



The Spirit of St. Paul's

www.stpaulslutheran.ca

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

St. Paul's first *Mission Service Fair* to be held this month

DATE:

Sunday, January 26

WHEN:

Immediately after worship

WHERE:

In the church basement

FOR WHOM:

Everyone

WHY:

See the information beside this box

LUNCH:

A light lunch will be provided that may be carried around the fair with you.

“What on earth is a Mission Service Fair?” you ask. Good question. And here's a follow-up question: “Lord, how would You help me serve You and my brothers and sisters in Christ at St. Paul's?”

Perhaps you are relatively new to St. Paul's. Or perhaps you have recently retired. Perhaps you have served in a particular way for some time and are looking for a change. Or maybe you're just curious about some of the ways others serve their Lord and the rest of us at St. Paul's.

The *Mission Service Fair* is intended to help you gain an understanding of the many opportunities for service in the congregation and what they entail...not to rope you into any of them, but to provide basic knowledge for choices you might make now or in the future.

Each board will have a table (or tables) with information and people to tell you about and answer questions about the activities they oversee. A light lunch that you may pick up and carry with you will be provided rather than a sit-down meal – of particular benefit to those who have other commitments and can't stay long. It's a come and go event.

The Mission Service Fair is organized by the LWML but, since it involves all the boards and other groups within the congregation, support was sought from the Parish Planning Council. In addition to the LWML group's purpose above, the PPC saw it as very helpful in providing information in advance of calls from this year's nominating committee and in supporting various activities under the boards where elections aren't needed.

To give you an idea of the scope of what you will find, here are a few areas:
altar guild, ushering, choir, volunteering at Friendship Inn, lawn sign, financial programs, social events, funeral lunches, care of the yard and building, Sunday school, youth, Bible study, folding bulletins, folding newsletters and putting them into mailboxes, and much more.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR. WE'LL SEE YOU THERE!



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 January - Natalie Keith



Friendship Inn volunteers



Bible translators come to Saskatoon



*Mark
your
calendars!*



The Kuhns in Galim, Africa, 2017

St. Paul's Board of Evangelism will host a Lutheran Bible Translators Canada event on February 23.

Rev. Mike Kuhn, missionary and Bible translator began his work with LBTC in 2012 and was sent to Galim, Cameroon in Africa, to work with the Nizza people, translating the Bible into their heart language. He has many fascinating stories to share.

Date: **February 23, 2020,**
after Divine Worship

Lunch will be provided.
All Lutheran churches in Saskatoon and area are invited to join us.

LBTC involves Lutherans in Canada, building awareness through these presentations and seeking partnerships for prayer, encouragement and financial support.

More information will follow in February.

Board of Evangelism/Public Relations, Clara Zirk

Classifieds

TO GIVE AWAY: Do you know someone who could use a wheeled-walker. We would like to give away the walker Kathy used. It is most suitable from someone 5' 3" or smaller. There is some "wear and tear" but it is still in good shape. Contact Marion: 306-343-7396 or hollinger@sasktel.net.



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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The new piano arrived just in time for Christmas



For a video with many more pictures of the arrival and set-up of the new piano, visit <https://www.stpaulslutheran.ca/photo-gallery> and click on The New Grand Piano link.



Megan Bracewell and Laura Neufeld worked hard to raise funds for the new piano and they thank everyone who contributed and made it a reality. Thank you ladies.

Pastor's Corner

Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O Lord! (Psalm 25:7)

Some people have a great deal of regret over their past, often around things they said or did (or did not say or do) when they were younger. The years of our youth can be difficult as the people and things that influence us grow beyond our family, especially as we are exposed to more of life and gain more freedom. As we transition from adolescence to adulthood, as the years of life increase, so also the web of sin increases. I suspect that most of us can look back at our youth and think of things we have said or done (or not said or not done) that weigh heavy on our minds. While some of our youthful experiences offered lessons along the way, some may still be a source of embarrassment and shame, even if they took place years or decades ago.

I want to share with you something I recently came across during my devotions. It is from a devotional book of prayers written by Johann Gerhard called *Meditations on Divine Mercy: A Classic Treasury of Devotional*

Prayers. After recognizing and repenting of the sins of his youth, Gerhard prays:

“For the disobedience of my youth, I offer to You, holy Father, the obedience of your Son. I offer to You the perfect innocence of the One who became obedient to You, even to death, even death on a cross (Philippians 2:8). Even as a boy of twelve, Christ showed holy obedience to You and followed Your will with great willingness (Luke 2:42). This obedience, O just Judge, I offer as the price and satisfaction for the great disobedience of my youth.”

This is what we do with our sin—whether sins of our youth, or sins we continue to struggle with today—we repent. For our disobedience we offer to God the perfect obedience of our Saviour Christ Jesus. We take great comfort that, for the sake of Jesus, we are forgiven and we let go of our shame and guilt. Then we dust ourselves off, we seek to amend our sinful ways, and we strive to live according to His will.

God's blessings, Pastor Keith

Stewardship

Our God is a God who works through means. He does this not only for all of our earthly needs but also for all of our spiritual needs. And He does this for our benefit.

He provides for all our needs of this body and life through means. He gives us fathers and mothers to care for us when we are young. Through them, God provides house and home, food and clothing, education and training in the arts and work of this world.

He gives us good government to protect us from harm and danger; He gives us faithful neighbours and good friends to help in times of need and lack. He gives us employers who trade our work for income so we may acquire the needs of the body. He gives us brains and brawn so we will have something to trade with those employers for that needed income. This work, which we are able to do only because of what God has provided to us, redounds to the benefit of others. And so, the cycle of God giving through means continues.

He provides for all our needs of our souls. He sent His Son into the flesh to be our Saviour. In that body, our Lord Jesus Christ lived the life that God demands of us all—a life we have failed to live because of our sins—and, in that body, He made payment for those sins on the cross, once and for all.

God delivers this forgiveness through the means of His Word and Sacraments. He calls pastors to proclaim, in His stead and by His command, that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Through these same pastors, God Himself claims us as His own in Holy Baptism, placing His own name on us in water and Word,

igniting faith by the gift of the Holy Spirit. And He gives us His life-giving body and blood to nourish us in this same faith until the end. Our God is a God who works through means.

This is true also of stewardship. This is what St. Paul wrote in Philippians:

“I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:18–19).

The gift St. Paul received from the Philippian church is a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. They gave to God. God provided for St. Paul through the Philippians. And the God who loves both Paul and the Philippians will supply their every need according to the riches in Christ Jesus. Our God is a God who works through means.

“For all the promises of God find their Yes in [Jesus Christ],” St. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 1:20. This is true also of you. Trust in the God who provides for all that we need in body and soul through means. And not only will you find His “yes” to you, but others will find it, too, through you. “But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also” (2 Corinthians 8:7).

As we begin a new year under God's grace and blessing let us remember the needs of the church and the church at large. We are looking after their needs through the means God has provided to us.

God's blessings to all in this new year.

Board of Stewardship

PRAY FOR A FUIURE PASTOR



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Adam Chandler
Fourth Year Student

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

Mitten Tree collection again successful

The following items from the mitten tree will be donated to the YWCA for those in need:

- 40 toques
- 26 pair of mittens
- 11 scarves
- 1 pair socks

In addition, 12 pair of work socks were donated and will be kept for the up-coming service project, Warm Feet for the Street.

Thank you for your generosity and caring.

Dress rehearsal on December 22



...leads to presentation on December 23

The children of St. Paul's shared the Christmas story with the congregation on Sunday morning, December 23. Rather than picture-taking distracting from worship, photos are taken at the dress rehearsal. However, with cell phones not requiring a flash, one member unobtrusively took the picture below.



Carving becomes a family affair



Ryan, Mark and Rachel Zlipko display some of the items they have made.

We can discover interesting things about others we worship with at St. Paul's if we keep our eyes and ears open. Last fall Mark Zlipko was showing Elton Harper some pictures on his phone and talking about a project he and his two oldest children, Ryan and Rachel, are involved in. The Zlipkos live in Martensville. Here's what Mark has to say:

"It just so happens that our neighbour and friend, Paul, teaches a wood carving class through the recreation centre on Wednesday evenings. When he first invited me to sign up for the class, I was a little hesitant (I am by no means an artist), but I decided I would give it a try.

"Carving is one of those things that looks so intimidating, but once you learn the basics, it's not that bad. The beginner project in the class is a polar bear. You learn techniques, perception and how to properly use the tools.

"Thinking this would be something Ryan and Rachel would also enjoy, I invited them to join me. The atmosphere is relaxing and there is always socializing. Through the class, we have met people in the carving community. We have been invited to weekend carving



For beginners, they have an amazing display of items.

retreats and have attended the "Carve-in" at Shell Lake. This Carve-in is an annual August weekend event where carvers from around the province get together and set up a display in the town's park. It is open to the public and items are either for show or sale. It's a great experience for all three of us."

Ryan says his favourite carving so far is the letter opener. "I like the overall shape."

Rachel says, "My favourite was the comfort bird. I think it was my best work."

Both Ryan and Rachel say that the most difficult thing is getting the guide lines drawn on the work piece. Guide lines are used to create the outline and make the piece symmetric.

"We've all done the polar bears, carved Christmas ornaments and bird silhouettes. We have some sea turtles on the go, but they need more time/work. The upcoming class this winter will be a wolf head."

Mark Zlipko