



# The Spirit of St. Paul's

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

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

## While it wasn't standing room only, we did have a crowd

Sunday, June 17 was Father's Day but at St. Paul's it was a whole lot more. Members, friends and family filled the pews.

It began with new members being officially received and welcomed:

- Dave & Carol Huber
- Laurie Kish
- Ian Lynchuk
- Jim & Heather Lynchuk
- Margaret Propp
- Edith Schneider
- Kerra Zabinsky
- Jenna-Rae Zulyniak

Each and every one of you is a welcome addition to the Lord's family at St. Paul's. We want to get to know you over the coming months.

Following up on the reception of new members was confirmation for some of our youth.

Congratulations to Brie Gariepy, Taigh Gariepy, Landen Harvey, Megan Kish, Justin Schuler and Justin Zamzow. May you continue to grow in your faith as the Holy Spirit guides you all of your days.

The confirmands received their framed certificates as a gift from the congregation. St. Paul's LWML also presented them with a small gift.

And then there was the annual congregational picnic. Thanks to everyone who brought food to eat and those who put it out, those who did the barbecuing and those who moved tables and chairs. And the weather cooperated; it was a beautiful day for a celebration!



## St. Paul's online

For more photos of the picnic and other St. Paul's activities visit the photo gallery on our website ([stpaulslutheran.ca](http://stpaulslutheran.ca)).

If you want a copy of this newsletter in colour you will find it at the same web address under the "newsletter" tab, or give the church office your email address and receive it that way.

Want the church directory on your phone? It's posted on our website but it isn't available to the public; you'll have to call the church office for the password.

## 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 July – Natalie Keith  
for August – Dianne Gilbert

## 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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## LWML at St. Paul's celebrates anniversaries



How does one celebrate the 25th anniversary of LWML–Canada and the 65th anniversary of our local society in the midst of a spate of congregational activities?

June was going to be a busy month so St. Paul's LWML decided to go low key on June 3. Flowers were purchased for the altar, an

insert of interesting factoids placed in the bulletin and an article was published in this newsletter.

Handing out long-stemmed carnations to all the women and girls proved to be popular. As the card attached says, thank you for the many ways you have helped us serve.

## Together in mission and ministry

By early September, you will find information in your church mailbox offering you the opportunity to make a special offering to St. Paul's that will be designated to support Lutheran Church–Canada Missions. The first \$300 of this offering received on **September 9, 2018**, will receive a matching

grant from FaithLife Financial. Lutheran Church–Canada not only supports outreach opportunities across Canada, but also currently has a number of Central American mission projects requiring funding and/or mission teams.

*Submitted by Verla Schmirler  
on behalf of St. Paul's FaithLife  
Chapter 2195*

## Stewardship

### What is Stewardship?

In his explanation to the first article of the Apostles' Creed, Martin Luther wrote in the Small Catechism about all the blessings God has given to us, and the appropriate response:

*I believe that God has created me and all that exists, that He has given me and still preserves my body and soul, my eyes and ears, my reason and all my senses, together with food and clothing, home and family, and all my property. Everyday He provides abundantly for all the needs of my life. He protects me from all*

### Notes to seminary students



*Thank you to everyone who took time to write thoughtful messages on the pages being sent to "our" seminary students. We thought you might like to see a picture of the newest member of the seminary family, Caleb Timm...along with his parents Alex and Marion.*

*danger and guards and keeps me from every evil. He does this purely out of fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, though I do not deserve it. Therefore, I ought to thank, praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.*

For Luther, the call of God to "thank, praise, serve, and obey" Him is the clear and obvious response to everything God does for His [people](#). [As](#) Christians, "this is most certainly true" for us as well. We, who live a life of faith and trust in God, recognize that He is the source of all the good things that have been entrusted to us. The call to thank, praise serve and obey our Lord is central to what biblical stewardship is all about.

How we individually handle our resources is of great concern to God. If not, why did Jesus focus one-third of His teaching on the individual and his or her possessions? Seventeen of His parables are about possessions. In the Bible, belief, believers and believing appear 272 times; prayer, 371 times; love or loving, 714 times—while possessions and giving appear 2,172 times!

Someone once said, Paying is an economic decision but giving is a spiritual decision. How true!

At the June meeting of the Board of Stewardship the treasurer reported that for the period January

1 to May 31, 2018, our revenues and expenditures produced a surplus of \$2,481. Our envelope offerings were \$98,431, some \$5,000 higher than for the same period in 2017. Our expenditures were lower than 2017, partly due to lower contributions to Missions as laid out in budget. The surplus position is good news as we move into the summer months when attendance and giving sometimes drops off. We thank you

for remembering the needs of the church through your prayers and donations.

The board also wants to remind you of the benefits

and advantages of making your donations using the Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) program.

Currently we have 25 contributors donating a total of \$5,455 per month through the PAR program. If you would like more information about the program and how to sign up, please talk to a member of the Board of Stewardship or Sandy in the church office. Alternatively, if you would simply like to provide the church with post-dated cheques for some period of time—or the whole year, again, contact the church office and we can accommodate that method of donating as well.

God bless your summer activities and your prayers for the support of the church's mission and programs.

*Board of Stewardship*

*How we individually handle our resources is of great concern to God.*

It's not as cold as it was yesterday, but that's probably because it's a bit warmer. (*broadcaster*)

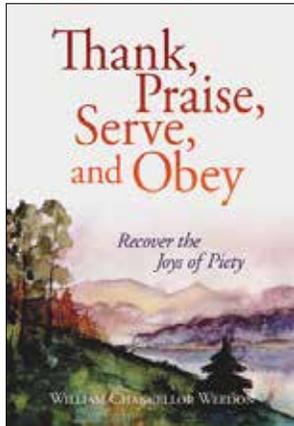
The over 60s choir will be disbanded for the summer with the thanks of the entire church. (*church bulletin*)

*from "the 365 stupidest things ever said"*

## Pastor's Corner

### Godly habits provide joy and freedom: sacrificial giving

The fifth godly habit in Pastor Weedon's book, *Thank, Praise, Serve, and Obey: Recover the Joys of Piety*, is sacrificial giving. Rev. Weedon begins this chapter by looking at the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand (plus!). Jesus had drawn a large crowd because the news of His miracles was spreading fast. As the crowd came to Jesus, He asked Peter where they were going to buy bread to feed everyone. Philip looked at all the people and recognized the weight of it: "Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little" (John 6:7). Two hundred denarii would be like spending two-thirds of a year's income - on one meal! Andrew tried to help, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" (John 6:9). Both men were overcome by the vastness of the need and the lack of food available. It must



have looked hopeless. But Jesus was training his disciples to rely on Him in their time of need. He sat the people down and took the bread and fish, gave thanks, and had the disciples distribute it.

How would you have felt if Jesus handed you a basket with a few loaves of bread and a few fish

and sent you to feed a crowd of thousands? It would seem silly! But trusting Jesus, the disciples began breaking off tiny pieces, trying to make the bread and fish stretch. It would have been interesting to have seen their faces when they first realized that no matter how much they broke off and gave away, the amount of bread and fish remained the same! Likely with laughter they joyfully began to rip off huge chunks, giving the food away without any fear of running out! The Lord provides.

Rev. Weedon asks an important

question, "What would have happened if the disciples had held onto their little lunch, had kept it for themselves in fear, terrified that there would be no more if they gave it away and that they would go hungry? How much would each have had at the close of the day? A handful! That's it!" But Jesus opened their eyes to see a new truth in God's economy: by giving away to others, they ended up richer themselves! You gain more by giving away rather than by holding on.

Rev. Weedon describes "sacrificial" giving: "[It is] not the sort of giving that says, 'Look at me! Look how much I am contributing! How much I must love!' Rather, it is the sort of giving that forgets about the self because it is solidly attuned to the person in need before us." Sacrificial giving begins by recognizing that everything we have belongs to God and it grows out of joyous gratitude in response to the blessings we have received from Him. In this "lifestyle of giving" we see that the need of our neighbour is a gift from God, an opportunity to grow in the grace of giving and taste personally the truth of Jesus' words that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

"I appeal to you, therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship" (Romans 12:1). Sacrificial giving is not just in relation to money, but also includes our time and attention. It is really just a reflection of a whole life offered back as a living sacrifice to God who has given us everything:

*God's blessings, Pastor Keith*

### LLL Canada introduces a new leader

Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada managing director, Stephen Klinck of Elmira, Ont., retired at the end of May after more than 30 years of service.

The board of directors of LLLC selected Lisa Jackson of Waterloo, Ont., as the new managing director.

"Lisa brings to our organization her management and leadership skills plus an enthusiasm and passion for sharing the Gospel at

a time when we see so many new opportunities," said Ian Adnams, president of LLLC.

Lisa holds a master's degree in Leadership Studies from the University of Guelph, and has also studied marketing and communications. As a member of Redeemer Lutheran in Waterloo, she organized numerous mission trips to Nicaragua.

## Annual yard sale huge success



A seemingly never-ending stream of treasures poured in the front doors all week long threatening to barricade Pastor Keith and Sandy in their offices and stretching the pricing skills of Sherry Gore, Rhonda Billard and others to the limit. But the end result was worth the effort even though we suspect Rhonda and Sherry could have slept for a week afterward. The Board of Church Properties worked hard setting up and cleaning up afterward. And thanks to Marilyn Wallace and her trusty vacuum, not a trace of the “mess” remained on Sunday morning. The youth and their parents had a successful barbecue and Clara Hoffart and friends provided baking that went quickly.

The sale of donated treasure totalled \$3,221, the youth raised \$233 and the bake table brought in \$182. A huge thank you to everyone involved.



## Megan's Music Studio

Thank you to my amazing students who were with me last year in my music studio. I loved teaching every single one of you!

Lessons will begin again in September and I have spaces reserved for my regular students as well as spaces available for new students.

I teach piano and voice from beginner to intermediate. If you are interested, please call, email, or text me. I would love to provide more information about my studio and make arrangements for the fall. Rates are \$17 per 30-minute lesson.

Megan Bracewell  
306-381-9899

[megan.bracewell@icloud.com](mailto:megan.bracewell@icloud.com)

*(label on a package)*

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Packaged in the U.S.A.

**Customer:** I dropped my phone in the water while I was on the boat this weekend, and I want to retrieve my pictures off it. Can you do that?

**Clerk:** Sure we can do that. Where is it?

**Customer:** At the bottom of the harbour. You can still get my pictures, right?

*from "the 365 stupidest things ever said"*

## LCC Central District to hold final convention in October

*Each congregation in Central District will have two voting delegates at the final district convention this fall. Pastor Keith will, of course, serve as our clergy delegate and James Dietrich was selected by the voters as the lay delegate. Art Timm is the alternate lay delegate should James be unable to attend.*

*The following information comes from the online Central District Newsletter and provides a clearer picture of what is happening and what must happen to complete the restructuring of our synod.*

As our Central District convention approaches (October 1-3, 2018), questions have been asked concerning what steps need to be taken to close the corporation known as Central District. This bulletin is an attempt to inform our congregations, pastors, deacons and convention delegates about the process being envisioned by the board of directors in consultation with legal counsel.

### BACKGROUND

Because of the restructuring adopted at Lutheran Church–Canada’s convention in October 2017, the districts will no longer share an ecclesiastical bond with the synod as of January 1, 2019. As a result, the districts are free to either wind up the affairs of their respective corporations (as proposed by Central District) or continue to exist until circumstances allow this to be possible. The latter scenario is expected to be carried out by the ABC District as they continue to deal with the aftermath of their Church Extension Fund collapse. The East District, too, will remain as they reconfigure their Church

Extension Fund to run as a separate corporation from the district.

### NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Lutheran Church–Canada has recently completed the nomination process for our Regional Pastor, circuit counsellors and the lay members of our Regional Mission and Ministry Council. At some point during our district convention we will put our district business on hold and the synodical officials will conduct the elections for these positions.

There is a three-month gap between the convention and when these new leaders officially begin their work on January 1, 2019. The board of directors, on advice from legal counsel, stated that a board of directors should be nominated and elected to oversee any of the district’s obligations to the end of 2018. To save time and effort the board of directors is looking for general consensus from the members of the district to simply allow the current board of directors, district president and circuit counsellors to continue to serve until the end of 2018. If there is such consensus, motions to that effect would come before the convention from the board of directors. Be advised that these groups may not even have to meet in those three months. Also, the current board members and district president are willing to stay on in the capacity until the end of 2018. If there is not consensus nominations will be required by July 15, 2018.

### WINDING DOWN THE CORPORATION

Even though Central District will hold their last official convention in October and even though we

will elect a board to serve until year-end, it will be impossible to wind up all the district’s affairs by December 31. Central District will need to exist as a corporation for a while longer to complete reports to government and corporate agencies (like Canada Revenue Agency) and generally oversee the dispersing of assets to LCC. To do this effectively, legal counsel is preparing and recommending resolutions to our convention in which we adopt a new set of streamlined bylaws calling for a three-member “custodial board” to see that all legal requirements are met and that the remaining assets of Central District corporation are turned over to Lutheran Church–Canada. This board is purposely small for there is not a lot of work to do and there will be no remuneration for their efforts. It would begin its work January 1, 2019, and disband whenever the work is completed. There will be little for this small board to do beyond oversight since the main “hands-on” work will be done by synod’s administrative and accounting staff.

### MOVING FORWARD

As we attempt to wind down the corporation known as Central District, we are relying on advice from legal counsel that at times may seem cumbersome and unnecessary. Through it all, we are attempting to move things along as effectively and efficiently as possible, all so that we can close this chapter in our church’s history and move on to undertake whatever our Lord has planned for us in the future.