

RADISSON-LANGHAM LUTHERAN PARISH

First Saskatchewan Lutheran Church
Langham, SK

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Radisson, SK

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 14, 2020

St. Paul, Radisson/First Saskatchewan, Langham
Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Ministers: Members of the Congregation

Pastor Melissa Brooks Home Office: 306-560-3040
E-mail: melissa.e.hoehn@gmail.com

Secretary: Doris Hamp Office: 827-2265 827-4953
E-mail: radlangparish@sasktel.net

Greeting: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Prayer of the Day:

God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Exodus 19:2-8a

Psalm 100

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-8

Holy Gospel: Matthew 9:35-10:8

Reflection - Pastor Melissa

The title "apostle" literally means "one who is sent out". In today's text the ones sent out are Jesus' closest disciples, all 12 of them. They're not a flawless bunch to be taking on this holy task. Peter will deny he even knows Jesus. Matthew's a tax collector, and Judas will betray Jesus and hand him over to his death. Jesus befriends and empowers and sends these people to heal and cleanse and proclaim his Kingdom on earth.

And now we are sent out. We are apostles. God is casting us out into the world to share the forgiveness of sins, the hope for new life, and the power of love.

And we are hurled out into a world in distress. Christ calls out systems of injustice, laws or policy that keep certain groups disadvantaged while serving others. He rejects a racist joke around the kitchen table and re-centers the conversation. He is with us in the voting booth. He speaks in a petition or an invitation for dialogue. He inspires us in times when we are so stuck in harmful cycles that we see no alternative way. He builds friendship and understanding and connection.

We've been steeped in sin and every day is another day of rejecting our old default setting of death. By the grace of God, we die to that sinful self and rise up joined to Christ's resurrected life. We listen for what the Spirit is saying to us through scripture, prayer, and our neighbour.

We know we're not perfect. We don't deserve this job, this role of apostle, and that's the beauty of it. We belong to Christ, and we've been sent out in his ministry. May we share the gift of God's Kingdom freely and with joy. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession:

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

A Brief Silence

Holy One, you bring us together and call us your own. Bless theologians, teachers, and preachers who help us grow in faith. Guide your church, that we might be a holy people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy One, the whole earth is yours. Where there is fire, bring cool air and new growth. Where there is flooding, bring abatement. Where there is drought, bring rain. Inspire us to care for what you have provided. Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

Holy One, we have created divisions you will not own. In places of conflict, raise up leaders who work to develop lasting peace and reconciliation. Encourage organizations and individuals who care for all forced to leave their homes. Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

Holy One, you care for those who are harassed and helpless. Protect and defend those who are abused. Heal those who are sick, (especially...). Feed all who hunger. Empower all whose voices go unheard, and help us respond to the pressing needs of our neighbors. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy One, you provide a plentiful harvest of gifts and resources. Prepare us to labor and gather the fruits of this congregation, that we might discover new ways of living. Minister to us in our work, that we do not lose heart. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy One, you bring all people to yourself. We give thanks for the holy people who have gone before us. Sustain us in your mission until the day you bear us up to join the saints in light. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Blessing: The Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

Let us remember in our prayers: Darren Wilkie, Connie Verishine, Susan Wonko, Gloria Hamp, Guy Norton, Heather Penno, Inga Abrahamson, Genie Thompson, Linda Hartshorn, Logan Kane, Lynn Sherstobitoff, Don Wenner, Alma Krueger, Anthony Flath, Elsie Flath, Conrad Olson, Ethel Kuny, Ida Muller, Mark Anderson, Roger Wilkie, Lisa Hamp and to everyone affected by COVID 19

Also, the family and friends of David Friesen who passed away Wednesday, June 10.

Pastor Melissa's worship video can be found at:

<https://youtu.be/YY1BccX00h0>

For other worship services/devotions you could check out the following:

- Livestreams are available at:

<https://elcic.ca/publichealth/livestreaming.cfm>

- There is a resource available through the ELCA for in-home worship each Sunday:
<https://blogs.elca.org/worship/2248/>

- Pastor Randy Fiege at 11:00a on Facebook, as well as YouTube.

Thank you to those who stay connected and in touch with our members who may feel isolated and lonely, the elderly and others in our community by a phone call or sharing online worship services with those who do not have internet.

Worship from home to continue:

In response to some loosening of COVID-19 regulations from Saskatchewan Health Authority, St. Paul and First Saskatchewan councils held meetings this past week to assess the advisability of re-opening our churches for worship services. Three words: **can**, **should**, and **risk** featured consistently in our discussions: yes, we **can** re-open, but considering the risk, **should** we?

After careful and heartfelt discussion, and with a sense of faithful sadness, both councils determined that no, we should not re-open at this time. That decision will be re-visited at the first regular meetings of the two councils in September.

The fundamental reason behind this decision was that we must not put the health of our members and their communities in jeopardy by rushing back to a "normal" that truly doesn't yet exist. The faithfulness of our congregations is remarkable, and speaks well to our future. We have maintained friendships, continued to worship "virtually together" with our own Pastor Melissa and her colleagues (notably Pastor Fiege as well as our provincial and national Bishops). As Christians and as neighbours, we continue to reach out together, which is truly marvellous. May God bless us all: today, tomorrow, and into the future!

Peter Kingsmill, Parish Chair

News for First Sask:

Tuesday, June 23 & Wednesday, June 24: 9:00a-5:00p - Spring Cleaning Session. Pack a lunch and come prepared to work!

New Locks have been installed at First Sask, so new keys are now required.

Donations to your church can still be given:

First Sask - You can mail your cheque to Roxanne Elke, P.O. Box 272, Grandora, SK S0K 1V0.

St. Paul - You could send your cheque to Darlene Kindt, Box 97, Radisson or drop it off at the church.

Happy Birthday this week: George Hamp, Kimberly Flath, Debbie Hamre, Kennedy Kahovec, Brent McFarlane, Dean Anderson, Sandra Walker, Lauren Garand, Lois Sawatzky, Shirley Thiessen, Ted Walker

FIRST READING: EXODUS 19:2-8a

²They had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. ³Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: ⁴You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, ⁶but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites."

⁷So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. ⁸The people all answered as one: "Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do."

SECOND READING: ROMANS 5:1-8

⁵Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we

have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 9:35—10:8

³⁵Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

¹⁰Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ²These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' ⁸Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.