

The Spirit of St. Paul's

www.stpaulslutheran.ca

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN



Double anniversaries look at the past and point to the future

According to the story passed down to us, Natalie Appelt, in 1953, returned to Saskatoon by train all excited about a fledgling organization that was gaining ground in the United States across The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod. Not only that, a few groups were beginning to organize in Canada. Lutheran Women's Missionary League was taking women beyond bake sales and bazaars to raise money to "fix the roof" and beyond catering for congregational events, to gathering for study of God's Word and being involved in mission through serving seminary students and others in need, as well as gathering "mites" to support the church's mission ministry. That same year women at St. Paul's organized our local society. Today we celebrate our 65th anniversary.

Our society organized cottage Bible studies for women that grew into home-based studies for all. As time went by our women wrote and presented devotions, Bible studies and other materials. We supported a missionary in Hong Kong for a number of years by selling goods

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made by the people there. Retreats and seminars brought women closer to their Saviour and continue to do so. Many of the women in St. Paul's LWMLC have been able to use their gifts in service well beyond the local congregation.

While opportunities for women to serve in a broad range of ways within the congregation and in the church-at-large grew over the years, the need to spend time in the Word, serve others and support the mission of the church continues. The question is, how best to do that.

The format of the organization can and does change to fit those involved, both locally and as a Canada-wide organization.

The biggest change took place 25 years ago when we said good-bye to our American sisters in Christ and founded an autonomous Canadian

organization. This summer, at our national LWML–Canada convention we will vote on a significant change to our structure. It has been interesting to watch as a couple of years after we ventured into this reorganization plan, LCC did so as well. They moved more quickly and those changes are well under way.

Our local group has also seen many changes over the years. We are currently wondering how we might best help more women at St. Paul's grow God's Word, share God's Son and serve God's people.

Currently we meet once a month for Bible study and conduct any essential business. We also do a few service projects and collect mites. It has become quite low key. We meet during the day because that fits those who participate.

There could easily be an additional group that meets in the evening or even Saturday morning. Planning could be done online or by phone instead of gathering face to face. There could be speakers or hands-on activities, devotions or mini Bible studies. We very much wish to support and encourage more women in the congregation to discover that what LWMLC provides can easily fit schedules and talents and the busy-ness of today's society. Commitments can be short-term and open-ended. We welcome your ideas. Let's all be creative about how we answer God's "call to serve."



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 June – Ron & Ludy Jeschke

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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Choir entertains at Luther Heights



On Saturday, April 28, St. Paul's choir held a year-end concert at the Luther Heights residence for seniors. It provided opportunity for choir members to again perform pieces used throughout the year during Divine Worship and for those from Luther Heights and from St. Paul's

who attended to enjoy the music and the message.

Our thanks to director Amy Timm and all the members of the choir for enhancing our worship on many Sundays.

Voters to select lay delegate and alternate



Central District Convention
 October 1-3, 2018
 Holiday Inn Airport West,
 Winnipeg, Man.
 Theme:

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”
 (Psalm 90; LSB 733)

Each congregation needs to elect one lay delegate and one alternate lay delegate for this fall's district

convention. This must be done and the appropriate form returned to the district office by June 30, 2018.

To fulfill this obligation there will be a meeting of the voters on Sunday, June 24, immediately following worship. This will be a short meeting as this is the only item on the agenda.

While the Board of Lay Ministry will have nominees to present, any voting member may be nominated from the floor. To speed things along, if you wish to nominate someone, please ask their permission in advance of the meeting.

On July 3, 2018, all clergy and lay delegates, advisory delegates and guests will receive a link to an on-line registration.

Stewardship

“There are three conversions necessary to every man: the head, the heart, and the purse.”

Attributed to Luther, though yet to be located in his vast writings, this statement echoes what Jesus taught about hearts and treasures. He said, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34).

But which conversion comes first? It is suggested by some that the order is this: first the head, then the purse, then the heart.

Our Lord Jesus Christ dwelt among us to save us. He took on our flesh, fulfilled the demands of the law in our place, became sin for us, and suffered torture and death on our behalf, in order that we would be free from sin, death, and hell. He gives us what He accomplished through Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord's Supper.

And so, He doesn't just do it for us but gives it to us, makes what He did ours by making us His. Thus, we are called by His name: Christians. We have a new life in Him.

Through the preaching of Law and Gospel, God grants us repentance, a changing of our minds. It is a conversion of the mind. We are called to turn away from our sins and turn toward Him for forgiveness, life, and salvation. For when God calls us away from something, He is, at the same time, calling us to something.

And thus, He calls us to a new life, with new deeds. This is the conversion of the purse. Jesus said that “it is easier for a camel to enter through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God” (Matthew 19:24). “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

Notice that our hearts follow our treasures, not the other way around. As Christians, God calls us to invest our treasures in His Kingdom to ensure that the gospel is preached and the sacraments are administered. He calls us to share all good things with the one who teaches us the doctrines of Christ. He calls us to be generous in giving to the church, for it is more blessed to give than to receive.

So where is your treasure? If it is not invested in the kingdom

*Notice that our hearts
follow our treasures,
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of God, then the only response is repentance—a conversion of the heart—and to begin doing just that. And as our Lord promised, where your treasure is there your heart will be also.

This is not to say that you earn your way into heaven. It is simply to say that as Christians, those who have been made to be temples of the Holy Spirit, who have been given a new life in Christ, who are dead to sin and now alive in Him, we are, actually, to live—think (conversion of the mind), do (conversion of the purse), and be (conversion of the heart)—a new life in Him.

And when you fail, know that God in Christ loves and forgives you and still calls you away from that and to Himself.

*Adapted from LCMS Stewardship
Resources*

PAR program and financial update

At the Board of Stewardship meeting on May 16, the board received information on the number of contributors currently making their offering donations using the PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) program.

We have 25 contributors using that option with total giving of \$5,455 per month. With summer vacation time approaching, we all take advantage of spending time with family and friends enjoying God's creation. Sometimes we might not be worshipping at St. Paul's. By making your donation using the PAR program your offering will be made whether you are in church or away. The benefit to the congregation is that we can count on your donations for cash flow purposes to pay our ongoing bills and meet our Missions commitments. If you would like to know more about the PAR program or to sign up, please speak to Sandy in the church office.

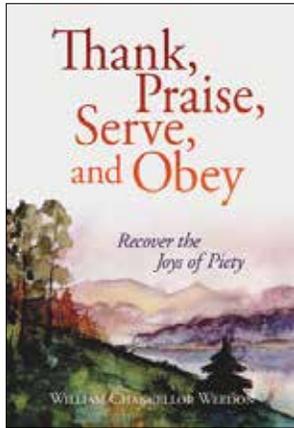
The board also received the latest treasurer's report to the end of March showing we had a deficit of \$3,559. Comparatively, at the end of March 2017, we had a deficit of just over \$7,000. We pray you will keep the needs of the church in mind through the summer months. The board also received confirmation from the treasurer that all our required remittances for payroll, Worker's Benefits programs and Worker's Compensation Board premiums are current and up to date.

*God's Blessings!
Board of Stewardship*

Pastor's Corner

Godly habits provide joy and freedom: Confession of sins and Absolution

The fourth godly habit in Pastor Weedon's book, *Thank, Praise, Serve, and Obey: Recover the Joys of Piety*, is Confession of sins and Absolution. When we gather for Divine Service, after the opening hymn and Invocation, we usually have Public (or Corporate)



Confession. In *Divine Service, Setting One*, we speak the words of 1 John 1:8-9: *“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* Rev. Weedon says we learn a very important fact about Confession from this verse: “what frees us to actually own up to the mess we are and the messes we have made in our lives is that the One before whom we confess is a divine ever-flowing spring of forgiveness and mercy...It is in the warmth of God's steadfast, unshakable love that we can gain the courage to be honest before Him.”

He notes that the confessions we use in our Church are brutally honest. In *Divine Service, Setting Three*, we confess that we are “poor and miserable sinners.” In *Divine Service, Setting One* we honestly confess:

We are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we

have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.

The words “we are by nature sinful and unclean” are important ones as we acknowledge that our sin goes beyond the sinful things we think and do to our very nature. Rev. Weedon

suggests we think of sin as a horrid corruption of our human nature that has spread itself like a Stage 4 cancer. It affects our desiring, our thinking, our physical appetites, and our emotions. So when we confess that we are by nature sinful, we are saying *not* that we are sinners because we sin, but rather that we sin *because* we are sinners. We admit that because of our sinful nature, and our actual sin, we justly deserve God's temporal and eternal punishment.

Together, in the public Confession of sins, we own up to the brutal truth about ourselves. And while this might seem unpleasant and depressing—it isn't. It isn't because there is the deeper truth that God speaks to us about Himself and what He has done about the disaster inside each one of us. We call that truth Absolution—when God justifies the sinner, declaring us to be righteous. In the Divine Service, God's messenger (the pastor) speaks

the words of Absolution with God's complete authority (*Divine Service, Setting One*):

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The Absolution is solidly anchored in the saving work of our Saviour, who by His blood won forgiveness for the entire world. All sins are absolved, forgiven, put under the blood of the Lamb of God. The Absolution is one of the Lord's methods of delivering His forgiveness, *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by

faith” (Romans 3:23-25). Through Holy Absolution God's Word of forgiveness is spoken and sins are forgiven. What a great gift God has given us! What comfort His words of forgiveness provide!

What about Private Confession and Absolution—is that just for Roman Catholics? No! While it isn't commonly practised in our circles anymore, it is a Lutheran practice. In fact, the Lutheran Confessions say it would be wicked for private Confession and Absolution to be

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taken out of the Church! Why? A Christian goes faithfully to the Divine Service, makes Confession of sins, and hears the Absolution. Yet, sometimes our conscience can still trouble us. We might wake up in the middle of the night remembering a particular sin we have committed, or a character weakness, or a sin we struggle with and often fall into. This can lead a person to wonder, “Can God really forgive me for that?” This is where Private Confession and Absolution is such a blessing. The words of forgiveness are targeted and spoken in a very personal way directly to the individual with the troubled conscience—and this provides great relief, assurance, and peace. Every pastor who is ordained in our church makes the promise never to divulge the sins confessed to him.

Finally, Pastor Weedon says that it is absolutely key to our relationships that we also confess our sins to each other and forgive. He offers these helpful words, “We all start our relationships knowing that we all are corrupted by original sin and confident that we will let each other down from time to time. But what holds us together as God’s people is what never lets us down: forgiveness. Forgiveness asked and then imparted.” We are able to go on forgiving because in Christ we have come to a fountain of forgiveness that we can never exhaust for ourselves or for others.

*God’s blessings,
Pastor Keith*

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.

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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).

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

No Greater Love

*There once was peace in Eden and mankind walked with God,
Then came the evil serpent and the perfect became flawed.
Once Eden was a Paradise, so lovely and serene;
An orchard with well-watered trees, rich and lush and green.
Then Satan came and tempted Eve, who wanted more to gain,
And thus sin entered Eden, along with death and pain.
Disobeying God the Father, Eve and Adam fell from grace,
And God, in righteous anger, removed them from this place
To be where earthly bounty comes through blood and sweat and tears
And suffering and sorrow become companions through the years.*

*All thanks and glory be to God for His salvation plan
Of paying debt, defeating death, and saving fallen man.
For an immoral, sinful world, His only Son God gave
That believing in the Saviour, mankind would be saved.
So Jesus on a rugged cross, suffered, bled and died
That I could be forgiven, cleansed of sin and sanctified.
My debt of sin and guilt He paid, I need not fear the grave
For Jesus overcame the world; the world He came to save.
No greater love has ever been, no greater love could be
Than the boundless love of Jesus, who lived and died for me.*

*Dorothy Schuler
2018*

