



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN www.stpaulslutheran.ca

#### **MARCH 2022**

### Evangelism

#### Thank-you, Pastor Keith and Natalie – we appreciate you

How then will they call on Him who they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" (Romans 10:14-15 ESV)

Each pastor, throughout the years, has been called by our congregation to preach the good news to us and we have been blessed by the gifts God has given to His Church through them.

In the month just past many of us celebrated St. Valentine's Day by doing special things for the ones we love, giving special cards, gifts and valentine treats. As a note of interest, the beginning of Valentine's Day can be traced back to the life of St. Valentine who was a physician and priest living in Rome. He died a martyr's death in the year AD 270 for his Christian faith. Tradition has it that on the day of his execution he left a note of encouragement for a child of his jailer written on an irregularly shaped piece of paper. This greeting became a pattern for millions of written expressions of love and caring that are now part of our Valentine tradition.

This brings us to the present day. We are blessed to have Pastor



Keith and Natalie with us. The thought occurred to me, having been primed by Valentine's Day, that March would be a good month to give thought to the work of our pastor and to include Natalie. A supportive wife in ministry with her husband is a blessing to us all and so it seems fitting that we should personally thank each one for their time and service to Christ and His Church.

Some suggestions you might consider:

- Pray for them every day.
- Send an encouraging note, an email, or a text.
- If a sermon has especially touched you, let Pastor Keith know.
- Thank him for the open door of his office, encouraging impromptu chats (prepandemic).
- Thank him for hospital visits and

home visits.

• Thank him for Christian counselling.

Our pastor is with us in our joys and in our sorrows, let us be there when he has need of us.

Pastors and their wives are like us and can feel the stress of the day—be sensitive and caring.

Thank Natalie when you know your personal call for help may disrupt their personal time.

Thank her for her service in teaching our teens or taking over Pastor Keith's Thursday night Bible study on short notice when he is called away.

Thank her for her part in recording church services during COVID-19.

Each of us has a different story to tell, a different set of circumstances and our needs will vary but we all have one thing in common and that is we are brothers and sisters in Christ and God has sent us his under shepherd to share the good news of our salvation that we may run the good race together. *And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ* (Ephesians 4: 11-12 ESV).

Clara Zirk for the Board of Evangelism The Spirit

#### 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 society offerings may be put in the offering plate, mailed to the church or given to society treasurer, Marion Hollinger. Please make any cheques payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church but mark them clearly as being for LWMLC. Indicate the amount for mites and the amount for society funds.

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#### WELCOME!

Welcome to our new members Michael, Robin & Madelyn Musty. Michael & Robin have been attending for quite a while now and we are pleased to make it official.

Madelyn Violet Musty was baptized into Christ's kingdom in February.

Welcome to our church family!



## Classifieds

## Pens for sale

This winter Les Hollinger learned how to make wooden pens on the lathe in the woodshop at The Village where he lives. He has sold a number of them to fellow residents with the proceeds going toward some additional tools.

With Father's Day and graduations coming up and many seeking a suitable gift, he is offering them for sale here at St. Paul's through this classified column.



#### Contact him at 306-343-7396.

Something to sell or give away? Need something? Services to offer to fellow members? Try The Spirit Classifieds first. No cost. Leave your ads at the church office or give them to the editor.

#### Pastor

March 2 is Ash Wednesday and, on this day begins the season of Lent which is a time of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our focus is directed on the holy sufferings and death of Christ Jesus, our Saviour. Since early in the history of the Church, this season has been an opportunity for special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance. We consider our sin and the harm it has caused ourselves and others and we repent. The character of this season is solemn in nature. The colour for Lent is purple, which is associated with sorrow, penitence, and royalty. Christ our King did not exercise His royal power with worldly strength and might, but by mercifully giving up His life to save us from our death. The solemnity of this season is also reflected by

## Stewardship

#### God's providential care

Everything we have and everything we are is a gift of God's providential care. We understand that we're not islands unto ourselves, that we could not exist without those who have gone before us and are alongside us. God has given us forefathers in family, country, and faith. We are recipients of what God worked through them. We know that God provides for our well-being through these means.

He gives us farmers and ranchers of all sorts so that we can eat. But more than that God created and gave us all the things that those farmers and ranchers cultivate. He gave us the corn, the beans, the wheat, the cows for milking, the steers for grilling. He gave each of those things, properties for our nourishment and the "Hymn of Praise" and the word "Alleluia" being omitted from the liturgy.

God does not leave us to despair in our sin and suffering. As we accompany our Lord through the valley of Lent and His journey to the cross, we do so in certain hope. We look back to the mountaintop where Jesus was transfigured, His glory shone, and the Father in heaven declared, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to Him!" (Luke 9:35). We look forward to Golgotha where Christ was crucified for our sin and left His tomb empty on Easter Sunday, showing that our sin is forgiven, and eternal life is ours. God sustains us in this promise as we hear and meditate on his Word and receive His body and blood in the Sacrament of the Altar. We

anticipate the joy and shouts of "Alleluia" that return on the Day of Resurrection and that will continue for eternity in God's presence. Listen to Jesus who promises, "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

As the season of Lent begins, I invite you to pray this prayer that is part of our Ash Wednesday liturgy: "Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth."

> God's blessings, Pastor Keith

sustenance. Without God creating and instilling in those things their taste and their nutritional value, we would not exist.

He gives us doctors, surgeons, nurses, and hospitals. He gives us medicine and medical instruments. Again, he gave us all things that go into making those medicines and medical instruments. He instilled in those things the properties that can be utilized for that purpose. Without God creating and instilling those healing properties into those things, and without God creating the ability within man to find this out and press it into service of our medical needs, we would not enjoy the kind of health we do now.

But there's more. He gives us gainful employment through our

employers and provides for the necessities of life through the labour of our hands: "Then Moses said to the people of Israel, 'See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and He has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. And He has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan" (Exodus 35:30-34).

And one step back from that, He has created and given us hands. And attached to those hands are *continued next page* 

#### Stewardship, continued

arms with strength. He created us with minds in order to make those arms and hands move to accomplish the work set before us. And He has given us reason and senses. That mind, because of the reason God has instilled in it, is able to work through difficult problems before we press those arms and hands into labor. It allows us to grapple with concepts and run through scenarios instead of having to experience every situation personally. It allows us to learn from the mistakes as well as the accomplishments of others. This can be done for our entire body, all our skills and talents, everything that makes us ... us. So that everything we have AND everything we are is a gift from Him. This is

what we confess in the First Article of the Creed when we say that we believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

But that is just the First Article of the Creed. We confess two more articles that deal with God's provision for our spiritual wellbeing. That He sent His son to die and be raised on the third day for our justification. That He delivers that justification through the Means of Grace (Baptism, preaching, the Word of God, and the Lord's Supper). And to give you those Means of Grace, He gives pastors and teachers, etc. Again, this could be expanded and expounded upon. So that literally everything that we have and everything that we are - in this life and the next - is an

## Education

## KIDS CORNER GROWING HEARTS OF FAITH

One Lord, One faith, One baptism (Ephesians 4:5)

## LENT...the little word with the HUGE meaning!

Check out the Lenten calendar on the insert page of this newsletter for ways to remind yourself every day of Jesus' love for you!

Online at <u>wikihow.com/Explain-</u> <u>Lent-to-a-Child#</u>, there are great explanations of this beautiful word and suggestions of how to celebrate it. Yes, I said celebrate it!

Jim and Jane Jacob, from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Ontario, continue to provide online Sunday school classes at 8:30 a.m. Sunday morning using Zoom. This time will change to 7:30 a.m. on March 13. If you would like to take part, you can email me at <u>heavenlyhills@sasktel.net</u> with your request and email and I'll pass it on to Mr. Jacob. You will receive an email from him on Fridays with activity sheets and the Zoom link.

Activity pages for upcoming Sundays are still available at <u>LLL</u>. <u>ca/kids-resources</u>. Last year's are included starting on the next page.

God bless your Lenten celebration! Mrs. Denise Timm For the Board of Christian Education and Youth inexpressible gift from God.

And it is for this, all of this, that we give thanks. And that is what stewardship is all about - giving thanks for God's provision for us. To give thanks is more than having an attitude of gratitude, more than just a feeling in our hearts. It is an action. It begins in the heart, but it doesn't stay there. It works its way out through the mouth in praise for God's gifts and in love and charity through the hands to our neighbours in family, country, and church. "For all this is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey him" (Luther's Small Catechism).

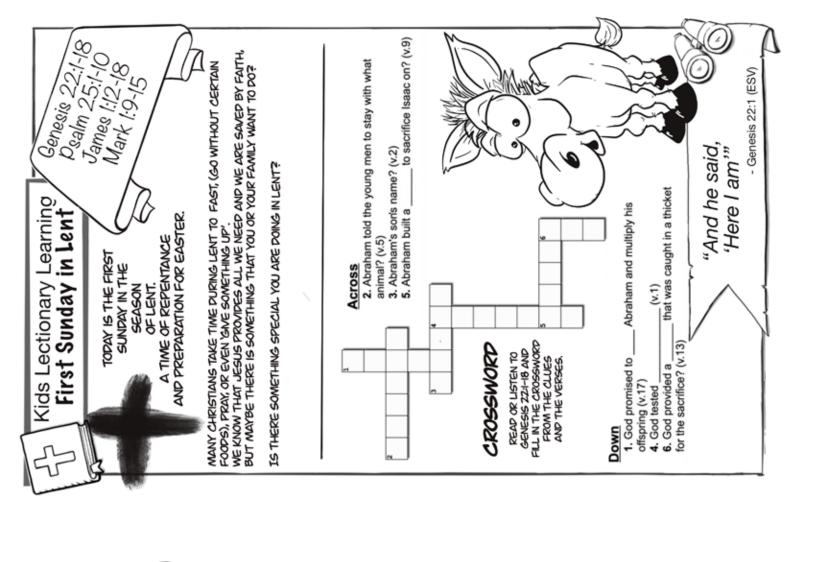
So give thanks to God for His inexpressible gift – for everything we have and everything we are. Do this not in word only but also in deed. *Board of Stewardship* 

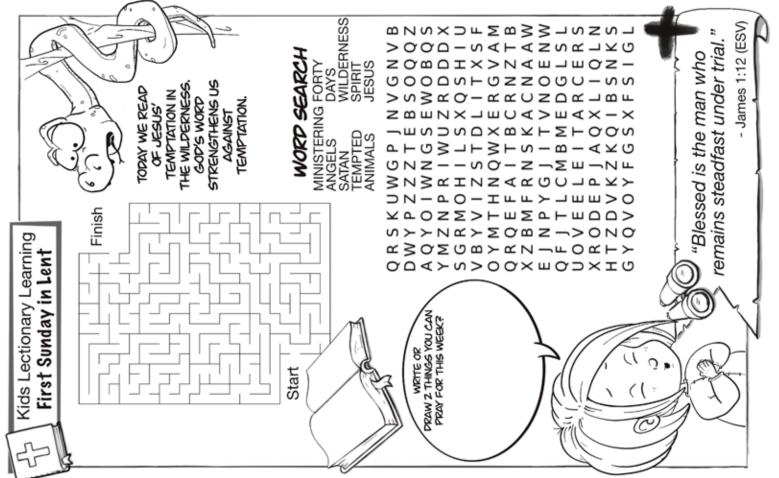
# Would you like to help write a Christian seminar?

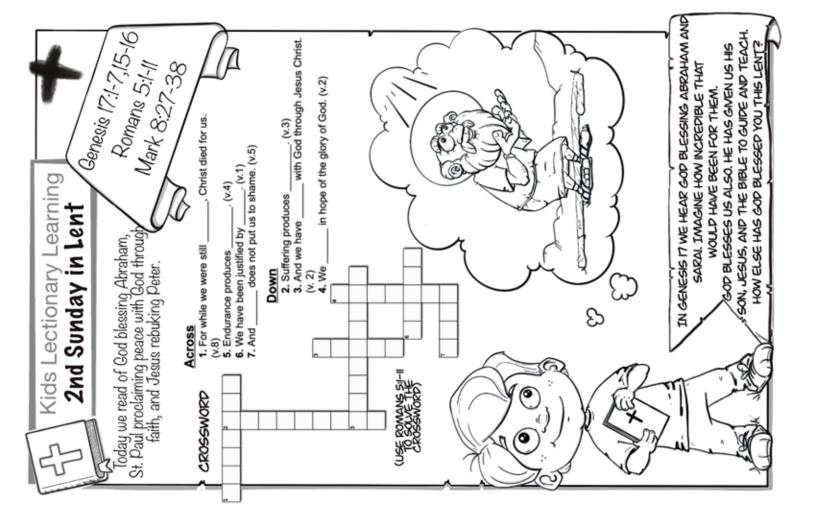
Do you enjoy searching God's Word, discussing, and applying it to your circumstances? Do you like collaborating with women of similar interests? Is God challenging you to step out in faith to share the Word of God?

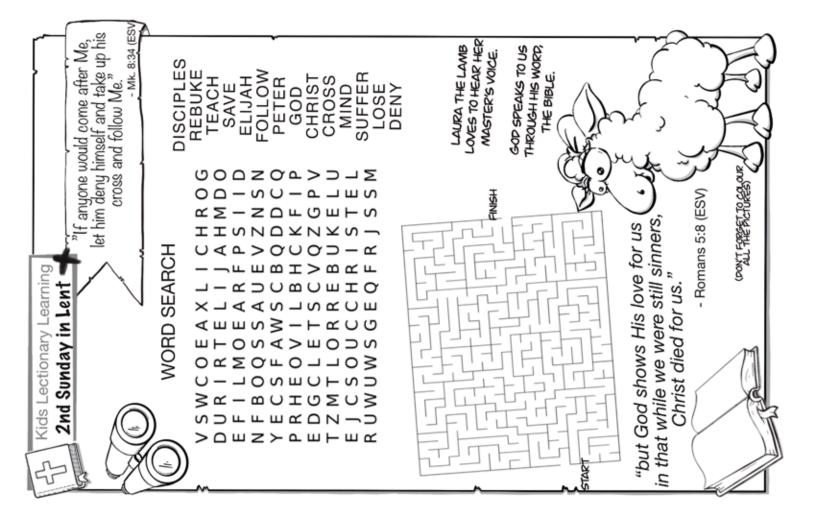
LWML–Canada would like to hear from you as we search for women (you don't have to be an LWMLC member) to produce the next seminar planned for 2023. Work with other Lutheran women from across Canada to develop a theme and Bible studies. No experience is needed just a desire to expand on God's Word and share it with other women. Some travel could be involved.

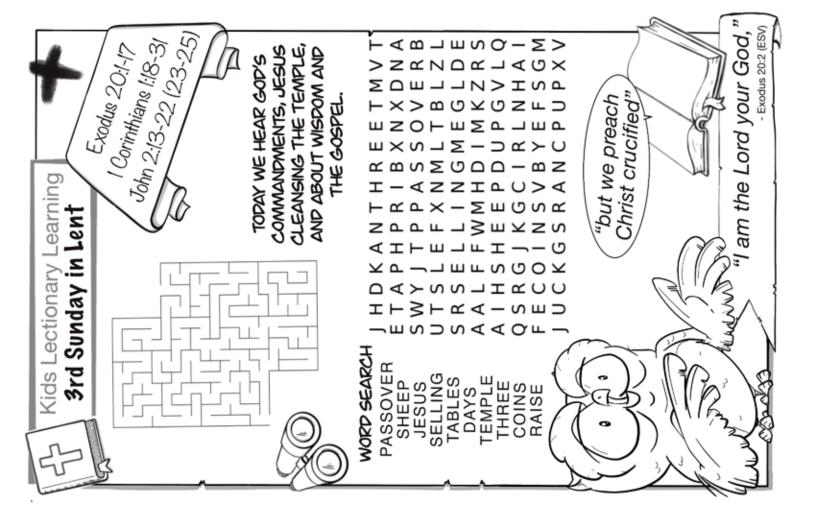
If this interests you, please contact Annette Borchardt, VP, at <u>vpmemberdevelopment@</u> <u>lutheranwomen.ca</u>.



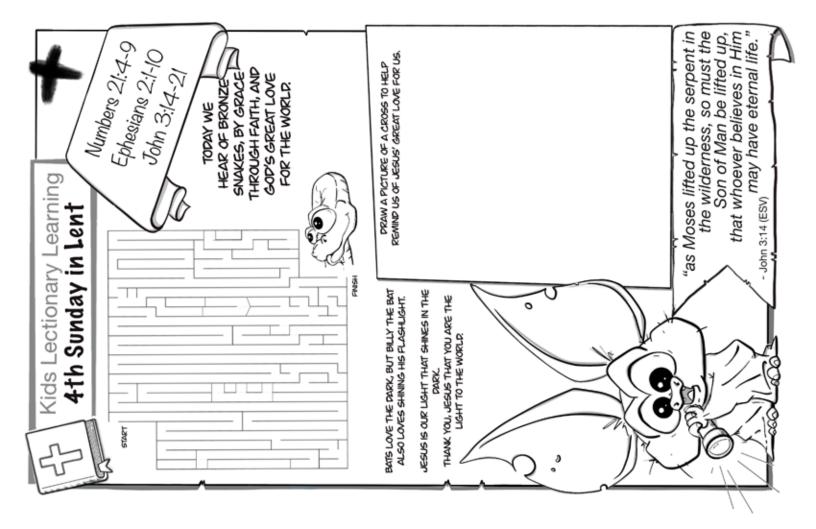


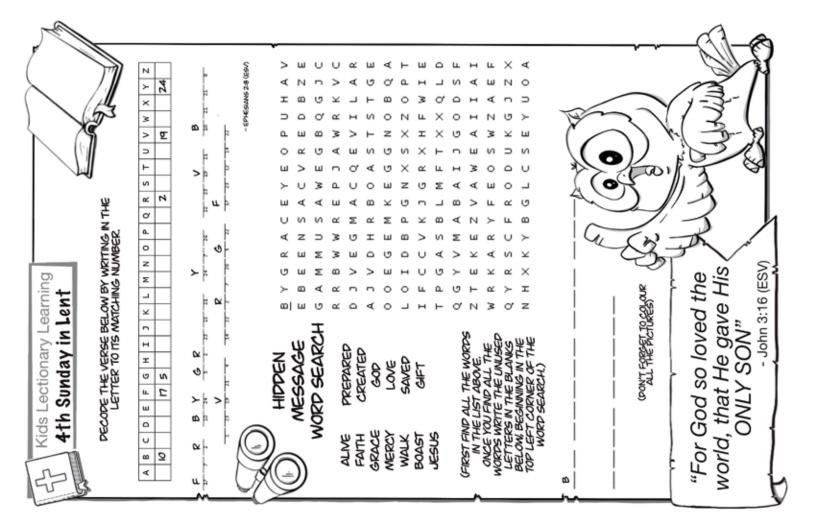






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Kids Lectionary Learning 3rd Sunday in Lent		ACROSS 3. "Honour_father and your mother, 4. "I am theyour God." 5. "Remember theday, to keep 9. "You shall notadultery"	.8 54	Jesus Cod Crucified	"Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."







## Mites in Action -DEVELOPMENT OF NEW MISSION SITE IN LVIV, UKRAINE



LWMLC mission grant – \$12,000 of which \$4,000 has been paid.

### Webinar planned for March 26

Original plans were for a webinar with Pastor Oleksiy Navrotskyy, LCC's missionary in Ukraine, to learn more about the LWMLC mission grant to support the development of a new mission site in Liviv Ukraine. Things have changed.

At this time, it is unlikely Pastor Oleksy Navrotskyy will be able to join us for the webinar on March 26. Pastor Smith, mission executive with LCC, will, however, join the webinar to talk about the mission in Ukraine and provide an update about the situation in Ukraine. Time: 9:00 a.m.

**Questions:** Pastor Mark Smith will do his best to address any questions you may have. Please send your questions in advance of the webinar to <u>vpchristianmission@</u> <u>lutheranwomen.ca</u>.

**Register:** Send an email to <u>webinar@lutheranwomen.ca</u> The registration deadline is March 19.