



Paulin Newsletter

November 2023

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Message from Reverend Lisa

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. The days are getting shorter, and slowly but surely the night is being lit up with bright colours as we prepare ourselves for the celebration of the birth of Christ. Christmas, and the time leading up to it, have always been one of my favorite times of the year as during the final months of the year we're given a glimpse of what our world will one day become.

Strangers are filled with the Christmas spirit or, as I tend to see, filled with the Christ spirit, are willing to be a bit more loving to one another. They seek to support local charities, to ensure that people are able to have their own feasts by giving to food banks or by supporting local toy drives to make sure that children have something wonderful to wake up to on Christmas day. During the days that lead up to Christmas, people even dare to look each other in the eye and wish them a happy Holiday or a Merry Christmas, as if for that moment they are wishing the very best for their beloved neighbour.

I confess that I am often confused when people proclaim that there is a war on Christmas. Each year I am able to see Christ's holy spirit being active in our community and in our congregation, as this is the time of year when people dare to be more loving, dare to think of others as well as themselves, and dare to believe that one day there will be peace on earth. And if this is not the celebration of Christ and what he has come to do for his people then I don't know what is. While Christmas has become very commercialized, the roots of the celebration remain the same. We rejoice because of what God has done for us, that he loves us so much he was willing to go as far as to send to earth his only Son so that we could see that there is a better way to live our life. God wanted the world to see that things could change for the better, and even today we still see this happening as the world prepares itself to celebrate Christmas. For one month out of the year we believe in the good news that Jesus gave us, as the world seeks to foster love, hope, peace and joy in their homes and in the community around us. We show this by seeking to share what we have with those who are in need, by seeking to offer forgiveness and reconciliation to those who are in need, by being filled with good cheer so much that you can't help but have it spill out into the world around you, as you dare to shine bright against the darkness of the longest night.

The Christmas spirit is what our world needs now more than ever, to remind us that with Christ's help we can transform the world from what it is now to what God always knew it could be. A place that is filled with love, hope, peace and joy, not only one month a year but for all the days that we have been given. So don't be afraid to decorate a little early, to allow your Christmas cheer to spill out of your heart before the 24th, and never feel as if you have to hold in your celebration for what God has already done for us by giving us his only son, as we continue to celebrate what is still yet to come.

For our God has great plans for you and me, and the world that we call home, this Christmas season and beyond. Thanks be to God, amen.

Reverend Lisa

DID YOU KNOW??? The congregation has reached 78% of the realistic offering goal set for 2023. While we were hopeful for a \$5000 increase in offerings in 2023, our weekly tithes & offerings are actually about \$770 less than the same 10 months last year.

Baptisms

We welcome into the Paulin Church family: Lucas Wingelaar and Andrew Blokker, both of whom were baptized in the past month.

We are saddened by the death of Willa Innes Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

New Beginnings

Thanks to everyone who attended the information session provided by Rev. Paul Kang on November 3rd about the New Beginnings process. The House Group Leaders, Jim Marchand, Nancy Carle, Janet Brigham-Turowski, Audrey Landon & Anne McLachlan are looking forward to discerning God's vision for Paulin together with you from November to January. The house groups will spend the first 3 sessions discussing what makes a vital church, the 'why' of church, & how to be a missional church. We will not be fixing or 'axe-grinding.' Then in the 4th session, we will generate a future 'story' or vision for our congregation. In the New Year, the house group leaders will meet to amalgamate the stories into one, present it to the congregation, and work on implementing this future story/vision for our congregation. Rev. Paul Kang, our New Beginnings coach, will provide us with 6 virtual coaching sessions during the implementation phase over the next year. Rev. Lisa Aide will be involved in the implementation phase but not in the house group sessions. So, if you were not able to sign up for a house group, don't despair, you can still be involved in the implementation phase.

A. McLachlan

Session News

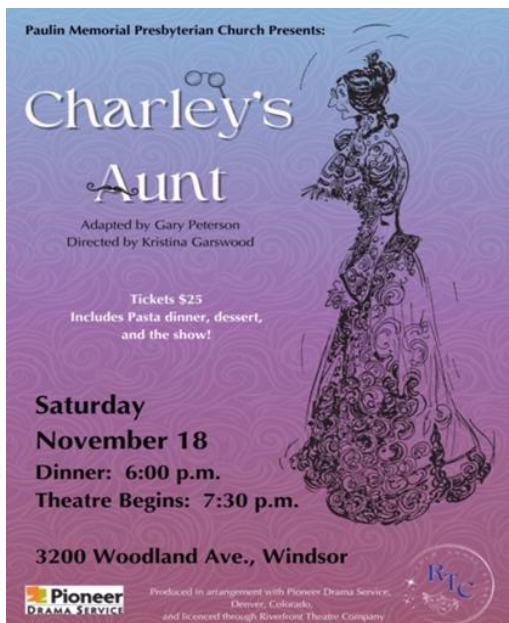
Is God calling you to serve as an active elder at Paulin? Has God given you gifts of leadership, pastoral care, or decision-making? In 2022, we moved to 6-year term eldership for active members of session and 4 new elders were elected. That means that in January 2024, nominations for elders will be open. There are 6 elders whose terms will expire in 2024 but they can stand for re-election. Stay tuned for more information about this process in January. At the October meeting, session accepted the resignation of Anne McLachlan from the Clerk of Session position effective December 15, 2023 with gratitude for her 5 years of service in this position. A decision about how to fill this position will occur at the November meeting.

A. McLachlan

Faith Community Action

The winners of the Pew Challenge were the people who visit the Soup Shack, as we collected 214 pairs of socks and 148 underwear. November is Domestic Violence Awareness month and we are collecting donations for Hiatus House, the local shelter for families who are fleeing domestic violence and abuse, on November 26th. Audrey Landon is once again spearheading the Mitten/Sock tree during Advent

A. McLachlan



Charley's Aunt was a resounding success. Thank you to all our stars, Audrey, Kristen, Louise, James, Archer, Jennifer, Justin, Melanie, Finn and John. A special thank you to our wonderful director Kristina.

Thank you to our kitchen staff, stage hands and technical crew who worked before and during the shows the show run smoothly.

Paulin is very grateful to Riverfront Theatre Company for the renovation of our stage, especially Finn and John Garswood and Jim Marchand for their tireless hours of work to finish the renovations.

Choir

Christmas Cantata

Sunday December 24, 2023 at the 10:30 AM service

Come enjoy the beautiful music as we prepare ourselves for the upcoming birth of our Savior Jesus Christ!

DID YOU KNOW??? The deficit has been reduced to \$6,428! This is a result of the fantastic work of the Fundraising Committee and the support of Paulin family and friends. As well, our facility rentals are 50% over the projected income for the year. Without this unplanned income, our deficit would be \$26,935.

NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Youth Christmas Presentation

Calling all children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews etc. We will be preparing for the Youth and Child Christmas Presentation beginning on November 19th. We will review the Christmas story and plan for the presentation on December 10th. We are looking for anyone under the age of 18 to be a part of this. Please come out to church for 10:30 and join us. (There will be no memorizing of lines needed)

Vacation Bible Day Camp

Please save the date of August 6th to 9th 2024 for Vacation Bible Day Camp. More information will follow about registration and volunteer opportunities.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remembrance Tree

Once again Paulin will have a Remembrance tree located in the Narthex. Paper ornaments will be available to place the name of a loved one that has passed.

Worship Service Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to be greeters, Scripture readers and Coffee Hosts. If you wish to volunteer your time please sign up on the bulletin board located in the Narthex. (You do not need to supply the coffee)

Church Habits

Has attending Sunday worship service become a habit? Have you stopped attending because you developed new habits during the pandemic? Maybe it's time to shake things up. If you are looking to have a little God in your life, come home to Paulin and participate in a community of faith that cares. We need you. Come and experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together on Sunday morning. Engage with others by greeting before service. Develop your voice by reading scripture or singing in the choir during service. Connect with others by hosting after-service coffee or volunteering for potlucks and social events. Stretch your faith by attending Wednesday Bible Study. Serve others in our community by participating in Faith Community Action projects. If you need some prayer, food, and love, come home to Paulin.

A Few Words from our Board of Managers

Have you seen our new stage area? Is it not great? This transformation was undertaken by the RIVERFRONT THEATRE GROUP. They covered all of the expenses and provided all of the manpower to complete the job! The Board was consulted along the way for approvals as required. Paulin can now advertise that we have a Performance Hall available for rent to the community. Other changes had to take place in order to complete the transformation from a stage being utilized for storage to a Performance Stage. Thank you to all involved in making the necessary changes for storing the decorations in other underutilized areas. And a VERY BIG THANK YOU to Riverfront Theatre!!

The Board had to say Goodbye to three members this year. We thanked Jeremy Fischer, Eric Tulp and Mike Golab for their contributions to the Board and Paulin and wished them much success as they move on with their new endeavors. We also wish to thank Terry Henry for his many, many years of dedicated service to the Board and Paulin as Terry has decided to retire his position at the end of this year. We welcome John Garswood to the board, and we are hoping that a few others will prayerfully consider joining the Board. We have promised John that he is not expected to do the job of 4 people!

Announcements



Paulin Memorial Presbyterian Church
Poinsettia Bazaar

Saturday, December 9, 2023

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

3200 Woodland Ave.
Windsor

Get a head start on your
Holiday Shopping!

A variety of vendors featuring:

Handmade Items

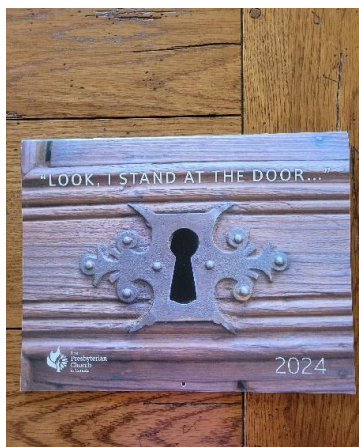
Jewellery

Bake Sale

Crafts

Lunch served

Including a visit with Santa.



2024 Calendars from the Presbyterian Church in Canada are available for purchase from the FCA committee for \$10 each in November and December. \$5 from each sale goes toward Camp Kintail Camperships. Only 20 calendars are available.

December 3 – 1st week of Advent – Communion

December 10 – 2nd week of Advent – Childrens Pageant

December 17 – 3rd week of Advent – Special Music - Arnold Eagle

December 24 – 4th week of Advent – Choir Cantata 10:30am Service

December 24 - Christmas Eve Service **7:30pm** (please note only 1 service)