



The Spirit of St. Paul's

www.stpaulslutheran.ca

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

Pastor's Corner

The fire was small but reminds us the Church is more than a building

Early in the morning on Monday, April 27, I received a phone call from the Saskatoon Fire Department informing me there had been a fire at the church. Shortly after that call I got a few emails and texts from concerned members who had seen the report on the news. It has been a long while since I had that kind of adrenaline run through my body! Was anyone hurt? Is the damage extensive? How did it start? Did I forget to extinguish a candle in the sanctuary after recording Sunday's service?

What a relief it was when we arrived at the church to discover that there were no injuries and the damage was on the outside of the building and was relatively minor. I learned that the Saskatoon Fire Department was on the scene quickly and had the fire extinguished within ten minutes. I am thankful to God for those who serve in dangerous vocations on our behalf, and that there wasn't significant damage to St. Paul's property.

Later in the day I started thinking about how difficult it would have been if the damage had been more extensive or if we had lost the entire church building. There is a lot of history contained in those walls. Sunday services, Bible studies, baptisms, weddings,

funerals, time spent together in fellowship. Over the years a lot has gone into furnishings and wood carvings and stained glass windows to enhance God's house and our time in it. We gather to receive God's peace and hope and life at 627 Taylor Street East and it would have been quite a blow if the fire had caused great destruction.

However, St. Paul reminds us in his letter to the Ephesians that the Church isn't a building. He said, "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit" (Ephesians 2:19-22). Christ's Church is made up of all people whom the Holy Spirit has gathered to Christ in faith throughout the

entire world by his Word and Sacraments. This is a good reminder for us now during this time that we are not able to gather together at St. Paul's. Christ's Church continues on and He promises that it will prevail (Matthew 16:18) and that He is with us to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20).

I am so thankful that St. Paul's Church building was preserved from this fire and I pray that we will be able to gather together inside of it soon. I miss all of you and our time together. What a comfort it is to know that Christ continues to dwell in us, His Body, and His plan of salvation continues in us and through us.

*We are God's House of living stones,
Built for His own habitation.*

*He through baptismal grace us owns
Heirs of His wondrous salvation.*

*Were we but two His name to tell,
Yet He would deign with us to dwell
With all His grace and His favour.*

(LSB #645, v.3)

God's blessings,

Pastor Keith

Hey Kids!

Don't miss the great activity ideas on page 2 and the colouring pages at the end of this newsletter.

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 May - Verla Schmirler

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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Hey Kids!

There are some new things offered now on Concordia Publishing House website (cph.org) that might be fun for you to do. You can hear an Arch book story read to you by a man named Matt Bergholt or look under “Elementary” in the “For Study” section to find Colouring Pages, Student Activity Sheets where you can make playdough crosses or Catechism Quizlets that guide you through different challenges to learn things like The Lord’s Prayer, The Ten Commandments, The Apostle’s Creed and more! So, when we see each other again, you can receive the lapel pins you earn for memorizing parts of the catechism!

We have missed you a lot and would love to hear from you. Please email us at marissaneuberger@gmail.com (Marissa) or heavenlyhills@sasktel.net (Denise) to tell us which of these activities you like and what else you’ve been up to!

In the meantime, you will find two colouring pages at the end of this newsletter.

God bless you!
Marissa Neuberger & Denise Timm
St. Paul’s Sunday School

To the members of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church,

The 2020 nominating committee is providing this update to let you know where we are at in the process of filling the executive and boards for the coming two-year term.

As it stands, we have had many members accept nomination to fill the boards and we are grateful to all who did so.

Unfortunately, we do have a number of gaps to fill, and we ask you to consider whether you could help fill one of these positions.

Perhaps you are not currently serving or haven’t served for a number of years and would consider taking a turn? Perhaps you agreed to serve on a board, but it has sufficient members and you wouldn’t mind shifting to fill a different position? The nominating committee asks you to prayerfully consider if and how you can help to make a difference

over the next term. Remember, many hands make light work!

The following positions are currently unfilled:

President

Vice-President

Congregational Secretary

Director, Board of Evangelism

Please feel free to contact any member of the nominating committee by phone or email to ask questions or for more information by May 31, 2020.

Thank you,
St. Paul’s Nomination Committee
Ryan Neufeld (chair)

Ron Walter
James Dietrich
Lisa Poier
Mark Zlipko
Angela Neufeld

Evangelism/Public Relations

Why is it so difficult to share the Good News and our faith with family?

I have a family member (I will call her Mary) with whom I long to talk to openly about my Christian faith as I do with my Christian family, be that at St. Paul's or wherever I have the opportunity to gather with Christian friends in Bible study or general conversation. It's so easy when we are all on the same page.

It's difficult for Mary and me because I really feel we live in two different worlds. Her views are shaped by the world and mine are from God's Word and my faith in Christ. So, for the most part, we talk about general things, nothing too serious, or I find myself leaning to her side for the sake of peace when I really want to share my faith and how I feel. When I lean towards my

side I sense friction begin to move into the conversation. Walls go up.

Thank God He gives us hope. He opens doors in times like these when we are all together in the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Mary had planned a visit to Saskatoon for my birthday in April, just prior to Easter. With the threat of COVID-19, the trip was cancelled. Had she come she would have been here for Good Friday and would have left on Saturday. Thanks to God and Pastor Keith, the Good Friday service was going out visually on YouTube. Had she been here we would have gone to the Good Friday service, so I thought, why not send the link and let God talk to her Himself through His Word, for God works through His Word.

Mary and I have the habit of phoning each other every day. On Friday evening I called as usual and wondered what her response would be. She had listened to the service and thanked me for sending it, saying that if there would be one for Sunday, send that as well. (And then I sent the one for April 19 without being asked.) Thanks to God, a door has been opened and Mary now welcomes me sending more. She really enjoyed Laura's talents on the piano and Lisa's singing, a win, win all around.

My prayer is that this may lead to more open conversations; I will leave that with God in His timing. I also pray God will lead you to find ways to share His Word during these challenging times.

Clara Zirk, Board of Evangelism

Election delayed

Elections were to have been held in early April but the onset of COVID-19 made many changes, including the delay of this particular voters' meeting. When it will be held to approve the new boards or hold any necessary elections has not been decided, but when we are able to worship together again a date will be announced.

Please note the appeal to the congregation from the nominating committee to prayerfully consider letting your name stand for one of the executive positions: president, vice-president and congregational secretary. There is also a need for a director for the Board of Evangelism and Public Relations.



Dear St. Paul's, Thank you so much for the beautiful tote bags and blankets. Much appreciated! Lisa & staff, Crisis Nursery

Stewardship

Our Saviour calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God—that job’s already done!

But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow Jesus’ example of generous giving. And this is not merely an example alone. It’s also our Lord’s command. “The one who contributes, (let him give) in generosity” (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we give to help others who are in need and when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. So, we should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought, but according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world.

So, when it comes to our offerings to the Lord, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability—and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3)—we can and should give a generous portion of the income God provides us to honour the Lord.

So also, we should give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our

offerings to the Lord. Nor do we give grudgingly. We should give freely and cheerfully because we want to out of thanksgiving. “Each as he purposes in his heart,” as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Saviour has given for us.

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of love—love for Him and for our neighbour. Genuine love is always love in deed (1 John 3:18), love such as Jesus showed us all. It is love that sees our neighbour in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we give for a good purpose to thank the Lord and support His gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously for the service of God’s gospel purposes, to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle. For that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed

the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly—so abundantly that they had to be told to stop giving (Ex. 36:5-6).

In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work of bestowing His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation in our congregations through the preaching and teaching of His Word, Baptism, and the Lord’s Supper. We should support the Lord’s work of caring for those who are poor and needy.

Our Saviour calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.

Here at St. Paul’s we thank you for the ongoing gifts you have made over the past month since we have had to cancel in-person worship services. Many of you have continued to make your weekly or monthly donations using the various options we have identified in the information we have circulated. These include giving through our PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) system, through dropping off or mailing your offering to the church, using the giving program available through Lutheran Church–Canada and through the e-transfer system we recently set up. If you want more

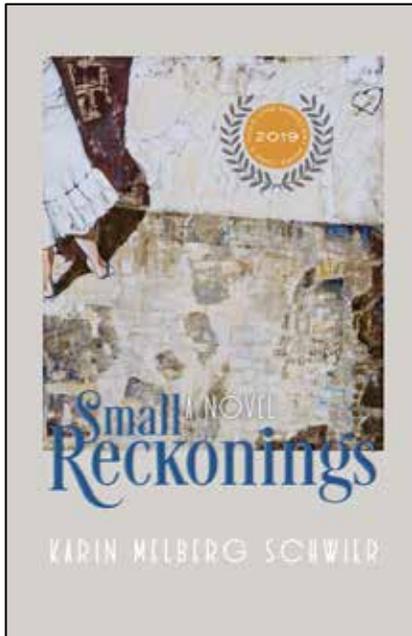
information on any of these opportunities, please contact Sandy in the church office.

To the end of March 2020, we have a deficit of \$6,481. Our total expenses of \$63,202, continue to be in line with budget estimates



Introducing a first novel by Karin Melberg Schwier

Winner of the 2019 John V. Hicks Long Manuscript Award for Fiction



...“intricately-told, historical novel (with) modern connotations broaching our current conversation around trauma, consent, and sexual assault... Scenes linger, resonate in the mind.”

-Judges Elisabeth de Mariaffi and Rabindranath Maharaj

The Burke family story is about physical and emotional isolation in the 1920s and 1930s when homesteaders scratched out a new existence on the prairie. William, an adventurer from New Zealand, brings his bride to the freshly broken earth of his farm near Watrous, Saskatchewan. Violet, the child born “feble-minded,” plunges her mother Louise—a woman burdened with a secret—back to a time of guilt and regret. The child draws out goodness and loyalty in her neighbours, Hank and Emily. But tragedy upends this family, taking the reader at breakneck speed toward forgiveness and the realization that no one is infallible.

Readers of Karin Melberg Schwier’s most recent non-fiction, *Flourish: People with Disabilities Living Life with Passion*, and her numerous other works, will love her first novel.

Praise for *Small Reckonings*

With beautiful writing that will resonate with readers who know these prairie skies, but also with readers who long to explore this country of ours, this nuanced and powerful book is a stunning exploration of love, disability, family and loss.

~Alice Kuipers

Small Reckonings is a graceful, poignant debut novel, with the strong character of Violet at its heart. Considered vulnerable by her community, she turns out to be feisty and courageous. Her story, and that of her family, unfolds against the sweep of prairie with compelling power. Karin Melberg Schwier has given us a novel to treasure.

~Anne Simpson

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Stewardship, continued

however our offerings of just over \$56,000 have resulted in a shortfall. By comparison at the end of March last year, we had a total year-to-date deficit of \$7,772. Compared to our three-year average (2017–2019) we had a total deficit at March 31 of \$9,530. While this is not great news, it does show that, despite not being able to worship together, we have been able to continue operations and

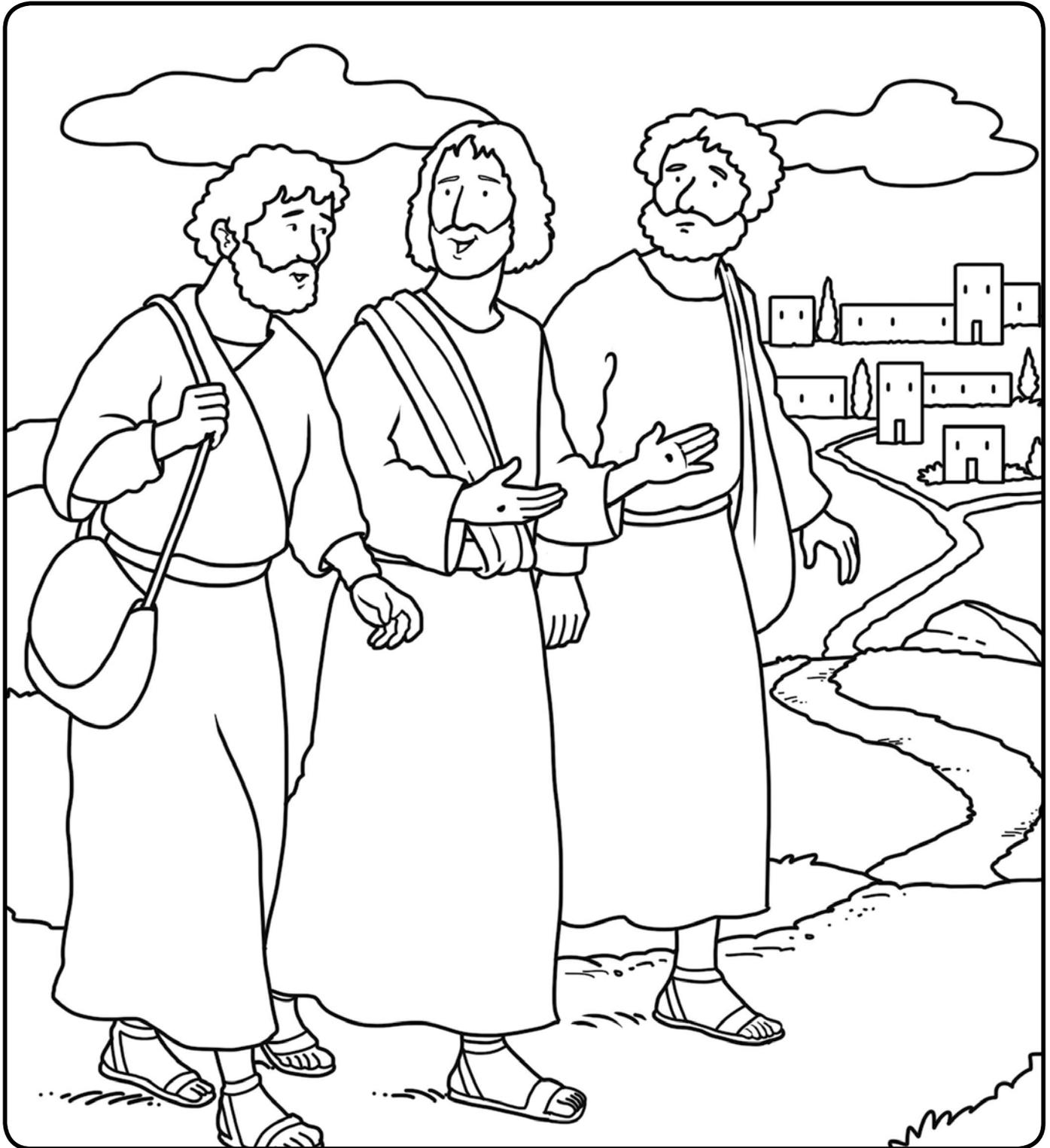
have not strayed too far from our historical patterns.

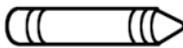
We thank you for continuing to support the programs and ministry at St. Paul’s and beyond. We pray God will continue to protect us and keep us safe during these challenging times.

*Blessings and peace,
Board of Stewardship*

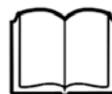
LAMP (Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots) is offering a free book of devotions from the past 50 years to celebrate their 50th anniversary.

Order a copy online at www.lampministry.org/.



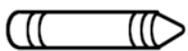
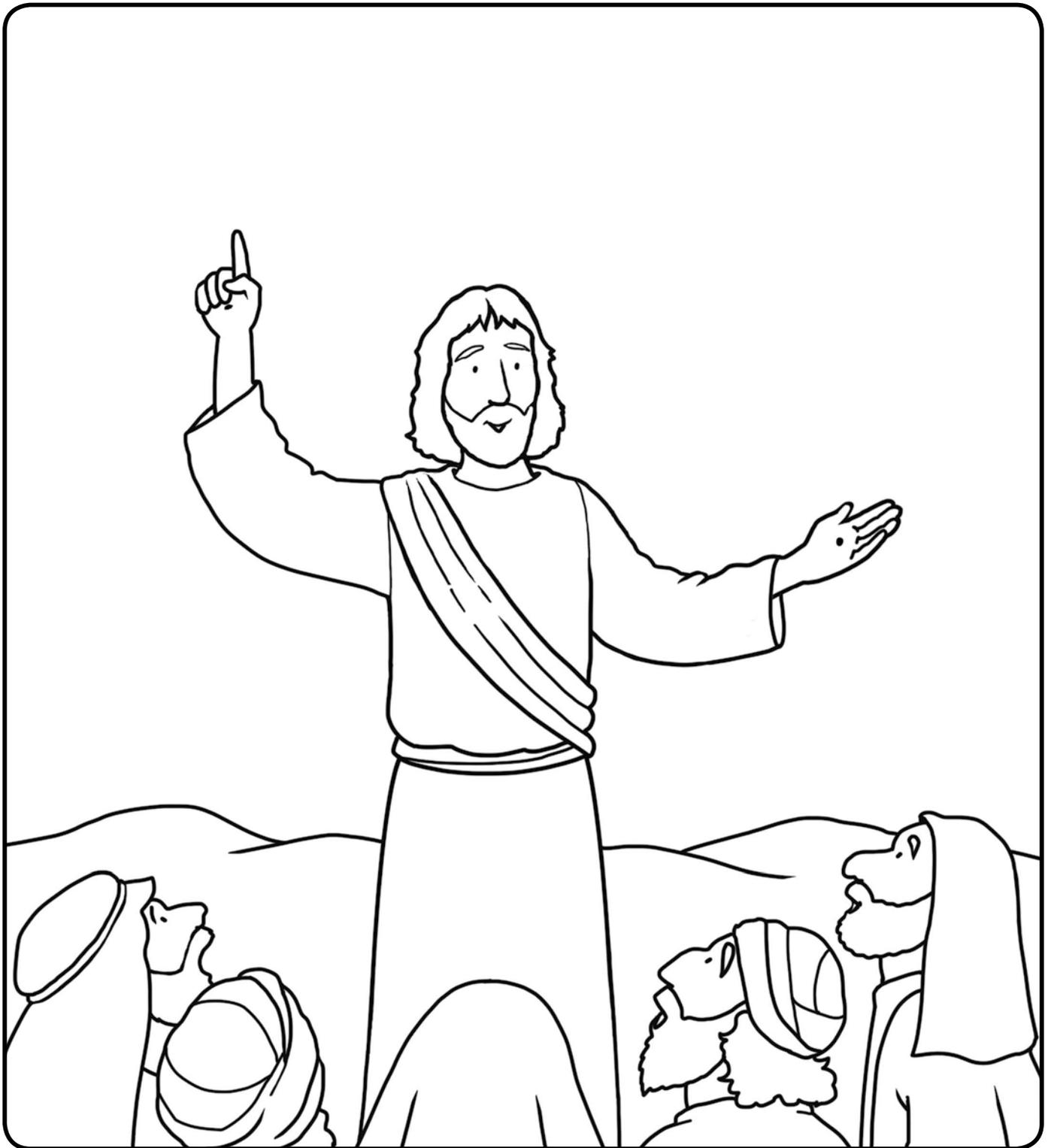
 **Color**

On Easter Sunday, Jesus walked and talked with two friends. He told them how the Scriptures said He would suffer, die, and rise again to pay for our sins. I wonder . . . where do you learn about Jesus?



The Lord has risen indeed!

Luke 24:34



Finish & Color

Draw or glue cotton balls over Jesus to make a cloud. Jesus told His disciples He was going back to heaven to make a home for all who believe in Him. Then a cloud took Him from their sight. I wonder . . . what do you think your home in heaven will be like?



Rejoice that your names are written in heaven. **Luke 10:20**