



# The Spirit of St. Paul's

NOVEMBER 2023

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

[www.stpaulslutheran.ca](http://www.stpaulslutheran.ca)

## PASTOR

I absolutely love this time of the Church Year. We get to observe and celebrate Reformation Day, and then the very next Sunday, All Saints' Day. These special Feast/Festival Days provide so much peace, hope, and encouragement and it is so fitting and comforting that we observe them in our Church Year calendar as we do.

Reformation Sunday reminds us of some very important truths about God and His gift of salvation for the world. These foundational truths that Dr. Martin Luther, and the other Reformers, worked hard and risked their lives to restore have become known as the *solas* (Latin for "alone") of the Reformation. *Grace alone. Faith alone. Christ alone. Scripture alone.*

"Grace alone" is the scriptural teaching that salvation is only a gift of mercy from God that saves us from the condemnation and eternal death that we all deserve because of our sin (Ephesians 2:8-9). It is not something that we can ever earn or merit (Romans 3:20). "Faith alone" is the biblical truth that we are saved by faith in Jesus Christ only and not by any of our works or efforts (Romans 3:21-26). "Christ alone" is the biblical teaching that the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting

is found in Christ Jesus only. Jesus alone is the way, and the truth, and the life (John 14:6). "Scripture alone" teaches us that God's Word is the only authority in faith, doctrine, and practice. In 2 Peter 1:21 we learn, "For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" and from 2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."



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It is on the foundation of these scriptural truths and promises from God, that were restored during the Reformation, that we approach All Saints' Day. What a great comfort it is to know that all of our loved ones who have departed in faith, trusting in God's grace, are now resting with our Lord awaiting the Resurrection on the Last Day when we will be reunited for eternity. All Saints' Day can involve some sorrow and tears, but at the same time we are filled with the hope of God's promises revealed to us in Holy Scripture.

What a wonderful time in the Church Year. It is on the basis of the Gospel fought for and restored during the Reformation that we find peace and certain hope for all God's saints—everyone who trusts that because of what Jesus has done for us—God will wipe away all tears from our eyes (Revelation 21:4).

*Sing with all the saints in glory,  
Sing the resurrection song!  
Death and sorrow, earth's dark story,  
To the former days belong.  
All around the clouds are breaking;  
Soon the storms of time shall cease;  
In God's likeness we awaken,  
Knowing everlasting peace.*

(LSB 671, v.1)

*God's blessings,  
Pastor Keith*

## 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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## LAY MINISTRY

We hope that everyone had a good Thanksgiving and has enjoyed the great fall weather that we have enjoyed so far. Over the past month the Board of Lay Ministry along with Pastor Keith have met to review plans for the coming year as well as discuss the overall ministry at St. Paul's. Pastor Keith is providing numerous opportunities for members of the congregation to be in the Word through several Bible studies. These include an online Bible study on Tuesday morning, a men's Bible study on Thursday morning and a Bible study on Thursday evening where we are watching and discussing the movie series "The Chosen." We encourage members of St. Paul's to take part in any of these Bible study opportunities.

We are also pleased that as part of the discussions at the Board of Lay Ministry meetings we have had the opportunity to transfer a number of new members into the

congregation. We hope you will take the opportunity introduce yourself and welcome these new members to St. Paul's.

As always, we continue to be blessed with the dedication of the many volunteers who assist with worship services including serving on the altar guild and ushering. In particular we are blessed by the presence and leadership of Laura Neufeld as well as others in sharing their musical talents for our worship services. The names are becoming too many to mention and we thank them all.

Pastor Keith continues to be a constant in providing leadership to St. Paul's in carrying out the ministry of word and sacrament to the congregation including through member visitation and private communion and we thank God for his ministry.

*Regards,*  
*Barry Walter*  
*Board of Lay Ministry*

## Coming Up

The Board of Parish Fellowship are busy preparing for several gatherings. Watch for sign-up sheets.

**NOVEMBER 26**, after worship: A soup and bun lunch prior to a meeting of the voters to set the budget for 2024..

**DECEMBER 7**, 7:00 P.M.: Advent service. Come away from the busy-ness of the season and rest in the Lord. Join in fellowship afterward.

**DECEMBER 17**, after worship: Christmas social with a potluck meal and carolling too!



## EVANGELISM and PUBLIC RELATIONS

### ARE YOU READY?

Most of us prefer to know when guests are coming. We want to be prepared and have everything in order when they arrive. Jesus' disciples were no different from us.

“As [Jesus] sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?’” [Jesus replied], “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send out His angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other...” “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.” ... “Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect” (Matthew 24:3,29-31,36-39,44).

Since only His Father knows the exact date and time of Jesus'

return, He insists that we “must be ready.” Matthew 25:1-46 records three examples Jesus provides to help us understand how best to be prepared.

In the Parable of the Ten Virgins, the five “wise” virgins took extra oil with their lamps. Upon hearing that the bridegroom had arrived, they were prepared to immediately go out to meet him and to go with him into the marriage feast. In Psalm 119:105 David declares to the LORD, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” As we hear, read, and meditate on God's Word, the Holy Spirit helps us to fix our eyes on Jesus and to put our trust in Him, the Bridegroom who will lead us into the “marriage supper of the Lamb” (Revelation 19:9).

In the Parable of the Talents, the two “good and faithful” servants strived diligently to be good stewards of whatever talents they had received from their master to deliver to him an increase at his return. They had not grown weary in doing so, even though their master was delayed in coming. At his return, only those two heard, “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.” In Corinthians 12:4-6 Paul encourages, “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.” Each of us has received spiritual gifts, abilities, and financial provision with which to serve our Master until He returns.

We pray that each member of the Body of Christ may be a blessing to His Church on earth as it carries out Jesus' great commission: “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 28:18b-20).

Finally, as Jesus describes the final judgment He says, “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And He will place the sheep on His right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave Me food, ...’ In Ephesians 2:4-10 Paul writes, “... God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this

*continued next page*

## EDUCATION



### KIDS CORNER GROWING HEARTS OF FAITH

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

Hi Kids!

Sunday School is in full swing now so feel free to swing on down to the classroom after church on Sunday! Continuing for two or three weeks in November, we're learning about Martin Luther and the Reformation he started.... pretty amazing stuff! If it wasn't for him, our church wouldn't even exist! If you aren't able to get to Sunday School at our church, Jim Jacob, from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in London, Ontario is offering online Sunday School again. Parents, if your family would like to join the Zoom online Sunday School, just let Denise know and she'll get Jim to put your family on the email list.

To get the weekly activity sheets for 2023, go to [lll.ca](http://lll.ca) and scroll down to the section titled Free Children's Learning Resources. For 2022 sheets, click on Kid's Pages November 2023 in the church website under Newsletters or pick up a hard copy on the narthex table at church.

God bless your learning!  
St. Paul's Sunday School  
Lisa Poier and Denise Timm

*Are You Ready, continued*  
is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Thanks be to our gracious and merciful Heavenly Father for His gift of faith in His Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, whose death on the

cross and victorious resurrection has fully paid our sin debt and whose perfect righteousness now clothes us like a garment. It is Christ's perfection that has made us ready to stand before Him and to "inherit the kingdom," no matter when He comes!

Until then, we have plenty of opportunities to love and serve our Lord through acts of mercy to our neighbours here on earth.

**Collection of personal hygiene items for Saskatoon Open Door Society will conclude at the end of November so that deliveries are completed before the busy Christmas season. Collection boxes are located in the upstairs cloakroom.**

Verla Schmirler,  
Board of Evangelism  
and Public Relations

Scripture quoted is from the English Standard Version.

## STEWARDSHIP

### Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart!

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, by His death for our sins and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water combined with His Word, promise and name, the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure and wealth is that we belong to the most holy Trinity and everything that is His belongs also to us: righteousness, peace, eternal life. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's Holy Word, as a sacrifice.

Thus, all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him, from which we eat to nourish our bodies and share with our family, neighbors and fellow Christians, with the poor and even our enemies, as holy things given by

our holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and bring blessings upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom and the souls that receive them.

Thus, we place all that we have into God's hands. He never fails to remember us and pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

May we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all — even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.

The Board of Stewardship recently received and reviewed the

congregation's financial statements to the end of September 2023, which show we have an excess of expenditures over revenues of \$26,930. This is similar to the deficit at the end of September 2022, of \$25,663.

With November and the Christmas season upon us we still have time to make a significant reduction in our current deficit situation. Our average offerings in November and December in the past two years has been \$54,400 so with average expenditures of about \$20,000 per month and similar giving patterns we should make a significant reduction in our deficit by year end.

The Board of Stewardship is currently working with other boards and the Parish Planning Council to plan our programs and expenditures for 2024. There will be a meeting of the voters on November 26 after worship (lunch will be provided) to approve the budget that will be recommended.

We pray that through your support and thanksgiving to God for His many blessings, we will end the year with a modest deficit and adopt a budget for 2024 that will enable boards to carry out programs and plans that reflect our mission in the new year.

*Blessings and  
Peace  
Board of  
Stewardship*



*Photo by YFNPhilip, LutheranStockPhotos.com*

# St. Paul's FAMILY NEWS



*Banks Edward Porochnavy was baptized October 8, 2023. Banks is the son of Jeff and Leanne Porochnavy. Also in the picture is the sponsor, Shannon Hilland.*



*On October 15, 2023, cousins were baptized. Daughter Brinley Chantelle Lemke is pictured at left with parents Riley Lemke and Kaelyn Booth. Right, son Koa Lux Mongovius, is with parents Brendan Mongovius and Laryssa Lemke.*

