

The Spirit of St. Paul's

JUNE 2017

www.stpaulslutheran.ca

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

Farewell to the Ulmers



Pastor Howard and Gloria Ulmer received good wishes from the congregation after worship in mid May. They have moved to Regina.

Ladies, it's not too late!

On the June calendar it lists an LWMLC zone event for June 3...well, it's not quite. The date is right but...

This is a regional event for any woman in the church who would like to join like-minded women in exploring, via video and powerpoint, what God has to say about serving Him with joy in all seasons on our life and also making knotted blankets (this is not quilting) for those in need.

If you want to come, please call Gail Mitchell ASAP, only because numbers affect lunch and materials. We'd like to say the day is free but, because the polar fleece for the

Always Called To Serve



graphic by Rena Detlefsen, St.-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec

blankets has a cost, as does lunch and a little bit of copying, there will be a registration fee. Times: 9:30-4:30.

Women are expected from many congregations. All are welcome.

Hey, youth group families...

...the Board of Christian Education wants to hear from you!

In early September, we will plan a meeting to discuss activities for the year including retreats, city-wide youth events and fundraising. Give it some thought over the summer, and bring your ideas and suggestions to share with the group.

Recognition of Grads

It's graduation time once again. If you supply pictures and information we would be happy to include our graduates in *The Spirit*. Keeping up with what is happening in the lives of fellow members of our St. Paul's family strengthens bonds and allows us to support one another, not only in times of sorrow but also in times of joy.

Give or send (hollinger@sasktel.net) photos and information to Marion Hollinger, *The Spirit* editor. Actual photos will be returned. Deadline for the July/August newsletter is June 25. Any received after that will go into the September newsletter.

Choir ends season on a high note



Choir director, Amy Timm, with help from musician friends on piano, flute, oboe and drums, led St. Paul's choir in a closing concert at Luther Care Communities.

Classifieds

Something to sell or give away? Need something? Try The Spirit Classifieds first. No cost. Leave your ads at the church office or give them to the editor.

Looking for a daycare/caretaker for our two children Ryden and Ariel starting in September. Ryden will be 3 and Ariel will be 1 year old. If you know of anyone who can help us out, please contact us at (306) 281-5587 or nichellestever@gmail.com.

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.



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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).*

Concerning your personal life – when lax and indifferent

As a Christian have you ever felt God speaking to you through His Word pointing out your weakness and rejoicing when He gives you the solution or comfort in your particular situation? Being awed that He is speaking directly to you. Jesus takes our response to Him very seriously and He points this out very clearly in how He commends and admonishes the seven churches in Asia. Although this is a specific time in history we can relate to some of the things He points out and may discover that there are

times when we, too, have become lax or indifferent.

Revelation 2 and 3:

Jesus speaks to the seven churches, commending them for their strengths, pointing out their shortfalls, warning them to repent and reminding them of the consequences of failure and the rewards of holding firm to His Word. His goal is always to build up the body of Christ, His church. In the same way He builds each of us up that we may be faithful servants.

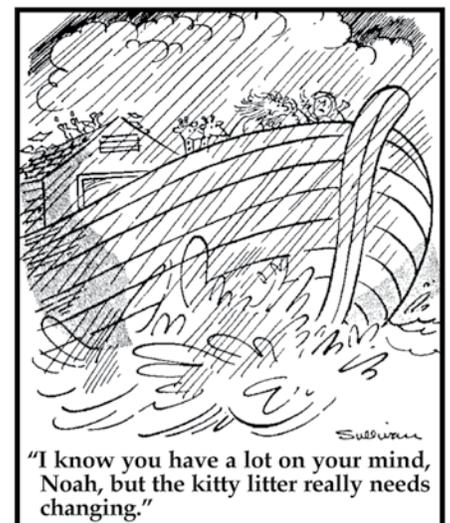
Concerning your personal life – when weak in faith

Read **Psalm 46** for strength and assurance.

Praise the Lord!
 Praise the Lord, O my soul!
 I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
 I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
 Put not your trust in princes,
 In a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.
 When His breath departs he returns to the earth;
 On that very day his plans perish.
 Blessed is he whose help is in the God of Jacob,
 Whose hope is in the Lord his God,
 Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,
 Who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed,
 Who gives food for the hungry.
 The Lord sets the prisoners free;
 The Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
 The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
 The Lord loves the righteous.
 The Lord watches over the sojourners;
 He upholds the widow and the fatherless,

But the way of the wicked He brings to ruin.
 The Lord will reign forever, your God,
 O Zion, to all generations.
 Praise the Lord!

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



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Celebrating 500th anniversary of Reformation at St. Paul's

A display of all things Reformation

In celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, a table will be set up in the narthex showcasing Reformation memorabilia and information. Spend a few minutes at this table to learn about the Reformation and why it is important to us. We invite you to also share your personal Reformation items on this table. Ideas for these include books, movies, posters, photos, art, figurines, etc. Please put your name on the item(s) so we know who it belongs to. Thank you in advance for sharing!

A special banner is being made

Under the leadership of Gail Mitchell, several members are



working on a banner to hang during the remainder of 2017 as a reminder of the many changes in society that came as a result of the Reformation.

A circuit-wide social event featuring Lego

We have an opportunity to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in a fun, hands-on way! The Central District has purchased

a Lego kit which builds a mosaic of Luther's Rose. St. Paul's has arranged to borrow the kit for a weekend, and we will host anyone from the circuit who would like to help put it together.

More details will follow as we get closer to the event. Lego aficionados, mark your calendars for Saturday, September 9.

The finished piece is about 50" x 50", which means we'll need all the help we can get to assemble it!



The following is taken from the spring 2017 issue of LWML—Canada's magazine, Tapestry. Used by permission.

Glimpses from the Reformation

*Written by Rev. Dr. David Somers,
Missionary-at-Large, East District*

When Martin Luther published his 95 theses in the year 1517, he set a process in motion which was to trigger far-reaching changes in Germany and Europe and then the whole world. The Reformation didn't only revolutionize church life, but also stimulated profound social change. To help equip you to understand and explain the fullness of God's grace revealed through the Reformation, Tapestry is carrying a series of brief articles on just a few of the many ways Martin Luther influenced the world. These glimpses into some of these changes aim to encourage Tapestry readers to explore God's continuous working through the Reformation in our daily lives.

LUTHER AND MUSIC

"Music is a gift of the Holy Spirit; it dispels the devil and makes the people joyful." This is how Martin Luther describes the meaning of music for faith and soul. The "Nightingale of Wittenberg," as Luther was called because of the many songs he wrote, highly estimated the singing of the congregation as a "musical proclamation" of the Gospel and the new teachings.

Luther was an accomplished singer and lute player. In his work as a composer and poet, he transformed the Reformation's teachings into music. His songs, as well as those written by his followers, had much influence on the dissemination of the Reformation (just think about your hymnal—before the Reformation the congregation did not have any!).

Singing and making music together

Since the Reformation, congregational singing in virtually all Protestant churches is an important part of the church service and its liturgy. Even now, singing and making music together is an especially lively and attractive part of Protestant parish life (even Gospel and Spiritual traditions stem from this Reformation transformation).

Luther also stressed the value of music in education: "Whoever has this skill is of good temperament and fitted for all things. Music must be taught in schools. A schoolmaster must be able to sing, or I would not regard him." His esteem for music caused Luther to encourage its presence everywhere for everyone: "Kings, princes and lords must preserve music; it is appropriate for great potentates and rulers to protect good liberal arts and laws."

Pastor's Corner

One of our members recently shared with me the results of a poll conducted by the Angus Reid Institute that looked at the spiritual spectrum in Canada. The poll was divided into four mindsets on religion and the following are the national results:

- 1) Religiously committed - 21%
- 2) Privately faithful - 30%
- 3) Spiritually uncertain - 30%
- 4) Non-believers - 19%

There is a great deal of discussion that could be had on many aspects of these results, but I would like to focus on the "spiritually uncertain" group.

To put things in perspective, that roughly means that we have over 10 million neighbours in Canada who are spiritually uncertain. Angus Reid

summarizes this mindset by saying, "They believe that there's a God, but they're uncertain about the role of God" and, "On some issues they kind of side with the non-believers, but they haven't given up totally on everything." What great hope and opportunity there is with this group!

St. Paul found himself in a very similar context when he was in Athens spreading the Good News. We read in Acts chapter 17:22 that Paul said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.'"

I think there is a great parallel between those Paul addressed

in Athens and our neighbours today who identify as "spiritually uncertain." They are searching for hope. They are searching for truth. They are searching for answers to very important questions. God has given us the answers to these questions and we have the privilege of sharing them.

St. Paul gives us a good example of how to do this when he said to the spiritually uncertain in his midst, "What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you" (Acts 17:23). He then went on to clearly proclaim the truth about God and His nature, God's desire and command for all people everywhere to repent, and the Good News of victory over sin and death through the resurrection (Acts 17:23-31). God has made this known to us and we have the great privilege of boldly and faithfully proclaiming this to those who still believe it is unknown. When we have this opportunity it is important to take St. Peter's advice when he said, "...yet do it with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15).

Although it is not easy, we can't be concerned with the results of our proclamation. Some of those who heard St. Paul's proclamation "sneered" at him. Some who hear our proclamation may sneer and laugh at us. Some may become angry and even aggressive. We are told in Acts that some who heard Paul believed and became followers. We may experience this result with some who hear us. We commend these things to God and remain focused on the faithful proclamation of the Good News that has been revealed to us in God's Word! Namely that "...these things are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31).

*God's blessings,
Pastor Keith*

Pray for God's blessing in Cambodia



Women attending the sewing school in Cambodia learn new skills and the Gospel message.

Please pray:

God of all nations, in Cambodia You have sent hope to a people in darkness through Your Word of salvation in Christ. Bless the women of faith for whom mites from LWMLC

will provide opportunity to learn new skills to support of their families. We beseech You in Your Son's precious name. Amen.

Mission U – LHM – equipping to share – developing a culture of outreach

On April 22, 2017, on behalf of the Board of Evangelism, Dianne Gilbert and I attended the Lutheran Laymen's League, Central District workshop at Grace Lutheran Church. The topics discussed under the theme were as follows:

1. Understanding today's culture
2. Developing a culture of outreach
3. Impacting the community
4. Connecting the community to the congregation

I've made a few notes of my experience at the workshop and am sharing them with you, our congregation, as this is a topic I hope you will hear more of in the future.

To understand today's culture we were asked to look at how it has evolved by recalling from memory and personal experience changes that have occurred over the years to bring us to where we are now in 2017. Because of the ages of the individuals in the discussion, insight was gained across a broad span of time. To put this into perspective, think of having Art Timm and Josh Timm sharing their experiences in your group. (By the way, we had that privilege.)

We discussed first how national culture has moved in relation to laws, diversity, family, tolerance, technology, finances, church, Christians and God. Secondly, we discussed how our community culture moved in relation to population, diversity, family, technology, finances and church.

How do we make changes to reach a different generation? We know God

created us equal—we are all sinners—and we all have share common ground on how we want to have our basic needs met—to be loved, to have a safe place to live, to enjoy life, to provide for ourselves and our families, and the list goes on.

God asks us to follow the example He set forth in the parable of the lost sheep. He wants us to go after the one lost sheep. Who is the one in your life that God wants you to go after? It very well may be the one who gives you the hardest time about your faith and Christian lifestyle.

In viewing how your church sees outreach, ask yourself, "Is your church looked upon as a club with members and rules or is it a lifeboat church, get in, there is a help here, kind of place?"

Prayer—do you talk more to God than to anyone else? Talking to Him on a steady basis will enable you to become more mission-minded. Make God part of everything you do.

Personal stories—we all have one or more. We are sinners with hope, being asked to share our story with sinners without hope. Sharing our pain may help others share their pain so we can tell them about the help we have received from Jesus. When you share will, of course, depend upon when the time is right to do so.

Community connections—target your own area. People like convenience. How can we make it easier for them? Do a frank assessment of your church building, the atmosphere inside, is it friendly? Go beyond saying hello and look

for ways to help someone who is not familiar with things. Be helpful.

Make the church about Jesus. The connection each of us has grows the church.

At the end of the day participants broke into congregational groups to discuss a possible action plan. The following notes are from St. Paul's discussion.

- We decided we need both the club and lifeboat style of church, that each has its merits.
- Do we need a culture shift? It was agreed we need to do something.
- Talked about roaming greeters (intentional)
- Plan a community Sunday.
- Plan a community children's Sunday.
- Do a demographic study of our church area.
- Look into volunteering opportunities at the Open Door Society.
- Have the group that attended the workshop meet again for more discussion and planning as it relates to St. Paul's.

Summer request from the Board of Evangelism:

This summer when you are on holidays and you visit other churches, please take note of how you are greeted as a stranger and when you return share any helpful ideas with our board that would make St. Paul's even better.

*Clara Zirk
Board of Evangelism*

Lessons from Noah's Ark

Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark:

- Don't miss the boat.
- Remember that we are all in the same boat!
- Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

- Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
- Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
- Build your future on high ground.
- For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

- When you're stressed, float awhile.
- Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
- No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

~Author unknown

Stewardship

One of the best known and beloved psalms is Psalm 23, the Shepherd Psalm. There we learn that the Lord is our Shepherd. And since He is our Shepherd, we will not want. We will not suffer want because the Lord, our Shepherd, will lead us to green pastures and beside still waters. In other words, the Lord, our Shepherd, will provide for all we need in both body and soul.

Yet, we live as though this is not the case. We live as though we actually suffer from want, that the Lord, our Shepherd, will not provide for all that we need. And thus, we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd. And that means that we live as though we are not the Lord's sheep.

How do we do this? We do it when we put anything else before Him and His provision for us. When we think setting to work is more important than receiving the gifts He won for us on the cross, a violation of the First and Third Commandments. We do it when we fail to give generously of the first fruits of what the Lord has provided for us because we think we don't know what the future will bring, even though He has promised He will lead us to green pastures and still waters. We do it when we think the Lord is only in the business of helping those who will help themselves, we do this because we have a mind set on

earthly, temporal things and not on heavenly, eternal things. We do this because we have stopped hearing the call of our Shepherd, which comes through His Word.

The Word of God is how our Shepherd calls us to Himself. Through that Word, the Holy Spirit gathers and enlightens us with His gifts. Through that Word, we are kept holy and nourished in the one true faith, the faith that follows our Shepherd wherever He leads us. He promises to lead you to your true home, to the land flowing with milk and honey, to a better country, not of this world, but a heavenly one.

And so, here's the good news: The Lord is your Shepherd still, even, and especially, for wayward sheep. For Jesus seeks and saves those who are lost. He finds the lost sheep and carries them back to the fold. He is the Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. The Lord is your Swephepherd. Let us live then as His sheep.

*adapted from Lutheran Church—
Missouri Synod Stewardship Resources*

As many of you have heard and read over the past couple of months, the congregation ended the 2016 fiscal year with a sizable deficit—that is, we spent more money than we took in—\$12,000 more. The Board

of Stewardship wants to find ways to recover from this shortfall and is making this a priority over the coming months. If we don't try to deal with the deficit—and especially if we should have another deficit in 2017—we could be faced with a cash flow problem late in the year or early next year and potentially find it difficult to pay our bills. We encourage each of us to examine our giving and pray about our ability to do just a bit more.

One way to look at the deficit is to break it down into smaller numbers. We currently have about 120 contributors in the congregation. If every contributor gave an additional \$100 in 2017, we would cover the 2016 deficit. That works out to about \$8 per month for each contributor. We know that not everyone is able to make that kind of additional offering however some are and some might be able to give a bit more.

As mentioned in the previous paragraphs, we are to give generously of what we have trusting in God to continue to provide for us as His sheep. And He will!

*Blessings from the
Board of Stewardship*

Quick notes from the Board of Christian Education

- The last day of Sunday school will be Father's Day, June 18.
- June 25 is Confirmation Sunday. Five students will be confirmed that day.
- Most Bible study groups are completed for the year except the Thursday Morning Men's Bible Study, which is ongoing.
- The Saskatoon Circuit Bible study

on Martin Luther will continue in the Fall.

- As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, on the weekend of September 9, St. Paul's will be hosting the construction of Luther's Rose built with Lego. All other Saskatoon circuit churches will be invited to join in the fun.

Denise Timm, Director



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