

# The Lutheran Connector

An Official Publication of the Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations

December 2019 Edition

## The Christmas Eve Edition



CALC is a Community of Independent  
Congregations Living Together  
The Word of God Created Us  
The Word of God Sustains Us  
The Word of God Redeems Us  
We are servants of one another  
We share one another's burdens  
As Jesus served us and bore our burdens  
As one we proclaim Jesus to the world

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The Lutheran Connector is published two or more times each year. CALC's National Council publishes official statements through the Lutheran Connector. If you wish to comment on an issue of the Connector and/or submit an article or make CALC's membership aware of special events, including, congregation anniversaries, ordinations, installations and other important events, please contact our editor at the email address below.

### THE LUTHERAN CONNECTOR

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## President's Message



Grace Lutheran's Sunday School Christmas pageant for 2019 was based on Helen Steiner Rice's poem "The Christmas Guest." This iconic poem is about Conrad, a widower, and a cobbler by trade, who had to face another Christmas alone. The grief of the loss of his wife and one and only son was magnified at Christmas. But this year was going to be different.

Conrad had received a vision from Jesus. The Lord promised to come to Conrad on Christmas Eve. Conrad believed that Jesus was coming. On Christmas Eve he cleaned and decorated his home and prepared a sumptuous meal. He waited for Jesus to come.

A knock at his door brought joy to Conrad's heart. Jesus was here! His joy turned to disappointment when he realized his guest was a poor man traveling on a cold Christmas Eve. Disappointment gave way to compassion for the man. Conrad fed the man and gave him clothes and shoes that had belonged to Conrad's son.

Two more times a guest appeared at Conrad's door: a woman weary from carrying firewood and a lost child. The plight of the woman and the little girl moved Conrad's heart. Compassion welled up in Conrad. He provided rest and refreshment for the elderly woman and took the child by the hand and led her back to her home.

With the child safely at home, Conrad returned to his empty house. The poem ends with Conrad on his knees in prayer. He asked Jesus why he had not come as he had promised. Jesus' response to Conrad was beautiful: *"Lift up your head for I kept My word-- Three times My shadow crossed your floor--Three times I came to your lonely door--For I was the beggar with bruised, cold feet, I was the woman you gave to eat, And I was the child on the homeless street. Three times I knocked, and three times I came in. And each time I found the warmth of a friend. Of all the gifts, love is the best. And I was honored to be your Christmas Guest."*

This poem is one of the most beautiful sermons on Matthew 25:31-46. It calls us to believe that Jesus is coming in his glory to judge and to bring eternal life. It calls us to believe, that in the time between the hungry and naked and the lost will come to us. The Church's response to the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats has been to establish rescue missions, soup kitchens and orphanages. If you have ever served in any of these institutions, you will find that brothers and sisters in Christ fall on hard times. You always meet Jesus among those who partake in the grace offered. The poem also teaches that when grace is offered out of godly compassion, those who are helped meet Jesus in the one offering that grace.

In the words of the poem I heard Jesus' call for us to be Conrad. He calls us to have the light on and be fully prepared to meet him in the people he sends our way.

It is more likely that people who will knock on the doors of our churches will be clothed in the latest fashions and in their eyes and our eyes not needing clothing. However, once inside, the Holy Spirit may work on them in the Gospel preached in its purity. The Spirit may give them the eyes they need to see their true lot: they are naked, cold and their lives are in mortal danger. We have a gift to offer the cold and the naked. In the waters of Baptism we are joined to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus, sins are forgiven and we are given new life through the presence of the Holy Spirit. At the same time the baptized are given robes of righteousness and salvation, they literally put on Christ.

It is most likely that many of the people knocking on our doors will believe that they are basically good people, are living satisfying and productive lives and can shoulder any burden they are given. Once again, through the Gospel preached, the Holy Spirit can convince the complacent that they have many more burdens than they thought. These burdens will become overwhelming to them and they will plead for their removal. They will become hungry and thirsty and cry out for rest. For their spiritual hunger and need for rest and forgiveness we offer the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Holy Eucharist. The Word and the Sacrament will refresh them and permit them to move through life in a new way. They will be unburdened. Jesus will offer his yoke to them and they can move forward with Jesus beside them, to guide them.

Many will come to the church believing that they have a family are certainly not lost and can find their way home. Through the Gospel, the Holy Spirit will teach them that they are lost and need of God's family. All those who have been given faith by the Holy Spirit are not lost, they can see themselves as adopted sons and daughters of God and members of His family. In the fellowship of a congregation they can find new brothers and sisters and a community where Jesus is among us as we gather for worship, learning, service and fellowship.

My prayer is this: we become Conrad, not just during the Christmas season, but every day.

In Christ,

Pastor Ed Skutshek



## CALC'S SHEPHERDS ORDINATIONS IN 2019

CALC and its congregations were truly blessed in 2019 by the ordination of three candidates: Kevin Nelson, Roland Weisbrot and John Lofstedt. Below please find information on each Ordinand.

### Kevin Nelson Bethel Lutheran Church, Lea Park, AB



Barb & Kevin Nelson

On Sunday November 24, 2019, Kevin Nelson was ordained as a Minister of the Church of Christ in the Office of Word and Sacrament. His ordination was witnessed by a congregation of about 130, made up of members of Bethel Lutheran, Kevin and wife Barb's family and friends, local clergy, members of local churches, and a contingent from Sharon

Lutheran (CALC) of Irma, AB. A celebratory potluck banquet followed the service.



Kevin was called to serve Bethel Lutheran Church of Lea Park, Alberta as a pastor-in-training. His call has been amended to a pastoral call without any restrictions. Lea Park is a rural community located north and east of Marwayne, AB. These communities are about 250 Kilometers east of Edmonton, AB.

The congregation joined CALC in 2014. Before joining our Association, weekly worship was a team effort. A retired ELCIC pastor preached and communed the congregation on one Sunday each month. Congregational members Kevin Nelson, Ed Parke and Stan Fox, preached and led worship on all the other Sundays of each month.

It was during this time of service to the congregation that Kevin Nelson and Ed Parke, experienced a call to pastoral ministry. CALC's Shepherd's Pathway offered a pathway to



pastoral ministry for Kevin and Ed which allowed them to study for the ministry while ministering to their congregation at the same time. They soon began taking courses at the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT), of Brookings, South Dakota, in the US. They studied in a virtual classroom created by real-time online video conferencing. They studied with students spread across Canada and the US. Kevin and Ed enrolled in the Pastoral Ministry Certificate (PMC) program. Kevin and Ed were supervised, for a time, by Pastor Ron Hobden (retired), of Peace Lutheran, Wainwright, AB. Kevin and Ed were licensed to preach, baptize, commune, and marry as pastors-in-training. Kevin completed the twelfth of the PMC's 12 required courses in 2019. He was therefore, eligible for ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament.

Bethel Lutheran celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2015. What a milestone! A century of worshiping God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in Lea Park. Pastor Kevin's ordination represented another historic milestone for Bethel Lutheran Congregation. Kevin Nelson is truly a son of Bethel congregation. He was baptized, Confirmed and married at Bethel Lutheran. He grew up on, and currently lives on, the Nelson family farm located a short distance from the church. He is the first son of the congregation called, trained and ordained while serving Bethel Lutheran.



Kevin Nelson & Pastor Ed Skutshek, CALC President

Pastor Kevin's ordination represents a historic milestone for CALC. Like many congregations, Bethel Lutheran had sought a candidate from the outside for many years. God used Bethel's time of looking outward to raise up shepherds from within. Our Shepherd's Pathway is based on two convictions: God will raise up a shepherd for a congregation from among its own members; and that God has called CALC to assist the

candidate and the congregation by providing access to quality theological education and mentoring. Pastor Kevin is the first ordained pastor who has epitomized the Shepherd's Pathway's vision.

God has used Kevin and Ed to bless more than the people of Bethel Lutheran. They have served as supply pastors for congregations of other Christian denominations in and around Marwayne during times of pastoral vacancy. Kevin was instrumental in providing pulpit supply, visitation and teaching during Sharon Lutheran's time of pastoral vacancy. He has truly been a community pastor, often reaching out to families without a church home during times of grief and loss. Kevin and Barb have also blessed their community by their music ministry. For decades they have invited the youth of their community to play in a youth

Gospel band. The band has provided special music at Bethel Lutheran and other venues in the community.

Kevin is a professional welder by trade. He has welded in the oil fields for decades. He continues to do some welding. Wife Barb is a talented vocalist and leads singing with great passion and skill. He continues to run cattle on the Nelson homestead. He is called to a half-time ministry at Bethel Lutheran.

Kevin and Barb have three children, daughter Jessica, son Brian (Nichole), and son Travis. They are blessed with four grandchildren.

For most of Kevin's adult life he has spent time welding two pieces of metal together, making them one. In this new season of Kevin's life he will be doing a welding of a different kind. Through the Word and the Sacrament God will use Kevin to forge the tie between God and humanity. God will use Kevin, God's Words and water to join candidates to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. God will use Kevin as His representative as He binds brides and grooms together as husbands and wives and they become one flesh.



You can watch the ordination service by following this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHMoMYwDvK&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR213JEx1U-rtYyJycQwguJsJCTzzJ2hshlBmJcOsV1lavZd4qyO6YtdnfA>

Please pray for Kevin and Barb as they continue to minister as a team at Bethel Lutheran Church and within their community.

## Roland Cole Weisbrot Victory Lutheran, Medicine Hat, AB

On Sunday October 6, 2019, Roland Cole Weisbrot was ordained as a Minister of the Church of Christ in the Office of Word and Sacrament at Victory Lutheran Church of Medicine Hat, Alberta A congregation of more than 250 witnessed his ordination. Victory Lutheran's sanctuary was filled. The congregation included members of Victory Lutheran, Roland's parents and his wife Rachel's parents, a seminary professor who taught him, Pastors from Faith Calgary, who had mentored him, local clergy, friends and relatives.



Roland was called to fulltime ministry as Associate Pastor at Victory Lutheran. Pastor James Bredeson is the Senior Pastor at Victory.



Roland is married to Rachel. She is an accomplished church musician. She is completing her studies at Ambrose University in Calgary.

Roland is a native of the City of Calgary, Alberta. He graduated from Calgary Christian High School in 2014. Following graduation from high school, he attended Ambrose University, a Christian institution. He graduated from Ambrose in 2018 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Christian Studies. He is a graduate of the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT). He has earned a Pastoral Ministry Certificate and graduated in 2019. He is continuing his education at ILT in pursuit of a Graduate Degree.

Pastor Roland's journey to ordination at age 24 is noteworthy. He began his journey of faith at Grace Lutheran Church, of Calgary (LC-C). After catechism, he developed a deep love for theology. His study of theology inspired a desire to serve. When his own grandparents were hospitalized, Roland was inspired to visit them. The visits he paid his grandparents proved to be transformational. At the age of sixteen, under the mentorship of Rev. Mark Lobitz, he trained to be a hospital visitor with Lutheran Hospital Ministries of Southern Alberta (LHMSA). He was the youngest person ever trained by LHSMA. When asked about his experiences as a pastoral visitor he remarked: "My time with LHMSA was deeply enriching spiritually; it afforded me many wonderful experiences and has helped

me to develop a mature and empathetic understanding of death and suffering."

At the age of 18 he was appointed to serve on the Board of Evangelism and Stewardship at Grace Lutheran for a two-year term. His service on the board revealed the work done behind the scenes that undergirded congregational life and acquainted him with the day to day work of the pastoral ministry.

During his time at Ambrose University, Roland was in the minority (as there were very few Lutherans). However, these circumstances permitted him to grow. He was exposed to other Christian doctrines and teachings. He engaged in robust discussions with fellow students and faculty on deep theological issues. In the end, his time at Ambrose strengthened his understanding of and commitment to the Lutheran confession. The study of history and Christianity solidified his desire to pursue the office of pastoral ministry.

In 2016, Roland began attending Faith Lutheran, Calgary (CALC). He was embraced by the congregation and was very quickly given opportunities to lead in Worship, Bible study, and prayer ministry. He served on Faith's Worship Committee and Discipleship Committee. Faith Calgary encouraged and supported Roland's goal of serving the church in ordained ministry. Rev. Chris Jules, Faith Calgary's current pastor, was particularly instrumental in encouraging Roland to listen to God's call to him and has regularly encouraged him to pursue graduate studies.

Roland describes himself as a benefactor of the social media revolution. He is familiar with Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn among others. He is especially adept at building and maintaining websites and blogsites.

In 2017, he founded a chapter of Students For Liberty (SFL) at Ambrose University, focusing on topics such as freedom of expression and freedom of conscience. Under his tenure, the chapter grew to be one of the most successful, at one point making up half of all SFL activity in Canada as well as incorporating approximately 1/8th of Ambrose's student body. In 2018, Roland was made Students For Liberty's Regional Director of the Canadian Prairies. He continues to blog about his musings on the intersection of history, politics, faith, and philosophy.

The picture on the right is one of Pastor Roland's favorite ordination day pictures. From left to right: Pastor Edward Skutshek, President of CALC; Pastor Emil Krause; and newly ordained Pastor Roland Weisbrot. Pastor Krause recently celebrated



64 years of ordained ministry. He has been officially retired for only three of those 64 years!

We look forward to seeing how God will use Pastor Roland's sharp intellect and his pastoral heart as together we navigate the changing nature of the Canadian cultural landscape.

## John Herbert Lofstedt Resurrection Lutheran, Pembroke, ON

On Sunday June 9, 2019, John Herbert Lofstedt was ordained as a Minister of the Church of Christ in the Office of Word and Sacrament at Resurrection Lutheran Church of Pembroke, Ontario. Resurrection Lutheran's sanctuary was filled.



Pastor John is married to Jocelyn. They have two children, son Elliot and daughter Amelia. Jocelyn is trained as a teacher.

Pastor John's path to ordination began at the age of 5 at Episcopal Church of the Transfigurations, Derry, New Hampshire, USA, where he and his twin brother were baptized. The twins attended Sunday School and served as acolytes. When John became a teenager his participation at church waned, yet John continued to believe and to pray.

When he began his studies at Plymouth University in NH, John connected with the Campus Crusade movement; however, that connection was not strong. God continued to stir his soul. During John's third year of university he became a foreign exchange student. He took a semester at Bishop's University in Quebec. It was there that he met Jocelyn Beck of Pembroke, Ontario. Jocelyn encouraged

John to go to church with her. During that semester the Holy Spirit used the Gospel preached to John to deepen John's faith and lay the call to ministry on his heart.

On returning to Plymouth University John connected with the Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, began attending church regularly and sought to live a life worthy of his calling as a child of God. Having finished his degree in Geography a semester early, John was persuaded by the Campus Pastor to work with him on a "Project Timothy" Internship. This internship gave John the opportunity for intentional discipling. He was guided to a deeper faith. It also allowed him to gain practical experience as he helped run the Campus Ministry.

The internship ignited a spark in John. He had continued to be in contact with Jocelyn. John believed with all his heart that God was calling him to undertake seminary training. He enrolled at Providence Seminary, a non-denominational school located in Otterburn, Manitoba. He graduated in 2006 with a Master in Religious Studies.

John had not connected with a church body during his time at seminary. Following graduation, John returned to his Episcopal/Anglican roots. He entered a two year long Artizo Internship at St. Alban's Anglican Church of the breakaway Anglican Network in Canada. He worked with Rev. George Sinclair locally and a Training Coordinator by phone. During his internship, he preached several times a month and ran various ministries at the church, including Sunday School, Youth Group, Young Adults group and Seniors group. Artizo internship inspired John to desire a call to parish ministry and ordination. However, no calls to ministry came.

He moved his family to Pembroke, Ontario. John eventually obtained employment in the Nuclear power industry.

The family began attending Resurrection Lutheran Church. At that time Resurrection Lutheran was Jocelyn's mother Pastor Ana Beck. For eight years John attended Resurrection Lutheran. He led Bible studies intermittently and preached a few times a year when Pastor Ana went on vacation. During this time John was able to watch a very experienced, very capable Pastor lead her flock day in and day out.

God began stirring John following Pastor Ana's retirement the summer 2017. Jocelyn and John were called upon to lead services and preach; basically holding down the fort; until our new interim pastor, Doug Kranz arrived in September.

John continued to be involved in the Men's Group and in worship. Pastor Kranz soon saw John's gifts for ministry and approached him with the idea of putting his name forward to be the Pastor of Resurrection after Pastor Doug's interim ministry was complete.

Jocelyn and John prayed for God's guidance. John stepped out in faith. He enrolled as a student with the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT) for the purpose enriching his understanding of ministry in the Lutheran Tradition. He completed three courses: Luther and his Catechisms,



Proclaiming God's Word, and Principles of Biblical Interpretation.

His call to Resurrection Lutheran is for a permanent part-time ministry. He remains employed by Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, Chalk River, Ontario.

Please keep Pastor John, Jocelyn, Elliot and Amelia in your prayers. May God bless him, his family and his ministry. May Resurrection congregation grow in grace, faith and numbers so that his ministry may be a fulltime ministry. Left to right: Pastor Ed Skutshek, CALC President, Pastor John Lofstedt and



Pastor Ana Beck (Pastor John's mother-in-law).

## Convention 2019 Friday Learning Event Christian Apologetics

Presenter: Rev. Col. John Eidsmoe

The Friday morning and afternoon before the annual



general convention on Saturday is dedicated to Christian Education. The topic for this year's "Learning Event" was **Christian Apologetics**.

God often sends people our way with questions. Some, often motivated by an unexplained tragedy, desperately want to know what we believe and why we believe it. Others openly challenge the message we believe and our

integrity and intelligence for believing this message. The discipline of Christian apologetics seeks to find ways of answering critics who oppose or question the revelation of God in Christ and the Bible. The discipline is rooted in a desire to fulfill St Peter's mandate to Christians of every generation to "always be ready to make a defense to everyone who asks them to give an account for the hope they have." (1 Peter 3:15)

We invited Rev. Dr. John Eidsmoe to speak at our Friday learning event. He is a sought-after speaker on Christian Apologetics. His academic and career background make him an especially apt teacher of this discipline. He has taught legal history and church history at law schools and seminaries. A constitutional attorney and retired Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, Colonel Eidsmoe has also taught church history and other subjects in various seminaries. He currently teaches Christian apologetics at the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT), of Brookings South Dakota, an accredited online seminary. (CALC's seminary).

He gave four excellent presentations entitled:

**Session #1:** Reason in the Bible.

**Session #2:** Religious Liberalism.

**Session #3:** Challenging Darwinism.

**Session #4:** Islam and the Crusades

**Session #1: Must I Check My Brain at the Church Door? Reason in the Bible.**

In this presentation, Col. John helped us to craft a common criticism voiced by many whenever they encounter Christians and the good news of the Gospel. They argue that Christianity requires a blind faith and a blind leap into the future. They argue that you must check your brain at the door before you enter the church and listen to Christian teaching.

Col. John encouraged us to respond in this way: The Bible never calls us to "blind faith." God calls us to have faith in the promises made by Him. God calls us to use our reason in comprehending His word. He went on to give us some concrete examples of Jesus using reason.

By way of example, Col. John read this passage: "*As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher he asked, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. No one is good—except God alone.*" (Mark 10:17-18). In this terse reply, Jesus began called this man to use reason and logic and consider what he must do to inherit eternal life. He began by asking the man to consider what he had said to Jesus and his very posture. The man had called Jesus "Good teacher." He had knelt before Jesus.

Jesus confronted the man with the assertion that "only God is good." Jesus called this man to ponder and consider the implications of what he did and said. If he called Jesus good, and knelt before this good man, could his words and actions be a declaration that Jesus is the Son of God? Could it be

that recognition of Jesus as the Son of God and worship of him has to do with the inheritance of eternal life?

In the same passage Jesus went on to reveal more about what this young man must do to inherit eternal life. The man admitted that he had to obey the commandments. In response, the young man confessed and declared scrupulous obedience to the commandments. Jesus added another, *“Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.”* (Mark 10:17-18) Jesus called this man to see that his obedience to God’s commandments was impossible. Jesus asked that man, and all who would come after him, to think about it, and believe that the inheritance of eternal life cannot come from human action, rather it comes from faith and trust in the “Good Teacher.”

Col. John encouraged all of us to accept that the common understanding among people today is that you must leave reason at the door to the Sanctuary in order to be a Christian. We must emphasize, that while faith comes through the power of the Holy Spirit when the Gospel is proclaimed, Jesus spoke reasonably, eloquently and logically and we must lift that up when we preach, teach and proclaim.

### **Session #2: Religious Liberalism.**

In his second presentation, Col. John traced the development of religious liberalism in America. He spoke of the influence of men like Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Bronson Alcott, Charles Darwin, Albert Schweitzer, Julius Wellhausen, Walter Rauschenbusch and Rudolph Bultmann on the Christian faith.

By way of example, he spoke of the impact of Ralph Waldo Emerson. He was a pastor and a graduate of Harvard Divinity School. He challenged the teaching of the church and taught “Transcendentalism.” This emerging philosophy declared that people are inherently good and are corrupted by society. This good can be recaptured by truly independent and self-reliant people. He opposed Biblical teaching and the use of the Means of Grace. He led many Christians astray. Darwin’s theory of Evolution challenged the creation account found in Genesis. Some of these men were the architects of, or influenced by, what is called higher Biblical criticism. This higher Biblical criticism led many of them to confess that the idea that the Bible was “inerrant” could not possibly be believed by any reasonable person. They began to challenge and doubt the doctrine of substitutionary atonement (that Jesus suffered for our sins and died in our place); the virgin birth; and Jesus is the truth and the life and only way to the Father.

The most salient example of the impact of Liberalism revealed by Col. John was the impact of Julius Wellhausen on Old Testament studies in Christian seminaries. He was famous for his critical investigations into Old Testament history and the composition of the Pentateuch (first five

books of the Old Testament). He argued that the Torah or Pentateuch was not written by Moses. He believed that there were four independent texts written by four different authors (the four authors were identified by the Hebrew name each of them used for God). He believed that during the time of the Babylonian Captivity (608-538 BC), an editor wove these four independent manuscripts together to form the Torah or Pentateuch we have today. Wellhausen's hypothesis was dominant model for Torah studies in many seminaries and universities studies until the last quarter of the 20th century. Other biblical scholars examined the text and saw more authors and editors at work in the Torah. The new scholars declared that the Torah we have today was edited well after the Babylonian captivity.

Col. John called all of us to oppose this understanding of the Torah with great urgency. He called us to declare that Jesus, his disciples and the Apostle Paul declared that Moses wrote the Torah. Didn't Jesus say: *“It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law.”* (Mark 10:5) *If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me.* (John 5:46). Jesus’ disciples believed that Moses wrote the Torah: *Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”* (John 1:45) The Apostle Paul believed that Moses wrote the Torah *“Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts.”* (2 Corinthians 3:15).

He called us to see that Liberalism higher Biblical criticism attacks the very foundation of our faith and their rhetoric plainly contradicts the truth revealed by Jesus in the scripture. He called us to hold up the scripture that contradicts Liberal ideas every time we are confronted by them.

### **Session #3: Confronting Darwinism.**

In this session, Col. John addressed a common criticism leveled by those around us every day. They say: “There is no doubt that the world around us came to be through evolution. They call the Biblical account of creation a mere legend. They boast: “Evolution is good science, evidence of its truth is all around us.”

Col. John’s advice to us is never let a person challenging the Biblical account of creation turn the discussion into a debate on “religion vs science.” You must clearly state that when we inquire into the origin of the universe the scientific method does not apply. The scientific method changes a scientific theory into a scientific fact when the result predicted by the theory is proved by many experiments that produce that same result. It is impossible to replicate the creation of the world in a scientific experiment. Therefore, if you can’t prove a theory of creation it must always remain a theory. Those that hold to the theory of Evolution have faith and trust in the assumptions, tenets and doctrines that make up the theory of Evolution. It is appropriate to challenge some of the assumptions, tenets and doctrines



underlying the theory of Evolution.<sup>1</sup> The discussion can shift to another evidence based theory of creation. *“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.”* (Romans 1:20). Col. John called all Christians to point to nature its complexity, diversity and interrelatedness. All this evidence declares that our world is not the result of random occurrences. It reveals and declares an intelligent design. This revelation can open the mind of the skeptical hearer to listening to the words God the Creator and the Word made flesh.

#### **Session #4: A Christian Reflection on Islam and the Crusades.**

Islam is often described as a religion of “peace.” Col. John gave us a different perspective on Islam. He demonstrated that Islam’s primary method of growth and proselytization has been by Jihad or holy war. He described how the Ottoman Turks conquered Africa, the Holy Land and made significant inroads in Europe.

Christians are often criticized for the Crusades, often bloody military campaigns which wrested control of the Holy Land from the Muslims. He called to see that before the Muslim’s took control of the Holy Land, Christian pilgrims were able to travel to the Holy Land and visit the various sights. The Muslims put a stop to this and even destroyed Christian churches. The Crusades were launched to open the Holy Land to pilgrimages and confront the threat of Muslim expansion.

Col. John encouraged all to stand up for our Christian Faith by standing up for our understanding of Holy Scriptures. He called us to fight the myth that belief in God involves a blind leap of faith. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit call us to a relationship based on intimate knowledge of God through what is revealed in Holy Scriptures and work of the Holy Spirit through the means of Holy Scripture.

**The word “apologetics” – is derived from the Greek word *apologia* meaning “speaking in defense.”**

**A chief goal in most debates is to embarrass, discredit and revile your opponent.**

**The goal in Christian Apologetics is to love and to win your opponent.**

## Convention 2019

### Friday Worship

#### *Sermon Opening the Learning Event*



Pastor Roland C. Weisbrot preached at our opening worship service on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

In his first letter to the Corinthian church, the Apostle Paul gives us the great triumvirate of “faith, hope, and love” (13:13). As a Church we talk a lot about faith and a whole lot about love, and so we should! But often lost in the middle is this not so little thing called hope. This is ironic because the church could sure use some hope right now couldn’t it?

Year after year we are bombarded with report after report about how the church is in decline. These reports seem to suggest a very grim reality: church attendance in Canada has fallen by about 20% in the last few decades; the average age of Church attendees goes up and up every year, making us wonder who will replace the older ones when they are gone; this year it was reported that we are set to lose 9000 churches in Canada in the next few decades; the United Church of Canada closes one church a week, and many denominations have rates of closure that are catching up to that number; basically all of our Lutheran churches are either in decline or stagnating, with few exceptions; and more and more younger people decide to identify as “religious nones.” Sadly, many of these statistics hit home for us, don’t they? We do not have to ask if they are true because we see them playing out around us.

We recently celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, thanks be to God for that! And yet, the celebrations are increasingly overshadowed by the questions so many other church bodies just like this one is asking: Are our churches going to still be here in another 50 years? In 30 years? In 10 years? Why do we tend to struggle to keep younger people in our pews? How do we get the younger generations involved? Is it inevitable that we are going to die out, to be forced to shutter our doors?

These questions fill us with a sense of hopelessness for the future. We pray and we beg of God the way King David did in Psalm 13: “How long, O Lord? Will you forget [us] forever? How long will you hide your face from [us]? How long must [we] take counsel in [our] soul[s] and have sorrow in [our] heart[s] all the day? How long shall [our] enem [ies] be exalted over [us]? Consider and answer [us], O Lord [our] God; light up [our] eyes, lest [we] sleep the sleep of death, lest [our] enemy say, ‘I have prevailed over [them],’ lest [our] foes rejoice because [we are] shaken” (vv. 1-4).

<sup>1</sup> Two excellent presentations full of information to be used for refuting the Theory of Evolution by Dr. Ron Voss can be accessed at: <https://vimeo.com/67568539> and <https://vimeo.com/67568541>.

But even in this pit of despair, King David had hope in the promises of God. Verses five and six read: “But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.” You see, King David’s hope was not put to shame, and nor will ours be “because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Rom. 5:5) After all, how much more should we cling to hope, living in the time after Jesus’ earthly ministry? Jesus, in whom “the fullness of Deity dwells bodily” (Col. 2:9). Jesus, who “suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit” (1 Peter 3:18). Jesus, who promised that “I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:20b) – and indeed, He is with us, in His Word, His Sacraments, and by His Spirit (Matthew 18:20)!

Therefore, to abandon hope is to forfeit Christ: it is as simple and brutal as that. Brothers and sisters, we cannot afford to do that, can we? The stakes are too high to give up, to let Satan and his servants trample us and smother the Gospel by plaguing us with doubt and skepticism about its power to save – yes, even this generation! Scripture tells us that we must “honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15). That’s our theme verse. But it is hard to give a reason for the hope that is supposed to be in us if we and our congregations don’t exhibit any, isn’t it?

But we do have hope! And our hope is this: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls” (1 Peter 1:3-9). That is to say, “[our] hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness,” as the old hymn goes.

The Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Timothy 2 that God “desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (v. 4). That means we have a lot of work to do. We must spread this hope that has been planted in us by the Gospel and give reason for it. As Jesus Himself said, “the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” There are millions waiting to hear the

words that bring them life and salvation, abroad but even here at home in Canada! All who know Christ and His life-saving Gospel are called to be laborers in this abundant harvest, that means lay-people and the ordained! Christ was not kidding when He said to His followers, “go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matt. 28:19).

This is why we study Scripture and come to God’s house to proclaim and hear His Word; we learn theology for the sake of proclamation as the great 20th century Lutheran theologian Gerhard Forde said. We hear so that we can repeat! Because as the Apostle Paul tells us in Romans 10, “faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ” (v. 17). Scripture tells us that “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved,” but “how then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?” (Rom. 10:13-15a).

In this time of religious decline and increased public ridicule, many of us have stopped doing our Christian duty of proclamation, of sharing the news. In the face of opposition our hope has been shattered, and we have retreated as individuals and as a church into our few remaining strongholds, sealing ourselves off from witnessing to the world in an attempt to protect ourselves. This is a grievous error with a terrible result! We should not be falling back to our hidey-holes, because Scripture proclaims that “behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (2 Cor. 6:2b). We must be willing to bear the ridicule, to become “fools for Christ” (1 Cor. 4:10a), recognizing that “the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Cor. 1:18).

Therefore, it is time to sound the trumpets and don the armor of God: the belt of Truth, the breastplate of Righteousness, the shoes of readiness, the shield of Faith “with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one,” the helmet of Salvation, and the sword of the Spirit “which is the word of God” (Eph. 6:14-17). Charge out into the mission field and proclaim the Gospel of the God who “so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life,” to your family, your friends, your neighbours, and any stranger you meet (John 3:16)! And you can do this with the hope and confidence that God’s Word does not go out from the mouth and return empty, “but it shall accomplish that which [He] purposes, and shall succeed in the thing for which [He] sent it” (Isaiah 55:11)

So, have hope brothers and sisters. Have hope that the God who saved you can also save others. For in a time so filled with hopelessness and anxiety about the future, what we need is Christ crucified for us. We need to make the Gospel

heard, for it alone has the power to save. This is the hope for which we are to give reason. May God grant us such hope, that we may approach today's ministry context with confidence in the life-saving words of Scripture, knowing that it alone can bring the masses back. Amen.

## Highlights of Business Meeting. Saturday October 19, 2019



CALC's 2019 annual general convention began with an inspiring devotion by Pastor-in-Training Ed Parke. He spoke of the challenges inherent in sharing the faith in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. His devotion concluded with a message of hope and a call to

persevere as expressed in the words of the poem entitled "The Tide" by an unknown author.

*On the far reef the breakers  
recoil in shattered foam,  
Yet still the sea behind them urges its forces home;  
Its chant of triumph surges, through all the thunderous din  
The wave may break in failure, But the tide is sure to win.  
O mighty sea, thy message in changing spray is cast:  
Within God's plan of progress it matters not at last,  
How wide the shores of evil,  
How strong the reefs of sin  
The wave may be defeated,  
But the tide is sure to win.*

Pastor Parke encouraged us to see that Jesus calls our proclamation of the Gospel to be as relentless as the waves of the sea. We may see the Gospel message thwarted; absorbed by the shores of evil and broken on the reef of sin. However, we must remember that the Holy Spirit uses the proclamation of the Gospel to create faith. The Holy Spirit is stronger than sin and evil. The Gospel will cross all barriers and save souls. We are called to keep sharing the Gospel.

**Registration Report:** Secretary Vivien Georgeson reported that there were 78 people registered for the 2019 CALC Annual Convention. There are 46 registered as Voting Delegates, 4 Associate Members, 10 members of National Council and 14 Visitors, with representatives from 28 of CALC's 32 congregations, from 5 provinces – BC, Alberta,

Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario. Attending as Visitors, were: Leon Miles representing the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT) of Brookings, South Dakota, USA; keynote speaker, Colonel John Eidsmoe, Pike Road, Alabama, USA; Pastor Charles Jackson, representing World Mission Prayer League, Sherwood Park, AB; Pastor Rick Bergh, Certified Thanatologist with Grief Counseling Ministry, Victoria, BC; and Dan Bidulock, of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Cochrane, AB, representing Wycliffe Bible Translators.

## Elders' Report.



The Elders' Report came after the registration report. The report was delivered by Elder Rev. Peeter Vanker.

The following changes to CALC rosters were moved, seconded and carried:

Individual Associate Members Added to the Roster
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Brenda Evjen
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Pastor John Graham
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Additions to the Roster of Pastors
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Roland C. Weisbrot, by Ordination 2019-10-06
--

Victory Lutheran Church, Medicine Hat, AB
---

John H. Lofstedt, by Ordination 2019-06-09
--

Resurrection Lutheran Church, Pembroke, ON
--

Wayneroy Mohabir, Interim Pastor
----------------------------------

Ev. Luth. Church of the Good Shepherd, Toronto, ON
--

Alan Gilman, Interim Pastor
-----------------------------

All Saints Lutheran Church, Ottawa, ON
--

Kevin Nelson, upon Ordination 2019-11-24
--

Bethel Lutheran Church, Lea Park, AB
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Deletions from the Roster of Pastors
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Garfield Vikse, retirement
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Salem/Trondhjem Luth. Par., Round Hill/Kingman, AB
--

John Graham, resigned to take a new call
--

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Sullivan, ON
---

Ronald Hobden, retirement
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Peace Lutheran Church, Wainwright, AB
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Elaine Hobden, retirement
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Peace Lutheran Church, Wainwright, AB
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Douglas Kranz, fulfillment of Interim Ministry
--

Resurrection Lutheran Church, Pembroke, ON
--

Deletions from the Roster of Diaconal Ministers
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Lila de Waal
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Victory Lutheran Church, Medicine Hat, AB
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Additions to the Roster of Diaconal Ministers
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Gary Graumann, provisional appointment as Chaplain
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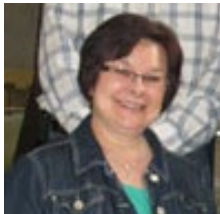
McCreary Care Home, McCreary, MB
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### Congregations in the Call Process:

Asker/Calvary Lutheran Parish Ponoka and Wetaskiwin, AB
Immanuel Lutheran Church of Rosenthal Stony Plain, AB
Salem/Trondhjem Lutheran Parish Ponoka-Wetaskiwin, AB
St. Peter's Lutheran Church Sullivan, ON
Christ Lutheran Church Sexsmith, ON

## Trustees' Report.



Vice President Helen Zacharias gave the following report.

**New Website:** Our website is in the process of being redeveloped. The work is being undertaken by Red Rock Group, Inc., of Edmonton, AB, for a price of \$1,575.00.

**Communication:** Better lines of communication must be established between CALC and our member congregations regarding CALC's role in congregational life and CALC's financial position. Some suggestions for improving communication include providing our member congregations with: (1) Clear and concise examples of CALC's role in the life of congregations and the broader church; (2) Quarterly financial statements for CALC so that congregations can respond to CALC's needs; and (3) The designation of a CALC representative for each congregation whose mission is to make sure that information from CALC is received by and distributed in his/her congregation.

**Stewardship of Resources:** The Board of Trustees regularly reviews CALC's expenditures with a view towards cutting costs. The National Council generally meets face-to-face three times a year: (1) the first meeting typically occurs some time in January, February or March; (2) the second meeting typically occurs in September or early October; and the National Council attends CALC's Annual General Convention (typically the third weekend in October). National Council members are reimbursed: (1) the costs of transportation (and accommodations at times), to the two National Council meetings; and (2) the costs of transportation, accommodations and full registration for the annual general convention. National Council will meet for the first meeting electronically or by a virtual boardroom on the internet.

**Succession Planning:** The relationship between our president and the National Council has been one whereby the National Council establishes policy and our president

implements the policy. The president will term out October 2021. Board of Trustees must provide for a transition to new presidential leadership. The Trustees will be engaged in evaluating the president's current position and developing a way forward. (See also the article on Page 20 for more information on succession planning).

**Reduction in the Size of the Board.** Our constitution was amended to reduce the number of the elected Trustees to two (2), as a consequence, Dennis McGuire's position on the board (which became vacant at the convention), was not filled.

**Elections:** Fred Schickedanz, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Cochrane, AB was elected Vice President for a four year term by acclamation. Helen Zacharias, Christ Lutheran, Morden, MB, was elected Treasurer for a four year term. She ran against incumbent Treasurer Brenda Evjen.

We want to thank Brenda Evjen and Dennis for their excellent service on our National Council. May God bless Brenda and Dennis and all their future endeavors. See article below.

**Next Year's Convention:** October 16-17, 2020. National Council was to investigate holding the convention at a Hotel.

## President's Report.



Our President gave his 10<sup>th</sup> President's Report at the 2019 convention. He reminded those present that constituting convention of CALC met at the Port O'Call Hotel some 28 years ago (Oct. 1992). He highlighted some of blessings CALC has received over the

past 28 years:

- Membership grew from 1 to 32 congregations.
- Members have supported 28 annual general conventions.
- Convention venues have included, churches, Bible Schools, convention centers, Christian camps and hotels.
- Keynote speakers have included: best-selling Christian authors; theologians; Christian Apologists; Christian TV personalities; dissident orthodox Lutheran Pastors; seminary presidents; and seminary professors.
- Our speakers have hailed from across Canada, the United States, and Bremen, Germany.
- The convention that was farthest west: St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Kamloops, BC. The farthest east: All Saints Lutheran Church in Ottawa, ON. Northernmost: Christ Lutheran Church, Sexsmith, Alberta. Southernmost: Faith Lutheran and Good Shepherd Lutheran in Toronto, ON.
- The highest attendance at a convention was 120 at the 2016 Convention held at All Saints Lutheran Church in Ottawa, ON.

- Clusters of congregations meet regularly in Ontario, Alberta and BC. We must encourage cluster meetings and improve upon their content and organization.
- We have sponsored and led Pastors' Study Conferences since 2007. Beginning in 2014, pastors' conferences have been held two days before our annual general convention. Over the past several years we have been blessed with keynote speakers who have inspired and equipped our congregants.
- This year we held the first annual joint CALC-ILT-CS Pastors' Study Conference. ILT-CS is a registered Canadian Charity that provides theological education in Canada through ILT. 44 Registered for the two day event. Guest pastors came from LCMC, NALC and the LCC.
- We forged a relationship with the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT) of Brookings, South Dakota, USA. ILT uses an online video classroom system for instruction. Students learn in a live online classroom. They can study anywhere they find a good internet connection. As a consequence ILT is our seminary.
- **Shepherd's Pathway:** Our relationship with ILT has permitted us to adopt the Shepherd's Pathway. Candidates for the ministry study for the ministry with ILT and receive either a pastoral ministry certificate 36 credits or a Master of Divinity 90 credits.
- Two CALC students earned a Pastoral Ministry Certificate followed by a Master of Divinity Degree from ILT. One student has earned a Pastoral Ministry Certificate from ILT and is continuing his studies at ILT. Five pastors, who were trained by and served in another Christian denomination, and who now serve CALC congregations, received additional training for Lutheran formation from ILT.
- With the ordination of Kevin Nelson in November of this year, eight pastors will have been ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in CALC since 2012.

We have faced challenges over the years:

**Pastors:** God has blessed our congregations with pastors. However, many of our pastors will be retiring in the next decade. To fill the pulpits that are currently vacant and those that will become vacant we must take action:

- The next pastor of your congregation may currently be sitting in your pews. God could be poised to call a member of your congregation to be your pastor. ILT offers an exciting possibility. Your congregant could receive training from ILT and use that training in the parish immediately.
- We can work with the Augustana District of LCMC, other districts of LCMC and NALC to expand the list of potential candidates for call.
- We can work with ANiC (Anglican Network in Canada) to expand the list of potential candidates for call.

**Conflict:** Conflict in the parish/congregation has seriously challenged the integrity and growth of our congregations.

We must be proactive in dealing with conflict. We must identify pastors and lay people who have the gifts for mediating conflict and provide for the training necessary to enhance their gifts. Trained and equipped mediators can be deployed to our congregations experiencing conflict.

**Social Issues:** CALC is called to study the problems of contemporary life and society in the light provided by the sacred Scriptures in order to bring to bear as Christian understanding of human nature, Law and Gospel, and Dr. Martin Luther's insight concerning the two kingdoms, in order to enter effectively into society and government to help in dealing justly and mercifully with such problems. We have two existing statements, one on the role of women as leaders, including pastors, in the church and human sexuality and marriage. These publications have been used extensively by LCMC and ILT.

There are three social issues which must be addressed:

- (1) Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) Act;
- (2) the implications of new gender reassignment laws and non-discrimination legislation; and
- (3) Alzheimer's Disease/Dementia – pastoral care and congregational care for the patient and the patient's family.

Speakers at this year's Pastor's conference dealt with MAiD. The information generated will be useful in developing CALC's teaching on MAiD which will be shared at the Friday Learning Event at the 2020 Convention. The 2020 Pastors' Conference will, God willing, look at the implications for the church of new gender reassignment laws and non-discrimination legislation. The information generated will be useful in developing CALC's teaching on gender reassignment which will be shared at the Friday Learning Event at the 2021 Convention. The 2021 Pastors' Conference will, God willing, look at Alzheimer's Disease/Dementia – pastoral care and congregational care to the patient and the patient's family. The information generated will be useful in developing CALC's teaching on the church's response to dementia which will be shared at the Friday Learning Event at the 2022 Convention.

*"In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps."* (Proverbs 16:9). We have many plans, let us pray fervently that God would order our steps so that our goals are achieved and God is glorified in their accomplishment.

*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11)*

## CALC's Finances & Budget



Treasurer Brenda Evjen, gave CALC's financial report. Delegates approved financial statements for 2018. Our Association's expenses exceeded our income for a net loss of \$11,045.00.

The delegates approved a budget of \$104,650.00 for 2020. Line items of the budget are provided below.

BUDGETED REVENUE		2020
Congregational benevolence		\$69,350
Contributions - other		16,000
Convention registrations		7,500
Pastors retreat registrations		11,000
GST rebate		800.00
Totals		<b>\$104,650</b>
BUDGETED DISBURSEMENTS		
Administrative Assistant <sup>1</sup>		\$3,600
Annual national convention		15,500
Bank service charges		100
Conference fees <sup>2</sup>		500
Director liability insurance		1000
ILT Canada Society		3,000
Marriage Registration		2,000
Membership - CCCC		350
National Council meetings <sup>3</sup>		5,000
Office and postage		100
Outreach <sup>4</sup>		55,000
Pastors' retreat		13,000
Travel - pastoral & executive		5,000
Website maintenance		5200
Totals		<b>\$104,650</b>

Over the past few years, CALC's expenses have exceeded donations from all sources and we have eaten into our reserves. This cannot continue. CALC relies on benevolence from our member congregations and donations from individuals. Some of our congregations are facing challenges in membership and finances and for the foreseeable future their benevolence will reflect the impact of these challenges.

God has challenged National Council to constantly evaluate CALC's spending and cut cost whenever possible.

The good news is that our congregations and certain individuals have stepped up and funded the ministry of CALC. God is still in control and the resources CALC requires are available.

National Council has met twice a year face-to-face in Calgary and gathered at the Annual General Convention.

National Council has agreed to have one National Council meeting by Adobe Connect or other video conferencing service.

At times like this God asks others, specifically, individuals to come forward and give as they are able. Donations from individuals can be large or small. The trustees will look at a program whereby individuals can give monthly donations which are taken right out of an account or charged on a credit card. Donations of \$20.00, \$40.00 or \$50.00 per month add up.

We ask our congregations to continue to contribute to our Gathering Fund, so that congregations in financial difficulty are able to access grants so that their pastor or their delegate can attend a convention.

## Saturday Keynote Speaker



Pastor Jim Bredeson, of Victory Lutheran Church, Medicine Hat, AB, was our Keynote Speaker for Saturday October 19<sup>th</sup>. He gave an inspiring presentation on the Reformed Lutheran Church of Rwanda (RLCR). He was invited to Rwanda by Pastor Jean Claude Maniragaba, the founder of the

Reformed Lutheran Church of Rwanda. (See picture below to the right of Pastor Jean Claude and his family).

Pastor Bredeson noted that the trip came as a bit of a "God-incidence." Just before this invitation came, Pastor Jim had been visited by a man who lives in Medicine Hat who is an immigrant from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). He showed Pastor Jim pictures of a friend in the DRC who is a Lutheran pastor as well as pictures of his ministry. Pastor Jim was considering a visit to the DRC when the email from Jean-Claude arrived inviting Pastor Jim to come to Rwanda. He thought the two pastors knew each other as Rwanda and the DRC are neighbouring countries. It turned out that they weren't, and the men did not know one another. Jean-Claude had emailed Pastor Jim because he was interested in becoming part of LCMC and saw Victory Lutheran listed and liked its name (Victory).



The country of Rwanda is 49.5% Roman Catholic, 39.4% Protestant, 1.8% Muslim, 0.1% Indigenous, 3.6% none, and other 0.6%. The major Protestant denominations are the Anglican Church and the Seventh-day Adventist church. He also saw many Kingdom Halls of the Jehovah Witnesses. The Muslims are busy building mosques funded by wealthy oil-rich Arab countries. There is another Lutheran



denomination present. The Lutheran Church of Rwanda was founded in 1994 by Rwandan refugees in Tanzania and has about 6,000 members.

The Reformed Lutheran Church of Rwanda (Lutheran.church.weebly.com) was formed in 2011 by Pastor Jean-Claude Maniragaba. He had come to learn of Martin Luther while a student at the Westminster Theological College in Kampala, Uganda (today known as Africa Reformation Theological Seminary, ARTS, arts.ac.ug). The "Reformed" in its name may seem contradictory but should be understood in a sense more like "reorganized" rather than "Calvinist." He began this church rather than joining the existing denomination because of its affiliation with the Lutheran World Federation and the ELCA.

There is a history in Africa of supporting churches imposing Western practices on African churches regardless of cultural norms. As the Western Church continues to veer from Biblical standards there is a concern what this might mean in the future. Pastor Maniragaba is a young man (36) with much ambition (in a good sense). He is driven to fulfill the mandate the Lord has given him and has the respect of his pastors.

The RLCR consists of 10 churches. He visited 6 of the 10 during my time there and 10 pastors (He met all of them). The church is concentrated in the Nyagatare District of the Eastern Province in the far northeast of the country where Uganda and Tanzania meet Rwanda. He also met all of the pastors' wives as well as many deacons and deaconesses of the church. While in Rwanda, Pastor Jim baptized 25 children and youth and ordained six candidates for the ministry.



Rwanda is one of the safest countries in Africa. It has tremendous potential. The civil government is making every effort to make Rwanda a modern nation. The government has required that the churches fit into this new way forward. They are requiring church buildings to meet governmental standards. Government requires churches to establish standards for pastoral training and ordination. The civil government's march forward has had a serious impact on the RLCR.

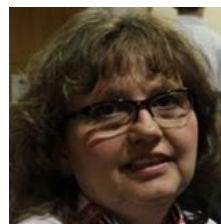
In North American terms, it is a building code problem. The church is in desperate need of buildings. This is difficult for them as most congregants are subsistence farmers and there are many widows and orphans. The three pictures below illustrate what the government of Rwanda wants from churches in the country. The outside of the building as well as the floor must be cemented. There must be a tank to collect water as well as proper sanitary facilities with doors for men and women.



In closing, Pastor Jim spoke of the opportunity for CALC, a small Lutheran Church, to partner with and help another small struggling Lutheran Church to become "Lutheran" and in the process help them to meet government regulations.

## Thanks & Godspeed to Departing Members of National Council

National Council members Brenda Evjen and Dennis McGuire are leaving our National Council. Dennis' position on the Board of Trustees has been eliminated by the recent amendments to our constitution which reduced the minimum size of our National Council from 10 to 8. We want to take this opportunity to give thanks to God for Brenda and Dennis, for their service, their hard work and the unique contribution each made to the National Council. We wish them godspeed as they continue to serve and follow Jesus in new ways.

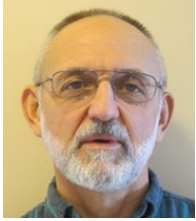


Brenda served as our Treasurer for the last four years. She has over thirty years of experience in accounting and doing the books for several organizations, including both for profit and non-profit organizations.

We want to thank her for all the invoices and requests for reimbursements she vetted, the cheques she wrote, the reports and returns she prepared and the budgets she helped prepare and oversee.

Brenda is currently an income tax auditor for Canada Revenue Agency. Her position with the CRA enables her to view a set of books from the accounting side as well as the tax side.

Brenda is an Individual Associate Member. She lives in Stony Plain, AB.



Dennis served as a member of CALC's Board of Trustees. We want to thank Dennis for his steadfast service on the Board of Trustees. Dennis' unique contribution to the National Council and CALC was fuelled by his service in the church. He served over 20 years on

church councils at two Lutheran congregations in Chesley and Elmwood, Ontario. He has a diverse working background. He farmed for many years. He has been a truck driver and is experienced in the repair of farm machinery. He worked for the local school board as an Educational Assistant. He drove school bus for many years.

Dennis is a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Sullivan, Ontario.

## Welcome to Our New National Council Member.



Delegates to our 2019 Convention elected Fred Schickedanz as Vice President. He served as Vice President and Chair of the Board of Trustees from 2009 to 2013 and 2013 to 2015.

Fred will bring great wisdom and experience to the Board of Trustees. He is the CEO of Schickedanz West, an enterprise established in the Calgary area in 1979 – an offshoot of Schickedanz Bros. Ltd., which began building in eastern Canada in 1951. For more than 34 years, Schickedanz West has been involved in some of western Canada's finest residential, recreational and commercial real estate developments.

Fred has passion for the training and education of our pastors. Under his capable leadership from 2009 to 2015, that passion led to action and concrete results.

He urged the National Council to authorize and oversee the development and implementation of CALC's innovative Shepherd's Pathway to the Pastoral Ministry. He encouraged CALC to use the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT) as our primary seminary under the Shepherd's Pathway. He has served and continues to serve on the Board of ILT. He was a founding member and serves on the Board of Directors of the Institute of Lutheran Theology Canada Society (ILTCS), a registered Canadian Charity, whose purpose is to facilitate the theological education of Canadian seminary students through ILT and provide scholarships and grants to Canadian students studying at ILT.

Fred is married to Robin. They have one son and three daughters. They are proud grandparents.

## Institute of Lutheran Theology Report for 2019



Friday evening Leon Miles, Executive Vice President and Comptroller of ILT, gave an inspiring presentation on our seminary. His presentation highlighted some ground-breaking milestones achieved by ILT:

- **PHD Program:** ILT's accreditation by the ABHE has opened the door to offering a PHD program. Applications are being accepted. See article on the PHD program below.
- **Enrollment:** Enrollment in ILT is currently at a high of 85 students. Canadians make up about 20% of the student body. CALC students comprise about 11% of the student body. All students use ILT's virtual classroom created by online video conferencing.
- **Student Employment Rate After Graduation:** 75% of those graduating with a Master of Divinity from ILT are called as pastors. 68% of the graduates of the Pastoral Ministry Certificate are called to the pastoral ministry.
- **Tuition/Cost per Student.** ILT's virtual classroom model for education permits a first-rate education at a cost which is significantly lower than a seminary whose students attend a bricks and mortar (physical) institution.
- **Student Retention Rates:** 90% of the students that start a graduate degree program at ILT (Master of Divinity, Master of Religious Studies, Doctor of Ministry, Master of Sacred Theology, or Master of Military Chaplaincy) complete the degree. 75% of the students that start the Pastoral Ministry Certificate or other certificate offered by ILT complete the program. The average retention rate for US colleges and universities is 61%. These statistics testify to the caliber and quality of the education received and the dedication of students.
- **Graduations:** ILT began in 2009. From 2009 to today, ILT has achieved the following graduation rate:
  - Pastoral Ministry Certificate: 28 graduates
  - Other Certificates: 12 graduates
  - Master of Divinity: 12 graduates
  - Master of Arts Religion: 6 graduates
  - Master of Sacred Theology: 2 graduates

Leon noted that student tuition represents about 22% of the revenue needed for the seminary. The balance of their approximately 1-million-dollar budget comes from donations individuals and congregations. He emphasized the need for donations. He also emphasized that ILT would like to maintain a policy that no student should be denied entrance based on solely on their inability to pay tuition. In the past, ILT has had funds for student benevolence. He hopes that donors will come forward and fund this worthy

cause. Leon's presentation was followed by a graduation ceremony.

Pastoral Ministry Certificates were conferred on Roland Weisbrot and Kevin Nelson. See articles on the ordinations of Kevin Nelson and Roland Weisbrot above.



L-R: Leon Miles of ILT, Kevin Nelson, Roland Weisbrot and Pastor Ed Skutshek.

## ILT Offers a Ph.D.



The Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT) Ph.D. program commenced with its first students this fall. As the fall semester winds down, Ph.D. students are now working toward finishing their projects in their first course. These students are now beginning to define the path they will take through the Ph.D. program so that they are prepared to do the research that will become their dissertation. There are five students currently in the Ph.D. program. They come from all over the US and one comes from Madagascar.

Next semester there are two courses available for Ph.D. students with Dr. Dennis Bielfeldt teaching a seminar on Heidegger and Dr. Paul R. Hinlicky will be teaching a seminar on his systematic theology, Beloved Community. Both courses will bring depth of insight into the theological confusion and clear the clutter occurring in our modern secular world.

This new doctoral program is a part of ILT's overall purpose not only to prepare pastors to serve faithfully and skillfully in congregations, but also to provide the necessary education for future theologians and teachers. This terminal degree is requisite to teaching theology at accredited schools.

There are many current societal issues that must be studied by theologians. We need professors who can train pastors to read the horizon. These five students are being prepared to engage in these academic pursuits at the highest level and to help train the faithful, well-educated pastors

required by the future church. Please pray for our students as they come to the end of this semester and contemplate how they will continue their studies at ILT.

## 2019 First Annual CALC – ILTCS Pastors' Study Retreat



Rev. Timothy Rynearson, Keynote Speaker addressing the Pastors

On October 16 and 17, 2019, the Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations (CALC) and Institute of Lutheran Theology-Canada Society (ILTCS) held a Pastors' Study Conference at the Best Western Port O'Call Hotel in Calgary, Alberta.

ILTCS is a registered charity in Canada that supports the education of Canadian ILT students and supports Canadian pastors. ILTCS helps by providing funds to cover ILT's expenses to Canadian students, to pay for the exchange rate between US and Canadian dollars (so that Canadian students can pay for tuition in Canadian dollars), and support pastors through the pastors' study conference.

A record 44 registered for the conference. This number included 2 pastors from LCMC, 3 from NALC, 1 from LCMS and 1 from the LCC.

Recently, the Medical Assistance in Dying Act (MAiD) was voted into law in Canada. MAiD allows those who have untreatable illness causing unbearable pain to ask doctors to assist them in committing suicide. Presenters for the conference were Shawn Leclerc, Timothy Rynearson, and Rick Bergh. Shawn is an attorney in Canada. He presented on the law itself and explained the history and limits of the law. Timothy is a professor at ILT and a pastor in South Dakota. He presented on the pastoral care issues involved in having congregational members who decided to use assistance in suicide. Rick is a thanatologist (specialist in death, dying, and bereavement) and pastor in British Columbia. His presentation focused on pastoral care to individuals.

Assisted suicide is going to be a growing issue for pastors, congregations, and families in Canada. There are many legal, ethical, and spiritual issues to discern under this law. We pray that God would give wisdom to leaders and pastors as they work with the consequences this law brings into the lives of Canadian citizens.



The information gleaned from these presentations will be used to formulate CALC's teaching with respect to MAiD and the Sanctity of Life. The first draft of CALC's teaching on Maid and the Sanctity of Life will be presented as a major portion of the Friday teaching event at the 2020 Convention.

We have a vision for our joint annual pastors' study retreat. CALC and ILTCS will strive together to establish and maintain an annual pastors' study retreat which will provide high quality continuing education and opportunities for professional development for the pastors, deacons, pastors-in-training and seminarians of CALC, other Lutheran bodies. In furtherance of this vision ILTCS provided CALC with a \$4,000.00 grant to help defray the costs of the pastors' retreat. We look forward to the 2020 joint pastor's retreat.

## Sermon for Closing of the Pastors' Study Retreat



By Pastor John Lofstedt

Franklin Graham once said, "A secular worldview hostile to biblical values has overrun our culture and permeated our government." And this secular worldview is what we all must battle with our congregations day in and day out. Bombarded by media from all directions, our people find themselves being told messages in direct opposition to the Biblical record. And this is nothing new. In the beginning, in the Garden of Eden, the first false message came from the serpent, "Did God really say..." And this is our battle. It is not with laws, judges or politicians. It is with the devil who desires to take God's people and redirect them onto a path to Hell. If we are lucky, we get our people for a few hours each week to help them sort out the confusion that comes when they realize the message we are preaching is very different than world around them. Our reading from 2 Corinthians is a good example of this- a message that flies in the face of the secular worldview around pain and suffering. All-together, this very personal account from Paul is a scathing retort to the predominant cultural idea that pain and suffering should be kept as far away from our lives as possible and that choosing death over life is an acceptable and sometimes even preferable option.

Because of the Lord Jesus Christ, we know that these ideas of our culture are not healthy nor are they even true. So we must meet the devil and his propaganda war head on with prayer and with solid Biblical teaching for not just our congregation, but ourselves. So, as appointed shepherds of His flock, Jesus calls us to do battle armed with the sword of the spirit and the power of His Word to lead his people to the proper mindset on pain and suffering. God's people need to know there is hope even when everything seems bleak and that they can stand firm on God's promises to

care for them, even in their darkest hour. And in our passage today, Paul gives us four areas we can use to assure our people are equipped for the trials that are to come.

The first thing our people need to know, is that pain and suffering are normal for all people. Pain and suffering are normal for all people. There is a prevailing idea in the world that if you get sick physically or endure mental hardship, this is because you have done something to offend God or your illness is because of "karma." But in this sin-sick world, we, just like the non-Christians around us will endure suffering. Paul tells us in Rom 8 "*The creation was subjected to futility... For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.*" Creation is groaning, we as Christians groan inwardly because of the decay of our world. Heaven alone will remove our pain and our tears, but because of Original sin and God's curse on His creation, until that time comes, pain and suffering are our shared lot with the rest of the world. This passage from 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians highlights this, as even the apostle Paul, God's messenger to the Gentiles and author of 13 New Testament books, had to endure "a thorn in the flesh", that Paul says "tormented" him. In the beginning of the passage he speaks of a vision and revelation that he had that even the strongest Christian amongst us can hardly even imagine, but despite this obvious blessing from God, the effects of our fallen world penetrated even into His life. Our people need to know that pain and suffering from our decaying creation is normal and has nothing to do with the strength of one's faith or the idea that they have offended God. If they can see that even Paul had to endure pain and suffering, they can know that their pain and suffering is normal to all the saints. When we help them understand this reality, they can know that God has not abandoned them, but instead He is there with His strong promises to care for them through their every need.

The second idea this passage brings us is that for Christians, our pain and suffering has purpose and it is for our own good. Our pain and suffering have purpose and are for our own good. Going back to Romans 8 again, Paul says, "*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*" This familiar verse is a reminder that when Scripture says, "all things", it means "all things". Even pain and suffering. This flies in the face of the worldview that there is nothing good that comes from difficult trials. In our 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians passage, Paul says, "*Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated.*" When we put this together with Rom 8:28, we see that in all things, even our pain and suffering, God is working them out for our good. In our passage, for Paul, his thorn in the flesh was to keep him from being too conceited from His amazing revelatory experience. Paul realizes this

is for his own good because God wanted him to learn and grow deeper in Him. God says to Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." When pain and suffering roll around, for God's people, it is not there randomly so we simply suffer the effects of original sin. Instead, Paul tells us we are inflicted to teach us something.

Now, this may be a hard thing for many to understand in light of our world's hatred of all discomfort, but this is where our work as shepherds hits the road. If God promises to work all things for our good, then God will even work our pain and suffering for our good. When trials and tribulations of any kind hit, this has to be our constant refrain. And whatever purpose it is that God has for our pain and suffering, He is always teaching us for one important purpose; to bring us closer to Him. Joni Eareckson Tada once said, "My weakness, that is, my quadriplegia, is my greatest asset because it forces me into the arms of Christ every single morning when I get up." When our people learn that pain and suffering have a purpose and God works it for their good, that strikes a huge contrast to that of the world which says that pain and suffering hold no value. Because of the Lord, Christians can place a value on suffering where the world has none. This is not to say that knowing this makes it any easier to endure, but knowing there is purpose, our people can say with Paul, "I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me."

The third item that our passage tells us about is a strong one. Our pain and suffering is an opportunity to mock Satan. Our pain and suffering is an opportunity to mock Satan. A message from the world is that if you are in pain, how can there be a God? Or if we believe in a good God, why doesn't He allow suffering? These can be tough questions to answer if one is not armed before-hand. To see how our pain and suffering can mock Satan, one has to first realize the source of our pain and suffering. Yes, it is a natural consequence of the sin in this world, but the source itself is our sovereign God. Paul tells us, "*I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud.*" Though this, we see that God gives him the thorn and Satan uses it to torment Him. We see this also in Job. "*The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil."* And Satan then seeks God's permission to destroy Job. And while this can seem wrong and backward; that God would be the source of our pain; it all fits within God's sovereign nature to be in full control of His world. Job understands this well, "*the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.*" The Lord gives and takes away. God is sovereign in all, but Satan tries to corrupt all. This is Romans 8:28 again. All things work for our good as believers because God is sovereign in all actions. The sovereignty of God is a much bigger topic than I have time for here, but we can clearly say

to our people, what God designs for good, even our pain and suffering, Satan will always try to corrupt. The Apostle Peter sums it up this way, "*Satan is like a roaring lion, prowling around, looking for someone to devour.*" So when our pain and suffering comes, how we deal with it is an opportunity to spit in his face.

In our passage, Paul says about His thorn in the flesh, "Three times I appealed to the Lord about this." Very clearly, in his pain and suffering, Paul appeals directly to God. This point cannot be missed. It may seem a bit like a no-brainer, but our people need to know that when they endure pain and suffering, they should turn to rather than away from God. This mocks Satan and his desire that we reject our Lord. Psalm 16 tells us, "*I have set the Lord before me continuously; because he stands at my right hand, I will stand firm*" Satan is mocked when He does not succeed. Luther once said, "The best way to drive out the devil, if he will not yield to texts of Scripture, is to jeer and flout him, for he cannot bear scorn." In this, turning to Jesus in your pain and suffering rather than away, spits in the devil's face. Pain and Suffering gives our people an opportunity like no other to mock Satan and His schemes; to say with Job, The Lord gives and the Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Finally, and most importantly, though this passage, Paul shows us that our pain and suffering glorifies God. Our pain and suffering glorifies God. In a world that says there is no purpose in pain. In a world that says we should avoid pain at all costs, God gives us a different message. God says to Paul, "*My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.*" This is an important point. We are the vessel that God uses to glorify Himself. This makes our pain and suffering a privilege rather than a curse. Paul says, "*So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.*" When we are weak, Christ is strong for us. Like no other time in our lives, when we experience pain and suffering, we have opportunity to make sure that God gets all the glory. When our power runs out. When it seems like there is no other place to go. God promises to be strong for His people. When pain and suffering is more than we can endure, God does this so we can rely wholly and completely on Him. This is really important for God's people to understand. There is no holier state this side of heaven than one who has to rely on Christ for their next moment or their next breath. Isaiah 40 tells us,

*<sup>28</sup>God does not faint or grow weary; <sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. <sup>30</sup>Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup>but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."*

When we give God the opportunity to be strong for us, He is glorified. Paul tells us earlier in this letter to the Corinthians, "*We do not want you to be unaware, brothers*

*and sisters, of the affliction we experienced in Asia; for we were so utterly, unbearably crushed that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death so that we would rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead”* So that we would rely on not ourselves, but on God who raises the dead. Is that not the most beautiful picture of hope we can give to those in their last days. When we seek the Lord in our pain and suffering, He is glorified because we know that no matter the outcome; we will be raised to new life with Him. Amen!

## Office of the President Succession Planning

By Pastor Ed Skutshek, President

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

It has been my privilege to serve as your President for the past ten years. My third term will end at CALC's Annual General Convention in 2021. I cannot be nominated for the position for another term. It is incumbent upon the Board of Trustees, working with the National Council, to work toward succession in the office of the President. The process of succession is complicated. I would like to offer some advice and guidance.

We first must understand the President's role as mandated by our constitution. CALC's Constitution defines the President's role as follows:

- To serve primarily as spiritual leader of our Association.
- Witness enthusiastically to his/her faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
- Promise to uphold CALC's Confession of Faith (Article Three), and promote the Purpose (Article Five).
- Endeavor to promote truth, peace, and order within the fellowship of this Association.
- Be responsible for the effective administration of our Association.
- Serve as the designated chair of: any meeting of CALC's members; and meetings of the National Council and the Board of Elders.
- CALC's model congregational constitution and bylaws encourages our congregations to contact our President during the pastoral call process and in times of strife.

Over the past ten years, my role as President may be summarized as follows:

**Part-time position.** I have simultaneously served as President of CALC and Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church of West Kelowna, BC. In the early years I spent less of my time on CALC's affairs. As CALC grew, my responsibilities grew and the time I spent of CALC's affairs grew. My fulltime position is currently allocated as follows: about 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s of my time is devoted to CALC's business and about 1/3 as one of the pastors of Grace Lutheran Church. CALC reimburses

Grace Lutheran for the 2/3 time I spend on CALC related activities at the rate of \$55,000.00 per year.

Over the past ten years the office of the President has:

- Taken a lead role in dialogue with other church bodies including LCMC, the Augusta District of the LCMC, LC-C, and more recently NALC.
- Worked with congregations in the process of calling parish pastors and facilitating the call of Pastors in Extended Ministry.
- Compiled and published the bulletin of reports for CALC's annual general convention from 2015 to present.
- Worked to arrange for the licensure of our pastors under provincial marriage acts.
- Taken a lead role in laying the groundwork for the Diaconal Ministry in CALC, including the preparation of constitutional amendments which established the diaconate, and guidelines for the training, call and discipline of deacons.
- Served as lead author in some of CALC's position papers, including, papers on Women in Ministry, Marriage and Human Sexuality.
- Taken a lead role in developing ministry standards, call documents, including letters of call, and applications for entry into ministry in CALC.
- Taken a lead role in planning CALC's annual general conventions and pastors' retreats: including suggesting keynote speakers and, when approved, working to retain their services. Worked closely with congregations hosting our annual general convention; or with the staff of non-congregational venues (hotel & Christian Camp) hosting the convention or retreat.
- Mentored congregations in time of strife, including times when pastors were on medical leave.
- Represented CALC when our congregations have achieved milestones, typically anniversaries. He has acted as Ordinator for the ordination of candidates to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament and the consecration of a Diaconal Minister.

I serve on the Board of Directors of the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT) of Brookings, SD, USA, CALC's seminary; and as a member of the Board of Directors of Institute of Lutheran Theology Canada Society, (ILTCS) which partners with ILT in providing theological education to Canadian students.

The delegates to the 2020 convention will appoint a Nominating Committee who would be tasked with finding candidates with gifts and skills necessary to assume the office of the President, the office of the Secretary and one of the positions on the Board of Trustees. The voting delegates to the 2021 convention would vote to select successful candidates for these offices.

The roles currently filled by the office of the President have developed over ten years, incrementally, with time to grow into each role. It is unrealistic to believe a candidate could



just step into each of these roles. The Board of Trustees, must carefully analyze each of the activities undertaken by the office of the President and separate them into:

- a. Activities which relate to spiritual leadership, defense of CALC's constitution and oversight of CALC's activities;
- b. Activities which could be undertaken in liaison with the Board of Elders and/or Board Trustees;
- c. Activities which are managerial and/or clerical in nature.

Following an analysis of the current President's job description, the Board of Trustees should:

- a. Develop a job description for the President which defines the parameters of: the President's spiritual leadership; oversight of CALC's operations; assistance to congregations in the call process; and assistance to congregations in times of conflict and strife.
- b. Work with CALC's executive and the Board of Elders to develop job descriptions or guidelines for their respective roles in organizing and planning CALC's annual general meeting and annual pastors' retreat.
- c. Develop a job description for an executive director or manager who would be appointed by the National Council who would be retained for day-to-day management of CALC's affairs and responsible for the implementation of the directives and policies of the National Council.

We must all believe that God has a plan for our Association and will reveal the right people for the tasks and challenges our Association will face.

In Christ  
Pastor Ed

## Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute

# CLBI

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## CALC's Contribution to CLBI

The Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute (CLBI) is a pan Lutheran Bible School located in Camrose, Alberta.

CLBI's mission is to train followers of Christ to become servant leaders. They long to see students know God more intimately, love Him more deeply, and serve Him more faithfully. They are a discipleship school dedicated to developing Christ's followers. They are a small Bible school, with a program uniquely designed to stretch students and to help them encounter God in new and deeper ways and discover who He has created them to be. Through a combination of Bible teaching, adventure, mentorship,

service, and community, students are encouraged to get real, go deep, and grow in their faith.

With the courses taken at CLBI, plus additional study, CLBI can grant a Bachelor of Applied Christian Studies degree.



Members of CALC are currently serving CLBI.



Pastor Ted Hill serves as CLBI's program director. As program director Pastor Ted is responsible for developing and maintaining CLBI's programs and other educational services. Before taking his position at CLBI, Pastor Ted served as the fulltime pastor of Asker/Calvary Lutheran Parish, a two point parish made up of rural churches located outside of Ponoka and Wetaskiwin, AB. Pastor Ted is in the process of rostering with CALC as a Pastor in Extended Ministry.



CALC's rostered pastors have and continue to serve on CLBI's board of directors. October of this year, Pastor Ed Roste was elected to the CLBI's Board of Directors. He also serves as the Chairperson of the Board. He is the pastor of Sharon, Lutheran Church, Irma, AB.

Pastor Alvin Sorenson was also elected to CLBI's Board of Directors. Pastor Alvin serves Golden Valley Lutheran Church, in Viking, AB. He has previously served on CLBI's board.



Pastor John-Mark Bredeson's term on CLBI's board came to an end at the October AGM. Pastor John-Mark serves as the pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Leader Saskatchewan. Karen Neiman's term on the board also ended, she is a member of a CALC congregation.

