

JULY/AUGUST 2025

JOEL AND CARTER AFFIRM THEIR FAITH

Congratulations to the two young men who were confirmed on Sunday, June 29. We pray that they continue to grow in their faith as the Holy Spirit guides them all of their days.

As a gift from the congregation, St. Paul's confirmands received their certificates framed and ready to hang where they can read them often. They include the Scripture verse Pastor Keith chose for each of them.

Carter Oddan's confirmation verse:

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever" (Psalm 111:10).

Joel Schuler's confirmation verse:

"Praise the Lord! Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever" (Psalm 106:1).



Included in the gift given by the women of St. Paul's Lutheran Women's Missionary League to the confirmands is a new booklet titled "Texts From God" which focuses on God's Word and prayer.

In the booklet is a QR code taking them to the booklet online so they can download it and take God's Word with them wherever they go.



Joel Schuler, Pastor Keith and Carter Odden on Confirmation Sunday, June 29, 2025.

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. Send your ads to the editor.

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PASTOR'S CORNER

BENEFITS WE RECEIVE FROM FOLLOWING A LITURGY

St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a liturgical congregation meaning that when we gather for Divine Service we follow a liturgy that includes standard texts that have been handed down over the centuries (e.g., the Kyrie, Creed, Sanctus, Agnus Dei, etc.). In Greek, the word "liturgy" is leitourgia, which literally translates to "work or service for the people." Jesus teaches, "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). Our Lord took on our flesh not to be served, but to offer His life on the cross for the sin of the world. He serves us today through His holy Word and Sacraments through which He delivers His forgiveness and salvation, setting us free from our sin and strengthening us for service to one another and to the world.

Here are five benefits of being served by God through the liturgy:

- The liturgy is filled with God's living and active Word which is the source of faith and life (Romans 10:17). In our hymnal you will see Scripture references provided, reminding us that the words we recite and sing are God's Word. The structure of the liturgy clearly proclaims and delivers faith, forgiveness, peace, and life.
- 2. The liturgy ensures we receive the whole counsel of God's

Word and not bits and pieces of it out of context.

- 3. The liturgy has been handed down to us by our fathers and mothers in the faith and the continuity unites us with the church of all times. At the altar the whole company of heaven is united and it is meaningful that we are speaking the same words and singing the same songs as those who have gone before us in the faith.
- 4. The character of the liturgy and music accompaniment is unlike what we usually experience in the world so it helps us to be in God's presence to receive His gifts. The character of the liturgy is reverent, peaceful, and meditative and is a respite from the challenges of life.
- 5. The liturgy unites the church so we can attend a liturgical Divine Service anywhere in the world and still understand and participate, even if we do not understand the language.

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name! For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations" (Psalm 100:4-5).

> God's blessings, Pastor Keith

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADS



SAMUEL HARPER graduated grade 12 from Holy Cross High School. Sam plans to take a gap year to work and then will be attending Edwards School of Business at the University of Saskatchewan in 2026.



RACHEL ZLIPKO graduated with honours from Bishop James Mahoney High School this year. She completed a number of art classes and participated in various art shows. Rachel is considering studying graphic design.



GRACIE HARPER and **DANIKA OSTERWALDER** convocated from the University of Saskatchewan, each with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing. They challenged the licensing exam and are now registered with the College of Registered Nurses of Saskatchewan. They look forward to entering the field and serving their communities.

If anyone else in our St. Paul's "family" has graduated this spring, or will graduate in the fall, from any program, we would like to acknowledge their success. Please let the editor know at <u>hollinger@sasktel.net</u> and we can arrange for providing a picture and brief note.

STEWARDSHIP

THE REWARDS OF GODLINESS

It's no secret that you can't bribe your way into heaven. No amount of good works will impress God enough to open heaven's door for their sake. "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23) and the person who "keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it" (James 2:10). Rather, salvation is "the free gift of God ... in Christ Jesus" (Romans 6:23).

So, your good works won't earn you the reward of heaven. But does that mean that there are no rewards at all? Consider what the Small Catechism says in the "Close of the Commandments":

What does God say about all these commandments?

He says, "I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments." (Exodus 20:5–6)

What does this mean?

God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath *continued next page*

The Spirit

Stewardship, continued

and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands. (SC II)

God promises to bless you in keeping His commandments. What might these blessings be? Well, consider what Paul says about keeping the Fourth Commandment: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honour your father and mother' (this is the first commandment with a promise), 'that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land'" (Ephesians 6:1–3).

And think about what your life would be like if you went around stealing (breaking the Seventh Commandment), telling lies about people (breaking the Eighth Commandment), and generally being cruel to those around you (breaking all the commandments!). That is obviously not a blessed way to live. In fact, you'd be miserable living that way.

And Jesus says more about what is in store for those who make sacrifices for His sake: "Jesus said to them, 'Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for My name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life''' (Matthew 19:28–29).

So don't grow impatient in doing good. Follow the Lord who has freely given you everlasting life.

Recently the Board of Stewardship reviewed our financial statements to the end of May which showed we have a year-to-date deficit of \$9,501. This compares to a deficit at the end of May 2024 of \$19,462. Our offerings to date this year are \$106,126 an increase of \$8,181 over the same period last year. Our bank balance remains in a strong position so we can continue to pay our bills over the summer months when attendance and offerings are typically lower. The board thanks you for continuing to remember the church and its mission in your support through prayers and gifts.

God's Blessings for a safe and enjoyable summer! Board of Stewardship

Bouquets of Blessings

This gathering was for any woman who wants to grow her faith with other like-minded women. It was organized and hosted by women of Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML). Watch for another gathering in the fall, hosted in another congregation.



More than twenty women gathered at St. Paul's on June 14. Denise Timm and Gaylene Haugen helped the group discover new insights into the personalities of the biblical women, Mary and Martha. The day



with a devotion about flowers inviting participants to consider what flower they might be based on their personalities. It was a good lead in to considering if we are a Mary or a Martha or a bit of both. An activity had everyone chatting as they tried to identify pictures of flowers. At the conclusion of the two-part study everyone hunted for "hugs" hidden around the room, participated in a devotion helping us recognize when God "hugs" us, and took home a package with a "hug" for themselves and one to give away as well as a hug coupon. All around, a great day!

EVANGELISM and PUBLIC RELATIONS

POWER!

Jesus said,

"...the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My Name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you" (John 14:26).

"...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 1:8).

I have never seen the bolt that flows through power lines and electrical cords, but only the result of what its power can do. It lights my path, heats or cools my home, allows my appliances and electronic devices to function, and so much more! So, I can see why Jesus' disciples had difficulty understanding His promise of "power" until they had witnessed what the Holy Spirit could accomplish! The following Scripture passages help us to realize what the early church experienced as a result.

"When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from



every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language'" (Acts 2:1-8)?

"And when [the believers] had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all" (Acts 4:31-33).

"And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people" (Acts 6:8).

"So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied" (Acts 9:31).

We may not have seen "*divided* tongues as of fire" rest on those who are baptized in God's Triune Name at the baptismal font, but we are assured that the Holy Spirit's power fills us and works in us and through us to bless Christ's Church today.

"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words" (Romans 8:26).

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone" (1 Corinthians 12:4-6).

"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 5:13).

> Verla Schmirler Board of Evangelism and Public Relations

EDUCATION

KIDS CORNER GROWING HEARTS OF FAITH

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

Hey Kids!

Way to go, making it through another school year! I hope you enjoyed it (at least, parts of it?!) and are looking forward to next year. (As you start your summer, remember it isn't just about a break from school. Your break can provide special opportunities to grow in your Christian faith in new and exciting ways that can be different from your normal routine! Whether you're playing a game outside, swimming or sharing a meal with friends, you can ask Jesus to be with you. He promises to always be with you anyway, but recognizing He is there helps to bring you closer to Him.

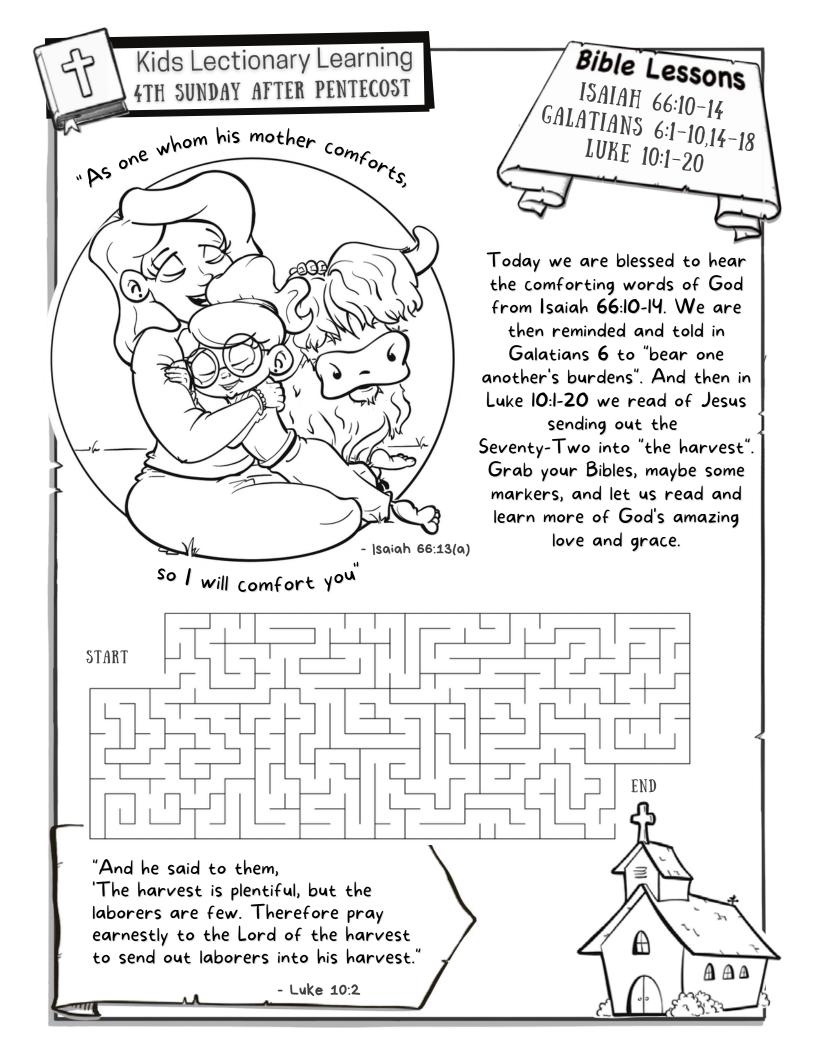
You might try picking a "summer verse" to memorize and recite whenever you need encouragement because He also promises to connect with you when you read the Bible. Attending Vacation Bible School or Christian camps are also great places where stories of Jesus and God's people come alive through crafts, music and spending time with other Christian kids. If you are going on a family road trip, you could sing hymns together in the car or spend some time noticing the wonders of God's creation and thanking Him through prayer. Whether you're spending time with family, helping others, or simply enjoying God's creation, remember that each moment can be a way to draw you closer to God.

As you explore and have fun, look for ways God is working all around you and give Him thanks! These could be in acts of kindness, in the beauty of nature, and in the love shared with family, friends and neighbours. The more you notice these moments God has placed in your life, the more you'll discover that faith isn't just for Sundays—it's part of who you are as God's child, wherever you go! Don't forget though, you are always welcome to spend time with God and His people in church every Sunday where He promises to meet and share His gifts with us! ©

Check out the back of the online newsletter for the summer activity pages or find copies of them at church!

God bless your summer break! Mrs. Denise Timm for the Board of Christian Education and Youth





Kids Lectionary Learning 4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

"But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,"

- Galatians 6:14a

GALATIANS 6:1-10,14-18 WORD-SEARCH

RESTORE GENTLENESS BEAR CHRIST SOWS REAPS SPIRIT LIFE GOOD FAITH CROSS GRACE O H D E N T S G B U P P X J Z W Z D T I J C L F H R N A T T A V F A I T H P C F M O Y Z O E A P S O W S D Y S M R T Q S M H R B V A U H U S P Z O Z E C X C Y W B L X U U P S S D U P S K R E S T O R E S T M H Z S W K F H D I C W M Z G M J U K Y G E N T L E N E S S R H M R O T H Y L B G F Q B M K V V X P U I R L O W B B K A E L I F E A V L F O N J T I D Z Q N B Y W A L E I Y C R O S S M C H S B G J E R R F R G V M F Z N A S Q U Z Q T S M L P G R A C E I Q C A X D C D Y H Z L R D M V B C I P D F F D X M V Y R H H O L

Can you colour Bert the Bear as he helps and "bears" the weight of the boxes that Lil' Lou is moving?

J. S.

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

- Galatians 6:2

