



**ST. PAUL'S**  
BLESSED ON PURPOSE

**February 2024**

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

## Message from the Pastor

Greetings in Christ dear brothers and sisters in the Faith,

The season of Lent is about to begin. It is an important season in the life of the Christian Church. It is time that we can ponder and reflect upon our lives. We reflect on our sins and failures and see how we have failed to live up to the standards of God. We see how we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We see that, left on our own, all is dreary and hopeless. But we also ponder the amazing fact, that God in His love, sent His Son to be our Saviour. We reflect on Christ's journey to the cross and how He let nothing deter him from carrying out the mission that the Father had given Him - to be the world's redeemer, to rescue us from ourselves, our sin, our failures, our wrongdoings and to ultimately go to the cross for us, in our place.

Lent is the penitential season. I would pray that each of us would take the time, to daily, reflect on our need for the grace, the forgiveness, the love and the mercy of Jesus. I would pray that each of us would really know and truly understand the sacrifice that He made for us so that we could be the forever children of God. There is no other person whom can take away our sins, it is He and He alone!



**"Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" John 1:29**

During the season of Lent we will have the opportunity to gather for worship together each Wednesday night as we journey through this season. Our theme for the 2024 Lenten Season is "God on Trial". The world has always attempted to put God on trial. As a part of this series we will be looking at how Jesus was put on trial. Following the service there will be a brief time of fellowship. Please be sure to join us at 7:00 each Wednesday night, beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 14<sup>th</sup>. May God bless each of us as we journey through important season of reflection, penitence and prayer!

Blessings in Christ, Pastor Wayne Lunderby



**LENT MIDWEEK  
SERVICES**

**Each Wednesday  
7:00 pm  
Feb 21–Mar 20**

*Bring a snack to share  
for fellowship time  
after each service*

## The Future Focus Committee

Before Christmas, the Future Focus group met several times to look at the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that are in our congregation.

We also looked at how our church is positioned in the community and areas for opportunity to further God's word to the people of Chilliwack. While many may recognize this as part of a strategic planning process, we are hoping to use this information to make wise, God-pleasing decisions for our congregation's future.

We have been asked to look at options for when Pastor Lunderby retires in September. Taking a good, honest look at how our congregation is doing in all areas, will help us to more effectively recommend a course of action for September.

We have come up with 6 options to look at and consider for our vacancy period. We are not a call committee. Each committee member was asked to look at one option for the vacancy period. For some of the larger options we paired up.

Each option will be thoroughly analyzed and brought back to the committee where our committee members will get the opportunity to discuss the findings. Eventually we present the reports to the Board with our recommendation. The Board will then bring this to the congregation. Our groups is really the ones that are gathering information so the congregation can make a wise decision about our future.

To help us, Pastor Mohns, who is the LCC Western Regional Pastor, will be coming to the lower mainland in February and I have asked him to attend our February meeting at the church. Pastor Mohns is well aware of Pastor Lunderby's retirement and he has agreed

to come out and meet with us to help us start down this path. We have also invited the Board to this meeting.

I would like to ask everyone to pray for our committee as we go through the steps of looking at the transition period for our congregation.

***Please pray for our committee as we go through the steps of looking at the transition period for our congregation.***

We have been so blessed to have a steady, faithful Pastor for over 25 years. Thank you in advance for your faithful prayers and support of St. Paul's Lutheran church.

In Christ, Donna Little

Committee members: Paul Schenderling, Jonathan Wearing, Amanda Gervais, Tyler Schenderling, Rob Gafka, Angela Kerekes, & Emma Underhill

## Let's Clean Up!

It's time to spruce up our church home before the busy Easter season. We are hoping for a large turnout of volunteers on Saturday, March 23, beginning at 9:00 am. We appreciate your help whether you can stay for an hour ... or all day. Please bring along whatever cleaning supplies you need for the area you wish to work in. Lunch will be provided. Please add your name to the sign up sheet on the bulletin board if you are able to help, or email the office at [info@chilliwacklutheran.com](mailto:info@chilliwacklutheran.com)



## St. Paul's Youth Need a Leader!

I have stepped into the Youth Director role at St. Paul's but cannot actively lead meetings and events because my own children are youth age. Our church needs a vibrant young adult willing to lead who is exemplary in faith and is someone our kids can look up to, someone who is not their own parent.

For many years now, St. Paul's has not had a youth program. This is not due to having no youth attending our church, but rather, due to not having a leader or plan in place to implement a program. It is time for change.

Kid's Club is booming with an average attendance of 18-20 kids ages 3-10. Where do these kids go when they age out of Kid's Club? This momentum will surely be lost without a Youth program at our church.

8 kids attended our Youth Christmas party in December with only 3 attendees being members of our church. This ratio is very telling of the growth we could experience if we put the effort in. Pastor Lunderby graciously helped by leading the bible study but it was very exhausting for myself handling all other aspects of the event and I realized that Youth cannot move forward until more help is found.

Is it time to consider hiring a part-time Youth worker? With Pastor Lunderby retiring soon, this may come more to the forefront of our conversations.

What about volunteers? What would a volunteer Youth Leader at St. Paul's have to do? This role would require thinking of a game or activity,

planning it, and then also leading a bible study or devotion at meetings. The goal (to start) is to meet once per month. Ideally leaders will work in teams with at least one male and one female leader. The Youth Director takes care of all other administrative tasks. Please contact me if you would like to discuss the leader position or if you have ideas.



We have again been invited to the Lutheran Circuit Youth retreat at Camp Luther happening this year from May 3-5. It is open to students in Grade 6-12 and we already have six people

confirmed to go. What a blessing! Please speak to me if you are interested in attending or would like more information.

I ask for your prayers for St. Paul's Youth ministry at this time, that God would reveal His plan, show us which doors are open and which direction we should go.

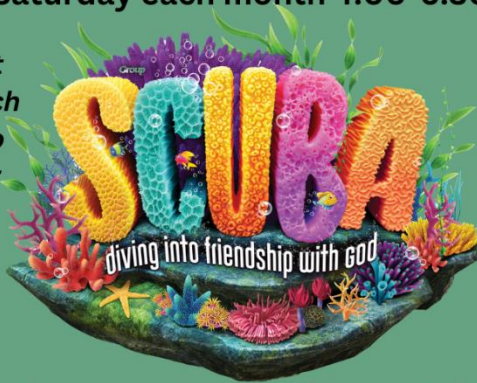
Amanda Gervais,  
Youth Director



## DIVE INTO KIDS' CLUB!

One Saturday each month 4:00-6:30 pm

Contact  
the church  
office to  
register



Bible lesson, games, crafts ... and dinner  
for children age 3 to Grade 5

### Kids' Club is Diving into God's Word!

We are so thankful for God's blessings on our children's ministry, especially Kids' Club.

In December we had almost 50 children and their parents attend our children's Christmas party. It was a noisy, fun filled, Christ centered evening for the whole family.

In January we began a new year and a new curriculum entitled Scuba – Diving into Friendship with God. Each monthly lesson begins with a Chapel Time in which children and their leaders sing songs, learn Bible verses and are introduced to the Bible story of the day. Then children dismiss to graded classes to dive deeper into God's word with age-appropriate lessons. Then its dinner time thanks to our fabulous kitchen staff who whip up child friendly meals every month. After dinner the children can choose between games, crafts and other social activities. We are averaging about 20 children for the regular monthly sessions.

Our next big event will be the Kids' Club Easter Egg Party on Saturday, March 16 from 4:00-6:00 pm at Gwynne Vaughn Park on Fairfield Island. The large covered pavilion means this event can go ahead rain or shine because we can do most of our activities under cover .... And children really don't

mind getting a bit wet while hunting for Easter candy!

We do need the congregation's help with this event. Due to parking and availability of materials we need to limit attendance to 48 children between the ages of 3 and Grade 5 ... plus their families. **This means we need families from our church community to register early (like now!)** and reserve spots for their children and the guests they will bring. We also need candy – LOTS of candy, to fill 500 eggs for the Easter egg hunt! If you are able to support this event, please bring wrapped candy, small enough items that we can stuff one into a plastic egg. Mini chocolate bars, "kisses" and those little packs of chewy candies are the perfect size. **Please bring your gifts to the church office by March 3.** We also need volunteers to stuff this candy into 500 Easter eggs! If you are willing to help please speak to Barb Schmidt.

Our other children's program is Children's Church. On Sunday mornings, children are dismissed shortly before the sermon for a lesson downstairs. They return to their families in time for communion. This program allows our children to participate fully in the worship service and to learn the liturgy and practices of our faith, but still receive some age appropriate instruction as well. Thank you to the dozen volunteers who take turns leading Children's Church each week.

## ST. PAUL'S KIDS' CLUB EASTER IN THE PARK

SAT. MARCH 16, 4:00-6:00 PM

GWYNNE VAUGHN PARK

46181 HOPE RIVER RD

SPACE IS LIMITED!  
REGISTER NOW AT  
THE CHURCH

**\*FREE\***  
DINNER  
EASTER LESSON  
CRAFTS  
EGG HUNT



## Missions and Ministry – sharing the love of Christ with others

### NICARAGUA FEEDING PROGRAM

For the last few years we have had as our International Mission Project the Nicaragua Children's Feeding Program. Most of the Lutheran Churches in Nicaragua are in impoverished rural communities. Through the funding of the feeding program in those congregations children are given at least one nutritious meal per day.

Concordia Lutheran Mission Society has a goal for 2024 of raising \$20,000 for this project. We are hoping that our congregation can support this project with a minimum of \$500 raised. Please keep this project and the children of our mission churches in Nicaragua in your prayers. If you would like to give a donation in advance of our fundraiser, please mark the amount and "Nicaragua Children's Feeding Program" on the "other" line of your offering envelope. Thank you in advance for your support of our 2024 Mission!

**MISSION FUNDRAISER - in April, Pastor & Cindy will be providing a Chili lunch to raise monies for missions. Once the date is finalized, it will be mentioned in the weekly update.**

### HEPING HANDS SHOWING LOVE

Once or twice a month we host a day of BINGO, music, games and fellowship in a safe caring environment for adults with developmental disabilities, mainly from the Chilliwack Opportunity Society.

Although COS is the main outreach, there are also a few church "friends of friends" who join in. St. Paul's does not supervise or provide food for the guests. We offer coffee, which their own staff distribute. People eat their own brown bag lunch. We call the bingo but do not make a penny from the 10 cent games. The players win the whole pot, maybe \$1.50 in coin. A donation to cover the cost of the coffee is an option for the players.

The next game is Feb 13 and it will be Valentine themed. Our regular volunteers are Donna Gafka,

Charel Keim, Susan Epp, Martina and Perry Van der Maden, Adele Kuhn, Laurel Morden, Rose Rohde. If you would like to join in the fun and assist with this program, please contact Rose Rohde.

### LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

Monthly meetings OF THE LWML continue to be held the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. Currently we are working through a video series entitled In Pursuit of Paul the Apostle. All women and teen girls with a heart for missions, are welcome to attend.

Our mission focus continues to be Ann Davis Transition Society. Donations of clothes especially outer wear is greatly appreciated.

Tapestry registration will be due by March 1st. Cost is \$15 for a printed copy.

The Fraser Valley Zone renewal will be held at Faith Lutheran Church on April 27th with a gam start. The theme is "The Symphony of Flowers". Carpooling options will be made available. See Marjorie or Stephanie Nielsen if you need a ride or can help out.

It's almost time for our annual Prayer Pal Tea, where we reveal who we have been praying for this past year ... and select a new Pal for 2024. The tea will be held sometime in May. Stay tuned for dates. The Prayer Pal program is for all women and teen girls in the congregation and is a great way to get to know another gal in your church community.

Sip 'n' Stitch which is hosted by LWML will continue to be held on the third Thursday of everything. This is open to anyone who either does some type of needlework or is wanting to learn how. Men are welcome to come as we are not an exclusive group. Please note that the March meeting will not be taking place due to Lent.

## BLESSINGS FOR OUR NEW MOTHERS AND BABIES

A unique benefit of being a smaller congregation at St. Paul's is our feeling of family and community towards our fellow members. This winter we were able to bless two of our new mothers and their babies with gifts of care baskets, gift cards and homemade quilts from the Quilting Club. Motherhood is hard! Sometimes a bit of acknowledgement means a lot. As a congregation we will continue to support our young mothers as they raise their children and teach them God's word and of His love. Blessings to all new mothers each and every day!



## TWO YEAR BIBLE READING PROGRAM

By the time that this is printed we should be well through both the books of Deuteronomy and Mark. A big thank you to all who are making the effort to participate in this. For any who have not yet started, contact Marjorie Nielsen and she can help you catch up.

## LIBRARY NEWS - WE ARE MOVING!

With there no longer being much of a need for a nursery due to children's church, the room which was being used for those purposes will again become our library. As soon as shelving options are determined we will need help boxing up and moving all of the books upstairs for cataloguing and reshelving. Moving date to be determined. It would be wonderful to have some extra helping hands for moving books to their new home.

I have noticed a few items missing lately so if you have borrowed anything, but failed to sign it out, please return it so that others will also have the opportunity to borrow it as well. Now is the perfect opportunity to do so.

*Marjorie Nielsen*

## YOUNG AT HEART LUNCHEONS

Young at Heart is our monthly social program for seniors and friends ... we are not checking ID at the door so if everyone is welcome to attend these events. Young at Heart is held the second Friday of each month from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm.

We provide a soup and bun lunch each month so it is important that people register to attend. You may add your name to the sign up sheet on the bulletin board or email the office and let us know you plan to attend. You are also invited to bring along a dessert to share ... and of course, please invite your friends. This is a great opportunity to introduce friends and family to your community of faith at St. Paul's.

We have lunch, a time of fellowship and a program that varies each month ... we play games, have a devotion, sometimes a guest speaker or a movie. We hope to see you there!

**Young at Heart**  
Friday, March 8  
11:30-1:00 pm  
**Soup 'n Bun Lunch Provided**  
**Bring a dessert to share**  
*Please register by signing up at the  
Bulletin Board or email the office*

## ALTAR GUILD

Thank you to everyone who donated towards our poinsettia fundraiser for Christmas. We hope that the plants were a blessing to your homes or friends' homes as well. We raised enough funds to cover the cost of the dishwasher trays we use for our individual glass communion cups. Thank you!

The Altar Guild held our quarterly meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss our work and plans for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday (February 14<sup>th</sup>). The sanctuary will reflect the change of season, primarily with the change of paraments. Purple, or violet, has traditionally been used for Lent, symbolizing royalty, sorrow and repentance.

We have started our Easter chrysanthemum fundraiser. A 6-inch chrysanthemum is available for purchase with a donation of \$15. Use this form, or pick one up in the Narthex.

*Marisa Neels*

## Flowers for Easter

If you would like to purchase a chrysanthemum plant to decorate the sanctuary for Easter, please fill out this form and place it in the offering box with your payment on or before **Sunday, March 10th**. Cost per plant is \$15.00. **Please put this form in the Offering Box or give to the office.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# of plants @ \$15 each: \_\_\_\_ Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

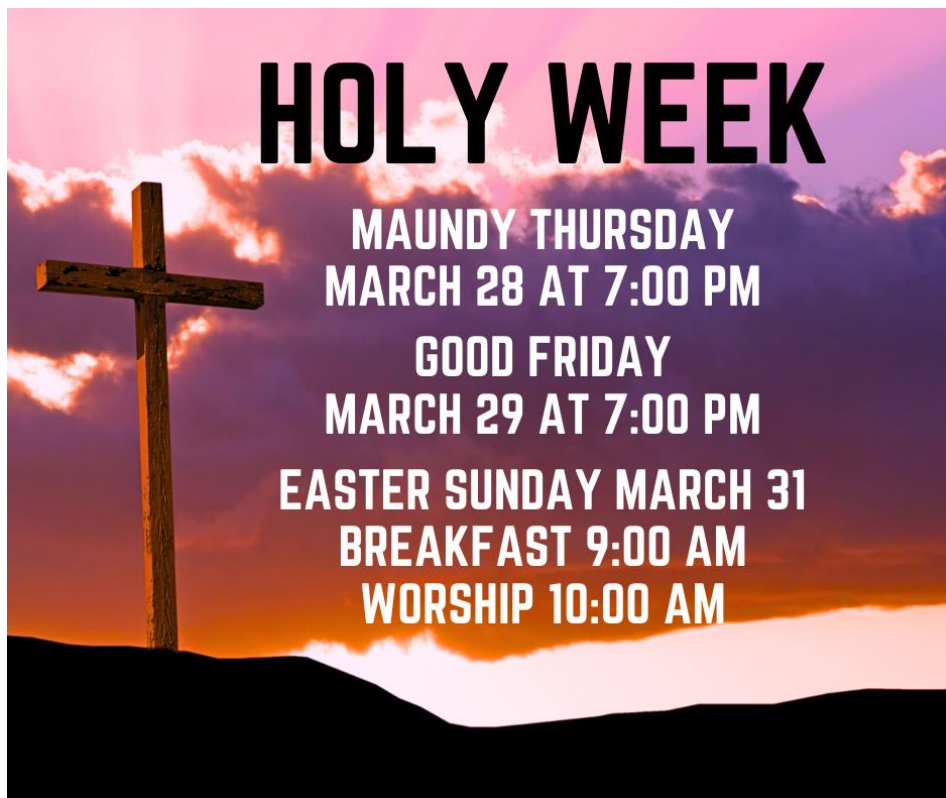
*Do you wish this plant to be:*

In memory of a loved one (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

To celebrate a special occasion (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

To the Glory of God \_\_\_\_\_

Please be sure to pick up your plant after the Easter morning worship service. If you do not wish to keep the plant yourself, please consider delivering it to a shut-in, a local nursing home or hospital ward.



# Lent

Although it is soon time for the celebration of Easter, let's not rush things. The season of Lent is also important as it helps us to prepare our hearts and our minds to joyfully receive the message of Easter. Here are some questions to help you learn more about the Lenten season. Try not to peek at the answers on the back.

1. The date for Easter was set in the year 325 AD but it changes every year. How is the date set?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. The season is called Lent. Where does the word "lent" come from?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the first day of Lent called?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the day before Ash Wednesday called?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. The name of this day comes from the word "shrive". What does it mean to be "shriven".  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. This day is also called "mardi gras". What does "mardi gras" mean? What does it have to do with Lent?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. There are more than forty days between the first and last days of Lent. Why?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Many churches avoid using a particular word during the season of Lent. What is it?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Maundy Thursday is the day before Good Friday. It is believed that the name comes from the Latin word "maundatum". What does it mean?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Why do some people "give up" something for Lent  
\_\_\_\_\_

1. Setting the date for Easter is actually quite complicated ... but it typically works out to being the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox.  
2. Lent comes from the word "lengthen" since the days get longer during spring.  
3. Ash Wednesday worship services often involve inviting people forward to have a cross of ashes placed on their forehead. It reminds us that from dust we are - to dust we will return. We can therefore never praise God enough that Jesus came to overcome death.  
4. Shrove Tuesday.  
5. To be "shriven" is to have your sins forgiven. During Lent we focus on how our sins are forgiven through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.  
6. Greasy Tuesday or Fat Tuesday. People in some countries have a party and eat rich food, such as pancakes, before the solemn, lean days of Lent.  
7. Sundays are not counted because they are always a reminder of the resurrection  
8. Alleluia. This means "He has risen." Lent is a time of reflection on Christ's suffering and death - the celebration of His resurrection comes later, at Easter.  
9. Jesus gave his disciples a "novum mandatum" (new commandment) that they love one another.  
10. There is a tradition among some Christians to fast or give up some luxury during Lent. This small sacrifice reminds them that our salvation came at a terrible price ... Christ suffered and died on a cross for us.