



The Spirit of St. Paul's

www.stpaulslutheran.ca

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

27 We Care Kits off to Winnipeg

We hoped for a dozen or so We Care kits to send to Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR). In the end we had 26 kits (15 hygiene kits, 9 learning and living kits, 2 sewing kits) and four We Care Bears to send. Home Hardware takes them to Winnipeg without cost. Following is a letter from CLWR received when a donation was sent for the bags.

Dear Friends,

On behalf of our organization, our partners, and the thousands of people we serve, I thank you for your gift. I want you to know that the gifts you send will make a real difference for someone like Maombi Babonye.

We heard Maombi's story recently from our partners in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Forced to flee her home and



then abandoned by her husband, Maombi was struggling to take care of her young children on her own, going hungry and sick herself so her children could eat, when things took a turn for the worse. Maombi had already lost a child to malnutrition, so when her daughter Dorcas fell ill, she was terrified that she'd lose another. But today Dorcas is a happy, healthy four-year-old, and Maombi is not only healthy, but running a small business and providing for the whole family.

Dorcas received emergency nutritional support through a project supported by CLWR. In DR Congo, gifts from you and many others are providing life-saving support for children and giving their parents financial support to build livelihoods and provide for their families. For Maombi, that means she's planning for the future and growing her business instead of struggling through each day. "I am now able to single-handedly raise my children," she says.

Your support is changing lives. Thank you for your generosity and your trust!

*Blessings, Karen Achtelstetter
Executive Director*

Come and enjoy one of the best half hours of the week



Since January, the children have been learning about Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Joseph and Moses. For Valentine's Day, they shared God's love by making cards for the congregation. Sunday school

takes place downstairs after Divine Service for about half an hour. Teachers Marissa Neuberger and Denise Timm welcome all children and their parents to join them!

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 March – Natalie Keith

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



Pastor: Rev. Murray Keith
Office Secretary: Sandy Harper
phone: 306-343-9535
e-mail: stpaulslcc@sasktel.net
web: www.stpaulslutheran.ca
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpaulslutheran
Instagram: www.instagram.com/stpaulslcc
Spirit Editor: Marion Hollinger
hollinger@sasktel.net

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Stewardship

Everything we have and everything we are is a gift of God's providential care. We understand that we're not islands unto ourselves. We could not exist without those who have gone before us and those who walk alongside us. God has given us forefathers in family, country, and faith. We are recipients of what God worked through them. We know God provides for our well-being through these means.

He gives us farmers and ranchers so we can eat. But more than that, God created and gave us all the things those farmers and ranchers cultivate. He gave us the corn, the beans, the wheat, the cows for milking, the steers for grilling. He gave each of those things for our nourishment and sustenance. Without God creating and instilling in those things their

taste, their nutritional value, etc., we would not exist.

God gives us doctors, surgeons, nurses, and [hospitals](#). [He](#) gives us medicine and medical instruments, and, of course, He gave us everything to make those medicines and medical instruments. He instilled in those things the properties to be utilized for those purposes. Without God creating and instilling healing properties into those things—and without God creating the ability within man to learn this and implement it to serve our medical needs—we would not enjoy the health we do now.

But there's more. He gives us gainful employment through our employers and provides for the necessities of life through the labour of our hands:

COMING UP

Pancakes: The pancakes of Shrove Tuesday will be served at St. Paul's on Ash Wednesday, March 6, prior to the Ash Wednesday Service. Supper begins at 5:30 p.m.

Lenten services: Ash Wednesday service, St. Paul's, March 6, 7:00 pm.

NOTE: All other Lenten services begin at 7:30 p.m.

March 13 - Faith Lutheran Church, Saskatoon
March 20 - St. John's Lutheran Church, Warman
March 27 - Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Saskatoon
April 3 - St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Bergheim
April 10 - Grace Lutheran Church, Saskatoon
April 18 - Maundy Thursday, St. Paul's, Saskatoon

Late April or early May: The bi-annual gathering of women from the Saskatoon circuit (Nor'Western Zone of LWMLC); will be held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Saskatoon. Date and time: TBA

LLL Steak Night: May 4, 2019, Smiley's Buffet and Catering – a fund-raiser for the annual Fair Booth Ministry at the Saskatoon Ex.

Stewardship, continued

“Then Moses said to the people of Israel, ‘See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and He has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. And He has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan’ ” (Exodus 35:30–34).

And one step back from that, He has created and given us hands, and attached to hands are arms with strength. He created us with minds to make those arms and hands move and accomplish the work set before us. And with that mind, He has given us reason and senses.

That mind, because of the reason God has instilled in it, is able to work through difficult problems before we press those arms and hands into labour. It allows us to grapple with concepts and run through scenarios instead of having to experience every situation personally. It allows us to learn from the mistakes, as well as from the accomplishments, of ourselves and others. This can be done for our entire body, all our skills and talents, everything that makes us...us.

So, everything we have and everything we are is a gift from Him. This is what we confess in the First Article of the Creed when we say that we “believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.”

But that is just the First Article of the Creed. We confess two

more articles that deal with God’s provision for our spiritual well-being. He sent His Son to die and be raised on the third day for our justification. He delivers that justification through the means of grace (baptism, preaching and the Word of God, and the Lord’s Supper). And to give you those means of grace, He gives pastors and teachers, etc. Literally everything we have and everything we are in this life—and the next—is an inexpressible gift from God.

And it is for this, all of this, that we give thanks. And that is what stewardship is all about—giving thanks for God’s provision for us. To give thanks is more than having an attitude of gratitude, more than just a feeling in our hearts.

It is an action. It begins in the heart, but it doesn’t stay there. It works its way out through the mouth in praise for God’s gifts and in love and charity through the hands to our neighbours in family, country, and church.

“For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey him” (*The Small Catechism*, 16).

So give thanks to God for His inexpressible gifts—for everything we have and everything we are. Do this not only in word but also in deed.

Here at St. Paul’s, we have much for which we can be thankful. We need to look no further than our 2018 annual report which records a number of ways in which our time, talents and treasures have been used in a God-pleasing way.

Our financial statement shows we ended the year with an excess of revenue over expenditures of just over \$29,000. Last fall,

when we set our 2019 budget, we reported a strong surplus and were projecting an improvement from September’s results. The yearend result of a \$29,000 surplus, however, exceeded our projections and our expectations. Thanks be to God! That kind of result will allow us to recover from some prior years’ deficits and allow us to build some reserve money to take on new and exciting programs and initiatives in the coming years.

Our time and talents are reflected in the numerous activities and initiatives discussed in the reports from committees and boards. For example, total communion attendance in 2018 was the highest its been since 2014. The 2018 communicant total at 4,787 was 1,000 communicants more than in 2017. Communicant and baptized membership both show increases over last year and our Bible studies continue to be well attended.

These are just a few gleanings of how we have been good and faithful stewards this past year.

God’s blessings for another fruitful year with God’s favour and guidance.

Board of Stewardship

God really loves you.

You are priceless in His sight.

He created you. He redeemed you.

You are His child.

God is the King of the universe.

That makes you a princess!

A prince!

*from You Are Special
by Alma Kern*

Pastor's Corner

It was 3:30 a.m. the other night when Natalie and I were woken by some loud screaming coming from outside. When we looked out our window we saw a man in medical distress lying on the ice-covered pavement behind our garage. There was a woman with this man and she was shouting into her phone. Natalie and I ran outside to see what was going on and to see if there was anything we could do to help. The woman was on the phone hysterically telling the 911 operator that the man wasn't breathing properly and she was pleading for them to hurry. Neither one of us has any medical training whatsoever. We felt helpless.

It's difficult for me to properly express what a relief it was when the police and paramedics arrived on the scene. They knew exactly what to do. With great skill they stabilized the man and the ambulance took him to the hospital.

I was in awe over how the police

officers and paramedics were able to care for this man. It was incredible. I was so thankful for them, for their skill and expertise, for their ability to help. I thanked God for them.

This experience led me to reflect again on vocation. God works through people to care for His creation—to care for us. This happens through the vocations of police officers and paramedics. This happens through the vocations of mother, father, citizen, doctor, teacher, store clerk, plumber, baker, accountant, etc. Dr. Luther said that through our various vocations we are “masks of God.” While on the surface it looks like it is just an ordinary person doing these things—it is actually God hidden and caring for us in human vocations.

God works through us. No matter what your station is in life, God is working through you in your various vocations. You are a mask of God. The purpose of your vocation is to love and serve your neighbour. This happens

in seemingly heroic ways, like when a police officer or paramedic saves a life. This happens in seemingly more mundane ways, like when a baby's diaper is changed, or a prayer is prayed, or groceries are bagged, or mail is delivered.

We learned that the man in medical distress behind our garage had a seizure. He was treated at the hospital and was released the next day. Thanks be to God.

It's amazing to know that it was God working through these emergency responders to care for this man.

It's amazing to know that God is working through us to care for our neighbour.

God's blessings, Pastor Keith

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.

³⁷ Then [Jesus] said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; ³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.” (Matthew 9:37-38 ESV)



CENTRAL DISTRICT LWML-CANADA CONVENTION

JUNE 7-9, 2019

ST. MARY'S CULTURAL CENTRE

740 Wellington Avenue

YORKTON, SK

There's more to convention than elections, adopting the work program and choosing mission projects to support for the next three years. Do you wonder what it is like to sing and worship with a room or church full of like-minded Lutheran sisters in Christ? Are you keen to hear Dr. Leah Koetting share her knowledge on euthanasia, Dr. James Gimbel speak about the diaconal program at Concordia

Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton, and Rev Cody and Linden Cooper give insights into mission and ministry at LaRonge, Sask. (including the issue of suicide)? Are you interested in helping to encourage and support campers (some of them non-Christian) who attend Camp Lutherland, Camp Aurora, and Jackfish Lutheran Bible Camp (all within the borders of our Central Region)? And who can resist the

offer of home-style meals (including perogies and cabbage rolls)? All this, and more, is in store at the up-coming convention of Central District LWMLC! **And best of all...you don't have to be an LWMLC “member” to attend.** To receive detailed information about convention agenda, registration, and accommodation, please contact Verla Schmirler (306-382-2721).

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.

PARENTING WITH PURPOSE (LHM)

"Discover that God has a purpose for everyone, including your children. Gain insight on how to relate with your children."

Rev. Roger Sonnenberg states, "Like building a house that will last for years, parenting can be tackled with an overall plan in mind, with things you want to make sure are part of the very foundation...the purpose behind

what you do, when you do it and why you do it...the threads that weave everything together. These threads are the general principles you value, mould, shape and hang onto—the very things that make your family strong."

This booklet focuses on six of these threads:

1. Commitment
2. Time spent together
3. Communication
4. Appreciation
5. Crisis management
6. A faith foundation

PARENTING FAMILIES, PRACTICAL STRATEGIES FOR FAMILY LIFE (LHM)

Written by Dr. David J. Ludwig, a pastor, noted author, family counsellor and retired professor of psychology. "The Me to We concept created by Dr. Ludwig can make an immediate impact on your family life. This fresh approach will challenge you to shift your thinking from Me, or "How am I going to fix this?" to We, or "How can we work this out as a family?" This strategy can apply to the big or small issues families face and will prove especially helpful with the day to day challenges of parenting children."

*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).

Lots of new reading material on the shelves in the library

Come and stop in to the church library to see all the new material the Board of Education has bought for us to read! A wide variety of books now sits on display, and I'm sure almost everyone will find something that interests them. This

month, we are highlighting some of the non-fiction books that look really interesting. Take a look at right to see if one of these selections will be on your "to read" list!

Angela Neufeld



Serving

LET US PRAY

...for the evangelist deaconesses in Nicaragua who will receive a mission grant of \$8,450.

The wives of three of our missionaries in Nicaragua work with their husbands as evangelists in their communities. They are committed to their work in reaching out to children and families and in providing Christian education to children and youth in their congregations. They are not in the formal, organized and funded children's education program as are the other deaconesses because those programs require commuting



to other communities, which would not allow them to work hand-in-hand with their pastor husbands in their ministry of Gospel proclamation, education

and mercy ministry in general. This grant will supplement the small stipend provided by LCC.

Father in heaven, we pray for three missionary wives who assist their pastor husbands in evangelism. They provide Christian education to children and youth in their respective congregations.

May this grant, a supplement to a small stipend from LCC, enable them to help grow Your church. In Jesus' name. Amen.

St. Paul's servants at Friendship Inn



Consider Tapestry

Our LWMLC society will soon be placing its order for the magazine, *Tapestry*. While it is the official publication of the league, the magazine's purpose is to share our Saviour with all women and help readers mature in their faith.

Print copies are \$10 a year. It's also available as a PDF by email (\$8/year), audio (\$14/year) and large print (\$14/year). For more information call the church office and Sandy will direct you to the right person.

Lord, You want me to love my neighbour as myself. Make me aware of opportunities to serve. I'll budget my time so I have time for others. Perhaps it will be only a phone call or a brief note. But I'll find time today to do something for somebody else.

from You Are Special by Alma Kern