

# The Spirit of St. Paul's

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

DECEMBER 2017

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

## It's been a great ten years. Thanks, Lisa!



Thank you to everyone who shared in the amazing cupcakes provided by our very own talented Nadine, and who gave me thoughtful well wishes as I step away from the office duties at St. Paul's. Thank you also to everyone for showing me your kindness and support over the past ten years, it has been a great pleasure working for you.

During my time in the church office I have learned so much and have a greater understanding and appreciation for the cooperation and respect that we have for each other which keeps our church running so smoothly. I am truly thankful for all the people in our congregation. It has been a pleasure getting to know you on a more personal level. It became obvious very quickly how important each and every person is who walks through the front doors of our church. It takes all of us to be in this church family I lovingly call home.

In these ten years I have worked with two pastors and five vicars which has also given me a greater appreciation for their dedication to us all and how fortunate we are to have the spiritual leadership our pastor provides.

As I step away, I am comforted to know the office duties and all of us are in the capable hands of Sandy Harper who will no doubt find the work to be as rewarding as I have.

Even though I will not be working for the congregation, I will continue to work with you all for many years doing what I can to help further our work here at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Thank you again for your kindness and support,

*Lisa Bracewell*

JOIN US FOR OUR  
CHRISTMAS  
SOCIAL

POT LUCK LUNCH

.....

Sunday, December 10th  
After church

*Carols, cider, and comestibles*

## Youth preparing for a building project

On December 9 at 1:00 p.m. the youth will be meeting to create Nativity Scene Gingerbread Houses. Graham crackers, icing and some decorations will be provided, but please feel free to bring your own materials to make your dream Nativity Scene come alive! These Nativity Scenes will be on display for the Christmas social the next day. Please let Nichelle or Brenton know if you will be coming so they can bring enough materials for everyone!

## 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 November - Natalie Keith

## 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.



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

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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).*

### God's promises fulfilled in Jesus

In July/August issue of *The Spirit* we looked at scripture passages that referred to **Jesus** as my **Saviour, Lord, Love and Peace**, in September the focus was on **Jesus** as my **Forgiveness, Righteousness and Deliverer**. In October we looked at **Jesus** as my **Fellowship, Example, Companion and Brother** and in November **Jesus** as my **Guardian, Security, and Sufficiency**. This month concludes these promises fulfilled in **Jesus** with **Jesus** as my **Fulfillment** and my **Everything**.

There are many passages in the Old and New Testaments referring to **Jesus** in very personal ways that touch each of us. The Scripture passages chosen are given as examples, but there are many more you can draw upon for each descriptive word being used.

### Jesus Is my Fulfillment

**Psalm 37:4** - "Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart."

**Psalm 145:15-16** - "The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing."

**Matthew 5:6** - "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied."

**Romans 8:32** - "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."

### Jesus is my Everything

**John 15:7-8** - "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples."

**Romans 8:37** - "No, in all things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

**Philippians 4:13** - "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

**2 Corinthians 5:21** - "For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."

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

### Don't miss these one-of-a-kind cards

On November 17 St. Paul's youth (and some parents) got together to create lovely Christmas cards. They will be selling these after service on Sundays leading up to Christmas! Don't miss your chance to get a one-of-a-kind card!





# CAROLFEST

5th annual

**December 17, 2017**

**7:30 - 9:00 p.m.**

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
627 Taylor Street East**

For more information:  
306-343-9535  
[stpaulslcc@sasktel.net](mailto:stpaulslcc@sasktel.net)



**Bring your family**

**Join your friends and neighbours**

**Sing all the old favourites**

**Our gift to our community • Free admission • Refreshments will be served**



## Layettes for RUH

In mid-November members of St. Paul's LWML were busy packing baby items into layettes. These layettes consist of a sweater and cap, sleeper, onsie, receiving blankets and diapers.

The layettes were received with many thanks by the maternity ward at Royal University Hospital for moms who arrive unprepared for a variety of reasons. Twenty-nine layettes were made for new mothers and babies who are in need.

Thank you to everyone who contributed items and effort. If you have baby items, knitting yarn or flannelette you would like to contribute, talk to Gail Mitchell.

THE ADVENT OF OUR KING

The advent of our King  
Our prayers must now employ,  
And we must hymns of welcome sing  
In strains of holy joy.

The everlasting Son  
Incarnate deigns to be,  
Himself a servant's form puts on  
To set His servants free.

O Zion's daughter, rise  
To meet your lowly King,  
Nor let your faithless heart despise  
The peace He comes to bring.

As judge, on clouds of light,  
He soon will come again  
And His true members all unite  
With Him in heav'n to reign.

Before the dawning day  
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
The sinful self be put away,  
The new self now put on.

All glory to the Son,  
Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one  
Through all eternity.

LSB #331

GENTLE MARY LAID HER CHILD

Gentle Mary laid her child  
Lowly in a manger;

There He lay, the undefiled,  
To the world a stranger.

Such a babe in such a place,  
Can He be the Saviour?

Asked the saved of all the race  
Who have found His favour.

Angels sang about His birth,  
Wise Men sought and found Him;  
Heaven's star shone brightly forth  
Glory all around Him.

Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,  
Heard the angels singing;

All the plains were lit that night,  
All the hills were ringing.

LSB #374

Serving at Friendship Inn



You're invited to be part of the team – sign up for the next date.

**Pray for God's blessing on mission opportunities**

**Mission Opportunity Fund – \$ 35,000**

Many times unforeseen mission opportunities occur which could not have been planned for or predicted when mission grant proposals are made and selected. These opportunities, which may occur at any time during the triennium, would be lost without some financial assistance.

The LWML–Canada General Council prayerfully considers each request for funds that is presented by or approved by synodical or district mission executives.

The following grants have been paid: Women of Worth conference for First Nations women in Pelican Narrows, Sask. - \$1,500; Intercultural Ministry conference - \$3,000; Quebec Reformation project - \$3,000; Women's retreat, Costa Rica - \$1,600; Booth materials for Stratford, Ont. Ploughfest - \$500; Shipping costs of Spanish language magazines to Nicaragua - \$766.84; Mission assistance for Thailand - \$3,000. Balance available for use before April 30, 2018 - \$10,633.16

Gracious Lord, we pray that choices, pleasing to You, will be made for mission projects arising between conventions. You are ever at work to save those who are not part of Your flock. Help us bring them into Your fold. Spur our hearts to new generosity to gather in our mighty mites. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

## Stewardship

### Following in the steps of God's generosity to us

Christmas is coming. It is a joyous time of feasting. The Church feasts upon the Word of God in sermon, song, and sacrament.

We hear the proclamation of the message of the angels: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11).

We mingle our voices with theirs as we sing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased" (Luke 2:14)!

We receive the proclaimed Saviour, Christ the Lord, not wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in manger, but wrapped in bread and wine placed into our mouths for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.

We feast in great joy indeed because of this great blessing from our Lord and God.

God's people in ancient Israel also feasted with great joy. The Lord showered His abundant blessing on His people. And He commanded them to feast upon it (Deut. 16). The people were to go to the place appointed, where the Lord would make His name dwell, and give offerings, each man as he was able, according to the blessing of the Lord that He had given them (Deut. 16:10, 15, 17).

And there the Lord would bless them with joy as they feasted upon what the Lord had provided. They ate of the choice parts of their offerings. They enjoyed the company of all the people of God as they together heard His promises of blessing, sang of His bountiful goodness, and partook of what He gave.

We feast on the Word who became flesh to dwell among us, not just

during Christmas, but throughout all the year.

We feast not just on the salvation He has wrought for us in His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, but we feast also on all the temporal blessings that God gives out of His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us.

We enjoy the rich bounty God provides, not only in Word and Sacrament, but also in house and

home, property and income, family and friends.

Let us then, as did our brothers in the faith from ancient Israel, give as we are able, according to the blessing of the Lord our God that He has given us.

Let us, like them, give generously of the first fruits of our income, which He gives, so all may know and enjoy the salvation He gives and the joy we have in the Saviour born in the city of David, who is Christ the Lord.

*Board of Stewardship*

### Voters make difficult decisions

Those who were at the voters' meeting on November 19 have heard the discussion and the decisions voters made about meeting our missions commitment for 2017 as well as setting the missions goal as part of the 2018 budget.

As we have reported over the last number of months, the congregation has spent \$20,000 more than it has taken in from offerings to the end of September. While it is difficult to predict our year-end results given that a large percentage of our offerings are typically received in November and December, we expect to end the year with a sizable deficit – perhaps as high as \$15,000 to \$20,000. Many will recall that we ended 2016 with a \$12,000 deficit so another deficit of that magnitude will present cash flow challenges when paying our bills.

The voters decided to reduce our 2017 missions giving to such amount that our deficit for the year will be capped at approximately \$5,000. Based on this decision, our 2017 missions remittances will be in

the range of \$30,000, a reduction of about \$20,000. The congregation will then be in a better position to manage its finances.

With regard to the 2018 budget, the voters decided to adopt a total budget of \$259,575 which includes a missions goal of \$30,000. Again, this represents a reduction of \$20,000 from the original 2017 missions goal. If the congregation's finances improve, the missions goal will be reviewed before year-end and can be increased.

You are reminded that if you want to make a direct or specific donation to missions over and above your regular offerings, you can make that directive known on your offering envelope. It will be forwarded to District in addition to the regular congregational remittance just like any directed gift to another agency outside the congregation.

We ask for your continued prayers and support as, with God's continued blessings, we work through some challenging times.

*Board of Stewardship*

## Pastor's Corner

I noticed Christmas decorations began to appear at Costco at the end of August this year. Costco seems to lead the way in getting their Christmas merchandise out early, but it doesn't take long for other stores to do the same. It seems that the cultural celebration of the Christmas season begins after the American Thanksgiving. Black Friday kicks off the Christmas shopping, Christmas carols are heard playing in the malls, lights, decorations start to appear, and our schedules begin to fill up with Christmas parties and other events.

There is no doubt that this is a joyous time of year and we can be thankful for the good food, drink, and time spent with family and friends. However, while Christmas may kick off at the end of November for our culture, the Church is just entering into the season of Advent. The season of Advent is a time for preparation and anticipation for the

coming of Christ, both His coming in the incarnation at Christmas and His second coming at the end of the world as King and Judge. The term Advent comes from the Latin *adventus* meaning "coming."

The earlier part of Advent is devoted to Christ's second coming and the latter part nearer to Christmas focuses on His first coming. The seasonal colour for Advent is blue which reflects the spirit of anticipation and hope. It is a common custom to have an Advent wreath of evergreen branches with four candles at equal distances from one another. The Advent wreath marks the four weeks of Advent, with one candle being lit each week. The lighting of the candles symbolizes the age before the coming of Christ, when the light of prophecy concerning the Messiah became brighter and brighter until He Himself came and said, "I am the Light of the world." The Advent wreath contains

three blue candles and a pink one. The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday in Advent (*Gaudette* Sunday). The pink candle symbolizes joy which has traditionally been associated with the third Sunday in Advent because the first word spoken in the Introit is "Rejoice!"

While there are many things to enjoy during this time of year, the mood of Advent does call for some restraint in respect to the "tidings of great joy" that will be proclaimed at the nativity and during the Christmas season.

*Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus;  
Turn not from me aside,  
And help me to receive You this  
blessed Adventide.*

*From stall and manger low,  
Come now and dwell within me;  
I'll sing Your praises gladly,  
And forth Your glory show*  
LSB #354 v.4

*God's blessings,  
Pastor Keith*

## Candy Cane Dessert Squares



### Tips

- To crush candy, place in resealable plastic food bag and pound with a rolling pin or meat mallet, checking often to make sure you don't pulverize the candy.
- To remove the powdery residue from the crushed candy, place crushed candy in a mesh strainer; shake until most of residue is removed.

### Crust

36 (2 cups) chocolate wafer cookies, finely crushed  
1/2 cup butter, melted  
3 tablespoons sugar

### Ganache

1 cup real semi-sweet chocolate chips  
2/3 cup heavy whipping cream

### Filling

1 cup powdered sugar  
2 (8-ounce) packages cream cheese, softened  
2 teaspoons peppermint extract  
1 1/2 cups heavy whipping cream, whipped  
2/3 cup coarsely crushed red or green hard peppermint candies

Heat oven to 325°F.

Combine all crust ingredients in bowl. Press onto bottom of ungreased

13x9-inch baking pan. Bake 10 minutes. Cool completely. Set aside.

Melt chocolate chips and 2/3 cup whipping cream in 1-quart saucepan over low heat, stirring occasionally, 4-5 minutes or until smooth. Spread evenly over crust. Place in freezer at least 10 minutes while making filling.

Combine powdered sugar, cream cheese and peppermint extract in bowl. Beat at low speed, scraping bowl often, until smooth and creamy. Gently stir in whipped cream and crushed candies. Spread evenly over ganache layer. Sprinkle with additional crushed candy, if desired. Cover; freeze 4 hours or overnight.

Cut into squares. Top each serving with small candy cane, if desired. Serve frozen or refrigerated. Store frozen. Makes 15.