

# Quarterly Report



ST. PAUL'S  
BLESSED ON PURPOSE

**October 2017**

## Message from the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

*“Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, ‘Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?’ But He turned and rebuked them, and said, ‘You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives but to save them.’ And they went to another village.” Luke 9:51-56*

Chapter 9, verse 51 is the transition point in Luke’s Gospel. Jesus knew that the end of His earthly life was coming soon. “He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem”. He would still teach and preach, He would heal and bless, He would still cast our demons and do battle with the kingdom of Satan. He did all of this and so much more! However, while doing all of this He did not lose sight of the “big picture” for which He was sent by His Father into the world.

He was sent not just to teach and preach, He was not sent just to heal and bless, He was not sent just to cast out demons and do battle with Satan and his minions. He was sent for all of these purposes, but He was sent above all to save the lives of people. Jesus, as He journeyed the roads of Palestine, and as He visited towns and cities and the countryside never lost sight of the big picture for which He was sent into the world. He came as Messiah, as the Christ, as the Saviour. He came that people might have life and have it to the full. He came that we might have the forgiveness of all of our sins. He came that we would follow Him as our living and reigning Lord. He came that we might have the assurance of eternal life. The “big picture” of the Bible is all about Jesus and what He has done for all people, of all times, of all places.

This month we celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. Over the centuries the Church in the West had forgotten the “big picture”. There were the trappings and the words of religion, but over time the real reason for the coming of the Lord had been lost in the midst of all types of manmade ideas and doctrines and church policies and procedures. The church, by the time of Luther had lost the heart and centre of the Christian faith: Jesus sent, crucified and risen for us. The fact that He had come to save us was necessary because we could not save ourselves had been replaced by the futile teaching that we as humans could work or buy are way into the good graces of God.

It can be easy for the church of today, even a Lutheran church to also lose sight of the big picture. It happens when a building, or the programs and activities or the finances of the church become more important than proclaiming Jesus as the one and only Saviour. We must never lose sight of why we exist as a congregation, and specifically as a Lutheran congregation. As a congregation we need to be sure that we always cling to the “big picture”, the picture which tells us in Scripture alone that we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, by Christ alone. Blessings to you as you celebrate the Reformation! The Reformation is really not about you or me, or even Luther and his assistants. The Reformation is really all about Jesus – our only Saviour! To Him be all the glory!

*Pastor Wayne Lunderby*

# Governing Board

Dear Friends

As of the end of September, envelope offerings are more than \$4000 short of the 2017 budget. We understand that some of you are away during the summer, but please keep in mind that the church is running all year long. Also, please consider taking advantage of the pre-authorized payment program as a way to ensure that your offerings are up-to-date. Therefore, we ask you to prayerfully consider your church offerings for the rest of this year, so that we can meet the 2017 Budget.

*Thank you and God Bless.*

*Yours in Christ, The Governing Board*

Did you know that the minutes of recent Governing Board meetings are available for you to read? They can be found on the table just outside the sound room in the Narthex (lobby). Please help yourself and let the office know if the supply needs restocking. **Your third quarter financial statements are being distributed with this report. Printed copies are available at the church.**

## Blessed to Learn More About God Christian Education

### Children's Education

We have made a number of changes to our Kids' Church (Sunday School) program for this school year. On the 4th Sunday of each month we now have an Integrated Family Worship Service where the children remain in church rather than being dismissed for classes. At this special service we plan to involve the children in active worship, including helping with ushering, music, offering etc. We believe these services will be a blessing to the children as well as easing the load on our Sunday School teachers. **Parents – especially on these Sundays we encourage you to sit with your children in pews near the front of the church so your children can more easily watch the service and actively participate.** It is much more likely that children will participate when they can see what is going on. Please do not worry about your children disturbing other worshippers. It is our joy to have them worshipping with us. We realize that preschoolers can become restless in church (especially during the sermon) so on these Sundays we expand the Nursery to include children up to 5 years of age during the sermon. If you wish to use this just bring your children to the Nursery after the Children's Message.

We are looking at creating a craft that children can make over the course of their 3 weeks in Kids Church. The craft will hopefully align with the theme of the 4th Sunday of the month and will be on display during the service to showcase the children's talents, but also serve as a visual prop for the sermon.

For the young children, we have updated the Worship Service Busy Bags with new toys and activities. Parents can find these bags on the hanger near the table with the crayons and coloring sheets at the entrance to the sanctuary.

Our Grade 7 and 8s have a brand new program this year that we hope will develop their leadership skills and encourage them to become active volunteers in the church. Each week they have a different task: Week 1 = Bible Study; Week 2 = Helping in a classroom; Week 3 = Sermon Notes/Art; Week 4 = helping at the Integrated Family Worship Service.

*Thank you to our dedicated team of teachers, assistants, nursery workers and our Children's Church superintendent, Sarah Slade, for their faithful work.*

## **Adult Education**

There are several opportunities each week for adults to participate in a Bible study. **Sunday at 8:45 am** – “A Man Named Martin.” In October and November Pastor Lunderby is leading us through a special three-part video-based Bible study written especially for the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation.

### ***Midweek Adult Studies***

#### **For the Ladies ...**

- **Wednesday 9:30 am** - meets in a member's home. Contact the church office for location.
- **Thursday 10:00 am** - meets at the church. New Topic: “Gospel of Matthew”
- **2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm** - The Lutheran Women's Missionary League gathers for a mission related Bible study and a very brief business meeting. All women and teen girls with a heart for missions are welcome to attend.

#### **For the Guys ...**

- **Saturday 9:00 am** - Men's Breakfast and Bible Study (1st and 3rd Saturdays) at Homer's Restaurant, 46090 Yale Rd, Chilliwack. Our men feed their bodies with a good breakfast and feed their souls with the Word of God. All men and teen boys are welcome.



# Blessed to Reach Out in Love

## *Missions and Outreach Ministry*

Thank you to all those who have responded to our 500 Acts of Mercy project to mark the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the Reformation and the founding of the Lutheran Church. What a fitting way to celebrate 500 years of God's blessings – by blessing others so much less fortunate than ourselves. Our goal is to collect a total of 500 items throughout the year for Cyrus Center, CLWR, Ruth and Naomi's and other service agencies.

### **Cyrus Centre**

Our ongoing local project for the year is Cyrus Centre, the Chilliwack youth outreach program and shelter. Your donations to our monthly Shopping List have been wonderful and are so much appreciated.

On **Sunday, October 29** we will celebrate the Reformation with a potluck lunch after church. A representative of Cyrus Center will be attending to tell us more about the important work of this ministry with Chilliwack's underprivileged youth. We will also be presenting him with our monetary gift which we have raised throughout the year to help with meeting the needs of youth this Christmas season.

So far we have collected:

- 16 boxes of envelopes for their office
- 39 pajama pants for clients of the shelter
- 17 boxes/bags of garbage bags.
- 22 packages of plastic cutlery
- 35 T-shirts
- 12 packages of Toilet paper
- 17 bottles/boxes of cleaning supplies
- 56 pairs of underwear
- \$1000 in monetary donations

Below you will see our shopping list for the remainder of the year. You may also support this project with monetary donations. If using your regular offering envelope, please designate the amount you wish to give for "Local Relief."

### **Cyrus Centre Monthly Shopping List**

Oct: New Bath towels

Nov: Hot chocolate and coffee

Dec: *Your donations will be given to Cyrus Center to help fund their Christmas outreach.*

## **Advent Servant Events**

At each of our Advent Midweek Celebrations we will spend a half an hour assembling special gifts for those less fortunate than ourselves. On **Wednesday December 6** we will begin with the Great Christmas Cookie Caper. We will be preparing plates of your Christmas baking for our shut-ins and for our neighbors at The Village housing complex next door

On **December 13** we will prepare children's Christmas stockings for Ruth and Naomi's street mission. There are many low income families who attend the Family Feast dinner at the mission and they would appreciate a special gift for their children. We will be collecting small children's toys (small enough to fit inside a Christmas stocking), candy and gloves/hats etc.

On **December 20** we will be collecting men's and women's warm socks which will be distributed through agencies such as Ruth and Naomi's and Cyrus Center. Please bring heavy, wool-type socks as they are more absorbent in nasty weather.

*Children's stocking stuffers and the adult socks can be left in the baskets on the table outside the church office.*

## **Holy Cross Lutheran Preaching Station, Hope, BC**

The Hope Congregation is continuing to gather on the second and last Sunday of the month. We have between 15-22 people out for services now, depending on if people are away for holiday weekends or in town. We are very appreciative of the help we receive from Keith & Lesley Hodsall, and Elly Genest from the Chilliwack congregation.

*Linda VanDerMeulen*

## **Refugee Sponsorship Opportunity**

An anonymous gift of full sponsorship for a refugee family has been offered to us (\$27,000.00)! An information meeting was held in June to determine if we have enough people interested in forming a committee and doing the research necessary to present this proposal to the voters. Several people have expressed interest in being part of the planning committee and are currently studying the information prepared by CLWR. **We will have information and a recommendation to present to the voters shortly. The congregation will then meet to decide if we should proceed with this sponsorship.**

## **Costa Rica Mission Project**

For 2017 we have reached our goal of sending \$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.

## **Lutheran Women's Missionary League**



After being on summer break, we had our first meeting in September. The LWML Fraser valley fall renewal will be hosted by St. Paul's on Sat Nov 4. This event is open to all women and teen girls, not just members of the LWML. This is a great opportunity to come and learn what the LWML is all about.

Monthly meetings will continue to be held on the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm. All ladies and girls confirmation age and up are welcome to join us. Meetings include a mission-based Bible study, a very brief business meeting and fellowship. For more information contact Marjorie Nielsen.

## **Altar Guild**

Our St. Paul's Altar Guild has been serving successfully throughout the summer. We will be meeting in the near future to clean the communion ware for Christmas and set the new Altar Guild Schedule for 2018.

We would like to welcome Charel Keim to our Altar Guild. Charel will be helping the Sunday morning team with the communion set up. Welcome Charel, we are happy to have you with us.

As of June 30, 2017, our Altar Guild Fund contains \$1,543.48. I will be meeting with Pastor in the next few weeks to select and purchase new banners for the church as was decided at our Dec. 5, 2016 Altar Guild Meeting.

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*

# Blessed to Celebrate with Friends

## *Fellowship & Special Events*

**Church Outreach Picnic** - A very successful congregational picnic was held in downtown Chilliwack during the summer. In addition to our own members and friends, we welcomed over a dozen families who live in the area and who were delighted to have their children participate in the many activities we hosted. Thank you to all those who supported this major community outreach event.

### **Reformation Celebration – Sunday, Oct 29 after 2<sup>nd</sup> service**

Come celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation with a German-style Potluck Lunch. If you have a favorite ethnic German dish that your family enjoys please bring it to share. Salads and other food dishes also welcome. Don't worry about bringing desert. We're cooking up batches of Katie Luther's famous "Luther Bread" for desert.

### **Harvest Costume Party - October 31 at 6:00 pm**

Looking for an alternative to traditional Halloween activities? This event is for the whole family, beginning with a free hot dog supper at 6:00 pm. Then we will have games, crafts and other special activities for the children ... and of course plenty of candy to take home. Non-occult based costumes are encouraged. Everyone is welcome!

### **Christmas is coming! – Advent activities begin December 6**

It might seem a long ways off, but those autumn weeks will pass quickly and we will be preparing for the joyous celebration of Christmas. Our Advent midweek program will be held on Wednesday evenings, December 6, 13 and 20, beginning at 5:00 pm for a Servant Event, followed by a light meal and an evening service. Also being planned is a family Christmas Party. Watch the Messenger for the date and time which will be announced shortly.

### **Young at Heart**

Our Young @ Heart meets the third Wednesday of the month (usually) at 11:00 am followed by an awesome lunch made by a group of dedicated young ladies from our congregation. The last three months we have had Ken Neufeld from Youth Unlimited speak to our group regarding a program to help young people at risk in

our community. We Grannies and Grandpas were given opportunity to “adopt” a young person (first name only ) in prayer. In May we were entertained with the Harmony Chorus...our local “Barbershop” group. In June, Dee Hanson spoke to us about the work of Harvest Hands involvement in Uganda where she was able to visit last year and help Tim Specht for a month.

We began again in October with a variety of programs to inform and entertain our Young @ Heart group. We continue to request members to bring a friend and are encouraged to see our numbers increase. With thanks to all who assist with this program and God’s blessings on the continuing journey. John & Jo-Anne

- November Pastor & Cindy
- December Happy Heart Band
- January Ray Single Video
- February Harmony Chorus
- March Coptic Egypt Video



## Blessed to be Faithful Stewards



Martin Luther said, “If someone would knock on my heart and ask, ‘Who lives here?’ I would say, ‘Martin Luther once lived here, but he has moved out and Jesus has moved in.’ ” Martin Luther lived for Jesus. In Galatians 2:20 the apostle Paul wrote that he, too, lived for Jesus. *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God.”*

Who or what do you live for? If we live for ourselves and the things of the world, we will focus our attention and energy on amassing more and more things. It is easy for money and possessions to become overly important because our society tells us that more is better and that happiness and success can only be achieved by having the newest and best things. To find happiness and success, we work long and hard.

King Solomon, who was wealthy and wise, tried almost everything and found no satisfaction with things of the world. In Ecclesiastes, he tells us that he tried wine and women; he built houses, gardens, and parks; he bought slaves, herds and flocks,

and amassed silver and gold. *“I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure . . . Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.”* (Ecclesiastes 2:10-11). Regarding money, Solomon wrote, *“Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless”* (vs. 5:10).

In closing the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon wrote, *“Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment . . .”* (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14). The only thing that finally gave Solomon’s life purpose was living for God. Likewise, we as Christians understand that Jesus is the only person who can give us lasting peace, comfort, and security. He alone meets our needs. Jesus’ tremendous sacrifice showed us His love for us and His love compels us to love Him and live for Him. Filled with Jesus’ presence in our lives, we are empowered to overcome the pull of the world.

## **Blessed to Walk Together**

### **News from Lutheran Church-Canada**

#### **New National President Elected**

On October 14, 2017 the delegates to the Lutheran Church–Canada (LCC) national convention elected Rev. Timothy Teuscher as synodical president.

Rev. Teuscher currently serves as First Vice President of the East District of Lutheran Church–Canada and pastor of St. Peter’s Lutheran Church in Stratford, Ontario. Prior to being called to Stratford, Rev. Teuscher served parishes in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and in Petawawa and Palmer Rapids, Ontario.

Rev. Teuscher succeeds Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee, who had announced in early 2017 that he would not be standing for reelection. Dr. Bugbee was elected President of Lutheran Church–Canada in 2008, and was acclaimed to second and third terms without opposition in 2011 and 2014. He has further served the International Lutheran Council as its Vice Chairman for several terms.

Dr. Bugbee is returning to fulltime parish ministry, having accepted a call to First Lutheran Church (Windsor, Ontario). He will continue to serve as LCC President until the incoming president is installed sometime in early 2018.

## **Synod Restructuring Approved**

Lutheran Church-Canada has voted at the 2017 synodical convention in Kitchener, Ontario to restructure the church body, accepting changes to the church's statutory bylaws, constitution, and synodical bylaws.

The Convention adopted the restructuring plan by ballot on October 14, with 77.3 percent of votes in favour. The vote required 2/3 majority of the convention to be adopted. A subsequent resolution to approve changes to the bylaws passed with 92 percent in favor. The changes to the constitution now go to LCC congregations for ratification. A 2/3 majority of voting congregations is required for the constitution to be amended.

The restructuring plan comes following two years of restructuring consultations across the country, after the three districts meeting in convention all requested the CCMS propose recommendations for restructuring at the 2017 synodical convention. Under the new structure, congregations will relate directly to the national synod, with congregations to be grouped in up-to-eight regions, the boundaries of which are to be determined by the Board of Directors in consultation with the congregations. To simplify the transition, regions will, for the time-being, follow the boundaries of the existing Canadian districts.

### **Lutheran Church Canada overseas mission work - 2017**

**Cambodia.** Lutheran Church Canada has been privileged to assist the Cambodian Lutheran Church financially since 2016. Major projects supported by LCC in Cambodia include: deaconesses' stipends; children's education and feeding programs; theological education seminars for church workers; sister-to-sister seminars through the Lutheran Women's Missionary League of Canada; and other social ministry and humanitarian projects.

**Thailand** The Lord has blessed the Thailand Concordia Lutheran Church (TCLC) with faithful pastors and lay leaders, and has opened mission opportunities to ethnic groups in the North Chiang Mai region. In the Phang Nga Province, missionaries continue ministering to their congregations and taking every opportunity to proclaim the Gospel in their communities. LCC and TCLC have agreed to start the training of three new candidates in this region to assist the missionaries as deacons, and then eventually as missionaries, should they desire to pursue the pastoral ministry.

**Ukraine** Despite threats of war, in the midst of fire and smoke, the Gospel of the Lord Christ continues to be proclaimed in Ukraine, with people responding to the Gospel and being welcomed through baptism into the Christian faith. In particular,

Lutheran Church Canada supports care ministry to refugees, the homeless, orphans and orphanages, and mentally and physically challenged individuals.

**Honduras** Our Missionaries continue to share the Gospel to all peoples and ages in Honduras. Special outreach events are planned around the seasons of the church year, when church members deliver food hampers to families in that area.

**Nicaragua** LCC continues to work in the large mission field of Nicaragua along with the Iglesia Luterana Sinodo de Nicaragua (ILSN). One great blessing experienced recently has been the large number of children confirmed in the Lutheran faith, as well as the considerable number of youth taking active part in the church's mission.

Mission outreach has especially expanded in the city of Cartago, which now sees ministry in two different locations. The main outreach effort has been to youth and to women. LCC is privileged to fully support the mission in Cartago, Costa Rica, jointly with Concordia Lutheran Mission Society, Lutheran Women's Missionary League Canada, and congregations of the Fraser Valley, including St. Paul's.

## Statistical Report

Statistics	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 Jan-June
<b>Confirmed Members</b>	190	189	199	197	141*
<b>Baptized Members</b> <i>includes Confirmed</i>	244	244	239	245	188*
<b>Avg. Sunday attendance</b>	135	124	124	116	122
<b>Avg. weekly envelope offering</b> <i>(undesignated envelope offerings for general budget purposes only)</i>	\$3,559	\$3,454	\$3,684	\$3,621	\$3,706

*\*Note: In January 2017 we completed an extensive review of our membership list. A number of inactive members were removed from the list including several families who moved years ago without transferring or leaving a forwarding address. The result is a new membership list that more accurately reflects the active membership of the congregation. All the former members were placed on a "Responsibility List" until we can contact them to determine how they would like to deal with their membership here.*