

September 2026

**St. Paul's Evangelical
Lutheran Church
Chilliwack, BC**

Message from Pastor - "Education! Who Needs It?"

Sitting to start writing my Newsletter article the following Bible verse kept coming to my mind. Here it is, Proverbs 3:5 says, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding." So why not lean on your own understanding? Well, none of us knows everything, though often we think ourselves quite savvy. And knowing we don't know everything there is to know, we need to go outside of ourselves to find it.

So where do we often turn to find understanding and knowledge? Isn't it true that so often when we have a question, we presently turn to that tool, in our day, which seems all knowing and therefore seek answers on the Internet. And yet is the Internet all knowing? Isn't it fed information by humans that aren't all knowing? Or if the info comes from AI which is artificial (false or pretend) why would we think that it can give us the answers we really need.

Many in our day would say turning to the Bible for answers or knowledge is just unrealistic. In fact, I just looked at an article one of you sent me which said that if a teaching, no matter the field (though the author was focusing on religions teachings) no longer corresponds to reality then it's got to go. Why? Because, in general ideologies, the author implied, that do not presently correspond with reality only lead to hurt and pain for those to which they are being taught.

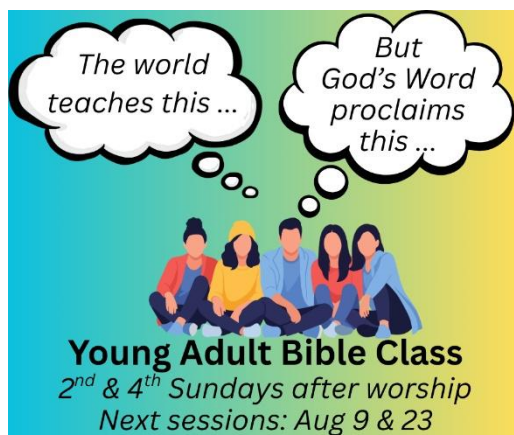
So are education and knowledge, reality based? Is only that which is culturally relevant or accepted by the majority, that which constitutes truth (at least for the time being)? If that is true, and truth changes with reality and reality is always changing as time moves on, then truth can never be true. For truth to be true it

must be static, the same for all people of all time! It doesn't change like the currents in society meandering here and there and back and forth. If it did, one could never stand upon it and be secure lest the shaky ground of reality shift beneath you and your fall and pain are great!

Then where do we go for true knowledge and the education of it? Of course, as Pastor you would

think I would say the Holy Bible. But let me put forth this caveat. If Jesus did not rise from the dead as the Bible shares, with all its eyewitnesses as well as a hand full of Jesus opponents proclaimed (in antiquities that's a gold mine), then forget about the Bible as being anything but a fable. A collection of lies not worth studying or standing upon. Ever! However, If the central figure of all humanity, Jesus (check that

out) did come back to life from the dead then not only what he said is Truth but all that was written in the Old Testament and the New Testament. Why? Because the Old foretells about the Saviour and His death and resurrection, and the New shares the fulfilment of such. And all of this was to pay for the sins of all humanity. All of this is Truth which will never change, no matter what reality comes to stare you in the face. If fact every reality that



does come to stare you in the face can be met with the Truth about your ever-present Saviour.

Two passages from this Book of Truth for us to consider. First from the last book of the Old Testament. The Lord says, "For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed." (Malachi 3:6) If God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, were fickle, as we ourselves and our society are, then not only God's Old Testament people, but all others, would be annihilated. And a passage from the first book of the New Testament. Matthew recorded Jesus saying, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." (Matthew 24:35)

The Bible is God's Word. And as such, it, coming from Him, who never changes, the Word will never change or pass away. That's very solid ground for anyone to stand upon and not be concerned about it shifting beneath you so that you fall and hard! The Bible, all of it, is worth your daily study because it alone will give you that for which you search. Truth, certainty, acceptance, care and so much more, and above all else the One who paid for you to be with Him now and forever! Come study with me!

In Christ, Pastor Haberstock

LCC Convention Report

I had the privilege of being St. Paul's Lay Delegate at the Lutheran Church Canada National Convention held in Winnipeg, MB in June alongside Pastor Keith and his wife Barb (representing LLL) as well as Josh Haberstock (Youth Rep for LLL). The convention takes place every four years and handles business such as electing new presidential officials and board members as well as amending LCC Bylaws and the convention handbook. With representatives from LCC churches across Canada, the convention is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other Christians in our synod.

The convention theme "Together One" was exemplified time after time over the course of my four days there. I felt a real kinship amongst the attendees and an overall energy that directed us towards growing ourselves and others in Christ.

The elections were an exciting part of the event with very positive outcomes for all positions. In the West, we are pleased to have Rev. Michael Shutz from Concordia Lutheran Church, Penticton taking over as our Regional Pastor as Rev. Robert Mohns' retirement was celebrated at the convention, alongside the retirement of President Rev. Timothy Teuscher. Another favourable component for the West was the approval of an Assistant Regional Pastor position who will aid in caring for our region. This position will be appointed by Pastor Shutz. Our new Circuit Counsellor for the Lower Mainland is Rev. Lucas

Albrecht from Hope Lutheran Church, Port Coquitlam.

It is hard to believe that this is only the second time the convention has used electronic voting on smart phones. I can't imagine how much time it use to take to count up paper ballots, especially considering how many times we had to re-vote at this convention!

Personally my two favourite aspects of the convention were the powerful opening service on Friday night and the speeches from Presidential Representatives from our Lutheran

partners. In particular I enjoyed the speakers from Australia and USA who gave a lot of incite into what is going on in the Lutheran Church in their countries. At the convention LCC officially separated from the Lutheran Church of Australian due to their recent decision to ordain women and accepted into partnership the newly formed Lutheran Mission-Australia, a small but mighty group of congregations.

I left the convention feeling hopeful, optimistic and cheerful, excited for things to come. It was an extremely positive experience. I connected with many friends and Pastors and learned much more about LCC. As St. Paul's Lay Delegate for the next 4 years, until the next convention in 2030, I will be happy to answer any of the congregation's questions to the best of my ability.

*Amanda Gervais
Lay Delegate*



Missions and Local Relief



Chilliwack
Community
Cupboard

2026 Local Service Project

WE ARE COLLECTING:

- **Clothing for adults and children**
- **New or gently used toys**
- **Toiletries**
- **Non-perishable foods**



***Leave your gifts
in the box in the narthex***

Our ongoing support for the Chilliwack Community Cupboard will continue as the program begins to assist families again in the new school year. This will remain our local relief focus. Monetary donations to our Local Relief fund are primarily used to purchase diapers for the Cupboard which is always a great need.

We are encouraging the congregation to support the work of our Lutheran Women's Missionary League in gathering supplies for the BC Mission Boat Advent Kits. Then, during the Advent evening services in December we will be encouraging worshippers to bring

Christmas baking so we can bless our shut-ins and our neighbors living at The Village. Sunday School will be assisting with this project.

Beginning in September, Pastor will be offering Bible studies most Sundays after church but on each 5th Sunday, we will have a Mission lunch immediately after church. Our first lunch will be Sunday, November 29 and the funds raised at our taco bar lunch will support the Nicaragua Child Feeding Program. This is a joint project of Concordia Lutheran Mission Society (the missions auxiliary of Lutheran Church-Canada) and Canadian Lutheran World Relief. The program provides disadvantaged children with nutritious meals several times a week, served in eight churches around the country. Just \$1.50 can provide a substantial and healthy meal for a child. The feeding stations have between 40 to 80 registered children at each of these churches. The children also hear Bible stories and participate in prayers and Christian singing.

On January 31 our Mission Lunch will be a soup and bun lunch in support of the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots (LAMP) which is also our Sunday School's mission focus this year. LAMP serves communities in the Canadian far north.

Our other opportunities to support missions and enjoy good food next year are:

March 28 – Easter Breakfast – Canadian Lutheran World Relief

May 30 – Ukraine (Concordia Lutheran Mission Society) - cabbage rolls and borscht of course!

Aug 29 – Community Cupboard (ice cream sundae bar after church for a busy summer Sunday)

Oct 31 – Reformation Sunday in support of Canadian Seminaries – expect German cuisine!



*Missions and Local Relief Ministry Team
Kris Hilderman and Barb Schmidt*

BC Mission Boat Christmas Kits

With the back to school sales now starting up and summer being half over, it is time to turn our attention to our Fall servant event. Sponsored by the Ladies of Lutheran Women's Missionary League

We will once again be putting together Christmas/Advent bags for the communities that are served by BC Mission Boat.

Last year you rose to the challenge and we were able to fill 80 bags. I think that we can do the same this year, although I would like to aim for a higher number if possible. We can do this!!

Below is a list of what will be needed to fill the bags.

- Pencils
- Pencil crayons or crayons
- erasers
- pencil sharpeners
- glue sticks
- kid safe scissors
- small toys – new or gently used (stuffedies, puzzles, etc)
- children's books
- coloring books
- individually wrapped candies



The deadline for completion will be November 8th so that I can get them to where they need to be before December. Thank you so much for your help.

Marjorie Nielsen – society president St. Paul's LWML-C



Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Regular meetings will resume on the second Thursday of September (Sept. 10) at 6:30 pm. Our meetings include a time of fellowship, a missions-based Bible study and a very brief business meeting. All women and teen girls with a heart for missions are welcome to attend. We also sponsor the Sip 'n' Stitch crafters group on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm. Come and enjoy fellowship with others who enjoy needlework and other crafts. This group is not just for the ladies. Men are most welcome also.

LWML is again be putting together advent kits for BC Mission Boat Society as our fall mission project. See the list of items needed in the article above, or posted on the bulletin board. A basket for your gifts of love is on the round table near the kitchenette upstairs.

The LWML Fraser Valley Zone Fall Renewal will be held at Faith Lutheran in Surrey. I will provide updates once the date has been finalized.

Marjorie Nielsen

Children's Ministry

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES SEPTEMBER 13 DURING WORSHIP

Our Sunday School is growing!
We need **4** more teachers to
team-teach in pairs once a month.
Contact Emma Underhill or the Office



Sunday School resumes September 13. We are blessed with a growing Sunday School so we will be splitting into two age classes when we resume on September 13. We need a total of 10 teachers so that each pair will teach every 4-5 weeks. I **currently need at least 3 more people who are willing to teach once a month.**

I will be repainting the first Sunday School classroom soon so please remove anything that has been stored in there. The fridge and Grief Share filing cabinet will be staying. Everything else must go.

Sunday School will be providing the bouncy castle for the carnival. We hope this will attract families in the area to come and check us out. If we are forced

to do the event indoors, we will have some carnival style games instead.

We will host a **Fall Family Night on Saturday October 17 from 5 pm to 7 pm.** There will be pumpkin carving, dinner and a fall-themed movie for the children. We will invite the families from Trinity, Abbotsford to join us. Our Family Christmas Event is tentatively scheduled for **Saturday December 12** with dinner, making ornaments and games.

Emma Underhill



Read Any Good Books Lately?

Whether you are looking for a novel to read or want to find out more about what being a Lutheran is all about, the library has you covered. Several new titles have been added recently and I would like to encourage everyone to come check it out. I am working on trying to update both the parenting and marriage sections, so if there is anyone with updated copies of books that they would be willing to share, please let me know. As always, donations of books are welcomed. They can be handed directly to me or left in the return bin.

Marjorie Nielsen, Librarian

Youth Report

Since the departure of our Youth Leader Mark Fenske at the end of June, we have been unsuccessful in finding a replacement. We would love to keep the momentum of the program moving forward and hope that God reveals His plans for us. We ask for prayers for our Youth program.

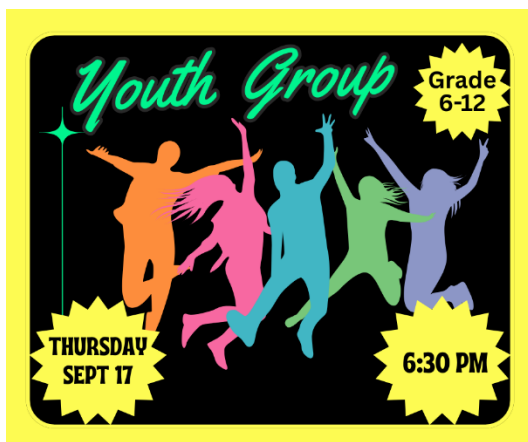
This year I have been performing the administrative aspects of Youth (coordinating events, communication, etc.) as well as providing the snack and supplies. The Youth Leader teaches the lesson and leads a game. If you or someone you know is interested in this paid position, I would be happy to provide you with more information.

The 4 "OG" (original) Youth boys that have been in the Youth program with Mark since he started in May 2025, as well as myself, were invited to attend the end of evening festivities at Mark's wedding (Mark calls it "Wedding Crashers") where we got to enjoy dancing and an ice cream bar. The boys were pleased to congratulate Mark & Liz on their nuptials and bless them as they begin their new chapter together.

*Amanda Gervais
Youth Director*



St. Paul's Youth Group resumes September 17 at 6:30 pm



All Middle School and High School students are invited as we dive into some of the tough questions and challenges facing this age group along with hanging out and having fun with a great group of friends.

The group will meet for the first time in the new school year on Thursday September 17 at 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm at the church. Contact Pastor Haberstock or Amanda Gervais for more information.

Moms and Tots at the Farm

This enthusiastic group will begin the new program year on **Thursday September 3 at 10:30 am** at the Rohde family farm, and will continue each first and third Thursday of the month. Contact Rose Rohde or the office for the location of the farm. Thank you to the Rohde family for hosting and Amanda Gervais for preparing the lesson for the little ones.

All moms (grandmas, aunties, guardians) and their precious little ones are invited. There is a devotion and lesson time, activities around the farm and a chance to connect with other families raising young children. After September, this group will meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month.



B.I.N.G.O!

One of our many community service opportunities is the chance to connect with some very special people who attend our Community BINGO once a month. This enthusiastic group of people, most of whom attend the Opportunity Workshop in Chilliwack, meet for a time of music, games and fellowship in our church hall.

Our church volunteers provide coffee, help with the activities and provide a welcoming atmosphere for our guests. The next BINGO is Tuesday, September 15 at 10:30 am. If you would like to learn more about this great outreach and servant opportunity please speak to Rose Rohde or contact the office.



With Thanks from Church Properties



The maintenance of our church is an on going job with many hands helping. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people who pitch in to help keep the church building. I don't want to name people as I might miss someone and do not want to offend anyone.

We will be having a fall cleaning and if you are willing to help for an afternoon or morning then please let me know.

Thanks respectfully Mike Rohde



FREE **EVERYONE WELCOME!**

SCHOOL'S IN!

CARNIVAL

Learn about all our plans and ministries for the new year

LUNCH GAMES

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13 *Following the service*

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
8871 School St. Chilliwack

This is an exciting start to the new program year for everyone not just the kids, although we will have some very special activities for them also and, yes, this involves a bouncy castle!

We encourage all members of our church community and their guests to come and enjoy a fabulous lunch of **barbecued SOCKEYE salmon and gourmet hot dogs** courtesy of our Stewardship Ministry Team. **There is no charge for the meal, but if you would like to donate you are invited to designate your gift for our Local Relief fund which is used to purchase diapers for Chilliwack Community Cupboard.**

While munching on your fabulous lunch you can also learn about all the exciting plans we have for sharing God's Word through our work together in this congregation. Each Ministry Team and Organization at St. Paul's will have a booth where you can learn about their work ... and perhaps find a place where you also can serve. Visit every booth to get your Passport stamped for a chance to win some great prizes!

Our Faith Legacy program puts age-appropriate scriptures and devotion books into the hands of our youngest members of the congregation.

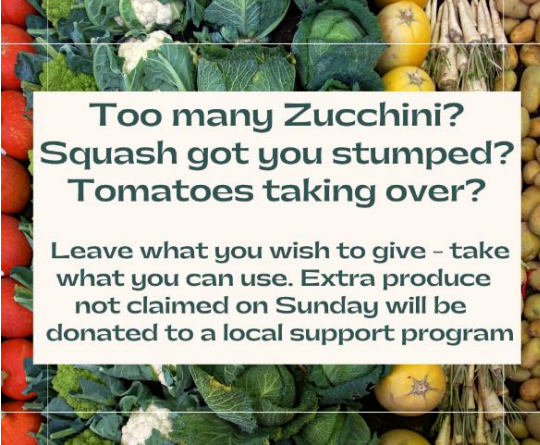
When children turn 3 years of age they receive a Bible story book and are welcomed into our Sunday School program. At Grade 1 they receive a Bible for early readers and at Grade 4 they receive a children's Bible for more advanced readers. On September 13 as part of our new school year celebration, we will be inviting these families to come forward for a blessing and for their child to receive their Bibles. If you have a child reaching one of these milestones please contact the church office at info@chilliwacklutheran.com



Faith Legacy

Is your child 3 years old? Or starting Gr.1 or Gr.4?

We will be recognizing these milestones on Sept 13 and offering Bibles and a family blessing. Please contact the office for your child to participate



Too many Zucchini? Squash got you stumped? Tomatoes taking over?

Leave what you wish to give - take what you can use. Extra produce not claimed on Sunday will be donated to a local support program

Yes, those lovely fruits and veggies at the front door of the church are free for the taking. Our avid gardeners in the congregation are invited to share any excess produce with others who cannot grow their own. Gardeners leave their gifts of love on the table and those who would like them are invited to take these delicious gifts home. Help yourself.

Thank you to those who made our June carnival a success!



Stewardship Corner



St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church

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