



The Spirit of St. Paul's

JUNE 2024

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

www.stpaulslutheran.ca

EVANGELISM and PUBLIC RELATIONS

ROOTS!

As seeds sprouted into tender shoots that poked through our garden soil, my mother adjusted her pattern of watering from daily sprinklings to intermittent soakings. Her intent was to encourage roots to reach down to the moisture below the surface. She knew that only strong, well-established roots would support plants to full maturity.

The LORD had guided the prophet Isaiah to write, *“There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what His eyes see, or decide disputes by what His ears hear, but with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and He shall strike the earth with the rod*

of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of His waist, and faithfulness the belt of His loins.... In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as

a signal for the peoples—of Him shall the nations inquire, and His resting place shall be glorious” (Isaiah 11:1-5, 10 ESV).

In the revelation of Jesus Christ given to the apostle John, Jesus confirmed, *“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the Root and the Descendant of David, the Bright Morning Star.”*

(Revelation 22:16 ESV)

Horticulturists who are familiar with the process of grafting different branches into existing trees would have no difficulty in understanding the meaning of the apostle Paul's words to the Gentiles in Rome. Paul refers to Gentiles (people who are not Jewish) as “a wild olive shoot” grafted into the “cultivated olive tree” God established through Abraham, with Jesus as its Root. *“If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches. But if some of the branches were broken off, and you,*

continued



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 in an envelope separate from your church offering, 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.

Classifieds

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.

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Roots, continued
 although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. Then you will say, 'Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.' That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will He spare you. Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in His kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree" (Romans 11:16-24 ESV).

Paul went on to explain how it is that God's mercy is not limited to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to whom the Promised Land was given, prophecies were spoken, and promises were fulfilled.

"For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for His

mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will praise You among the Gentiles, and sing to Your Name' [cited from 2 Samuel 22:50]. *And again it is said, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people'* [cited from Deuteronomy 32:43]. *And again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol Him'* [cited from Psalm 117:1]. And again Isaiah says, *'The root of Jesse will come, even He who arises to rule the Gentiles; in Him will the Gentiles hope'* [cited from Isaiah 11:10]. *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope"* (Romans 15:8-13 ESV).

How thankful we can be that God our Heavenly Father intended His Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to be the Root that nourishes and supports believers from all nations into full maturity of faith. So it is that all believers—both Jew and Gentile—may grow and bear good fruit wherever He has planted us here on earth until He transplants us to stand together beside *"...the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb"* (Revelation 22:1 ESV).

As Heather Lynchuk and I begin our second term as board members, we give our Lord thanks and praise for Patience Asiamah (who faithfully served with us during the past term) as well as for Patricia Martins (who joins us for this 2024-2026 term).

Verla Schmirler
Board of Evangelism
and Public Relations

YARD CLEANUP – April 27

BBQ TO WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New Members Sunday will take place June 16.

We will be having a BBQ after service to welcome our newest members and celebrate with them.

If you are able to attend please add your name to the signup sheet on the bulletin board.

Parish Fellowship will supply the burgers and ask members of the congregation to bring a salad or dessert to share. Please remember that St. Paul's is a NUT FREE church, so any foods brought to the church should not contain any peanuts or tree nuts.

Don't forget your lawn chairs.

Everyone is welcome!



(l-r) Arne Iverson. Ron Walter, Barry Walter, Joel McCutcheon, Ryan Neufeld. Not shown: Dan Bechtel and Keith Wallace.

Welcome!

We welcome Rafael Wolf De Goes as an official member of St. Paul's. Rafael has been attending St. Paul's for a few years since moving here from Brazil and was joined by his wife, Caroline, once she was able to move to Saskatoon as well. We are so happy you are part of St. Paul's family!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Maj (Padre) Vic Morris, on receiving the Commander CANSOFCOM Commendation on Friday 19 April 24.

Major Victor Morris, a son of the congregation, is recognized for his extraordinary contributions to the Optimizing Performance, Force and Family (OPF2) program, and in delivering outstanding spiritual resilience and chaplain support to Canadian Special Operations Forces Command (CANSOFCOM) members and their families. His unwavering dedication, compassionate caregiving and innovative leadership style have greatly empowered the success of holistic health and wellness initiatives within CANSOFCOM. Major Morris' efforts in optimizing spiritual-based care across the Command have directly and profoundly contributed to preservation of the force.

STEWARDSHIP

THE GIFT OF CONTENTMENT

As children grow up, they often feel cramped by their parents' restrictions. Dad says to be home by 11. But why can't I say out 'til midnight? Mom says to clean your room on Saturday morning. But I want to sleep in late, then roll out of bed, hop in the car and go to my friend's house without delay. I want to do what I decide is best.

The older we get, and especially when we have kids of our own, we begin to see the truth. Mom and Dad were not cramping our style or trying to crush our personal freedom—they were looking out for us, providing for us and teaching us a better way of life.

If that's how it is with fallible human parents, how much more so with our Heavenly Father! We sinners often feel cramped by the Law of God. Our sinful flesh wants to go its own way, do its own thing and be in charge. But in our heart of hearts, we know how foolish this is. We know that God loves us, and therefore all of His commands are for our benefit. Each one of His commandments is meant to bless us. Consider the last two commandments:
You shall not covet your neighbour's house.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbour's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it. (SC II)

You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his

manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbour's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty (SC II).

The commandments against coveting are warning us against losing one of the greatest gifts we can possess: contentment. Being content and thankful with what God has provided for us is a necessary building block of living a happy life. Unthankful coveting of what we have not been given will only make us miserable, so God warns us against it.

God has proven His love for us in sending His only begotten Son to shed His blood for us, cleanse us of our sins and bring us back into His family. If He loves us this much, then what percentage of His commandments do you think are meant to harm

us? Probably no more than one or two percent, right? Of course that's absurd. God means to bless us with everything. The Law of God simply describes what a truly happy life, lived in thankfulness to Christ, looks like: It's a generous, merciful, contented life that uses all of the resources God has given us for His purposes. Thanks be to God for His ongoing faithfulness and love for us—His children!

Recently at St. Paul's we have elected a slate of officers and board members to lead the work, activities and ministry here and abroad. We thank these individuals for agreeing to let their name stand for election and are willing to serve. We pray that God will continue to bless us with commitment and love for our neighbour and will guide us in carrying out His command to love and be content with what He has provided.

*In His service
Board of Stewardship*



EDUCATION

KIDS CORNER GROWING HEARTS OF FAITH

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



Hey Kids!

On May 19, we celebrated **Pentecost** – the Holy Spirit coming to Jesus’ disciples. God’s Word tell us:

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be [not actually!] tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues^[a] [languages] as the Spirit enabled them” (Acts 2: 2-5).

That would have been a sight to see! Because it was Pentecost, there were many people from other lands, who spoke different languages, who had come to Jerusalem to celebrate.

⁵ “Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: ‘Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and

Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,^[a] ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” (Acts 2: 5-11).

Jesus was keeping a promise made to them from the book of Joel written a long time ago.

¹⁷ “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy” (Acts 2: 17-18).

They were promised that the Helper, the Holy Spirit, would be given to them so they could share the Gospel story with everyone throughout the whole world, not just in the Jerusalem area. This marks the time of the **birth of the Church** and why we continue to celebrate this birthday every year to this day! The Church is not just a building but it’s all of God’s believers, right from the very beginning of time to when Jesus comes again. This includes us today and all the other people who believe in

Him! In fact, Pentecost Season (the Time of the Church) is SO important that our May/June to November Divine Church Services are centred around hearing about how and where the disciples went preaching God’s Word and learning about how quickly the Church grew. God sent Jesus to save us AND He provided a way for us to hear about His amazing plan! Thank you, God!

We have so many things to thank God for! June 16 is Father’s Day when we give thanks for our dads. Let’s all find a special way to share God’s love by doing something special for them. At the end of the newsletter or on the table at church, you’ll find posters or a card you can make for your dad.

Don’t forget to check for this year’s Pentecost activity sheets at lll.ca. (Scroll down to Lectionary Learning support in the highlighted purple box). There will be a new one every week for all of spring, summer and into fall! Last year’s sheets for the month of June are available at the end of the newsletter or on the table at church.

God bless your learning!

Mrs. Denise Timm
For the Board of Christian
Education and Youth

We have a poet in our midst. The following poem was originally published in Lutheran Women’s Missionary League–Canada’s magazine, *Tapestry*.

Shepherds of the Sheep

Then I will give you shepherds after
my own heart,
who will lead you with knowledge
and understanding.
Jeremiah 3:15 NIV

*Thanks be to God for pastors,
shepherds of the sheep,
who preach the gospel message,
and comfort those who weep.
For their sake, He speaks the law,
that they might see their sin,
repent and be forgiven,
and run the race to win.*

*Thanks be to God for pastors,
who, to their flock speak of His grace,
forgiveness, mercy, love, redemption –
the living Saviour who died in their place.
Thanks be to God for shepherds,
who, to their sheep impart,
His message of love and mercy,
that kindles hope within their hearts!*

*Dear Pastor, Shepherd of the flock,
who, with knowledge, understanding,
in the service of our Lord,
speaks of Law and Gospel,
ever faithful to His Word:*

*Thank you for all you say and do,
as loving shepherd, pastor, friend.
As you, with faith, serve the Lord,
as you teach and spread His word,
we pray and thank our God for you!*

*Dorothy Schuler,
St. Paul’s LWMLC, Saskatoon*

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