



**SUMMER 2025**

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

## Message from Pastor Vic

Greetings to all the saints at St Paul's Lutheran Church!

It has been a few months since I last wrote something for a newsletter at St Paul's. So in this newsletter, I'll try to get everyone caught up on my activities.

There are 8-9 shut-ins at St Paul's, and I have continued to visit them on a monthly basis. In the month of April, I also began visiting people who were part of a St Paul's outreach in Hope a number of years ago. I've also made a couple of visits to members who ended up in the hospital, and I've had a few lengthy conversations with someone from the GriefShare program that runs at the church.

If you attended one of the midweek Lenten services, chances are that you would've seen me there. During the time of Lent, was able to preach for almost all of the midweek Lenten services and the Good Friday Tenebrae service. I also had the privilege of leading a Sunday service here on Mother's Day and preaching about a Canaanite mother who had a great faith.

I've been available to attend meetings whenever the need has arisen.

On March 5th, I officiated at a private baptism at the church.

In early May, I accepted a call to another congregation in the lower mainland. I will be starting at that new church in the middle of June, and so my time at St Paul's will need to conclude at the end of May. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your vacancy pastor. I pray that the Lord will continue to guide you as you seek a new permanent pastor.

*Blessings,  
Pastor Vic Esperanza*





Welcome Mark Fenske, our new dedicated Youth Worker. Mark will be working with Youth Ministry Team Director Amanda Gervais to offer an exciting program for young people in Grades 6 through 12. During the school year there will be regular meetings on the first and third Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 pm.



The Youth Summer BBQ is schedule for Wednesday July 16 starting @5:30pm at the Gervais home. Contact Amanda or the church office for the address.

Our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Youth Retreat took place at Camp Luther in Hatzic Lake on May 2-4, 2025. We were fortunate to have excellent weather

for this year's retreat and enjoyed many outdoor activities including canoeing, swimming, and sports such as soccer and volleyball. There were crafts, tie-dying, games, free time, and of course delicious camp food!

St. Paul's had four Youth attend this year along with one leader. Our theme was

"Navigating the Waters of Faith" where we explored topics of sinking, treading water and being rescued in our faith. We were privileged to have four wonderful guest speakers-Pastor Wemyss (Hillside), Pastor Falkenholt (Trinity, Richmond), Pastor Paulgaard (Walnut Grove) and Adrianna Blitterswyck (Youth Director, Trinity/Killarney)-to lead our chapel sessions.

This retreat is a great way to connect with others in our Lutheran community and we are thankful to be able to pool our resources in order to make this event happen each year. We hope to be included again next year! Thank you to our friends at Walnut Grove Lutheran, Hillside, and Trinity/Killarney for all their efforts in putting it together.







Who shot the sheriff? Come join in the hunt for the culprit at our Mystery Dinner. You can round up your friends and have your own table or join some new friends for an evening of fun. Participation is by donation with proceeds going to our Capital Campaign for repairs to our church home. You can register by adding your name to one of the Tables on the signup sheet which is posted on the bulletin board. You may also contact Martina Rohde or the church office for more information or to register.

## Grief Share Expands



Our Grief Share program has been such a blessing to so many people, that we are going to help bring those blessings to the people of Quesnel. Pastor Wayne and Cindy Lunderby will be borrowing our materials for the "Loss of a Spouse" and Surviving the Holidays" program

to determine the interest in Grief Share programs in the community where Pastor Lunderby is serving as vacancy pastor.

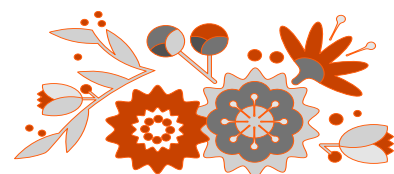
The dates for these programs in Chilliwack will be set once the plans are finalized for the Quesnel programs but watch the Weekly Update for information on the Chilliwack short courses this fall.

## Ladies' Summer Garden Party

All ladies and teen girls are invited to an evening of good fellowship in God's great outdoors.

The Nielsen family will be hosting a ladies Garden Party on Thursday, July 17. Please bring a snack to share .... And of course, your friends.

If you have a green thumb, you are also encouraged to bring along some gifts from your garden to share, either flowers or veggies.





## Men's Ministry

Our new monthly Men's Fellowship has been very popular with the men of the congregation and their friends, so the decision has been made to continue during the summer months ... and we're expanding the event to include dinner!

For July and August, the fellows will begin their evening with a barbecue dinner at 5:30 pm. Bring along your own meat to cook .... And of course, encourage your friends to come and enjoy an evening with the guys in our church family. **The June gathering will be June 7 at the regular time of 7:00 pm.**

## Young at Heart Summer Potluck Lunches

We're not checking ID at the door, so everyone is invited to attend these gatherings. In fact, these are wonderful events to invite friends and family to, so they get to know some of our church community. For our June gathering we're going to share some of those wonderful school memories ... maybe even the ones we would prefer to forget.



Then, in July, we will gather at beautiful Gwynne Vaughn Park on Fairfield Island. We have rented the large picnic shelter so this event will go ahead rain or shine. Please bring along a main dish or large salad to share, and perhaps some dessert. Bonus points if you bring something that you grew in your garden!



## SUMMER SCHEDULE FOR MOMS AND TOTS FELLOWSHIP

Our regular fellowship gathering for Moms with young children will continue during the summer months, although the group will only meet once a month during July and August (on the first Thursday).

During the school summer holiday moms (aunties/grandmas) are welcome to bring along their older children as well. For more information contact Rose Rohde.

## “King of Kings” MOVIE NIGHT

We are delighted to offer our families the chance to see the new Angel Studios’ animated movie about the life of Christ. This movie night is for all families with children and/or youth (plus anyone else who would enjoy the movie).

The movie will be shown in our lovely, air conditioned, Fellowship Hall so no need to worry about the temperature inside the building. Dinner will be served at 5:00 pm



## Altar Guild

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to beautify our church home for the Easter season. The sanctuary was lovely for the special services.

The Altar Guild tried something a little different this Easter. Rather than doing advance sales of potted plants, the Guild purchased a lovely array of plants and flowers and then sold these after the service. The proceeds from this sale will be used to beautify the sanctuary for future special events.



## JOINT SUMMER PICNIC WITH TRINITY, ABBOTSFORD

*We're short on details ... but the planning is underway*

Life's a picnic – or at least it will be when we gather with the congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church in Abbotsford for a joint summer picnic. The organizing committee is still working on a location so watch the Weekly Update for all the details. This will be an afternoon of good fun and good fellowship. Bring your own lunch and lawn chairs. We will provide beverages and some summer treats for dessert. There will be a Blue Grass Gospel band to entertain us and picnic games for all ages.

## Call Committee Update

After learning of Pastor Noble's decision to decline our call, the Call Committee has had meetings on May 14 and May 21. In these meetings, we have been taking a closer look at some of the other candidates previously submitted to us, with the aim of working towards a new short list. During this time, we have also begun conducting our own research into additional potential candidates and are also awaiting a few more Australian names that may be coming from Pastor Mohns. The last we heard from him; a couple of Australian pastors were still considering whether they would be open to receiving a call to Canada. We are hopeful to receive more info about this by the end of May.

We are tentatively aiming towards holding another Pre-Call Meeting in mid-June – though details yet to be confirmed. As before, two weeks' notice will be given for the date of the Pre-Call Meeting. This time, however, we are considering scheduling the Call Meeting one week after the Pre-Call Meeting, rather than two weeks later as we did previously.

We understand that the purpose of the Pre-Call Meeting may not have been entirely clear to everyone. To clarify, the Pre-Call Meeting is the opportunity for the Call Committee to present its proposed short list of candidates for the final ballot. At that meeting, the congregation may either accept that short list as the final ballot to be used at the Call

Meeting or amend it by rejecting some or all of the proposed names and/or adding others from the floor. Any acceptance, amendment, or rejection of that short list would be determined by simple majority of those Voting Members present at the Pre-Call Meeting.

As a reminder, the Pre-Call Meeting is the final deadline for any new nominations, as our bylaws require an opportunity for floor nominations to be made. However, we strongly encourage anyone considering a nomination to submit it well in advance (ideally as soon as possible) by submitting a formal nomination form to the Call Committee so that we have time to receive information from Pastor Mohns and carry out some initial research on the nominee.

We thank you for your continued prayers, patience, and support as we seek God's guidance in this process. Calling a pastor is a significant and prayerful undertaking, and we are striving to proceed carefully and faithfully. Please don't

hesitate to reach out to any member of the Call Committee if you have questions, suggestions, or would like further clarification about any part of the process."

**Please use the nomination form on the following page if you wish to propose an addition to our call list.**

*Jonathan Wearing*



God made everything in our world, and the Bible is filled with descriptions of God's good creation.

Look up and read each Bible verse. Fill in the blanks with the correct words. Then go outside and try to find each of those items in nature.

He makes \_\_\_\_\_ grow for the cattle, and plants for people to cultivate—bringing forth food from the earth.

**PSALM 104:14**

The man of God asked, "Where did it fall?" When he showed him the place, Elisha cut a \_\_\_\_\_ and threw it there, \_\_\_\_\_ and made the iron float.

**2 KINGS 6:6**

... to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a \_\_\_\_\_ in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.

**2 CORINTHIANS 12:7**

Produce \_\_\_\_\_ in keeping with repentance.

**LUKE 3:8**

"There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no \_\_\_\_\_ like our God."

**1 SAMUEL 2:2**

"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the \_\_\_\_\_ of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these."

**MATTHEW 6:28-29**

But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on \_\_\_\_\_.

**MATTHEW 7:26**

If we have sown spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you?

**1 CORINTHIANS 9:11**

"As the \_\_\_\_\_ are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age."

**MATTHEW 13:40**

"I am the true \_\_\_\_\_, and my Father is the gardener."

**JOHN 15:1**

Those who trust in their riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green \_\_\_\_\_.

**PROVERBS 11:28**

Nebuchadnezzar ... was driven away from people and ate grass like the ox. His body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair grew like the \_\_\_\_\_ of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird.

**DANIEL 4:33**

## NOMINATION OF PASTOR FOR CONSIDERATION

(Members of the congregation who wish to suggest names of pastors to be considered for our Call List are asked to complete this form. When it is completed, give it to an elder or the chairman of the congregation. It will be forwarded to the regional pastor. Please include your name at the bottom of the form, otherwise it will not be recognized as valid.)

1. Having carefully and prayerfully considered the pastoral needs of our congregation, I wish to nominate the following pastor as a candidate to be considered for a Call to our congregation:

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

2. I believe he will meet our needs for the following reasons:

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3. Please state whether you know him personally, where, and for how long a time:

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4. If you do not know him personally, state the source of your information on the basis of which you are making your nomination:

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***I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord. (Jeremiah 23:4)***

Name of person making the nomination (please print)

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I am a member of \_\_\_\_\_

congregation

of \_\_\_\_\_

city and province

***Please give your completed form to Jonathan Wearing  
or put it in the offering box at church on June 1.***

***You may also scan and email the completed form to [info@chilliwacklutheran.com](mailto:info@chilliwacklutheran.com)***