

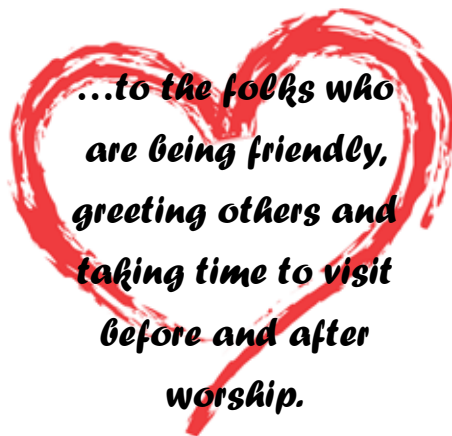
# The Spirit of St. Paul's

MARCH 2018

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

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

## Thanks...



*...to the folks who  
are being friendly,  
greeting others and  
taking time to visit  
before and after  
worship.*

**Board of Evangelism**

## Lenten Worship Services 2018

7:30 p.m.

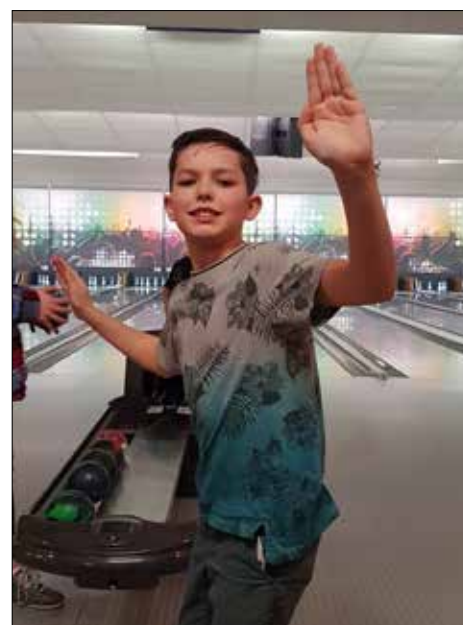
Join fellow Lutherans from Saskatoon and area LCC congregations as we move from church to church. See bulletin board for directions

Wed., Feb. 28	Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Wed., Mar. 7	St. John's Lutheran Church, Warman
Wed., Mar. 14	Grace Lutheran Church
Wed., Mar. 21	St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Bergheim
Maundy Thursday, March 29	St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Saskatoon
Good Friday, March 30	Worship in home congregations (St. Paul's, 10:00 a.m.)



## Alley fun for youth

In early February, the youth were invited to showcase their bowling skills at Eastview Bowling Center.



## 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  
March - 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.



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)

Next deadline: Mar. 25, 2018  
Publication: Apr. 1, 2018

## 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) and this month we learn...

## THE BIBLE IS...YOUR GUIDE FOR LIFE

**Psalm 119:105** - "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

**Psalm 32:8** - "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you."

**Proverbs 6:22-23** - "When you walk, they (*your father's commandments and your mother's teachings*) will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk with you. For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life."

**John 8:31-32** - "So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, "If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** - "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work."

**2 Peter:3-4** - "His divine power has granted to us all things that

pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence, by which He has granted to us His precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire."

Over the next couple of months we will look at:

**The Bible is your...**

- **Stability**
- **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*

Your opinion needed:

The size of the font (type) was increased in this issue. Is it better or do you prefer the previous size? Let Marion know. Thanks.

## Murphy's Law

### Dryer's Driving Principle

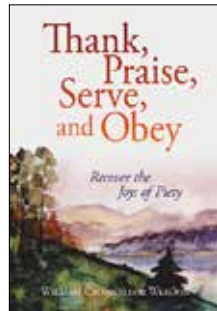
Two wrongs don't make a right,  
but three lefts do.

## Pastor's Corner

### Godly habits provide joy and freedom: faithful listening to the Word of God

As I mentioned in the last issue of the Spirit, there is a difference between the movement of Pietism and piety. It is a good thing for a Christian to aim at living a pious life. Piety, at its root, is simply cultivation of godly habits, habits that are beneficial to our lives as God's people. In his book, *Thank, Praise, Serve, and Obey: Recover the Joys of Piety*, Pastor William Weedon explores eight godly habits that bestow great blessings on our lives. We will examine the first godly habit in his book: faithful listening to the Word of God.

Piety begins with the Word, with God speaking. This isn't a surprise since the Scriptures reveal that everything began with God's Word. He spoke and things came to be. God's Word is a living Word and it does what it says. St. Paul wrote to the Romans, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ" (Romans 7:17). Notice that St. Paul uses the present tense, "So faith comes...." Faith comes—and it continues to come. It is a constant gift given to us by the Holy Spirit as we hear the Word of Christ. We do not possess faith any more than we can possess air and food—it is something we have the joy of constantly receiving. Faith is not



something created or sustained by anything within us, it is something that continually comes to us from the outside. Luther's Small Catechism explains this well in its explanation of the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed, "I believe that I cannot by my own

reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, nor come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith." The Holy Spirit's work must be ongoing for faith to exist and continue. Because of this, Rev. Weedon concludes, "And thus the very first habit of godliness, the foundational habit upon which any piety or godliness clings for its dear life, is attending to God's Word... piety has to start here; and from the habit of attending to this Word all the other habits of godliness flow in due course."

Rev. Weedon notes that attending to the Word is, first of all, a corporate activity rather than an individual one. The Holy Spirit's normal way of stirring up and sustaining faith in people is through the Church. He works

through the Office of Holy Ministry in the Church to proclaim God's Word and to administer the Sacraments (which are other forms of the Word). Rev. Weedon makes the point that attending church is not automatically attending to the Word. It requires active listening and paying attention and he provides Mary's response to God's Word as an example, "But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart" (Luke 2:50-51). Attending to the Word involves "treasuring up" and "pondering" and meditating upon, digesting, marking, and taking to heart the Good News that God has revealed to us in the Scriptures.

Finally, Rev. Weedon says that the work of God's Word goes beyond our corporate gathering at church. The Word does its work in our homes as we give a portion of our day to reading, hearing, pondering the Word, and time in prayer. Because this can be a struggle in our busy lives, he suggests using devotionals like *Portals of Prayer* or *Treasury of Daily Prayer* (or its app version: *PrayNow*), and the like, as these provide a portion of Scripture that can be chewed on all day long. Regardless of which devotional resource we use, finding time in our lives for the Word of God to keep doing its great sanctifying work in our lives is very important. St. Paul exhorts us, "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Colossians 3:16). This is the foundational habit of godliness.

*God's blessings, Pastor Keith*

### Murphy's Law

#### Zadra's Law of Biomechanics

The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

## Solas Alive

[www.SolasAlive.com](http://www.SolasAlive.com)

The Board of Evangelism has placed this link on St. Paul's website. You are invited to check it out and come up with ways you can use it to introduce others to our Saviour Jesus Christ.

The printing press had a major role in spreading the Solas of Luther's reformation: Sola Gratia; Sola Fide; and Sola Scriptura. You might say it helped those ideas "go viral."

Today messages can go viral on a variety of social media. Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada has prepared Solas Alive for individuals and congregations to use on their various social media platforms as a way to connect people with the basics of the Christian faith.

Using humour, drama or human interest each of the three Solas Alive videos introduces one of the solas and invites the viewer to go to the website [www.SolasAlive.com](http://www.SolasAlive.com) where they can find out more about Grace Alone, Faith Alone, and Scripture Alone, as well as basics of the Christian faith and even a way to search for a local Lutheran congregation.

Marion Hollinger commented: These short videos are also great faith-boosters for all of us. God led me to just the right one at a moment when I needed it most.

Pastor: To encourage our congregation to sit in the front pews I've installed cell phone charging stations in the first three rows.

*Lutheran Witness, June/July 2017*

## Food, Fun and Fellowship...three ingredients for an Epiphany celebration

Women of St. Paul's LWML and a number of friends gathered for a belated Christmas social and celebrated Epiphany instead. Gail Mitchell wrote a devotion for the gathering and Verla Schmirler put together a word scramble, both related to Epiphany.

An exchange of gifts is always enjoyed with lots of shaking and weighing and exchanging for something someone else has but instead of spending money purchasing gifts, participants wrapped and brought an item they no longer needed and their money went into purchasing gift cards for fast food outlets. As a result \$225 in

gift cards was forwarded to Rev. D.J. Kim, missionary-at-large in Central District for him to use in his street ministry.

A potluck salad lunch was enjoyed by all.




---

### Murphy's Law Dilling's Diet Rule

The one thing harder than sticking to a diet is keeping quiet about it.

---

## Plan ahead and 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. Watch for more details. Tickets will be available (\$25 each) closer to the event.

## Stewardship

Hudson Taylor, a nineteenth century British missionary to China, is reported to have said, “God’s work, done in God’s way, will not lack God’s supply.” To know God’s way, we need to know His Holy Word. Or to say it another way: you need to know your Bible.

St. Paul, before he spends two chapters on giving, wrote that every thought is to be taken captive and make it obey Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).

Doctrine matters. And doctrine matters because the Scriptures matter. And the Scriptures matter because this is where we learn the teaching of Christ. Our thoughts must be brought into line with the teaching of Scripture so that our work is what God wants done and so that we do this work in His way.

A good tree bears good fruit. A bad tree bears bad fruit. We have been made good trees in holy baptism. We are fertilized and pruned for bearing good fruit by constantly hearing God’s Word preached and taught in sermon and Bible class and in receiving the life-giving, faith-sustaining food of the Lord’s Supper. Remember your doctrine, hold on to the Lord’s teaching, and your

thoughts will be taken captive to the obedience of Christ.

Bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ is recognizing that God does provide. The Lord’s Prayer teaches us to pray for daily bread. Praying this day in and day out reminds us that the Lord is the giver of our daily bread, and that we are to give thanks for His daily provision of it.

God is rarely early and never late in His work, as Abraham learned, “on the mount of the Lord it will be provided” (Genesis 22:14). The Lord’s generosity forms our generosity in return. Thus, we set aside for the work of God a generous, first-fruits, proportion of the daily bread that God has given to us. This act of trust in the Lord’s provision is the working out of our faith in Him.

As good trees in Christ who are to bear good fruit, we should ask whether our thoughts are taken captive by obedience to Christ. Have we given generously? Have we given our first-fruits? You know. And God knows. “For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him” (2 Chronicles 16:9).

God will provide. He always has and He always will. He gives His meat in due season. He has not left you as orphans, but has grafted you into His own family. You belong to Him. Remember this, letting this thought dwell in you richly. And you will then be rich toward others.

Congregation members will recall the discussions we had last fall regarding our possible deficit and the action taken by the voters in November to deal with that situation. At the end of November, we were faced with a year-to-date deficit of \$19,000 and were concerned that another year with a deficit similar to 2016 would put a severe strain on our cash flow going into 2018. We are pleased to report that, with offerings in December totalling over \$36,000, we ended the year with a deficit for 2017 of \$3,700 after making our full Missions commitment for 2017 of \$50,000. What a fantastic and generous response to allow us to go into 2018 with more confidence to support the work of the Church here and abroad. Thanks be to God!

*Board of Stewardship*

## What we didn’t do—and why

This article is inspired by a daily devotion we read on January 23 and a personal event in our lives just 10 days prior.

Some of you may be aware that Elaine and I were privileged to be able to vacation in Hawaii this past

January for three weeks. January 13, 2018, is a date some of you might remember for one reason or another—but for us it will be remembered for a potentially devastating event. About 8:00 a.m. that morning, as we were

getting ready for the activities we had planned for the day with our family, several of our cell phones went off quite unexpectedly with an alert sound we did not recognize. When we checked the message that accompanied the

alert it read: “Ballistic Missile Threat Inbound to Hawaii. Seek immediate shelter. This is not a drill!” How’s that for wakeup call! We’ve often wondered and indeed we often hear of people who receive news that they have little time left to live. How do they react? How do we? While shocked with the news and not really knowing what to do, we know what we didn’t do—and why. We later learned that the command to seek immediate shelter was, in fact, no help at all. Hawaii—at least the island we were on—has no shelter locations where people can go that are safe. People generally know what to do in the event of a tsunami threat—they try to get to higher ground. There really is nowhere to go to be safe from a ballistic missile—although we did hear of people who thought their children would be safe by putting them underground—lifting off manhole covers and dropping their children into the exposed hole in the pavement!

While we didn’t see much panic and unusual behaviour following the alert other than a few golfers interrupting their game by heading back to the clubhouse, we were on a resort and not in a highly populated area. We’re sure in those kinds of places, there were people running for cover so to speak! About 15 minutes or so following the alert, we phoned the resort office. They told us just to stay in our units—they didn’t know any more than we did but were trying

to find out. After about 38 minutes the followup and very welcome alert came that there was no missile threat to Hawaii—much to everyone’s relief.

In the aftermath of the non-event, we spoke to many people



who reported they had never been so scared, that they were sending texts and emails to family and friends saying their goodbyes and that they loved them. Many of those recipients had not even heard the original missile threat. While these kinds of messages to loved ones are good things to do, they should not be reserved for a crisis situation. We should regularly be telling our friends, family and loved ones we love them and displaying that love in our actions and behaviour. A pastor once shared how often he had heard mourning families say they had intended to say “I love you” to the deceased, but had forgotten, or schedules had gotten busy, or it just didn’t seem the right time, or they weren’t sure how it would be received, or they hadn’t made peace over an old conflict, or

a variety of other reasons. We need to share these feelings with those who are or should be special for a variety of reasons:

- We, who are recipients of the Lord’s love, forgiveness and salvation, have a wonderful opportunity to share that love with others. Remember, “We love because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19).
- We do it because we need to say it.
- We do it because they need to hear it.
- We do it because we never know when the last opportunity to say those words may come.

We mentioned earlier what we didn’t do—and why. We didn’t have regrets about how we had lived our lives and where our eternal home was going to be. We knew that if that day was going to be our last on this earth, we had a better place waiting for us. We knew our faith was strong and we had no doubt that there was nothing we could do in the last minutes or hours of our lives—if it came to that—to win our salvation and eternity with Him. Jesus has done all that through His death and victory over sin. Jesus says, It’s not the moment of your death which should concern you; it’s being sure of your faith in Him because it is that faith alone which saves and will conquer death—no matter which way it comes calling. Our responsibility is to live our lives with that faith, confidence and assurance. Thanks be to God!

*Ron & Elaine Walter*

## Ratification vote summary

*Elton Harper, President*

Congregations of Lutheran Church–Canada are to hold a ratification vote on the LCC constitution. However, it may be a bit confusing as to what we are voting on as a congregation in regards to the restructuring of LCC. The governance of the synod is broken out into three parts: Statutory Bylaws, Synodical Bylaws and the Synodical Constitution.

The Statutory Bylaws are the rules (laws) that have been created by LCC to regulate itself within legislation and are legally binding. The Synodical Bylaws contain items such as the duties of LCC, how conventions are to be held, how we affiliate with various organizations, how various officers and councils are formed and regulated, etc. The Synodical Constitution contains things such as the prerequisites to be a member of LCC, the functions of various officers, the authority of the president, etc.

All of the details necessary for the restructuring of LCC are contained in the Statutory and Synodical bylaws. To be clear, both the Statutory and Synodical Bylaws were voted on and approved at the synodical convention last fall. The approval of the restructuring is done.

However, because some of these changes require amendment of the Constitution of LCC, a congregational ratification vote is necessary to approve the changes to the constitution. To be adopted the constitutional amendments must be approved by two-thirds of

the congregations participating in the ratification vote.

The changes to the Synodical Constitution (as presented in a letter from Rev. Nolan D. Astley) are:

### **Titling and Nomenclature**

If adopted, the title of the constitution will be changed to “Synodical Constitution.” This change reflects the decision to move virtually all provisions which deal with the corporate life of LCC from the constitution to the Statutory Bylaws. LCC as a corporation is established by a 1959 Special Act of the Senate of Canada. Its structure is detailed in the Statutory Bylaws which were first adopted in accordance with the Act.

At the time the Statutory Bylaws were adopted, it was determined to leave some elements of corporate structure in the constitution, realizing there would likely come a time when the issue of structure would be further addressed. Now that we have addressed these matters, it is appropriate for the corporate matters to be contained in the Statutory Bylaws so the Synodical Constitution can focus on our life together in Christ.

Throughout the Synodical Constitution expressions like, “The Synod,” “Synod,” are replaced with “Lutheran Church–Canada” and “LCC.” Lutheran Church–Canada is the body established by the 1959 Act and so these changes are made for sake of consistency in the documents.

### **Article I Status and Definitions**

A number of definitions are deleted from the Synodical Constitution as they have already been defined in the Statutory Bylaws. Previously definitions were included in both documents and this change is made for sake of clarity and uniformity throughout the Handbook.

### **Article II Confession**

This article is unchanged with the exception of the addition of a reference to the document known as “The Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope.” The Treatise is a document in the 1580 *Book of Concord* which was thought to be an appendix to the *Smalcald Articles*. However, more recently, The Treatise is considered to be a stand-alone document composed by Luther before he wrote the *Smalcald Articles*. Our current liturgical texts used at ordinations and installations of pastors, as well as at consecrations and installation of deacons, identify The Treatise as a separate document and we are aligning the Synodical Constitution to reflect this.

### **Article III Objectives**

Unchanged

### **Article IV (Previous) Rights of Conventions**

Moved to Article VIII

### **Article IV (Proposed)**

#### **Prerequisites to Membership**

This article addresses how congregations and individuals become members of LCC. The term “community of believers”

*Summary, continued*

is used to signify congregations who while gathered around Word and Sacrament are not yet formally members of the Synod. In the Statutory Bylaws “Member Congregation” is a defined term to referring to congregations who are gathered around Word and Sacrament and which have been received into membership in LCC.

Because we are moving to a four-year convention cycle, the board of directors will be authorized to receive new members (congregations) between conventions. For congregations the board of directors will assume the duty of examining the constitution of proposed members to insure they contain nothing contrary to the Scriptures and Confessions.

**Article V Additional Conditions of Membership**

The changes to this article relate to nomenclature and wording updates.

**Article VI Termination of Membership**

The material in this article was previously located at Article XIII and has been brought forward to follow provisions concerning becoming a member of LCC. Other changes relate to nomenclature and wording updates.

**Article VII Relation of the Synod to Congregations**

Changes to this article relate to nomenclature and wording updates. The understanding of the LCC as advisory to its member congregations is unchanged.

**Article VIII Conventions**

The provisions of this article have been moved to the Statutory Bylaws.

**Article VIII Rights of Conventions**

In this Article we restate the provisions of the previous Article IV and emphasize that just as the convention is the paramount decision-making authority for LCC as a corporation, so also it is the primary decision-making authority on ecclesiastical matters.

**Article IX (previous) Representation**

The provisions of this article have been moved to the Statutory Bylaws and Synodical Bylaws.

**Article IX (proposed) Ecclesiastical Functions of Officers**

Officers of LCC have responsibility to manage the corporate affairs and ecclesiastical life of LCC. Their corporate responsibilities are defined in the Statutory Bylaws and their ecclesiastical responsibilities are further defined in the Synodical Bylaws.

**Article X Ecclesiastical Authority of the President**

This article continues the historic understanding of the president as being the person ultimately responsible for supervision of the doctrine and life of members of LCC. He also has the duty to promote and maintain unity in doctrine and practice.

The material added to this article at point #4 arises from work done by the CCMS to identify the ecclesiastical services provided to members by LCC and charges the president with managing the delivery of those services. The previous provision of point #4 is moved to the Statutory Bylaws.

**Article XII Districts and Their Regulation**

This entire section is deleted. The division of LCC into regions is introduced in the Statutory Bylaws and detailed in the Synodical Bylaws.

**Article XIII Expulsion from the Synod**

The provisions of this Article have been moved to Article VI as noted at point h. above.

**Article XI Amendments to the Constitution**

The amending formula for the Synodical Constitution remains unchanged. The amendments to this article relate to nomenclature and wording updates.