



# The Spirit of St. Paul's

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

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

SEPTEMBER 2022

## Pastor's Corner

### God's promises in our baptism and sure and trustworthy – forever

Our Lord Jesus Christ, after His death and resurrection, commanded His Church to baptize all nations, *“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 28:19-20). The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is a great gift from God through which He puts His saving name on us and we are received into the covenant of His grace. In Baptism we receive God's Spirit, His forgiveness, and promise of resurrection and eternal life. Our names are written into the Book of Life. What a great comfort this is!

The reality is, however, that we don't always live as the new creation God has made us to be through our Baptism. On this side of heaven we continue to struggle with our sinful nature and we fall into sin. These failures can tempt us to believe we have been cut off from God's grace, that we somehow void God's forgiveness, and that we deserve to be erased from the Book of Life. These thoughts can even lead us to separate ourselves from God and His Church because we might conclude that He wants nothing to do with us, so it's best to stay away. But this is not true.



God's love for us and His covenant of grace is eternal. It always stands open for us to return and retreat to through repentance. Through the prophet Isaiah God assures us, *“For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but My steadfast love shall not depart from you, and My covenant of peace shall not be removed,” says the Lord who has compassion on you*” (Isaiah 54:10). Tertullian, an early Christian author, described repentance and God's faithfulness this way

“Therefore cling to repentance, as a shipwrecked person takes hold of a plank, and this will prevent you from drowning in the waves

of your sins and carry you back to the port of divine mercy.”

We see a wonderful example of this in Paul's letters to the Galatians and Corinthians. These churches had severely fallen into sin, yet when they were raised again through repentance, Paul comforts them with the promises of Baptism. He proclaimed that however many of them had been baptized, had put on Christ (Galatians 3:27), that they had been washed (1 Corinthians 6:11), and by one Spirit were baptized into one body (1 Corinthians 12:12). From this we learn that the efficacy of the baptismal covenant is not weakened or abolished by a person's fall. From God's perspective, it remains a certain covenant forever.

We recognize the seriousness of sin, lament, and fight against it. But we don't despair. Even if we fall a thousand times, God calls us back, *“Return to Me, you rebellious soul, declares the Lord; and I will not turn away My face from you, for I am merciful, declares the Lord, and I will not be angry forever”* (Jeremiah 3:12). We always remember this trustworthy saying, *“...if we are faithless, He remains faithful—for He cannot deny Himself”* (2 Timothy 2:13).

*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, 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

### God's instructions: in service to Him, His church and to one another

How wonderful and encouraging it is to go to God's Word and search out what God has to say to us and all generations as we seek to serve Him. He doesn't leave us guessing but clearly states what He expects of us and what He has provided for us so that we can with all confidence serve wherever He has placed us.

Here are a few verses that stood out for me and I pray they will be encouraging to you as well. Or you may find your own.

**Deuteronomy 10:12-13** "And now Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good?"

**Joshua 24:14** "Now therefore fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and in faithfulness."

**Romans 12:3-8** "For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body, we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches in his teaching; the one who exhorts in his exhortation; the one

who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness."

**Romans 12:11-13** "Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality."

**1 Peter 4:10-11** "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God: whoever serves by the strength that God supplies – in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen"

**Ephesians 6:6-7** "...not by way of eye-service, as people pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man,"

For additional reading on gifts God has given that benefit His church, see **1 Corinthians 12:1-13**.  
**"Serve the Lord with gladness"**  
 Psalm 100:2a.

*Clara Zirk for the  
 Board of Evangelism*

**Confirmation classes will begin in the fall for kids 12 - 16. To register your child or if you would like more information, please contact Pastor Keith.**

## *My Soul Rejoices*

*My soul rejoices,  
My spirit voices—  
Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
For God my Saviour  
Has shown me favour—  
Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
With praise and blessing,  
Join in confessing  
God, who is solely  
Mighty and holy—  
O sing the greatness  
Of God the Lord!  
His mercy surely  
Shall rest securely  
On all who fear Him,  
Love and revere Him—  
O sing the greatness  
Of God the Lord!*

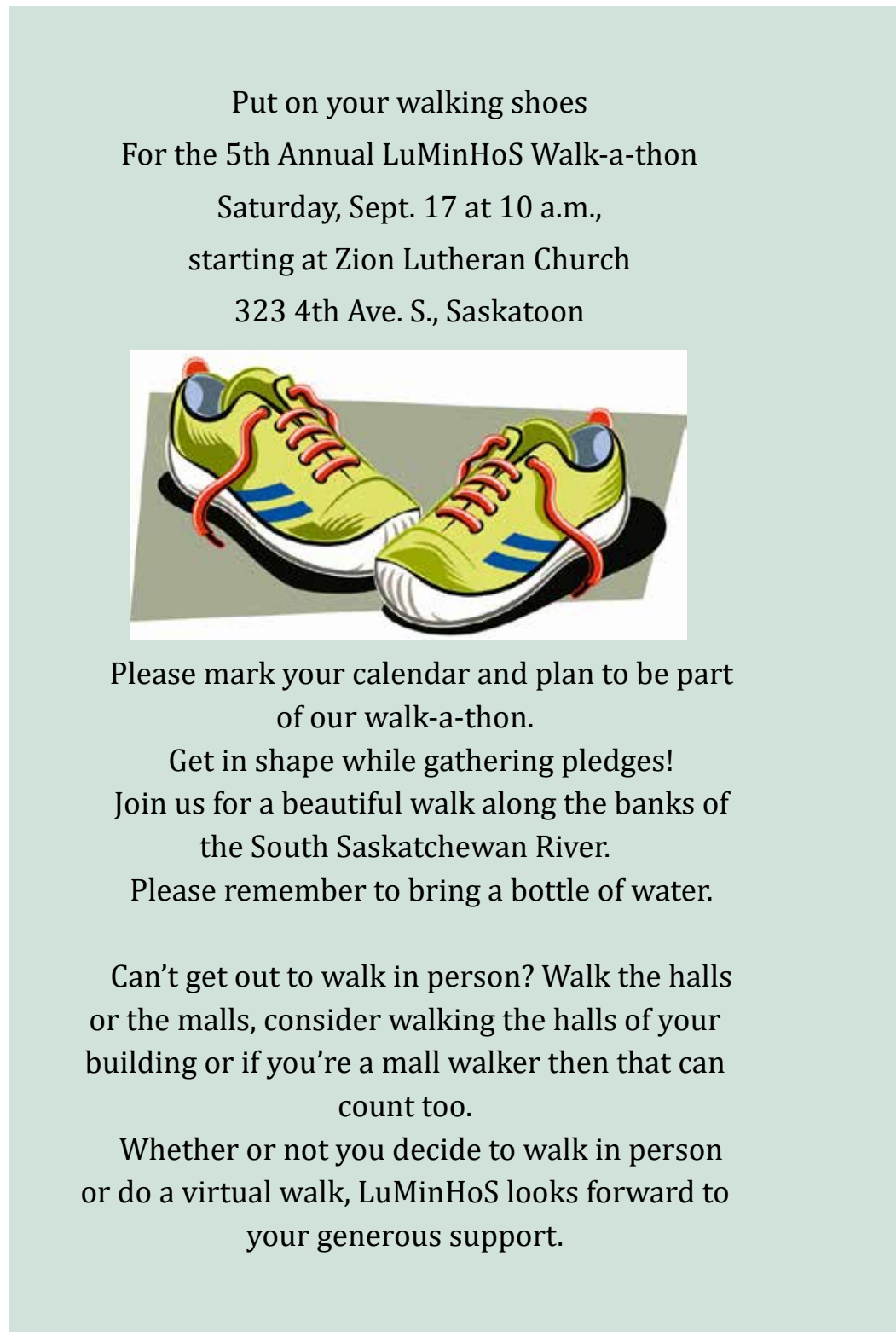
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### **LWMLC Resources**

An exciting new addition to the LWMLC materials is a YouTube video prepared by the Christian Mission committee featuring mission grants that have been selected by the national and district delegates in conention:

<https://youtu.be/FGcGZ4evx4>

“Creations’ Orchestra,” written by Brenda Ryan, is a new devotional booklet. Check the catalogue at <https://lutheranwomen.ca/resource-centre-and-catalogue-2> and order from [resourcecentre@lutheranwomen.ca](mailto:resourcecentre@lutheranwomen.ca).



Put on your walking shoes  
For the 5th Annual LuMinHoS Walk-a-thon  
Saturday, Sept. 17 at 10 a.m.,  
starting at Zion Lutheran Church  
323 4th Ave. S., Saskatoon

Please mark your calendar and plan to be part of our walk-a-thon.

Get in shape while gathering pledges!  
Join us for a beautiful walk along the banks of the South Saskatchewan River.

Please remember to bring a bottle of water.

Can't get out to walk in person? Walk the halls or the malls, consider walking the halls of your building or if you're a mall walker then that can count too.

Whether or not you decide to walk in person or do a virtual walk, LuMinHoS looks forward to your generous support.

Listen to the monthly devotion on YouTube [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4JbXCQEDhI>] or read it at <https://lutheranwomen.ca/resources/the-word/devotions>.

The monthly prayer calendar

may be viewed or downloaded and printed for you daily devotional time. [<https://lutheranwomen.ca/resources/the-word/prayer>] The September calendar has been included in this newsletter.

## Lay Ministry

We hope that everyone has had a good summer and enjoyed the great weather we have been 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 Phil Guebert leading our worship services and we thank them for filling in for Pastor Keith. As always, we continue to be blessed with the dedication of Laura Neufeld in sharing her musical talents for our worship services and we thank her as well.

With the summer winding down and in preparation for the fall, the Board of Lay Ministry along with Pastor Keith will be meeting soon to review plans for fall beginnings. Included in these plans are resumption of Bible classes and confirmation classes as well as reviewing our current worship service protocols as we see a return to normalcy after the pandemic. We assure members of the congregation, however that as we move forward in adjusting our worship service protocols we will do so keeping the health and safety of our members front and centre. In addition we are hoping to reconnect with members of the congregation who have not been able to worship in person over the past two years as a result of the pandemic.

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 and we thank God for his ministry.

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

## Consider joining a webinar to learn more about French-language missions

LWML-Canada, through the mites collected by members, is providing \$14,000 to translate Sunday school materials into French. The project is well on its way. The lessons, of course, are of great value in French-speaking communities in Canada but they are also being used in areas of the United States and abroad where Christian materials in French are sparse or not available.

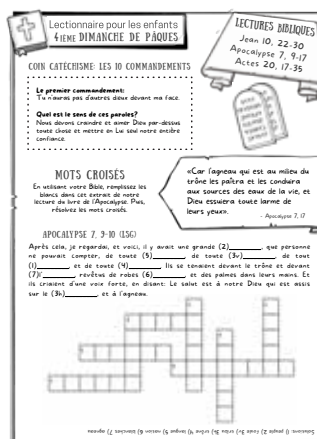
Want to learn more? LWMLC is planning to hold a webinar on **Saturday, September 24 (9:00 a.m. Saskatchewan time)** where Rev. Dr. David Somers, LCC missionary at large in Quebec, will talk about

what is being done and lead the group through one of the translated lessons. **While this is of greatest interest to those who contribute mites, the webinar is open to all.**

To register email [webinar@lutheranwomen.ca](mailto:webinar@lutheranwomen.ca).

In the body of email please provide your name and confirm your email address. If you choose to participate by phone, please provide your phone number (cell or land line). **The closing date for registration is very soon—September**

**14.** Close to the date of the webinar registrants will receive a link or phone number to allow participation.



## Stewardship

### What is Stewardship?

What is a steward? Most people, when asked this question, will reply: “A manager.” That is correct, but it is only half right. A steward is indeed a manager, but he is a manager of what does not belong to him. Someone else is the owner, and the steward manages the owner’s property on the owner’s behalf.

We are God’s stewards. Our stewardship is that God has made us managers of what belongs to Him. For we have brought nothing into this world, and we can take nothing out of it (1 Timothy 6:7). Everything we have and everything we are comes from God’s fatherly Divine goodness and mercy. God

is the owner. Not only because, as the Creator, He created all things. But also, as the Redeemer, He has redeemed, that is, purchased and won all things. It all, therefore, belongs to Him.

We are simply managers of everything in this world. Like Joseph in Egypt, we are put in charge of managing what belongs to God. What a privilege. Think about that for a minute. The all-knowing, all-powerful, all-wise God has asked us to manage His possessions on His behalf here on earth. And by doing this, He invites us to take part in the allocation of His good gifts.

*continued next page*

*Stewardship, continued*

He wants us to give our input and advise Him in where His gifts are to be used. What a privilege indeed.

What a responsibility. For to whom much is given, much shall be required (Luke 12:48). We are not the owners. And while He puts us as managers, we are still to do with His property what He wants done with it. That means we need to know what His desire and will for His property is.

How do we know this? How can we know the will and mind of God? We find the will of God in the Bible. There God tells us what His will for all His gifts are to be used. He tells us how we are to spend our time and use our talents and treasures. He instructs us in the use of our minds, bodies, and souls.

There is nothing that we have that doesn't belong to Him. "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price" (1 Corinthians 6:19–20). He informs us of the big picture, the overarching policy, of how we as His stewards—His managers and custodians—of His property are to do the managing.

And that is what stewardship is. It is simply doing what God wants us to do with what He has given us. As St. Paul said: "Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as

instruments for righteousness" (Rom. 6:13). So, let's dive into God's Word and listen to what the owner desires from His stewards.

In the same way, we look for God's guidance in how we manage our finances here at St. Paul's. We know that our financial situation is being stressed a bit as we recover from the impact of COVID and other factors. As we move into the fall period and the last quarter of the fiscal year, we know they are the strongest months for financial giving to support the mission and ministry of the congregation. Please pray for God's guidance and His leading in the months ahead.

*Blessings and Peace.*  
*Board of Stewardship*

## Education

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### KIDS CORNER GROWING HEARTS OF FAITH

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

Hi Kids!

How was your summer? I hope you got to do lots of fun things...and maybe a little work too! That makes the fun times even better!

I want to let you know that as soon as my husband and I are finished harvesting our wheat and canola crops—sometime in October—I'd like to start meeting with you after church for about 20 minutes. Before COVID started, the church let us buy the WHOLE SET of ARCH BOOKS, 125 of them! The Arch Books have lots of great stories about people in the Bible, like Noah, the boat man; King David, the great warrior; Mary, the mother of Jesus, and, of course, Jesus! Some of you older kids may remember them from Sunday school



class before COVID. I would love to have someone to read them with, so if you could join me on Sunday mornings after church, that would be awesome! I will let you know in the October newsletter when we'll be starting.

The online version of Pastor Cooper's activity sheets for August and September is a separate document labelled "kids." We're still in the season of Pentecost! If you're at church, you can pick them up on a table at the back of the church. The printed version will be separate from the newsletter.

Enjoy your new year at school and remember God is with you all the time!

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



# September 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
<b>4</b> Dear Lord we pray that schools will provide students with a quality education.	<b>5</b> Thank you Lord for teachers that use their gifts to teach children and help them succeed.	<b>6</b> Dear God guide homeschooling parents as they teach and encourage their children to learn.	<b>7</b> Pray that our students will work towards a successful school year. Donate \$.50	<b>8</b> Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalms 119:105	<b>9</b> Dear Lord as we enter a new school year let us focus on learning your word.	<b>10</b> Dear Lord thank you for Christian schools that teach children the message of the gospel.
<b>11</b> Dear Jesus be with Sunday School teachers as they show their students your love for them.	<b>12</b> Father we pray today for children that are unable to attend Sunday School.	<b>13</b> Dear Lord we pray for missionary children that are away from their families.	<b>14</b> Let us enjoy the vegetables that God has allowed us to grow in our gardens. Thanks \$.1.00	<b>15</b> Dear Lord we pray for Christian preschool teachers as they teach their students.	<b>16</b> Dear Jesus be with the preschool children as they learn of God's love for them.	<b>17</b> Thank you Lord for guiding Kayla's decision to serve you as a missionary teacher.
<b>18</b> Father be with Kayla Falkenholt as she goes to Cameroon to teach the Kuhn's children.	<b>19</b> Thank you Lord for the technology we have today that makes learning easier.	<b>20</b> Dear Lord help us use the technology in a meaningful and wholesome way.	<b>21</b> Rejoice as we admire the beautiful fall flowers in God's magnificent landscape. \$.75	<b>22</b> Now these things happened ... but they were written down for our instruction. 1 Cor. 10:11	<b>23</b> Thank you Lord for causing your Word to be written down for our learning.	<b>24</b> Dear Lord create in us a hunger to read and study your Word.
<b>25</b> Holy Spirit as we read your Word increase our knowledge and strengthened our faith.	<b>26</b> Heavenly Father create in us a desire to share this faith with those around us.	<b>27</b> Open up the hearts of others to hear your Word and learn of your love for them.	<b>28</b> The waters in many areas provide us with the necessity of life, scenery and water activities. \$.50	<b>29</b> Lord we praise and thank you for teaching us and guiding us through your Word.	<b>30</b> Dear Lord help me use the gifts you have given me for your glory.	
<b>FRIENDSHIP MONTH</b>						

This calendar has been prepared for your use by the Christian Growth Committee of Lutheran Women's Missionary League—Canada