



# The Spirit of St. Paul's

[www.stpaulslutheran.ca](http://www.stpaulslutheran.ca)

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

## *Congratulations from St. Paul's to Alex, Marion and Caleb*

Sacred Convocation at Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton, was held Friday, May 24. It was a special day for many people including son of the congregation, Alexander Timm, his wife Marion and their son Caleb.

Marion's father, Rev. Roland Kubke from St. John's Lutheran Church, Beach Corner, Alta., provided the sermon during the service. Oboya Ochalla graduated from the P.A.T. (Pastors with Alternate Training) Program and Stuart and Marilyn Jansen received the Faith in Life award. The four graduates each received a Master of Divinity and Theological Diploma, as well as their first calls: Shiekh Lief Mauricio to Valleyview, Alta.,

Michael Mayer to Monkton/Mitchell, Ont., and Christopher McLean to Dawson Creek, B.C.

Alex, Marion and Caleb will begin their ministry at Our Saviour and St. Mark Lutheran churches in Dryden and Vermilion Bay, Ont. An ordination and installation date is yet to be set, but will likely occur at the end of August. Please keep the whole family—Alex' and Marion's families, as well as Alex, Marion and Caleb themselves—in your prayers as they work through this whirlwind time of change. Alex and Marion are eager to begin serving God's beloved people.

We at St. Paul's wish them God's richest blessings in this, their first parish.



*Alex, Caleb and Marion Timm*

## **Are you ready?**

...for the annual Father's Day BBQ/New Members Sunday



### **WHEN:**

- Sunday, June 16 after worship

### **PLEASE BRING:**

- *A salad or dessert and a lawn chair if you have one.*

*The Board of Parish Fellowship will provide: hamburgers and hotdogs, refreshments and condiments, etc.*

## 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 June - Dianne Gilbert

## 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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## END OF AN ERA: PRESERVING MEMORIES

*“For whatever was written in former days, was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” (Romans 15:4).*

Women from St. Paul’s joined sisters in Christ from Grace and Holy Cross in Saskatoon and Holy Trinity, Luseland (Kerrobert LWML) at Holy Cross on May 4.

Theme of the day was selected by the women from Holy Cross as this is the last time they will host a circuit-wide (zone) event. Their building has been sold to another denomination and the congregation will be disbanding.

Pastoral counsellor for the zone, Rev. Robert Grout, led a Bible study related to the theme and the importance of memories.

Maureen Cline, a founding member of a group known as



Memory Writers, served as guest speaker. This group meets once a month at the Saskatoon Funeral Home’s Family Centre to share their writings and encourage one another.

After he talk, everyone was given time to consider a memory, write about it and share it with the group.

It was an enjoyable and thought-provoking day.

## Choir shares music with seniors and friends



St. Paul’s choir ended their year with a concert at Luther Heights. Thanks to Amy and the choir for their great music during the Advent/Christmas season and the Lent/Easter season.

## Welcome to St. Paul's



Recently two new families have officially joined us. Please help in welcoming them.

- Don and Harriett Werschener transferred from Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Saskatoon.
- Jason, Michelle, Ella and Isabelle Wilson transferred from La Ronge Lutheran Fellowship, La Ronge, Saskatchewan.

## A request

Many graduations are happening at this time of year. As a congregation we're proud of the accomplishments of those who reach this a milestone. Please share a photo and a bit of information with our newsletter editor, Marion Hollinger, so we can acknowledge them.

## Stewardship

### Even the ability to receive God's gifts is a gift

Some disciples of John the Baptist were questioning him about the baptism and preaching of Jesus. Many disciples were going to Jesus instead of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist answers: "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven" (John 3:27).

John the Baptist says this to show that Jesus, His teaching, and His baptism are from heaven. God provides everything we have in body and soul.

We are taught this in the meaning of the Apostles' Creed in the *Small Catechism*.

In the First Article of the Creed, we learn that God has made us and everything in the universe.

"He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any

merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him."

In the Second Article of the Creed, we learn that God sent His Son, Jesus, to humble Himself by taking the form of a servant.

In so doing, He "has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity."

In the Third Article of the Creed, we learn that the fruits of what Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did are given to us through the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church.

"That I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the

whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ."

Indeed, "a person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven."

But how easy is this for us to forget? How easy is it for us to think that what we have in life is because we have earned it?

How easy is it for us to forget that all our skills – the abilities of our hands and minds, the ethic to work diligently, and the desire to improve – is given to us from heaven, just as John the Baptist said?

How easy is it for us to forget that it is Christ alone, and the work of the Holy Spirit, that reveals His salvation to us, delivers it to us, and that none of this is our doing?

Sure, we have responsibility for coming to church, for delving into God's Holy Word, and for praying without ceasing.

But even these responsibilities are given to us from heaven. These duties are not earned; they are given

*Gifts, continued*

in response to what He has accomplished for us.

Everything we have, and everything we are – in both body and soul – are gifts from God in heaven.

Let us then respond in thanksgiving and give back to Him as He asks – with a first-fruits, generous proportion offering of what He has given to us. Amen. Let it be so!

Recently, the Board of Stewardship received the congregation's financial statement for the period January 1 to April 30, 2019, which showed that to the end of April we have an excess of disbursements over receipts of \$2,592. This compares to a surplus at the end of April last year of 2,012. However, envelope and Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) offerings are ahead of offerings last year by \$2,313. Total revenue is down

marginally compared to last year by \$340. Expenses in the January to April period this year are \$2,592 under budget and \$4,263 higher than in 2018.

At the end of March 2019, envelope and PAR offerings were virtually the same as in 2018 - \$500 higher in 2019. April 2019 envelope and PAR offerings however were \$2,000 higher than the year before. This is good news as we head into the summer months, we need to keep the programs and expenses of the church in our thoughts and prayers. The fixed expenses of the congregation unfortunately continue year round even though we might be away for periods of time.

We pray that we all remember and respond to God's gracious gifts by giving back to Him who has provided us with so much!

*Board of Stewardship*

## 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.

#### **PARENTS OF PRODIGALS (LHM)**

**"God teaches us love, forgiveness and reconciliation to apply in any parent/child relationship."** Written by Dan Kohn, a Christian author with 33 years of counselling experience. He currently works in jail ministry where he deals with many prodigals on a daily basis.

The content of this booklet is best described by the summary on its back cover.

"Have you ever known a parent who is experiencing a relationship standoff with a child? This booklet considers the impasse that leads the child to take flight—become a prodigal—in his or her response to a grievous home situation. We're all familiar with the painful story. At first, imperceptibly, a rift begins to form. Over time these circumstances can lead to separation. The prodigal simply exits the home and doesn't look back.

In this booklet, counsellor Dan Kohn considers when the prodigal child hits the road. With absence comes the interminable questioning of what could have kept the rift from forming. There's anxiety over not knowing where and how the child is and there's frustration over a situation the parent is powerless to do anything about.

There is, however, hope—an anticipation that God is faithful and can handle a prodigal child. Love, forgiveness and open arms are central to the answer, and though the parents may find these attributes hard to come by, with God all things are possible—even the longed for return of a prodigal child."

*God in time of need, continued*

**PRAYER: WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY (LHM)** “How God answers prayer, why praying is important, and the words of our prayers.” Written and prepared by three staff members from LHM: Rich Cohrs, Wayne Palmer and Suzie Salle.

“Prayer, quite simply, is communication. It is the privileged exchange we share with God the Father, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. In prayer we converse with God; we pour out our hearts to Him; we offer up our praise to Him. We acknowledge Him as Lord of our lives and we thank Him for sending His Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour. Prayer is all these things; it is also the searching talk we have with God when our hearts are burdened and sin lays us low with its crushing weight.”

What impacted me most as I read through this pamphlet?

- God has created us to be in relationships. He never intended for us to be alone; we have been placed in families and amongst friends.
- Talking with God and spending time with Him is the ultimate relationship.
- Every one of us is extended a personal invitation into the very presence of God.
- God is always with us. He searches our heart, mind and soul and He knows everything there is to know about us.
- Being our loving Father, God cares about everything concerning us, so He answers our prayers in His way.

It’s the way He knows will ultimately be best for us individually and for everyone whose life is impacted by ours. He is perfect in His ability and He can see around the corners of our lives now and into the future.

- God always hears and answers the prayers of those who pray to Him in faith. He doesn’t always say “yes” and sometimes it’s “no” and other times He says “not now.”
- What should I pray about? The answer is simple, everything.
- God is constantly watching over us and has even numbered the hairs on our heads. He is eager for our communication, asking Him when we need something, thanking Him for His good gifts, praising Him for all He does.

Paul wrote: “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

*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).

**LET US PRAY**

...for students at Zion Lutheran Christian School, Prince George, B.C. where a mission grant of \$10,500 is allowing for a technology upgrade to assist the school in providing high-quality Christian-based education using one-to-one computer programs in the classroom.

Heavenly Father, we ask your blessing upon the children of Zion Lutheran School in Prince George. May what they learn increase their understanding of God’s Word and strengthen their faith as they study together. Amen.



Despite the rain, this year's sale went very well. Thank you to those who provided the "treasures" and everyone whose hard work made it a success.



Yard sale - \$1,748.25  
Youth barbecue - \$176.48  
Bake sale - \$148.50  
Total - \$2,073.23

May 25



Pastor's Corner

**Bless this house and all therein**

Did you know that we do home blessings in the Lutheran Church? It is appropriate for homes of Christians to be blessed by the Word of God and prayer. Traditionally home blessings were done during the season of Epiphany because of the connection with the visitation of the Magi to the home of the infant Christ, but it can be done any time (with the exception of Holy Week). The Blessing of

a Home rite can be used when someone moves into a new home, when a family moves into another home, in the event of a robbery, fire, vandalism, renovation, etc.

As desired, one or more individual rooms may be blessed with a suitable reading and prayer. For example, Psalm 68:6a and Romans 15:7 are read at the entrance of the home: "God settles the solitary in a home. Therefore

welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God" and the following is prayed: "Lord God, protect and guide those who live here as they come and go. Let them show hospitality to all who visit this home, so that those who enter here may find peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."

With this rite we are asking God to bless and sanctify our home, those who live there, and it's possessions. We are also praying for protection. Included in one of the prayers is the petition: "Drive from here the snares of the evil one and send Your holy angel to guard, protect, visit, and defend all who dwell in this home."

**Board of Lay Ministry holds annual retreat**



*Oh, blest the house, whate'er befall,  
Where Jesus Christ is all in all!  
A home that is not wholly His -  
How sad and poor and dark it is!*

*Then here will I and mine today  
A solemn promise make and say:  
Though all the world forsake His Word,  
I and my house will serve the Lord!*  
(LSB #862 vv. 1,5)



If you are interested in having your home blessed I would be happy to discuss it with you.

*God's blessings, Pastor Keith*



*In May members of the Board of Lay Ministry, Pastor Keith, president Elton Harper and vice-president Mark Zlipko, travelled to Camp Lutherland in the Qu'Appelle Valley for a time of digging into God's word and enjoying fellowship.*

## Jeanette and the Riverside Strummers

“You’re never too old to learn something new.” So says eighty plus Jeanette Wiesinger. Jeanette, who came to St. Paul’s from Zion, Yorkton, several years ago, makes her home at Luther Riverside Terrace on Saskatchewan Crescent West.



Jeanette Wiesinger

For over 30 years Jeanette and her husband, Erwin, owned and ran Erwin & Elmer’s Esso Service just outside Yorkton in partnership with Elmer and Jeanette Haberstock. It was a wonderful place to raise their family, Jeanette says. After her husband’s death, Jeanette moved to Saskatoon and Riverside Terrace.

About six years ago a friend invited her to join the Ukuladies (see side note). Jeanette had never played the ukulele so she says it took a gentle “arm twisting” to persuade her. Today she is extremely happy she did. When I visited she said the group had worked on four new songs that week with new fingering she had to learn for the chords. Old fingers don’t work as easily as they once did but but you can see how much she enjoys the challenge as she talks about it.

Jeanette says that music has always been part of her life. Her mother played the organ and taught her children. Four of them, including Jeanette, formed a quartet and sang whenever opportunity came along. Jeanette joined several choirs. Although she preferred soprano there was always a shortage of altos so mostly that’s what she sang. Looking back, two things stand out for her: a zone choir formed to sing at a Lutheran Hour

Rally in Yorkton where Dr. Hoffman preached at a huge outdoor event and a community choir—The Singing Christmas Tree—that came together only at Christmas.

The organizer behind Riverside Strummers is Beth Robertson. Some may recall the play “The Pull of The Land” that, using people from around the community of Harris as actors, was performed in many, many small communities

around the province and at TCU Place (Centennial Auditorium at the time). Beth also writes many original songs sung and played by Riverside Strummers and Riverside Singers (did I mention Jeanette also sings with that group?).

The Strummers have finished concerts for the season but, if you want to hear the Riverside Singers there will be a concert at the Terrace on June 21 at 7:00 p.m.

How did I discover the Strummers? They came to entertain at my new home. They are professional calibre. *Marion*

### *The Riverside Strummer’s Story*

Six years ago, four residents of Luther Riverside Terrace gathered around a small table in the multi-purpose room; three to learn how to play the ukulele, the fourth to teach. We sang the “good old songs” for fun and our own enjoyment. The group grew to six and then to eight and we needed two tables.

As our numbers grew so did our confidence, our repertoire and the number of tables we needed. We became brave enough to perform with the Riverside Singers at their programs and occasionally go out to entertain in other seniors’ homes. We needed a name, so we called ourselves the Ukuladies.

Guitars were added to our little group and as our group grew bigger so did our sound. Then men joined and a name change was necessary. We chose, by popular vote, to be called the Riverside Strummers.

Almost exponentially, our numbers soon reached over twenty and last fall we reached our present number of thirty members when all are able to be present. Members come from Riverside Terrace, Luther Heights, from here and there around the city and one member drives in from Harris. Our youngest member is 59, our oldest is 93.

Along with the new members came an abundance of talents and instruments. Besides the ukuleles and guitars we now have Scottish small pipes, a harp and various percussion instruments. All of this adds excitement and gives us a bigger and better sound.

It is our unstated purpose to bring joy through music to you, to ourselves and to the wider community.

Postlude: We are now fully equipped with instruments, music stands and instrument stands. We no longer need tables.

*from program notes provided for a concert at Riverside Terrace*