



The Spirit of St. Paul's

OCTOBER 2025

St. Paul's Lutheran Food Bank Drive Oct. 12, 19 & 26

It is time once again for our annual food bank drive.

Please place your donations on the kitchen carts in the front entry.

The groceries we collect will be delivered to the food bank after Oct. 26.

The Saskatoon Food Bank is always very grateful of our efforts on their behalf. It's a small way to give thanks for the abundance that has been bestowed to us.



SUGGESTED DONATION ITEMS

- peanut butter, jam, breakfast cereals
- canned stews, soups, beans, proteins, vegetables, fruit
 - whole pasta and cereals
 - coffee, tea
- real fruit juice in tetra paks
- mustard, ketchup, mayonnaise
- infant formula, baby food, diapers

PASTOR'S CORNER

SAVE THE DATE!

On **Saturday, November 15**, St. Paul's will be hosting a Christian Apologetics Seminar: *In Defense of the Christian Faith*. St. Peter exhorts us to be prepared to defend our Christian faith when he said: "but in your hearts honour Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15). The Greek word for defense in this passage is apologia which is where we get the word "apologetics" from. Christian Apologetics is not apologizing for the faith; it is the defense of it.

Christian Apologetics involves considering philosophical arguments, and scientific and historical evidence which support that the Christian faith is the truth. It also involves defending the faith against the many and varying attacks made against Christianity by clarifying what we believe and answering objections and criticism.

Although Christian Apologetics is very helpful, it is important to be aware of its limitations. Dr. Martin Luther teaches in the Small Catechism: "*I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church.*" Christian Apologetics can address matters that can cause doubt in the believer and can help to remove barriers for non-believers, but only God

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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.

Pastor's Corner, continued
working through His Word and Sacraments can deliver faith.

Joining us to present on this important topic is Dr. Adam Francisco. Dr. Francisco is Director of Academics and Scholar in Residence of a nonprofit organization called "1517" that defends and proclaims the Gospel. He earned his DPhil from the University of Oxford in 2006 and

served as Professor of History, Dean, and Assistant Provost in the Concordia University System for nearly two decades.

Please mark this date on your calendar and consider inviting any family and friends who you think would benefit from this seminar. Please watch for more details and information on registration for this event.

*God's blessings,
Pastor Keith*

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

For the 2025-2026 year, we look forward to offering Sunday school on **one Sunday a month**. Bring your friends and join us on **October 5** for Bible lessons and crafts!

The rest of the year's dates will be confirmed soon, and we'll plan to keep Sunday school families in the loop via email.

On Sundays when we don't have Sunday school, we know some of our families have been enjoying the online Sunday school offered by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in London, Ontario. They plan to offer sessions by Zoom on the third, fourth (and fifth) Sundays of the month. If you are interested in checking out these online lessons, please ask Lisa, Denise or Natalie for contact information.

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.



Electric Organ for Sale
\$200 or best offer
Please contact Sherry Gore
for details
Call or text 306-653-1956

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WELCOME BACK BARBECUE: Enjoy the pictures scattered throughout this newsletter.

STEWARDSHIP

WHY DO WE GIVE?

Why do we give? Is it simply because God commands us to? Or is there more to it? To be sure, the Word and instruction of God in the Bible says we should give, and this is sufficient to encourage us to give (Luke 6:38; Acts 20:35; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:7; Gal. 6:6).

But there's more to it than just obligation. We're not just trying to fulfill a work of the law. We are bearing fruits of the Spirit given to us by our Father in heaven through His Son our Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, we're not just doing what our Father said, we're also doing what He did.

Children emulate their parents. When they grow up, they often carry many of the same mannerisms and characteristics as their parents. But there is more to it than that. Children copy their parents even on a more mundane

level. They watch how their parents cross their legs, how they fold their hands, how they stand and sit and walk, and how they do and say most everything. Then children try to copy it.

This can be quite humorous when caught in the act. They do this even when parents don't want them to. Everyone has been in the uncomfortable – and embarrassing situation – where a child does or says something one of their parents have done or said that is less than polite. Sitcoms thrive on these. It only works because of the truth that children emulate their parents, and they do it because they want to be like them.

We are the children of God – by grace through faith. In Holy Baptism, God the Father declares of us what He declared of Jesus at His Baptism in the Jordan, “You are

my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” God the Father claims us as His own. He takes away all our sins. In exchange, He gives us His righteousness, His purity, His holiness, and His Spirit – by which we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

We are born again – born from above, born of water and the Spirit – to a new life in Christ as His children. We are sons of God in Christ through Baptism. Since we are sons, we are heirs who share in the glory of the Son of God. The inheritance is ours because of the Father's grace, mercy, and generosity in sending His Son in time to save us for all eternity.

This is why we give generously of our income to the work of the church. We want to be like our heavenly Father. We want to emulate His generosity by being

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Stewardship, continued

generous ourselves. We give to the work of the church because we have witnessed the generous giving of our Father in heaven.

More than that, we are recipients of it. It is because we have received our Father's gifts that we desire to give ourselves. His gifts are not just spiritual. They are temporal and earthly as well. As *Luther's Small Catechism* teaches in the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer:

Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean? God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread? Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and

needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbours, and the like.

In other words, He gives us everything that we need for the care of both body and soul. His generosity knows no bounds.

Therefore, we sit down at the beginning of the year, the beginning of the month, or the beginning of the week and set aside a generous portion of God's daily bread for His work in the church. This is not done because He has commanded us so to do but rather because we, as His children by grace, want to emulate His generosity in our own lives. He is our Father; we

are His children. And children want to be like their parents.

Recently the Board of Stewardship received our financial statement to the end of July. This report showed we have a deficit of \$18,460 which compares to a deficit at the end of July 2024 of \$20,799. Our offerings are up \$5,500 over last year while our expenses are up \$1,587. You may recall that while we had an accumulated deficit at the end of July last year, we were able to recover from that shortcoming with strong giving in the final five months of the year to end the year with a surplus of \$19,122. With our prayers for faithful giving and God's blessings we expect to balance our budget in 2025 once again.

God's Blessings
Board of Stewardship



EVANGELISM and PUBLIC RELATIONS

REST!

“And on the seventh day God finished His work that He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work that He had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it Holy, because on it God rested from all His work that He had done in creation” (Genesis 2:2-3).

From the very beginning, God set apart and blessed each seventh day as a time for “rest.” Since He would not have been physically exhausted from “all His work,” I envision Him devoting His time to reflection and enjoyment of all He had made.

After Satan’s deception of Adam and Eve brought death, sin, pain and strife into our world, one of the commandments God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai has reminded people from all generations, *“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labour, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy” (Exodus 20:8-11).*

During His first coming to earth Jesus said, *“All things have been handed over to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him. Come to Me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light” (Matthew 11:27-30).*

Whenever two animals are yoked together, they share the burden of pulling the load. Jesus invites us to be yoked with Him for He carried the full weight of the world’s sin to the cross and left it there, paid in full. By trusting Jesus to lead us Home, it is His righteous covering that presents us as blameless before our Heavenly Father and allows our souls to most certainly rest in peace!



Amy Meister-Martins, daughter of Josias Martins and Patricia Meister Martins, was baptized on September 20. Rev. Paulo Brum, pastor of New Beginnings Lutheran Church, Regina, provided translation in Portuguese for family and friends who watched online from Brazil.

“So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as God did from His” (Hebrews 4:9-10).

Until we enter our eternal rest, we rely on the weekly rest and refreshment that comes to us in the Divine Service through the hearing of God’s Word and the receiving of His Sacraments.

*O day of rest and gladness, O day of joy and light,
O balm of care and sadness, Most beautiful and bright;
This day the high and lowly, Through ages joined
to bless,*

continued next page

Evangelism, continued

Sing, "Holy, holy, holy," The
triumphant God confess.

LSB 906, stanza 1

Text and tune: public domain

As we focus on Thanksgiving, our board has arranged for our congregation to **sponsor the October 12, 2025, (Thanksgiving Sunday) radio broadcast of The Lutheran Hour** on 600AM CJWW "... in thankfulness to God, our Heavenly Father for His many blessings." The tagline will also provide listeners with our church website and telephone contact information.

We extend a special thank you to Sherry Gore and her team for

organizing the **collection of food items for Saskatoon Food Bank** during this month of October. We are blessed to have this opportunity to reach out to people of our city who are in need!

PLEASE NOTE: Our board will not be organizing the collection of personal hygiene items for clients of Saskatoon Open Door Society during November 2025. It was the faithful service of Heather Lynchuk and her family that provided us with this outreach opportunity in November of 2023 and 2024.

(All scriptures are ESV)
Verla Schmirler,
Board of Evangelism
and Public Relations

COMING IN NOVEMBER

Ladies of St. Paul's LWML will be putting up the mitten tree in November. If you like to knit mittens, scarves and the like or simply like to shop for them, now is the time to start.



LAY MINISTRY

We hope everyone had an enjoyable and restful summer and were able to enjoy the weather we were blessed with. After a break for the summer the Board of Lay Ministry and Pastor Keith met in September to discuss the ministry at St. Paul's. These discussions with Pastor Keith included his overall ministry to the congregation, and specifically Bible classes which are resuming this fall. There are several opportunities to study the Word so we encourage everyone to participate in these Bible studies if they are able.

Ministry to St. Paul's by Pastor Keith also includes visitation and providing private communion to those members unable to attend worship services in person. We

continue to be thankful for the ministry Pastor Keith provides to St. Paul's in carrying out the ministry of Word and Sacrament. Other topics covered by the Board of Lay Ministry at its September meeting included a review of the board's role and responsibilities and determining its priorities going forward, prayer requests during worship services as well as transfers of individuals into membership of St. Paul's. Finally, the board reviewed "Guidelines for Caring for Called Workers" which was recently issued by Lutheran Church-Canada. These guidelines will be provided to members at the next voters' meeting.

We continue to be thankful for the dedication of Laura Neufeld and others as they share their

musical gifts for our worship services. We recognize and appreciate their commitment of time and talents.

We also continue to use a small group of people for the altar guild and usher teams. We thank those individuals for their faithfulness to prepare communion and in ushering for worship services and we thank Doreen Morris and Daryl Walter for coordinating the altar guild and ushers respectively.

We hope everyone has an enjoyable fall and with the summer months behind us we look forward to seeing you and worshipping with you all again.

Barry Walter
Chair, Board of Lay Ministry