



The Spirit of St. Paul's

www.stpaulslutheran.ca

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

St. Paul's Mission Service Fair



It was great to see many new faces at the Mission Service Fair on January 26. The boards each presented excellent displays and there was a table for our auxiliaries, Lutheran Women's Missionary League-Canada and Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada featuring projects the congregation members can be involved in. Another table presented the roles of members of the executive, the Parish Planning Council and the Voters' Assembly. Lunch was a bonus. Thanks to all who took the time to prepare and attend.



Spare computer, anyone?

The Board of Evangelism is planning to live-streaming the audio from Sunday worship services, so those who can't attend may listen as it's happening.

To accomplish this, they are looking for someone to contribute a computer. It needs to have wifi and a dedicated microphone jack, otherwise most recently replaced computers would be adequate, especially smaller laptops.

If you can help, please speak to Steven Loewen.

Save the date

Saskatoon Zone of the Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada has, for quite a number of years, rented space at the Saskatoon Exhibition and distributed Project Connect booklets, Bibles and items for children. The many members of St. Paul's who volunteer to do a shift in the booth are very much appreciated. Plans are underway for 2020. To help cover costs a Steak Night is held each year. Mark your calendar for May 2. Look for more details in coming issues of *The Spirit*.

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 February - Ron & Ludy Jeschke

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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Evangelism/Public Relations

FEBRUARY 23

LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS OF CANADA

Rev. Mike Kuhn
Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada Missionary
will share his involvement
in the work of translating the Bible
into the heart language
of the Nizza people in Galim, Cameroon.

10:00 am St. Paul's Divine Service with guest preacher Rev. Kuhn

12:00 pm Pizza Lunch

1:00 pm Presentation by Rev. Kuhn

Please add your name to the sign up sheet by Feb. 20 if you plan to attend.
Everyone is welcome!



Meetings of St. Paul's voters

Two meetings of the voters are on the calendar.

The first is **March 8**. This is our annual meeting. The annual report for 2019 is being prepared and will be available a couple of weeks before the meeting. The reports will be the main item on the agenda.

The second meeting is scheduled for **April 19**. Elections are held

every two years and this will be the meeting where voters choose our leaders for the next two years.

Please plan to attend. Not a voter? If you are 18 and over and a communicant member of St. Paul's, come to the meeting. A simple motion will make you a voting member of the congregation.

Stewardship

Faithful stewards in all we are and do

Of the three things a person is not to talk about in polite company—religion, politics, and money—the church is called, in one way or another, to talk about all three. Perhaps this is the reason why teaching about stewardship often seems to be an afterthought. It's something that happens only out of necessity when financial constraints are already nipping at the heels.

There is a more excellent way. Stewardship shouldn't be the kind of teaching that comes up only when there is a financial crunch. It should be part and parcel of the ongoing instruction of Christians as they live out their faith in their vocations—members of their family, their society, and their church. This teaching touches upon every facet of our lives; it stakes a claim upon our time, our presence, our prayers, and our possessions.

Stewardship begins with the acknowledgment that we are stewards. A steward is a manager of someone else's possessions. In Christian stewardship, we recognize, according to the Apostles' Creed, that God is the owner of all things as the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. And in His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, He gives us what is His to manage here below.

The principal virtue for stewards is faithfulness. As St. Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth:

“Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.” (1 Cor. 4:2)

Stewards must manage that which belongs to the owner according to the owner's wishes. That is what it means to be faithful

in stewardship.

That raises a question: How are Christian stewards to be faithful in their managing of what God has entrusted to them to manage? In other words, what are the specific duties of a Christian steward?

This depends upon what God has revealed in His Word for each of our vocations in life as those in a family (fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, children), society (governors or citizens), and the church (pastors

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or laity). The Table of Duties from *Luther's Small Catechism* lays this out in helpful and orderly way.

Let's look just at what the laity (hearers as it is labeled in the catechism) owe their pastors:

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

“Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows” (Gal. 6:6–7).

“Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honour, especially those who labour in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, ‘You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,’ and, ‘The labourer deserves his wages’ ” (1 Tim. 5:17–18).

“We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labour among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves” (1 Thess. 5:12–13).

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you” (Heb. 13:17).

We can see that the Lord commands hearers to support the work of the ministry with the gifts God endowed them—their time, their presence, their prayers, and their possessions. This is the means by which God blesses His people with His gifts: the ministry with the support of those whom they serve, and the hearers with the work of the ministry.

St. Paul expounds upon this further in his letters to the church at Corinth. He instructs them to give regularly (1 Cor. 16:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first-fruits (1 Cor. 16:2) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7) and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

All of this teaching is set forth squarely within the context of stations to which God calls us. This is always appropriate for the church to speak because it instructs God's people in how they are to live out their faith as His stewards under those who are created, redeemed, and sanctified by Him.

Stewardship, continued

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Recently the Board of Stewardship received a draft year-end financial statement from our treasurer which showed we ended the year with an excess of receipts over disbursements of \$12,810. While there may be another bill or two still to be paid for 2019, we expect this to be pretty much our final year end result. We thank our members for their faithful and generous support for the congregation and its programs.

We want to point out that the \$12,810 result mentioned includes an unrestricted gift of \$5,000 from Holy Cross Lutheran Church following its closure. Following the receipt of that gift, the Voters' Assembly decided to use it toward the purchase of the new piano, supplementing the donations already given. Because the piano purchase is a capital expenditure and not an operational expense, the total cost of the piano is charged to

our Capital Fund. Effectively the use of the \$5,000 gift from Holy Cross improved our operating surplus for the year. You may recall that when we set the 2020 budget, we predicted a year-end operating surplus of about \$6,000. At that time we had not received the Holy Cross gift. If we were to take off the \$5,000 Holy Cross gift from our year-end surplus, we would have ended the year with a surplus of about \$7,000 which is very close to our year-end predictions. A complete financial statement will be presented in the annual report and fully explained at the upcoming voters' meeting

ITEM FOR DECISION BY VOTERS

The congregation received information from Lutheran Church-Canada just before the end of the year about a Moving Assistance Fund (MAF) available to congregations this coming year. The fund will assist congregations who choose to participate in the

voluntary program to pay moving expenses for their pastors and other church workers. There will be an assessment of \$2.00 per communicant member so for St. Paul's the cost would be between \$600 and \$700 per year.

The Board of Stewardship feels enrolment in the program should not be the decision of any one board but should be decided by the voters. This matter will, therefore, be on the agenda for the April voters' meeting. In anticipation of that meeting, and to provide some information about the program and how it works, we are making the information we received from the synod office available to members and boards for their review between now and the voters' meeting on March 8. The material will be set out on the ushers table at the back of the narthex and given to all boards for discussion. If we run out of copies set out, please ask Sandy for one.

Board of Stewardship

PRAY FOR A FUTURE PASTOR



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Wendel Ritz
Vicar

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

What role will you play?

The time is coming for elections at St. Paul's which are held for all positions on the boards and executive.

A key part of this process is asking members to nominate other members of the congregation who have the skills to provide leadership at St. Paul's. Please look for the nomination form and additional information in your mailboxes and at the usher's table during February.

Please prayerfully consider your vocation as a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and specifically how you can support our mission by serving on the executive or on one of the boards.

Thank you for your prayers.

*The Nominating Committee:
Ryan Neufeld (Chair), Ange Neufeld, Lisa Poier,
James Dietrich, Ron Walter, Mark Zlipko*