



The Spirit of St. Paul's

www.stpaulslutheran.ca

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

'Twas a great party!



Part of the Concordia Brass Band who provided the music.



And how could one not dance?

Thanks to the Board of Parish Fellowship for putting together this year's Oktoberfest celebration. There was music. There was dancing (if you happened to be looking). And there was great food.

There are many more pictures on our website at <https://www.stpaulslutheran.ca/photo-gallery>.



Some of the crowd who stayed for lunch.



Youth create welcome space

September was an exciting month for St. P's youth group. This month, they took on the daunting task of repainting and redecoration the youth room! What was once a dark purple box has turned into a bright and welcoming space for the youth to hang out in and enjoy as well as delve deep into interesting Bible studies. The youth group thanks everyone who donated various materials to the cause, and asks members of the congregation to please stay tuned for an official list of donation requests.

God bless, Megan Bracewell

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 November - Ron & Ludy Jeschke

Remember to check out the great resources in our library—books, videos and more for all ages.



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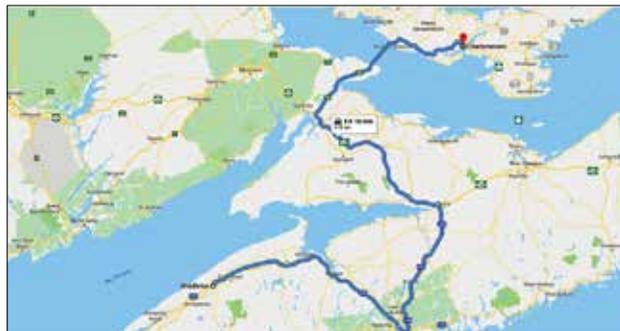
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LET US PRAY

...for the \$15,000 grant being provided by LWML–Canada mites for circuit rider transportation expenses in Atlantic, Canada during this triennium.

The Atlantic Canada circuit rider travels extensively through the Atlantic provinces. He currently serves St. Andrew’s, Halifax, Nova Scotia; St. Andrew’s in the Valley, Middleton, Nova Scotia; and St. Andrew’s on the Island, Charlottetown, PEI. The group in Halifax worships together weekly on Saturday. Then the circuit rider travels to the other two sites on alternate Sundays. This grant would allow him to provide face-to-face ministry more often and develop a greater ministry presence in the area.

We ask, dear Father, for generous mite donation to provide the travel subsidy for the Atlantic Canada circuit rider in a timely manner and for your blessings upon his ministry. We also pray for safe travel on Saturdays to St. Andrew’s, Halifax, Nova Scotia; and alternate Sundays to St. Andrew’s, Middleton, Nova Scotia and St. Andrew’s, P.E.I. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.



Delia Stevenson and Clara Zirk served as greeters.

Thanks to all who visited the LWMLC display on Sunday, October 14 to learn about the activities of the league and our society at St. Paul’s.

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 His Word**, the Bible. Every time we hear or read His Word we are helped in ways that God intends for our good. His Word is our guide and strength.
- **Through the sacraments** of Baptism and Holy Communion, we are reassured of His acceptance and forgiveness.
- **Through resources** provided through our church such as Project Connect booklets, *The Canadian Lutheran*, LWMLC's magazine, *Tapestry* (by paid subscription) and books purchased or donated to our library, we find a variety of topics helping us deal with the concerns of this life.
- **Through people** whether they are members of St. Paul's, our neighbours or the community at large, or through organized service agencies. God places people in our lives to be there when and where we need them most.

You may have more to add. This list is only a starting point for our thinking process. To begin, let's explore some of these **resources God has provided**.

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

Since All Saints Sunday, November 4, is a day we remember those who have died in the faith, let's begin our look at resources there.

1) What Happens When I Die? (PC - LHM): "Examining biblical passages, this booklet answers this difficult question."

An excellent booklet that addresses answers from a biblical perspective on questions such as, what happens to us physically and spiritually at the moment of death? What happens in eternity after we die? What is heaven and what is hell? It provides answers to more questions: will we know each other in heaven? what age will we be? will we remember people from earth who didn't make it to heaven? and more.

2) Grief—where sadness and hope meet (PC - LHM): "God's word to lift the weight of sorrow and help us move forward."

An encouraging booklet regarding dealing with grief in which the author expresses thoughts of the pain of grief being like a monument inside of us indicating the authentic and realistic depth of our relationship to the deceased person in life, and also the depth and significance of that loss. The experience of pain is not pleasant nor do we strive for heartache but it is real; it is natural; it is normal, but it is not all there is. Sadness does meet hope in Jesus Christ who leads all who believe to everlasting life.

The Project Connect 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, for managing the rack.

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).

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

Stewardship

Sometimes people don't like it when pastors talk about stewardship. For some, it hits too close to home. It is easier to talk about bad people in history, or overseas than it is to think about what our daily life in Christ is supposed to look like—how we are supposed to love our neighbour.

The fact that we don't like hearing about stewardship certainly means we ought to face it. Here are a few simple and practical realities.

God calls us to first-fruits, sacrificial giving. This means we should give off the top. We should set a percentage of our income as a deliberate gift for the work of the

Church and give that first. We write the cheque to the Lord's work in the Church before we pay the mortgage or pay for our medicine or pay for anything else.

We don't pay for all the stuff we need, and think we need, and then give from what is left over. That

continued next page

Stewardship, continued

is the first-fruits idea. It is hard because we think we need all sorts of other things first. But that is the point of “sacrificial.”

Next, how could the starting point for Christian generosity and sacrifice really be anything less than a tithe? The ceremonial law of the Old Testament was never arbitrary. In the Old Testament, the Levites received this tithe so they could be full-time ministers.

Does the New Testament have a ministry that is larger or smaller? It is far larger: “Make disciples of all nations” (Matt. 28:19).

And we are still to have a full-time ministry: “The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14).

So, if a tithe was needed in the Old Testament, and we have a bigger mission need in the New Testament, how can we expect the Lord’s work to be done on less than a tithe?

First-fruits, sacrificial, generous giving—that’s the way. We shouldn’t fool ourselves into thinking that we’ve out-given God’s goodness or that we’ve given plenty.

We might be tempted to think so but consider—no one in the Church has given plenty because no one has given all. No one has died for his sins. Only the sinless Son of God did that.

from “the 365 stupidest things ever said, 2017, by Ross & Kathryn Petras

Tech support: You have spyware on your machine which is causing the problem.

Caller: Spyware? Can they see me getting dressed through the monitor?

It’s a game that will ultimately be decided by the final outcome.

Or, as St. Paul said, bringing the Good News of Jesus into the discussion of our giving to support the Lord’s work in the Church: “I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich” (2 Cor. 8:8-9).

As you can see, what the Bible commands about our stewardship can sting. It’s law, and the law shows our sins. It calls us to repentance.

The law is meant to expose and accuse for the sake of showing us Christ and His fulfillment of the law. If first-fruits, sacrificial giving has you squirming, that’s the point.

In Mark’s account of the feeding of the 5,000, Jesus took the disciples’ five loaves and two fish and blessed them. It was nothing among so many, but, of course, it was plenty. Jesus makes something from nothing.

Mark doesn’t say that all the disciples gave Jesus all the bread they had. It is quite possible some of them held something back. But even if they did, that didn’t stop Jesus from blessing them. Jesus makes something out of nothing.

He, who fed His people in the desert with Manna every morning, doesn’t need their bread. But they need to give it. And what they give, however little it might be, however grudgingly they do so, He blesses it.

He not only blesses those whom He feeds with it, but He blesses them, the givers—not just in that they wind up with (a basket full for each loaf) but that they learned to trust and rejoice in Him.

The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. The Lord gives abundantly or asks us to fast. We do not know what will happen. Blessed

be the Name of the Lord.

He does all things well and works all things together for good. The disciples don’t give their bread to Jesus because it is a good investment. They give it because He is good, they love Him, and they trust Him. Let us go and do likewise.

Here at St. Paul’s we are blessed in so many ways and we need to give thanks to God for His many blessings. When we approved our 2018 budget, the voters decided, reluctantly, to reduce the congregation’s mission commitment for the year because we were experiencing a serious deficit and cash flow situation. This decision was made with the proviso that if our financial situation improved in 2018, we could make additional mission contributions later in 2018. We are pleased to report that we may be able to follow through on that decision. At the end of August, we are reporting a surplus of just over \$11,000 due to increased contributions and our lowered mission commitment. As we get closer to the end of the year the Board of Stewardship will be looking at our projected yearend results and making a recommendation to the voters about possible additional mission remittances. As we develop our 2019 budget we need to be mindful of God’s promises and our responsibility to give our first fruits sacrificial giving.

God’s blessings.
Board of Stewardship

Classifieds

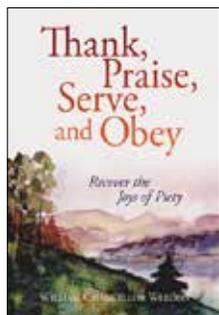
Something to sell or give away? Need something? Services to offer to fellow members? Try The Spirit Classifieds first. No cost. Leave your ads at the church office or give them to the editor.

Pastor's Corner

The godly habit of remembering death and the Day of Judgment

The eighth godly habit in Pastor Weedon's book, *Thank, Praise, Serve, and Obey: Recover the Joys of Piety*, is remembering death and the Day of Judgment. Rev. Weedon begins by referencing a group of philosophers called the Stoics who believed it was important for everyone to remember death each day. As morbid as this might sound, there is actually something to it. Contemplating our death can help us savour life and not take our loved ones for granted. From early times Christians have also intentionally remembered death; however, our perspective on it is far different from the Stoics. To the Stoic, death is just a natural part of life. Death is just the concluding chapter of life. Christians, on the other hand, view death as being the most unnatural part of the world because it is not what the Creator intended for His creation. God's gift was life. But our first parents' disobedience brought death into the world and it is now at work in our bodies and souls.

Rev. Weedon asks the important question, "What exactly is death?" and offers the parable of the prodigal son to provide some insight. The prodigal son asked for his share of his father's goods, and after receiving it, went to a "far country" where he wasted his inheritance partying. After hitting hard times, he wanted to go home. He planned on begging for his father's mercy so he could at least be treated like one of the hired hands. Instead, the prodigal son was welcomed home with his father's loving and forgiving embrace. This



upset the older brother who didn't think this was at all fair. In the final words of the parable, the father said to the elder son, "It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found" (Luke 15:32). What is death? The father reveals that death is wandering away from your Father. Death is losing the home that he prepared for you. Death is not nonexistence, but rather existence in "a far country"—that is a long way from home.

Yet, out of unfathomable love, the Father sent His Son into our flesh to know this exile, this death, in His own body, nailed to the cross—to open for us the way home. On the night Jesus' sufferings began, He spoke these astounding words to His disciples, "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would

I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going" (John 14:1-4). This saying confused Thomas, so he said, "Lord, we do not know where you are going" (John 14:5). Jesus replied, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). Jesus not only provides the way to the home He has prepared for us; He is the way.

When the Christian thinks of death, we do so remembering that Jesus entered into death for us to open the way back to the home God created for us at the beginning.

*So help us Jesus, ground of faith;
Thou hast redeemed us by Thy death
From endless death and set us free.
We laud and praise and worship Thee.*

(LSB #759, 7)

God's blessings, Pastor Keith

COMING UP

Friendship Inn volunteer dates: October 31, November 7 and 28 from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Sign up on the bulletin board. Contact Dianne at 306-343-0219 or Sandy at 306-343-9535 if you want more information.

All Saints' Day will be celebrated on Sunday, November 4 during Divine Service. During the service loved ones who have died in the faith since the previous All Saints' Day will be remembered. If you wish someone included, please contact the church office by Monday, October 29.

Sunday school Christmas program practices begin Sunday, November 4.

Where past and future meet and members of St. Paul's are involved

When Les Hollinger retired he knew one of the things he wanted to do was volunteer at the Western Development Museum (WDM). He applied, took the orientation class offered and joined the Pioneer Threshermen's Club (PTC). Earl Wood was already a member of the PTC and his wife Dorothy served as a "general" volunteer rather than joining a specific group. In past years Phyllis Guebert volunteered with the Women's Auxiliary and occasionally Pastor Guebert would serve as the minister for the worship service during Pionera. Every Wednesday you will find Les at the museum working on a wide variety of projects.

A few years ago he helped with the construction of a clay oven that was then used for baking bread and buns during Pionera. He also helped with the PTC project of building a working grain elevator 1/3 the scale of those that dotted the prairies for many years. The PTC also helped the Pleasure Drivers group with the construction of a stage coach to use in parades. Since Les knew his way around a sewing machine, he helped sew the upholstery for the project.

One of the really fun projects Les worked on was a wooden cow with an udder made from rubber gloves so that children could have a semi-realistic experience milking a cow.

The WDM provides many programs for children. Once Les spent several days teaching children how to pound nails into a board. Let's just say it wasn't nearly as interesting as making that cow.

Every fall they have three days of demonstrations (twice a day) harvesting a crop: running a binder, stooking sheaves, picking them up and putting them through a threshing machine, etc. This program is offered to grade four students and they come from near and far...hundreds of them. Les has often commented on how well-behaved they are and how many good questions they ask. Lots of preparation goes into this program including planting oats on a volunteer's farm, harvesting it using a binder and storing it for later use. Sometimes things go awry. Last summer someone put



Milking time.



Horses provided the power for many activities such as pumping water. In the background is a grain elevator built to scale.



Loading the sheaves at Pionera.

the canvas on the binder incorrectly and it was wrecked. There were no donated canvases the right size so Les got to make a new one—not the easiest task.

This summer was the first time they weren't able to hold Pionera. The parking lot had a perennial problem with water seepage and was being fixed. During this annual event, not only were there threshing demonstrations, but the operation of many pieces of old equipment. One was the sawmill.

Last summer Les and Marion had two huge fir trees in their back yard cut down. Their grandson asked for the trunks. He and his dad hauled them over to the museum and during last summer's Pionera the logs were put through the sawmill and the resulting boards put into a shed to cure. Now they are ready for their grandson and his fiancée to build something...the creation of some great memories.

photos from WDM website