



ST. PAUL'S
BLESSED ON PURPOSE

SEPTEMBER 2024
St. Paul's
Lutheran Church
Chilliwack, BC

"BE PREPARED"

The Bible often talks about "p" words. Be prepared, be patient, be persistent, be preaching (proclaiming), be praying, be providing an example, etc. The task described in 2 Timothy is important for pastors and congregations to remember as we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end. He did not give up because of the cross! On the contrary, because of the joy that was waiting for him, he thought nothing of the disgrace of dying on the cross, and he is now seated at the right side of God's throne (Hebrews 12:2).

Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. (2 Timothy 4:2)

As September slides into fall we begin to think about being prepared for what lies ahead: elections, Thanksgiving, Halloween (Reformation), time change, even Christmas (if you have been to Costco recently) and no doubt some birthdays and other family events too. The logic is: if we prepare early, the holiday or event will be more relaxing and enjoyable. Then there may be other life events we are less prepared for: changes in health, the need to move, relocation of relatives, even the loss of a pet, etc. It is impossible for us to be prepared for everything.

Impossible that is—unless we remember who orders and guides our days. The standard Old Testament reading for Thanksgiving is found in the middle of a lament, a song of sadness and

regret. Here is what we want and need to take to heart: This I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. . .

For the Lord will not cast off forever, but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love. (Lamentations 3)

In other words, we may not be prepared for every event and eventuality in life, but God is. And He asks us to be patient, prayerful and prepared to follow His guidance, whether awaiting a holiday or something more profound like a new pastor. Kingdom work, and our role in it continues.

So be prepared to serve as the Lord has gifted you and as your family of faith at St. Paul's asks you, because: there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12)

Rev William Mundt

Youth Group Update



The Youth Group hosted their Kick Off event on September 15 at Greendale Acres Corn Maze. We hope to organize more events like this throughout the year to encourage friendships and relationship building in our Youth community at St. Paul's. Additionally, we would love to host some regular bible study nights and regular meetings once or twice a month this year.

Attention Grade 6'ers. You are now Jr. Youth! Watch for events in our announcements and please join us at Youth this year. Grades 6-12 are welcome at all of our Youth events.

As we move into our second year of seeking a Youth teacher/leader, we ask for your prayers. Prayers that God will reveal his plan for our Youth, prayers that they may learn and grow in His word no matter what and

prayers that a leader will be raised up. Maybe he is calling you! Please speak to Amanda if you or someone you know is interested in this role.

Confirmation Class Update

The Confirmation students are almost ready to wrap up their journey through Confirmation instruction. With only a few lessons left to complete, we are in the process of securing a Pastor who can teach the remainder of the curriculum as well as lead the Rite of Confirmation service. Stay tuned! The students and their families would like to wholeheartedly thank Pastor Lunderby for all of his efforts in teaching the class up to his retirement. Pastor Lunderby has a talent working with young people. Each of the Confirmation kids has a special connection with him. One favourite moment is when they all had to go "back to back" with Pastor to see how many of them were taller than him. What a good sport! Thank you Pastor.

In Christ, Amanda Gervais



Welcome New Members – On July 7 we had the joy of officially welcoming 10 new members into full membership in our church community. From left ... Roger & Monica Pain, Marny & Lucy Pfeifer, Bill & Lois Shortridge, Christie Hrusik, Pat Irving, Frank & Diane Kehler.

Operation Christmas Child

It's that time of year when we need to start thinking about our commitments to the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. LWML is taking over this amazing mission opportunity.

If you are interested in filling a shoebox, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. We have boxes on order. We expect to have the boxes available for pick up before the end of September. Filled shoeboxes must be returned to the church **no later that Sunday, November 10.**

For those who can't necessarily commit to filling an entire shoebox, but still want to help out, we can use your assistance with getting the following school supplies. Now is the time to get them while they are still readily available and it will help prevent last minute panicking.

School supplies priorities are:

1. Lined exercise books (they come in packs of four)
2. Pencils
3. Pencil Crayons
4. Pencil Sharpeners
5. Erasers
6. 6" rulers
7. Coloring books/activity books



Altar Guild

The Altar Guild continues to be busy with our weekly work of setting up the Lord's Supper each Sunday as well as setting up for Holy Baptism when it occurs.

We recently reinstated the tradition of gifting the cloth napkin used during the baptism to the newly baptized as a special keepsake. Marjorie and Stephanie have been busy adorning these cloths with beautifully cross-stitched baptismal shell motifs. Whether we were baptized just recently or many years ago, we can each remember our baptisms by making the sign of the cross each Sunday as we enter or leave the sanctuary using the water in the opened baptismal font.

"We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4)

After a break during the summer months, the Altar Guild has already met to plan for the end of church year, Advent, and Christmas seasons. We are looking forward to holding our annual poinsettia fundraiser soon; please stay tuned for that announcement in the coming months. Thank you to all the Altar Guild members (and others) for their continued dedication and service in the sanctuary!

Marisa Neels

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

After a summer hiatus, regular meetings have resumed in the second Thursday at 6:30 pm. The Ladies fall renewal will be Saturday November 23rd at St Luke's in Surrey, starting at 9 am start. The

"Ingathering" will be for the Surrey food bank. Registration cost is \$15. Carpooling will be available.

We had so much fun with our recent candle making class that we're going to do it again. The next class will be Saturday, December 7. A sign up sheet will be available closer to the date. The cost is \$20

As always, we stay true to our calling to always be Growing in God's Word, Sharing God's Son and Serving God's People. We welcome all women and teen girls to join us.



Sip 'n' Stitch

Our monthly group for crafty people resumes **Thursday September 19th** at 6:30. This is hosted by LWML but is open to all those handy with needle and thread or hook and yarn. Bring your yarn and get crafty as you put your God-given talents to good use.

Library updates

We are about 3/4 of the way back to being fully reshelved/catalogued. A big thank you goes out to Stephanie who has been a big help with labeling and sorting. There are actually more books on the shelves than in boxes which is a significant improvement. While it isn't completely open, books can still be borrowed. Just see Marjorie Nielsen for assistance.

Young at Heart

Young at heart welcomes you back to the indoor YAH in the Church Fellowship Hall on the second Friday of the month from 11:30 am-1:00 pm. This is a great group to invite a friend or neighbor to. This year we are going potluck lunch style Bring a main course to share, and a desert would be an extra item to bring. **The next gatherings are Friday, October 11, Friday November 8 and Friday, December 13.**

After lunch we will have various guest speakers and or topics. Your input is welcome , as we are flexible. God has and will continue to equip us to carry out the Great commission, and especially as we look to support those around us . As we know, there is no retirement in being a Christian; our areas to work and grow just may we different . We look forward to seeing what God has in-store for us. *Rose Rohde*

Children's Ministry

Sunday morning Children's Church is our main children's education ministry. Children are dismissed from the service after the Children's Message and then return to their



families in time to accompany them to Holy Communion.

This year, we are starting with lessons guiding the kids towards material such as; what the bible is, who Jesus is, what is baptism, etc. Then as the kids become more settled throughout the year, we will be covering stories from the bible.

We are also planning some social activities for all ages and our first event is the **Fall Festival on Friday, October 25 from 4:30-7:00 pm.** All ages are invited to this evening of fun with games, crafts, pumpkins and of course food. Costumes are encouraged (nothing scary please). **We will need lots of helping hands for this fun evening. If you are able to volunteer please contact Emma Underhill or Martina Rohde.**

B.I.N.G.O.

St. Paul's volunteers kicked off the music/ bingo social event for our friends from Chilliwack Opportunity Society on September 10 . The adults enjoy the easy-going atmosphere of these gatherings, supported by our dedicated volunteers. We all bring our own bag lunch and offer a cup of coffee or tea to the bingo players. The music from various times helps with memory, and the number recollection is good too. To see about joining the volunteers contact Rose Rohde. Usually it's once a month on a Tuesday morning.

READY TO ROCK!

The Chilliwack Rock Choir has rented our building for rehearsals on Monday evening beginning mid October until April 2025. To learn more or to register click on the link:

[The Chilliwack Rock Choir](#)

Where Do You Fit In?



There are several ministry areas that need a leader – or simply more people to pitch in and help. We were delighted to have many of the volunteer vacancies filled during the September potluck lunch. However, there are still some vacant positions that we would love to see filled. If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about one or more of these positions please contact the church office or Barb Schmidt

Missions – the missions committee is vacant due to the retirement of its leader. This group would decide on mission projects for the year and then implement a plan to support these missions.

Youth Group Leader – we currently have an enthusiastic Youth Director (Amanda Gervais) but we also need a young adult to act as leader and help her guide this great group of young teens in their walk with the Lord.

Sunday morning coffee – our coordinator for the Sunday morning fellowship time has retired. We need someone to oversee this make sure someone is making the coffee, bringing goodies etc.

Men's Ministry – we need a leader to organize some regular activity for the men of this church community ... this could be Bible study, social gatherings etc.

Is there a particular talent or interest you have that could be used to serve your Lord and your church community? Please let us know where you think you fit into ministry here?



GRIEF SHARE

WE ARE A GRIEF SHARE SUPPORTING CONGREGATION
At GriefShare you'll receive valuable guidance and tips,
leading you to relief, comfort, and peace of mind.

St. Paul's direct link to GriefShare registration
www.griefshare.org/groups/236334

There are two GriefShare one-day special programs coming up this fall.

"LOSS OF A SPOUSE" - This evening course will be held at St. Paul's on Tuesday evening **September 24th from 6:30-8:30 pm.** and is offered to those in Chilliwack who have lost a spouse. To register go to [St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Loss of a Spouse - GriefShare](#)

"SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS" – is also a two hour program being held **Sat. November 23 from 1:00-3:00 pm.** To register go to [St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Surviving the Holidays - GriefShare](#)

For more information speak to our GriefShare coordinators Monica and Roger Pain.

TIME TO FALL BACK!



**SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE
HOUR WHEN YOU GO TO BED
ON NOVEMBER 2**



A TIME TO SAY 'THANKS'

On August 25 we had an opportunity to celebrate with Pastor Wayne Lunderby and family as he begins his retirement from full time ministry. We have been blessed by the service and witness of Pastor Lunderby and his wife Cindy for over 25 years!



MISSION PRAYERS

OCTOBER 6, 2024 | CANADA



This week, we pray for **Rev. Dr. David Somers** who serves as the Missionary-at-Large for LCC's French Ministries in Quebec, as well as pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Montreal, Quebec.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, as Your Son sent forth His Church to make disciples in all nations, we lift up before You, Pastor Somers, asking You to sustain him by Your Spirit and bless his labours for the sake of the Gospel; Lord in Your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

OCTOBER 13, 2024 | CANADA



This week, we pray for **Rev. Walta Clercius** who serves as Assistant Missionary-at-Large for LCC's French Ministries in Quebec.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, as Your Son sent forth His Church to make disciples in all nations, we lift up before You, Pastor Clercius, asking You to sustain him by Your Spirit and bless his labours for the sake of the Gospel; Lord in Your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

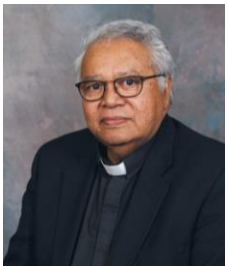
OCTOBER 20, 2024 | CANADA



This week, we pray for **Rev. Frank Morgret** who serves as Resident Pastoral Advisor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity in Sainte-Foy (Quebec City).

Prayer: Heavenly Father, as Your Son sent forth His Church to make disciples in all nations, we lift up before You, Pastor Morgret, asking You to sustain him by Your Spirit and bless his labours for the sake of the Gospel; Lord in Your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

OCTOBER 27, 2024 | CANADA



This week, we pray for **Rev. Razafy Razandrakoto** who serves as pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Reconciliation in Sherbrooke, Quebec.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, as Your Son sent forth His Church to make disciples in all nations, we lift up before You, Pastor Razandrakoto, asking You to sustain him by Your Spirit and bless his labours for the sake of the Gospel; Lord in Your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

DID YOU KNOW?

Information on our international and domestic missions has been added to the website on an ongoing basis to enhance awareness of the work we do together as a synod across the country and around the world. The new interactive International and Domestic Mission Maps are now live on Lutheran Church-Canada's website! Explore the interactive maps by clicking on a location to learn more about each mission site at:

www.lutheranchurchcanada.ca/missions

