



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
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THE EPISTLE

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Pastor's Column

Hello, my friends,

It would be a cliché for me to comment on how quickly time has gone by, and now we are heading into summer! In many ways, it feels just like yesterday when we were celebrating Easter. Now, we find ourselves in full bloom. The weather is getting warmer, and yet there is still more heat and summer to come. Summer always seems to sneak up on me. The change of seasons in the Lower Mainland is often dramatic and extreme. Moving from one season to the next is often a mix of all seasons. I find I rely on little things that are indicators for me. What I wear when I walk the dogs is a good one. Particularly how many layers that I have on. The other day, I noticed by chance that I had walked out the door dressed only in a t-shirt and sweats, and that realization informed me that summer was here. Then, predictably, the next day, I was dressed in a sweater and full rain gear. And the next day after that I was back in a T-shirt and carrying a sweater!

In Traditional Medicine in Asia, they speak about a time between seasons. It's a time that is not clearly one thing or the other – it's a time in between the shift of seasons. It's that time when the familiar starts to slowly give way to the new weather patterns that are coming. This space is called a "liminal" space. The space that feels the same but different. Think of your hallway or foyer. Those are physical liminal spaces that we use to transition from one room to another. We take off our coats, shoes and stuff and move to the inner space of the house. I remember back home, that would mean coming closer to the inner sanctum of the kitchen.

In our lives, we often find ourselves in liminal spaces – those spaces that lie in between change and transition. We wonder how to dress for the outside world that challenges us. Sometimes, the clothes we choose to wear make us unrecognizable to those who claim to know us. We ask ourselves, is it because of the clothes? The clothes that represent the changes which make us unrecognizable to those who feel they know us, or is it because they cannot accept us as changed?

In this coming Sunday's gospel, we hear that Jesus struggled similarly with his identity when he returned home to minister to the people who had known him since he was a child. Even those who heard Jesus speak in the Synagogue and were amazed by his wisdom could not fully embrace Jesus because of what they remembered rather than what they were witnessing first-hand. The lesson for us in this reading is how we cope with the expectations of others in the face of embracing our own changes. These liminal spaces are opportunities for growth and transformation, which should be embraced with courage and faith.

About a week and a half ago, I attended the tri-annual Synod conference. Every three years, we gather as a synod and review our journey together as a church. We share as a whole what is happening in the Synod of British Columbia, vote in officers, and amend policy. I drew a lot of hope from this conference. Yes, there are many challenging liminal spaces, but there are also many positive developments and changes.

It would seem that we share with most congregations the uncertainty that comes with the liminal spaces of change and transformation. In a changing world, the church changes, and the light of Christ still illumines our path. However, we may struggle with seeing what needs to be seen and want to turn off the lights. Change and uncertainty are hard, and we must trust that the journey is how God stitches and weaves us together to become a fine cloth. In God's divine weaving, the pause of the needle leaving the cloth only to return is a space that God creates for us to embrace who we are. Despite his rejection in his hometown, Jesus continued to minister and teach and live what he was called to do. Which is a guiding principle for us all.

God's Blessing,

Pastor Nic

Council Corner

Greetings and Blessings to all at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

During the past several months I have started the moving process, and moved into a new community and home. I also serve on the Call Committee searching for a new Pastor. I have come to realize as Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

Things have been daunting in my life and church. Change is a hard thing, at church, at work, or at home. Recognizing it may be hard, but every step is guided by God. You need not burden yourself with all the little details and control everything you cannot and should not. Trust in the Lord 'they say, but it is not an easy thing to do for us Humans. We worry, fester and plan and organize and when things get stressed and overwhelmed, we kinda fall apart on some levels.

We will find a new Pastor for our congregation, and they will be great!

I will finally unpack, welcoming guests to our home and plan the retirement we want in the future. Travelling, visiting family and taking care of our health.

I say to us 'rejoice in the summer sunshine with a new hope and replenishment for our bodies and minds. Proverbs 16:3 "Commit your work to the Lord and your plans will be established"

"May He grant you according to your heart's desire and fulfill all your purpose" (Psalm 20:4).

Blessings,
Charrise
Financial Secretary



Stitchery is cancelled until further notice.

Treasurer's Report

Generally, I provide you with financial updates at the end of each quarter. However as summer is now upon us, I thought I would provide you with a short summary as of May 31, 2024.

The table below, shows our year-to-date revenue and expenses versus 2023. As I mentioned in my end of March report, the total revenue variance is significantly skewed by the fact that we had \$12,234 in Live Streaming Revenue in 2023. Removing this amount, results in a variance of negative \$1,116, which is a more accurate representation of our revenue position.

Overall, we have an excess of expenses over revenue, in the amount of \$3366. This compares very favourably to our negative deficit of \$9,573 as of May 31, 2023.

	YTD May 31, 2024	YTD May 31, 2023	2024 vs 2023 Variance
Total Revenue	\$75,993	\$89,343	-\$13,350
Total Expenses	\$72,627	\$98,916	-\$26,289
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	\$3,366	-\$9,573	\$12,939



I am pleased to report that we exceeded last year's offertory giving in April and May of 2024—**JOB WELL DONE!**

Our giving for the first five months of the year, was \$3,145 less than the comparable period in 2023. In comparison with our prorated budget, we are off the mark by \$6,214. Hopefully as we work our way through the back half of the year, we will be able to turn these red numbers into black.



Year to date our Building Maintenance expenses have been relatively low--I hope I haven't jinxed us by saying that!! We have spent \$3,000 less than the same period last year. I am sure that will change as the Property Committee considers some small projects over the coming months AND of course, the inevitable repairs that come with running a building as large as ours.

Thank you!

to everyone for your continued financial support.

¾ TIME PERMANENT PASTOR

At present our Call Committee, under the leadership of John Mogk, is working with Bishop Kathy to find a permanent Pastor for us.

During our Informational Meeting in January, I shared some of the financial costs associated with full-time, ¾ time and ½ time Pastors.

The table below, provides a snapshot of what our financials would look like if we had a permanent ¾ time Pastor in place as of January 1st of this year.

To accurately reflect the financial impact of a permanent Pastor, the following changes have been made to our financials: addition of all permanent Pastor expenses (i.e. salary, housing allowance, car allowance, etc.), removal of all expenses related to our Interim Pastor and Pulpit Supply.

The net result, as you can see, would be a deficit of **\$11,166** as of May 31, 2024.

This is in line with the numbers shared in January as the projected income statement for a ¾ time Pastor came in with an annual deficit of **\$23,000**.

These calculations reinforce the need for more sources of 'consistent' revenue in 2025 to help offset the additional expenses.

	3/4 Pastor	Actuals	
	YTD May 31, 2024	YTD May 31, 2024	Variance 3/4 Pastor vs Actuals
Total Revenue	\$75,993	\$75,993	\$0
Total Expenses	\$87,159	\$72,627	\$14,532
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	-\$11,166	\$3,366	-\$14,532

Gary
Treasurer

Call Committee

The Call committee has finally got to the work of reviewing Call papers that have come through. In our next meeting this month we'll be considering with prayer and discussion to discern which candidates to Interview and what Interview Questions we want to ask.

While Bishop Kathy is recovering, we will be in contact with Acting Bishop, Matthew Senf as we move forward in our process.

Call Committee Chairperson
John

Worship Schedule

Sunday, July 7th – Linda, John
 Sunday, July 14th – Corinne
 Sunday, July 21st – Pastor Vickie Wong
 Sunday, July 28th – Pastor Nic Alexandre
 Sunday, August 4th – Corinne, Shawna
 Sunday, August 11th – Pastor Nic Alexandre
 Sunday, August 18th – Pastor Vickie Wong
 Sunday, August 25th – Pastor Nic Alexandre



**Continuing Your Education?
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Has something for you!**



The Bernd Kaufmann Bursary was established by a family when their son tragically died and wanted to leave his legacy to students continuing their education as he loved school.

Eligibility Criteria:

- 1. Attending a credited post-secondary school**
- 2. Proof of enrollment**
- 3. Acceptance of bursary will be during a church service**
- 4. Deadline: September 2024**

The Bursary amount is: \$500

