

Quarterly Report



ST. PAUL'S
BLESSED ON PURPOSE

January 2017

Message from the Pastor

“I do not pray for these only, but also for those who believe in me through their word.” John 17:20

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In His high priestly prayer before His betrayal our Lord prayed for His disciples. He prayed that they would know the truth and He prayed that the Father would be with them as they went out in His name to proclaim what He was about to do. From this example we can be assured that our Lord is praying for us also. He prays that we would remain faithful to His Word. He prays that we would remain faithful to the proclamation of that Word. It is always good to examine our own hearts and lives and ask ourselves: “How am I doing in faithfulness to the Lord?” “How am I doing in my proclamation of my Lord to others?”

Not only are we reminded by this text to remember that our Saviour prays for His people, it is also a reminder for us to pray for others who are workers in the Lord’s harvest field. Do we regularly, personally pray for those who are on the mission field? Do we pray for our partner churches in Central America, Asia and Europe who are bringing forth the Word of life to many different peoples in many different communities?

The Word of God spreads from one person to another, from one place to another. Without the written Word we would not have the incarnate Word, our Lord Jesus Christ. This year we commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. The Reformation was all about the Word, the written Word and the Incarnate Word. Let us pray that this occasion is not just a time to look backward, but a time to look forward to what the Lord is doing today and will do in the future through the power of the proclamation of His Word. Above all let us be a prayerful people, who are busy proclaiming the Word of Jesus Christ to a world that so desperately needs Him! As He prays for us as workers in His harvest field, let us pray for others who are also workers in that same field!

A blessed New Year to each of you....and blessings to you as you celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation by praying and proclaiming!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Wayne G. Lunderby

Governing Board

The seven members of our Governing Board have spent much time in recent months considering how our new members and visitors “see” our church. Does our building, signage, even name, convey the joy that we have in our Savior? We are considering a number of actions to help us make a good first impression on those who are led to visit us.

Other recent work has included:

- looking into church usage by outside groups
- liaising with church properties on several issues
- working on the Pastoral review
- managing the sale of the Mary St. rental property and overseeing the distribution of 10% profit from sale of Mary Street House
- working with music teams and developing new guidelines
- budgeting
- reviewing and discussing church security issues

In the early weeks of 2017 we are focused on preparation of the new budget, developing a Church Rental Policy and preparing for any changes that will be required by the new BC Societies' Act. We are also hoping to form a committee that will focus on growing our church membership to the glory of God.

In Christ, the Governing Board

Jim Little, Chairman

Mike Rohde, Vice-chairman

Tyller Slade, Secretary

Rob Neels, Treasurer

Greg Hisdal, Properties Liaison

Rob Stace-Smith

Pastor Wayne Lunderby

500 Years of God's Blessings

You will be hearing a great deal this year about the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. The Reformation was not about anything new, but about returning to the unchanged and unchanging truth. So it is still today. The celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation is not a time for novelty. It is a time to return: to the truth, to the basics, to the foundation.

Do you remember the Small Catechism? Many of us were made to memorize the catechism (or at least part of it) during our Confirmation classes. Some of us might have even suffered through a public examination over its contents.

How much do you remember? Say it with me: "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him..." Can you finish? Do you remember where that is found? (It's in Luther's explanation of the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed.)

It's time to return. Luther wrote the Small Catechism for the instruction of laypeople. Luther intended the Small Catechism to be used at church and in the home to instruct children in the faith and to reinforce the faith in the hearts and minds of adults. There is no better time than in this year of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation to review the catechism. Read it for yourself. Refresh the theology in your mind. Pray the catechism daily. Memorize it. But even more, teach it. If you are a parent, teach it to your children. As you have opportunity, share it with your friends and peers.

The catechism teaches the fundamentals of the Christian faith: the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed, the Sacrament of Baptism, the Sacrament of the Altar and the Office of the Keys and Confession. This small book is well worth your time and study. May this celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation be a time when we return to the Word and Sacraments, when we turn to Christ and His love. It's *still* all about Jesus.

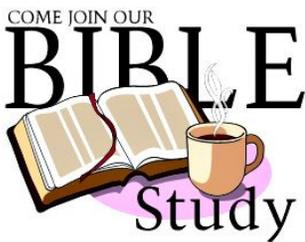
Blessed to Learn More About God

Christian Education

Sunday School

We have been blessed with a growing Sunday School. In recent months four new children "graduated" into our preschool class and we have welcomed another seven children from new families. All this growth is an amazing blessing but it is also taxing our volunteers. We would like to expand our Sunday School staff so if you feel led to help in this program please contact our Superintendent Sarah Slade.

Adult Education



Christian Education is not just for children. We believe that education is a lifelong process as we grow in our faith and knowledge of God's Word. All Bible studies welcome new members at any time. Is there a topic or time that would suit you better? Just let us know. We are always looking for new ideas.

Midweek Adult Studies:

For the Ladies ...

- **Wednesday 9:30 am** - meets in a member's home. Call the office for location.
- **Thursday 10:00 am** - meets at the church. Topic: "Romans"

For the Guys ...

- **Saturday 9:00 am** - Men's Breakfast and Bible Study (1st and 3rd Saturdays).

For Everyone ...

- **Wednesday 2:00 pm** - "That the World May Know" series.
- **Sunday 9:45 am** – Pastor Lunderby leads a Bible study between the services.

Youth and Young Adults

- Youth, grades 7-12 - 7:00 pm every second Monday at the church. For information about Bible study and social events contact Rob Stace-Smith.
- Young Adults 18+ - typically meets at 12:30 pm on 1st & 3rd Sundays, after church at a member's home for lunch and a Bible Study. Attendance is typically 6-11 people and new members are always welcome. For information contact Sarah and Tyller Slade.



Blessed to Reach Out in Love

Missions and Outreach Ministry

By now you have heard that 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the start of the Reformation and the founding of the Lutheran Church. In thankfulness to God for five centuries of His blessings, we are undertaking to perform at least 500 acts of mercy in His name during 2017.

Our Local Relief Committee has identified Cyrus Centre (the Chilliwack youth outreach program and shelter) as our focus for local support during this anniversary. Cyrus Centre has provided us with a “shopping list” of needed items. Each month we hope to collect at least 50 of one of the items on the list. Bring your items to the church anytime during the month. You may also contribute with a monetary donation to our Local Relief Fund. **On February 5 we will have a representative of Cyrus Center join us for lunch after the second service. Please come for lunch and hear about this exciting ministry to youth.**

There will be other practical opportunities to reach out in love during 2017. At our Lenten Servant Events we will collect items and assemble We Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief as part of our international outreach focus. For those with the talents to build, we are planning a mission trip to Mexico to assist with a housing construction project for families in desperate need of help. When Advent comes around again we will collect warm socks for those at Ruth and Naomi's Street Mission. Please keep all these agencies in your prayers as we strive to work with them to serve the needs of the most vulnerable in our community and abroad. Let us bless others in thankfulness for how God has so richly blessed us through Jesus Christ.

Cyrus Centre Monthly Shopping List

- January: Boxes of #10 envelopes (legal/business size)
- February: Pajama pants for males and females (Adult Small-Medium)
- March: Garbage bags (all sizes)
- April: Plastic cutlery (especially forks)
- May: New t-shirt for males and females (Adult Small-Medium)
- June: Toilet Paper
- July/Aug: Cleaning supplies (dishwasher pucks, glass cleaner, all-purpose cleaner, High-Efficiency detergent etc.)
- Sept: Underwear for males and females (Ladies Small; Men's Small boxers)
- Oct: Bath towels
- Nov: Hot chocolate and coffee
- Dec: *We will use your donations to Local Relief to purchase gift cards for distribution to youth at Christmas.*

Holy Cross Lutheran Preaching Station, Hope, BC

We continue to reach out to the community of Holy through our preaching station. Services are held twice a month on the second and last Sundays of each and attendance for the past few months has averaged from 10-14 people. It is a blessing to have five people from the Church of the Resurrection joining us in worship.

After service on Dec. 18th, we all went to Rolly's Restaurant for our annual Christmas Dinner and enjoyed good food and fellowship.

We at Holy Cross Preaching Station in Hope wish you all a very blessed New Year. Please keep this ministry in your prayers during 2017.

Linda VanDermeulen

Lenten Servant Events

We Care! That's the theme for our 2017 Lenten Servant Events as we will be preparing and assembling We Care Kits for Canadian Lutheran World Relief. Each Wednesday evening beginning March 8 we will gather at 5:00 pm for a Servant Event, light meal and a Lenten worship service. During our servant event we will assemble

kits for use by CLWR in refugee camps and disaster areas around the globe. Watch the Messenger for a complete list of items we will be collecting for the kits.

Mexico Building Project

We often take our homes for granted, but they are a blessing that many in the world do not have. Come and share your building talents to provide the basic necessities of life to a poor family in Mexico. We will be working with Ysleta Lutheran Mission in Texas to build a home for a family living near the Mexican border. Your gift of your time and talents will make a world of difference to one family. To learn more about this mission trip please speak to Pastor Lunderby.

Costa Rica Mission Project

For 2016 we met our commitment to raise \$2,000 to support the work of spreading the Gospel in Costa Rica in partnership with Concordia Lutheran Mission Society (the mission agency of Lutheran Church – Canada) and other congregations in the lower mainland. Missionary stipends, educational resources and a child feeding program are part of this project. We will continue to support this work in 2017.

St. Paul's Quilters

Thank you to all those who purchased crafts and quilts at Christmas time. This group raised \$230.00 from this sale and the money will support the work of the Cyrus Teen Center in Chilliwack. We will also be donating 5-6 quilts for the 6 new bedrooms that will be built this year as the Cyrus Centre expands to meet the needs of youth at risk in the community.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Our LWML Society was busy supporting numerous mission projects both in our congregation and abroad during 2017. Members most recently assisted with our Advent Servant Events as we reached out with blessings for those less fortunate in our community. During Lent we will be assisting with our congregation's Lenten Servant Event – We Care Kits for Canadian Lutheran World Relief.

The Society also encourages fellowship as the ladies support one another in love. On **Sunday, February 19** at 12:00 pm the Society will host the 25th annual Prayer Pal Lunch. Ladies and teen girls are encouraged to come for lunch and draw the name of another gal in the congregation. Prayer Pals pray for their secret friend and

remember her with small gifts and cards for special occasions. You need not be a member of the LWML to be a Prayer Pal. All are invited and encouraged to participate as we build one another up in love. To participate simply stay for lunch after the second service on February 19. Our LWML ladies will be providing food for the lunch.

For more information about the work of the LWML contact our society present Marjorie Nielsen. The Society meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm for a time of fellowship, a mission-oriented Bible study and a brief business meeting. All women and teen girls are invited.

Blessed to Celebrate with Friends

Fellowship & Special Events

Do you enjoy fellowship with other Christians? – then our Special Events Coordinator would like to hear from you. Volunteers are needed to form a committee to plan and implement regular social events to help our congregation build one another up in love. If you would like to be involved please speak to Cindy Landrigan.

Looking ahead to the early months of 2017, our Fellowship Team, under the direction of Donna Gafka, will be organizing Lenten suppers to coincide with our mid-week services. Watch the bulletin board and The Messenger for details. Your help in providing food for the dinners is most appreciated.

- Ash Wednesday: Wednesday, March 1
5:30 pm Potluck supper; 6:30 pm Worship service
- Lenten Mid-Week: Wednesdays, March 8 - April 5
5:00 pm Servant Event; 5:30 pm Supper; 6:30 pm Service
- Maundy Thursday: Thursday, April 13
5:30 pm Potluck Supper; 6:30 pm Communion Service
- Good Friday: Friday, April 14
6:30 pm “Tenebrae” Service of Darkness
- Easter Sunday: Sunday, April 16
9:00 am Breakfast; 10:30 am Joint Worship Service

Blessed to be Faithful Stewards

A New Year – New Opportunities

Each new day brings promise of a new start. For many, the start of a new week is the time to begin that diet, get serious about exercising, or forego TV viewing. For a vast majority, though, there's something especially motivating and invigorating about seeing the JANUARY calendar on the wall. This is the year we'll accomplish great things.

God doesn't necessarily call us to do great things, however. He asks that we be trustworthy in small things (Luke 16:10-11). To that end He gives us gifts to use to build up the Body of Christ and to reach out to the lost.

Some of us have many gifts. People like Michelangelo – painter, sculptor, and poet – and Thomas Jefferson – architect, statesman, and scientific farmer – come to mind. God, the Giver of gifts, knows that the number of gifts each of us has varies. Jesus told the Parable of the Talents pointing up this fact and teaching us that success lies in using what we've been given, not in having the greatest amount.

Our gifts also differ in degree. There are many sculptors but few, if any, compare to Michelangelo. Yet their art can bring satisfaction and inspiration to others. You may not be able to sing opera, but you can sing God's praises. You may not be a great orator, but you can witness to the love and grace of God in Christ. You may not be a mechanic, but you can provide transportation for someone needing to get to an appointment or to church.

That's why God gives us gifts and abilities – that we may be equipped to serve others. The start of a new year offers us an opportune time to assess those gifts and see how we can use them for God's glory and the good of His people. The motivation to do this comes from the same One Who gave the gifts! Just as He was motivated by love for us to give us, not just our gifts, but His greatest gift, His Son, so we are motivated by love for Him to serve those He calls us to serve.

Arnie Schmidt



Altar Guild

There were a few changes in the membership of our Altar Guild in 2016 - one member left and two new members were added. We continued with our Sunday communion duties as per our team schedule.

At the December 5, 2016 Altar Guild Meeting it was decided that the remaining Altar Guild Funds of \$ 1,263.48 be used to purchase new church banners. It was suggested that the current aging banners be displayed in the church hall for a time as many of them have been made by ladies in the church (past and present).

With the New Worship Service Communion Schedule for 2017 there will be changes in our how our Altar Guild will be setting up and cleaning up for Sunday communion. This will be worked out in the coming year.

We welcome both ladies and gentlemen who would like to serve our Lord with us on the St. Paul's Altar Guild. If you would like to serve or want to find out more about us, please feel free to contact me.

In Christ,

June Lemieux – Altar Guild Director

Statistical Report

| Statistics | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 Jan-Dec |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| Confirmed Members | 190 | 189 | 199 | 197 |
| Baptized Members <i>includes Confirmed</i> | 244 | 244 | 239 | 245 |
| Avg. Sunday attendance | 135 | 124 | 124 | 116 |
| Avg. weekly envelope offering <i>(undesignated envelope offerings for general budget purposes only)</i> | \$3,559 | \$3,454 | \$3,684 | \$3,621 |

Blessed on Purpose

Our Blessed on Purpose cards have been put to good use sharing our message of love around the community.

Thank you to those who have been making a real effort to bless others on purpose. When you do an act of kindness for another person simply give them a Blessed on Purpose card. These cards remind us, and others, that God has blessed us On Purpose, and so we seek to bless others in His name. Your act of kindness need not be difficult or expensive – just show compassion in Jesus' name to those around you.

Cards are available in the pews and on the bulletin board at the top of the stairs.



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