



The Spirit of St. Paul's

OCTOBER 2024

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

EVANGELISM and PUBLIC RELATIONS

THANK YOU, LORD!

“On the way to Jerusalem [Jesus] was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. And as He entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, ‘Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.’ When He saw them He said to them, ‘Go and show yourselves to the priests.’ And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was

healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered, ‘Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner? And He said to him, ‘Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well’”
(Luke 17:11-19 ESV).

We can only imagine what prevented the nine from returning to give thanks for the healing they received. Perhaps they were intent on showing themselves to the priests, whose verification of their healing was required before they would be accepted by their communities, homes and families. Perhaps they were eager to experience the glad reunion to come. Perhaps it had been easier for them to say “please” than to say “thank you.”

The tribulations of this world can prompt us to cry out for mercy also. But the blessings God’s Word declares are ours through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, provide us with even greater reason to give thanks. In John 16:33b (ESV) we read Jesus’ words to His disciples, *“In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart, I have overcome the world.”* In the writings of St. Paul we read, *“The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”* (1 Corinthians 15:56-57 ESV); *“Rejoice in the Lord*

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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 October and 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 collection box to be located in our church’s upstairs cloakroom. The Lynchuk family will drop off our donations at one of the Community Donation Partners SODS has designated to receive these items on its behalf.

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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SASKATOON CHURCH CURLING LEAGUE

Wednesday evenings 8:45 p.m.

beginning Wed., Oct. 2, 2024, through to March 2025.
Sutherland Curling Club, 141 Jessop Avenue, Saskatoon

Do you love to curl but need the rest of a team? Have you never curled before but you're curious? The Saskatoon Church Curling League welcomes all skill levels from the total beginner and up.

Register at <https://sutherland.curling.io/en/events/18872->

saskatoon-church-curling-league-wednesday-8-45-p-m-2024-2025 or call 306-374-8400. Please register ASAP.

Need more information? Call, text or message David and Rhonda Kitsch at 306-230-9771 or email rdkitsch@sasktel.net.

Thank you, Lord, continued

always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:4-7 ESV); and *“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 ESV).

THE LUTHERAN HOUR

On behalf of you dear members of St. Paul's, in thanksgiving to

God, our Heavenly Father, for His many blessings, our board has made arrangements with Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada to sponsor the CJWW Radio broadcast of *The Lutheran Hour* that will air at 7:00 a.m. Sask. time on Thanksgiving Sunday, October 13, 2024. CJWW is located at 600 on your radio's AM band or at www.cjwwradio.com (choose Listen Live).



Verla Schmirler
 Board of Evangelism
 & Public Relations

WELCOME BACK BARBECUE, September 8, 2024



*Perfect weather for
a picnic!*

LAY MINISTRY

We hope that everyone had a good summer and enjoyed the great weather we were blessed with. Over the summer Pastor Keith was able to take vacation and get the break that he so well deserves. In his absence we were blessed with Daryl Walter and Gerald Langner leading our worship services and we thank them for filling in for Pastor Keith while he was on vacation.

As you may be aware, before the summer break the Board of Lay Ministry approved wedding and funeral policies. These were completed after much prayer and discussion. Copies are available for your review from the church office. If you have any questions or comments with regard to these policies, please contact Pastor Keith or any member of the Board of Lay Ministry.

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 leadership of Laura Neufeld and all of the musicians who share their musical talents for our worship services. We thank them all.

With the summer winding down and in preparation for the fall, the Board of Lay Ministry along with Pastor Keith will be meeting this week to review plans for the coming year. Included in these plans are resumption of Bible studies and confirmation classes as well as the overall ministry to St. Paul's. We will be able to provide more information

on these discussions in the next edition of *The Spirit*.

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 of St. Paul's and we thank God for his ministry.

Barry Walter
Board of Lay Ministry

Food Bank Drive October 13, 20 & 27

In the past St. Paul's has organized a food drive for the Saskatoon Food Bank around Thanksgiving. We want to continue this tradition. It's a small way to give thanks for the abundance God has bestowed on us.

The groceries collected will be delivered to the food bank after October 27. The Saskatoon Food Bank is always very grateful for our efforts on their behalf.

Rhonda Billard



STEWARDSHIP

Lutherans have historically been called “the singing church.” There is no doubt that music has been a major component in the theology and practice of the Lutheran church. Luther once remarked about music, “We can mention only one point, namely, that next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise.”¹ Music has a power and purpose that cannot be understated in our worship and the life of the congregation.

But music does more than touch the emotions. Music is a vehicle that carries both the musician and the hearer deeper into connection with the truth of the Scriptures. This is true of the most complex Bach chorale and even the simplest of songs like “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know.” Each musical selection within the church shapes the thoughts, minds and faith of the people who experience them.

This is also true of stewardship hymns. We are currently considering the verses of “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788) as it shapes our understanding and practice of stewardship. This month we take a deeper dive into verse two:

*Teach us to thank you, Lord,
for love and grace*

¹Martin Luther, “Preface to Georg Rhau’s Symphoniae iucundae,” in Luther’s Works, ed. Jaroslav Pelikan, Helmut T. Lehmann, and Christopher Boyd Brown, vol. 53 (Philadelphia and St. Louis: Fortress and Concordia Publishing House, 1955–), 321–322.

THE “SINGING CHURCH”

*For life and vision, for a
purpose clear,
For Christ Your Son, and for
each human face
that shows Your message ever
new and near.*

The stanza begins by touching on the truth of the Law. Thankfulness is not a natural posture for fallen humanity. For sinners curved in upon themselves, thankfulness for love and grace is something that must be taught. We are those who hoard and clutch. Our confession of our shallow thankfulness highlights the need for us to learn thankfulness to God.

Thankfulness also points to what we are stewards of: love and grace! All the things we have traditionally called stewardship aren’t actual stewardship. Rather, what matters is how we steward the one, true and only treasure: the love and grace of God revealed to us in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So, all stewardship is stewardship of the Gospel! How can we gaze at the cross and empty tomb and not be thankful?

The LCMS defines stewardship as “the free and joyous activity of God’s family—the church—in managing life’s resources for His purposes.” God’s love and mercy give us a clear purpose as we live out our Baptism and practice this joyous stewardship. All we are, all we have entrusted to us, and all we are called to do is to connect others with the love and mercy of God revealed in Jesus!

The faithful steward sings with lips and life of this love and mercy

that is ever new and near. In the Scriptures. In the Lord’s House. At the Lord’s Table. This is where our stewardship song starts and ends. Our family, our co-workers and classmates, and our world need to hear this song!

In the months remaining in 2024 we will, at St. Paul’s, be developing our 2025 budget to support our plans and programs for the coming year. Boards have been provided with templates to estimate their spending that will enable them to carry out their mission and ministry. We ask you to pray for God’s guidance in developing and supporting the plans being made.

*Blessings and Peace
Board of Stewardship*



Concordia Lutheran Seminary Edmonton, Alberta

The Fall 2024 Quest course will be led by Dr. Joel Heck, Interim President of the seminary. His topic is “Major Themes in C.S. Lewis.”

The course will begin each Tuesday night (September 24, October 1, 8 and 15) at 7:00 p.m. (Saskatoon time) and is available via livestreaming.

Link to Week 1 (Sept.24) on YouTube: <https://youtube.com/live/nHcbzke3tM4?feature=share>.

EDUCATION

KIDS CORNER GROWING HEARTS OF FAITH

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



Hey Kids!

Have you heard people say they are thankful? Have you seen wall plaques or dishes that have “Thankful” or “Grateful” on them? I’m sure you have. There’s always something to be thankful for....parents, brothers and sisters, friends, homes, food, clothing, toys and other things. But who are we thankful to? There was a song we sometimes sang in Sunday school years ago. “Thank the brown cow for the chocolate milk, thank the pig for the bacon on the grill, thank the egg for the chicken and the chicken for the egg, thank the Lord for your daily bread.” It was just a silly, fun song. Do we sometimes thank the things God made, or do we thank God for all the things He made? Or do we just say we’re thankful? If you give someone a gift or help them in some way, you like to be thanked, right? God also likes to be thanked for all He has given us. Let’s say your parents gave you a bicycle for your birthday and you thanked the bicycle for being such a great bicycle. That would be weird, hey? Sometimes people thank the universe for giving them good things, but God made the universe, so who should really be thanked? God, of course! Why

are we talking about being thankful? Because Thanksgiving is coming up on October 14! Happy Thanksgiving!

There is another special day we celebrate in October – October 31. It’s called Reformation Day. (In the church, we will recognize it on October 27). To reform means to change something to make it better. Over 500 years ago, while reading the Bible, Martin Luther came to believe there were some things that the church he attended wasn’t doing quite

right. So, he tried to reform it. Unfortunately, the church leaders weren’t very happy with him for trying to do this, so we ended up with different churches called Protestant churches. They were “protesting,” or disagreeing with what the Catholic church in Martin Luther’s time were telling people. That’s why we’re called Lutheran, because we’re named after Martin “Luther.” If you’d like to find out what those things were, you could ask our pastor, a Sunday school teacher, check in our church library or even look it up online. Happy Reformation Day!

Enjoy checking out the activity pages from last year too, or find the new ones for this year at www.stpaulslutheran.ca as they become available this month!

God bless your learning!

Mrs. Denise Timm
For the Board of Christian
Education and Youth



Natalie Keith is teaching Magdalena and Ezra Nord about why stained glass windows began being used in churches. Those who couldn’t read were able to see Bible stories depicted in the windows.