



## June 2024 - "The DW Digest" Newsletter

### Belonging to God

Imagine renting a rundown house overseen by a horrible, mean property manager. One day, however, you receive an official notice stating that God himself purchased your house. God doesn't want you to move out; instead, He wants to renovate your house so He can live in it with you. He promises to pay for everything: all the upgrades, fixings, furnishings... everything. Unlike your previous landowner, God does not want to charge you a single penny in rent. Instead, He promises to upgrade everything you have for free. Not only that, but He invites you to spend as much time with Him as you want. So, let me ask you: if your house belonged to God and was the place where He lived, how would you treat it?

The situation I described is not theoretical. Replace the word "house" with "body" and you have the situation St. Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 6:19–20.

*<sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, <sup>20</sup>for you were bought at a price. Therefore glorify God with your body.*

Even though we all were once enslaved to the devil, Jesus redeemed us (bought us back) with his own blood. Our bodies, therefore, belong to God - purchased to be his temple, his home. He repaired the damage the devil has done - remodelling us with His righteousness and furnishing us with every spiritual gift He wants us to have. Since God has made your body His home, how should you treat it?

Right before our text, Paul warns against sexual sins. Even though his specific example deals with prostitution, his words apply to all sexual sins (fornication, adultery, pornography, etc...) and all other sins against our body (e.g. drug abuse, drunkenness, gluttony, etc...) Let us realize the noble purpose for which Christ redeemed our bodies: to be God's holy temple. Just think: the almighty God chooses to live with and inside of you. Let this realization move you to want to let the Holy Spirit clean your heart through repentance and adorn your soul with the righteousness Christ offers you through faith. Flee from the temptations to sin that corrupt your body. How? By focusing on Jesus and enjoying the fellowship with the Holy Spirit that God intends you to have as you meditate on His Gospel promises.

### Prayer

*(from Psalm 51:1-2, 10-12 of Beck's "AAT" Bible)*

O God, You are so kind — be merciful to me, Your grace is so great — wipe out my wrong; wash me thoroughly from my guilt, and cleanse me from my sin. Create a clean heart for me, O God, and give me a steady new spirit. Don't banish me from Your presence or take Your

Holy Spirit from me. Give me again the joy of Your salvation and a willing spirit to strengthen me. Amen.

### **Summer Worship Schedule**

On Sunday, June 16th, we begin following our summer schedule with Sunday Worship starting at 9:30 am.

### **Voters' Meeting on Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**

Our next quarterly voter's meeting is scheduled for after next Sunday's worship/fellowship (at about noon). Physical attendance is highly encouraged. Please let me (pastor) know before the meeting if you need to attend via Google Meet so I can set it up (which I will do only if requested.)

### **New Bible Information Class**

We hope to start a new Bible Information Class after worship on Sunday July 7<sup>th</sup>. This class would provide an opportunity to learn or review the basics of our faith in Christ. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

### **In-person Worship Attendance**

*March* – An average of 43 for Sunday worship and 25 for communion,

*April* - An average of 45 for worship and 38 for communion

*May* – An average of 43 for Sunday worship and 22 for communion

### **Friday Fellowship**

We cordially invite you to join us for supper and Bible Study on June 21<sup>st</sup> at Divine Word at 6 p.m. We are studying various statements Jesus made during his ministry and their meaning for us. For example, why did he compare himself to the temple? What did he mean when he said you can't sew new cloth on an old garment, etc.

### **Daily Prayers**

I continue sending out daily devotions, links to other devotional sites (included in Monday's messages), Bible classes, Communion registration reminders, and announcements.

If you or someone you know is not receiving the daily prayers and would like them, please let me know their email address, and I will add them to our email list.

Note: Please let me know before unsubscribing if you do not wish to receive the Daily Prayer via email. The 'Unsubscribe' feature at the bottom of the daily email would remove your name from all congregational emails, including urgent ones.

## **Evangelism Notes**

*By: Jordan Alves*

On August 11th following worship, the Evangelism Committee will be having a church picnic/corn boil. There will be several activities, one of those being a maze with biblical art and passages to be found! There will also be a fire truck and lots of food, this is a great opportunity to bring a friend for some Evangelism.

We are also looking for fun lawn games, and artists. If you would like to volunteer, please speak with Jordan or Laura.

## **Trustee Notes**

*By: Jeremy Doherty*

Window installations are now complete, the last two in the sanctuary were replaced on April 8th. There is a window in the balcony that has released its seal and there is moisture, I am working with Bayview to assess if it is warranty or if the upper glass can be replaced.

The grant money from the federal government has been received, we are still waiting to hear when the most appropriate time for the work to be completed by Doulos will be.

Lawn Care - I want to thank Martin and his family for his years of service in maintaining the grounds. I have circulated a calendar to a handful of individuals helping keep the grass cut.

Smoke detectors have been installed on each floor of the church.

## **Youth Education Report**

*By: Paul Reepschlager*

Our congregation continues to support a small but faithful group of 4-6 youth in our weekly Sunday School program. Sunday school classes ended on June 9th. Thanks to Jason Pfothauer, Laura Sullivan, Anna Doherty and Angela Reepschlager for having taught this school year. Sunday school will start again the week after Labour Day on September 8th. Please encourage youth from within our congregational families, from friends and from our community to join us next September in the weekly Sunday School program. Also, if you have not taught before, and wish to take turns in instructing our youth in the upcoming school year, please reach out to Paul Reepschlager or Pastor Sullivan.

The WELS International Youth Rally "From the Mountain Tops", is coming up very soon: June 25-28 at Colorado State University, Fort Collins Colorado. Four youth will be attending this year, along with Pastor Sullivan.

If you wish to support the youth in this event and in future endeavours through special donations, please indicate "Youth" in your offerings.

**Elders' Notes**  
*By: Jeremy Doherty*

Hymnals - there has been a delay in transitioning to the new hymnal, it is related to the service builder software, licensing requirements, and the music. We are hopeful to make the transition soon.

Long-range planning sessions - on May 4th, Pastor Caleb Schultz led the churches of St. Paul's, Abiding Word and Divine Word in a planning session to map out the next 3-5 years. This one day was valuable and laid out the foundation for our exercise. There is still much to do and we will organize more dates shortly to continue this important work. \*Note\* the upcoming sessions will be independent of Council to ensure participation of those individuals at the May 4th kick-off.

In the last quarter, the Board of Elders has been in contact with 11 individuals/families, two of which have attended services since then.

**Updates from the Board of Stewardship and Treasurer**

*By: Jim Neubauer*

I. E-Transfer Process

We will be continuing to use the e-transfer process in 2024. There are more than 16 members using it regularly. If you wish to contribute monthly versus weekly to minimize the number of transactions that would be totally acceptable. Please don't hesitate to email me: [jim.neubauer@sympatico.ca](mailto:jim.neubauer@sympatico.ca) or call 613-258-6367 if you have questions. The etransfer email is [divinewordtransfer@gmail.com](mailto:divinewordtransfer@gmail.com)

II. Regular Offerings and Budgets

**Regular Offerings:** Please find below the financial summary as of June 2, 2024 of all regular offerings collected to date being applied toward our Current Church Operating budget requirement of \$134,630 for 2024 increased from \$131,250 for 2023.

**As of June 2, 2024**

**Offerings Received - \$61,071**

**Offerings Budget - \$55,594**

As of March 10, 2024

Offerings Received - \$24,011

Operating Budget - \$25,305

After 22 weeks we are approximately \$5,500 ahead of the budget projection. This is a wonderful transition (Increase of \$6,800) since March 17<sup>th</sup>. However, there were several annual contributions made during this time. Please continue to make your regular weekly /

monthly contributions throughout the summer and we will very likely achieve our budget for the year.

So overall, we get an A for the first half of the year. But that was just the mid-term – we still have a final to write (Just trying to spice up the financial report with my school humour).

An additional note for everyone – we have been reviewing our Sun Life investment to ensure that they still are the best investment for the church. Part of the rationale was based on increased interest rates (4.5- 6%). What we have determined so far is that if we want to purchase some guaranteed investments (GICs) – for a fixed return – we will very likely purchase these from a specialized bank versus an insurance company to ensure that we can get a 0.5 to 1% better interest rate. Various institutions are being evaluated and we will move a portion of the funds once we find the right one for the church.

As always if you have any questions – don't hesitate to contact me.

### **Thank you**

I want to thank all the volunteers quietly working in the background at church by doing things like helping with the Social Media, setting up the Altar, watching over our finances and member offerings, keeping on top of administrative paperwork, teaching our children, providing dinners and snacks, making necessary facility repairs, taking care of the property, beautifying the sanctuary, helping me organize for services, watching over the finances, keeping the property in order, giving fellow members an encouraging note or call, and upholding DW's ministry in prayer. Know that your work is not in vain. I thank God for all of you and all that you do.

### **Are You Struggling?**

Are you or someone you know struggling spiritually? If so, do not hesitate to contact me (Pastor). *Our conversation will be kept confidential.*

### **Pastor Sullivan's Contact Information**

**Home address:** 81 Upminster Way, Ottawa, ON, K2J5G2

**Email:** [pastor@divinewordottawa.ca](mailto:pastor@divinewordottawa.ca)

**Primary (Mobile) Phone Number:** (613) 255-2317

**Home "Internet" Phone:** (512) 887-8982

***Feel free to use my mobile phone number as the primary way of contacting me.*** If you see "Texas Caller" or a number with a "512" area code on your Caller ID, it is probably me calling from my home Internet number. Do not be afraid to answer the phone.

May the LORD continue to bless you.

In Christian love,

Pastor Michael Sullivan