

The Lutheran Connector

An Official Publication of the Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations (CALC)



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What man, if he were God, would
humble himself to lie in the feedbox of a
donkey or to hang upon a cross?
Martin Luther

The Lutheran Connector is a newsletter published by:
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President's Message

Are You Ready?

During Advent we hear Jesus' promise that he will come again to judge the living and the dead and to establish his everlasting kingdom. We hear Jesus' call us to be ready for his coming.

Every year I get ready for winter. This includes installing winter tires on my car. This year I needed new winter tires and rims. Wednesday October 25th I went to KAL Tire. I chose a set of winter tires. Next, I looked at rims. Standard black iron rims, in size I needed, were in stock. I could have had my new winter tires and rims installed within a day or at most two. A set of silver colored alloy rims caught my eye. They were not that much more. They looked so good; however, they didn't have the right size in the store. They had to order four rims for me. They assured me that the new tires and rims would be ready for installation Saturday November 4, some ten days later. I wondered aloud whether it would snow before November 4th.

Another salesman got on his cellphone and googled the weather forecast. He informed me that rain was forecast....but no snow through and including November 4th. The salesman seemed so confident about the weather forecast. I wanted those rims. I approved the sale. The paperwork was completed and the down payment was made. All I had to do was wait.

At first, the salesman's weather forecast proved accurate. It was mostly cloudy with occasional sunny breaks and some showers. However, on Thursday November 2nd, everything changed. Morning showers turned into snow flurries and the snow stuck to the ground. The flurries turned into a snow storm. In no time we had more than 8 inches of wet snow on the ground. My car and I were on the west side of Lake Okanagan. It was 18.5 kilometers to my house. We live on slope. I drive 6 kilometers up a steep slope to get to my house.

My schedule dictated that I stay at church until late in the evening. I headed home with trepidation. I made it across the bridge and through Kelowna without incident. Thankfully traffic was very light. I started the climb home. I climbed 5.75 kilometers without incident. I made it to within 250 meters of my home. I had feared getting stuck while trying to negotiate the last curve before reaching my home. It is a steep blind curve. Sure enough, I got stuck on that curve. My wheels spun. I was going nowhere. Thankfully, I was able to back down the hill and park my car on the side of the road. I locked my car, grabbed my bags and began to walk the last 350 meters home.

We had put winter tires on my wife's car. I called her on my cellphone to see if she was still on the road. She responded that that she was on her way home. She noted that she had

just passed some guy walking up our street and talking on his cellphone in the middle of this snow storm.

“Honey,” I said, “that guy was me.” She turned around and came back and got me. My wife’s car, fitted with proper snow tires, was able to climb the hill and negotiate the steep blind corner with ease. Unlike my wife, I was not ready. My misadventure brought Matthew 25:1-13 to mind.

My unpreparedness sidelined me and made me ineffective and unable to move. I was like the five unwise virgins who had no extra oil for their lamps so they could not go greet the bridegroom. They tried to get their act together and get oil, however, in the end it was too late. They could not get into the banquet. There was no do-over for the five foolish virgins.

Like the five unwise virgins, my intentions were stellar, I knew winter was coming, and I could prove it. I had ordered the winter tires and rims. However, winter came when I did not expect it. I had failed to be ready and there was no do-over for me.

Possessing extra oil or winter tires has eternal consequences. We have to ask what the oil and winter tires stand for and where we can get them.

Oil and winter tires stand for a living faith in Jesus Christ. We get that living faith as a gift from God. We get that faith when Jesus comes to us during this life. His coming in this life is completely predictable and can be expected at these times and places. Whenever the Gospel of Jesus Christ is proclaimed in its purity Jesus comes to us through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit creates faith in Jesus through the proclamation of the good news that the Son of God died for our sins and was resurrected from the dead so that all who believe in him will be freed from the burden of their sin and receive eternal life. Jesus comes to us in the bread and the wine of Holy Communion. We receive his real presence and the forgiveness of our sins. He comes in the waters of Baptism. The one baptized dies with Christ and receives forgiveness of sin, most importantly original sin, and receives the Holy Spirit. New life is breathed into them. Those baptized are a new creation.

Jesus’ most passionate desire is to use those to whom he has come as a conduit or vessel through which he comes to others. The Apostle Peter declares that a living faith in Jesus will change us. *Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.* (1 Peter 3:15).

If Jesus comes to us regularly, we will always be prepared. We will always have oil and will always be fitted with winter tires.

On behalf of CALC’s National Council I would like to wish you all a blessed Advent and Christmas season. We pray that you are filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. Amen.

In Christ’s service

Pastor Ed Skutshek, President

Thank-you for Your Support

I want to thank God for you, my brothers and sisters in Christ who call CALC home. You have truly honored me by your gracious support. The delegates to the 2016 CALC annual general convention voted unanimously to permit my name to stand for president of CALC for an unprecedented third term. The delegates’ action was affirmed by our congregations through a congregational referendum. The delegates to our 2017 annual general convention elected me to a third term as president. I am humbled and grateful for the opportunity to serve you in Jesus’ name. I look forward to the next four years of my mandate.

In my sermon delivered during closing worship for our 2017 convention, I made reference to combining. I asked those present to see the crop that was just harvested across Canada, as pointing to the harvest of souls God has called His Church to bring in. He calls his churches to be combines which rescue His precious seeds of grain from the sin, death and power of the Devil that envelope them in the same way that a combine separates seeds of grain from the chaff that held them in bondage. God calls his church to make disciples of those He saves, to teach them to obey all that Jesus taught his disciples.

We respond to God’s call with one voice, we all want to fulfill Jesus’ Great Commission. Yet, at the same time, with one voice, we lament that we are stuck, our combines seem to be broken down. God does not want us to be passive. He calls our National Council to be active, to respond to your calls for help. He calls us all to be pioneers. To look for resources that will help us to make our combines strong and run smoothly. God calls National Council to search for resources that will assist our congregations in reaching out to the lapsed and the unchurched and assist in the process of making disciples. This is our mandate.

God also calls our members to be involved in this process, to pray for National Council and beseech God to grant us wisdom and discernment in fulfilling our mandate. God calls us all to a new attitude. The attitude of the Prophet Habakkuk. Though crops failed and pens and stables were bare, Habakkuk experienced joy and hope. He believed that God was his salvation and would give him the grace and strength to endure. (Habakkuk 3:17-19) We can move into the future confident of this. “And surely I [Jesus] am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20).

In Christ,

Pastor Ed Skutshek, President.



The Law, Medicine, Theology and Jesus

One Clergy's Opinion

By Rev. Rick Bergh



Why would I, as a pastor, attend an elder law conference? Because I wanted to know how the Law profession is managing the new legislation on Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID).

Why is that important? Because lawyers are the first point of entry into many discussions about end of life and I wanted to know how they are navigating these conversations

with their clientele and contributing to their clients' final decisions and wishes.

I wanted to know what lawyers were being told about MAID by professionals in the medical system or other disciplines. I discovered that the information did not include a faith perspective, consideration for the impact on their community (family) or life after their death.

Elder Law conferences provide continuing education from other professionals outside of Law. I do wish that Theology could be included. We need a voice! I'm not sure how to be heard effectively in this context.

Lawyers help you put together a Will, a Personal Directive and consider many of the particulars with regard to end-of-life wishes.

Lawyers are obligated to provide impartial information to their clients. They are not supposed to influence their clients with any particular worldview. They are to give important legal advice in order to protect you, their clients, from any harm. They are to give legal counsel in order to help you make the best decision possible and protect your personal rights and freedoms under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms Act.

All possible choices, concerning end of life, stem from the Charter. That's how the courts, judges and lawyers determine the legal consequences of any decision pertaining to end-of-life wishes for each individual they represent.

It is my opinion that, by following the Charter of Rights in respecting each person's individual right over his/her own body and life, lawyers are obligated under their profession to start from a position that presents some challenges for us as Christians in terms of a biblical understanding of end of life and more specifically the last chapter of our life on earth.

Don't get me wrong. I respect the dignity of each person to have their wishes honoured and followed, through proper documentation, during their final days on earth.

However, lawyers are in a unique position to advocate for their client. They have the opportunity to refer their clients to other professionals who are skilled at helping people look at the impact of their decision upon family members.

The government has not appeared to have engaged in conversations around the impact of this law upon family

members or communities that surround the person choosing MAID. This places the law profession in a difficult position to manage the many residual effects that have not been carefully considered resulting in further conflict down the road with their client's family members.

As I listened to the numerous presentations at the Elder Law Conference (at which I was the only clergy), I wanted so badly to offer another perspective. Many of the professionals from the medical world spoke about the "privilege" of honouring people's wishes to choose MAID (Medical Assistance in Dying) as an alternative. They shared stories and shed tears while telling us about how significant this decision was for their patients. They spoke about the intimacy of the relationship and the special moments they shared with their patient prior to administering the cocktail that ended their life.

I cried too. But for a different reason.

I am not diminishing the role of suffering. I have not experienced suffering, as have those who chose to end their lives through MAID. I did however sit at the bedside of my wife who suffered as cancer ate away at her body – so I only know suffering from that perspective. It wasn't easy but what happened during that time was significant for me, for my family and for our community.

Basing your decision to end your life because of suffering needs to be considered carefully from a biblical perspective. This is where I believe Theology, Law and Medicine differ.

The inclusion of a biblical perspective is imperative and necessary. It does not follow the Charter of Rights and Freedoms as we have come to know it, because dying is not actually "all about you". That's hard to hear, but is the truth. What I do impacts others. Jesus talks a lot about this.

Your dying includes ...

- God's ongoing plan and timing in your life
- a biblical understanding of suffering that you need to consider
- the important role of community during the last chapter of your life, and
- its ongoing impact on the future of those who are closest to you following your death.

Dying is not an individual event. It is a communal initiative. The final chapter of life – for each of us – needs to take into consideration the impact on those around us for the sake of the kingdom.

As soon as you make it only about yourself, you eliminate the impact you have on your family and friends. The conversations become totally centered upon what is good for you and that becomes the primary goal in all decision-making.

Don't get me wrong. I believe in dignity in dying but I also believe that life has purpose until the very end and we must allow God to use us as his light till our last breath. I've have seen the impact of this over and over again as families are brought together over a dying loved one.

People were certainly curious as to why I was at the Elder Law Conference. I was pretty stoked about winning the door prize and hearing them call from the front: "Reverend Rick Bergh

from Victoria.” By the looks on people’s faces, I secretly knew that God had orchestrated that win! In addition, while it was late in the day, a few people approached me who were Christians and we enjoyed some fellowship.

Not every lawyer is a Christian.

Not every doctor is a Christian.

Even if they are, they will need to be careful of what they say – as do chaplains working in hospitals, hospices and care centers.

So how do we get the message out and provide an alternative for people to consider as they think about their end-of-life wishes?

The church needs to step up and get involved in end-of-life ministry. We need to become proactive educators with our flock and get the people of God positioned to talk to their families, neighbours and friends about end of life from God’s perspective.

We have a different perspective. And we must present it clearly – with compassion and with solid evidence.

There is a precedent for allowing God to decide when we should take our last breath. Not only have numerous people been impacted by those who are dying, but one only needs to hear the words of Jesus spoken from the cross to understand how He influenced those around Him during his final moments before his last breath. It helps us to understand what can happen if we let our Heavenly Father decide when our last breath should take place.

What would have happened to the criminal on the cross if he had not had the opportunity, at the last moment, to reach out to Jesus with an open heart and ask to be remembered and forgiven?

Jesus’ response, “Today you will be with me in paradise,” changed his entire eternal destiny.

What about those gathered at the cross and heard Jesus say, “Father, forgive them for they don’t know what they are doing.” Did that sentence change a hard heart?

What did people think or learn when they heard His compassionate words, “Son, this is your mother. Mother, this is your son,” to John and Mary. It gave his mother a new relationship and care for his beloved disciple, John.

If the Centurion had not heard that final cry from the cross – “It is finished!” – he never would have had the opportunity to respond, “Surely this was the Son of God!” and the impact that it had for their future.

We don’t know the rest of the story, but what if something happened that day that changed each one of those people’s lives for good – forever?

Be the church in your community that does dying and bereavement well – the way that Jesus did it.

Be the educator that comes from a communal perspective and honour life from conception to the final breath.

Today marks one week after the death of my mother-in-law. Just prior to her death, I had a Face Time conversation with her in the hospital. I was two thousand miles away from her at a speaking engagement. I said, “Mom, Jesus is coming closer to

you to take you to heaven.” She replied, “I’m so excited!” “Yes, I’m sure you are. But I’m sad too,” I continued. She responded, “It will be okay.”

I will never forget those final words from my special mom, as simple as they are. “I’m excited!” followed by, “You will be okay.” I cannot even begin to share with you all the special last minute conversations she had with her daughters, grandchildren and husband because that’s their story to tell. I’m hearing about those final words and even moments – without words – which were and will be important for us as a family moving forward without someone physically present in our life.

I’m not saying dying is easy. It’s not. But if Christians can come clean about what scripture says about suffering, purpose and the role of family, then we can begin a starting point where we look beyond our individual dying to a place where we invite others into it as an important chapter in our life on earth.

It’s time now to have these conversations.

From God’s perspective and from His word.

*Rev. Rick Bergh’s passion is to provide resources to help people consider end-of-life decisions from God’s perspective and the Bible. To begin these conversations please email him and receive a free copy of **Get Started: Communication Strategies to Begin End-of-Life Conversations**. Rick’s latest book **Looking Ahead: How Your Dying Impacts Those Around You** can be ordered from Amazon. A study guide is available directly from him at rick@rickbergh.com. Contact him at 250-361-6291 if you’d like to invite him to your congregation to lead a workshop that expands upon the biblical perspective of dying and grief.*

See advertisements on weekend retreats offered by Rev. Bergh on pages 17-18.

A Unique Celebration for



Resurrection Lutheran Pembroke

Welcomes Special Reformation

Visitors

By Pastor Doug Kranz, Resurrection Lutheran Church, Pembroke, ON
Reformation Sunday at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Pembroke, Ontario, welcomed two very special guests, Dr. Martin Luther (Elliot Lofstedt) and wife Katie Luther (Amelia Lofstedt). They opened our worship with a recitation of Martin’s own Morning Prayer and then regaled the congregation with a special rendition of ‘Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in your Word.’

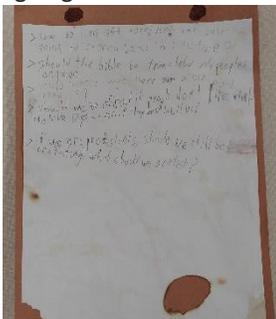
Following the service, they presented the congregation with an additional 5 Theses recently authored by Martin and Katie themselves under the tutelage of Pastor Ana Beck (Nana to Elliot and Amelia – but not Martin and Katie!), and vigorously hammered (taped) to the door of our education wing.



They requested that the congregation consider and discuss same during coffee

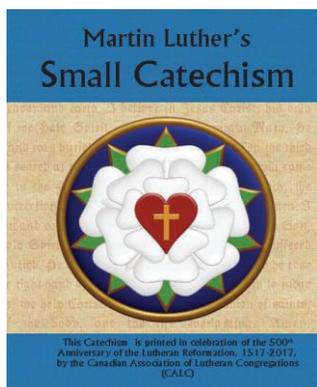
and fellowship time. To encourage participation, they also provided ample sustenance – namely a Luther Rose torte they had decorated themselves with various fruits and vegetables tastefully arranged in the shape of a Luther rose.

The 5 Theses included: How do sins get forgiven – can just going to church be an indulgence? Should the Bible be translated into the people’s language? Should people love their own Bible and read it? Should we be afraid if people who don’t like what the Bible says – even if they want to kill us? If we are Protestants, should we still be protesting – what should we protest?



It was most apparent to the members of Resurrection that

Martin and Katie, after 500 years, still have an engaging effect upon their Christian brothers and sisters, and continue to elicit renewed faith discussion and debate within the church, even in 2017!



CALC’s Board of Elders has commissioned the printing of 2,000 pocket sized (5.25 x 3.75 inches) Small Catechisms. The cover is depicted above. They are available at the cost of \$2.00 per catechism. Congregations have purchased 1,874 copies of the catechism. 126 Catechisms are available.

To purchase copies of the commemorative Small

Catechism send an email, specifying the number to be purchased, to our Secretary: secretary@calc.ca or mail the request to CALC- Att: Secretary, 1162 Hudson Road, West Kelowna, BC, V1Z 1J3.

CALC Convention 2017

Grace Lutheran Church hosted CALC’s 2017 Convention October 20th to 22nd. We celebrated a monumental anniversary and included some “firsts” for CALC. The theme for the convention was “Reformation 500” a celebration of five centuries of reformation.

Speakers:



The convention began Friday morning September 20th with our learning event. **Pastor John Rasmussen**, a professor at the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT) was our keynote speaker.

CALC accepts and confesses Luther’s Small Catechism as a brief and true statement of the doctrines of the Word of God, and requires of all its members, both congregations and individuals to subscribe to it. Pastor Rasmussen’s two-part presentation took us through the Small Catechism.

Many view the Small Catechism as a very simple book with a limited purpose, most usually for Confirmation classes. His presentations revealed the many facets of this most famous of Luther’s literary works. He drew attention to the structure of the book: 10 Commandments, followed by the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, Holy Baptism, the Office of the Keys and ending with Holy Communion. He declared that Luther structured the catechism in this way for a very important purpose. He described the Small Catechism as an instructional manual which reveals the basic truths of our Christian faith, a devotional book which comforts and stimulates a hunger for deeper intimacy with scripture and a tool for evangelism. His presentations may be viewed online at the following internet addresses:

- <https://vimeo.com/album/4816222/video/239511883>
- <https://vimeo.com/album/4816222/video/239189001>

Friday Afternoon Breakout speakers.

Delegates and visitors to our convention not only heard our Friday morning keynote speaker, but were also given the opportunity to participate in two breakout sessions on Friday afternoon. Each Breakout session was an hour long. The Breakout speakers included: Pastor John Rasmussen (Q & A after his presentation), Pastor Rick Bergh (grief and loss and the new Medical Assistance in Dying Act), Pastor Rob Lewis (Christian Missions in China), Pastor John Tatapudi (Advent Messengers in India) and Pastor Pagie Isaac (Evangelism to Muslims and Hindus).



Pastor Seth Flick was the keynote speaker for Saturday afternoon. He also is a professor at ILT. His presentation focused on the five “solos” or “onlys” of the Lutheran Reformation. The solas declare that we are saved by “Christ” alone, by “grace” alone, through “faith” which comes through the “word” alone and all glory for our salvation belongs to “God” alone. His explanation for each of the five

solas was riveting. His presentations may be viewed online at the following internet addresses:

<https://vimeo.com/album/4816222/video/239567978>
<https://vimeo.com/album/4816222/video/239568676>

Graduation



Left to Right: Wendel Ritz, Rev Dr. Dennis Bielfeldt, President of ILT, Rev. John Rasmussen, faculty of ILT and Rev. John Graham.

History was made at our 2017 convention. The delegates at CALC's 2009 Annual General Convention held at Grace Lutheran in West Kelowna, initially approved what is now called our Shepherd's Pathway to Ministry ("SP"). The Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT) was named our seminary. The SP provided two pathways to Parish Ministry: the traditional Master of Divinity (M-Div) a 4 year program and a Pastoral Ministry Certificate (PMC) a 2 year program. ILT provided all classes over the internet by video conferencing (a virtual real-time classroom). Pastor John Graham, serving St. Peter's Lutheran of Sullivan, ON, was the first Canadian to earn his PMC and then his M-Div degree. Wendel Ritz of Three Hills, Alberta received his PMC. Wendel is continuing on in his studies towards an M-Div degree. Wendel is camp director at Deer Valley Meadows Christian Camp and Retreat Center, located near Alix Alberta.

The graduation took place at 7:00 PM on Friday October 20th, just prior to opening worship. The graduation ceremony was led by Reverend Doctor Dennis Bielfeldt, President of ILT and Pastor John Rasmussen, ILT faculty member. Pastor John Graham's mother was present. Following the graduation, Pastor John thanked all those who supported him during his studies through prayer, encouragement and financial help.

Attendance/Quorum:

Secretary Vivien Georgeson gave the following registration report. She reported that there were 85 registered for the convention, 43 Voting Delegates, 5 Associate Members, 9 members of National Council (3 NC members were also registered as voting delegates representing their CALC congregations), and 28 Visitors registered for the 2017 CALC General Convention; with representatives from 27 congregations from 5 provinces – 6 congregations from BC, 11 congregations from Alberta, 3 congregations from Saskatchewan, 1 congregation from Manitoba and 6 congregations from Ontario. Also in attendance, representing the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT) were President Dennis Bielfeldt, keynote speaker, Rev. John Rasmussen and keynote speaker, Rev. Seth Flick; Tom Brook of Winnipeg representing

Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR), breakout speaker, Rev. Rick Bergh, Certified Thanatologist, Dean Rostad representing Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute (CLBI) and Pastor John Tatapudi, Pastor & CEO of Advent Messengers (AM) of India.

Convention Business:

Diaconal Ministry: Convention delegates unanimously passed the constitutional provisions which established the office of the Deacon or Diaconal Minister. They also approved guidelines for the office of deacon which included: teaching on the office of deacon, terms of the roster of diaconal ministers, expectations for those holding the office of deacon, tools for use in evaluating the credentials and qualifications of a candidate for diaconal ministry, an application for entry into diaconal ministry, a sample call letter and procedures for discipline of a deacon.

The constitutional provisions and guidelines for the establishment of the office of the deacon and the training, roster and discipline of deacons must be approved by our congregations. A disclosure statement including the full text of the constitutional provisions establishing the office of diaconal minister and guidelines for the training, roster and discipline of deacons, together with a ballot, will be sent to Member congregations for a vote. The disclosure statement will be sent out the latter half November. A resolution to be voted on by each congregation is provided in the ballot.

Congregations can vote for the establishment of the office of the diaconal ministry at their annual meeting or a special meeting called for that purpose. The vote of a simple majority of those members present and voting is required for a congregation to approve the establishment of the diaconal office and the ancillary regulations. Ballots are due Monday April 2, 2018. For the constitutional provisions and guidelines establishing the office to become effective, 75% of the ballots filled in and timely received by our secretary must vote in favor of the resolution establishing the office deacon and the ancillary guidelines.

Memorial Resolution.



Pastor Vernon Roste, charter member of our Association and our first President, passed from this life to the next on December 7, 2016 at age 88. A motion was unanimously passed by our delegates which honored the great contribution Pastor Vern made as the chief organizer and first president of CALC. See page 11 for details.

Board of Elders:

The Board of Elders report affirmed that the 40 Day Discernment Program was completed and published. This program consists of daily 40 devotions which permit a candidate for pastoral ministry, and his/her pastor, spouse and key members of his/her congregation to be involved in exploring and discerning the call to ministry.

The Elders Report affirmed that 87% of the 24 congregational ballots cast in a recent referendum, voted in favor permitting incumbent president Pastor Edward Skutshek run for a third

term (4 years) as president, existing constitutional term limitations notwithstanding.

Changes in Rosters Maintained by the Elders:

Individual Associate Members added: Pastor Paul & Sally Swedberg, Osoyoos, BC Gary B. Graumann, McCreary, MB
Parish Pastors added: Pastors Leslie Kern, Zakaria Mandara, Doug Kranz, and Pagie Isaac
Parish Pastors removed (retired or resigned): Pastors Glenn Hobden, Ana Beck, Karl Faltin, Elaine Hobden and David Schumacher.
Pastors Emeriti added: Pastors Ana Beck and Paul Swedberg.
Pastors Emeriti removed: Pastor Vern Roste (deceased).

Pastors in Lutheran Formation: Three pastors currently serving in CALC congregations were trained by and served in another Christian denomination. Pastor Hein Bertram and Pastor Leslie Kern (both trained by and served in the Dutch Reformed Church of South Africa). Pastor Pagie Isaac has served in the religious broadcasting industry and the Seventh Day Adventist Church. All three are currently or will soon be taking courses with the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT) aimed at helping them form a Lutheran identity in their pastoral ministry. Pastor Manfred Schmidt, currently serving Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church, Vancouver, BC, who received his training in a non-Lutheran seminary, has successfully completed seminary courses with ILT and Concordia Seminary, Edmonton, as part of his Lutheran formation.

Elections

Elections were held to fill three positions on the National Council: President, Secretary and one member of the Board of Trustees.

January of 2017, National Council elected a Nominating Committee consisting of three members of National Council and three members of CALC. National Council members elected were: Pastor Peeter Vanker, Elder, ON; Sherland Chhangur, Elder, ON; Tim Bauer, Trustee, AB. CALC members elected were: Bernard Cheng, BC; Pastor Harry Huff, ON; and Pastor Manfred Schmidt, BC. Vice President Helen Zacharias served as chair of the committee. The committee solicited nominations through the CALC Connector, emails to pastors and congregations, and convention registration materials. Members of the committee telephoned congregational leaders in order to encourage them to seek out qualified nominees for the 2017 elections. Four individuals were nominated and accepted the nomination for the three vacant positions.

Vivien Georgeson, Grace Lutheran, West Kelowna, BC, was elected Secretary by acclamation. Rev. Dr. Eddie Kwok, Vancouver Chinese Lutheran Church, Burnaby, BC and Pastor Ed Skutshek, Grace Lutheran, West Kelowna, BC, were nominated as candidates for the office of President. Pastor Ed Skutshek was elected President. Don Johnson, Grace Lutheran, West Kelowna, BC, and Rev. Dr. Eddie Kwok, Vancouver Chinese Lutheran Church, Burnaby, BC were nominated for the position of Trustee. Rev Dr. Eddie Kwok was elected Trustee.

Following our elections, CALC's National Council is constituted as follows:

National Council Member	Term Ends
Edward Skutshek, President	2021
Helen Zacharias, Vice President	2019
Brenda Evjen, Treasurer	2019
Vivien Georgeson, Secretary	2021
Randall McLeod, Elder	2018
Peeter Vanker, Elder	2020
Sherland Chhangur, Elder	2020
Tim Bauer, Trustee	2020
Dennis McGuire, Trustee	2019
Eddie Kwok, Trustee	2021

2018 Budget

Delegates to our 2017 convention approved a budget of \$113,400.00. The largest increase in the 2018 budget over last year's budget is found in Item 18 "Outreach". This represents the amount that CALC reimburses Grace Lutheran for the time pastor Ed Skutshek spends on CALC business. He will be spending about 80% of his time on CALC business as he works toward the vision of: obtaining marriage registration status for CALC in BC, SK and ON (We are currently registered in AB and MB); strengthening our ties with ILT, CALC's seminary; further developing our Shepherd's Pathway; providing guidance and guidelines for our congregations in their day-to-day governance; and providing guidelines and guidance in the formation, call and roster of our pastors.

REVENUE	
1. Congregational benevolence	91,250
2. Contributions -individuals	2,000
3. Convention registrations	10,000
4. Pastors' retreat registrations	9,500
5. GST rebate	650
Totals	113,400
EXPENSES	
6. Administrative Assistant	3,600
7. Advertising - "Connection" publication	450
8. Annual national convention	13,000
9. Bank charges	100
10. Conference	500
11. Currency exchange (gain)	100
12. Director liability insurance	1,000
13. Institute of Lutheran Theology Canada Society	3,000
14. Marriage registration	2,500
15. Membership - Canadian Council of Christian Charities	250
16. National Council meetings	10,000
17. Office & postage	300
18. Outreach	55,000
19. Pastors' retreat	12,500
20. Telephone & fax	100
21. Travel - pastoral and executive	10,000
22. Website maintenance	1,000
Totals	113,400

Reduction in the size of the National Council. Both National Council and the Nominating Committee believe a reduction in the minimum size of the National Council should be considered by our association. National Council put forth a preliminary proposal that the minimum size of the National Council be reduced from 10 to 7. National Council will put forth a proposal for our congregations to examine prior to next year's convention.

Convention 2018 – October 26-28.

Wendel Ritz, Individual Associate Member of CALC and ILT seminarian, with the support of Asker Lutheran Church, Ponoka, AB and Calvary Lutheran, Wetaskiwin, AB, proposed to host CALC's 2018 Convention October 26th to 28th at Deer Valley Meadows Christian Camp and Retreat Center, located near Alix, AB. Wendel Ritz is a director of the camp and retreat center. The delegates affirmed their offer.

Banquet

The Meal: The Saturday evening banquet is a highlight of every convention. This year it was held at the Lions Westbank Community Center on Mainstreet in Westbank. A total of 112 feasted on prime rib roast beef, baked salmon, vegetables, pasta salad, Caesar salad, buns and assorted pastries for dessert.



Entertainment: We enjoyed some amazing entertainment. Don Johnson, of Grace Lutheran, served as emcee for the evening. He introduced the performers and peppered his dialogue with jokes and stories. Thank you Don!

Performers included:



Full of Grace: (L-R) Penny Pfahl, Rubie Litke, Marie Gering, Deni Skutshek, Otto Litke, Clayton Hack, Don Johnson and Miriam Kieth. Accompanied by Melodie Petersen.



Leah Green and Deni Skutshek



Garry Jespersen and Miriam Kieth



Special Guest Performers – Fraser Valley Quartet. They describe themselves as four ordinary guys who do not make a lot of claims about themselves, except that that they seek to worship the God who is alive and active in our broken world, and long to see revival in our churches. They are the first to admit that the words of the songs they sing – some old, some new – minister to them as much as anyone. As long as the words and music continue to bless their audiences, whether they've heard the gospel preached a thousand times before or they need to hear it just once, they're going to keep on singing. Formed in 2014, the quartet currently includes Brian Shauf (tenor), Rick Brands (lead), Brayden Hirsch (baritone), and Gary Van Ry (bass). They were outstanding.

It took the efforts of many volunteers to make CALC's 2017 convention a success. CALC's National Council, on behalf all who participated, want to take this opportunity to thank all the members of Grace Lutheran who volunteered in any capacity for this year's convention. Special thanks to Grace's convention committee for all their efforts: Everley Lutz, Vivien Georgeson, Ted Schoepp, Coco Heebner, Bill Logan, Karen Arend, Herbert Heise, Kim Woroby, Pastor Ed and Pastor David. Special thanks to Vivien Georgeson for serving as convention registrar, Coco Heebner for acting as convener for lunches and breaks, to Al Hamilton and to those who served in the sound booth for recording each convention session and providing sound for the banquet and Ted Schoepp for coordinating the transportation of guests and registration.

New Member on Board of Trustees



Delegates to our 2017 convention elected Reverend Doctor Eddie Kwok to a four year term on the Board of Trustees, his first term on our National Council. Pastor Kwok has experience as a parish pastor and seminary professor at the Lutheran School of Theology (LTS), of Saskatoon, SK.

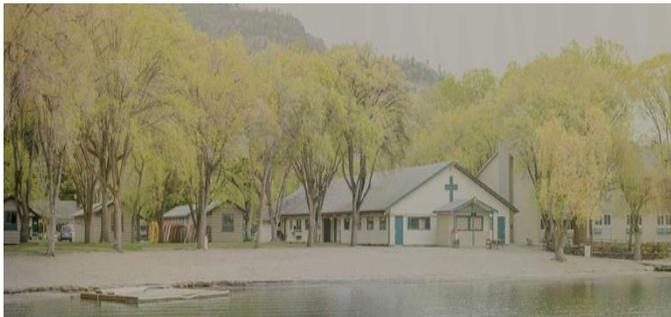
Rev. Kwok is married to Janet. They have two adult children Stephanie and Justin. Stephanie is a teacher employed by the Vancouver School Board. Justin is studying Computer Science Technology at British Columbia Institute of Technology, Burnaby, BC.

Rev. Kwok will bring many strengths, abilities and spiritual gifts with him as he begins service on our National Council. The Lord has blessed him with the gifts of preaching, teaching, administration, wisdom, leadership, pastoral care and

encouragement. His experience on the faculty of LTS will be invaluable as we refine our Shepherd's Pathway and solidify our relationship with the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT), our seminary.

Rev. Kwok will be a blessing to our National Council and the Board of Trustees. We look forward to the contribution he will make to the life and progress of our Association. Look for a feature story on Rev. Kwok in the next edition of the Connector.

2017 CALC Pastors' Retreat



CALC's annual Pastors' Retreat was held October 18-19, at Green Bay Bible Camp of West Kelowna, BC, located on the shores of Lake Okanagan. Thirty-four pastors, pastors in training, seminarians and spouses participated in the 2017 Pastors' Retreat.



Pastor Scott Suskovic (far right in picture) was this year's Keynote Speaker. He is the lead pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, a published author and a conference speaker. His primary role is preaching, teaching, visioning, and

overseeing the staff. Scott earned his M-Div. at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. He completed his Doctorate at Boston University. Scott has served as Chair for the Senior Pastors' Conference of the ELCA and currently is on the board for The Smiles Foundation doing work in Romania and Augsburg/Fortress Publishing House.

Pastor Scott's presentation began by looking at pastoral leadership. He asked this question: Is pastoral leadership,

which includes, preaching, teaching, mentoring, and administration, a learned skill or a Spiritual gift? Using the book of the Prophet Nehemiah as a guide, we were given a glimpse into the answer to this question. God had given Nehemiah a specific task, to rebuild the walls of the City of Jerusalem and the Temple. Nehemiah came to the table with administrative skills, as he was an official in court of King Artaxerxes of Persia. Nehemiah, always grounded in God's word, inspired other leaders with God's vision. Together Nehemiah and the other leaders encouraged the people to build. God caused their collective leadership skills to grow as He led them through a series of challenges which could have stopped the building program. We learned that God equips pastoral leaders with practical skills and supernatural gifts which work together for the good of the Kingdom. It is important that our leadership always be grounded in God's word and that we always work toward a consensus.

Pastor Scott follows the lectionary and preaches on themes. By way of example, he recently preached a series of sermons on King David. He encouraged participants to look at the texts for Advent and to come up with an overarching theme for the four Sundays of Advent. This overarching theme would be used as an entry point in preaching on the Gospel. He also shared how he uses key words, objects, projector screens, music, devotions, and the bulletin to drive home the points in a sermon.

He spoke about the strengths in Traditional and Contemporary worship. His congregation in Charlotte worships about 1,200 on a weekend. They have distinctly contemporary and traditional services. However, he noted that, if attendance can't support two distinct services, the contemporary and traditional can be blended.

Pastor Scott encouraged all pastors present not to be dismayed by current trends. He reminded us that today the hip and trendy pastors are under 50, wear untucked plaid shirts, have at least one tattoo, and have facial hair. We wonder if there is any hope for our mainstream denomination in a post modern world? He assured us that there is a place for us in today's world. He encouraged our pastors to be who we are and God will bless us.



Pastor Rick Bergh, a certified Thanatologist, spoke at the retreat. He spoke on Canada's Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) Act. He inspired us to engage in bold conversations from a Christian perspective that honor the sanctity of life to the very end. He

provided some information which may be used to start these conversations.

LCMC Convention 2017

Grace Lutheran Church of West Kelowna, BC, is one of five of CALC's congregations that are also rostered with a US church body known as Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC). Other CALC/LCMC congregations are Faith and Resurrection in Ontario, Trinity in Saskatchewan, and Victory in Medicine Hat, Alberta. LCMC's annual gathering took place in Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 8 to 11, at the downtown

Hilton Hotel and Convention Center. Grace Lutheran's delegates filed this report of LCMC's 2017 convention.



Delegates met under the theme "We Confess Our Faith." Keynote presentations were structured around three of the most fundamental teachings of the Reformation: the doctrine of Justification by grace through faith, the doctrine of the Two Kingdoms, and the doctrine of the Priesthood of All Believers.

The keynote sessions were structured as panel discussions. A separate panel was convened for each of the three core doctrines. Each panel was made up of pastors, professors and lay people serving in diverse ministry settings - both in the United States as well as in other parts of the world (including Estonia, Southeast Asia, Mexico and Madagascar). One member of each discussion panel gave a ten minute presentation on their panel's topic. Steve Turnbull, pastor of Community of Grace Lutheran Church in White Bear Lake, Minnesota, provided a synopsis of the Doctrine of Justification. Rev. Dr. Ken Sundet Jones, a Professor of Theology and Philosophy at Grandview University in Des Moines, Iowa spoke on the doctrine of the two kingdoms. Pastor Julie Smith, pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, St. Paul, MN and Dean of Students at St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, MN, spoke on the doctrine of the priesthood of all believers. Following the opening address, panel members discussed how that major teaching impacted their ministry in their own particular place of service. The panel discussion was then followed by discussions at tables where those attending the gathering were able to apply that teaching to their own lives and ministry settings.

Pastor Enrique Estrada, President of Mexico Ministries International, a Lutheran Ministry, ministers among Roman Catholics in Monterey, Mexico was on the panel discussing the doctrine of Justification. He preaches the basic doctrine of justification by grace through faith on a daily basis. The common response among many Roman Catholics he preaches to is: "justification by grace through faith is too easy you have to do something towards your salvation." However, many respond to the freedom he preaches in Christ's name.

The doctrine of Two Kingdoms of stands for the proposition that God is the ruler of the world in two ways. He rules with his left hand by establishing law and secular leadership in the world. He rules with the right hand in the Church under grace. Pastor Siimon Haamer, President of the Lutheran Church in Estonia was on the panel discussing the Two Kingdoms. He

reminded us that leaders in the Left Kingdom often defy God. He declared that before Communist rule in Estonia, over 90% of the Population was Lutheran. For some 50 years the communist regime banned Christianity from Estonian society. Today Christianity is legal in Estonia. The kingdom in the left had decimated the church. Lutherans comprise less than 10% of the population. However, the Estonian Church will struggle against the odds and fulfill Jesus' Great Commission biblically and confessionally.

The Lutheran Doctrine of the Priesthood of All Believers gave laypersons and the clergy equal rights and responsibilities to preach, teach, baptize and commune. However, for good order congregations appoint (by majority) members who possess the God given gifts for ministry. The challenges presented by our modern "shrinking church" make the Priesthood of All Believers a more important doctrine.



Over 800 members, delegates and visitors sat at tables for meals, business sessions and panel discussions. The Keynote Panel discussions took place on a stage. Following every Keynote Panel presentation those sitting around a particular table engaged in structured discussions based on the presentation. Participants in the picture above discussing the Priesthood of All Believers.

Statistics on Church Attendance in the US.

Median Weekly Sunday Morning Service Attendance for Churches in the US: is estimated to be 70 worshipers. This means that 50% of US churches have weekly attendance of more than 70 worshipers and 50% of the churches worship less than 70 per week.

Attendance in LCMC Churches. LCMC has 747 congregations in the US. 164 or about 22% of its US congregations have average weekly attendance at Sunday worship services that exceeds 200 worshipers. 583 (78%) of LCMC's congregations worship less than 200 on any given Sunday. 507 or 68% of LCMC's US congregations worship less than 100 per Sunday.

Convention Quorum: 899 registered for the convention. Registrants included: 250 Members of LCMC, 486 Voting Delegates, 129 Visitors, 35 Seminarians and 99 Vendors.

LCMC has a total of 935 member congregations. 747 of these congregations are found in the USA. 188 congregations are distributed among 19 nations (including Canada). There are 9 LCMC congregations in Canada.

2016 Financials: Delegates approved financial statements which disclosed income for 2016 from all sources of \$1,571,548.00 and expenses of \$1,353,910.00 for a surplus of \$260,575.00. It was reported that 393 of the 935 member congregations actually made contributions to LCMC in 2016,

the smallest single contribution being \$20.00 and the largest \$15,000.00. Contributions were reported as down for 2017.

2018 Budget: Delegates approved a budget \$1,314,000.00 for 2018.



The 2017 gathering featured a skit by Johan and Sonja Hinderlie. The skit depicted Martin Luther and his wife Katy in honor of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation..

Grace's delegates attended two extracurricular events. The evening of Monday October 9th they were invited to attend the



Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church (EELC) summit at a nearby LCMC Church. A lovely supper was provided. Pastor Siimon Haamer, President of the EELC, gave the evening's keynote address. He described the EELC as a small church body with congregations throughout Estonia.

Estonia is one of the most secular nations in the world. 50 years of Soviet occupation decimated the Estonian Church (Once 95% Lutheran). Pastor Haamer comes from a line of Lutheran pastors. His grandfather served as a Pastor in the Lutheran Church in Estonia. His father and two brothers are also pastors in the EELC. His grandfather and father faced persecution for their faith during the Soviet occupation of Estonia.

With the advent of Freedom of Religion, the EELC has responded. They established the EELC Seminary and the Tartu Academy of Theology (TAT). The schools recently merged. They train pastors, chaplains, pastoral care givers and counselors, a deaconate, worship leaders, church administrators and other church workers. He is working with the government to establish a formal Health Care Chaplaincy in Estonia.



They also took in a Global Worship Experience on Tuesday night October 9th at 7:00 P.M. Convention delegates and visitors joined with the people of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1901 Portland Ave. S, in Minneapolis for a multicultural experience. This LCMC congregation has 5 different language groups who worship there.

At a workshop prior to the worship service, Rev. Roland Wells, St. Paul's lead Pastor, revealed that the greatest migration in the history of the world is happening right now. He testified that wherever freedom and jobs exist, there will be immigrants. He encouraged the church to see this migration as an opportunity from God to the church today. It represents an opportunity to learn how to reach out cross culturally by the people He is sending into our areas.

We were led in worship by fellow Christians who are of Messianic Jewish, Latino, Ethiopian Oromo, and Filipino heritage. They sang and danced for us. The pastors of the Oromo and Latino congregations preached to us.

Pastor Wells challenged all present to view the evening as a foretaste of heaven. His final benediction was: "Go in peace with a new sense of what God is doing in our world."

Pastoral Roster Issue. Delegates spent a significant amount of the time allocated for business debating resolutions presented LCMC's Ministry Board and some individual members.

Pastors called and serving LCMC congregations are rostered as either having a certified call or contract call. A pastor with certified call has a Master of Divinity Degree from a seminary recognized by LCMC and has been colloquized by LCMC's Ministry Board. A pastor with a contract call can have a bachelor degree in theology or ministry, some seminary courses, a Bible School Diploma or may be a congregant with no formal training but a great deal of experience in the church.

The suggested motions dealt with the definition of what the "equivalent of a Master of Divinity" is defined as. One of the motions specifically wanted to include within the definition of "equivalent of a Master Divinity degree" to include a pastor who has served in a congregation for many years; during that time studied theology under the direction of mentor pastors (no seminary courses) and has passed a colloquy exam administered by LCMC's Ministry Board. Both motions wanted delegates to a convention to decide on the definition of "equivalent of a Master of Divinity."

A passionate debate followed the introduction of these resolutions. Many argued in favor of this exception. They believed that service in the church plus structured learning which mirrors a seminary education should be acknowledged. Others spoke against expanding the "equivalent of a Master of Divinity Degree" inasmuch as a pastor with experience and structured learning is currently rostered as a pastor under a contract call.

The motions were tabled for possible consideration at next year's annual gathering.

Next Year's Convention will be held in the Convention Center in Des Moines, Iowa, USA October 7-10, 2018.

LCMC's leadership and the local organization committee (LCMC's Minneapolis congregations) must be congratulated for an excellent convention.

A Tribute to Pastor Vernon Allen Roste Founding President of CALC

By Pastor Ed Skutshek



Pastor Vernon Allen Roste passed from this life to the next on Wednesday December 7th, 2016, in Strathmore, Alberta. A memorial service was held Sunday December 11th at 5:00 PM at Hope Community Covenant Church in Strathmore, Alberta. Pastor Vernon was remembered as a beloved

husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather, uncle, parish pastor, charter member of our Association and our first President. It was my privilege as CALC's incumbent president to offer greetings at Pastor Vernon's memorial service. The following is a tribute to our Association's founding president.

Vernon Allen ("Vern") was born on October 6, 1928 on the family homestead near Preeceville, Saskatchewan. He was the tenth child born to Martin and Anna Roste. The country church he attended is still used by the members of St. John Lutheran Church in Preeceville. Vern began his education in 1934 in a country church near the family farm. He completed ten grades in eight years. He went to Outlook, Saskatchewan for his high school education. He graduated from what is now known as Lutheran Canadian Bible Institute (LCBI). Vern loved all sports and participated in many. He grew up playing horseshoes with his brothers. He developed a real passion for the game. He went on to become provincial horseshoe champion for Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Manitoba.

God gave Vern an entrepreneurial spirit. He worked at many jobs in diverse fields, including farming, logging and construction. Following graduation from high school, he moved to the greater Vancouver area. In 1947 he went to work for his uncle Art and learned the building trade. He quickly rose to a leadership position in the firm. He took and passed the electrical contractors exam. In 1949 he established an electrical contracting business that bore his name. The business grew and prospered.

Vern attended First Lutheran Church of Vancouver. First Lutheran was served by Pastor Arnold Hagen, a dear friend he met at LCBI. 1951 was a pivotal year for Vern. He surrendered his life to Jesus that year. The next year, Jesus introduced Vern to the love of his life Sonja Berg. Vern and Sonja married in 1955. From 1956 to 1968 their family grew by five: daughters Lynn, Debbie, Valerie and Cindy and son Terry.

During the early 1950's Vern began supply preaching in Lutheran churches in the Vancouver area. Dr. M. Dale, a denomination leader, became aware of Vern's gifts. He came out to Vancouver to urge Vern to study for the ministry. At first Vern resisted, as he had established a thriving business and had become accustomed to the business lifestyle. Some time later Vern experienced God's call to the ministry. In 1957 Vern, Sonja and their firstborn daughter Lynn, moved from Vancouver to Saskatoon where he began studies at the

Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS). In 1958 he was licensed to pastor Hanley-Sunny Valley, a two-point parish, while he studied at LTS. He was ordained in 1962 while continuing to serve the two-point parish. This call was expanded to include congregations at Hanley and Hawarden.

In 1965 he took a call to a four-point parish in and around Frontier, Saskatchewan. The rigors of life pastoring a four-point parish took a toll on Pastor Vern's health. In 1968 he took a call to a two-point parish in British Columbia: Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Mission and Matsqui Lutheran Church in Matsqui. Mt. Calvary congregation grew under Pastor Vern's loving shepherding. By 1970 he pastored Mt. Calvary alone.

In 1979 Pastor Vern took a call to Central Lutheran Church in Edmonton, Alberta which included a mandate to establish a church plant for Canadian Missions Board in Edmonton. Pastor Vern was the first pastor and mission developer of Emmaus Lutheran church in Edmonton. From 1979 to 1983 Pastor Vern served both Central Lutheran and Emmaus Lutheran congregations. However, Emmaus grew quickly and from 1983 to 1989 he pastored Emmaus Lutheran alone.

In 1989 he took a call to St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Kamloops, British Columbia. He served there until 1996. A massive heart attack in 1995 and the surgeries that followed caused his resignation and retirement in 1996.

Pastor Vern and Sonja retired to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Pastor Vern began attending the local Lutheran church, and was soon invited to participate in a part-time ministry there. By 1999, his health had improved to the point that he felt he could take a call to Christ Lutheran in Morden, Manitoba. He served there until 2000.

Once again Vern retired and the couple moved to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan and then Strathmore, Alberta. While in Strathmore, Vern and Sonja established V & S Cleaning, a janitorial company. They worked together as the principals of V & S Cleaning right through 2015. Pastor Vern and Sonja attended Hope Community Covenant Church of Strathmore. The people of Hope church were the beneficiaries of his pastoral gifts through 2015.

Left to cherish his memory are his loving wife Sonja, daughters Lynn (Larry Casey), Debbie (Dave Hesje), Valerie (Brian Tysdal), and Cindy (Allen Bolinger) and son Terry (Colleen); grandchildren: Jennifer, Janna, Melissa (Ben Howes), Kimberley, James, Michelle (Jay Nelson), Daniel (Katie), Tim, Adam (Karrina), Jenna (Derek Rohde), Seth (Alia), Stephanie, Vanessa, Nathan & Cassie and great-grandchildren: Deklin, Connor, Keehli, Ari, Emma, Dahlia, Zion, Story, Winter, Violet and one yet to arrive in January. Vern is pre-deceased by his parents, all nine of his siblings as well as a grandson, Michael Tysdal.

God used Pastor Vern in a most profound way while he served at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, in Kamloops, during the 1990's. St. Andrew's Lutheran Church was then a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) and Vern was a pastor on the ELCIC's roster of pastors. A crisis of faith had arisen in the ELCIC. For decades the authority of Scripture was tested in some Lutheran seminaries. By the 1990's liberal theologies and teachings put forward by

a few liberal pastors and church leaders were poised to be adopted as the official teachings of the church. The erosion of the authority of Scripture paved the way for new teachings put forward by the church's leadership that were at odds with the ELCIC's teachings which defended the sanctity of life, biblical marriage and biblical standards for ordination. A crisis of faith can overwhelm and even paralyze many. Pastor Vern and others saw this crisis of faith as an opportunity for likeminded people to come together. Pastor Vern and others worked together to organize meetings of likeminded people.

The first such meeting was held on 7 October, 1991 in Calgary. Fifty laypersons and pastors, representing 15-20 ELCIC congregations in western Canada, gathered together. Organizers included: Pastor Ken Wilsdon, Pastor Verne Roste, Pastor Norm Miller, Pastor Terry Sauder, Olive Kieler, Philip Brose (lawyer), and several other laypersons. Their discussions, deliberations and prayers led to a desire to establish a church body which emphasized a commitment to the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inerrant Word of God, the administration of the Means of Grace in accordance with the Lutheran confessions, the autonomy of local churches, conservative social ethics, a commitment to the church's evangelistic mandate, and an openness to the sovereign working of the Holy Spirit. Their vision included a federal charter for the new church body.

A constituting convention was held October 30-31, 1992. It was attended by over 100 delegates. The delegates established an unincorporated national church body, calling itself the Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations (CALC). The unincorporated association was composed of congregations and individuals committed to the principals described above.



Officers elected at the constituting convention were: Rev. Terry Sauder, Vice-President; Rev. Vern Roste, President; Olive Kieler, Secretary; and Bill Anhorn, Treasurer. (Left to right above). Pastor Vern served as the president of CALC from the beginning of the life of the church body. He guided the organization and development of CALC for the two years before the constituting convention and the two years that followed.

Pastor Vern pursued CALC's incorporation with great passion and commitment. Together with Edmonton lawyer Phil Brose, he traveled to Ottawa. They met with members of parliament and lobbied for the establishment of a new Lutheran Church body. The organization of a national church body requires Parliament to pass an act establishing the church body. The Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations Act began

with a petition submitted by Garth Wagner, Harold Stedel, Olive Kieler, Rev. Vernon Roste and George Cooper. The petition is sponsored by a member or members of Parliament. The CALC Act was sponsored by H A "Bud" Olsen, MP Art Hangar and MP Deborah Grey.

In June 1994, CALC was granted its federal incorporation. Ms. Deborah Grey who brought Bill S-5, an act to incorporate the Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations, forward for second reading concluded her speech in the House of Commons as follows: "This association seeks a return to Lutheran roots with its emphasis on Scripture, missions and Lutheran theology."

With federal incorporation and charitable status, CALC was poised to move into the future. However, when the constituting convention for the federally chartered CALC met, only two congregations joined: St. Andrew's Lutheran Church of Kamloops, British Columbia and Valhalla Evangelical Lutheran Church of Valhalla Center, Alberta. The lack of support from those who had walked so closely together for the preceding years must have been very disappointing for Pastor Vern. He could only be comforted by these words from Holy Scripture: *"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."* 1 Corinthians 15:58.

The Lord blessed Pastor Vern's efforts. CALC experienced significant growth from 2007 to 2015, when membership peaked at 33 congregations. Pastor Vern was able to see churches he had served join CALC: Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Mission, BC; St. Andrews Lutheran in Kamloops, BC; Emmaus Lutheran, Edmonton, AB; and Christ Lutheran in Morden, MB. He was delighted when his home congregation, St. John North Prairie of Preeceville, SK, joined CALC in 2012 and attended the installation of the congregation's first CALC pastor.

It was fitting that CALC's 2016 convention was held at All Saints Lutheran Church in Ottawa, Ontario. Some 23 years before Pastor Vern had walked the corridors of our Parliament in the quest for CALC's federal incorporation. We thank God for Pastor Vern's tenacity and faithfulness and for blessing his efforts with success. The journey out of the ELCIC and the formation of CALC was not an easy one for Pastor Vern. It took a toll on his health. Friends, relations and colleagues did not always understand or support his efforts or vision. We thank God for giving Pastor Vern his beloved Sonja. She stood faithfully beside him in sickness and in health and during those difficult days.

God used Pastor Vern to lay a foundation that He continues to build upon as CALC moves into the future. Pastor Vern's legacy to our Association is not to lose heart when the going gets tough. Difficult times should not drive us to despair and defeat, rather the challenges we face should move us to give ourselves fully to the Lord and spur us to labor for the Lord. Any labor for the Lord will be blessed and we will yet praise Him.

Motion:

Whereas: Pastor Vernon Allen Roste was the founding president of the Canadian Association of Lutheran

Congregations (CALC) and played a crucial and pivotal role in our association's organization, formation and registration.

Whereas: Pastor Vernon Allen Roste passed from this life to the next on Wednesday December 7th, 2016 in Strathmore, Alberta.

Resolved, that all those assembled at CALC's 2017 Annual General Convention, give thanks, praise and glory to God alone for having called Pastor Vernon Allen Roste to lead our association and having endowed him with the gifts of preaching, teaching, evangelism and administration.

Be it Further Resolved, that we give thanks, praise and glory to God alone for having endowed Pastor Vernon with wisdom, discernment and patience, so that, as he labored to render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and God what is God's, our Association was duly organized under Canadian law and our governing documents paved the way for the establishment of an association which sought to return to our Lutheran roots, with an emphasis on Scripture, missions and Lutheran theology.

Be it Further Resolved, that we give thanks, praise and glory to God alone for having endowed Pastor Vernon with a pioneer spirit and a deep and abiding belief that any labor in the Lord is not in vain but will bear fruit. We give glory to God alone for all of the labor Pastor Vernon put into our association during those critical early years. We give thanks, praise and glory to God alone for Pastor Vernon's loving wife Sonja and their family and for the support and solace they provided him over the years.

Be it Further Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be given to Pastor Vernon's wife Sonja and a copy kept in our historical archives.

President's Trip To Bremen St. Martini Church



CALC's president was invited to speak at the annual Confessional Conference held on Pentecost weekend June 3rd & 4th, 2017, hosted by the congregation of St. Martini Church in Bremen, Germany. Pastor Olaf Latzel is the pastor of St. Martini Church. He spoke at CALC's 2016 convention in Ottawa, Ontario.



The church is located on the banks of the Weser River in the Old Town of Bremen. In 1973 it was declared protected under Germany's 'Monument Protection Act.'



The Church was founded on the historic Schlachte Embankment along the Weser River in 1229. It is described as a Gothic brick building. It has many colorful stained glass windows depicting biblical scenes. There are also large stained glass windows with the name and emblems of coat of arms of the Mayors of Bremen back to medieval times.

St. Martini Church has been a Lutheran Church since 1524 (seven years after Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses on the door of the Chapel at Wittenberg and only three years after the Diet of Worms). Pastor John Timann, a Lutheran preacher from Amsterdam, Netherlands, served as their first pastor.



St. Martini church is known for its carved pulpit and its baroque pipe organ.

Bremen woodcarver Hermen Wulff built and carved the pulpit. Wulff was a carver of "Golden Age of Bremen" (the turn of the 16th and 17th centuries). The pulpit's five panels depict five virtues: wisdom, love, justice, hope, courage. This intricate carving was painted over and gilded and thus concealed. During the

general renovation of the church in 1980, the paint and gilding was removed. The restored pulpit was moved to its original place in the center of the church's nave. A new staircase to the pulpit was also built.

St. Martini church was graced by a pipe organ as early 1563. The original organ was remodeled by organ builder Marten de Mare from the Netherlands in 1603.

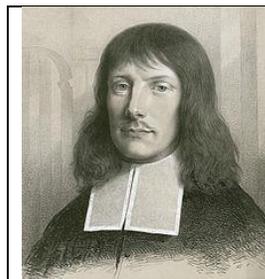


The organ was built and renovated between the Renaissance and the early Baroque periods, as a result, is one of the most beautiful of its kind in Northern Europe. The organ's pipe façade (seen above) was removed and stored in a safe place during WW II. The church and the organ were heavily damaged in 1944. The church and the organ were rebuilt during the later 1950's. Organ builders Jürgen Ahrend and Gerhard Brunzema from Leer built a new instrument and installed it in the church. The organ's pipe façade is beautifully decorated with artwork. It shows the connection between the earthly and the heavenly Jerusalem. Two angels and the king of Psalms King David are central to the piece. The celestial city, with its towers, sits above.



St. Martini's church spire towers over the Old Town and the river. Clocks are mounted on the each of the four gable ends of the tower's roof. It is a bell tower. The tower holds nineteen bells of different sizes and tones. The bells of St. Martin's ring the well-known hymn 'Praise to the Lord, the Almighty', written in the 17th century by Joachim Neander, who was the church's pastor at the time. The bells also ring Advent hymns and Christmas

carols during these seasons. Pastor Ed and his wife Deni climbed the stairs and saw all nineteen of the tower's bells. A keyboard is used to ring the bells.



**St. Martini's
Most Famous Pastor
Joachim Neander
1650-1680**

Neander was born in Bremen, the son of a Latin teacher. He lost his father at a young age. He studied Theology in Bremen from 1666 to 1670. Neander admitted that he did not take his studies seriously. Up to the last months before his graduation he scoffed at most of what he learned and the preaching he had heard. However, one Sunday, he heard Theodore Undereyck, the pastor of St. Martini Church, preach a powerful sermon. The preacher's words cut to his heart and he repented and was transformed by the Gospel. In 1671 he became a private tutor in Heidelberg, and in 1674 he became a teacher in a Latin school in Düsseldorf. He eventually became a pastor. In 1679 he became the pastor at St. Martini church in Bremen. Neander wrote 60 hymns, and tunes for many of them, in later life. He is considered the first important German hymnist after the Reformation. His most famous hymn, *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation* (German: *Lobe den Herren, den mächtigen König der Ehren*) was described by John Julian in *A Dictionary of Hymnology* as: "a magnificent hymn of praise to God, perhaps the finest creation of its author, and of the first rank in its class." He died within a year of becoming St. Martini's pastor. To God's glory, and as a tribute to Pastor Neander, St. Martini's bells play his hymn "Praise to the Lord the Almighty" almost every day.

Member of the Evangelical Church of Bremen.

St. Martini Congregation is a member of the Evangelical Church of Bremen (ECOB), a Protestant church body, that unites and combines congregations of both Lutheran and Reformed traditions in the city/province of Bremen. The leader of this church body does not have to be an ordained pastor. From 2001-2013 Brigitte Boehme served president of the ECOB. She studied and practiced law and had some training as a lay pastor. Each congregation of the ECOB has a high degree of autonomy. Some congregations are very liberal and some conservative. St. Martini is the conservative congregation of the ECOB. St. Martini has rejected liberal theology and maintained a confession which is very similar to CALC's. Other churches in Bremen are very liberal, many have blessed same gender unions.

St. Stephen's Church of Bremen is the most liberal congregation. This church is located on the Weser River on the Schlachte Embankment about twenty minute walk from St. Martini Church. These two churches are at the opposite ends of the Schachte Embankment and they are also at the opposite ends on all important issues of faith and life. The picture blow is of St. Stephen's sanctuary.



In 2007 St. Stephen's declared itself to be a 'cultural church.' The congregation's mission is to promote and facilitate a dialogue and an interaction between the church and the arts. The congregation declares that they are open to all forms of culture. They host and promote exhibitions, concerts, readings, theatre and preacher-poetry-slam. It is their vision and goal to be: *"a place for cultural experimentation and spiritual exploration."*

Confessional Conference

St. Martini Church hosted the 2017 Confessional Conference Saturday June 3rd and Sunday June 4th. The theme of the conference was the "Afflicted Church." There were two speakers, Pastor Ed Skutshek and Pastor Manfred Muller.

Pastor Muller is a mission director for "Hilfsaktion Märtyrerkirche" (HMK), the German equivalent of our "Voice of the Martyrs." HMK helps persecuted Christians in 30 countries (mostly North Africa and the Middle East). They expose persecution, advocate for the persecuted Christians, and give aide and relief to persecuted Christians and their family members. He gave two presentations. The first was titled "The sufferings of the Christians - for the sake of His name." His presentation was peppered with examples of the persecution suffered in many nations and how HMK has tried to intervene for the persecuted Christians and their families. His second presentation was entitled: "The certainty of the Christians - for the sake of His name." Pastor Muller's second presentation spoke to the strength and courage of the persecuted Christian. While Christians were being persecuted for the sake of Jesus' name, that same name gave them the power to stand up in the face of persecution and promised them that all who believe and call on that name will have eternal life.

Pastor Skutshek gave two presentations. His first presentation focused on his congregation's (Grace Lutheran Church, West Kelowna, BC) path out of the ELCIC and into CALC. He addressed the issue of same gender marriage in Canada and its effect on the church, together with Grace Lutheran's stand on the issue. His second presentation focused on the challenges facing Canadian Christians now and in the future. He spoke about his experience in the BC Legislature. He was asked to pray for the opening of the BC legislature in 2011. He ended the prayer "in Jesus name." Praying in Jesus' name ignited a fire storm BC's lower mainland. The propriety of using Jesus name in a prayer in a public forum was hotly debated on the radio. He also spoke about the Supreme Court of Canada's

decision that stopped prayer in City Halls. He also spoke about Trinity Western University's fight to uphold a covenant that will require all who will attend their proposed law school to promise to keep their sexual relations (while a student at the school) within the bonds of marriage between one man and one woman.

Pastor Skutshek gave both presentations in English. It was translated simultaneously into German by Pastor Manfred Muller. He did a fabulous job translating. St. Martini congregation also made sure that translators were available so Pastor Skutshek and his wife could understand Pastor Muller's presentations and Pastor Olaf's announcements and introductions throughout the conference and pastor Olaf's Sunday morning sermon. He gave a 10 minute biblical greeting in German for the Sunday morning service.

The people of St. Martini were very receptive to Pastor Muller and Pastor Skutshek and their presentations. St. Martini's council chair summarized the impact of the weekend in this way. The people and leadership of St. Martini are constantly challenged by the liberal churches around them. They are told that their beliefs are very primitive and simply irrelevant in today's Germany. He was so glad to meet Christians with the same beliefs. It gave them courage. Pastor Skutshek challenged the people of St. Martini to see that God was calling them to be Bremen's conscience. God was calling them to preach the Gospel in its purity believing that many will repent and turn to God.

On June 27th 2017 Germany's Parliament voted to legalize same-sex marriage. The vote was held five days after Chancellor Angela Merkel unexpectedly relaxed her party's opposition to same-sex marriage. She allowed members of her party to vote on the issue according to their consciences and not on party lines.

The Chancellor's softened resistance on Same-sex marriage opened the way for her party's coalition partners in the Social Democratic Party and two other political groups to press for a vote on the measure. Merkel's Christian Democrat party and their conservative allies had previously blocked a vote on the issue. The Chancellor voted against the measure, but many of her party colleagues voted in favor. The legislation passed easily — 393 votes in favor and 226 against, with four abstentions.

We must all pray for St. Martini congregation and all other Biblical and Confessional Churches in Germany. They will be confronted by activists, politicians and the press. They will face pressure to conform to the law of the land. They will be afflicted.



Pastor Ed Skutshek, Pastor Olaf Latzel and Pastor Manfred Muller on the Fisherman's Wharf in Bremerhaven after the conference.

Fun Pictures From Bremen



Pastor Ed & Deni Skutshek in front of the world famous statue of Roland, a Knight of the Holy Roman Empire. He is the symbol of Bremen's freedom. According to local legend, as long as Roland stands in main square of the Old Town, Bremen will be a free city. The distance between the armor spikes on Roland's knees served as the official ruler for measuring land, buildings and ships.



Pastor Ed and Deni Skutshek in front of the world famous bronze statue found outside Bremen's Town Hall. It is a popular subject for photographs, and not just for tourists. It was created by Grehard Marcks in 1953. It is based on the Grim Brother's fairy tale "The Bremen Musicians." The donkey's front legs are shinier than the rest of the statue, as rubbing them is thought to bring good luck.

Purpose Driven Dying

You can engage Pastor Rick Bergh to lead an End-of -Life Ministry Weekend Retreat



**Helping You Continue Your Story
...or at least consider the importance of
writing your final chapter**

In this aging demographic, the church needs to be the organism that does end of life the best. Learn how to journey with a person who is in the last chapter of their life and how to include their family and friends in this significant time. People have a purpose right to their last breath.

This retreat is for anyone who is caring for a family member with a terminal illness who is curious about how they might impact their family and friends in their last chapter of life on this earth.

Topics include:

- A Different Perspective: How a person's purpose shifts during the final chapter.
- Why Your Closing Paragraph May Be as Important to Others as it is to You.
- Why Whole-person Suffering Needs to Be Understood From God's Perspective.
- How to Communicate Your Preferences and Have Them Honored.
- 5 Ways to Get Unstuck in Your Final Chapter.

Through short educational sessions, individual reflection and group interaction, each participant will go away with a new perspective on purpose driven dying and have in their toolbox practical scripture centered strategies that honor a dignified and peaceful death.

You are not alone. Join others in this weekend experience and go home knowing that your last chapter of life is significant for your family and friends and that God has plans for you until your last breath.

Oral Hearings Before the Supreme Court of Canada on Trinity Western University Appeal

On Thursday November 30 and Friday December 1, the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) heard oral arguments in the appeal filed by Trinity Western University (TWU) on the long road to accreditation of their proposed law school. The issue which sparked the lawsuit was a covenant that TWU has faculty, staff and student's sign which commits them to honor marriage as God ordained it (one male and one female in a life-long commitment), and to refrain from sexual activity outside marriage.



Trinity Western University representatives (left to right: Janet Epp Buckingham, Jessie Legaree, TWU president Bob Kuhn, and Brayden Volkenant) at the Supreme Court of Canada in Ottawa, Ontario, on November 30.

TWU's law school was granted accreditation by some provincial law societies. At first, BC Law Society accredited TWU's law school through their committee system. However, a minority group within the society, who were against the above described covenant, forced a referendum of all the members on the matter. The members vote revoked the accreditation. TWU took the society to court. The highest Court in BC reversed the action of the membership, thus reinstating the society's accreditation of TWU's law school.

In 2014, the Law Society of Upper Canada (Ontario) refused to accredit TWU's law school based on their rejection of the above described covenant. The covenant barred admission to TWU's proposed law school to sexually active LGBTQ people, those living in common law relationships and those who are not Christians in contravention of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. In July of 2016 the Ontario Court of Appeal's (highest court) upheld the law society's decision.

The appeal was filed with the SCC for a decision that would be binding on all our provinces and territories. Twenty-six (26) organizations filed for status as an intervenor in the case. An intervenor is a party not named in a lawsuit, who petitions the court to join ongoing litigation and argue (orally or in writing) the merits of the case before the court, either as a matter of right or at the discretion of the court, and without the permission of the original parties to the lawsuit. The 26 Intervenor in the TWU case included: Attorney General of

Ontario; Canadian Civil Liberties Union; Canadian Bar Association; Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops; Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Canada; Evangelical Fellowship of Canada; World Sikh Organization of Canada; and four groups representing LGBTQ Canadians.

At first the SCC was slated to hear oral arguments only on Thursday November 30th. Justice Richard Wagner, ruled that only 9 of the 26 intervenors would be allowed to speak on November 30th. His decision was overruled by Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin. Neither Justice Wagner's initial order, nor the Chief Justice's reversal, came with an explanation, as it is the court's practice not to explain why it accepts or rejects particular intervenors.

Justice Wagner offered an explanation to The Globe and Mail. Specifically, he stated that the court had initially allotted one day for oral arguments. The sheer number of intervenors and the limited time allotted for the hearing required action. He chose nine of the 26 applicants. He believed the views of LGBTQ advocates were well represented from among the intervenors he chose. His decision to limit the number of intervenors caused a "firestorm" of criticism on social media. When he was made aware of concerns expressed on social media, he sought out Chief Justice McLachlin to see what could be done.

"She was looking for me and I was looking for her," Justice Wagner said in an interview with The Globe. "We talked over the phone and discussed the matter, and we decided that it would be best to add another day, and have all the applications granted." All 26 applicants were ultimately given permission to intervene.



Barry W. Bussey, speaking before the Supreme Court of Canada on the Trinity Western University Case. He represents the Canadian Council Christian Charities (CCCC) an intervenor. CALC is a member of the CCCC.

The SCC will consider all of the arguments made by lawyers representing the original litigants to the case and all 26 Intervenor. The SCC will issue a written opinion in the future.

Continue to pray that the Supreme Court of Canada take to heart the importance of the issues at stake in this appeal. Pray: Almighty God, you sit in judgment to declare what is just and right. Bless the Supreme Court of Canada. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding that they may perceive the truth and administer the law impartially as instruments of your divine will. We pray in the name of him who will come to be our judge, your Son, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Grief: The Jesus Way

You can engage Pastor Rick Bergh to lead a Bereavement Ministry Weekend Retreat



How to Get Through Grief ...or at least know you're moving forward

People get stuck in their grief, but all they really want is their joy restored. Jesus left his disciples with some incredible insights into grief that work for us still today. Learn what these are and help others by responding to the scriptural mandate to bear one another's burdens.

This retreat is for anyone who gone through a significant loss and wonders if the pain will ever go away.

Topics include:

- Purpose Driven Grief
- Defeating the Biggest Reason People Get Stuck.
- Constructing the Game Plan That Will Keep the Connection Going.
- Leaning How to Tell Your New Story in a Different Way.
- Exploring Unique Mourning Practices That Work for You and Your Family.
- Healthy Remembering of Your Love One Who Died.

Through short educational sessions, individual reflection and group interaction, each participant will go away with a blueprint to help them get through grief from a scriptural perspective and in their unique manner in order to experience joy again. You are not alone. Join others in this weekend experience and go home, knowing there is hope for your future while still honoring the one you miss.

Rev. Rick Bergh (M.Div., CT, NT), is an ordained minister and serves a parish in Victoria, BC. He is a best-selling author, speaker, narrative therapist and workshop leader. God has called him to a ministry as a Thanatologist (specialist in death, dying and bereavement). Rick has first-hand experience at transitioning through loss and leads workshops and speaks throughout North America on grief and bereavement. You can learn more about his work at: www.rickbergh.com.

You can contact him at: rick@rickbergh.com or 250-361-6291.

CALC's President Elected to Board of Directors of Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT)

On September 22, 2017, our President, Pastor Ed Skutshek, was elected to a four year term as a member of the Board of Directors of the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT).

The mission of ILT's Board of Directors, is to safeguard and ensure the continuance of the declared mission of ILT as documented in its governing documents and to assess how well ILT's mission is being implemented.

The Board's objectives are to:

- Secure and sustain an effective and competent administration and faculty.
- Develop policies and procedures for administrative use
- Assess stated mission outcomes and achievements.
- Secure volunteers and financial support to sustain a faithful ministry and secure ILT's future.
- Ensure ILT's funds and assets are appropriately, faithfully and prudently used.
- Review and assess facts and data (reports from the president and administration; financial statements and audits; handbooks catalogues and promotional materials; strategic reports and accreditation reports).
- Assess the board's effectiveness in handling ILT's needs.

Please pray for Pastor Ed and the other board members as they strive to fulfill their mandate.

CALC PRESIDENT'S TRAVEL ITINERARY

February 8-10, 2018 Pastor Ed to participate in the Board Meeting for the Institute of Lutheran Theology in Brookings South Dakota.

February 17-18, 2018. On the 17th Pastor Ed will attend a cluster meeting at Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church, meet with the host church council and on the 18th lead worship at Martin Luther.

October 7-10, 2018 Pastor Ed will attend the LCMC Annual Gathering in Des Moines, Iowa, USA.

October 23-25, 2018. Pastor Ed will facilitate the CALC Pastors' Retreat at Deer Valley Meadows Christian Camp and Retreat Center near Alix, Alberta.

October 26-28, 2018. Pastor Ed will chair the CALC Annual General Convention at Deer Valley Meadows Christian Camp and Retreat Center near Alix, Alberta.

Is your congregation celebrating an anniversary or other milestone? Let us know so we can let your brothers and sisters in Christ in CALC know through our Lutheran Connector. Would you like to submit an item for publication? Please e-mail your news items to our Editor at the following address: secretary@calc.ca.

CALC 2018 Convention

CALC's 2018 annual general convention will be held at Deer Valley Meadows Christian Camp and Retreat Center, near Alix, Alberta.

Convention Dates: Our annual general convention will begin Friday October 26 and conclude with morning worship on Sunday October 28.



Deer Valley Meadows Camp & Retreat Center:

Deer Valley Meadows Camp is located on 142 acres of woodland and grass meadows on the north bank of the beautiful Red Deer River. The camp is located 48 kilometers east of Red Deer, AB on Highway 11; and 33.5 kilometers west of Stettler, AB on Highways 12 and 11.

The camp facilitates and hosts conferences, retreats, seminars, family reunions, camps, business meetings, board meetings, weddings, school day trips, picnics, anniversaries, concerts, banquets and cultural groups.

The camp's cabins and lodges will accommodate about 80 people (based on double occupancy of rooms). Additional rooms will be available at hotels in Stettler (about a 20 minute drive) and Alix (about a five minute drive).



Recreational Vehicle or RV spaces are available for rent at the camp. Delegates and visitors may bring their RVs and camp in assigned spaces.



The entire convention, including, the learning event, business sessions, worship and keynote addresses will be held at the camp. All meals will also be served at the camp.



The camp's dining room will accommodate many more than the estimated 80 delegates and visitors staying at the camp.

Registration fees will be calculated in a very different way this year.

Base Registration Fee: There will be a base registration fee which is based on the estimated costs of: our bulletin of reports, convention bags and contents; facilities use fees charged by the camp; and costs of our keynote speaker(s) (travel, accommodations, meals and an honorarium/fee).

Additional Registration Fees. The following fees can be added.

Accommodations: Delegates and visitors can opt to stay at the camp Thursday, Friday and Saturday night. A description of the various accommodations offered by the camp and fee schedule for each will be provided at a later date. The fee for camp accommodations is added onto the base fee. Those staying at hotels in Stettler or Alix would not pay this fee.

Meals: The camp will offer meals for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Participants will be able to choose meals at the camp they wish to partake in. The fee for meals consumed at the camp is added onto the base fee.

2018 CALC Pastors' Retreat

CALC's 2018 Pastor's Retreat will also be held at Deer Valley Meadows Christian Camp and Retreat Center, near Alix, Alberta.

Dates for the Pastors' Retreat: Wednesday October 24 through Thursday October 25. Pastors will gather Tuesday evening October 23.

Registration Fees. Like the convention, the registration fee will consist of a base fee (made up administrative or facilities fees charged by the camp and costs of the keynote speaker), plus costs of accommodation and costs of meals chosen.

