



The Spirit of St. Paul's

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

www.stpaulslutheran.ca

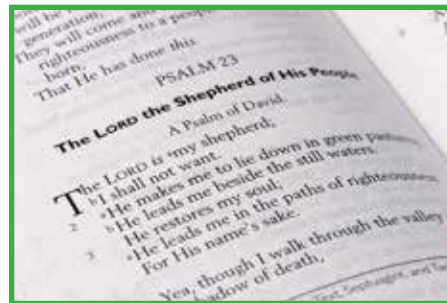
SEPTEMBER 2023

PASTOR

I hope that you had a great summer, and you were able to do all of those things that bring you joy in these sunny and warm months. As we get back into the swing of things, I am looking forward to seeing you and resuming our regular activities. For those who have been away for a time—please know that you have been missed and we would love to see you again.

In Psalm 119:105 King David declares to God, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” How true this is—it is God’s Word that leads us to salvation and eternal life. In his letter to the Ephesians St. Paul teaches us that it is “...by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God...” In his letter to the Romans, he teaches us that “faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ” (Romans 10:17). God’s Word is a gift that shines light into our lives today by providing guidance, peace, and hope and it gives us faith that receives the promise of eternity.

I invite and encourage you to join us at St. Paul’s as we receive the blessings of God’s Word in Divine Service, Bible studies, and in times of personal devotion. If you are not able to join us in person, we have online options that will enable you



to stay connected and engaged in God’s Word. If you are homebound and would like me to bring God’s Word and Sacrament to you, please let me know. It is an honour and privilege, and I am happy to do it.

Staying connected to God’s Word, and to each other as important parts of the Body of Christ, is vital. Please be encouraged by these words in the letter to the Hebrews: “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near” (Hebrews 10:23-35).

At right is some information on the Bible studies being offered over the next while. We would love for you to join us.

*God's blessings,
Pastor Keith*

The **TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** will begin on September 12 at 10:00 a.m. Please join us for this time of study that looks at the Scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday Divine Service. We have a great group that engages in meaningful and fruitful discussion, and we grow together in the faith. This year we will be returning to an in-person study at the church. For those who are not able to join us in person we will also have an option for you to join online using GoToMeeting. Please let Pastor Keith or Sandy know if you would like to be added to our email list that receives the invitation links. We can do our best to provide assistance if you need help using GoToMeeting.

The **THURSDAY MORNING MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY** is ongoing and is held at Grainfield's Restaurant (810 Circle Dr) at 7:30 a.m. Men are invited to join us for good breakfast and conversation and a video-based Bible study. Please contact Pastor Keith if you would like more information.

The **THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY** will begin sometime near the end of September or in early October. Please watch for further details.

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 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 while he was on vacation.

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 of Laura Neufeld and Josias Martin and others in sharing their musical talents for our worship services and 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 in the next few weeks 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 for 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 and we thank God for his ministry.

Regards,
Barry Walter
Board of Lay Ministry

The Board of Parish Fellowship will be hosting a

WELCOME BACK BBQ

SEPTEMBER 10 after service.

The board will supply the burgers.

Members are asked to bring a salad or nut free dessert.

[Please note that we are a nut free church.]

Bring a lawn chair if you have one.

Please add your name to the sign up list on the bulletin board if you are planning on attending so that the board can plan for food.

EVANGELISM and PUBLIC RELATIONS

Sharing the Good News with others

Some people would eagerly accept the opportunity to go “door knocking” in order to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Even the thought of going about it in that way would cause me to run so fast in the opposite direction that you couldn’t see me for dust! I prefer to quietly sow a seed and pray that it flourishes.

[Jesus said] *“I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing”* (John 15:5 ESV).

Nourishment flows into us “branches” from God our Heavenly Father through His Son our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit. We are fed and watered whenever we hear and meditate on God’s Word and as often as we partake of Christ’s true body and blood in and under the bread and wine of Holy Communion. As we grow, we are

gently pruned so we may bear as much fruit as possible.

“...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23a ESV).

It is often our “fruit” —our words, deeds, actions and reactions—that people notice first. Their curiosity about the nature of our fruit is often what prompts questions that open doors for us to share what God’s Word offers them. Whether opportunities arise through organized group projects and activities or on an individual basis, Jesus’ words confirm that nothing is accomplished apart from our connection to Him.

In the past, our board was involved in offering opportunities to volunteer at the Friendship Inn. We continue to consider new opportunities to support those in our community who are in need, and welcome your ideas.

Beginning this month, we are collecting the following personal hygiene items for the Saskatoon Open Door Society (SODS) to distribute to its clients:

- Shampoo & conditioner
- Body soap / body wash
- Feminine products (menstrual pads, tampons, liners)
- Antiperspirant / deodorant
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Mouthwash & dental floss
- Body lotion
- Disposable razors
- Shaving cream

Please watch for a collection box to be located in the upstairs cloakroom of the church.

Jim & Heather Lynchuk are eager to deliver our donations to SODS.

*Submitted by Verla Schmirler
Board of Evangelism
and Public Relations*

EDUCATION



KIDS CORNER GROWING HEARTS OF FAITH

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

SEE A SEPARATE DOCUMENT OF
ACTIVITIES — ONLINE AND PRINT.

AND WATCH FOR A SUNDAY SCHOOL
OPENING DATE.

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship in the First Commandment

The greatest gift that Martin Luther gave to us was his Small Catechism. The word “enchiridion” is part of the original title of this work. This is the Greek word for “handbook.” The Small Catechism is a handbook of the Bible. All the basic knowledge that a Christian needs to understand the faith and live a godly life has been taken from the Bible and distilled into this beautiful little book of Christian piety.

Luther starts with the Ten Commandments.

The First Commandment:
You shall have no other gods.
What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. (SC I)

We have a God above us. He is the Lord God and we are not. He is Almighty and in control. He is righteous and good. And therefore, we should fear Him.

This God is also our heavenly Father. He wants us to be saved. He does not want us to suffer His just wrath. He has provided salvation for us in His Son, Jesus Christ. And therefore, we should love Him.

Our heavenly Father will never leave us nor forsake us. He has promised as much — and the Bible shows us that He always keeps His promises. So, we should trust Him.

In the Large Catechism, Luther explains how money and possessions form one of the greatest temptations against the First Commandment:

This I must unfold somewhat more plainly, that it may be

understood and perceived by ordinary examples of the contrary. Many a one thinks that he has God and everything in abundance when he has money and possessions; he trusts in them and boasts of them with such firmness and assurance as to care for no one. Lo, such a man also has a god, Mammon by name, i.e., money and possessions, on which he sets all his heart, and which is also the most common idol on earth. He who has money and possessions feels secure, and is joyful and undismayed as though he were sitting in the midst of Paradise. On the other hand, he who has none doubts and is despondent, as though he knew of no God. For very few are to be found who are of good cheer, and who neither mourn nor complain if they have not Mammon. This [care and desire for money] sticks and clings to our nature, even to the grave. (LC I 5–9)

These words of Dr. Luther should call us to repentance; sometimes, we live and act like we don't have a Father in heaven. We seek our comfort and peace outside of His gracious promises. But we do have a Father in heaven. He does love us. All His promises are true. And the Lord will surely provide. If that is our belief, then our outward lives will reflect our belief in our acts of generosity and mercy. We will see money and possessions not as gods but rather as tools for doing God's work.

Blessings and Peace
Board of Stewardship

St. Paul's FAMILY NEWS



Tyla Markewich, daughter of Kyle and Courtney Markewich, was baptized into the faith at St. Paul's on June 18, 2023



St. Paul's FAMILY PICNIC - June 2023



CONCORDIA LUTHERAN SEMINARY, EDMONTON ALBERTA

Opening Service

Tuesday September 5, 2023

The opening service that will begin the 40th academic year of Concordia Lutheran Seminary will be held at 4:30 p.m. MDT/CST at Bethlehem Lutheran, Edmonton. The ceremony will also include the installation of Rev. Dr. Joel D. Heck as Interim President.

The service will be livestreamed on the seminary's YouTube channel at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=48Xj4DOEL4M> and will remain available for viewing at your convenience.

Quest Course (online)

Tuesday evenings October 17 & 24
and November 7 & 14, 2023

Rev. Dr. Richard Beinert (St. James Lutheran, Winnipeg) will address "Lutheran Spirituality" that emphasizes historic and contemporary aspects of an authentic discipleship under Jesus Christ. Each session will be presented in two parts and will be available on the CLS YouTube channel.

In October, Part 1 will premiere at 7:00 pm CST and Part 2 will premiere at 8:00 pm CST

In November, Part 1 will premiere at 8:00 pm CST and Part 2 will premiere at 9:00 pm CST.

All sessions will remain available for viewing at your convenience.

Reformation Service

Tuesday, October 31, 2023

CLS will host an evening of Scripture and Hymns at 7:00 pm CST. You may join in person at the seminary or online (via the CLS YouTube channel).

For more information about opportunities to support CLS and its students, please visit <https://www.concordiasem.ab.ca/>

Submitted by Verla Schmirler

PRAYERS

PRAY that God's Holy Spirit will continue to guide and bless the Church;

PRAY for Rev. Dr. Joel and Cheryl Heck as they continue to acclimate to life in Edmonton, and as Dr. Heck prepares to serve as Interim President of CLS for two years, guiding the mission of forming servants for Jesus' sake;

PRAY for CLS students as they prepare for the upcoming academic year;

PRAY for God to use pastors and congregations and families to raise up and send prospective students who are willing to be formed as servants for Jesus' sake;

PRAY for the CLS faculty and staff as they welcome students back

and set up all the pieces for the new academic year ahead;

PRAY for the steps being taken by LCC's President's Ministry Council (PMC) and the LCC seminaries to creatively face the challenges of church and ministry;

PRAY for your church, your pastor, and your deacon (or churches and church workers in general), that God would guide them to remain faithful to Him;

PRAY that God would bless the whole Church on earth with His Light and Truth;

PRAY for congregations seeking pastors and deacons and working through the call application steps;

PRAY for a balance of seasonal rains to help with both the



wildfire threats and the agricultural growing season;

PRAY for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine, especially as things remain unsettled from Russian attacks;

PRAY that God would bless you to reflect His Light to those around you;

PRAY that God would continue to raise up seminary partners who will provide encouragement and financial support enabling us to fulfill our mission. May God raise up long term supporters through regular donations as well as legacy gifts.