



The Spirit of St. Paul's

FEBRUARY 2024

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

www.stpaulslutheran.ca

EDUCATION

KIDS CORNER

GROWING HEARTS OF FAITH

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

Hi Kids!

What do Transfiguration, Ash Wednesday, Lent and Valentine's Day all have in common? LOVE, of course! Just to recap.....in Luke 9:28-36, the Bible talks about the Transfiguration, when Jesus went up on a mountain top with three of his disciples. He became dazzling white as He talked with Moses and Elijah (two guys who had already gone to heaven!) This shows us that Jesus truly is God's Son! Ash Wednesday and Lent prepare us for Jesus' dying on the cross to save us from our sins so we can live in heaven with Him. Question. Why would the Son of God (Jesus), who is perfect and has all the power in the world, even the universe, die for us, who can't stop doing hurtful things?!! There's only one reason...ultimate, amazing,

incomprehensible LOVE! So, it makes sense that Valentine's Day also happens around this time, right? It's a time that reminds us of how much love Jesus has for us and, by His example, we too can show love to and for others. There are so many ways to do this! Ask God to help you! And don't worry if you don't do it perfectly. He'll forgive you because HE LOVES YOU!

To learn more about our loving God, join Lisa Poier for Sunday School after Divine Service on Sundays in the basement. Jim

Jacob, from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in London, Ontario, is also providing online Sunday school on the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of the month. If you can't attend either of these, check out the end of the newsletter online or the printed copies of Pastor Cooper's activity sheets from 2022 (2023 sheets are not available). You can still get the current ones week to week at lll.ca. Scroll down to the blue section titled 'Supporting our little Lutherans...'

Wishing you God's love,
Lisa Poier and Denise Timm



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.

St. Paul's FAMILY NEWS

Rohana Gilbert became part of the St. Paul's family at her baptism on January 7, 2024. Pictured are her parents, Lee Gilbert and Martina Stevenson, sponsors Chelsea Breher and Ryan Medforth and Pastor Keith.



A Chili Cookoff



Don't miss the chili cookoff on FEBRUARY 4. Get ready to become a chili maker or tasting judge on FEBRUARY 4.

And shortly after the Chili Cookoff, please mark your calendars and join us for our pancake supper and Ash Wednesday service, on February 14 this year.

Pastor: Rev. Murray Keith
 Office Secretary: Sandy Harper
 phone: 306-343-9535
 e-mail: stpaulslcc@sasktel.net
 web: www.stpaulslutheran.ca
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpaulslutheran
 Instagram: www.instagram.com/stpaulslcc
 Spirit Editor: Marion Hollinger
hollinger@sasktel.net
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EVANGELISM and PUBLIC RELATIONS

BAPTIZED – BORN AGAIN!

“Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan [River] to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented Him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?’ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.’ Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately He went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on Him; and behold, a voice from Heaven said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’” (Matthew 3:13-17 ESV).

Imagine being there to see the Holy Spirit descend on Jesus and to hear the voice of God the Father speaking! The presence of the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—marked Jesus’ baptism as a significant event. It was not until after His baptism that Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil, He overcame Satan by the power of God’s Word, and He began His ministry among the people.

“Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, ‘Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.’ Jesus answered him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?’ Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you,

unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” (John 3:1-8 ESV)

Jesus’ words to Nicodemus confirm that a supernatural transformation takes place whenever baptism occurs. Each person who is “born again” “of water and the Spirit” is equipped to “enter

the kingdom of God.”

“Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw Him they worshiped Him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” (Matthew 28:16-20 ESV)

Jesus also said to His disciples,
continued next page

SEMINARY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYONE



The Spring 2024 Quest course will be led by Rev. Dr. Joel Heck, Interim President of Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton. His topic will be “C. S. Lewis: Life and Relationships.”

The four sessions will be held on the Tuesday evenings of February (6, 13, 20, and 27) beginning at 7:00 p.m. MST (for those attending in person at the seminary) and will be available to view by livestream at the following link <https://www.youtube.com/user/ConcordiaLutheranSem> (beginning at each session’s premiere time of 8:00 p.m. CST as well as continuing to be available for future viewing at your personal convenience).

The lectures, aided by colourful PowerPoint presentations, will serve as a guide, giving participants some glimpses, through photographs taken on-site, of the Belfast, Oxford, and Cambridge cities where Lewis lived.

Week 1: The Life of C. S. Lewis; From Atheism to Christianity

Week 2: “The Weight of Glory”

Week 3: “No Ordinary People,” Why Lewis had so many friends

Week 4: The Ransom Trilogy – Why Lewis’ adult fiction is so compelling

*Submitted by Verla Schmirler
(based on information posted on the CLS website:
<https://www.concordiasem.ab.ca/>*

Born again, continued

“It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority. But, you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:7-8 ESV).

Throughout the centuries since Jesus commissioned His disciples and they were filled with

the Holy Spirit, generations of infants, children and adults have been baptized with water in the Name of the Triune God and have been instructed and nurtured in the Christian faith. The same Holy Spirit who filled, led and equipped those who have gone before us, now fills, leads, and equips us to serve our Lord and His Church today. Although only our Heavenly Father knows how

many generations will come after us, we can be certain that these words of Jesus will be fulfilled: *“And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come” (Matthew 14:14 ESV).*

*Verla Schmirler
Board of Evangelism
and Public Relations*

STEWARDSHIP

CARING FOR MY NEIGHBOUR

If any of the Ten Commandments might tempt us to think that keeping the Law is easy, it would be the Fifth Commandment. After all, how hard is it to get through life without murdering somebody? The vast majority of people can handle that!

But Jesus famously blows up this notion by pointing out that the command, “you shall not murder,” goes much deeper—down to the heart.

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire” (Matthew 5:21–22).

Hatred and disdain come from the same sort of crookedness of heart as murder. With both murder and hatred, you look down on another person and think them of little worth.

In the Small Catechism, Luther also points out that every “do not” in the commandments also includes a “do this:” *“We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbour in his body but help and support him in every physical need” (SC, Fifth Commandment, emphasis added).*

We are not called merely to avoid evil; we must also do positive good.

So when Jesus drew near to us and became our neighbour by taking up our humanity, He came not only to avoid harming us, but He came to positively help us, bless us and serve us.

We are now called to show the love to our neighbours that Christ showed to us. Your neighbour is yet another gift that God has given you that requires your stewardship. We are called to show mercy, to be kind, to love and serve our neighbour. One aspect of this stewardship is financial: our neighbours need us to support the church’s work so that they can hear the Gospel and come to faith. Our neighbours need the

church’s alms and mercy work. Our neighbours need our faithful service in all we do in the name of Christ.

While our 2023 year end results are not finalized yet, we can report that our donation revenues in November and December were very encouraging. We had been projecting a possible deficit for the year in the range of \$10,000 to \$12,000, however, based on actual donation revenue for the year and estimated expenses in December, *the Board of Stewardship expects we will end 2023 with a small surplus.* Our average donation revenue in December based on the last three years is around \$34,000. Our members very generously supported our financial needs by giving \$10,000 more in December 2023 than the three-year average – just over \$44,000.

We give thanks to God for blessing our members and through them, blessing our mission and ministry at home and abroad.

Thanks be to God!

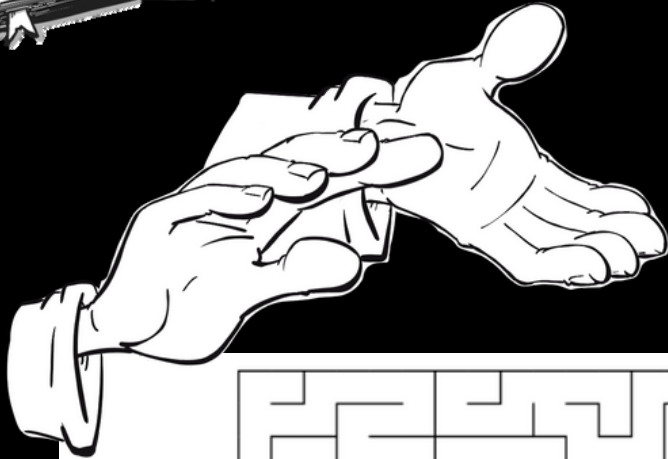
Board of Stewardship



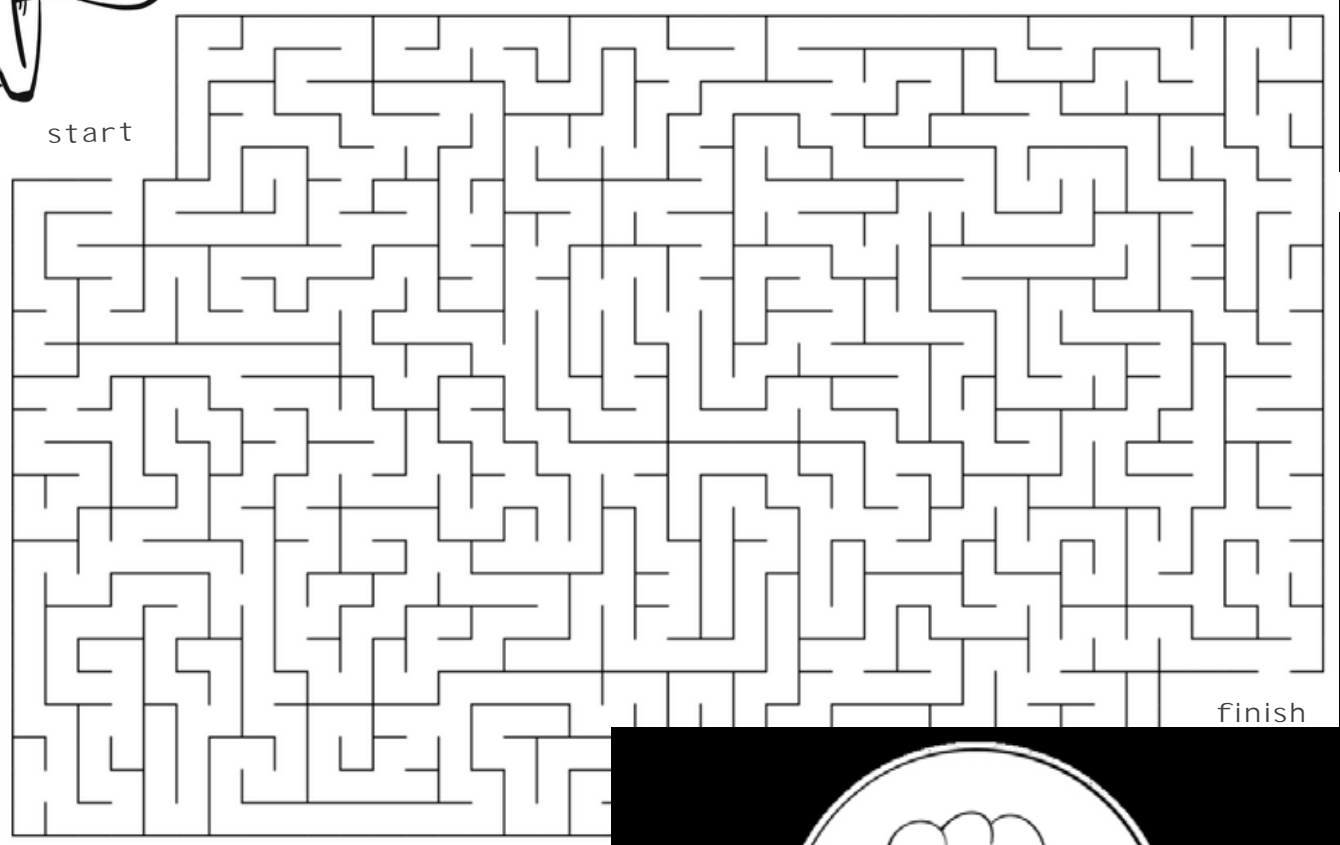
2nd Sunday in Lent

Bible Lessons

Jeremiah 26:8-15
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35



Read Luke 13:31-35 and then try today's maze.



"How often would I have gathered
your children together as a
hen gathers her brood under her wings,
and you were not willing!"



"Can you colour the mother hen
as she gathers her chicks?"