

The Spirit of St. Paul's

www.stpaulslutheran.ca

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN



Welcomed into God's family at St. Paul's this summer



Astrid Christina Haigh, daughter of Kristen and Curtis Haigh, granddaughter of Daryl and Cherryl Walter, was baptized at St. Paul's on Sunday, July 15. Astrid's older sister, Isabelle, is also in the photo.



Maria Tabet was baptized at St. Paul's on August 13. Included in the picture from left to right is Sarah Tabet, Felipe Tabet, Julio Tabet, Juliana Rivera Alves Tabet and Maria Tabet.

What would you like to sing?

Our music team would like your assistance with hymn planning for our Divine Services. If you have some favourite hymns that you

would like to suggest, please share them with Sandy using the church office email or phone number. Your recommendations will be very

much appreciated and helpful as we plan the music for worship at St. Paul's.

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.



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Pastor's Corner

You may be familiar with the saying that it is best not to talk about politics or religion at dinner parties. Maybe COVID policies and vaccinations should be added to that list. Discord and controversy are just a couple of the consequences of the fall into sin. God created us to live in harmony with Him and each other, but sin has divided us. Disagreements over politics and religion and other matters that are important evoke strong emotions in us, and in anger we can say and do things that we shouldn't.

We are exposed to more controversy than ever because of the access we have to news and information. Technology has enabled us to engage in controversy on demand. A lot of the activity on social media is related to controversial topics and there is a lot of anger expressed in hurtful ways. It is easier to angrily say unkind things to people through a keyboard than it is face to face.

As Christians we hold beliefs that are becoming more and more controversial, and we might find that we are engaging in discussions with those who disagree with us more frequently. I don't think we should shy away from important topics simply because they are hot topics, but we should be mindful of our approach. St. James offers some helpful advice on the mindset we are to have when dealing with contentious issues when he said, "Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger" (James 1:19). It is important that we listen carefully and openly to the viewpoints of others and be loving, kind, respectful, and patient when sharing our positions. It is crucial that we forgive others where they sin against us and seek forgiveness where we wrong them. It is in Christ's forgiveness that we are able to "maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3).

*God's blessings,
Pastor Keith*

Put on your walking shoes

For the 4th Annual LuMinHoS Walk-a-thon
Saturday, Sept. 18 at 10 a.m.
starting at Zion Lutheran Church
323 4th Ave. S., Saskatoon



Please mark your calendar and plan to be part of our walk-a-thon. Get in shape while gathering pledges! Join in the beautiful walk along the banks of the South Saskatchewan River. Please remember to bring a bottle of water. COVID precautions will be taken.

Can't get out to walk in person? Walk the halls or the malls—consider walking the halls of your building or if you're a mall walker then that can count too.

Whether or not you decide to walk in person or do a virtual walk, LuMinHoS looks forward to your generous donations.

Evangelism

GOD PROVIDES

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16).

And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen (Philippians 4:19, 20).

In June I wrote about being under pressure and in a state of stressful urgency. In July I wrote about patient waiting and today I am writing about God's providing to meet our needs.

I have just come through the experience of selling a home and buying a newer one and along with that came a mixed bag of emotions. The first phase can be stressful as one eagerly awaits that one buyer, going through several showings, waiting for that right match. Then there's the shopping for a new home, one that meets your personal expectations, the patient waiting for the right house that meets your family's needs. And then there is the possession date that needs to work for everyone. As you move through each phase there always seems to be unexpected twists and turns so one begins to wonder how all will work out in the time frame you have to work with. To make a long story short, we found the house we needed and by the time you read this the move will be complete.

This story is not intended to be about me but rather to share how God provides for His children. It's about Him from start to finish. Amidst all the twists and turns, He is the one working out all the details in whatever our personal situations might be. Often we think it is our own doing, but if we pay attention to

all the details we soon get a glimpse of His hand in it all. He brings us through our stresses and gives us peace as we wait patiently and in the end we reach His desired result for us. He is the one bringing us full circle.

At this point I am reminded of the post-communion canticle we sing (this will be from memory as all the books have been packed): *Thank the Lord and sing His praise, Tell everyone what He has done.*

First and foremost we are thanking Him for our salvation through Jesus Christ His Son, but we are also reminded to give Him thanks for everything He has done for us, in every situation we have experienced. He is faithful and He has promised to be with us always and never to forsake us. He always has our best interest at heart and He will provide according to His good and gracious will. *Thank-you God.*

Clara Zirk for the Board of Evangelism

Education Update

BIBLE STUDY

We will be resuming our online Bible study beginning Tuesday, September 14, at 10:00 a.m. Just like last year, we will be using the GoToMeeting platform which you can access using your computer, mobile device, or dial in on your home phone (long-distance charges may apply to phone use). Please contact the office if you would like to be added to the email list that receives the weekly readings and invitations. We will study the Scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday's Divine Service. Last year we had a lot of good discussion during these studies and we hope you can join us. We are still working

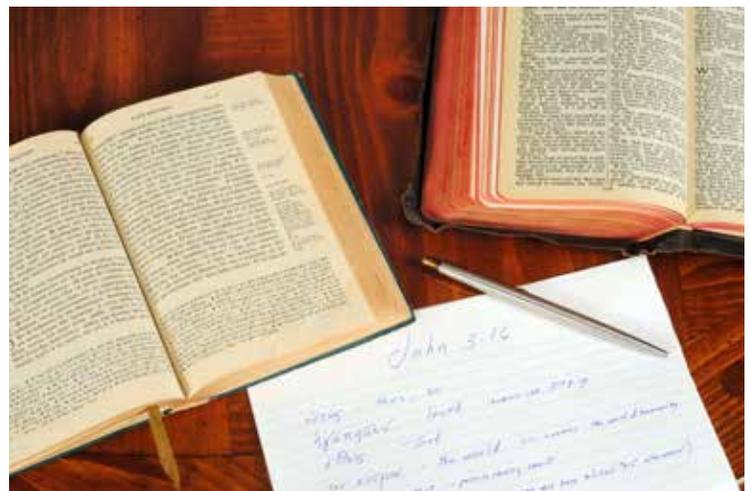
on an in-person Bible study so please stay tuned for details.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

We are looking at starting a confirmation class this fall for students aged 12-16 (ish) so please contact Pastor Keith for registration or if you have any questions.

I look forward to studying and being nourished by God's Word with you!

Pastor Keith



Stewardship

At the end of the first of his chapters on the virtue of faith in Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis provides a helpful reminder, by way of analogy, for the foundation of stewardship. He wrote:

“Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already. So then, when we talk of a man doing anything for God or giving anything to God, I will tell you what it is really like. It is like a small child going to its father and saying, ‘Daddy, give me sixpence to buy you a birthday present.’ Of course, the father does, and he is pleased with the child’s present. It is all very nice and proper, but only an idiot would think that the father is sixpence to the good on the transaction. When a man has made these two discoveries God can really get to work. It is after this that real life begins. (128–129).”

This is the first thing we are given to confess about stewardship, and it has to do with ownership. God owns everything, and we are simply managers—stewards—acting on His behalf. This is true not only of all that we have in this life (Deuteronomy 8:17–18) but also all that we are in this life (1 Corinthians 6:20).

The rest flows from here. Since we are stewards, or managers, of what belongs to God, entrusted to make use of it according to His will, there is an expectation of responsibility and accountability. For the Lord said, “Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more” (Luke 12:48b). And from this comes blessing and reward: “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master” (Matthew 25:21).

We have everything we need to support this body and life from our God’s fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We have everything we need for our spiritual life also from His merciful hands. Because of the sacrifice of His Son, our Lord Jesus, through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, we have the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and everlasting salvation delivered to us with absolute certainty that it is ours—not as stewards but as sons (Galatians 4:1–7). Let us then, as His own sons, press all that He gives to us into the service of His church and to His glory.

In the July issue of *The Spirit*, we shared with you the financial impact that COVID restrictions and other factors have had on our congregation’s finances. To the end of May 2021, we spent about \$15,000 more than we took in through offerings. Our giving is down about \$8,700 compared to the same period in 2020—January to the end of May. While COVID restrictions are being relaxed and we have been able to return to more a normal worship experience, attendance is still down compared to other years and as a result, offerings are down as well despite the fact that many members have taken advantage of other methods of making up their normal giving—including e-transfers, PAR offerings and just dropping off or mailing in their offerings.

Normally our giving is down during the summer months with some members away for vacations and for other reasons, however typically offerings are strong in the last quarter of the year. We pray this will be the case in 2021 and ask for your support in prayer and offerings to help us make up our financial shortfall. Just as the Macedonians found joy in their sacrificial giving and their poverty, may we, too, find that same joy in supporting the work of the church.

*In His service
Board of Stewardship*

WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD, our Redeemer, Creator,
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship You, God of our fathers, we bless You;
Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.

When perils o’ertake us, You will not forsake us,
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.
To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

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