



The Spirit of St. Paul's

JANUARY 2024

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

MITTEN TREE UPDATE

A big thank you to all who donated to the mitten tree this year. A total of 17 toques, 11 mittens, 21 pairs of gloves and 3 scarves will keep many hands and ears warm this winter. They were donated to the Global Gathering Place whose mission is to engage and support immigrants and refugees to integrate and thrive in Canadian society.

The Global Gathering Place helps refugees and immigrants navigate everything from language, healthcare, and employment, to developing life skills that many of us use without thinking (like grocery shopping and taking the bus). Global Gathering Place also delivers English classes as well as a full calendar of programs for adults, youth, children and families. And of course, they also provide warm winter clothing to their clients. Thank-you to Sherry Gore who delivered the mitten tree items.

Interested in learning more about Global Gathering Place, just visit their website <https://globalgatheringplace.com>.

St. Paul's LWML



Coming Up - a Chili Cookoff

The board of Parish Fellowship is so excited to announce that we will be having our chili cook off again this year! It's been a while since we've done this, so we are hoping that you will be able to dust off your chili pot, put on your apron, and find your world famous chili recipe.

Watch for the sign-up sheet around January 14, and get ready to become a chili maker or tasting judge on **FEBRUARY 4**.

There will be a few different categories for you to steer your chili towards... like most unique or spiciest!

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.



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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EVANGELISM and PUBLIC RELATIONS

REVEALED!

Because of my limited vision, I don't see well in darkness. I have always appreciated bright lighting that reveals my path. Without it, I need the help of my mobility cane or cues from a sighted guide in order to safely reach my destination.

"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him'. When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: [cited from Micah 5:2] And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd My people Israel.' Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found Him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him.' After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered

Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way." (Matthew 2:1-12 ESV)

Imagine the magnificence of "His star"! It had attracted the attention of the wise men and led them from their own country to the place where the child was.

From Genesis to Revelation, God's Holy Word has revealed Jesus Christ to generations of people from all nations, including us! By the power of the Holy Spirit, we are guided to see Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in New Testament events that occurred at Christ's first coming. From now until the end of the age, we will continue to see signs that prepare us for His second coming.

This is just one of the end-time visions our Lord revealed to us through the apostle John: "Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished. And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, 'Great and amazing are Your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your Name? For You alone are Holy. All nations will come and worship You, for Your righteous acts have
continued next page

STEWARDSHIP

The Chief Stewards of Humanity: Mom and Dad

St. Paul tells the Ephesians that the first commandment with a specific promise attached to it is, “Honor your father and mother so that it may go well with you, and you may live long in the land” (Eph. 6:2). This promise is one indication of the importance of this commandment. The other thing that highlights the special nature of this commandment is its placement within the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are clearly organized in two big categories. The first three commandments deal with our relationship with God. This category is called the First Table of the Law. The last seven commandments, the Second Table of the Law, tell us how we should relate to other people. These two tables correspond to what Jesus calls the two greatest commandments: “You shall love the

Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind,” and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:37–39).

The order of the Second Table of the Law is also important. Murder is a greater sin than adultery, which is a greater sin than stealing, or lying, or coveting. But why is the Fourth Commandment first in the Second Table, ahead of “you shall not murder”? Is disobeying your parents really worse than murder? Or maybe we should give up on thinking these commandments are ordered?

The overall effect of this order is to get us to see our parents as a connection point between our neighbors and our God. Throughout our upbringing our father and mother stand between us and God and deliver His gifts to us:

God clothes us, feeds us, protects us and teaches His Word to us through our parents.

So, parents have a very high calling from God. They are called to be stewards of the greatest gift: the gift of life.

Parenting thus gives us a keen insight into all our stewardship. Parents know that they have been given a great treasure in their children, a treasure that does not belong to them, yet for which they feel a great deal of responsibility. Truth be told, every gift we have been given is like this, because everything we have — whether our own personal skills and powers or our wealth and time — is all from God. He entrusts it all to us so that we can use it all and take care of it all for His great purposes.

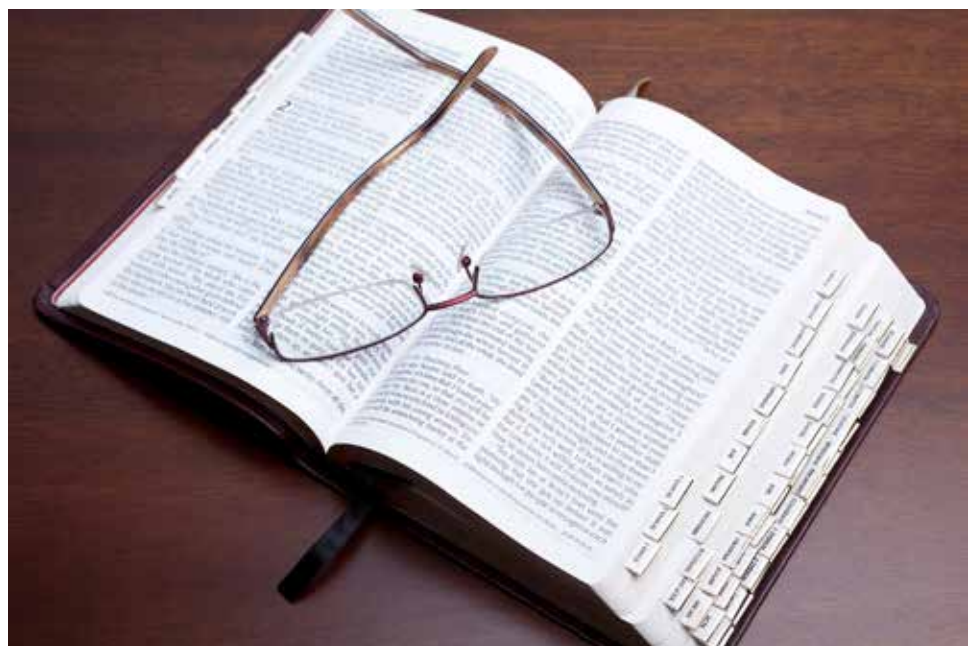
*Blessings and Peace
Board of Stewardship*

Revealed, continued

been revealed” (Revelation 15:1-4 ESV).

As we await Christ’s return, we are encouraged to fix our eyes on Him, our Lord, Saviour and Coming King, who said, “*I am the Light of the World. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life*” (John 8:12 ESV) and “*I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me*” (John 14:6 ESV). As we follow Him toward the place He has prepared for us, I pray each person we encounter here on earth will see His light shining through us and be led to follow Him too!

*Verla Schmirler - Board of
Evangelism and Public Relations*



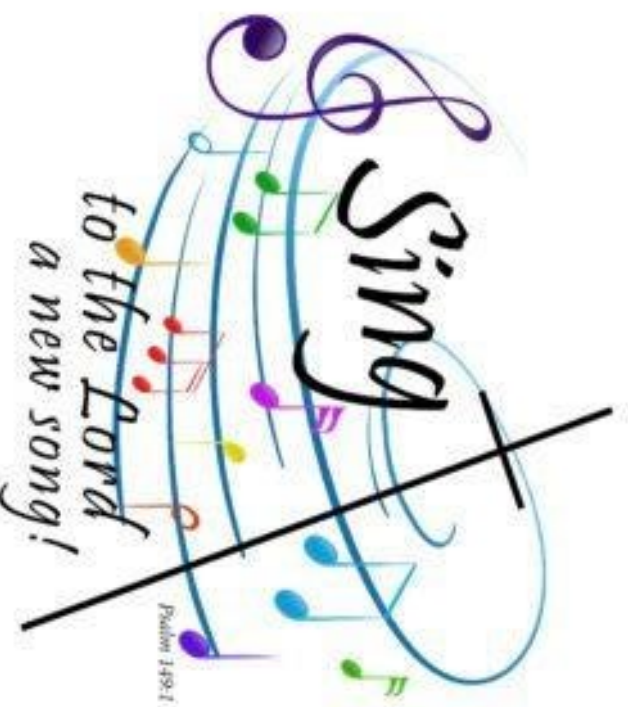


LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY

LEAGUE - CANADA

Twelfth Regular Convention

July 11-14, 2024



In person at the Four Points by Sheraton, London,

Ontario or online via livestream

Keynote speaker, author Deb Burma, will inspire us to sing our new song!

Intersession speakers, Rev. Paulo Brum, Rev. Walta Clercius, and Rev. Peter Gatuak will share how music and singing are used to glorify God in worship in other cultures.

Check out the LWML bulletin board downstairs to see the first convention newsletter for more information.

EDUCATION

KIDS CORNER GROWING HEARTS OF FAITH

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



Hi Kids!

Belated Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful time celebrating Jesus' birth with your families and friends. We also want you to know, even if it didn't go as well as you planned, **God's** plan to send Jesus into our world to die for us, still happened perfectly! He knows what we need, which is a lot more important than just what we want.

There are a couple of things we'd like to share with you. First, we will be unable to include Pastor Cooper's **last year's** activity sheets in the church's newsletter anymore. The new ones will still be available online at lll.ca. Just scroll down to "Supporting our Little Lutherans, our Young at Heart Lutherans and those in between." We found some for this newsletter, but they won't be available for the weeks ahead.

The second thing is that Denise Timm has decided to not teach Sunday School for now. She has some other projects she will be working on, but she'll still be around....and very interested to

hear how you're doing and what you're up to!

If you haven't been doing so already, keep moving the wisemen from your Nativity scene closer to Baby Jesus until we celebrate Epiphany on January 6. At Epiphany, Jesus was already about **two years old** when they came to worship Him! So, this is why they really weren't part of the Nativity scene and among those worshipping Jesus until quite a while later. We still include them though because they show us that Jesus came into the world for everybody, along with God's chosen Israelite people, who we read about in the Old Testament.

Once again, HAPPY NEW YEAR...and remember, GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US, no matter what happens in our lives or in the world!

God bless you!

*Lisa Poier and Denise Timm
St. Paul's Sunday School*

*Brightest and best of the stars of
the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us
thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer
is laid.*

*Cold on His cradle the dewdrops
are shining;
Low lies His head with the beasts of
the stall;
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Saviour
of all.*

*Shall we not yield Him, in costly
devotion,
Fragrance of Edom and off'rings
divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of
the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest and gold from
the mine?*

*Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would His favour
secure.
Richer by far is the heart's adoration;
Dearer to God are the prayers of
the poor.*

*Brightest and best of the stars of
the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us
thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer
is laid.*

LSB 400



St. Paul's FAMILY NEWS



CHRISTMAS SOCIAL 2023