



CROSSWORDS

DECEMBER 2017

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

63 Grand Avenue North

Cambridge, ON N1S 2L1

(519) 623-1604

www.stpaulslutherancambridge.org

Worship

Sundays 10:00 am

Sunday School

Sundays 10:45 am

Pastor

Rev. Stephen Weber

pastor@stpaulslutherancambridge.org

Secretary

secretary@stpaulslutherancambridge.org

Newsletter

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Pastor's Message

Dear People of God, Gathered at St. Paul's Cambridge,

Happy New Year! The First Sunday in Advent, December 3, begins a new Church year, in which most of our Sunday-morning Gospel readings will come from the *Gospel of Mark*.

Because *The Gospel According to Mark* is the shortest and simplest of the gospels, it was somewhat neglected, not only in the early church, but through the 18th century. At that point, the quest for the historical Jesus began to recognize the importance of this, the oldest of the Gospels (written probably 65 to 70 A.D.), as a source for the life of Jesus, relatively free from the augmentation of the later Gospels.

Mark wrote this Gospel to comfort Christians who were being persecuted by Nero.

Perhaps this is why **Mark tells us so much about the emotions of Jesus:**

- And [Jesus] **sighed deeply in his spirit** and said, "Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to this generation." (Mark 8.12)
- Then [after healing a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech] looking up to heaven, [Jesus] **sighed** and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened."
- As [Jesus] went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and **he had compassion** for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. (Mark 6.34)
- And [back in his hometown, Jesus] was **amazed at their unbelief**. Then he went about among the villages teaching. (Mark 6.6)
- [Jesus] looked around at [those who opposed his healing on the Sabbath] with *anger*; he was **grieved** at their hardness of heart and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. (Mark 3.5)
- But when Jesus saw [the disciples preventing the children from being brought to Jesus], he was **angry** and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." (Mark 10.14)
- Only Mark tells us that when Jesus looked at the rich young ruler he **loved** him (Mark 10.21).

As William Barclay has written in *The New Daily Study Bible*, "It is in Mark's gospel, above all, that we get a picture of a Jesus who shared emotions and passions with us. The sheer humanity of Jesus in Mark's picture brings him very near to us."

May we be drawn nearer to God as we worship and learn in this new Church Year.

With Love,

Pastor Stephen

SAVE THE TREES

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To have your monthly edition of CrossWords sent electronically, contact: secretary@stpaulslutherancambridge.org

Making a Tribute

My mother-in-law is about to celebrate her 99th birthday later this month, God willing. When she was preparing a new will about 20 years ago, she asked me how she could set up a scholarship fund with a gift in her will.

The story is this. Katie was the youngest of half a dozen children in a family of poor Ukrainian immigrants. No one remembers how they scratched out a living in Ontario in the 1920s and 30s, but somehow they managed. In those days students had to buy their own textbooks in high school. Because her family couldn't afford those costs, Katie expected that her schooling would end when she finished Grade 8.

Her elementary school principal, recognizing her academic potential, approached Katie and assured her that he would provide the books if she would stay in school. She completed high school and went on to a secretarial course at a local business college. After a few years of work at an insurance company she got married and began raising the family that includes my wife, Cathie.

A gift in Katie's will is earmarked for the board of education in her home town and is designated to create a bursary, to be awarded on the basis of financial need, to support the education of a local high school student. The fund is to be named after her elementary school principal.

Today we would call this a "tribute gift". The dictionary defines a tribute as "something that you say, write, or give that shows your respect and admiration for someone, especially on a formal occasion".

Gifts are often acts of remembrance. Sometimes we think of a planned gift as a way of declaring how **we** want to be remembered by our family or community. But a planned gift can also be a way we remember **someone else**, someone who has made an impact on our life and helped to shape the person we are. Our gift shows respect and admiration for that person, while at the same time expressing gratitude for some kindness – great or small – that they rendered.

If there is someone in your life that you would like to pay tribute to with a gift to a congregation or church-related organization, give us a call. We'd be glad to help you create the gift that's right for you.

Jeff Pym,
Executive Director, Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada

To Contact ELFEC

Phone: (888) 308-9461

Email: jpym@elfec.ca

Fax: (905) 634-2428

Website: www.elfec.ca

GIFTS FROM THE HEART Catalogue

This annual gift-giving catalogue, included with the print edition, can be found online for those receiving the electronic version of CrossWords:

<https://www.clwr.org/sites/default/files/documents/GFTH%202017%20Catalogue%20%28low-res%29.pdf>

Advent Clothing Drive

At our last meeting council had expressed interest in reaching out to Trinity Anglican Church to see how we could help in their ministry to serve the homeless. Trinity had communicated that they were doing a drive for hats, mitts, scarves, and socks. All items need to be new and the due date is December 10th. Please join us in contributing to this cause by donating gently used or by purchasing hats, mitts, scarves, and socks and placing them on the clotheslines that are around our beautiful sanctuary. Let's see what we can do to fill all the clotheslines around the entire church.



image from Can Stock Photo

OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare

Starting on January 1, 2018, Ontario will provide free prescription drug coverage for all children and youth aged 24 and under.

Children and youth will have access to over 4,400 medications and other drug products at no cost.

Enrolment in OHIP+ is automatic – when visiting the pharmacy, you will only need your health card number and a valid prescription from your doctor.

Visit the Government of Ontario's website to learn more about the OHIP+ Children and Youth Pharmacare.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/learn-about-ohip-plus>

Christmas is Coming!

*Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year.
We will have Sunday-morning worship as usual,
and then celebrate Christmas Eve in the evening.*

Sunday morning, December 24 10:00 a.m.

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Festival of Lessons and Carols

Sunday evening, December 24 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve worship

Candlelight, Carols, and Communion

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Advent 1, Year of Mark 3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Worship and Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Videotaping Pageant Skits 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 11:15 a.m. Youth and Adult Discussion Animate: Practices – Food 11:30 a.m.				Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.		SPY (Youth) Dinner, Movie Night, and Snacks 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. (note early finish time)
Advent 2 10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Breakfast (French Toast) 9:00 a.m. Worship and Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal in Sanctuary 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 11:15 a.m.		Women of Faith Sleeping Mats and Christmas Potluck 10:00 a.m.	49'ers (Seniors' Group) 3:00 p.m. (note early date and late time) Seniors' Christmas Dinner 5:00 p.m. Possible Council Meeting	Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.		
Advent 3 17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Christmas Pageant 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 11:15 a.m.	Christmas Tree Decorating 9:30 a.m.			Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.	<i>Last day of school</i>	<i>Christmas Break begins</i>
Advent 4 & Christmas Eve 24	Christmas Day 25	26	27	28	29	30
Breakfast (French Toast) 9:00 a.m. Worship (Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols) 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 11:15 a.m. CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLES, CAROLS, and COMMUNION 7:30 p.m.					<i>(Sanctuary booked for a wedding, 4:00 p.m.)</i>	
1st Sunday of Christmas 31	JANUARY 1	2	3	4	5	Epiphany Day 6
Festival Christmas Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 11:15 a.m.						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 11:15 a.m.	<i>Students back in school today</i>	Women of Faith Sleeping Mats 10:00 a.m.	Gathering Worship Planning Meeting 7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.		