



The Spirit of St. Paul's

NOVEMBER 2024

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

www.stpaulslutheran.ca

PASTOR'S CORNER

All Saints' Day, a day of remembering

All Saints' Day is commemorated on November 1st and is observed this year at St. Paul's on Sunday, November 3. It's a day to remember all of our loved ones who have gone before us in the faith, and to give thanks and praise to God for the gift of eternal life He has given to the faithful departed. It's a time to consider that "great cloud of witnesses" with which we are surrounded (Hebrews 12:1) and holds before the eyes of faith that great multitude, all the saints of God in Christ—from every nation, race, culture, and language—who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 7:9, 14). All Saints' Day shares with Easter a celebration of the Resurrection, since all who have died with Christ Jesus have also been raised with Him (Romans 6:3-8).

Death is our enemy, but it is our defeated enemy in Christ. Because Jesus has saved us from sin and death—the grave is nothing to fear. Jesus declares, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet

shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die" (John 11:25-26). On the other side of death, our Lord Jesus has for us eternal life and salvation. St. Paul wrote, "*We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep*" (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14).

It is a growing trend to see funerals or "celebrations of life" that focus on the deceased by sharing their good qualities and recalling fond memories with them. At St. Paul's, the Christian Funeral Service focuses on and affirms the resurrection of the Christian to everlasting life with Christ. As such, the liturgy, readings and music selections are intended to provide comfort, hope and peace by proclaiming the Good News of our salvation. It is certainly fitting to celebrate and give thanks to God for the life and blessings our departed loved

one received during their life on earth, but a gathering or luncheon following the funeral service provides a more appropriate and relaxed opportunity for a time of remembrance for the deceased.

On All Saints' Day, and every day, we are comforted by God's promise that we will be reunited with all of our loved ones who have departed in faith in eternal life where the Lamb of God will guide us to the springs of living water—where we shall hunger no more, thirst no more, suffer no more, and where God will wipe away every tear from our eyes (Revelation 7:17).

*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.

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

Next deadline: Nov. 26, 2024
Publication: Dec. 1, 2024

Learn about Ethiopian ministry and outreach



A webinar will be held Saturday, November 30 at 10:30 a.m. spotlighting Ethiopian ministry in Canada with an introduction from Rev. Jacob Quast, Director of Domestic Missions, and the work being done at an individual mission.

The webinar, open to all, is presented by LWML-Canada to provide more information about one of the mission grants adopted at their national convention in July but the information is of interest to all members of LCC. Learn more about this mission field God has brought to our country.

Register via email to webinar@lutheranwomen.ca by November 16. Look for your unique link by the week of November 26. There is no charge to participate. Consider making it a group gathering.



Mitten Tree

Help keep many hands and ears warm this winter by decorating the Mitten Tree. The mitten tree will be up in the narthex and waiting for donations starting November 24. Mittens, gloves, toques and scarves in sizes for children and adults are needed. Donations will be accepted until Sunday, December 15, and then given to community organizations for distribution.

St. Paul's LWML





Easton Dietrich, son of Gordon and Amanda Dietrich was baptized on October 27, 2024.

Atticus Mongovius, son of Brendan Mongovius and Laryssa Lemke was baptized September 29, 2024.



We welcome both boys to the family.

St. Paul's FAMILY NEWS

A member of the family blessed by an internship opportunity

I had the wonderful opportunity to work this past summer with the Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada (LLL-C) in an internship role. My experience was nothing short of amazing and utterly fulfilling to serve alongside the lovely, faith-filled people of LLL-C.

I primarily worked on a project that involved contacting churches and their young members who had received a copy of the Illuminated Catechism sent through the generosity of LLL-C donors and connected them with mentors who aim to offer encouragement and support to their faith as they enter the next stages of life.

Additionally, I had the privilege of spending a week in Sudbury Ontario, helping with a VBS program at Redeemer Lutheran Church. New experiences were had each day, and I continue to be grateful for the relationships formed from my time out east!

I am truly blessed to have contributed to the LLL-C and LCC mission in an impactful way through this project, and I thank all of the wonderful supports and resources from St. Pauls that aided me in the process.

*God Bless,
Gracie Harper*

EVANGELISM and PUBLIC RELATIONS

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION!

In Psalm 145:1-4, David proclaims, *“I will extol You, my God and King, and bless Your Name forever and ever. Every day I will bless You and praise Your Name forever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall commend Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts.”*

The gospel according to Matthew begins by tracing the generations from Abraham to Jesus Christ. Matthew 1:17 points out, *“So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David*

to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.” In Luke’s gospel (3:23-38), he goes so far as to meticulously list the generations from the birth of Jesus Christ back to Adam, the one whom our Triune God created in His image out of the dust of the earth. If I have counted correctly, the number of those generations totals seventy-seven. Many generations have come and gone since then, and only our Heavenly Father knows how many more generations will walk this earth until Jesus comes again.

“The counsel of the Lord stands

forever; the plans of His heart to all generations” (Psalm 33:11).

How blessed we are to have the Holy Bible in print and digital formats to learn of God’s love and actions that are recorded in the Scriptures. The apostle John takes care to include in his gospel, *“Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written”* (John 21:25).

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are considered to be His hands and feet here on earth. During this month of November, we are collecting your donations of personal hygiene items for clients of Saskatoon Open Door Society (SODS). See the box at left for details. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

“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).

*Verla Schmirler
Board of Evangelism
& Public Relations*

Scripture quoted is from the Holy Bible, English Standard Version (ESV).

Clients of **Saskatoon Open Door Society (SODS)** will be thankful to receive any of the following personal hygiene items that Heather Lynchuk and her family are collecting on their behalf during November, 2024. The following items will be gratefully accepted.

shampoo & conditioner
body soap / body wash
feminine products (menstrual pads, tampons, liners)
antiperspirant / deodorant
toothbrushes & toothpaste
mouthwash & dental floss
body lotion
disposable razors
shaving cream

Please place your donations in the laundry basket you will find in the upstairs cloakroom of our church. Each week throughout November, Heather and her family will deliver our donations to one of the Community Donation Partners SODS has designated to receive them on its behalf. This will allow SODS to distribute the items to its clients before Christmas.

STEWARDSHIP

THE CONSEQUENCES OF SHALLOW THANKFULNESS

Can you imagine a Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner without turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and pumpkin pie? I know I can't! To not have these on the menu, or worse, to run out of them with the family around the table, would be a culinary sin of epic proportions. An attempt to serve bratwurst and hamburgers in place of the standard fare would ring hollow and seem totally inappropriate and out of place. It isn't that the food would be bad; brats and burgers are pretty tasty. But not for Thanksgiving or Christmas — they just don't go together!

This month, as we continue to walk through the stewardship hymn, "Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness" (*LSB* 788), we turn our attention to verse three. Here, William Watkins Reid, Sr., the man who penned this text, draws attention to some things that do not go along with faithful, thankful stewardship.

Forgive us, Lord, for selfish thanks and praise ...

We see this often with small children. They greedily snatch the candy out of a grandparent's hand, savagely destroy the wrapper, and attempt to stuff the entire delicacy in their mouth in one bite, only to have a parent say, "Tell grandma thank you." This is followed by the pro forma thanks that is uttered between chocolate chews. It isn't really thankfulness; it is simply checking a box to keep mom or dad off their backs.

We never really outgrow this either. Our shallow thankfulness takes the form of feigned humility when praise is being offered. We are thankful that our admirers noticed and called us out: "Look at me! Aren't I special?" No thought at all is given to the fact that the Lord was the One who gave us the ability and opportunity for accomplishment. Our false blush is really only masking our selfish, credit-seeking gain. Once again, we find ourselves idolatrously thanking ourselves.

For words that speak at variance with deeds ...

What carries more weight: words or action? The steward who gives voice to the Gospel in the Divine Service but then lives like a pagan in the world does great damage, not only to others but to the Gospel itself! This is the consequence of failed stewardship. It is idolatry that separates the steward from the Lord.

Worse yet, it also impacts others negatively. When the failed steward is the reference point outside the Christian community, there are those who want no part of being Christian or following the Christ they claim. We see this play out in the impact of overt political activity among Christians based on governing policy as opposed to fidelity to the Word of God. When our lips and our lives are out of sync, like what used to happen with old movie projectors, the impact isn't funny — it obscures the Gospel!

Forgive our thanks for walking pleasant ways unmindful of a broken brother's need ...

Our creature comforts often become an obstacle to faithful stewardship. This is true of both individual and corporate stewardship. Financial stewardship is often limited by our desire to be comfortable and have the latest toys and gadgets. Congregational stewardship is often limited by the desire to focus on what is best for the congregation as opposed to how resources might be best stewarded to reach the community with the Gospel.

When we see someone in need, or broken by the world, we often look at them as freeloaders. We admonish them to get a job. We insist that they learn our language, learn our customs, and make them their own. But this gets in the way of seeing every human being the way that Jesus sees them. Remember, that broken person is one for whom Jesus went to the cross to die and rise. When we are unmindful of these needs, our shallow thankfulness also stands in the way of the Gospel.

This stanza reminds us of the challenge we face. Our hearts are master idol-makers. Our shallow thankfulness threatens our souls and hinders others from seeing Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Stewardship is serious business. It is a task for which we were created. In our sinful failings, we are never relieved of these duties.

continued next page

Shallow thankfulness, continued

In our Baptism, we are restored to be stewards of the Gospel. Our faithful stewardship is all about that Gospel.

Forgive us when our thanks are shallow, O Lord! In this time of Advent and Christmas, grant us the grace to offer heaping helpings of this stewardship so that others may see Jesus!

At St. Paul's, as we move into the Advent season and prepare for Jesus' birth to live among us, we are also mindful of our finances and how we will end the fiscal year. This also impacts the development of our 2025 budget. Our Income and Expense report to the end of August shows we have spent \$18,455 more than we have taken in compared to a deficit of \$23,873 in 2023 for the same period.

The Board of Stewardship will be monitoring our revenue and expenses closely between now and the end of the year and trying to project our yearend results so we can have that information for our voters' meeting at the end of November where voters will consider a budget for 2025.

We know that a good percentage of our revenue typically is given in the last two to three months of the year so we hope and pray our giving will continue this year as it has in the past. For example, in 2023 our giving totaled \$70,000 in November and December.

All things are possible with God and we continue to ask for his blessings to support our mission and ministry.

*God's Blessings,
Board of Stewardship*

EDUCATION**KIDS CORNER
GROWING HEARTS OF FAITH**

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

Hey Kids!

How was your Halloween? Did you get dressed up and go get treats? Do you ever wonder what Halloween means? "Hallow" means "holy" and "een" (e'en) means "evening."

Let's just skip one day ahead for a moment. After October 31, "holy evening," we celebrate All Saints Day on November 1st. All Saints Day is a time to remember all the people from our church (and all Christians!) who died in Jesus over the past year (and over all time!) These people who died in Jesus are called saints. So, October 31st is the "Holy Evening" before All Saints Day, just like Christmas Eve is the evening before Christmas!

This year, we will be observing All Saints Day on November 3rd. On that Sunday, the pastor will light a candle for each person as he says their name. We can remember them and thank God for giving them a home in heaven where they are free from all of life's troubles! Hey, we can even thank God for Saint Paul, who our church is named after! (The abbreviation for saint is St. That's why our church is called St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Pretty cool, huh?!) Maybe next year you could dress up as one of the saints (there are SO many!), like St. Paul (one of Jesus' apostles), St. Joseph (Jesus' earthly dad) or St. Martin Luther! To find out more about celebrating Halloween, Pastor Borghardt, from Higher Things has an excellent video called "Can Lutherans Celebrate Halloween?" on higherthings.org.

The other special Sunday in November will be November 24th, to observe when this church year ends on November 30th. December 1st will be the start of the church's new year. So... early "Happy New Year!" to you! December 1st will also be the first day of Advent when we begin to prepare our hearts for Jesus' birthday. Thank you, God, for Your gift of Jesus!

God bless you!

Mrs. Denise Timm

For the Board of Christian Education and Youth



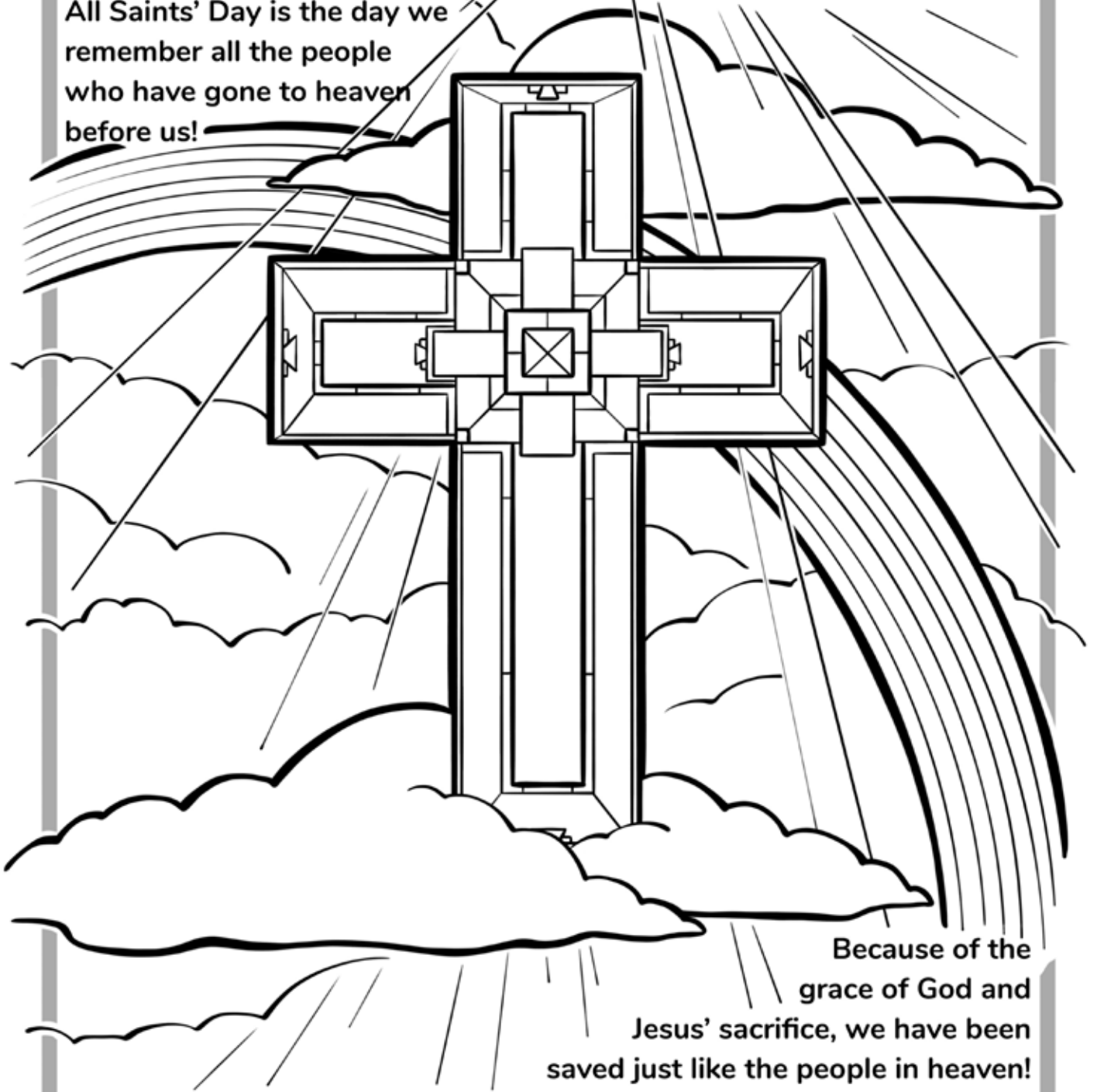


KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING

ALL SAINTS' DAY

BIBLE LESSON: MATT. 5:1-12

All Saints' Day is the day we remember all the people who have gone to heaven before us!



Because of the grace of God and Jesus' sacrifice, we have been saved just like the people in heaven!



KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING



LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE
OF CANADA

FILL IN THE BLANKS

In today's Bible verse, Jesus talks about all the comforts and joy we will have when we become saints in heaven!

Follow along in our Bible verse to fill in the missing words.

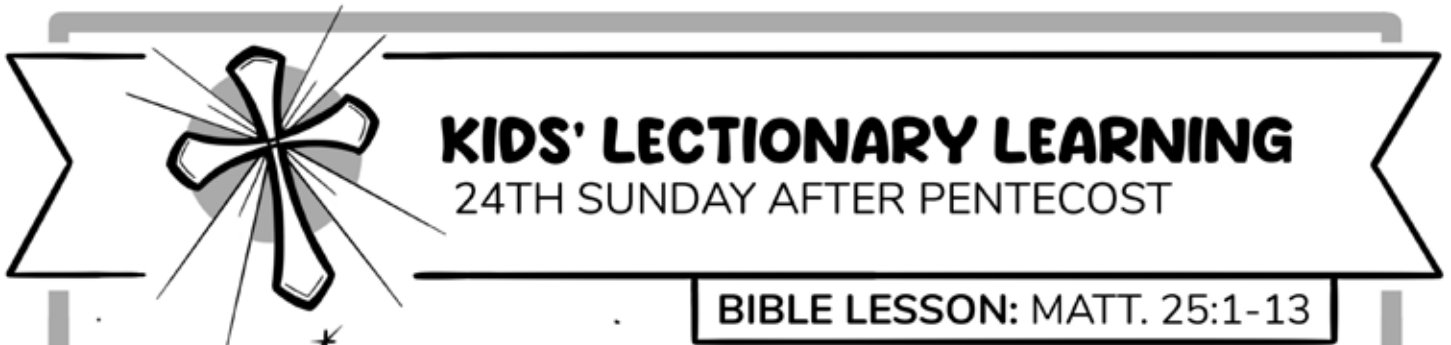
1. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the _____ of heaven." (v. 3)
a. House b. Kingdom c. God
2. "_____ are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." (v. 4)
a. Blessed b. Chosen c. Sad
3. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive _____." (v. 7)
a. Toys b. Gifts c. Mercy
4. "Blessed are the pure in _____, for they shall see God." (v. 8)
a. Spirit b. Heart c. Brain
5. "Rejoice and be glad, for your _____ is great in heaven." (v. 12a)
a. Reward b. Hunger c. Sparkle



Prayer

Thank You, O God, for Your patience and persistence to save us through Your beloved Son. Amen.

(Concordia Study Bible, 2009)



KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING
24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

BIBLE LESSON: MATT. 25:1-13



**This week's parable teaches us to keep
our faith fuel burning!**

To access the Teaching Supplement that guides you through the lessons, go to www.ill.ca/lectionary-learning-pages to get your copy.



KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING



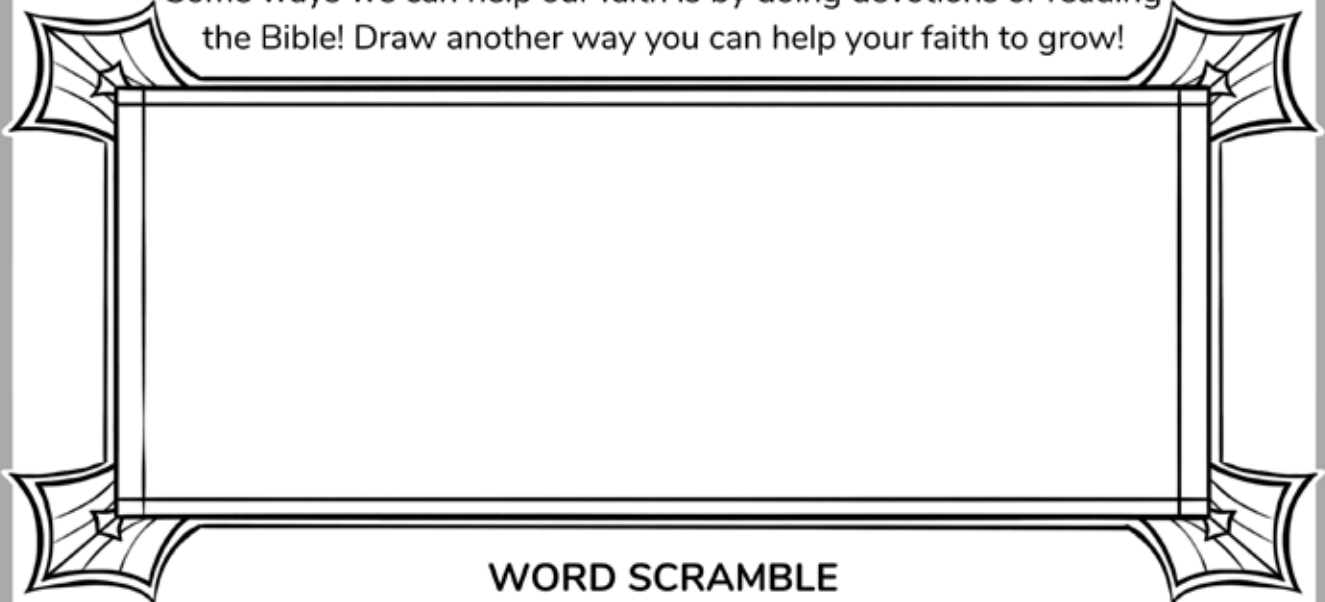
LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE
OF CANADA

DID YOU KNOW ...

A parable is an earthly story that is told to teach a biblical lesson! Jesus used parables to teach about His final coming and how we should live!*

BIBLE IN REAL LIFE

Some ways we can help our faith is by doing devotions or reading the Bible! Draw another way you can help your faith to grow!



WORD SCRAMBLE

1. ALSPM _____
2. ILO _____
3. SIEW _____
4. KLAFSS _____

* Concordia Study Bible, 2009



Prayer

Let us pray together: Dear Father in Heaven, thank you for giving the Holy Spirit to help light the fire of faith in our souls. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

To access the Teaching Supplement that guides you through the lessons, go to www.lll.ca/lectionary-learning-pages to get your copy.



KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING
25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

BIBLE LESSON: PSALM 90:1-12

**Lord, you have been
our dwelling place
in all generations.**
- Psalm 90:1

Our Psalm this week talks about how God has always been here, and always will be, caring for us even when everything else changes!



To access the Teaching Supplement that guides you through the lessons, go to www.ill.ca/lectionary-learning-pages to get your copy.



KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING

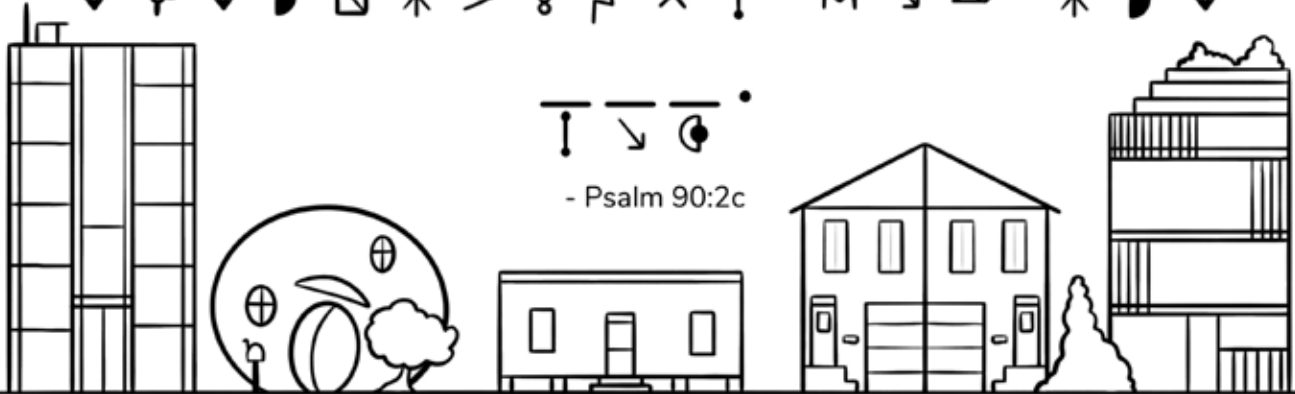
LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE
OF CANADA

CRYPTOGRAM

Match the symbols to the letters to complete
part of our Psalm!

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J |
| * | ◇ | ▽ | ☉ | ☿ | □ | ! | δ | ↯ | α |
| K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T |
| ⊖ | ▣ | ⊖ | ⤴ | ↘ | ⌘ | ∞ | ◐ | ➤ | ⋮ |
| U | V | W | X | Y | Z | | | | |
| ☞ | ✦ | ☉ | ♁ | ♁ | ♁ | | | | |


| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| □ | ◐ | ↘ | ⊖ | ☿ | ✦ | ☿ | ◐ | ▣ | * | ➤ | ⋮ | ↯ | ⤴ | ! | ⋮ | ↘ |
| ☿ | ✦ | ☿ | ◐ | ▣ | * | ➤ | ⋮ | ↯ | ⤴ | ! | ∞ | ↘ | ☞ | * | ◐ | ☿ |



Prayer

Let us pray together: Dear Father in Heaven. Thank you for giving us the gift of Jesus for our salvation and for providing us with the things we need for daily living. Holy Spirit please help us to use our gifts to praise you! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

To access the Teaching Supplement that guides you through the lessons, go to www.lll.ca/lectionary-learning-pages to get your copy.

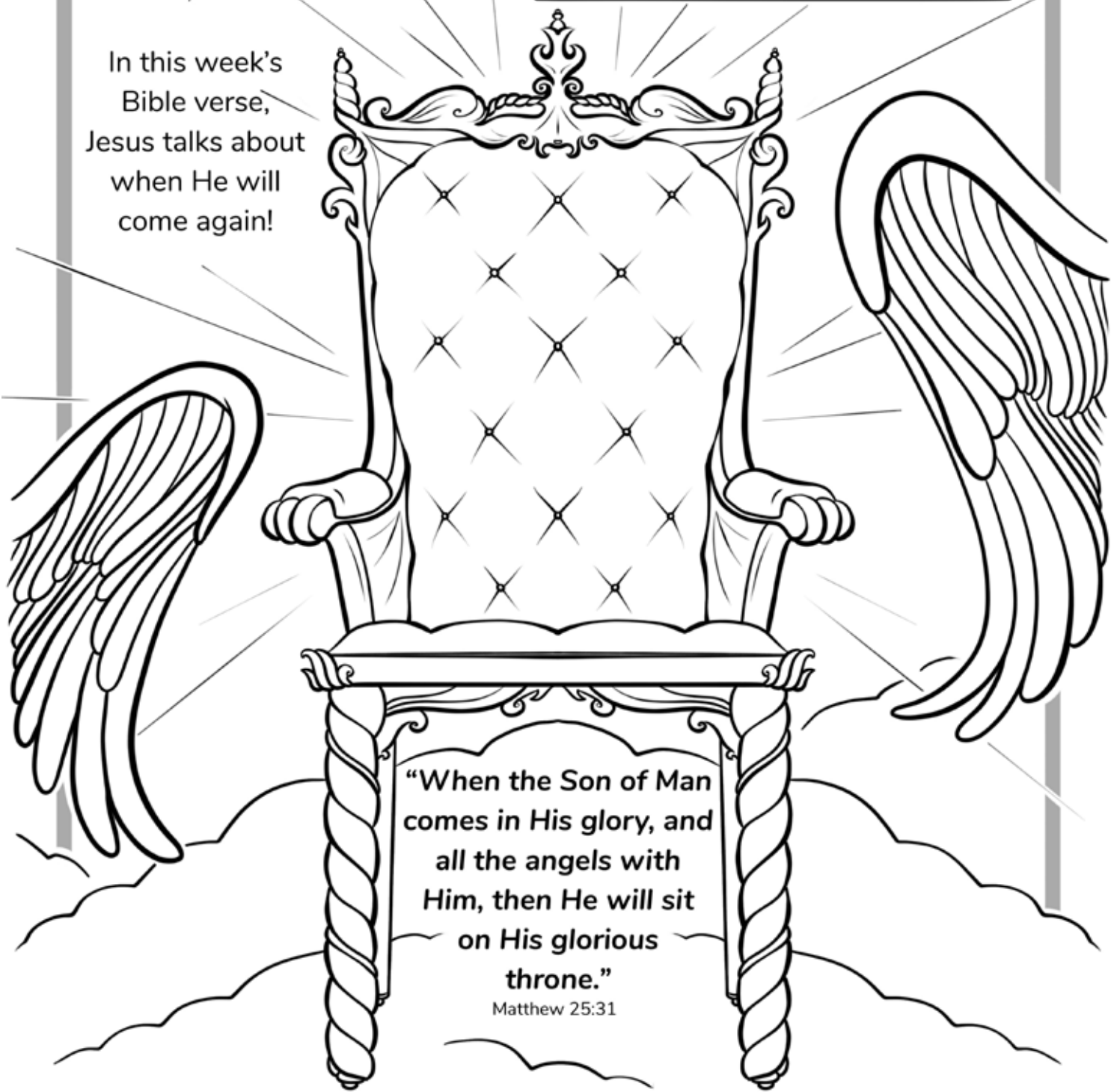


KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING

LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

BIBLE LESSON: MATT. 25:31-46

In this week's Bible verse, Jesus talks about when He will come again!



“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.”

Matthew 25:31

To access the Teaching Supplement that guides you through the lessons, go to www.ill.ca/lectionary-learning-pages to get your copy.



KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING



LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE
OF CANADA

BIBLE IN REAL LIFE

Jesus wants us to believe in Him and to help others! He wants us to want to do these things because we love God so much and because He saved us!

How can you help others and show your love of God? Draw it here!



F V R P W F P V Y Y G E C P V R A B F J
 A M X R H T B Y L Q T S U H S W K I N G
 B O R K M W H I P R Y S T L T H R O N E
 T Y K R L S E G K J Z W R S G O A T S I
 A N W I I V T P I P H Y N I A M W E V X
 A W G B F P D R M R E W Q V H E G T N U
 A N L E E S Q P A C T E B S H T L A S Q
 M T G A J D W F M N W J H I M U M M I K
 O O R E N L G W P Q G B B S R F N Z R B
 D N X U L R G W W B U E M W O L Z G N J
 G T Z P L S E T Q W J Q R N Y B I R R Q
 N F V C W Y O T S Z S B O F A T H E R Y
 I K W U K X O C E Q M S O G L O R Y R J
 K T D E S S E L B F B R O T H E R S K X
 L N A T I O N S R S N D G Y E U E G C X

WORD SEARCH

Find these words from our Bible verse in the Word Search!

- | | |
|----------|------------|
| ANGELS | LEAST |
| BLESSED | LIFE |
| BROTHERS | NATIONS |
| ETERNAL | RIGHT |
| FATHER | SHEEP |
| GLORY | SON OF MAN |
| GOATS | STRANGER |
| HUNGRY | THIRSTY |
| KING | THRONE |
| KINGDOM | TRULY |



Prayer

Let us pray together: Dear Father in Heaven, thank you for sending your Son Jesus to die for me and for the waters of Baptism to wash away my sins. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

To access the Teaching Supplement that guides you through the lessons, go to www.lll.ca/lectionary-learning-pages to get your copy.