

The Spirit of St. Paul's

OCTOBER 2017

www.stpaulslutheran.ca

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

Saskatoon congregations join for Reformation video studies

Last spring members of the congregations in the Saskatoon circuit came together to study *A Man Named Martin - Part 1: The Man*. They met on Wednesday evenings and each congregation took a turn hosting.

Beginning on Wednesday, October 11 at 7:30 p.m. these studies will continue, this time with the video, *A Man Named Martin - Part 2: The Moment*.

Here's the dates and locations:

Wed., Oct. 11 - Grace Lutheran, 603 115th Street East

Wed., Oct. 18 - St. Paul's

Wed., Oct. 25 - Holy Cross, 1405 31st Street West.

The Moment examines the errant teachings and wayward traditions of the late Medieval Church that eventually sparked the Protestant Reformation, a theological overhaul set in motion most notably by Martin Luther's nailing of the 95 Theses to the church door at Wittenberg.

As a follow-up Bible to *A Man Named Martin-Part 1: The Man*, this three-session Bible study takes a close look at the widespread teachings of the late Medieval Church that were superfluous to the Bible or not scripturally grounded. Among them were purgatory, penance, celibacy, prayers for the dead, transubstantiation, the treasury of merits of Christ, devotion to Mary and the rosary, the institution of the papacy, and the one most often linked to the Reformation: the sale of indulgences.

Joining forces in examining these aberrant teachings and the role Martin

Luther had in debating and, ultimately, rejecting them is a cast of scholars, professional church workers, and pastors along with The Lutheran Hour Speaker and host Dr. Gregory Seltz.

More Lego-building pictures at www.stpaulslutheran.ca



Lego Luther Rose...great fun for those who participated



2017/2018 Youth Schedule*

October 13 (Friday): Family Games Night with congregation

November 17 (Friday): Christmas Card Making

November 24-26: Kinasao

December 9 (Saturday): Nativity Scene Gingerbread Houses

January 26 (Friday): Bowling

February 16 (Friday): Movie Night

March 16 (Friday): Breakout Room

March 31 (Saturday): Decorating Eggs

April 13 (Friday): Karaoke Night/Sing Star/DDR competition/Wii Just Dance

May 11 (Friday): Minigolf/Ruckers

June 16 (Saturday): Scavenger Hunt/Ice Cream

*Events may change dates, but there will be notification ahead of time.

Parents and guardians, please provide us with your preferred means of communication (i.e. phone, email).

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.

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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Reformation 500 Commemoration Banquet



Western Development Museum

2610 Lorne Ave.

on

Saturday Oct. 28, 2017

6 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Donna Pyle
 Lutheran Author

Tickets \$35

Available at the Church office
 or from Rhonda Billard (306 244-4743 or billardr@sasktel.net)

You may be wondering who on earth Donna Pyle is. She was keynote speaker at the 2015 convention of LWML-Canada. Those who attended enjoyed her so much they persuaded LuMinHos to invite her as their guest speaker. Here's some information about her.

Since launching Artesian Ministries in 2007, Donna has authored 23 Bible studies and traveled throughout the U.S. and internationally to speak and teach from Scripture.

She has published two books through Concordia Publishing House: *Quenched: Christ's Living Water for a Thirsty Soul* and *The God of All Comfort*. She has authored and recorded two DVD Bible study series in partnership with LWML (US): *Overflowing Abundance* (based on Jesus feeding the 5,000) and *Your Strong Suit* (based on the armor of God). The LWML has published the "Donna Pyle Bible Study Series," which includes eight different downloadable Bible studies for individual or small group study.

Donna enjoys blogging about faith-based issues and interacting on social media to spread God's soul-saving message. She is a member of Salem Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Tomball, Texas, where she serves on the worship team. She is a passionate supporter of Love146, which seeks to end child trafficking and exploitation.

Donna is a native, life-long Texan and fuels her creativity with Chick-Fil-A®, Twizzlers®, coffee and chocolate. She enjoys digging for the treasures in Scripture, writing, traveling, spending time with family and friends and torturing her cats with feather toys.



Pastor's Corner

On the 31st of this month we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. October 31, 1517, was chosen as the date to commemorate the Reformation because that is when Dr. Martin Luther posted his ninety-five theses to the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany. His goal was to have an academic debate on some concerns he had over contradictions he found between what the Roman Catholic Church was teaching and practising at that time and what he had read and learned in the Bible. This started a movement that impacted Christendom and the world in many significant ways.

While the ramifications of the Reformation are vast and are of great importance, there is one truth that was rediscovered and focused on that is at the very heart of it all: our justification before God. The Reformers formulated a number of articles of faith that articulated the core and foundational teachings and practices of biblical Christianity. These articles are known as the Augsburg Confession because they were presented to the Roman emperor and the Roman Church as a statement of biblical truth and a proposal for true unity in the Christian faith on June 25, 1530, in Augsburg, Germany. There is an historic saying in Lutheranism that the church “stands or falls” on Article IV of the Augsburg Confession, which deals with justification.

Justification is an important teaching to get straight since it deals with the question, “How are we made right with God?” This is the fundamental question of all the world's religions. Although the specifics vary from religion to religion, they all teach that we are made right with God by becoming righteous through holy living or

by becoming enlightened through specific teachings. In other words, it is necessary for us to climb a “spiritual ladder” to God through our own efforts. Unfortunately, this kind of teaching had crept into the Roman Catholic Church as people were being taught that it was necessary to do certain acts of penance or buy indulgences that would merit God's favour for themselves and even their loved ones. As Dr. Martin Luther studied the Bible he found that not only were these teachings not found in the Bible, but they outright contradicted what was taught in Scripture.

Luther discovered that the Bible teaches that our salvation is not earned, but is a gift we receive from God. In his letter to the Ephesians, St. Paul taught this truth clearly when he wrote, “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift

of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9). To be “justified” means that we are declared righteous before God. Our justification is only possible through Jesus' perfect life that satisfied God's demand for perfect obedience and his sacrificial death when he took God's wrath and atoned for our sins. We cannot merit God's favour through our obedience or offer sacrifices for our sins. But what we cannot do ourselves, Christ has done for us.

You have been made right with God. You are forgiven your sins. In Christ Jesus you are justified, declared righteous. You have been given victory over your death and you will enjoy eternal life with God and all of His people. Jesus accomplished this for you. This is what the Reformation was all about. This is what Christianity is all about.

*God's blessings,
Pastor Keith*

Pray for God's blessing in Nicaragua

Evangelist deaconesses, Nicaragua – \$9,000

Three deaconesses are married to LCC pastors serving as missionaries in Nicaragua. For the past three years the support of LWMLC has enabled these women to work alongside their husbands in full-time Christian education and outreach ministry. They are serving in congregations as teachers and receiving support through the Christian Education program. This grant from LWML-Canada through the giving of mites, will support these evangelist deaconesses for another three-year period. Please join members of St. Paul's LWMLC as we lift up the outreach in prayer.

Dear Jesus, bless the deaconesses in Nicaragua who work alongside their pastor husbands. Fill their hearts and minds with the message of salvation so they may help other women and their families, physically and spiritually with Word and deed. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.



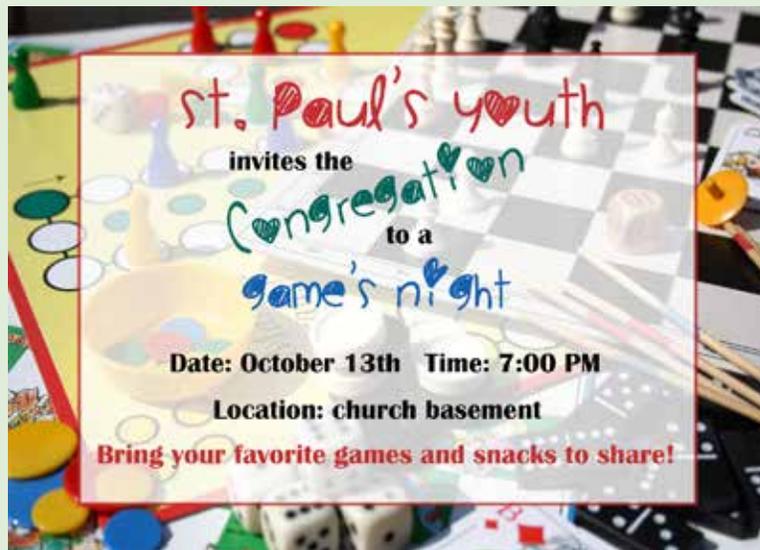
Youth and parents!

Welcome to the 2017/2018 year! There was a youth meeting held on September 17 where decisions were made and an exciting schedule was finalized.

First off, we are sad to announce that Natalie will not be able to help out this year. So if you see Natalie, thank her for all of her hard work these past couple years!

We happily welcome Brenton as a new youth leader. His enthusiasm is going to be a wonderful asset to our group!

We will not be attending a conference at the end of this youth year (summer of 2018). Though we may have a couple of fundraising events this year, our focus will be on non-fundraising activities at most of our youth events. This will give the youth a chance to relax and bond



with each other. With that being said, there are still a number of retreats the youth can attend, the first being North Saskatchewan Youth Retreat at Kinasao from November 24-26 (details will be provided as they are available). Another retreat may occur in February and there were discussions of having a one-day camping trip at the end of the year (Summer of 2018).

Youth group is for ages 13 to 18. Once a youth has turned 19, they can become a youth leader!! (If your child is age 12 and you feel they should be in youth group, come talk to us!) Youth group is open to friends of the youth, as long as they fall within the age group. The youth group events will be open to youth of all the Lutheran churches in Saskatoon and area.

Also being discussed is what will be available for the youth after church services.

If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact us!

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Operation Christmas Child

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 (like yourself) packs a shoebox full of little goodies, which are then 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.

Want to get started but don't have a shoebox? No worries! There will be boxes available at the back of the church, as well as brochures that can help you get started (hopefully by the middle of October).

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) *continued next page*

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 the July/August issue of *The Spirit* we looked at Scripture passages referring to Jesus as my **Saviour, Lord, Love and Peace**. In September the focus was on Jesus as my **Forgiveness, Righteousness and Deliverer**. This month we will look at Jesus as my **Fellowship, Example, Companion and Brother**.

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 that can be drawn upon for each descriptive word being used here.

Jesus Is my Fellowship

Zechariah 2:10 – "Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst, declares the Lord."

1 John 1:5-7 – "This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we

have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin."

Revelation 3:20 – "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with Me."

Jesus is my Example

John 13: 13-15 – "You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you."

John 13: 34 – "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another."

Colossians 3:12-13 – "Put on then as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience bearing with one another and if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."

1 Peter 2:21 – "For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps."

Jesus is my Companion

Psalm 27:10 – "For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the Lord will take me in."

Psalm 119:63 – "I am a companion of all who fear you, of those who keep your precepts."

John 15:15-16 – "No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give it to you."

Jesus is my Brother

Mathew 12:50 – "For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

Hebrews 2:11 – "For He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. That is why He is not ashamed to call them brothers,"

Galatians 4:6-7 – "And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts crying 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God."

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

Christmas Child, continued

- 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.

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

Stewardship

Learning to let go

If you ever tour an authentic colonial home, try to find the closets for clothes. In most of the homes, you won't find them. Why? Because they were not there. Most people in colonial times owned no more than a few sets of clothing. They didn't need much space to store what they had.

This may seem shocking to our society that has walk-in closets and storage space rentals. This may seem shocking to our society in which hoarding has become a topic of reality TV shows and a legitimate threat for fire safety.

This might have seemed shocking to the man in scripture (Luke 12:18), who said; "This is what I will do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain." He felt he needed more space for his stuff. His heart reveals a desire to find his security in how much he has. In his way of thinking, the

more he can have and hold on to, the greater his life will be. The idea of a life made richer by giving and sharing does not seem to come to mind.

By nature, the same is true for our minds and hearts. Generously giving to God and others is not a natural behaviour. The sinful nature in all of

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us is a fool who wants to keep it all for ourselves. How do we break free from all of this?

We break free by focusing less on what we want to keep and more on what God has given. This is a summary: "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you

through His poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9).

Our Saviour gave everything, including His own blood upon the cross, to free us from the chains of sin, death, and hell in order that our hearts can let go of guilt and grief and be filled with the joy, peace and contentment that only He can bring.

Enjoy the blessings He gives you here, whether they are big barns or small. But don't think that a bigger barn will ensure lasting security and happiness. These only come from our big and loving God. Let go of the need to hold on to everything here and rejoice in God who gives you what you truly need for here and hereafter! We pray that Jesus would free us from our natural desires to keep all for ourselves. Motivated by His generosity, we ask that He free us to give generously to God and others.

Board of Stewardship

Blessed to be a blessing . . .

On September 10, 2017, our offerings in support of Concordia Lutheran Seminary (Edmonton) and its mission of "forming servants for Jesus' sake" totalled \$780. This response has ensured us of receiving the full \$300 matching grant available from FaithLife Financial for this event. These offerings, along with those received at other times during September and all future contributions, will truly bless the seminary in preparing pastors, deacons and lay members to be a blessing to Christ's Church on earth to the glory of God.

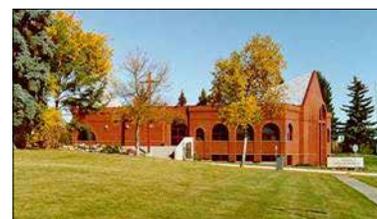
The mission and vision statement of FaithLife Financial is as follows:

Protecting your financial future:

Our financial representatives work with members to develop insurance and investment solutions—offering a comprehensive range of competitive and affordable products to protect the financial future of our Members and their families.

Living your Christian values: We are on a journey to apply Christian values to every area of our lives—including financial planning. Members blend faith and finances to be wise with money and live generously.

Building a better world: We are a Christian financial services organization that gives back a portion of our member's insurance premiums through member-directed community



outreach—strengthening Canadian families, churches and communities

For more information about the organization and its products, please visit its website at www.faithlifefinancial.ca.

We thank FaithLife Financial for its support of our congregation's endeavours.

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