



OCTOBER 2020

The Spirit of St. Paul's

www.stpaulslutheran.ca

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

Pastor's Corner

Confirmation – what's it all about?

After two years of studying God's Word and Dr. Martin Luther's Small Catechism, five catechumens will be taking part in the Rite of Confirmation. This Rite links them to their Baptism, celebrates the reception of God's Word among them, provides the opportunity to confess the faith, and welcomes them to the Lord's Table to receive Christ's true body and blood. What a joyous occasion!

While Confirmation is understood as a custom of the church and not a sacrament in the Lutheran tradition, this Rite has a lot of similarities to the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Several of the same questions are asked and answered in both. Do you renounce the devil and all of his works and ways? Do you believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and what has been revealed to us in Holy Scripture as confessed in the Apostles' Creed? In the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, often parents and sponsors are asked to speak in the stead of the one being baptized when they are unable to speak themselves (e.g., in the case of infants). The Rite of Confirmation provides the opportunity to confirm for oneself what was previously confessed on their behalf.

Confirmation goes a bit further though, and adds a few more questions. For instance: Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to the the inspired Word of God? Do you confess that the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true? Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?

Then come the final two questions that really lay everything on the line. Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death? Do you intend to continue steadfast in this

confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

Do you? These are very difficult questions to consider and to reflect upon.

The way that the catechumen answers this question in the Rite of Confirmation is very important. The wording provided is, "I do, by the grace of God." It is only by God's grace and power that anyone can give everything up, even their lives, for the faith. It simply is not something that we can do by our own reason or strength. The Holy Spirit works through the Gospel to lead us to answer the same as Simon Peter when Jesus asked his twelve disciples if they would continue steadfast in the faith. Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that You are the Holy One of God."

By the grace of God we will continue steadfast to life everlasting.

*God's blessings,
Pastor Keith*

See page 3 for pictures of the confirmatinds.

WELCOME!

Please welcome our newest member to St. Paul's, Doreen Baker, who was a member at Holy Cross. Doreen has been attending St. Paul's for quite some time now and we are happy to officially welcome her as part of St. Paul's church family!

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 October - 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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Next deadline: Oct. 26 2020
Publication: Oct. 31, 2020

Mask Mate ear savers in demand, can you help?

Our Central District LWMLC continues to encourage LCC congregation members to knit, crochet, sew on buttons or provide buttons to create the Mask Mate Ear Saver bands that are so effective in preventing sore ears that result from wearing face masks that attach around the ears. Patterns to knit or crochet were included in the July 2020 edition of The Spirit (it's posted on our website).

Women across our region have received requests from personal care workers, restaurant employees, store clerks, hair stylists, teachers, students, etc. As word "gets out" and more facilities re-open from the pandemic shutdown, we expect demand to grow.

We ask that you report on how many ear savers you have made and who received them. Please contact Arletta Wood (Central District LWMLC VP Member Development)



at arletta@sasktel.net or 306-949-2504 (Regina) with this information.

If you, or anyone you know of, would be blessed to receive some ear savers, please let us know. We also welcome any questions. Please contact Verla Schmirler at 306-382-2721 or schmirler@sasktel.net, or Arlene Kish at 306-221-8504 or a.kish@sasktel.net.

Using the church for meetings

The following was provided to our boards regarding meetings but could be used for other meetings as well.

First of all the option to meet virtually though GoToMeeting is still available so do not feel that your meeting needs to be face to face at the Church. To schedule a meeting through GoToMeeting, please contact Sandy in the office and she will be able to help you.

For those wanting to meet in person at the church, we ask that you wipe down any tables and the arms of the chairs you use and practise social distancing before, during and after your meeting.

Cleaner will be available (either Lysol wipes or a spray bottle of cleaner) in the janitor's room downstairs. The cleaner will be

labelled and should be used whether your meeting is small enough to safely meet in the boardroom, or you need to set up tables in the main area downstairs. If you do need to set up tables, please take them down and put the chairs away after they have been wiped off.

In-person Bible study begins

An in-person Bible study will begin at the church on Tuesday, October 13, at 1:30 p.m. We will be studying the Scripture lessons for the upcoming Sunday.

Everyone is welcome!

CONFIRMANDS 2020 and their confirmation verses



Rachel 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)



Micah Poier — “He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)



Sam Harper — “Continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 3:14–15)



Lance Neufeld — “As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving” (Colossians 2:6–7)



Meghan Harvey — “And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified” (Acts 20:32)

Evangelism/Public Relations

Building Relationships within our Community

The Board of Evangelism/PR has been connecting with our local community association, QEXCA (Queen Elizabeth, Exhibition, Haultain areas). It is the hope, from both their perspective and ours, that we build a relationship that would benefit each of us. This past year we have shared our newsletters with one another. We have published their requests for volunteers in our church bulletin and newsletter; they in turn have posted our worship service times in theirs.

In September Pastor Keith and I talked with Bob McNaughton who is head of the board of directors for the Community Association. At this point our relationship is one of sharing information.

Bob expressed that one need of the community association is always looking to fill is for volunteers. Their

current project is rebuilding the Queen Elizabeth School rink and he asked if we would promote this project. The following information is taken from the QEXCA fall newsletter.

Queen Elizabeth School Rink 1905 Eastlake Ave. at Taylor St. Help Rebuild Queen Elizabeth Rink!

With your help and a substantial grant from the City of Saskatoon, your Community Association is planning a major renovation, new boards and whatever else we can do with the resources we have. For more information and to offer your skills, time or enthusiasm, email us at volunteer@qexca.ca

All ages and abilities are welcome. Bringing your own tools will be a big help. **Face masks will be required.** If you do not have your

own, one will be provided.

The initial work began on September 19 with dismantling the current rink and removing piles and posts. Additional volunteer dates will be:

Sat. Oct. 3, 9:00 a.m. all day

Rebuild the boards, People with construction or “handy” skills would be great. **Tools:** drills, saws, chainsaws, Sawzall, gloves, hammers, sledgehammers, socket sets, wheelbarrows.

Sat. Oct. 17, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Finishing touches and complete the work, including spreading soil and seeding the areas for grass.

Tools: drills, saws, Sawzalls, gloves, hammers, sledgehammers, socket sets, wheelbarrows, rakes, shovels.

Clara Zirk

Board of Evangelism/PR

Stewardship

We celebrate the Reformation at the end of each October. The Reformation began on All Saints’ Eve in 1517, which was when Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. So, let’s hear from Luther himself on the topic of giving and stewardship.

In the Small Catechism under the Table of Duties, Martin Luther gives specific Bible passages to help Christians know their duty in their various vocations as members of their family, society at large, and in God’s family, the Church. Under the

heading “What Hearers Owe Their Pastors,” Luther lists five passages from the Bible, three of which have to do with giving to your local congregation. They are these:

“The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.” (1 Cor. 9:14)

“Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” (Gal. 6:6-7)

“The elders [presbyters, i.e.,

pastors] who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honour, especially whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, ‘Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain,’ and ‘The worker deserves his wages.’” (1 Tim. 5:17-18)

Luther comments on these passages in his 1535 Lectures on Galatians. He wrote:

“When Paul says ‘all good things,’ this is not to be taken to mean that everyone should share all his possessions with his

Stewardship, continued

preacher. No, it means that he should provide for him liberally, giving him as much as is needed to support his life in comfort. ... The apostle is so serious in advocating this topic of support for preachers that he adds a threat to his denunciation and exhortation, saying: 'God is not mocked.' ... All this pertains to the topic of support for ministers. I do not like to interpret such passages; for they seem to commend us, as in fact they do. In addition, it gives the appearance of greed if one emphasizes these things diligently to one's hearers. Nevertheless, people should be taught also about this matter, in order that they may know that they owe both respect and support to their preachers. Christ teaches the same thing in Luke 10:7: 'Eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages'; and Paul says

elsewhere (1 Cor. 9:13-14): 'Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the Gospel should get their living by the Gospel.' It is important for us who are in the ministry to know this, so that we do not have a bad conscience about accepting for our work wages ... it happens when those who proclaim the glory of God and faithfully instruct the youth derive their livelihood from them. It is impossible that one man should be devoted to

household duties day and night for his support and at the same time pay attention to the study of Sacred Scripture, as the teaching ministry requires. Since God has commanded and instituted this, we should know that we may with a good conscience enjoy what is provided for the comfortable support of our lives from church properties to enable us to devote ourselves to our office." (LW 27:125-126)

These are excellent reminders from Luther himself as we think about our giving and how our offerings are used to support the work of the church and its workers!

Some of you may be wondering about the congregation's finances through the summer and the prolonged COVID environment. We recently received the treasurer's financial report to the end of August which shows a deficit to August 31 of \$6,962. This compares to a deficit at the end of August 2019 of \$10,2018, so by comparison, we have fared quite well.

Our revenues include federal and provincial subsidies totalling \$10,953 for which we qualified. Based on monthly revenue received, we expect to qualify for further subsidies in June and July but not likely for August. If we do qualify, we should receive further federal subsidies in the range of \$7,000 to \$10,000. We will submit applications in the next week or so.

Revenue sources continue to come from envelope offerings which members contribute at church services, drop off or send in the Royal Mail, from PAR offerings and from e-transfer donations. To the end of August, envelope offerings were \$76,003, PAR offerings were \$47,280 and e-transfer offerings were \$20,086.

Our bank balance at the end of August is just under \$30,000 so we have sufficient cash flow strength as we move into fall and the continuing uncertainty in this pandemic environment. We thank God for his continuing blessings on this congregation and thank you for your ongoing support in keeping the needs of the work of the Church and its programs in your thoughts and prayers and gifts!

Board of Stewardship

Baptized into Christ



Former president of the congregation, Devin Schultz, and his wife Lindsay brought their new son David for baptism. Sandy and Elton Harper are sponsors. The Schultz' now operate a meat shop in southern Saskatchewan.

October “Give, Thanking God” food drive



The Board of Evangelism cannot collect for the Food Bank in October of this year. Times are challenging for all of us and especially for those who rely on the Food Bank for immediate needs. If you are able to support this organization then we encourage the congregation to GIVE non-perishable food items through a grocery store or directly to the Food Bank.

A bit of research found that donations can be made the following ways:

Co-op Grocery stores - you can purchase specific items or you can purchase a \$5, \$10, \$15 or \$20 food hamper at the cashier then drop them at the Food Bank donation bin near the exit.

Extra Foods - you can purchase the items you wish to donate and drop them off at the donation bin near the exit.

FreshCo - you can purchase items you wish to donate or you can purchase a \$10 hamper at the cashier, then drop them off at the donation bin near the exit.

Independence - does not have a donation program at this time but suggests donating directly to the Food Bank.

Safeway - you can purchase items you wish to donate and drop them off at the donation bin near the exit.

Save On Foods - you can purchase items you wish to donate and drop them off at the donation bin near the exit.

Quest – an online course for lay people



Quest is a continuing education program presented by Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton. Each series offers lifelong learning classes especially for lay people. The topics address every follower who needs to better understand his or her personal faith and religion. Seminary faculty and guest speakers present a short series of classes on subjects relevant to the day-to-day faith living of contemporary Christians. The classes are designed to be informative and enlivening, comprehensible and relevant, compact and free to those who register.

2020 fall Quest course: The Body of Christ/ Communion of Saints led by Dr. Jim Gimbel. There is a rich theology in God's design for the Body of Christ and Communion of Saints.

Online each Tuesday, October 13 - November 3, from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm (MDT and CST)

To register contact Josh Timm at admin@concordiasem.ab.ca or call 1-780-474-1468, ext. 225.

Cost: No registration fee but donations are welcome.

Connect online using the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ConcordiaLutheranSem>

Sobeys - you can purchase items you wish to donate or you can purchase a \$10 hamper at the cashier, then drop them off at the donation bin near the exit.

Superstore - you can purchase items you wish to donate and drop them off at the donation bin near the exit.

Food Bank - located at 202 Ave. C South. They have a donation bin at the front door service desk.

We GIVE, THANKING God for the many blessing He has given to us and THANKING God for the many opportunities we have to share His love for us with our community.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Questions? Please contact Verla Schmirler.