



The Spirit of St. Paul's

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

www.stpaulslutheran.ca

DECEMBER 2022

Pastor's Corner

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!'" (Luke 2:13-14).

At the birth of Jesus, there is glory in the highest. Jesus brings peace on earth. He entered this world by taking on our flesh so that He could accomplish all that is necessary for our eternal peace through His life, sin-atonement death on a cross, and death-defeating resurrection. The angels announced to the shepherds that God dwells with us in the Christ Child and they went and confirmed this for themselves. The shepherds went to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in a manger. Then they made known to others what they had been told concerning this child—they couldn't help but share the Good News that the Christ is born, that the Saviour of the nations had come.

What a joy it is to remember and celebrate our Saviour's birth. In the days when a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that it was time for a census, when Quirinius was governor of Syria—at just the right time in history—Mary gave birth to the promised Messiah, wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger. This was

the beginning of Jesus' journey that would take Him to the cross and lead to His Easter resurrection for our salvation.

Because of everything Jesus accomplished, God is pleased with us and we are at peace with Him now and forever. With the shepherds we also can't help but share the Good News that the Christ is born.

Flocks were sleeping,
Shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new

Saw the glory, Heard the story,
Tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow,
Praises voicing,
Greet the morrow:
Christ the child was
born for you!
Christ the child was
born for you!

LSB 393, v.2

*God's joy and peace
now and always,
Pastor Keith*

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Right: On October 30, 2022, Jaxon Porochnavy was welcomed into God's family. His parents are Jeff & Leanne Porochnavy

We are happy to officially receive Arne Iversen and Gerald Langner to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Welcome to our church family Arne and Gerald!



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.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

We are in need volunteers to read announcements at the beginning of each service. Please let office secretary, Sandy, know if you are willing to help out.

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Lay Ministry

We hope and pray that everyone is doing well and are enjoying our winter weather as we enter the Christmas season. The Board of Lay Ministry and Pastor Keith continue to have discussions on providing ministry to members of St. Paul's as well as preparing for a return to normalcy in many aspects as soon as we can. This includes not only the in-person worship services and Bible studies but also private communion to those still not able to attend worship services in person.

Thankfully over the past several months we have been able to adjust our worship service protocols in a number of respects including how we administer the holy sacrament of communion. We look forward to additional changes in the new year so that we are able to return to normal in virtually all of our activities. Finally we celebrate the return to worship services of many members of our congregation who we haven't seen for several years due to the pandemic.

We continue to be thankful for the dedication of Laura Neufeld, and Sharon Rodney as they share their musical gifts for our worship services. We recognize their

commitment of time and talents. Thanks as well to Natalie for the technical assistance to Pastor Keith in recording the services that are made available to members who are not able to attend worship services in person.

We continue to use a small group of people for the altar guild and ushers. We thank those individuals for their faithfulness to prepare communion and in ushering for worship services and we thank Doreen Morris and Daryl Walter for coordinating the altar guild and ushers respectively.

As we have said in the past, Pastor Keith has been a constant in providing leadership this past year in carrying out the ministry of word and sacrament in the congregation as well as in his private ministry to members. We are thankful and very blessed to have Pastor Keith leading St. Paul's during these times.

We wish all members and their families of St. Paul's God's blessings this Christmas season and we look forward to seeing all of you in the new year.

Board of Lay Ministry

Classifieds

FOR SALE: Merle Timm's condo at 311-2213 Adelaide St, near Market Mall is for sale. About 1060 sq. ft. It will be put up for sale in January. Contact Denise Timm at 306-497-2285 or 306-222-5864 for more information.

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.

Coming Up

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 – a double header after worship.

First a short meeting of the voters to approve the 2023 budget. Copies of the proposed budget can be found on the ushers' table in the narthex.

The meeting will be followed by our annual Christmas potluck social with fellowship, delicious food and falalas. Please add your name to the sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

Evangelism

Good News of Great Joy!

And in the [Bethlehem] region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.

And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them (Luke 2:8-18 ESV).

God, our Heavenly Father, has "good news of great joy" for "all the people" of the earth and He sent His angel to proclaim it to the shepherds. Then a "multitude of the heavenly host" appeared to them and began praising God and giving Him glory. The shepherds hurried to see Jesus for themselves and "made known" to others what they had heard and seen.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, that "good news of great joy" has been "made known" to us through the waters of Holy Baptism, the

preaching, teaching, hearing and reading of God's Word, and the partaking of the Lord's Supper. We are blessed to know that Jesus suffered and died on the cross to earn the Father's forgiveness of our sins, that on the third day He rose victorious from the grave, that He ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, and that He is coming again. On that Great Day, only those who believe in Him will have eternal life. I pray that we may be as eager as the shepherds to make known to others what has been heard and seen, to the glory of God.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the Name of the only Son of God" (John 3:16-18 ESV).

*Verla Schmirler
for Board of Evangelism*



Education

KIDS CORNER GROWING HEARTS OF FAITH

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

We've set this up as a separate document to make it easier for families to download and use.

Stewardship

Anxiety vs. Trust

Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, teaches those who follow Him that worrying about the necessities of life is idolatry: worshipping a false god. Worry and anxiety show what we care about. Our anxiety reveals what we love and what we're devoted to. It reveals what we trust in.

This is why our Lord begins this section with an overarching principle: "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money" (Matt. 6:24).

But you say: "I must eat and drink. I must have clothing to wear and have a home in which to dwell." Yes, all these things you need. And Jesus says that your Father in heaven will ensure that you have them. He demonstrates this with a simple argument: your Father in heaven feeds the birds of the air, who neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns. He clothes the lilies of the field, who neither toil nor spin but are arrayed more luxuriously than Solomon in all his glory. If, then, your Father in heaven feeds the birds, if He clothes the lilies, how will He not also feed and clothe you, when you are worth more than they are? (Matt 6:25-33).

Do you know that you are worth more than them? You are worth infinitely more. You are worth the price of the eternal Son of God. Did the Son of God come down from heaven and become a lily? Did he descend and take on the form of a bird? No! He came down from heaven and became a man: flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone

(Gen. 2:23). He is one of us, our brother. And what did He do when He became flesh to dwell among us? He gave His holy, precious blood, through His innocent suffering and death, that you might be His own and live under Him in His kingdom forever.

God became man in Christ Jesus. He lived the life we failed to live, and He died the death we deserved. He was raised again on the third day overcoming sin and death ... for us. He was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification. So, if your Father in heaven has given His Son to die for us in order that we might live with Him eternally, how will He not also give us all things to support this body and life?

To be anxious about the necessities of life, to devote yourself to food and clothing, to care about these things and find security in them, is to serve another god. It is to deny that you will live forever because Jesus, the Son of God, is risen from the dead and lives and reigns for all eternity. It is to believe that the God who created you, redeemed you by the death and resurrection of His Son and sanctified you by His Spirit, will not keep His promise to sustain you in this life.

Jesus says, "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness" (Matt. 6:33). God's kingdom is His rule among us. His rule among us comes when our Father in heaven gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His Holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity. This is what we ask God

to do for us in the prayer that Jesus taught us.

Your Father in heaven knows what you need — food and clothing, house and home — and He promises to give it to you. Chief of the things you need is His grace and mercy in His Son, Jesus Christ. So, seek after that. And those who seek will find. And all the necessities of life, our Lord says, will be added to you.

As we begin the season of Advent when we look forward to the birth of Christ our Savior we also think of our programs and ministry here at St Paul's. Our ability to continue to preach God's word and fulfill our mission is dependent on our financial condition from year to year.

At the end of October, we had spent about \$22,000 more than we had taken in to support our programs and ministry. This is a challenge for us to end the year with a better financial result – but it can be done. Typically, November and December are our strongest months of the year for donations. Based on previous years' giving in November and December the Board of Stewardship is projecting a yearend deficit of about \$9,000. As we continue to come out of the COVID experience with reduced attendance and giving, we are hopeful that with God's blessings we will meet our financial challenge to end the year and move forward with boldness and confidence. Our Lord does indeed know what we need – and promises to give it to us along with His grace and mercy!

*Blessings and Peace,
Board of Stewardship*