

# The Spirit of St. Paul's

NOVEMBER 2017

www.stpaulslutheran.ca

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

## Welcome to St. Paul's

St. Paul's has been blessed with new faces popping up among us— young families, university students and some more mature folks. I've always felt we are a warm welcoming church. Is it possible to improve upon a good thing? Yes, I believe there's always room for improvement. We are certainly reminded of this when we watch the athletic world in motion, anywhere from local games, individual sports, right up to the Olympics. The athletes are always putting in the extra effort to improve their style and performance.

How can we improve? Perhaps it's going the extra mile.

There are two types of greeters, "stationary" and "roaming."

**Stationary Greeters** are the ones you see each Sunday who extend a friendly hand and a smile to welcome and greet everyone who enters God's House of Worship.

**Roaming Greeters** are not so noticeable. These are individuals who seem to naturally have the gift of hospitality. They actively mingle and can be seen chatting with newcomers as easily as they would greet someone coming into their own homes.

We would like to see more roaming greeters (natural interactions) between members of at St. Paul's and the new people in our midst or anyone who you may not be acquainted with.

We could possibly argue we are not like those who find it easy. But if we are really honest with ourselves we might admit we could tweak it

up a bit and plan to make a point to go the extra mile. We might surprise ourselves. In Philippians 4:3 we are reminded, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." We have Jesus's word.

The point of all of this is to make everyone feel welcome, feel like they belong, and feel comfortable. Our aim is not to overwhelm or ignore. Perhaps the best way to think about this is to put oneself in another person's shoes.

How do you feel when someone

smiles and show an interest in you?

How do you feel when you're ignored?

How do you feel when someone notices you having difficulty and helps you out?

How do you feel when you're out of place because it's the first time you have attended a church or other organization and the person next to you says hi and offers some guidance?

Let's all consider going the extra welcoming mile.

*The Board of Evangelism  
Clara Zirk*

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN  
YOUTH  
RETREAT  
The 10 commandments  
Fri Nov. 24 - Sun Nov. 26  
@Camp Kinasao  
"We learn, we play, we are fed"  
"Bedroom of the week"  
Games Food  
For all confirmation youth and up to grade 12.  
"stupid human tricks"  
Friends

## 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.

Do you know someone who uses Ensure or Boost to supplement their diet? We have 16 bottles of various flavours to give away. Please call Marion at 306-343-7396.

Caring Ministry Coordinator for November - 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.



Pastor: Rev. Murray Keith  
Office Secretary: Lisa Bracewell  
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: Nov. 26 2017**

**Publication: Dec. 3, 2017**

## Please help us pick books for the library

A little green box, containing excerpts from a variety of Concordia Publishing House books, has recently been set in the library. It contains titles such as

- “Hope When Your Heart Breaks: Navigating Grief and Loss” (Michael Newman)
- “The Harvest Raise” fiction (Katie Schuermann)
- “From Atheism to Christianity: The Story of C.S. Lewis” (Joel Heck)
- “Ethics of Sex: From Taboo to Delight” (Gifford A. Grobien, General Editor)
- “Why Should I Trust the Bible?” (A. Trevor Sutton)
- “Teaching the Faith at Home” (David L. Rueter)
- “The Messengers: Concealed” fiction, young adult (Lisa Clark)
- “Christianity in an Age of

Terrorism” (Gene Veith, Jr.)

- “The Necessary Distinction, A Continuing Conversation on Law and Gospel”
- “Confessing the Gospel: A Lutheran Approach to Systematic Theology” and more.

Next time you’re checking out the library, take some time to look over some of these new titles. If any interest you, please sign the front page of the excerpt for a book you would like to see purchased. Once there are four or more signatures on an excerpt, that book will be purchased for the library.

Keep checking the box for new excerpts added regularly!

*Thank you and happy browsing!  
Board of Christian Education*

## Pray for God’s blessing in Cambodia

**Evangelist/Deaconesses, Cambodia – \$15,000**

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cambodia (ELCC) has identified fifteen deaconesses for special service in the church. These women are dedicated to teaching women and children Bible stories and lessons, comforting women in family conflict, feeding the hungry and giving aid to those in need. This grant from LWML-Canada is supporting the mission of these women for a three-year period, 2015-2018.

Dear Lord, We pray a blessing on the deaconesses in Cambodia who work with their pastor husbands to spread Your Word and bring physical aid to families who would otherwise not receive those benefits. Help them be strong and courageous in their work. Our prayer is in Jesus’ name. Amen.



## Pastor's Corner

On October 31st, 1517, Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg

Germany which we commemorate as being the beginning of the Reformation of the church. This year marks the 500th anniversary of this event and it provides us with the opportunity to reflect upon the importance and blessings that resulted in the church and in the world. Praise God that the "eternal gospel" (Rev. 14:6) was rediscovered and proclaimed so we hear and receive the Good News that we are saved by God's grace alone, received through faith alone, in Christ alone.

In many congregations Reformation Day is celebrated and observed on the last Sunday in October. The following Sunday we



certain people had in the church and observe days of commemoration for them. In some cases we name our congregations after them, as we have honoured St. Paul at our congregation. But we also recognize that we all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23) and require God's forgiveness and salvation. In the Lutheran Church we believe that saints are simply those who have received God's mercy.

So, All Saints Day provides us with the opportunity to remember and give thanks for all of God's people, including our family and friends who have departed this earthly to be with

our Lord. At St. Paul's we include a Commemoration of the Faithful Departed Rite in our Divine Service on All Saints Day when we light a candle in honour and memory of our members who were called home during the previous year. The candles are lit from the Paschal candle to remind us of the gift of eternal life that person has received from Christ Jesus.

The comfort we have on All Saints Day rests on the truths rediscovered during the Reformation. We have confidence that our faithfully departed loved ones are saints enjoying heaven because our hope is based on God's promise and gift earned and given through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ Jesus. It is for this reason that we, too, count ourselves among the saints who will enjoy that same eternal future.

*God's blessings,  
Pastor Keith*

## Herb's bench

Herb Bieber's family provided St. Paul's with a donation in his memory. After some consideration it was decided by the Board of Church Properties to buy a bench for the patio.

They chose a stone/concrete bench that could be easily cleaned and could not easily be carried away. Of course, such a heavy bench required some heavy lifters as you will see in

the photo below resting from their labours. Now we need a nice sunny Sunday and a little coffee party to test it out.



## 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**. This month will be **Jesus as my Guardian, Security, and Sufficiency**.

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 be draw upon for each descriptive word being used.

#### Jesus Is my Guardian

**Psalm 61:3** – "for you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy."

**Isaiah 43:2** – "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you."

**2 Thessalonians 3:3** – "But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one."

**1 Peter 3:12-13** – "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ear is open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil. Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?"

#### Jesus is my Security

**John 10:27-29** – "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand."

**Romans 8: 38-39** – "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

**Philippians 1:6** – "And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

**1 Peter 1:3-5** – "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

#### Jesus is my Sufficiency

**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?"

**2 Corinthians 3:5** – "Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God."

**2 Corinthians 9:8** – "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things, at all times, you may abound in every good work."

**2 Corinthians 12:9** – "But He said to me 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weakness, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.'"

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

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

### Youth card-making event

On Friday, November 17, the youth will be creating their (in) famous Christmas cards. This event starts at 7:00 p.m. Youth—bring your friends and creative ideas! Snacks and craft material will be provided!

For those unable to attend this evening, feel free to make cards at home and bring them to the church to be sold.

### ...and making purchases

Cards will be sold after church starting November 26 and up until Christmas.

Cards are by donation and money raised goes toward future youth conferences. Don't miss your chance to get a one-of-a-kind Christmas card!

## Stewardship

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, by His death for our sins and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water combined with His Word, promise, and name, the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure and wealth is that we belong to the most holy Trinity and everything that is His belongs also to us: righteousness, peace, eternal life. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as (good stewards of His varied grace) (1 Peter 4:10), we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving

## Mission U courses online

Did you participate in the LLL Mission U events? They are now providing similar experiences online. Check it out at: <https://www.lhm.org/learn/>

and God's holy Word, as an offering. Thus, all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also offerings to Him, from which we eat to nourish our bodies, share with our family, neighbours, and fellow Christians, with the poor and even our enemies, as holy things given by the holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and bring blessing upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom and the souls that receive them.

Thus we place all that we have into God's hands, and He never fails to remember us and pours out the

Over the past number of months, the Board of Stewardship has tried to keep the congregation informed regarding our financial situation. At the end of August, we had a deficit of just over \$18,000 and in spite of the information we shared and the prayers offered up, unfortunately we have not seen that deficit amount reduced. In fact, for the period January 1 to September 30, 2017, our deficit has now increased to \$20,684. Interestingly our offerings and other revenue is virtually the same as 2016 – \$178,254 this year compared to \$177,933 last year for the same period. Perhaps our current offering levels are our “new normal” and our budgeting needs to reflect that reality. Our expenses are very much the same year over year. In 2017—January to September 30—expenses are \$198,938 compared to \$194,496 last year. However, included in the expense total for this year is the asphalt paving done to the north side of the church parking lot which needed to be repaired to prevent water from entering the church basement. If we exclude the paving repair of \$4,800 from this year's expenses, our total expenses would be \$194,138 – almost

fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing, and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

May we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all—even for us. “For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance” (Matthew 13:12).

identical expenses to 2016. As you can see, boards are being very responsible in managing their budgets and for this we are thankful.

Last year you may recall, we ended 2016 with a \$12,000 deficit and given the similarity in offering patterns this year, unless we see a marked increase in giving between now and the end of the year, we will likely end the year with a similar deficit in 2017.

The Board of Stewardship is concerned about our ongoing cash flow and our ability to meet our financial obligations. As boards prepare our 2018 budget estimates, we may have to look very carefully at our spending expectations and recommend some cutbacks to meet our giving reality. The one area that might need to be reduced unfortunately is our Mission commitment to support district and synodical mission programs.

The Board of Stewardship asks for your prayerful consideration of the congregation's financial needs and encourages you to continue to support our programs and the services we offer over the coming months.

*With thanks to God for all  
His many blessings,  
Board of Stewardship*

## Fifth grade assignment

A fifth grade teacher in a Christian school asked her class to look at TV commercials and see if they could use them in 20 ways to communicate ideas about God. Here are some of the results

*God is like.*

**BAYER ASPIRIN**  
He works miracles.

*God is like.*

**A FORD**  
He's got a better idea..

*God is like.*

**COKE**  
He's the real thing.

*God is like.*

**HALLMARK CARDS**  
He cares enough to send  
His very best.

*God is like.*

**TIDE**  
He holds through all  
kinds of weather

*God is like.*

**DIAL SOAP**  
Aren't you glad you have Him?  
Don't you wish everybody did?

*God is like.*

**CHEVROLET**  
...the heartbeat of America

*God is like*

**MAXWELL HOUSE**  
Good to the very last drop

*God is like*

**BOUNTY**  
He is the quicker picker upper...  
Can handle the tough jobs.  
And He won't fall apart on you

*God is like.*

**THE ENERGIZER BUNNY**  
He Keeps Going, Going,  
and Going

## Operation Christmas Child (repeated from last month for your information)

Want to know a great way to make a child smile while sharing the Christian faith? Then Operation Christmas Child is for you!

For those of you who are not familiar with Operation Christmas Child, a person packs a shoebox full of little goodies which are sent to unfortunate children in countries like Haiti, Uruguay, Ukraine, Chile, Costa Rica, plus many more! Upon receiving these boxes, a book called "The Greatest Journey" is distributed to the children. As well, local churches and ministry partners are equipped with Bible courses introducing interested children to Jesus.

So how do you pack one of these shoeboxes? Here are some easy steps:

1. Decide if your shoebox is for a boy or girl and for what age group (2-4, 5-9 or 10-14).
2. Fill the shoebox with toys, hygiene items, school supplies, personal notes and photos, etc.
3. Pray for the child receiving your shoebox.
4. Donate \$10 (online or in the box) to cover shipping of your shoebox.

5. Drop your shoebox off at the church. See? Super easy!

Dollar stores and toy stores are great places to visit for finding items to fill up your shoebox! Filling a shoebox can be a great activity for the whole family or a group of friends.

There will be boxes available at the back of the church, as well as brochures to help you get started.

If you are going to use your own shoebox and wrap it, ensure you wrap the lid and box separately.

Do include:

- School supplies - Items such as pencils, pens, pencil crayons, note pads, and picture books
- Toys and other gifts - Items such as stuffed animals, small musical instruments, hair clips, toy jewellery, t-shirts, socks, and candy (loose, individually wrapped hard candy in a sealable bag)
- Hygiene items - Please place soap in a sealable bag
- Personal note - Include a personal note and/or a photo in your shoebox (not inside the donation envelope)

Do not include:

- Toothpaste (due to customs regulations)
- Food and any chewy, crumbly, or soft candy: Including gum (due to customs regulations)
- Used items (due to customs regulations)
- Playing cards (card games such as UNO are allowed)
- Liquids or items that could leak, melt, freeze, or break – shampoo, creams, lip balm, bath gels, mirrors, or glass, etc. (these can damage other items in the shoe box).
- Items that can scare or harm a child – war-related toys, knives, and toy guns, etc.

For more information, please contact Nichelle either in person after church services or at (306) 281-5587 or nichellestever@gmail.com.

For another source of information, visit [www.samaritanspurse.ca](http://www.samaritanspurse.ca).

Last day to drop off your shoebox(es) at the church will be Sunday, November 12.