Himself to rest, meditate, and pray (Matthew 14:22-23). It is important to rest.

In the midst of the busyness, stress, and restlessness of this fast-paced and action-packed world, God offers us the liturgy to rest in His presence along the way. We are at home when we hear His Word, receive His Sacrament, and sing His praise. "Come to me," invites Jesus, "all you who are weary and burdened." He has the solution for our weariness and burdens and our Lord teaches that the holy rest of

God is found in Himself, "For I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:28-29). Our bodies and souls need this rest today and it prepares and points us forward to the eternal rest that is ours on the Last Day. Then we will see God face to face; He will wipe away all of our tears and we will rest from all of our labours for life everlasting. In heaven's glory our weariness, restlessness, and burdens will cease and we find our final rest in God.

As you take time to rest and recharge this summer, I encourage you to accept God's invitation to "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). Rest well by taking time for the liturgy where God is present to bless you with forgiveness, light, and life. Meditate on His Word, spend time in prayer, and reflect on His love and goodness. He is our refuge and strength.

*That light our hope sustaining,
We walk the pilgrim way,
At length our rest attaining,
Our endless Sabbath day.
We sing to Thee our praises,
O Father, Spirit, Son;
The Church her voice upraises
To Thee, blest Three in One
(LSB #906, v.4).*

*God's blessings,
Pastor Keith*

Taxi service resumes

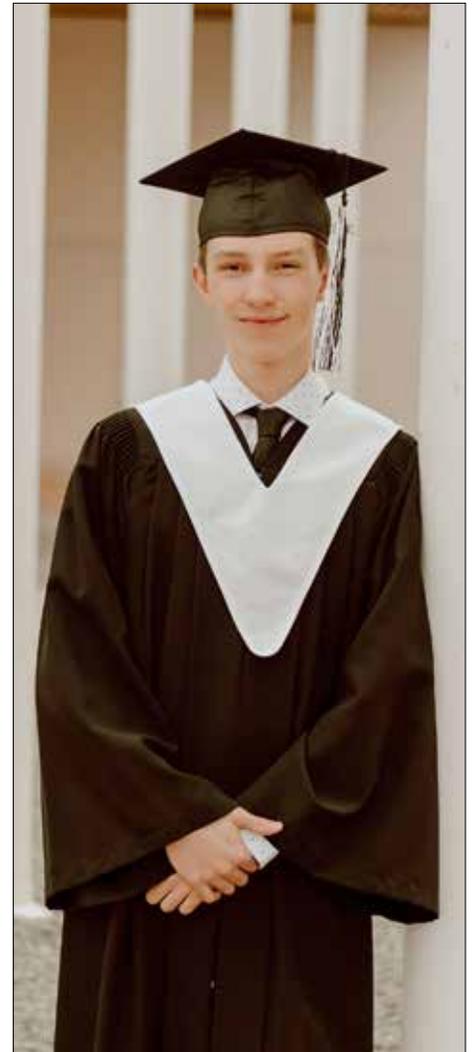
The taxi service will be starting up again for any members who are unable to carpool with others or drive themselves to church each week. The number to call has changed so anyone with an old card will be mailed a new card and

instructions soon. The new number to call for a ride is 306-652-2222 and there will now be a live dispatcher to help out. Our account number is still the same. If you need more information please contact Sandy in the office.

A special spring for some of our members



Jacob Kitsch graduated with honours from Tommy Douglas Collegiate. He will be attending the University of Saskatchewan College of Commerce in September.



Reid Neufeld is really excited to work on a family farm for the fall/spring, and will be working in Saskatoon during the winter. He also plans to head to the U of S in the College of Agriculture in the fall of 2022.



Wyatt Harper graduated with honours from Centennial Collegiate. He has been accepted into Kinesiology at the University of Saskatchewan where he will be attending in the fall.

If we missed receiving a photo from anyone in time for this issue of The Spirit, please send one to hollinger@sasktel.net so we may include you in the next issue.

Coming and going

We welcome to St. Paul's the Tabet family—Filipe, Juliana, Julio and Sarah from Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Winnipeg.

While we wish we didn't have to say goodbye to anyone, we ask God's blessings on Ken and Rhoda McCallen and Gary and Carol Schreiner as both couples transfer to St. John's Lutheran Church in Warman.

Evangelism

Patient waiting

Last month I wrote about finding ourselves under pressure or in stressful situations that can cause anxiousness or anxiety, be it mild or otherwise, for a variety of reasons than can occur in our day-to-day living. I explored some of the descriptive words that express those feelings and emotions using the Bible's concordance to find out what God has to say to us, what His encouragement is to us in His Word.

Often we discover that, as hard as we try to adhere solely to God's ways, our sinful nature gets in the way. We hear God's Word and are encouraged but find we lack the virtue of patient endurance, the patience to see it through, to wait for the Lord in His timing.

This month we will check out the words patient/patience/waiting and see what God tells us in His Word. What does being patient or having patience mean? Perhaps the best way to describe patient/patience is—a calm endurance, the ability to accept calmly things that annoy or trouble us or that require long waiting or effort. Waiting is another word worth checking out as it is often connected to how well we handle patience.

Here are a few helpful Scripture passages that the Holy Spirit uses to train us in patient waiting.

- “Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer” (Romans 12:12).
- “I waited patiently for the Lord; He inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure” (Psalm 40:1-2).

- “Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord” (Psalm 27:14).
- “For God alone, O my soul, waits in silence, for my hope is from Him” (Psalm 62:5).
- “But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31).

In Scripture there are other examples of patience and waiting; here are a few:

God's patience towards sinners

“The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient towards you, not wishing any should perish, but that all should reach repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

Unity in the body of Christ

“...with all humility and gentleness and patience, bearing with one another in love” (Ephesians 4:2).

Patience with others

“And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the

weak, be patient with them all” (Thessalonians 5:14).

Patient waiting for our redemption

“And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies” (Romans 8:23).

Patient waiting for Jesus to come again

“So Christ having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him” (Hebrews 9:28).

Rewards of Patience

“As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience” (Luke 8:15). “He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life” (Romans 2: 6-7).

May God Bless your summer,

*Clara Zirk for the
Board of Evangelism*

Stewardship

We, like the Christians of Corinthians are called to generous and sacrificial giving

“I will bless you ..., so that you will be a blessing” (Genesis 12:2). The Lord blessed Abraham so that he would be a blessing. How did He bless Abraham? He promised that from His seed would come the savior of the nations. And Abraham believed that promise, trusted that the Lord would provide it just as He had promised. Thus, everything Abraham did was coloured by

that promise. He willingly gave of himself and his household in service to the Lord in view of that promise.

Our Father in heaven has richly blessed us. Not only has He given us everything we need to support this body and life, but He has also provided that promised seed in His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. He is the saviour of the nations. He is the redeemer of the world. He is the one

Stewardship, continued

who has conquered sin, death and the power of the devil by His death, resurrection and ascension.

Just as we are richly blessed, we are also thereby freed to be a blessing. Since God has endowed us with His gifts, we are set to endow others. Thus, we give of the blessings we have received so others may be blessed. We do this in our homes, our communities and our churches. We press the blessings God has lavished upon us in service to those around us. We use our time, our talents, and our treasures to be a blessing even as they have been a blessing to us.

The Lord blesses us. And He enlists us to be a blessing to others. So, whenever you put that envelope in the collection plate, when you set out to serve at the local food pantry, when you sit down to help your kids with homework, think of this: The Lord has blessed you, so that you will be a blessing.

In the eighth chapter of second Corinthians (verses 1 to 9), St Paul writes about the generous giving of the Christians in Macedonia and holds them up as examples of generous and sacrificial giving. Even in their extreme poverty, they gave according to their means—and beyond their means, of their own accord. They gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to the church. St Paul says, “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich.”

We hold this act of generosity up for ourselves also during our time of need. We all know how the COVID epidemic has affected our personal, family and social lives including our

ability to attend worship services. We thank God for His leading and guiding the researchers, doctors and other medical professionals who have developed a vaccine which will allow us to return to some form of normalcy over the coming months.

The lack of public worship opportunity has affected our financial situation at St. Paul’s severely. While we were able to manage and end the 2020 fiscal year with a small surplus, it was largely supported by federal subsidies which were available. Beginning in January 2021, while the subsidy program is still in place, the formula has changed such that we have only been eligible for funding of about \$5,700 to the end of May compared to \$9,900 for the same period in 2020.

To the end of May 2021, we have spent about \$15,000 more than our revenues. This despite the fact that all board spending is under total budget estimates by about \$10,000 to the end of May. The Board of Stewardship recently reviewed our financial statements to May 31 and noted that our giving is down about

\$8,700 compared to the same period in 2020 and, combined with reduced federal subsidies for the same period as last year of about \$4,000, we are reporting an overall deficit of about \$15,000.

We know that while COVID restrictions are opening up over the coming weeks, we also know we are headed into the summer months when attendance is typically down—as is giving. The congregation’s financial statements are available for anyone to receive a copy and review in more detail if you wish. Because of our yearend operating surplus in 2020 and a reasonably healthy cash flow, the 2021 year-to-date deficit has not impacted our ability to pay our salaries and other expenses. However, without an improvement in our giving soon, we will face financial challenges by fall. We pray that God will continue to support this congregation through the generous giving of our members—just as the Macedonians found joy in their sacrificial giving and in their poverty.

*Thanks be to God!
Board of Stewardship*

Lay Ministry

Worship protocols to change in coming weeks

We hope and pray that everyone is doing well and enjoying the summer weather. As mentioned in previous Spirit articles, the COVID-19 provincial guidelines for faith-based organizations and worship services have been closely monitored by Pastor Keith and the Board of Lay Ministry, particularly in light of the reopening plans for the province announced recently by the Government of Saskatchewan for July 11th. These have been the focus

of recent discussions between the Board of Lay Ministry and Pastor Keith and as result a communication to members of St. Paul’s will be sent out in the coming days with regards to how we are planning to adjust our current worship service protocols. Some of the changes in our worship services are anticipated to include the lifting of capacity limits, a return to congregational singing and an easing of requirements for wearing a mask during worship

services as well as social distancing. For the foreseeable future however, we anticipate that our current procedures for holy communion and some other practices such as the use of hymnals and offering will remain in place. Of course, we are hoping that in the coming months we will be able to lift all restrictions related to our worship services and everything can return to normal soon. We assure members of the congregation however that as we move forward in changing our worship service protocols, we will do so keeping the health and safety of our members front and center.

Once again, we are thankful for the dedication of Laura Neufeld, Ken Neitz, Lisa Poier and Ryan

Baker, as they share their gifts for the in-person services as well as for the on-line services available to all members on a weekly basis. We recognize their commitment of time and talents. Thanks as well to Natalie for the technical assistance to Pastor Keith in recording the services that are made available to members who are not able to attend in person.

We continue to use a small group of people for the Altar Guild and ushers. We thank those individuals for their faithfulness to prepare communion and in ushering for services and we thank Doreen Morris and Daryl Walter for coordinating the Altar Guild and ushers respectively. We appreciate Sandy's carrying out the additional

work in circulating the email for worship service registration as well as contacting some members who do not have email access.

Finally, and as we have said in the past, Pastor Keith has been a constant in providing leadership this past year in using technology to enable carrying out the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the congregation as well as in his private ministry to members. This has involved using a different approach, but his ministry continues. We look forward to a return to normal worship services in the coming weeks and look forward to seeing all members of St. Paul's worshipping together again and in person.

Board of Lay Ministry

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways
To keep His statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace
To know and do His will!

Order my footsteps by Thy Word
And make my heart sincere
Let sin have no dominion Lord,
But keep my conscience clear.

Assist my soul, too apt to stray,
A stricter watch to keep;
And should I e'er forget Thy way,
Restore Thy wand'ring sheep.

Make me to walk in Thy commands—
'Tis a delightful road—
Nor let my head or heart or hands
Offend against my God.

*Text: Isaac Watts; public domain
LSB 707*