



The Spirit of St. Paul's

www.stpaulslutheran.ca

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

How did you spend your COVID summer?

With few meetings and no social events for the past few months and continuing into the future, it is easy to lose our sense of connection with others in our church family at St. Paul's. Let's see if we can change that through the pages of *The Spirit*, hence the question in the heading of this article.

While you've been stuck at home, how did you pass the time? One person worked on restoring an old car, another worked on making a wooden clock, some planted a garden for the first time in years, others got baking, one family went to the lake. Or maybe you simply curled up with some good books you would like to recommend, or worked on sorting out those photographs that you finally had time for. We hope you will share with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

We also hope to tell you who is in hospital or who is recovering, who celebrated a special birthday or anniversary, who was baptized, and so forth.

There is one complication to all of this. Because of privacy legislation we must have permission of the person involved. If you are writing about your summer COVID adventures and send by email or share over

the phone with *The Spirit* editor, that would be giving permission.

Permission for other sorts of information needs to be given by the person involved. In some circumstances it would be easiest to give that permission to Pastor Keith or Sandy but, so we don't add to their workload unnecessarily, an email or phone call to our editor, Marion H. would work well. We wouldn't share any more than you are willing to share.

See page 5 for Marion's COVID summer story.

Meet a new addition to our music team



We welcome musician Ken Neitz to St. Paul's Lutheran Church! Ken has a degree in music and is a very accomplished musician who has decades of experience in music ministry (accompanist, director of choirs and ensembles, writing and arranging music). Ken grew up on a ranch in southeast Saskatchewan and is a recently retired school counsellor. He was introduced to St. Paul's through Jacob Kitsch who has been taking organ lessons from him. As a result of the pandemic, Ken is available over the next while and has agreed to play for St. Paul's. Thank you Ken for sharing your gifts with our congregation!

Hey Kids! Create a St. Paul's window

At our church we have some beautifully crafted stained-glass windows. We thought it would be fun idea to see how you would decorate a window for St. Paul's! At the end of this newsletter are two pictures. One is a window for you to colour. The other is a blank window to create your own for us! Once you have created your window or coloured our Lord's Prayer window, we would love to see it. Send your creations to the church or to me. Don't forget you can also send a picture to our Facebook page! (St. Paul's Lutheran Church Saskatoon)

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We can't wait to see what you have made!!

Marissa Neuberger

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. For now **mites only** may be given with your offering to St. Paul's as long as they are clearly marked as LWMLC mites.

Caring Ministry Coordinator
for November - Natalie Keith

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

Saint and sinner at the same time

A paradox can be defined as a statement or proposition which seems absurd or self-contradictory, but when it is investigated or explained it may prove to be well-founded or true. Consider the statement “less is more.” At first it seems to be absurd but, when considered further, it conveys an underlying truth that sometimes it is better to restrain yourself.

The phrase “simultaneously justified and sinner” (or in Latin, *simul justus et peccator*) is a paradoxical statement describing our lives as God’s people on this side of heaven. Although being two opposite things at the very same time seems absurd, this is a truth that is revealed in Holy Scripture and it can be a great comfort.

The Bible teaches that we are sinners. We learn in Romans 3:23, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” and in 1 John 1:8, “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” In this life, a Christian remains wholly a sinner in nature and will.

The Bible teaches that we are justified (forgiveness, life and salvation belong to us by grace through faith on account of Christ alone). While it is true that we are sinners, at the very same time, simultaneously, Christians are justified. In Romans 5:8 we learn,

“but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Justification is pure comfort that all of our shame and guilt is crucified on the cross with Christ, and just as He is raised to new life, so will we who are joined to Him through our baptism (Romans 6:4).

We are at the very same time saint and sinner. It is important to recognize this paradox and to maintain its tension because we end up in trouble when we don’t. If we only recognize and focus on the fact that we are sinners, then we can be led to despair and to think we are outside of God’s grace. If we only recognize and focus on the fact that we are saints, then we can be led to hypocrisy and to not fully recognize the seriousness of sin.

We continue to struggle and wrestle with sin in this life. St. Paul expressed this about himself when he said, “I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate” (Romans 7:15). But St. Paul didn’t despair. Along with his confession of his sin was his confession of faith in the truth that he is saved by Christ, “Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (Romans 7:24-25).

God’s blessings, Pastor Keith

Please include these and others of our St. Paul’s family in your daily prayers.

IN HOSPITAL

as of Oct. 30
Eileen H.
Edith S.

BAPTISMS

According to Pastor Keith we will have some to report in the next issue of *The Spirit*, subject to permission, of course.

Snippets from the Board of Education

- The Sunday school team has been working on an Advent event (possibly to do with the Jesse Tree) to start around the end of November. Stay tuned for more info!

- We're also hoping to put together a Kid's Corner for the website.
 - If you'd like to have a better understanding of the Bible as a whole, and don't have much time to commit, check out bibleproject.com. There, you'll find highlights

of whole books of the Bible presented in 10- to 15-minute cartoon-style segments. But don't let the style fool you, as you'll need to put your thinking caps on....it zips along fairly quickly.

Denise Timm, Director

Evangelism/Public Relations

“Christianity Promises Conversion”

Understanding and Communicating with Non-Christians (Unbelievers)

I am in the midst of reading a fascinating book written by Rev. Johnathan Fisk entitled *Talk Them into it – The Truth about Making Christians*. I have been encouraged by what I have read so far and would like to share some of his insights with you.

In his words, “This is a ‘how to’ book for learning what the Holy Spirit is doing today. It is a simple manual for getting people baptized into the Kingdom of Jesus: You talk them into it.

“It’s not hard, not if by hard you mean complex.

“You don’t need an array of expertise, though you will need a bit of beggar’s grit. It takes discipline to engage your patience in a conversation with a mind that is hostile to God. But you must do so; if you are ever going to help the people you know, ask and answer the important questions of life together.”

Another interesting point that he makes is “it is not only the ‘reasons’ the unbeliever gives against believing that must be explored. But more importantly the one false religion which lurks beneath his many pompously wiki-parroted, flesh-slathering ‘excuses.’”

This book teaches how to communicate, the importance of listening, of learning how to ask the right questions so as to remove confusion, seek for commonalities and similarities, while at the same time showing respect. Listening to what he or she has to say, by this, perhaps, not unwittingly, will put you in a position to help him or her.

He teaches that this will be simple but it will not be easy. You can’t rush and no conversation should be a race. Slow turns out to be smooth and smooth, especially in a pinch, turns out to be plenty fast enough to matter.

He reaffirms what you may already know:

“As much as our love might prompt the world’s inquiry, or our prayers may bend God’s sovereign ear, or the Spirit might prepare men’s hearts, no saint of the heights nor sinner of the depths comes to be a Christian without hearing the life and the deeds of Jesus, the Nazarene.

“That a man becomes aware he is a Christian is the work of only one person within this age: the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ.

“When it comes to asserting, and reasserting, the historic fact

that Jesus of Nazareth is risen from the dead, thereby announcing the transaction of buying the universe at the ultimate blood price from this ages Dark Prince. Jesus has authorized everybody.

“It is a complete fool who does not know his own God’s words, yet supposes he shall convert others to follow as well.

“Decide that the heritage of immortal glory, the fact that adopted into the bloodline of Jesus you now cannot die, is worth immeasurably more than the potted-meat of clinging to and fearing this life’s storms and calms.

“Confess, and do not deny, but confess that grace is a free gift, the receiving of which is also the giving of it all away again.

“One cannot be a Christian and not imitate Christ.

“One cannot imitate Christ without speaking about Him.

“If they hate you, that’s just what Jesus said would happen. So get used to it. Life is not fair and thank God or we’d all already be burning in hell. Now what’s not fair is for you to whine about it every time you have to suffer a little public shame, as if

continued next page

Evangelism, continued

anything in life is really about you and your feelings to begin with. Your feelings are a gift from God. All of them. Even the hurt ones. But your feelings are not life. They are not even you. They are a way that you feel. For the moment usually. The moment of shame when someone scolds you and shames your person because you have said something that Jesus said to say is just that. A moment. In which they hate Jesus so much that their religion demands that they hate you too.”

It is my hope and prayer that on reading these excerpts you might be encouraged anew to share the good news of the gospel, which is the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is the story we have to tell for God wants all people to be saved. This is evangelism.

I only touched on the first few chapters but it has been worth my time to share this with you. I look forward to reading more.

If interested in acquiring Pastor Fisk's book to read firsthand all that he has to say on this subject, it may be purchased on Amazon or if you subscribe to Pastor Fisk's newsletter, it is free to download there. I also have a downloaded copy that I could forward.

Stand up for Jesus and share the truth that you believe.

Clara Zirk –Board of Evangelism

Pastor Fisk is the senior pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Rockford, Illinois. Quotes and the sharing of information have been used with permission. Copyright 2020 Dark Shore, Creative Commons Attributions 4.0 International. <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/legalcode>

Stewardship

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, His death for our sins, and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water—combined with His Word, promise, and Name—the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And, being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure is that we belong to the most Holy Trinity, and everything that is His—righteousness, peace, eternal life—also belongs also to us. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's holy Word, as a sacrifice.

Thus, all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him. We eat to nourish our bodies. We

share with our family, neighbours, fellow Christians, the poor, and even our enemies as holy things given by the holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and they bring blessings upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom.

Thus, we place all that we have into God's hands, and He never fails to remember us. He pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing, and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but, giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for the celebrations of Christmas may we all give thanks for God's gift of His Son, our Lord and Saviour. God continues to bless us with all we need to sustain us even in these uncertain and troubling times. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all—even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.

The Board of Stewardship recently reviewed the congregation's financial statements for January to September 30 and want to share some highlights with you. To September 30, we have a deficit of \$11,299 compared to a deficit at the end of September last year of \$4,280. Total revenue this year is \$172,069 compared to total revenue last year of \$189,025. Our expenses this year, however, are about \$10,000 lower. This year's revenue includes about

\$11,000 of federal and provincial subsidies we have applied for and received due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have applied for a further \$13,000 of federal subsidy and expect to receive that amount within the next week. Over all our finances have kept up surprisingly well in spite of having to cancel in-person worship services for several months and restricted in-person worship services since July. We still

continued next page

How I spent my COVID summer

During my COVID summer I couldn't garden and I didn't want to bake or sort photos so I turned into a librarian.

Les and I live at The Village in Stonebridge...a home for independent-style retirement living. During the first while we were here there were a few shelves dedicated to a "library." Space was extremely limited and books were often three deep on each shelf. The tenants' council started lobbying for more shelves for a proper library.

Early in the summer our pleas were answered and we received eight shelving units. I offered to serve as librarian and a few others agreed to

help. Then books started showing up. The library at Luther Tower donated some to "get us started" but so did the residents. Now we have 800 books or more and they still keep showing

up. We are at the point where we may have to put some away and rotate them through. It certainly kept me from feeling housebound. What did you do this summer? *Marion H.*



Stewardship, continued

have a strong balance sheet with over \$18,000 in our bank account at the end of September. While our revenue has dropped off somewhat this year, our members have been very faithful in keeping up with their offerings by dropping them off at church or at worship services, through pre-authorized remittances and through e-transfers. For this we are very grateful and thank you for remembering the work of the church in your prayers and offerings. We know that the Christmas season will be different this year given continuing worship restrictions and so we encourage you to remember the many blessings God has showered on you and encourage you to support the church's programs and missions work with your gifts. We do know that God is faithful and will continue to lead and guide His people during these uncertain times.

*God's blessings,
Board of Stewardship*



Three new ProjectConnect booklets from Lutheran Hour Ministries are designed to help parents, grandparents and church workers guide children toward faith. Using three everyday household habits as outlined in *The Spiritually Vibrant Home*, the booklets provide practical applications for

1. Applying Spiritual Disciplines,
2. Extending Hospitality and
3. Engaging in Spiritual Conversations.

Helping Your Child Have a Relationship with God invites you to partner with God in planning special moments, and responding to everyday moments, helping children learn how to pray to God and understand His Word.

Helping Your Child Welcome Others points out that while God invites each of us into His family, we can encourage that same trait in young children, helping raise friendly and welcoming children.

Helping Your Child Grow Through Faith Conversations explores methods and topics for spiritual conversations with children while providing guidance for when and where to have these conversations.



LHM resources are available from
Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada.
info@lll.ca www.lll.ca 1-800-555-6236



borrowed from Tapestry, Winter 2020

Asked to serve as executor? What you might face.

A few years back, my mother at age 75, while visiting an older friend, was asked to serve as the executor of her estate. Although feeling obligated as a friend, I encouraged her to decline taking on such a responsibility. What if you have been asked to serve as an executor? Naturally, you should have questions: how complex is the estate, will I be placed into the middle of a family conflict, or worse still, will I cause one?

A recent poll revealed that 25% of estate executors first learned they had been named as the executor after someone died, rather than before. One should not feel compelled or pressured into this role out of duty to a family member or friend if they did not extend the courtesy of formally asking you in advance. However, if you previously agreed to be named as the estate executor, then you do have a greater obligation to take on this responsibility when the time comes. Serving as an executor reflects your trustworthiness, but with this honour also comes a great responsibility. It is good to remember, whether the estate is large or small, you are now accountable for the entirety of that person's accumulated wealth and how it will be disbursed to estate creditors and the named beneficiaries.

In your role as executor, you become the "door" through which all estate disbursements must pass and therefore may be viewed by both creditors and beneficiaries as insensitive to their requests to be paid sooner, rather than later. Certainly, such appeals happen. If they do, just remember you must act impartially and in keeping with provincial, estate administration statutes, not based on who calls the most or screams the loudest!

A common question asked by many would-be executors is, "What happens if there's not enough money in the estate? Does the executor become responsible to pay estate debts?" The simple answer is, "No, absolutely not." But, as we know, nothing is that simple. In fact, if it is likely there are insufficient assets to cover all outstanding



Allen
Schellenberg
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For married couples, the spouse usually serves as executor—until reaching an age when the complexities of settling an estate become overbearing. Alternate options include immediate or extended family members, a friend, a lawyer, or an estate trust company. Each option has its advantages and disadvantages.

debts, it is probably best you do not take on the executor role, however obligated you feel. The estate should likely be handled by a bankruptcy lawyer familiar with such issues and covered by liability insurance. Even with sufficient funds to pay debts, care must be taken. Although provinces may differ, as a rule, creditors have up to two years in which to make a claim against an estate. However, if the executor places an advertisement in the local paper requesting creditors to submit debt claims to the estate, with a reasonable amount of time to respond (30 days), the estate and executor are no longer liable for future claims.

One final word of caution, an executor can still be held liable for debts, if the funds run out, and creditors have not been paid in the correct "pecking order." Secured creditors (mortgages, car loans) must be paid first, then funeral expenses, followed by estate administration costs including executor fees, then municipal debts or family maintenance, followed by income tax, and lastly, other unsecured debt (credit cards). If it is not possible to pay every unsecured creditor fully, then each must be paid in proportion to the amount owed them. Once the executor is confident sufficient funds remain to pay all outstanding debts, and preferably, after every beneficiary has signed a Release agreeing to the executor's statement of accounts, then an initial payment may be made to the beneficiaries.

Serving as an estate executor requires fortitude and stamina, and those who take on this responsibility should be commended. Without exception, when the deceased has taken time to carefully plan their estate, the executor invariably says, "It went very smoothly." BUT without planning they usually say, "I never want to do that again." Please consider what you would have your executor say.

For information on how to appropriately plan your estate, contact the Foundation Gift Coordinator within your Region.



Two finished windows to provide ideas and the words to add.



