

Year-End Report



ST. PAUL'S
BLESSED ON PURPOSE

2017 Annual Report

As you read through this report from the various Ministry Teams please prayerfully consider how you might be involved in 2018. All Teams and committees welcome new members and new ideas. More information is available by contacting the office or a member of the team you are interested in.

Message from the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

I pray that all of you were blessed with a joyous celebration of our Lord's birth and His Epiphany. Thank you so much to everyone who participated in any way in helping to make our seasonal worship services meaningful to the lives of so many people! It was a joy to be able to celebrate the birth of our Saviour with the wonderful people who call St. Paul's their church home! On behalf of my family we want to thank those who thought of us with their cards and gifts. We so appreciate your thoughtfulness! We are truly blessed to be part of this congregation, as together we all serve the Lord.

I also want to thank those who throughout 2017 served in so many different ways in and through our congregation. As we work together we are able to do so much more for the Lord than any of us could do on our own. It is so wonderful to see

men and women, boys and girls growing in their faith and in their response to the Lord.

This new year will bring with it new opportunities to serve Christ and His people in many ways. I pray that you will consider how you may serve God and His mission through our congregation in 2018. You recently received a form listing many of these new service opportunities. Please take the time to read it, pray about it and respond to those areas in which the Lord has gifted you.

May the Lord, through St. Paul's, make a difference in the lives of each of us this year. May He also use our congregation to reach people who do not yet know Him so that they too may become a part of the family of faith! I am praying that you are blessed on purpose, by the Lord, in this New Year!

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Wayne G. Lunderby*

Governing Board

The Governing Board has been busy this year again. You might ask yourself "what is the board doing and what is it's role?" Well actually, the role of the Governing is to work with the Pastor looking at what the future direction of the church should be. Additionally, one member of the Governing Board is elected Treasurer of the congregation. As such we are responsible for bringing a budget to the voters for review, and ultimately adoption in the manner directed by the voters. The board does not have control of the budget as it is the voters who control it. As such we worked on and presented the budget for the past year and have started preparations for the proposed budget for 2018.

As a result of the budget process we had a music committee set up with one governing board member on the team to come up with options to reduce the music budget requirements if possible. The voters meeting resulted in maintaining the current music program. If people have actual suggestion as to how things can be improved in a good and practical manner we suggest speaking to Pastor.

Ultimately, we hope that we all pull together and work in a unified way to worship our Lord, and spread his love to all those in and outside of the church.

What the board is not in control of is the day to day running of the church, as that is up to the Pastor, office staff and the other volunteers overseen by the Pastor.

The board has been looking at concentrating on attracting new members with kids as that is the future of our church here. That is not to say we will ignore others, just that this is the focus for right now.

Along those lines we are going to install new signs on the outside of the church to make our place of worship more visible to the other people in town. It is hard to attract new members to our church if you cannot see it easily.

Additionally, we had the security company come by on patrols to lessen the issues with some of the homeless that were making worship harder.

We are also looking at having greeters again to welcome new people. My wife and I have personally welcomed several people in the past few weeks. We all need to meet them, make them feel welcome, invite them to the functions at our church, and feel included. If you feel that you are the right person for the job, and can work on a team please let the office know. There will be training as we all need to be on the same page. We all need to see each other showing and spreading God's love, not just to us here at St Paul's, but to all those around us each day.

Respectfully, The Governing Board

Mike Rohde, chairman

Randy Schertzer, vice-chairman

Jonathan Wearing – secretary

Rob Neels – treasurer

Jim Little – Church Properties Liaison

Rob Stace-Smith – Music Liaison

Pastor Lunderby

Blessed to Learn More About God

Christian Education

Children's Education

Our Sunday School is a vital part of our ministry here and it needs more help! This year we have introduced "Integrated Family Services" on the 4th Sunday each month. This is partially to alleviate stress on our overworked teachers, and partially because some parents want to have their children worship in church with them, at least occasionally. The new system is understandably liked by some parents, and

disliked by others – to the point where some do not attend church on these Sundays. There is a lot of room to develop the family services to involve the children even more than we have been and hopefully to overcome the concerns of parents who do not like this change.

Among our goals for 2018 is to regain our previous attendance. We had been averaging 20 children per Sunday but, due to a number of factors, we now have only about half that number attending regularly.

If you feel called to serve in ministry to our children please speak to our superintendent Sarah Slade.

Faith Legacy

Our Faith Legacy program helps equip parents to lead their children in becoming disciples of Christ. We begin with a 3 year old blessing when children are welcomed into Sunday School. Please inform the office when your child is about to have their third birthday. Children and their parents come forward for a blessing and an official welcome into the Sunday School program.

Children in Grade 1 are just beginning to read and so we mark this milestone by giving them a special blessing and a Bible for young readers. Early each year we recognize the children who are in Grade 1. Please let the office know if your child is attending Grade 1 in the 2017/2018 school year (or if your child is in Grade 2 and did not previous participate in the Blessing). **We plan to have a Faith Legacy Blessing on Palm Sunday, March 25.**

First Communion class is for children who are ready to begin receiving the Lord's Supper. Children may attend this class when their parents and pastor believe they are ready to comprehend the teachings about the Lord's Supper – usually in Grade 4-6. Parents, please let the office know if you would like your child to participate in the First Communion Class early in 2018. The class is held for four weeks at 9:45 am (between the two worship services). A parent or guardian must attend the class with the child. The First Communion ceremony will take place at the conclusion of the class. **First communion classes are scheduled for March 4, 11, 18 and 25 with the children receiving communion for the first time on Palm Sunday, March 25.**

Confirmation

Young people who want to prepare to become confirmed members of the Lutheran Church attend classes every second Thursday evening at 6:30 pm. This is a two-three year program for students in middle school and high school. The course is in modules so young people may join the class at any time. For more information speak to Pastor Lunderby.

Adult Education

There are several opportunities each week for adults to participate in a Bible study. **On Sunday at 9:45 am** – Pastor Lunderby leads an adult Bible study in the fellowship hall between the two worship services. Grab a coffee and a snack and come feed on the Word of God.

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.
- **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) in the church fellowship hall. 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.



Evening Bible Study: Were you unable to attend the Martin Lutheran Bible study on Sunday mornings? We would like to offer this study again on a weekday evening. If you are interested in taking part in this study please contact the church office.

Connections – Adult Information Class



Are you connected with our congregation?

Got some questions about what the Lutheran church teaches?

Want to be more than just a Sunday morning member?

Been a Lutheran “forever” and could use a “refresher?”

That’s what “Connections” is all about.

“Connections” is a video-based course designed to answer some of the basic questions about St. Paul’s and the core teachings of the Lutheran church.

“Connections” will take place three on consecutive Saturdays from 9 am-12 noon. Dates are Saturdays, March 10th, 17th, & 24th. *If you are planning to attend...please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the entranceway or contact the church office.*



Blessed to Reach Out in Love **Missions and Outreach Ministry Teams**

Thank you to all those who responded to our 500 Acts of Mercy project to mark the 500th 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 was to collect a total of 500 items throughout the year for Cyrus Center, Canadian Lutheran World Relief, Ruth and Naomi’s and other service agencies. So.... How did we do?

Cyrus Centre – youth shelter and outreach program

Each month we collected items from the Centre’s “Shopping List” of needs.

- January – 16 boxes of envelopes (some with as many as 500 envelopes)
- February – 39 pajama pants
- March – 30 boxes of garbage bags
- April – 24 packages of plastic cutlery
- May – 41 new t-shirts
- June – 12 large packages of toilet paper
- July/Aug – 22 cleaning items
- Sept – 82 pairs of underwear

- Oct – 20 bath towels
- Nov – 21 boxes/cans of coffee and hot chocolate
- Dec – we provided \$1,000 for the Center’s Christmas outreach and winter needs and we delivered 8 hat and scarf sets and 48 bags from our Advent Servant Events containing socks and toiletries for distribution to clients of the youth shelter this winter.

Lent Servant Events

During Lent we assembled layettes for Canadian Lutheran World Relief to distribute to the M’Berra Refugee Camp in Mauritania which is managed by the Lutheran World Federation. There are over 50,000 people living in this camp and over half are under the age of 18. The children being born there have among the lowest infant survival rates in the world.

To fill our pledge of 25 Baby Bundles, we collected:

- 50 sleepers
- 50 ‘onesies’
- 25 sweaters
- 100 diapers (and pins)
- 25 receiving blankets

Advent Servant Events

At each of our Advent Midweek Celebrations we focused on special gifts for those who could use a little extra love at Christmas. In addition to the gift bags for Cyrus Center mentioned above, we delivered:

- 72 plates of Christmas baking to the residents of The Village supportive housing project next door plus some special friends of the congregation including our shut ins.
- 48 Christmas stockings for children plus 12 teen gift bags for those attending family programs at Ruth and Naomi’s Street Mission.

TOTAL ... we collected 677 gifts of love for those less fortunate than ourselves, plus provided a monetary donation to Cyrus Center. Thank you for reaching out in love to bless others. Please continue to pray for all who have received our gifts that they too will know the love of God.

Looking forward to 2018

We will continue to support the work of Cyrus Centre. We asked the program staff for an updated list of their needs and they suggested several items that would be appreciated for the first quarter of 2018.

For January, February and March we will be collecting the following items:

- ♥ **Granola Bars**
- ♥ **Boxed cereals**
- ♥ **Juice crystals**
- ♥ **Ziplock bags - *snack and sandwich size***

Your donations may be left in the basket at the top of the entrance stairs.

For our **Lenten Servant Event** we will be partnering with Most Ministries and making Gospel Bracelets. Volunteers will use these to share the Gospel message with clients waiting to obtain eyeglasses in third world countries. For these impoverished clients, the gift of eyeglasses is life changing, allowing many to return to work and support their families. In addition to making bracelets, we will also be collecting gently used eyeglasses.

Looking ahead to Advent, we will again provide gifts of love for our neighbors and clients of outreach programs in the Chilliwack area. More details of these projects will be provided later in the year.

We will also be doing our share to support the mission work of the Alberta-BC District of Lutheran Church-Canada.

*Local Outreach Ministry Team
Barb Schmidt, Joanne Hanlon, Christine Partridge*

St. Paul's Quilters

For the first time in the history of the quilting/hobbies group we had to purchase batting for inside the quilts. Blankets are very hard to come by so we were forced to find a solution. The new batting that we use is lightweight and perfect for our application although it costs us about \$8.00 per quilt. We sold a total of 14 regular quilts and baby quilts this year. We have donated over 500.00 to Cyrus Center this year with the sale of our quilts. Even after selling some quilts we still sent over 80 quilts to Abbotsford, CLWR baling days. Thank you so much to those who have

continued to have this mission in their thoughts and prayers as well as those that generously donate sheets for us to continue this mission. We would like to welcome Joanne Hanlon to our weekly quilting group. This brings the total number of ladies to 7 who come when they can to lend a hand.

Coming this year, the ladies have decided to repair and spruce up the cushions in the sanctuary. These cushions were made over 20 years ago by the ladies in quilting (mostly Anne Schaefer) and some of them are looking a little thin. We also continue to make some baby quilts for little ones in the congregation as well as the regular quilts we send overseas. All these projects are done out of a labour of love for our Lord. Thank you again for dropping off your gently used sheets to this cause.

Donna Little

Holy Cross Lutheran Preaching Station, Hope, BC

The Hope Congregation enjoyed good attendance during 2017, averaging 15-22 people at our services. The only activity outside of church service was our Christmas dinner on December 10th which was attended by 11 people.

Our Church continues to be represented at the Hope Ministerial Association meetings, where I also serve as Secretary or Note taker.

We will continue to serve the residents of Fraser Hope Lodge as best we can, providing them a place where they can learn about Jesus & His love & hopefully strengthen their faith. I would like to thank those who continue to provide assistance to us in Hope with our Sunday services. Blessings for the New Year.

In His Service, Linda VanDerMeulen

Refugee Sponsorship

An anonymous gift of full sponsorship for a refugee family (\$27,000.00) has been gratefully accepted by the congregation and now our sponsorship committee is working towards the goal of bringing a family to Chilliwack in 2018. The committee has informed Canadian Lutheran World Relief of our intentions and our congregation has been included on the federal government list for 2018. The committee will be meeting with a CLWR settlement team in January. More details will be provided to you as this work continues.

*Refugee settlement committee Rob Gafka (chair),
Jonathan Wearing, Abeni Steegstra, Barb/Arnie Schmidt, Rob/Heather Stace-Smith*

Costa Rica Mission Project

For 2017 we 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. We will continue with this support in 2018. In fact we are already a third of the way to our goal. Thank you to all those who have been supporting this wonderful project.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League



The last months of 2017 flew by rather quickly. Regular monthly meetings with Bible study were held. In December we had our Christmas get together with a one act play and other activities. The last Sat in October we hosted the zone fall renewal. Many thanks to Carolyn Dyck and Donna Little for taking care of the food. Many items were collected to assist with our Advent Servant

Events. Thank you to all the ladies who attended for their generous donations. Lastly we helped out with the advent servant events, helping to assemble plates of baking, children's stockings and youth gift bags.

What does 2018 hold? Monthly meetings with Bible study will continue to be held on the second Thursday of the month. We will be having our annual Prayer Pal lunch on **Sunday, February 18** and will be helping out with the Lenten servant events as well. All women and teen girls are welcome to attend the Prayer Pal Lunch even if they are not members of LWML. This is an opportunity to draw the name of another gal in the congregation who you will secretly pray for in the coming year. This is a fun way to get to know another woman or teen in the congregation so we hope that many gals will plan to attend. You are also welcome to attend the lunch even if you do not wish to participate in the Prayer Pal program.

Marjorie Nielsen, president

Blessed to Celebrate with Friends

Fellowship & Special Events Teams

Our fellowship activities including many opportunities to enjoy good food and good company. We again hosted an outreach picnic in downtown Chilliwack where we welcomed about a dozen families from the neighborhood who joined our members for worship and some great family activities. We also enjoyed dinners together for Lent and Advent as well as an Easter breakfast and several mission lunches.

A series of informal summer picnics and a Harvest Party were organized for families with young children but unfortunately due to weather, or busy schedules, they were not well attended. The committee could use some direction from young families on what types of activities you would like to see offered. Please share your ideas with our ministry team members. In fact, we would like to hear your ideas for fellowship activities for all ages. Our community life is important as we build one another up in love.

*Fellowship and Special Events Team:
Donna Gafka, Bill Wearing, Cindy Landrigan*

Lent is coming! - Lent activities begin soon

Yes, we've barely put away the Christmas decorations and it's time to begin talking about the Season of Lent. Our youth and young adults are considering hosting a new event – a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 13. Watch the Messenger for details soon.

On Ash Wednesday, February 14, there will be a potluck supper at 6:00 pm followed by a special Ash Wednesday Service with Imposition of Ashes at 7:00 pm. For the remainder of Lent there will be a special program every Wednesday evening from February 21 to March 21. We will gather at 5:30 pm for a Servant Event followed by a potluck supper and a worship service.

Holy Week services begin on Maundy Thursday, March 29, with potluck supper at 6:00 pm, followed by a Service of Holy Communion. A Good Friday Service of Darkness will be held on March 30 at 7:00 pm and the celebration of our Lord's Resurrection takes place on Easter Sunday, April 1. **Easter breakfast will be served from 9:00-10:00 am. There will be a single worship service at 10:30 am.**

Young at Heart

Young @ Heart usually meets on the third Wednesday of the month except during July and August. We have a variety of events beginning at 11:00 am with a very ample lunch following. The last few meetings we have had a presentation honouring the 500th year of Reformation presentation by Valerie Mossman as Katie Luther and in December the Happy Hearts Band entertained us with Christmas songs.

In the coming months we are having ... January, a video; February, the Harmony Chorus; and March, a video presentation on The Coptic Church. Our suggested donation for lunch is \$6.00.

Our seniors and others who come to join us enjoy the camaraderie and the great meal.



Blessed to be Faithful Stewards



Thank you for your tithes and offerings which sustained the work of the congregation during 2017. Your year-end statements and income tax charitable giving receipts will be distributed by the end of February.

New Every Morning

It's a new year. Not only do we turn over a page on the calendar, we begin a whole new calendar. For many, a new year brings promise of a new start, but many don't have such an optimistic view. The bills from over-spending at Christmas are starting to come in, and there's no more money now than there was a month ago. Then there's the problem of the extra ten pounds you put on due to all the goodies you consumed. None of this is new. The calendar may say a new year, but only the date is new.

Instead of looking around us at our circumstances or inside ourselves where there is no hope or inspiration, let us look at God's unfailing compassion and His blessings which He pours out on us daily (Lamentations 3:21-23). Let us spend our

prayer time in thanks for all He has done for us and provided for us, rather than lamenting our sorry state. Let us look to His wisdom to manage His gifts to us in a wiser manner so that we might please Him and be of service in His Kingdom. Especially let us thank Him for the gift of forgiveness and the new start He gives us minute by minute.

Prayer: Dear Lord, we thank You for this new year that You have given to us. We know our time is a gift from You and in Your hands. Help us to use the time You've given us in ways that give You honor and glory. We pray this in Your precious name. Amen. **Blessings on your stewardship journey!**



There were a few changes in the membership of our Altar Guild in 2017, four members left and three new members were added. As of January 31, 2018, I have stepped down as Altar Guild Director after approximately 18+ years of service. The new Altar Guild Director is Paulette Larocque and I have full confidence that she will do an excellent job. I wish to thank all the ladies and gentlemen who have served with me over the years, your dedication and service have been greatly appreciated.

As of September 30, 2017 the Altar Guild Fund contained \$1,543.48. It was decided that the 10 year old church Christmas tree needed to be replaced. A new tree was purchased and a Poinsettia Fundraiser was done for Christmas to offset the cost of the new tree.

The New Worship Service Communion Schedule instituted in 2017 has worked well. The Altar Guild early service and late service teams have set up a plan to where they each split the duties. 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 our new Director Paulette Larocque.

In Christ, June Lemieux – Altar Guild Director (retired)

Statistical Report

Statistics	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Confirmed Members	190	189	199	197	139*
Baptized Members <i>includes Confirmed Members</i>	244	244	239	245	188* <i>See note</i>
Avg. Sunday attendance	135	124	124	116	125
Avg. weekly envelope offering <i>(undesignated envelope offerings for general budget purposes only)</i>	\$3,559	\$3,454	\$3,684	\$3,621	3,733

**Note: In 2017 we completed an extensive review of our membership list. A number of inactive members were removed from the list including 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.*