



The Spirit of St. Paul's

www.stpaulslutheran.ca

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

Easter Cross Witness

Over the past number of years the Board of Evangelism has handed out Easter crosses and many at St. Paul's have been faithful in their witness to the Risen Christ by placing one of these crosses in a visible place in their yard, window, balcony or whatever imaginative way they were able to come up with to make it work.

Easter 2021—who would have thought that we would still be in the grips of COVID-19? It is my hope that we will once again be a witness for Christ in our community.

Although we cannot hand out any new crosses, those of you who still have yours from previous years, will, I trust, put them out as you have done in the past.

It is suggested that the crosses be put up on Palm Sunday, March 28, with the white side facing out and, on Easter Sunday, April 4, turn it to the other side that says "He is Risen." Please leave it up for a week after Easter.

The Word of the Lord:

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8).
"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek" (Romans 1: 16).*

Praising God with you at Easter.

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Hallelujah!

*Thank you for your support,
Clara Zirk and the Board of Evangelism*



Devin Zirk's Easter Cross as seen from his balcony.



Chase Roy Stanford, son of Clayton and Candace Stanford, was baptized Sunday afternoon, February 28, 2021.



THINK SPRING! On the last page of this newsletter is a picture you can provide the colour for... paints, pastels, pencil crayons, your choice.

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.

Hurting from Abortion?
A Word of Hope can help • 888-217-8679 • Confidential and Caring
www.word-of-hope.org
Word of Hope is a ministry of Lutherans For Life
Supported by Lutherans for Life-Canada
www.lutheransforlife-canada.ca



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A year in review: from the office

When looking back over this past year I am grateful for the many words of encouragement, prayers and offers of support from so many of our members, here at St. Paul's.

The office continues to run efficiently, despite the many challenges that have come with the pandemic, especially at the beginning when all of the office procedures and processes needed to be recreated. It was a big adjustment, but with the help of Pastor Keith, our executive, many of our board directors and members, our treasurer, our custodial staff, our music team as well as my husband, Elton (a.k.a. St. Paul's unofficial IT Department), and our three kids who provide endless tech support, St. Paul's church office continues to function well. It took from March until October 2020 for the majority of the new processes to be created and implemented. Much thought, planning ahead and testing went into getting everything working correctly, but it was worth the effort to keep things running in an organized and timely manner.

Our biggest challenge has been, and continues to be, privacy issues in regards to sharing personal information while still being able to provide updates about our members such as hospitalizations, health struggles, moves, births, deaths, etc. We will continue to give updates as we are able to during these times.

Many people have asked how they can offer support. As we continue to move forward through this pandemic here are some ways you can help:

- Make phone calls to our seniors to check on them,
- Mail cards, notes, letters to those who are homebound,

- Email members and call one another.
- Please pray for Pastor Keith, our boards, our volunteers helping with our weekly in-person services, our music team, our custodial staff who are dealing with the many extra cleaning protocols and myself as we continue to work through the next months.

And finally,

- Please reach out to pastor or the office if you are in need of prayer or support.

Once again, thank you to our many volunteers and Pastor Keith who have all helped to make the best of a tough year. I pray that we are all able to continue this good work that God has provided for us to do and that we are able to rest well when we have the opportunity to do so. I have been encouraged by a number of our faithful seniors who, through their wisdom, always remind me to trust that the Lord is with us all and that this, too, shall pass.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6).

Sandy Harper
Office Administrator



Pastor's Corner

In last month's issue of *The Spirit* I discussed how we poor, miserable sinners are able to be in God's presence because our sin has been cleansed and we have been made holy and righteous by the blood of Christ. In fact, not only are we able to be in His presence—it is actually by being in close proximity to God that we participate in, and receive, His righteousness and holiness.

The pandemic continues to cause disruptions in many areas of our lives, including our life together at St. Paul's. Some of us haven't been able to be in Divine Service for some time.

But we remember that our proximity to God and being in His presence is not confined only to the sanctuary. Through daily contrition and repentance, our sins

are washed away and we draw near to God where He draws near to us: Word, water, bread, wine. Baptized into Christ, we have put on Christ (Galatians 3:27) and by virtue of our baptism we now live in Him and He now lives in us.

As Christians, everything that we are and have to give, we first receive from God by repeatedly entering into His presence. Life flows to us from God the Father through His Son, Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Then, everything we do in this life we offer in praise to the Father through the Son in the Spirit. "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (Colossians 3:17).

Our life of love, good works, and serving others begins by receiving God's love and salvation in Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. Then these gifts flow from Him through us to others. We freely receive and we freely give (Matthew 10:8). We love because He first loved us (1 John 4:19). We love and serve others not to become holy, but because we are sanctified (made holy) by the Holy Spirit. Our holiness is not self-generated, but is received from God in close proximity to His presence. This is how we maintain the holiness God has made ours, how we keep holy what God has made holy. Spend time in God's Word and prayer and receive His love, peace, and certain hope for eternal life. They are for you.

God's blessings, Pastor Keith

For your reading pleasure

If you like to read, you may be wondering what books you might choose and where you can find them. The Board of Education has some suggestions. Perhaps you will have others for us to share in future newsletters. Here are some ideas from Denise Timm and Arlene Kish.

Arlene suggests: "**Meant for More: In, With and Under the Ordinary**" by John Arthur Nunes. This book is available from Concordia Publishing House at cph.org. It is described this way: There's a feeling deep within you. It's the feeling that you're not living up to your full potential, that somewhere out there you're missing out; that you are meant for more in this life and simply don't know where to turn to achieve it.

At the same time, you're aware that you live in a sad, broken world, filled with crime, pain, division, and

so much more. How can you really see the more that you are meant to be living in such a world as that?

Using real-life vignettes Rev. John Nunes is here to help. He's here to let you know that you're filling your life with things that don't matter. Things that aren't pulling you closer to God and are perhaps pulling you away from Him. Instead, find your ability to fill your life with more of what matters.

God is calling you to more and is giving you all the equipment for it. He is coming to you through the ordinary—ordinary water, wine, hands, and bread—to turn you into someone extraordinary with the ability to do more than you ever believed possible.

This book is available in both print and e-book formats. Given the difficulty getting things across the border (it took a whole year

to receive a book ordered by your editor), if you can use the e-book format it would be the best bet.

Denise suggests the complete "**Anthems of Zion**" series. This three-book series is available in our church library or may be ordered from CPH. Katie Schuermann weaves a story about the people of Zion Lutheran Church in the small town of Bradbury, Illinois. The memorable and lovable characters struggle, rejoice, and grow together as they live out God's mission to love and serve their neighbour where God has placed them.

Denise says: As well as being humorously light, I appreciated reading, as a Lutheran Christian, something that was very relatable. It didn't hurt that farm life and music (church choir) were a big part of it too!

Lay Ministry

As mentioned in previous Spirit articles, the COVID-19 provincial guidelines for faith-based organizations and worship services continue to be closely monitored by Pastor Keith and the Board of Lay Ministry for any changes that would affect the procedures and processes that were developed last spring for in-person worship services. Those procedures have served us well. Any changes for the most part revolve around the number of members that are able to attend, thus the requirements for pre-registration. We thank you for your cooperation in this regard. We assure members of the congregation that we continue to follow our procedures for the safety of all who attend the worship services.

Once again we are thankful for the dedication of Laura Neufeld, Ken Neitz and Lisa Poier, as they share their gifts for the in-person

services, but also for the on-line services available to all members on a weekly basis. We recognize their commitment of time and talents for in-person services, the recording of services made available to all members, as well as recording services for the season of Lent. 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 are currently using 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. 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. Thanks Sandy.

Of course Pastor Keith has been a constant this past year using technology to enable carrying out the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the congregation as well as his private ministry to members. This has involved using a different approach, but his ministry continues. Bible studies still are being made available and confirmation continues for a number of members although on a virtual basis. Funerals, baptisms and some in-home communion are still being provided. At the same time he continues to provide online worship services for those members who are not able to attend them in person.

We trust this will end soon and we look forward to our return to "normal" whatever that looks like and whenever that happens

*Daryl Walter,
Board of Lay Ministry*

Stewardship

Hudson Taylor, a Nineteenth Century British missionary to China, is reported to have said, "God's work, done in God's way, will not lack God's supply." To know God's way, we need to know His Holy Word. Or to say it another way: you need to know your Bible.

St. Paul, before he spends two chapters on giving, wrote that every thought is to be taken captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor 10:5). Doctrine matters. And doctrine matters because the Scriptures matter. And the Scriptures matter because this is where we learn the teaching of Christ. Our thoughts must be brought into line with the teaching of Scripture so that our work is what God wants done and so that we do this work in His way.

A good tree bears good fruit. A bad tree bears bad fruit. We have been made good trees in holy baptism. We are fertilized and pruned for bearing good fruit by constantly hearing God's Word preached and taught in sermon and Bible Class and in receiving the life-giving, faith-sustaining food of the Lord's Supper. Remember your doctrine, hold on to the Lord's teaching, and your



thoughts will be taken captive to the obedience of Christ.

Bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ is recognizing that God does provide. The Lord's Prayer teaches us to pray for daily bread. Praying this day in and day out reminds us that the Lord is the giver of our daily bread, and that we are to give thanks for His daily provision of it. God is rarely early and never late in His work, as Abraham learned on the mount of the Lord it will be provided. The Lord's generosity forms our generosity in return.

Thus, we set aside for the work of God a generous, first-fruits, proportion of the daily bread that God has given to us. This act of

Continued next page

Stewardship, continued

trust in the Lord's provision is the working out of our faith in Him. When budgetary discussions pop up our natural reaction is to point fingers. But remember your doctrine, and what your mother taught about pointing fingers. Our first natural reaction is not always right. In fact, when our thoughts are brought into captivity of Christ, our first reaction should be repentance. It should raise questions in our own lives. As good trees in Christ who

are to bear good fruit, we should ask whether our thoughts have been taken captive by obedience to Christ. Have we given generously? Have we given our first-fruits? You know. And God knows. "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him" (2 Chron 16:9).

God will provide. He always has and He always will. He gives His meat in due season. He has not left you as orphans but has grafted you

into His own family. You belong to Him. Remember this, letting this thought dwell in you richly. And you will then be rich toward others.

As we are in the middle of the Lenten season and as we reflect on how much Jesus gave of Himself for us, we hope and pray you will remember the work of St. Paul's congregation and beyond as part of your giving decision. God Bless you in your Lenten journey!

Board of Stewardship

Spring Quest: The History of the Bible: From Manuscripts to Modern Translations

from the CLS website

The mission of Concordia Lutheran Seminary (CLS), Edmonton is to form servants for Jesus' sake. This is not just pastoral and diaconal formation, but also writing, teaching, preaching for the church, and offering stimulating learning sessions for the greater Church. We invite you to join this exciting Spring Quest course, offered free of charge, on the Bible itself. We are thrilled that this series will be presented by: Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Kloha

(LCMS), Chief Curator of Museum of the Bible, Washington, DC.

This presentation of Quest is provided by the seminary with no cost to those who wish to participate. While we are streaming via Zoom, the sessions themselves are being uploaded to the CLS YouTube channel for anyone to watch (either at the time or in future at your convenience) at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ConcordiaLutheranSem>

Registering in advance is not required.

"Love the Lord, your God" and "love your neighbour as yourself" are the most-repeated passages in the Bible. They have been memorized, copied, recited, translated, and lived out for over 3000 years. But how was that passage—indeed the entire Bible—handed down to us? These sessions will describe the fascinating journey of the Bible, from prophets and apostles to manuscripts and modern translations. Featured will be manuscripts and artifacts from the collections and exhibits of Museum of the Bible in Washington DC.

Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 7 p.m. Mountain (8 p.m. SK CST)

Session 1: What is the Bible?

Session 2: The Hebrew Bible: The Law, The Prophets, and the Psalms

Tuesday, March 9, 2021, 7 p.m. Mountain (8 p.m. SK CST)

Session 3: The Formation of the New Testament: The Apostles and the Gospel Message

Session 4: Copying the Bible (before there was cut-and-paste)

Tuesday, March 16, 2021, 7 p.m. Mountain Daylight (7 p.m. SK CST)

Session 5: Let There be Light: Luther, Tyndale and the King James Bible

Session 6: Modern Translations: Bibles for All

Tuesday, March 23, 2021, 7 p.m. Mountain Daylight (7 p.m. SK CST)

Session 7: Tour of Museum of the Bible, Part 1

Session 8: Tour of Museum of the Bible, Part 2



