



The Spirit of St. Paul's

MARCH 2025

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

EVANGELISM and PUBLIC RELATIONS

ONE WAY ONLY!



Many years ago, as our family took visitors on a road trip through

Alberta to see the foothills, my father did his best to honour our guests' request to stop at a particular department store in a major city. As we neared the store's location, we encountered a number of narrow streets that only permitted one-way traffic. Although the store was within our range of sight, the one-way street signs led us in opposite directions, forced us to drive around in circles, and prevented us from reaching our desired destination.

As we enter the season of Lent when we focus on the passion of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, I am reminded of His words to His disciples (and us), "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it

are few" (Matthew 7:13-14 ESV). Jesus also confirms, "I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6 ESV).

In the beginning, the pathway between God and humankind was clear and direct. On the sixth day of creation "...God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens

and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.'

So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed

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Lenten Worship for 2025

On Ash Wednesday (March 5) pancakes will be served at St. Paul's starting at 5:15 p.m. (actually a Shrove Tuesday tradition reinvented) and worship will begin at 7:00 p.m. Included in the service will be the imposition of ashes.

Following Wednesday services will move from congregation to congregation with a joint service on Maundy Thursday at St. Paul's.

Date	Service	Location
Wed., March 5, 2025	Ash Wednesday	Home Congregation
Wed., March 12, 2025	Lent 1	Faith
Wed., March 19, 2025	Lent 2	Grace
Wed., March 26, 2025	Lent 3	St. John's, Warman
Wed., April 2, 2025	Lent 4	Grace
Wed., April 9, 2025	Lent 5	St. Paul's Bergheim
Thurs., March 28, 2024	Maundy Thursday	St. Paul's, Saskatoon
Fri., March 29, 2024	Good Friday	Home Congregation

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 PR, continued
 them....The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.' Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him'" (Genesis 1:26-28a,2:15-18 ESV).

"Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?....'You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil'" (Genesis 3:1, 4b-5 ESV). So it was that Eve desired that fruit for food, ate of it, and gave some to her husband, Adam, who also ate of it. So it was that both Adam and Eve became aware of their nakedness, were ashamed of it, attempted to sew fig leaves together to serve as coverings, and the next time they heard the LORD God walking in the garden, they hid from Him.

Our all-knowing God would have been fully aware of the events that had transpired; yet, He lovingly sought out the couple, and gently questioned them so that they came out of their hiding place and confessed what they had done. He made for them garments of animal skin and listed the consequences they had brought upon themselves and all of humanity. Finally, He banished

them from the garden so that they could not eat of the Tree of Life and live forever in their fallen condition. The consequences God outlined for the serpent included a lasting promise to him and everyone who chooses to follow him: "The LORD God said to the serpent....'I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel'" (Genesis 3:14a-15 ESV).

How thankful we can be that our Heavenly Father did not want anyone to perish and that He kept His promise to the serpent by sending His Only Begotten Son to be born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. As fully man, only Jesus was qualified to take the sin of the world upon Himself and to carry it to the cross. As fully God, only Jesus was qualified to declare our sin-debt "Paid in Full" before laying down His life and taking it up again three days later. So it is that only Jesus, who came from His Father's throne and has ascended back to Heaven in order to prepare a dwelling place for all who put our trust in Him, is qualified to lead us to that eternal destination He desires for all humanity!

*Verla Schmirler, Board of
 Evangelism and Public Relations*



STEWARDSHIP

GOD'S INSTRUMENTS, GOD'S STEWARDS

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them
(Ephesians 2:10).

Some pastors refer to these words as “the most forgotten words in the Scriptures.” They are forgotten because they follow the familiar and critical words before it. The preceding two verses that overshadow Ephesians 2:10 are words of justification: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Eph. 2:8–9). These are words preached regularly. They are assigned as confirmation verses. They carry with them the very heart of what it means to be a redeemed child of God!

Precisely because the previous verses are so central to salvation, they often overpower our practice of stewardship! We have been saved by grace. This is certain and sure because of Jesus. Works

play no role in our salvation. No credit taking for us! Grace is freely given. Faith is miraculously created by the Spirit and joyously received. This truth is so wonderful and so encompassing that we often miss out on WHY we are redeemed.

The grace of God revealed in Jesus calls us to faith. But St. Paul doesn't stop with grace and faith. He continues to the logical conclusion. Just like the creation declares the handiwork of God, the redemption of sinners like you and me declares His greatest handiwork! Redeemed stewards are created to reflect the grace and mercy God showers on us to others.

As Lutherans, we understand that good works flow from faith in Jesus Christ. They are the fruit of the tree of salvation into which we have been grafted by grace. Sanctification and stewardship are both on-going and active confessions of what the Lord has done in us. These works are not always spectacular. Many times, they are simply parents showing

Jesus to their children. They are compassionate actions that live out the truth of the Gospel to co-workers and even complete strangers. While they can be grand endeavors, more likely they are simple, beautiful works which highlight what Jesus has done in us.

These works aren't random either. They have been planned by God. God planned to use you as a faithful steward as you walk the road that leads you through your daily life. There are no chance encounters or coincidences. They have been planned by the Lord of the universe for the benefit of His creation. Good works are what point to God's greatest work: Jesus!

He calls us to walk in this faith, which flows from this grace, which has been poured out on us in Jesus. But even this is not to our credit. We are simply called to be faithful stewards of God's grace so that we may share it with those who need it as much as we do. God's Spirit carries us along in this. We are just the steward — the instrument in His hand to accomplish His plan and glorify Him!

At this time, we do not know the final outcome of our finances for 2024 but we are expecting a surplus in the range of about \$5,000, thanks to the very generous support and offerings received in 2024. Thank you for your generous giving to support our programs and ministry.

The Board of Stewardship has communicated in a couple of different ways, the changes by Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) to allow donations made in January and February of 2025 to be claimed as charitable donations in 2024. This is new. It

allows the donor to make the choice whether to make that claim in 2024 or leave it to be claimed in 2025. Receipts have been issued for the January to December 2024 calendar year as usual and a second receipt for donations made in January and February 2025, will be issued by March 15, 2025, so donors will have the receipts needed if they decide to claim those against their 2024 income. If the donor decides to leave those donations to be used in 2025, please retain the January to February 2025 receipt for use

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Stewardship, continued

next year as the charitable receipt issued next year will only include the period from March 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025. If you have any questions about these CRA changes, please contact Sandy at the church office or the Board of Stewardship.

*Blessings and Peace
Board of Stewardship*

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

LWMLC devotion for March 2025



Ray Palmer (1830), the author of this hymn, wrote these words in his diary: “The words for these stanzas were born out of my own soul with very little effort. I recall...”

READ MORE at <https://lutheranwomen.ca/growing/devotions/>

LISTEN at – <https://youtu.be/I1bWvO5b11A>



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