

ST PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ELLERSLIE

St. Paul's is a congregation of the Synod of Alberta & The Territories, which is a part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC).

PURPOSE

The purpose of St. Paul's is to **equip** for discipleship, **empower** for ministry, welcome and **embrace** our communities.

MISSION STATEMENT

Embraced by the grace of God, St. Paul's exists to **engage** the community, **equip** for discipleship and **enrich** the lives of those we encounter.

VISION STATEMENT

Embraced by the grace of God, St. Paul's vision is to be the leader in family ministry by walking daily as disciples of Christ.

CONTACT LIST

Senior Pastor.....Rev. Heidi Wachowiak
Pastoral Assistant (on leave).....Rev. Rod Adamson
Youth & Family Ministry.....Tammy Kirkwood
Administrative Assistant.....Tara Mould
Bookkeeper.....Judy Feltham
Janitorial.....Tara Mould/Diane Trelenberg

Preschool Administrator.....Allison Ross
LBCP Teacher.....Erin Schutz
LBCP E.A.....Caryn Stone

Altar Guild.....Debbie Falk
icpm Lunches.....Heather Shaw
Communion Assistants.....Jen Madu
Greeters.....Sharon Villetard
Women in Mission.....Margaret Heppner
Readers.....Debbie Falk
Refreshments.....Debbie Falk
Sunday School.....Colleen Kwong
Treasurer.....Judy Feltham
Financial Secretary.....Sandra Timm
Choir.....Crystal Dutka
Band.....Caroline van Rooyen
Cemetery.....Cliff Werner

CHURCH COUNCIL

Chair/Support.....Peter Schaller
Vice Chair/Support/Personal.....Jen Madu
Cemetery/Maintenance.....Dave Trelenberg
Maintenance.....Trevor Hutchinson
Worship and Music.....Amanda Shaw
Learning/Fellowship.....Lisa Myers
Witness.....Diane Trelenberg
Learning/Fellowship.....Marissa Davey

Council Corner – January 2021

Council met briefly on December 29, for the annual budget meeting on January 9 and then held the regular monthly meeting on January 19; all meetings were held virtually on the Zoom platform.

The proposed 2021 budget will be presented for approval at the Annual General Meeting. As part of the budget, council voted to combine the Building Fund Asset and the Existing Building & Improvement Fund. This motion will be added to the AGM agenda for congregational approval. Thank you to Judy for all of her work preparing the budget.

An update was given by Tammy on behalf of Little Blessings Christian Preschool; school resumed on January 11 in accordance with AHS protocols. 4 activities and videos were prepared and sent out to the families for the week of January 4. Pre-registration for the 2021-2022 school year will be starting soon – members are offered an early registration opportunity; watch Constant Contact for more information.

On December 29, 2020, council held a special meeting on setting a policy pertaining to burial at St. Paul's cemeteries. The church constitution decrees that an active member is defined as someone who receives communion, actively attends, or actively contributes.

Council received five letters on the proposed project to repurpose the pulpit into an altar stand and individual crosses for congregants. Upon receipt of these letters, council has put this project on hold for further discussion and work will not be starting to repurpose the pulpit.

St. Paul's Annual General Meeting will be held electronically via Zoom on Sunday, February 28 at 1pm. More information will be provided on this in the Constant Contacts.

Wishing you all continued health and safety in 2021.

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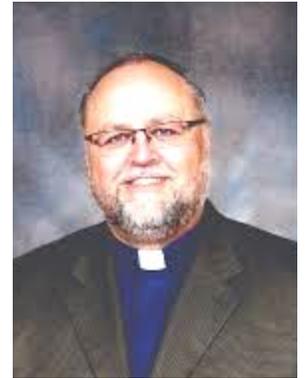
LITTLE BLESSINGS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL
An outreach ministry of St. Paul's Church
PHONE: 780-440-6037
Website: LittleBlessingsPreschool.ca

February 2021 Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders

Dear Beloved of God –

The Gospel according to Mark does not begin with angels, a prophetic dream, or a miraculous birth. Instead, the gospel writer hurls us, ready or not, into a lonely and barren wilderness – a desert – where everything either bites or burns or stings.

As Jesus emerges from the baptismal water, the heavens are ripped open, the Spirit descends like a dove and the voice of God proclaims, “You are my Son, the Beloved, in you I am well pleased.” And immediately, Jesus was driven out – hurled out – into the desert to be tormented by wild beasts and tempted by evil. (Mark 1:1-12)



It's not exactly what you would expect, is it? God was pleased, even well pleased with him. And yet, he was hurled from affirmation and love into a desert-like wilderness of sand and heat and wild beasts and temptation.

Experts say deserts are formed under unique climactic conditions. Maps show that they cover about 25% of the earth's surface. Globes indicate that they are found only between specific latitudes. That is what the experts say. But we know the truth about the wilderness, don't we?

The truth is that sometimes – no matter where we live or how far we travel – the wilderness is all we can see. Despite weather reports or average rainfall charts, we find ourselves in the wilderness: blinded, sunburned, dying of thirst.

This desert can feel so familiar that we name every shriveled plant, every venomous snake, every blistering ray, every irritating grain of sand. Sometimes, the wilderness feels a lot like home, a lot like now, and what we've experienced this past year.

The single mom, stretched so thin that she almost disappears, knows the desert of exhaustion and guilt. The rejected child, watching silently outside the playground, knows the desert called loneliness. The ill, newly aware of test results and consultations, know the desert of fear and uncertainty. The grieving, now alone, know the desert of unwanted solitude. Parishioners, reeling from scandal, know the desert of a trust betrayed.

The truth is, deserts are not found only in Africa, or in Nevada, or in the Sinai Peninsula. Some of the harshest wildernesses are not marked on any map. They lie just around the corner, or in your living room, in the very heart of your life.

But there is something more about the wilderness – something more that Mark wants us to hear: Jesus has been there first. Here is the Good News of Mark's opening scenes. No wilderness is so remote, barren, inhospitable, or filled with danger that Jesus has not walked there first.

And Jesus' presence here reminds us something else: despite all appearances to the contrary, the wilderness is filled with life. A handful soil swirling in the hot wind can be filled with hundreds of seeds, waiting for a chance to bloom. That withered plant still has living roots deep underground. That landscape, empty in the harsh light of day, comes to life in the moonlight with reptiles and insects.

Even at its most desolate, the wilderness is ready to bloom at the first sign of life-giving water. Maybe that is why the scriptures speak of the wilderness as a place for discovery and transformation.

And there is more: the angels waited on him. Jesus is not alone. He is cared for in the wilderness, receiving sustenance and nourishment.

And this is our experience too – for in the wilderness of our 40-day Lenten journey, and over this past year – we have also been given sustenance: the Word, the Eucharist, community, family, opportunities for service and action.

This Lent finds many of us traveling through the wilderness, wrestling with demons and tempted by evil. We may feel like we have been thrown out into the wilderness. Some people might look upon this journey and despair.

But we know the truth about the wilderness, don't we?

In Christ Jesus – Shalom, +Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

“The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13)

Offering Envelopes

The 2021 Offering Envelopes are ready to be picked up. They are here in the hub with Tara. You can pick yours up from 10-4 Monday to Friday.



Roy Hubbard
Renovation Fund
Dennis & Sue Henschel

Harold Grams
Open Memorial Fund
Margaret Grams

IN LOVING



memory

Emil & Gertrude Kadatz
Open Memorial Fund
Margaret Grams

First Sunday Thanksgiving
Open Memorial
Adesola Emokpae

From a former Pastor here at St. Paul's

Christmas/ New Year's Letter 2020-21: Best Wishes to all ! from Christoph and Kit Schmauch

Dear Friends, (Christoph) That was the year that was, and like many of you, we would like to forget it! We have lived through many experiences in our long lives and are thinking often of the Chinese wish: "May you live in interesting times." But last year was definitely more interesting than we would like to see. To say that our democracy was saved by the bell is not quite correct, since it was the people who voted a criminal gang out of office and gave us a new administration, which seems to have the common good in mind. We are most grateful since **January 6 – "a day that will live in infamy"** – could have been much worse in the number of deaths and destruction. Someone pointed out recently that the mob in Washington DC on that date was more successful in occupying the Capitol than Hitler was in 1923 in his fascist putsch. Since I experienced Nazi Germany for the first 10 years of my life, the parallels of what we experienced during the last four years, to that awful period in German history, has been on my mind for many months. I was very careful to point out in a number of publications that even though there were parallels to Nazi Germany during the last 4 years, we did not have full-blown fascism, since the many signs BLACK LIVES MATTER on our street here in Columbus, Ohio are testimony to this fact. We only have to try to imagine what would have happened to German people in 1938 if they had displayed signs in front of their houses: "Jewish Lives are also valuable".

One of our greatest problems during this past year has been the discrepancy between the political chaos out there and our personal wellbeing. We are most grateful that at our age (*I will be 86 on February 1*) we are doing well and have been able to spend the year with all the limitations through Covid19 creatively. We have been able to publish articles in 6 different newspapers and magazines, both here and in Germany, in German and in English, which primarily relate to my biography and my experiences during the Nazi period in Germany and the Cold War ("*On Both Sides of the Wall*"). We wanted to visit our oldest son, **Christopher**, on the occasion of his 60th birthday in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in March, and got as far as New York, when our sons talked us out of taking this 12-hour flight, which was for the best, because we would have gotten there, but would not have been able to return because the following day all flights were cancelled. A similar cancellation had to be made for a flight in September when we had plans to visit Germany and Poland once more. But the long telephone conversations with friends and relatives in Europe via Skype are a great substitute and give a wonderful feeling of connectedness. One of the highlights for me was the opportunity to give a number of lectures to students in the University of Languages in Tashkent, via ZOOM, which Christopher had arranged through contacts with a professor there. Since there is a 10-hour time-difference between Columbus and Tashkent, I had to speak on my iPad tablet at 11:00 pm here, so students could see and hear me at 9:00 am the next morning. That the young female students were dressed variously in Western style clothing or head scarfs to the full Burka, was not surprising, since Uzbekistan is a moderate Moslem country. I enjoyed this experience immensely, since I love to share my accumulated knowledge with the young generation. Just during the last few years, the realization was impressed on us, that one cannot learn from history if one does not know history. The inadequacy of the teaching of history is all too apparent in this country.

We are very much aware of how privileged we are in many respects, and because of this we are aware of the many injustices in our country and in the world, and have to believe therefore that in spite of evidence to the contrary, *the arc of the universe bends toward justice*. That one of the newly elected senators from Atlanta, Georgia, who has been a minister at Martin Luther King's church in that city, is also a graduate of Union Theological Seminary in New York, where I received my Master of Sacred Theology in 1968, is another reason for gratitude, knowing that we have been able to make a small contribution to his success.

(Kit) All real living is meeting. Famous words from Martin Buber. While we have understood that quote as "meeting in person", **technology** has come to our aid in this time of *staying safe, sheltering in place, ... wearing masks... (washing hands!)* – getting familiar with Zoom meetings, and accepting telephone and FaceTime as substitutes for being "face to face", hugs and handshakes.... Especially with our far-flung children and grandchildren.

Lianne and Ron continue to live in Stuttgart. Since February, Lianne is working as a Relocation Specialist. Grandchildren Astrid and Finn are excelling in the high school of the International School there, and planning to come back to the U.S. for their university years. **David** continues to enjoy his work repairing New York's grand pipe organs, and the rest of his waking hours he is engaged in working for "justice" – eg: citizen oversight of the police in that city -- and helping older friends in many ways. **Joel** is multi-tasking with keeping *Yogabela* producing and marketing their excellent line of yoga clothing, having a hand in law cases now and then, and mostly being a hands-on-parent with his three darlings (third-grade, Isabela, and pre-schoolers, Hans and Anabela), while wife Barbie oversees the big NY hotel she manages. Weekends they drive 2 hours from the city to their country home in Bushkill, in the Pocono mountains of Pennsylvania, where the deer come to their yard. They purchased it just before Christmas a year ago, when we spent the holidays there with them.

Chris, in Tashkent, is working with his Uzbek business partner in agricultural ventures, as they did 20 years ago, when he headed the American Soybean Association from his office in Istanbul. His son, Alan, is now a freshman at Ohio State University, and daughter, Sophie, is a junior in our local high school, my alma mater. Bonnie lives close by and we all keep in touch.

I have mastered Zoom to keep up with a yoga class, and my groups in First Community Church (Refugee Task Force, Progressive Christianity, Tuesday at 9:30, and the book club, "Much Matters"). We just discussed "CASTE" by Isabel Wilkerson. I recommend it highly for helping this country to understand and to come to terms with where we find ourselves – and inspire us to each do our part to bring it to the "more perfect union" that has been America's vision. Ohio State would allow me to access courses on Zoom, but I'm content to enjoy the stimulation I have from the groups named; to be grateful for the 12 years I took advantage of Program 60; and to spend more time reading – especially books on new understandings of how Mother Nature works, like "The Hidden Life of Trees" by Peter Wohlleben; and the novel, "Overstory" by Richard Powers. Fascinating!

In closing, I want to thank my "IT—Internet Technology – specialist" brother, Jon Hively, for his ever-ready help to solve the problems I have in mastering Windows 10. In the joy of typing Christoph's documents for publication there were many moments of frustration. Jon to the rescue!

A heartfelt thank you to all of you who have kept in touch with Holiday cards, letters, and phone calls! Be safe and stay well – until we "meet" again! Blessings on your journey!

With warm affection, Christoph and Kit

Kit and Christoph Schmauch 1189 Elmwood Ave Columbus OH 43212 614 488-6791
chrisandkit@yahoo.com



Feb. 28th at 1:00pm

The AGM will be happening over Zoom. If you want to be a part of the meeting but do not have internet, please call Tara at the Office 780-988-5446 and we will make arrangements for you to participate.



Ash Wednesday Service

The service will be available by 7pm that evening. Join us worship as we begin our Lenten journey.



Lenten Study and Worship Opportunities coming soon.....