



# The Spirit of St. Paul's

SEPTEMBER 2025

The Board of Parish Fellowship will be hosting a

## WELCOME BACK BBQ

**SEPTEMBER 14 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.

## PASTOR'S CORNER

I hope that you had a great summer, that you were able to relax and reconnect with family and friends and 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 again!

In his letter to the Romans St. Paul teaches us that, “faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ” (Romans 10:17). As we hear God’s Word we receive guidance, peace, and hope and it delivers to us faith that receives the promise of salvation. We are invited to be comforted and strengthened by the Gospel that assures us that God forgives all of our sins through Christ, adopts us as children for His sake, and out of pure grace—without any merit on our part—justifies and saves us. As we hear this Good News and take it to heart it renews and transforms us. In his letter to the Galatians St. Paul writes, “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

Please join us at St. Paul’s as we receive the blessings of God’s Word in Divine Service, Bible studies, and in time of personal devotion. We have an  
*continued next page*



## 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. Send your ads to the editor.

Pastor: Rev. Murray Keith  
 Office Secretary: Sandy Harper  
 phone: 306-343-9535  
 e-mail: [stpaulslcc@sasktel.net](mailto:stpaulslcc@sasktel.net)  
 web: [www.stpaulslutheran.ca](http://www.stpaulslutheran.ca)  
 Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stpaulslutheran](http://www.facebook.com/stpaulslutheran)  
 Instagram: [www.instagram.com/stpaulslcc](http://www.instagram.com/stpaulslcc)  
 Spirit Editor: Marion Hollinger  
[hollinger@sasktel.net](mailto:hollinger@sasktel.net)

**Next deadline: Sept. 23, 2025**  
**Publication: Sept. 28, 2025**

*Pastor's Corner, continued*  
 online option for a Bible Study that will enable you to stay connected and engaged in God's Word if you are not able to join us in person. 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, is vital. Please be encouraged by these words in the letter to the Hebrews: "Let us hold fast the confession

## BIBLE STUDIES RESUME

The **Tuesday Morning Online Bible Study** will begin on September 23rd 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. Please let Pastor Keith or Sandy know if you would like to be added to our email list that receives the invitation links and join as you are able. We use the GoToMeeting platform (without video) and we will do our best to provide assistance if you need help using it.

## STEWARDSHIP

### WORK AND KEEP

*"The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it" (Genesis 2:15).*

Genesis chapters one and two are familiar to us. We know them best as the Creation Account. Chapter one is where we hear the familiar, "let there be...and there

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).

Below 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 **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 at the end of September or early October. Please watch for further details.

was" directives. Chapter two gives us the account of Adam (the man) being formed from the "Adamah" (the dust) and becoming a living being when he receives the breath of life in his nostrils. Because of this, it would be quite easy to simply lump these two chapters

*continued next page*

*Stewardship, continued*

into the category of creation accounts.

But do not be too hasty in this! While these two chapters do faithfully relate to us the account of creation, they also give us the creation of the “office” of steward. The man, created in the image of God in Genesis 1 and formed from the dust in Genesis 2, is created for a distinct purpose. He is created to be a steward of the perfect and beautiful creation that the Lord has made! In fact, this is THE reason that man was made. He—and we—were created in the image of God to be stewards of God’s creation.

This purpose is spelled out in verse 15 of Genesis 2. The steward has one job, with two purposes. It is fitting that in the month that our nation marks Labour Day, we consider the task of steward. The first purpose of the job of steward is to work. The steward is the caretaker of the Garden. Being a steward is work! Before the fall into sin, this was not an onerous task. But it was an active thing.

Imagine being a farmer in the Garden of Eden! Work would be only harvest. No plowing. No planting. No cultivating. No weeding. The perfect garden that the Lord had made would simply produce automatically to provide for man, woman, and all living beings!

But there is a second task in verse fifteen. The word “keep” is not just a synonym for work. This second task is related to defending. This garden, holy by virtue of its being called into existence by a holy God, needed to be defended. Here is where

the vocation of steward becomes priestly. The steward was to defend the perfect and holy garden from that which was unholy. Later in the Old Testament, this was the task of the priests in the tabernacle and temple. They were to defend with their lives the Holy of Holies. This too is the labour of stewardship. It is a labour that calls the steward to be willing to put the garden before life!

Stewardship was always work. It only got burdensome after the original steward, Adam, failed to defend the garden from the alien word of the serpent. But this was not a failure of harvest. It was a failure to defend the garden! As a result, all work that followed that failure became burdensome.

The steward failed but was never fired. That is why we have such an issue with stewardship to this day. We continue to live out a pre-fall vocation in a fallen world as failed stewards. That is why we in the church need to be reminded of our vocational call to be stewards. We so easily forget that this world is not ours to do with as we please. Nothing is ours. We are but stewards entrusted with managing the creation for the glory of God and the benefit of the neighbour.

It is a daunting task. But it is the one to which we have been called. We cannot do it on our own. Apart from the grace of God shared with us through Jesus, we would be burdened to the point of temporal and eternal death. But the Holy Spirit calls us by the Gospel! This Gospel connects us to the fertile garden of Christ’s Work on our behalf. Now we are stewards of that grace! The Holy

Spirit works this in and through us today and every day.

This is the work of the church. It is also the work of the individual steward. The Lord has placed us in the “garden” with the same twofold purpose: work and keep! Enjoy your labor. For in the Lord, our labour is never in vain!

**Financial Update**

The most recent financial statement the Board of Stewardship has reviewed was at May 31, 2025, which showed we had, at that time, a year-to-date deficit of \$9,501. This compares to a deficit at the end of May 2024, of \$19,462. Our offerings to date this year are \$106,126 – an increase of \$8,181 over the same period last year. Our bank balance remains in a strong position so we can continue to pay our bills over the summer months when attendance and offerings are typically lower.

The board will be reviewing updated financial information early in September and will be able to provide more current information at that time. As always, the Board of Stewardship thanks you for your continuing support of our mission and ministry!

*God’s Blessings  
Board of Stewardship*

*Praise the Lord,  
O my soul,  
and forget not  
all His benefits.*

Psalm 103:2

## EVANGELISM and PUBLIC RELATIONS

### NEW!

*“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness”* (Lamentations 3:22-23).

On my first day of Grade One, everything about our neighbourhood elementary school was new to me, and it took time for classroom surroundings, routines and expectations to be consistent. As the years progressed, new experiences awaited me in high school, secretarial school, employment, and retirement. I am SO thankful that, throughout each season, our Lord’s “steadfast love” and “mercies” have remained “new.”

*“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.”* (Genesis 1:1,31)

The first chapter of Genesis outlines the orderly way in which our Triune God created “the heavens and the earth” and allows us to know that He did not create human beings until He had set everything in place to support our lives, give us purpose, and bring us joy. Only He knows the full impact sin, death and Satan’s power have had on all He first saw as “very good,” and only He knows when He will fulfill His promises revealed to us through the apostle John.

*“And He who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’ Also He*

*said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ And He said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end’”* (Revelation 21:5-6a).

The apostle Peter was inspired to write, *“But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to His promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells”* (2 Peter 3:8-13).

Although I can hardly wait for that day when “all things” will be “new” forever, I also know that many people on earth have yet to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ or need to be reminded of what His death and resurrection have secured for them. As we

await Christ’s second coming, I pray it is the desire of all believers to have a part in the sharing of His message with others in our world. Perhaps we are most comfortable communicating with family members, friends, neighbours, colleagues or others we encounter on a regular basis. Perhaps we prefer to support the work of pastors, missionaries or world-wide ministries. Perhaps we are inspired by new doors of opportunity that open unexpectedly. All efforts combine to fulfill The Great Commission Jesus entrusted to us, His disciples.

*“And Jesus came and said to [His disciples], ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. 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 18-20).

At the end of August, Patricia Martins stepped down as a member of our board to prepare for the new responsibilities that await her in motherhood. We thank Patricia for her willing and faithful service during this term, and we ask our Heavenly Father to richly bless her, Josias, and the little one who will soon join their family!

*Verla Schmirler,  
Board of Evangelism  
and Public Relations*