



# The Spirit of St. Paul's

[www.stpaulslutheran.ca](http://www.stpaulslutheran.ca)

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

## Thank you, Father

*Thank you Father for the cross  
Where Jesus bled and died.*

*To pay the debt of sin I owe,  
A Lamb became a sacrifice  
And thus, redeemed and justified,  
I am holy in God's eyes.*

*Thank you Father for my life  
And these Thy gifts to me;  
Faith through Thy Word and Spirit,  
Love and Peace I feel and see  
As steadfast Hope shines brightly  
Within the heart of me.*

*Dorothy Schuler*



*"Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29).*

## THE BIBLE IS...

Over the last couple of months you have been encouraged to consider **reading through the Bible**. You may choose to read 1-3 chapters or more a day and with a little discipline you can accomplish your goal in one to two years. It's well worth the challenge.

Why? **The Bible is your infallible authority** (*The Spirit*, January), it is **your deed of inheritance** (*The Spirit*, February) it is **your guide for life** (*The Spirit*, March) and this month we learn...

## THE BIBLE IS...YOUR STABILITY

**Deuteronomy 33:27** - "The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms. And He thrust out the enemy before you."

**Psalm 40:1-2** - "I waited patiently for the Lord: He inclined His ear to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure."

**Psalm 46:1** - "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

**Matthew 24:35** - "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away."

**Romans 8:31** - "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

**1 Peter 1:23-25** - "you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for 'all flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.'"

**Jude 24-25** - "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling

and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever, Amen."

In May we will look at the last in this series:

**The Bible is...**

- **your strength**

## 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*

## 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.



Caring Ministry Coordinator for April – Verla Schmirler

## 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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## Sledding fun for all



On March 16 some of the youth group and their friends went sledding at Diefenbaker Hill. It was a warm evening and the hill had enough bumps to keep both sledders and spectators entertained. Afterwards, we warmed up with snacks and a few rounds of Dutch Blitz!

**Spring Event for Women**  
**April 21, 2018**  
**Faith Lutheran Church**  
**2801 Preston Ave**  
**Saskatoon, SK**

Arrival time 9:30 am — Start time 10:00 am

Coffee and Muffins will be waiting 

**All women are invited! Bring a friend!**

Join us in exploring

*The Life of the Christian Woman*

as shared with the women of  
Nicaragua and Costa Rica  
in December 2016

Authors of the Bible study are  
Iris Barta and Christine Pollex



Hands-On Activity in preparation for the  
LWMLC July Convention in Winnipeg

*Offering goes to Mites*

An advance count of participants would be appreciated  
[hisrib@shaw.ca](mailto:hisrib@shaw.ca); 306-343-0156

Out of courtesy to our more sensitive sisters please make  
this a **Fragrance Free** event

## Pastor's Corner

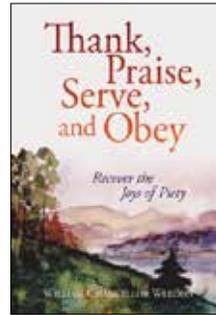
### Godly habits provide joy and freedom: the daily prayers

We continue our look at Pastor William Weedon's book, *Thank, Praise, Serve, and Obey: Recover the Joys of Piety*, in which Pastor Weedon explores eight godly habits that bestow great blessings on the lives of God's people. In the last issue of *The Spirit* we considered the first godly habit of faithful listening to the Word of God. In this issue we move on to the second godly habit: daily prayer. We know we are to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17) and that we "ought always to pray and not lose heart" (Luke 18:1). However, Rev. Weedon notes that prayer can be a struggle for many. He shares that he has heard people say, "I am not comfortable praying; I am not sure how to do it," and adds that it doesn't help when people chime in, "That's what you get for using all those prayer books and liturgies with everything written down. You need to learn to pray from what is in your heart." Rev. Weedon suggests that the use of written prayers and prayers handed down through the ages is not the problem, but actually helps enormously when the occasion arises in which one needs or wishes to pray "from the heart." He recommends Luther's Small Catechism as a resource for

improving our prayer life.

Rev. Weedon recognizes that while the Christian is to pray at all times, the reality is that the one who does not pray habitually at set times does not tend to make progress in the art of praying at all times. He suggests that a good place to start is with the two times that have been recognized as being especially appropriate to pray since the earliest of days: morning and evening. These are the boundaries of sleep—a time when we are at our most vulnerable. We see examples of this rhythm of prayer in the Psalms: "In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety" (Psalm 4:18) and "It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praised to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your steadfast love in the morning, and Your faithfulness by night" (Psalm 92:1-2). The catechism also teaches us that the starting place for a life of prayer is when we get up and before we lie down, two activities that mark our lives everyday.

The Morning Prayer in the Small Catechism instructs, "In the morning when you get up, make the sign of the holy cross and say:



In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." Making the sign of the cross is a great way to start the day as it reminds us we are God's baptized and redeemed people. Next, we are encouraged to confess the Apostles' Creed, pray

the Lord's Prayer, and pray Luther's Morning Prayer. Finally, we are to go joyfully to our work! Then, "In the evening when you go to bed, make the sign of the holy cross and say: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." Making the sign of the cross is a great way to end the day as it again reminds us we are God's people who have been forgiven for when we allowed our sinful self to get the upper hand during the day. Again, confess the Apostles' Creed, pray the Lord's Prayer, and pray Luther's Evening Prayer. Finally, we are to go to sleep at once and in good cheer! The catechism also suggests that praying during meal times is an important part of our daily prayers—we pray for blessing and offer thanksgiving for what our Heavenly Father has provided.

Praying habitually at set times of the day can provide a framework for prayer and thanksgiving to spill out over our daily lives. It leads us to naturally pray for our own needs of body and soul and to make intercession for those whom God places in our lives. I pray that you keep persevering in your prayer life, so as to receive the blessings and comfort of knowing God promises to hear our prayers and answer in the way that is best.

*God's blessings, Pastor Keith*

**July 5-8, 2018**

**Lutheran Women's Missionary League—Canada**

**10th National Convention**

**Delta Hotel**

**Winnipeg, Manitoba**

*worship, listen, discuss, serve, vote, walk  
with sisters in Christ*

Visit [lutheranwomen.ca](http://lutheranwomen.ca) for more information.

## Stewardship

Our Father in heaven sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Saviour. His atoning sacrifice is the firstfruits of all the dead, a pleasing aroma to His Father—and ours—so that His perfect life and death count for all who believe in Him.

He claimed us as His own children in Holy Baptism. He sustains and strengthens our faith with His Holy Word and His body and blood. As new creatures, who have put on Christ, we bear good fruit. We do the good works prepared for us, which He makes known to us in His Word.

By faith then, trusting in the Word of God, we do what He says because He does not lie and always keeps His promises. For “without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him” (Heb. 11:6).

And so the Lord promises: “Honour the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine” (Prov. 3:9-10).

How do we honour the Lord with the wealth God has given us in His generosity? By giving it generously to those whom the Lord has called us to love and support: our family, our society, and our church. And His promise is that in so doing, we will never lack.

Some may say: “But that’s from the Old Testament!” But our Lord Jesus Himself gives us similar promises in the New Testament. He says, at the conclusion of the parable of the talents, “For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance” (Matt. 25:29).

And then at the end of the

parable of the dishonest manager, he says: “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money” (Luke 16:10–13).

And in His sermon on the mount, He says: “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:19–21).

We have become conditioned against these promises because of their misuse by the peddlers of the prosperity gospel—the guys on TV who say you get rich by putting God in your debt. And thus, we miss out on the fact that God does reward

temporal faithfulness in temporal matters with temporal blessings.

It’s no quid pro quo. It’s all from God’s grace, His fatherly divine goodness and mercy. But those Bible passages just quoted do in fact say what they say! It’s not the Old Testament’s problem. It’s ours. It is almost as if we have become so jaded against this that we think it a virtue to be stingy with our offerings.

But our Father in heaven still loves to bless those who bless others. He loves to give to those who give freely and generously. In fact, He challenges us to challenge Him: “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. And thereby put me to the test,’ says the Lord of hosts, ‘if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need” (Mal. 3:10).

And so, while we don’t give so that we would get, we do receive from the Lord in order to give, and He will bless your giving with more receiving. For “He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things” (Rom. 8:32)?

*Board of Stewardship*

## Support annual fair booth

Each summer local Lutheran Laymen’s League members and congregations support and “man” a booth at the Saskatoon Ex to share the Good News. A fundraiser once a year helps fund the costs. Those who have attended in the past will tell you the food, the entertainment and the fellowship are great.

This year there are a couple of changes. First, a change of location.



It will be held at Smiley’s Buffet and Catering, 702 Circle Drive East on Saturday, May 5, 2018. Also, you will be able to choose between steak and chicken, doing so in advance. Tickets are available (\$25 each) from Art Timm, Ken McCallen, Les Hollinger or Jim Gash.

## Book Review – Wildwood Creek, by Lisa Wingate



I have loved most of the books by Lisa Wingate right from the first page. This one took a little more effort to get into but it was worth the effort.

The story takes place in Texas, where Allie Kirkland is pursuing her dream of working in the film industry and participating in a reenactment of the frontier

settlement of Wildwood. The chapters of the story alternate between Allie's experience on set, and those of Bonnie Rose—one of the real-life characters who lived in Wildwood in 1861. Myths, legends, and mysterious disappearances... between the two women's accounts the story unfolds revealing what really happened in this gold rush town over a hundred years ago!

*Angela Neufeld*

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## MURPHY'S LAW

### Fulton's Law of Gravity

The effort to catch a falling, breakable object will produce more destruction than if the object had been allowed to fall in the first place.

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## Agents of Faith

Agents of Faith will be the theme of the fall issue of LWML—Canada's magazine, *Tapestry*. As always, the editors are looking for those with a story to share. Perhaps you would like to contribute. The deadline is May 1 and following are some thought-starters.

Think about the many things agents might do: represent someone, negotiate contracts, promote books or people, sell tickets, spy, serve as a re-agent in a science lab...

Can you use one of these or another example to help readers visualize an aspect of faith in action?

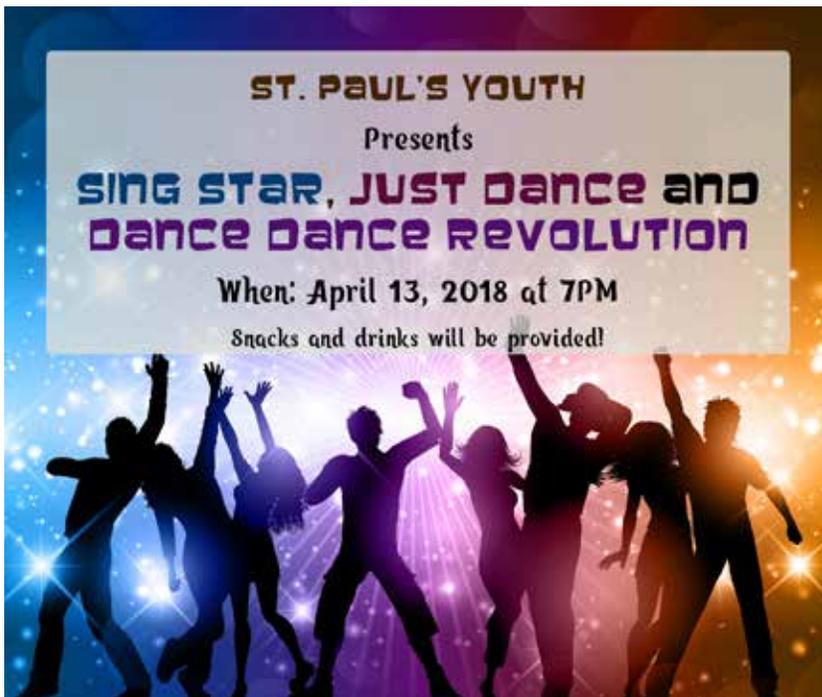
Sometimes we have a plan for serving our Lord but He may have a different, much better plan; sometimes we need to sit quietly for a time so we can recognize and then follow His plan. Tell us what you have learned in this regard.

Jesus was the ultimate agent of change. He flew in the face of cultural expectations. How does being agents of faith make us agents of change?

What experiences have you had in sharing faith in everyday conversation, everyday life? Provide some ideas others might use.

Has an agent of faith brought you hope when you were down?

Send your submission to editor-in-chief Marion Hollinger at [tapestry@lutheranwomen.ca](mailto:tapestry@lutheranwomen.ca) or simply hand it to her.



## Voters to meet on April 15 after worship

Each congregation in LCC is asked to nominate a Regional Pastor, a Circuit Counsellor and a Layperson for the Regional Mission and Ministry Council. Copies of the qualifications and duties are available on the ushers' table in the narthex. Please submit your nomination forms to the church

office. Nominations will be voted on at this meeting.

Elections will also be held at this meeting. The list of those willing to let their names stand as officers, directors and board members for the next two years is available on the ushers' table.

## Confirmation Remembered – let's share some memories

Confirmation Day is on the horizon for some of our young people. The following is taken from *Confirmation Remembered* published by Concordia Publishing House. The book is meant as a gift for confirmands but applies to all of us. Please note the request at the end of the article.

As a child of God you have two birthdays. The first is the day of your birth into the world. The second is the day of your birth into the church. Some time after your first birth-day you were baptized and became a member of the body of Christ.

You may not remember the day of your Baptism. Your sponsors spoke for the faith the Holy Spirit had planted in your heart long before you were able to speak of it yourself. So that you might confirm publicly what they promised years ago, the church has instituted the Rite of Confirmation. With your own lips you repeat the solemn vows spoken for you at your Baptism.

It is a day to be remembered always, for it is a beginning, not an end. As you make your way through life, there will be thousands of voices trying to tell you to forget your vows. There will be sin and temptation. The world outside of your church will try to persuade you to forget the promises you made at your confirmation.

But you will remember! You will remember the long hours of preparation for the brief moment in your confirmation service when you stood and took your place beside your Saviour forever. You will remember the voice of your pastor reminding you to remain faithful unto death.

And whenever sin, trouble or temptation in your life threaten to

make you forget this day, you will run to Him who said: "I will never leave you or forsake you." He will be forever where He was on the day of your confirmation, near you with the crown of life in His nail-scarred hands.

### Pray

Lord Jesus, I thank You for making me Your child through my Baptism. Keep me always close to You so I may never forget Your love for me in bringing me into Your kingdom. Give me grace to remember the day when I stood before You and my church and promised to be faithful to You always. For Your name's sake. Amen.

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.* Romans 8:28

So here's my request. It would be faith-strengthening for the young people being confirmed later this spring if you would share, through *The Spirit*, some thoughts about the following questions. Send them by email to me at [hollinger@sasktel.net](mailto:hollinger@sasktel.net) or put them in our mailbox in the narthex. They are needed by April 22 for the May newsletter.

*Marion Hollinger, editor*

*What one memory stands out for you from your confirmation day? How was it a special day for you?*

## Youth at Higher Things retreat, Regina



*photo borrowed from The Canadian Lutheran files.*