



The Spirit of St. Paul's

www.stpaulslutheran.ca

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

Providing Scripture in the language of the people

Sunday, February 23, we were honoured to have Rev. Mike Kuhn, a missionary of Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada (LBTC), with us at St. Paul's as a guest preacher for Sunday's service. After lunch we were privileged to receive a presentation of his work as a missionary/translator to the Nizza people in Galim, Cameroon in Central Africa.



Rev. Mike Kuhn introduces the audience to Cameroon, West Africa.



Some of those who came to learn.

A display was set up in the narthex which gave us quick glance at the culture and a feeling of what it's like to be at work in this part of the world.

In his presentation Rev. Kuhn shared some of the challenges they face in Bible translation in a country that is in part divided between Muslim and Christian influences in the region. In the northern region where he works, the ratio is approximately 70% Muslim and 30% Christian. In the southern region the Christian population is higher than the Muslim population. Although he reported no major conflict between the two groups, it does present challenges for their work especially with the adults who are more fearful of their Muslim leaders. The bottom line, so to speak, is that while there is interest in Christianity, all the Nizza people are first Muslim.

As part of the presentation Rev. Kuhn walked us through the translation process which is quite an involved process and sometimes painstakingly slow but necessary to be sure that Scripture is translated accurately and is written so the hearers and readers can understand and receive God's word as He has intended it to be received. The process starts with a translation draft, then it must go through a team revision made up of those qualified to translate and those who know and understand the language of the people. Then it goes out for community testing, followed by a consultant check and an audit check for accuracy.

He shared that LBTC gets involved at the community level in projects that benefit the community and build relationships. Examples were the digging of a deep well for water safety, adding a school/library, restarting a literacy centre where villagers can come to learn to read and most important to develop friendships between Muslims and Christians.

Other projects funded by LBTC, made possible by funds from donations, were laptops for the translation team and a grain mill for the Nizza village to grind

continued next page

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 & Rudy 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

Scripture, continued

their grain locally for a nominal fee. Part of the income from the mill will go for providing ongoing funds for their Nizza literacy program. Rev. Kuhn was instrumental in requesting the grain mill and with the help of a generous Canadian donor the village will have this opportunity. Often many literacy programs falter when a missionary leaves because the funding goes with him. The blessing of this grain mill will make the Nizza people independent of external funding.

Rev Kuhn will, upon his return to Cameroon, be moving to a larger centre, the capital for the area, Ngaoundere, to continue his work and take on added responsibilities.

Rev. Kuhn ended his presentation by requesting our prayers for:

- An android application developed by his team that will allow the sharing of Scripture between participants; we pray that this will go viral.
- For the development of radio and other media opportunities.
- For the challenges of translating

a language with vowels and various intonations to Arabic script which has no vowels. The benefit, if it can be accomplished, is that all Nizza are taught Arabic script to read the Koran, so even those who are not literate in Nizza would be able to read Scripture.

- For the transition of the Kuhn's family move to Ngaoundere in June and financial support for flights and moving expenses.

In the closing of this report, I want to share a Scripture passage from Revelations 7:9-10, taken from one of Rev. Kuhn's newsletters, that is so fitting for the work he does for LBTC: *"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"'*

Clara Zirk for the
Board of Evangelism

PRAY FOR A FUTURE PASTOR



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Darcy Albers
Third Year Student

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

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. To help cover costs a Steak Night is held each year. Mark your calendar for May 2. Tickets are now available from several members. Check with Jim Gash, Art Timm, Ken McCallen or Les Hollinger.

Meetings coming up

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.

The Parish Planning Council will meet Tuesday, **March 3** at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 7 noon to 3:00 p.m. FREE FAMILY FUN

Queen Elizabeth Outdoor Rink
Broadway Ave. and Taylor St.
Children's games, hot dogs and hot
chocolate

Hosted by Your Community
Association – QEXCA

Stewardship

Thoughts about Lent

We are at the beginning of Lent. During the Lenten season, the church calls to our attention the sufficiency of what God gives. It points to the sufficiency of God's grace in the atoning work of Jesus. It shows us the sufficiency of faith in Jesus' work for us. It makes known the sufficiency of God's Word in faith and life.

But Lent doesn't just remind us of the sufficiency of God's spiritual gifts, the gifts that pertain to our redemption and salvation. Lent also reminds us of the sufficiency of the physical, temporal gifts of God, those that pertain to this body and life. In other words, it reminds us of the importance of godly contentment and of outward discipline and training of the body.

This outward training of the body teaches us not to give in to every desire of our flesh but to learn to say no to them. And it does this in such a way that if you fail, it is no sin. It is a way to practice without putting yourself into a compromising situation.

The easiest example of this is fasting. When you fast, you are practicing saying no to the desires of your body. But if you fail in this, if you break your fast, you have not sinned. You have, though, learned something about how your flesh works, how difficult it is to fight against it, and how you need help from above in order to do it.

There is another example of this. It is alms-giving. This is an increase in giving to the church and its mission during this time. We all know that our flesh finds security in money and stuff. By committing

to give more to the church, you are training your flesh. You are, by this outward discipline, training yourself to be content with what God gives. You are practicing saying "no" to your desires. Again, if you fail, you have not sinned. But you've learned just how powerful your flesh is in leading you instead of you leading it. You've learned how you need help from above in being content with what God gives.

This is why St. Paul instructs young Pastor Timothy in this way:

"But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and [a] we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs." (1 Tim 6:6–10)

Our sufficiency is not of ourselves; it is in God. Let us learn this without sin by training our flesh this Lenten season.

We also want to remind ourselves of how we give of our time to the service of God and the church. Over the next few weeks many of us will be approached by the nominating committee to consider serving in leadership roles at St. Paul's. We ask you to prayerfully consider your response in a God-pleasing way.

Board of Stewardship

Pastor's Corner

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. The Rite we use for our Ash Wednesday Service begins with words that remind us of the meaning of this time in the Church Year. The liturgy calls us to enter into this “holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection” and reminds us that “our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.” We are also reminded that “from ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.”

Some people give something up for the season of Lent in order to practice the discipline of “self-denial” mentioned above. Whether or not we do this is a matter of our Christian freedom. But it can be a helpful practice. When we deny ourselves that chocolate, or diet Coke, or whatever small pleasure we decide to give up, we are reminded that we are in this “time of special devotion” that directs our attention to Christ’s suffering and death.

Self-denial, or any spiritual discipline, practised during Lent isn’t meant for self-improvement, or to impress God, or to earn His favour. It is meant to keep us

mindful of the Lenten season and to help prepare us for the celebration of Easter. Ultimately we prepare for Easter through repentance. We consider our lives in the light of God’s Law, we recognize our sin, and we turn away from it in sorrow. But repentance doesn’t stop there. It also involves a faithful heart that believes and receives the forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life that Christ won for us. Repentance involves a faithful heart that dwells confidently in Christ and draws from Him joy, life, and hope.

*God’s blessings,
Pastor Keith*



Are you someone who takes walks as physical exercise, as a break from an already busy schedule, or as an opportunity to spend time with a friend who also enjoys walking? If so, here is a Lenten suggestion to augment your walks. As you walk, ponder for a time on the walk that Jesus took to the cross for you and all humanity. Then ask the Holy

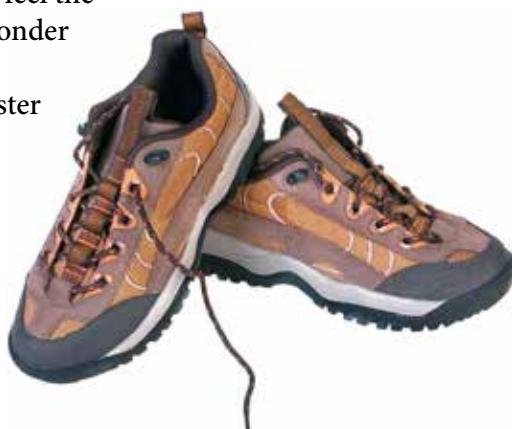
Spirit to strengthen your faith as you walk on this earthly path. Even if you have a partner when you walk, a true friend will grant you this time to ponder and pray before you start the chit chat.

For those of us who aren’t so inclined to take regular walks, or are unable to walk any distance, you too can participate. Take a “virtual” walk by closing your eyes, and in your mind’s eye, smell the air, hear the birds, feel the wind, and “see” the road ahead. As you imagine your “walk” ponder and pray just as a person who is taking a physical walk.

Keep “walking” this Lenten season until you experience Easter morning, when we can declare, “Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!”

Please share ALLI with anyone who is looking for A Little Loving Idea

From the Christian Growth Committee of LWML-Canada



Horsewomen in our midst – they would love to tell you all about it

I recently spent a very enjoyable time with Danica and Makenna Poier. Their enthusiasm just bubbles over, especially when it comes to horses. Learning about their special interest was a new discovery for me and I suspect it may be for you as well.

Makenna is a grade eleven student at Bishop James Mahoney High School and Danica currently works full-time for Subway. It means lots of driving from their family acreage near Vanscoy.

Their love of horses began when Danica was ten years old and in grade five. A friend, who belonged to the Heartland Pony Club invited Danica to join her. At first it was riding once a week, then twice a week, then every day. Two years later Makenna joined her.

Danica reported that when she was 14, she bought a horse. It was getting on in years and passed away about a year later. Later she bought another horse, but it, too, passed away. For the most part the two girls lease horses, mostly from their riding coach.

When Danica reached grade 12, she took a year or so off so she would have time to study. Makenna

also took that time off from riding. Danica has gradually returned to riding and Makenna plans to do so this summer.

I asked what sort of riding they do. They do an English style of show jumping. Jumping! No galloping lightly over the prairie for them. When they began the rails were quite low to the ground. Now those rails are up to three feet high. They explained that there are “hunters” where the ride is calm, easy and done more for prettiness and there are “jumpers” where things are fast, how you and the horse look going over a jump doesn’t matter and the courses are longer and harder. You can guess which style they gravitated to.

They have been involved in many competitions, locally and in Alberta, and would enjoy participating in an Alberta or California circuit. Competitions require special outfits. And English style riding demands an English saddle with no horn. It also has shorter stirrups because they stand up and lean forward when the horse jumps over a fence.

Had ever been hurt? Both immediately said yes! They agreed it can be a dangerous sport as I believe

mom, Lisa, can attest to. They often ride on grass and we all know how slippery that can be when it happens to be wet. I learned that horses wear show boots that protect their feet and for jumping on grass, corks are screwed into the boots making them a little like cleats. Sometimes the crowd can create danger since some horses can startle very easily at an unexpected movement or noise like crinkling a potato chip bag.

Do they have any dreams for the future? Danica would like to have a barn and arena and several horses so she can offer the therapy that being with and working with horses offers people with special needs. Makenna is still working on what her future might hold. Probably not with horses unless she helps her sister with her dream.

Danica and Makenna have been involved with the youth group at St. Paul’s and a couple of years ago were among those who travelled to the Higher Things youth gathering in Colorado. They described it as amazing and an opportunity to be with a large gathering of youth who “think like you do.”

M. Hollinger



*Left: Danica
Right: Makenna*





March 2020



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		 MARCH				
1 Dear Lord, continue to walk with me through this Lenten season.	2 Dear Lord, hear my repentant heart.	3 Dear Lord, free me from regret for my past.	4 Dear Lord, thank you for winning victory over sin, death and Satan.	5 Dear Lord, thank you for your faithfulness.	6 Dear Lord, make me strong in my trust in You.	7 Dear Lord, teach me to deny myself.
8 Dear Lord, grant the balm and healing I can only find in Your Word and Sacrament.	9 Dear Lord, bend down from Your throne and hear my penitential cry!	10 Dear Lord, turn a favoured eye upon me and hear my penitential cry!	11 Dear Lord, thousand, thousand thanks to You for all You have done.	12 Dear Lord, keep me from the beginnings of evil thoughts, words and actions.	13 Dear Lord, draw me to Your cross to remember Your passion.	14 Dear Lord, grant me courage that can only be found in You.
15 Dear Lord, help me find calm in Your Word and Sacrament.	16 Dear Lord, when I'm tempted remind me You were wounded for me.	17 Dear Lord, remind me of what You willingly endured for our sinful world.	18 Dear Lord, help me master temptation.	19 Dear Lord, let me find strength in Your cross.	20 Dear Lord, thank You for the new life You have granted me.	21 Dear Lord, thank you for procuring my soul's salvation.
22 Dear Lord, may I know the strength that is given me through Your Word and Sacrament.	23 Dear Lord, thank you that because of You, death has lost its power.	24 Dear Lord, thank you that You are my light, life and resurrection.	25 Dear Lord, On my heart imprint You image.	26 Dear Lord, thank you that You are my life, my hope's foundation.	27 Dear Lord, thank you that You are my glory and salvation.	28 Dear Lord, thank you that you are the refuge of the weary.
29 Dear Lord, let me find joy and peace in Your Word and Sacraments.	30 Dear Lord, kindle my heart to burn with fervent love for You.	 Lent	 Easter Turn away from sin			