



The Spirit of St. Paul's

www.stpaulslutheran.ca

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

Pastor's Corner

Blending truth with beauty



“Nein! Keine Fotografie!” These are the words I heard shouted as I was taking this photo of Lucas Cranach's altarpiece located in the City Church of Wittenberg, Germany. I didn't need a translator to discover that I shouldn't have been snapping pictures. While I still feel bad that I unknowingly broke the rules, I am grateful that I have this photo to remind me of the awe I experienced as I stood there looking at it.

Lucas Cranach (1472-1553) was a German Renaissance painter and

printmaker in woodcut and engraving. He was a close friend of Martin Luther (he served as Luther's best man at his wedding) and he supported Luther's work of reforming the church. Cranach used his extraordinary talents to help propel the Reformation through his art, reflecting Luther's teaching on *sola fide* (faith alone) and *sola gratia* (grace alone), Law and Gospel, and Word and Sacrament.

In the top three panels of the altarpiece, Cranach painted the sacraments recognized by Luther. We see the Sacrament of Baptism (left), The Sacrament of the Altar (centre), and Confession and Absolution (right). The bottom panel of the altarpiece depicts Luther preaching to a congregation. In one hand he is holding an open Bible, while with the other he points to the crucified Christ who died on the cross to save us from sin and death. This encapsulates beautifully the focus of the Reformation which points us to Christ our Saviour for our salvation.

Cranach's legacy and tradition continues today whenever we see art that focuses our attention on the

mercy of Christ and the life we have in His name.

Below is a fitting prayer I found for Lucas Cranach:

O God our Father, You blessed the Church through your servant Lucas Cranach, who illuminated the Reformation and its central focus on Christ through his vocation as artist. Show us likewise how best to blend truth with beauty, that we may invite others into deeper contemplation of You and Your mercy. Amen.

God's blessings,
Pastor Keith

Sunday school back in action

Sunday School has started again for ages 4 -12, led by Marissa Neuberger and Denise Timm. We will be focusing on hearing Bible stories and learning parts of the catechism, such as the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed and Martin Luther's morning and evening prayers. We will also be attempting to memorize the Books of the Bible. Please bring your kids downstairs after Divine Service for a half-hour group lesson where we will be reading books, playing games, taking a field trip or two around the church, making crafts and having some fun!

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 Coordinator
for February – Verla Schmirler

St. Paul's will hold its annual meeting on March 3 after worship. Come for the food! Stay for the meeting!



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Be on the lookout for...

The Board of Education would like you to check for any library books that might be in your home. In particular, the Sunday school is hoping to make use of the children's Arch books in its curriculum.

The library will soon be home for twenty-six new books from CPH! Please keep your eyes peeled for a special display of these within the next few weeks.

St. Paul's LWML traded a Christmas social for an Epiphany get-together

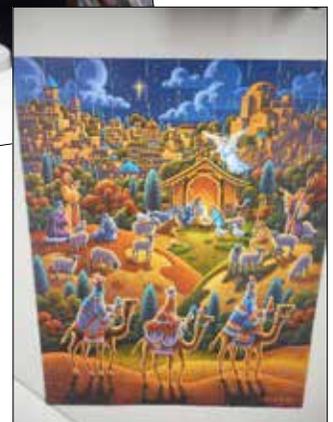
Women from St. Paul's LWML and friends gathered to celebrate

Epiphany on Saturday, January 12. The gathering began with a potluck lunch. Gail Mitchell provided a devotion focused on Epiphany. Verla Schmirler organized an activity that required working together. Small groups were given a bag of jigsaw puzzle



Top photo: one corner of the puzzle completed. Left: filling in the centre.

pieces to put together. Once their part was complete everyone came together to join the pieces and then fill in the centre. It was a fun activity for all. The day concluded with an exchange of small gifts.



The completed puzzles showing the magi travelling to Bethlehem.

Stewardship

The season of Epiphany focuses on how God was made manifest in the flesh of Jesus. The church spends time hearing of the miracles, the signs and wonders, of Jesus in the world.

And this made plain to all that Jesus was who He said He was: He was the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the only-begotten Son of the Father, in the flesh. For “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

It is revealed for all the world to see that Jesus is God in the flesh. It is made manifest by His words and His work, by what He said and by what He did. And these belong together, for “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”

Jesus is the Word and will of God in the flesh, that is, He is the walking, talking, enactment of God’s Word.

It is no different for us. We are called not just to believe in God in our hearts, but also to trust in God in word and deed.

As James wrote: “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22), and again, “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ... So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ... Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead” (James 2:14, 17–18, 26).

Our faith is lived out in works for our neighbour. Our trust in the Word and will of God is lived out not in word only, but also in deed and in truth.

In other words, the Epiphany of the Lord creates in us an epiphany of our faith in our works of obedience to God who commanded them. By this, our faith is made manifest to the world. It is, as Luther wrote of faith:

“Faith is a divine work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God (John 1). It kills the old Adam and makes altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and powers, and it brings with it the Holy Spirit.

“Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. And so it is impossible for it not to do good works incessantly. It does not ask whether there are good works to do, but before the question rises, it has already done them, and is always at the doing of them.

“He who does not these works is a faithless man. He gropes and looks about after faith and good works and knows neither what faith is nor what good works are, though he talks and talks, with many words about faith and good works.

“Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that a man would stake his life on it a thousand times. This confidence in God’s grace and knowledge of it makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all His creatures.

“And this is the work of the Holy Spirit in faith. Hence a man is ready and glad, without compulsion, to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, in love and praise to God, who has shown him this grace.

“And thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as

impossible as to separate burning and shining from fire. Beware, therefore, of your own false notions and of the idle talkers, who would be wise enough to make decisions about faith and good works, and yet are the greatest fools.” (*Preface to the Book of Romans*)

So, then, let our faith be active by God’s power in the Word through the Holy Spirit. And let then our faith be made manifest to the world by what this faith does: serving our neighbour — in church, in the family, and society — with the works of faith in time, talents, and treasures.

Board of Stewardship

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Hello 2019 —
and welcome back
Youth!

January has been a great month for the Youth with adding the finishing touches of paint on the ceiling of the youth room (thanks Reid and Wyatt!), wrapping up term one finals in high school, and going to a U of S men’s Huskie hockey game complements of Huskie Athletics.

In February the youth will be having a movie night with the Jr. Youth group at the church and heading down to Regina for the Higher Things Retreat on February 21 & 22.

To keep up to date with all that the youth are up to, check us out on Instagram @stpaulsyouthyxe

Megan

Serving

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Thank-you for your faithful volunteer service at Friendship Inn over the past two years. We've often put a photo into The Spirit of some who have participated but this time we want to share is a little information that the Board of Evangelism received from Friendship Inn.

Blessings, Dianne Gilbert

The Friendship Inn was established on March 3, 1969. It started out serving just six transient men and has transformed into a community centre serving upwards of 1,000 meals a day. The Friendship Inn prides itself on being a safe, welcoming place for people to find friendship and nutritious meals. We are open seven days a week, 365 days a year. We serve two meals a day, breakfast and lunch. There is no way we could accomplish this every day without the dedicated volunteers who support the Inn. We have a small staff of 16 people that run the Inn but we are in need of volunteers to help us out throughout the day. These volunteers help us out in various ways – with meal prep, serving a meal, assisting our guests at meal times and/ or cleanup.

Thank you for your service,
Jody Buckley

Volunteer & Event Coordinator
Saskatoon Friendship Inn

Mitten Tree - 2018

- 26 toques
- 18 mittens and gloves
- 4 scarves

were delivered to the YWCA. They were especially pleased as this year they didn't get many from other groups.

Be a Valentine to the world!

Thank you to those individuals and families who have volunteered to Be a Valentine to the World by completing one or more We Care Kits for Canadian Lutheran World Relief! By February 3, 2019, you should have been given the package containing your We Care bag(s) and instructions for assembling your kit(s).

Please place your completed We Care bag(s) in the collection box located in the church narthex from February 7 to 17, 2019. St. Paul's LWMLC will look after preparing our shipment to CLWR.

We have ordered a few extra bags to accommodate anyone who would still like to participate or



has been inspired to complete an additional kit.

Questions? Please contact Verla Schmirler (306-382-2721) or Marion Hollinger (306-343-7396).

LET US PRAY

...for the \$24,000 grant being provide regional VBS teams to assist congregations in remote areas of Canada.

Remote congregations sometimes feel disconnected from the regional/ synodical family and forgotten and/ or unsupported by their brothers and sisters in Christ. They will benefit from volunteers from other congregations supplementing their own numbers so that their VBS can reach more in their community. This grant will enable those volunteers.

Heavenly Father, we ask that this mission grant provide a program of VBS volunteers to congregations in remote areas, helping those congregations feel connected and supported by brothers and sisters in Christ as they seek to reach more people in their communities with God's Word. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Evangelism

God's help in times of need

"In my distress I called upon the Lord: to my God I cried for help. From His temple He heard my voice and my cry to Him reached His ears" (Psalm 18:6).

"I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth" (Psalm 121:1).

How does God help us?

- Through the reading and hearing of His Word.
- Through the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion.
- Through prayer.
- Through Christian resources.
- Through people.

Let's look at some resources God has provided to us

Through Lutheran Hour Ministries we are blessed to have the Project Connect booklets written from a Christian perspective on a variety of topics of situations that life sometimes throws our way.

The booklets in the rack by the front door are free to take for personal use or to share with others. We are thankful to Delia Stevenson, who serves on the Board of Education and manages the rack.

SELF-CONTROL IN AN ADDICTIVE WORLD (LHM) "Addiction may be the greatest challenge but there is hope for a joy-filled life."

Written by Lutheran Hour Ministries this booklet talks about addictions, the loss of self-control to the point of becoming a serious problem, whether that

be drugs, alcohol, tobacco, gambling, overeating, the internet, you name it. "Addiction may be our greatest mental, physical, financial and spiritual challenge. When you cannot find self-control, you cannot experience the joy-filled life you want."

Questions answered in this booklet are:

1. How do I know I have an addiction?
2. What causes lack of self-control?
3. How can I change my behaviour?
4. How can I help my loved one find self-control?

GAMBLING (LHM) "How to redirect life with the transforming power of recovery when a gambling problem goes beyond mere financial security."

"Culture places a strong emphasis on security through money, on the possessions it can buy. But those who develop a gambling problem go beyond financial security. Fear, guilt and shame become tied to what has already been sacrificed to fulfill this elusive dream of financial freedom."

God cares about His children's addictions and desires that they come to Him for help.

*May you find peace, hope and comfort in His Word,
The Board of Evangelism*

God's promises in times of need

Every word of God proves true; He is "a shield to those who take refuge in Him" (Proverbs 30:5).

"...and call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me" (Psalm 50:15).

from "20 Ways to Add More Prayer to Your Life" by Lillian Daniel

- Turn off the car radio and pray instead.
- Pray for strangers in public places. Sit in a coffee shop and privately pray for the people you see. Imagine the stories of the people standing in line at the post office. Give a total stranger the gift of your prayer.
- Take a prayer walk. Walk and pray about everything you see: the leaves, the houses you walk by, the sounds.
- Pray with the sirens. When you hear an ambulance, a police car or a fire truck, pray for the people involved.
- Take a gratitude day. Spend it being mindful of everything you feel grateful for; and say a quick prayer of thanksgiving over and over, all day long.
- Pray for something really crazy. Admit to God what it is that you are really passionate about. Name the big problems of the universe. Ask for the thing that no one but God knows you desire.

My (almost) lifelong fascination with, and interest in cars (especially antique ones)

by Dave Huber

For as long as I can remember things mechanical, and especially cars and trucks, have held a special place in my heart. There was always something new coming along and I guess I was born at the right time for them to have a large influence on me—a kid who was born to a farm family before the end of World War II.

I remember trying to build a go-kart with help from my cousins, Lloyd and Allan Huber, when I was probably about 11 or 12 years old. We had a platform and some wheels and a motor. Not much to start with but what we lacked in engineering skills we made up for in enthusiasm and hope. The farm shop was very basic not even power back then so when we needed a hole in a piece of iron it was done by turning the handle of an old post drill mounted on the wall. After about two summers we had our go-kart ready for trial. Our lack of engineering skill showed up very quickly in our test. The drive system was made from bicycle parts and not much else so there was not much strength in it. We got a few rides on it but it flew apart quite regularly so that was the end of our dream!

As a young guy in the 1950's I saw the cars being made were stylish, colourful and very eye-catching with two- and even three-tone paint, fins, chrome, colourful interiors and dashboards like airplanes. Everybody was getting these new models, mainly family sedans. But hardtops and even a few convertibles were showing up in people's driveways. Every year the styles changed, and it was a big event



A 1975 Triumph Spitfire ready for the finishing touches.

to go to the showrooms when the new cars were unveiled.

In 1989 I joined the Saskatoon Antique Auto Club. We have our meetings once a month at the Western Development Museum and it has been a very good part of my life ever since. I have benefited a lot because of my car club friends who are always willing to share their knowledge and experience with those of us who quite often need expert help to solve problems with our vehicles.

Over the years I have owned and refinished a number of cars. My recent project is a 1975 Triumph Spitfire that I bought in 2015. It looked in pretty good shape until I started taking it apart. I then realized it needed a lot of things like a new frame and a lot of work. So, to do all that, I took it all apart and three years later I am doing the final touches.

I am thankful for the time, shop space and support and help from my wife Carol to be able to do these things.

We, who engineered that go-kart in about 1956, are still enjoying working on antiques. When the three of us get together we talk about the good old days when three young cousins built a go-kart that actually ran (just not for long).

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.

FOR SALE: A piano/organ lamp for \$25. Contact Edith Schneider, 306-374-4668.