



The Spirit of St. Paul's

www.stpaulslutheran.ca

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

Celebrate the Past – Plan for the Future Dinner

Sunday, November 3

St. Paul's Gift Planning Committee is hosting a dinner following Divine Service on Sunday, November 3, 2019, to acknowledge gifts our congregation has been fortunate to receive in the past and to inform you of an initiative regarding potential gift-giving.

From time to time our congregation has been blessed to receive special gifts from our members. They have taken many forms. Sometimes it was an item, sometimes a gesture, and at other times a bequest.

Our congregation has established a Gift Acceptance and Use Policy—presented to and accepted at the voters' meeting in November of 2018. This policy establishes guidelines for receiving gifts to the congregation through estates, as memorials from family members, or through other means.

The dinner planned for November 3 is just one opportunity to remember God's work in our lives as we



consider our legacy in the church and discuss this policy.

There will be no cost for dinner but there will be a sign-up sheet available at the beginning of October so we can prepare for those wishing to attend.

We are looking forward to this time together and encourage everyone to join us.

Rhonda Billard on behalf of the committee



St. Paul's LWML has almost enough supplies to make a dozen layettes for Royal University Hospital maternity ward. They still need a dozen sleepers, 3-6 month size. Can you help?



St. Paul's **GRAND Autumn**
Concert
September 29, 2019



Please join us for an evening of music, pie, coffee, and fellowship to raise funds for the purchase of a new piano.

627 Taylor St. East, Saskatoon

Admission free by donation.
Doors open 6:30
Concert begins 7:00
Pie & Coffee 8:30



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 Coordinators
for September - Ron & Ludy Jeschke

Classifieds

KCB's Honey (unpasteurized)

Ken & Rhoda McCallen's grandchildren (Sean's children) are selling containers of honey in various sizes. Contact Rhoda or Ken for sizes and pricing. 306-384-7545

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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Cookies! Coffee! Juice! Oh my!

Perhaps you've had the opportunity after service to chow down on cookies or guzzle some coffee. Or maybe you've hurried past the refreshment table so you won't be tempted to spoil your lunch. Either way, here are some of the benefits of pausing for a bit of church fellowship:

- Helps us get to know each other at a deeper level
- Provides a chance to meet and greet guests
- Gives opportunity to learn names
- Builds a community
- Reminds us we are not alone
- Fills our belly



- Provides practise of our socialization skills
- Lets the kids run around and play together
- Supports and encourages each other

These are just a handful of benefits among many that we welcome you to experience first-hand after church services on Sundays!

Also, we are looking for some volunteers to help with setup of this fellowship

time so if you would like to be involved, please contact Matt Russell!

Nichelle Russell

Keeping the place in shape

The Board of Church Properties makes upgrades to our facilities as part of the regular maintenance program for the benefit of all members of the congregation.

Plumbing fixtures were upgraded in early July. All three toilets in the basement washrooms were replaced with modern low flush units. New taps were installed in both basement

washrooms as well. A new sink and taps were installed in the upstairs washroom. As part of the upgrade Nickel Plumbing replaced the main water shut off valve as well as repairing a leak from a sink shut off. The total cost for the plumbing upgrade was \$2,506.14.

The board replaced all seven downspouts and run outs on the eavestroughing system as part of our preventative maintenance program. The original downspouts were undersized and prone to plugging. Vic's Eavestroughing performed the work in mid-July. The cost for this upgrade including supplies and labour was \$2,102.34.



Evangelism

With The Lord Begin Your Task

Every fall, as summer comes to a close and I start to think about my responsibilities that lie ahead, the familiar hymn, “With The Lord Begin Your Task,” comes to mind. It reminds me that in everything that is my lot in life, Jesus is there with me. Better than I could ever express, the author of this hymn captures my thoughts in his words. May it also encourage you in all your daily challenges.

*With the Lord begin your task;
Jesus will direct it.
For His aid and counsel ask;
Jesus will perfect it.
Every morn with Jesus rise,
and when the day is ended,
In His name then close your eyes;
be to Him commended.*

*Let each day begin with prayer,
praise and adoration.
On the Lord cast every care;
He is your salvation.
Morning, evening and at night
Jesus will be near you,
save you from the tempter's might,
with His presence cheer you.*

*With your Saviour at your side,
foes need not alarm you.
In His promises confide,
and no ill can harm you.
All your trust and hope repose
in the mighty Master,
who in wisdom truly knows
how to stem disaster.*

*If your task be thus begun
with the Saviour's blessing,
safely then your course will run,
toward the promise pressing.
Good will follow everywhere
while you here must wander;
you at last the joy will share
in the mansions yonder.*



*Thus, Lord Jesus, every task
be to you commended;
may your will be done I ask,
until life is ended.
Jesus, in your name begun
be the day's endeavour;
grant that it may well be done
to your praise forever.*

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Scripture references :

“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 RSV)

“O Lord, in the morning You hear my voice: in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for You and watch.” ... “But let all who take refuge in You rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread Your protection over them, that those who love Your name may exult in You. For You bless the righteous, O Lord; You cover him with favour as with a shield.” (Psalm 5: 3, 11-12 RSV)

“Cast your burden on the Lord, and He will sustain you: He will never permit the righteous to be moved.” (Psalm 55: 22 RSV)

*“With the Lord begin your task”
Clara Zirk – Board of Evangelism*

A passion for music, and it shows



Laura Neufeld and Megan Bracewell

As your editor, I recently spent a delightful hour with Laura Neufeld and Megan Bracewell to talk about music. Words like joy and fun popped up quite often in the conversation. They have a genuine passion for music and for sharing that music with others. Laura noted that being a soloist is not for her. She loves involving others, the more the better.

In the last few months we have been treated to duets on piano and organ, duets on the piano and even four hands, two pianos. And a treat they have been. I asked Laura and Megan how this got started. Laura explained that she had to take some time off this past winter. With time on her hands she got digging around and came up with a binder of 20 – 30 duets. Not a big deal in itself but it proved a turning point for the two of them as she handed the binder to Megan and said something like, here, see what you can do with this.

Laura and Megan agreed that it isn't always easy to find someone to

play with. There needs to be a sense of connection between the two or it just doesn't work well. Playing isn't just notes but also feeling and there is a push and pull between the players. Laura and Megan seem to have found a kindred spirit in each other. They began with a duet or two at Christmas and it just grew from there. Despite connecting well, good music doesn't just happen. They have been rehearsing every Wednesday since Lent began and recently, with the Grand Concert coming up they've also begun rehearsing on Mondays.

So how did each of them get so involved in music, I asked.

Laura grew up in a family very involved with music. Her sisters were ages seven and nine when she was born, and they were already singing in church where their pastor father provided the accompaniment. I suspect that almost from the time she could walk she longed to play the piano. She begged and begged to play at church, but her father kept saying she was too young to do that. By the time she was ten her piano teacher said, "She's ready. Let her play." But she also had an admonition for Laura: remember to play the notes, not what is in your head" because Laura first learned to play by ear. Laura's mother had instructions for her, too: you have to sit still during the service (after all she was only ten). From that point, there was no stopping her, in fact she played for a wedding when she was eleven.

Megan also grew up in a family where music happens often. She says there is always singing and other sorts of music going on in the Timm family. She spent some time singing with Saskatchewan Express and then was a member of the Fireside Singers

for 15 years. While in university she sang with Greystone Singers. Piano lessons began for Megan about the time she was five and, like Laura, she dreamed of playing in church. She wanted to be just like her aunt Jennifer (Timm/Beattie) who was St. Paul's organist at the time. But Megan was shy and on her own would likely not have told anyone that was her dream. One Sunday, however, Laura couldn't be there to play the organ. The pastor said to Megan...you can play the piano; will you fill in for us? Despite stumbling over many notes, she was hooked. Laura began asking her to play one hymn, then two on the piano, then it was on to the organ. It was a gradual thing but somewhere along the way Megan lost her shyness.

It isn't easy getting a full-time teaching job in Saskatoon schools, so Megan began teaching music to supplement her income. Several of her students are members at St. Paul's. Like Laura's encouragement of her, she is encouraging them. The future looks bright for music at St. Paul's.

Our conversation, of course, turned to the Grand Concert they are planning for September 29 to raise money for a new piano. What's wrong with the piano we have, I asked. Well, it seems that while it can be tuned, the tuning doesn't hold and it is very soon out of tune...again. Also, it isn't suited for playing with the organ we have. A new piano would not only stay in tune but sound much better when played with the organ. Explanation can be a little complicated so if you want something clearer, you'll have to chat with Laura or Megan.

Their plan is to move the piano we

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currently own, downstairs.

Is it possible to raise enough funds for the excellent piano they envision? They are confident it is because following the first announcement of the fund-raising concert a significant donation was received from a single individual setting them well on their way to a goal of \$15,000.

Laura and Megan want to acknowledge the concert committee who are assisting them in a variety of ways. There will be pie and coffee downstairs after the concert and Marilyn Wallace has that well in hand. Dianne Gilbert and Clara Zirk are looking after reaching out into the community. Adele Wagner is putting together a PowerPoint to go with the music so consider this a multi-media event. And Cheryl Walter is seeing that all donations are properly handled. The program is wide-ranging and planned to last about an hour and a half. It won't disappoint. Admission is by donation.

If you're interested in singing in the congregational choir, they want you to know that rehearsals will be

Sundays after worship but there may be other options to practise the pieces if you can't be there on Sundays.

Marion

PRAY FOR A FUTURE PASTOR



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Thank you for your prayers and financial support of Concordia Lutheran Seminary in its mission to *form servants for Jesus' sake.*

Stewardship

What is a steward? Most people will say a steward is a manager.

That is correct, but it is only half right. A steward is indeed a manager, but he is a manager of what does not belong to him. Someone else is the owner, and the steward manages the owner's property on the owner's behalf.

We are God's stewards. Our stewardship is that God has made us managers of what belongs to Him: "For we brought nothing into this world, and we cannot take anything out of the world" (1 Timothy 6:7)

Everything that we have and everything that we are comes from God's fatherly divine goodness and mercy. God is the owner.

This is not only because He created all things; He is also the redeemer. He has redeemed—that is, purchased—and won all things. Therefore, it all belongs to Him.

We are simply managers of everything in this world. Like Joseph in Egypt, we are put in charge of managing what belongs to God. What a privilege.

Think about that for a minute. The all-knowing, all-powerful, all-wise God has asked us to manage his possessions on His behalf here on earth.

And by doing this, He invites us to take part in the

allocation of His good gifts. He wants us to give our input and advise Him in where His gifts are to be used. What a privilege indeed.

But what a responsibility!

"Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required" (Luke 12:48b).

We are not the owners. And while He puts us as managers, we are still to do with His property what He wants done with it. That means we need to know what He desires and wills for His property.

How do we know this? How can we know the will and mind of God?

We find the will of God in the Bible. There God tells us what His will is for all His gifts. He tells us how we are to spend our time and use our talents and treasures. He instructs us in the use of our minds, bodies, and souls.

There is nothing we have that doesn't belong to Him. "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

God informs us of the big picture, the overarching policy, of how we as His stewards—managers and custodians—are to manage His property.

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Stewardship, continued

And that is stewardship. It is simply doing what God wants us to do with what He has given us.

As St. Paul said, “Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness” (Rom. 6:13).

So, let’s dive into God’s Word, and listen to what He desires from His stewards.

PAR change goes smoothly

As most of you are aware, we had to change service providers for our Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) program this summer from FaithLife Financial to EFT Canada. We thank you for completing the sign up forms in a timely manner to allow us to make the switch and of course thanks to Sandy Harper for doing all the

office administrative work to make the transfer go as smoothly as it did.

There is still an opportunity for other members to sign on to the program any time during the year. Those currently using the program will attest to how easy the program works and ensures their offering is made monthly regardless if they are in attendance or not. If you are interested in becoming involved, please speak to Sandy or a member of the Board of Stewardship.

2020 budget being prepared

The Board of Stewardship will soon be leading the process of developing the congregation’s 2020 budget. We ask for your prayers as boards discuss and consider how they can develop programs and plans to further the work of our mission and ministry here at St. Paul’s and further abroad as God’s stewards.

Board of Stewardship

Pastor’s Corner

Now that companies like Skip the Dishes and Uber Eats exist, most restaurants offer to have their food delivered to your home. Those who are drivers for these companies have nothing to do with making the food—they simply deliver it. There is some similarity between the work of food delivery drivers and pastors. You could say that pastors are God’s deliverymen.

Rather than tasty tacos and delicious sandwiches, pastors are called by God to deliver His gifts to His people. Like a driver for Skip the Dishes, pastors have nothing to do with making what they deliver—they just bring it to you.

Skip the Dishes drivers deliver the food wrapped in containers that keep it warm and fresh. Pastors deliver God’s gifts “wrapped” in the Word and Sacraments. Through the waters of Holy Baptism, through God’s Word preached, through the true body and blood of Jesus given in Holy Communion, through God’s word of forgiveness spoken in Holy Absolution—God is delivering His gifts to His people.

What are these gifts being delivered to you? Forgiveness for all of your sin and eternal life. Jesus



earned the forgiveness of your sin and your eternal life around two thousand years ago when He became one of us, lived a perfect and holy life, suffered and died on a

cross, and left the tomb alive. All of these years later, all that Christ accomplished for the salvation of the world is delivered to you personally by your pastor through God’s Word and Sacraments.

A driver for Skip the Dishes delivers your food by picking it up at the restaurant and driving it over to you. A pastor delivers God’s gifts through leading the Divine Service on Sundays, teaching Bible studies throughout the week, visiting and bringing God’s gifts to homebound members and those who are sick and injured in the hospital, meeting with engaged couples to plan a wedding, bringing God’s Word of comfort to those mourning the death of a loved one and more. In all a pastor does, his main focus is to deliver the gifts of God to His people.

I feel incredibly blessed to serve you as God’s deliveryman.

*God’s blessings,
Pastor Keith*