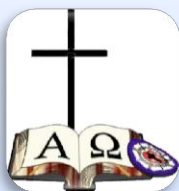
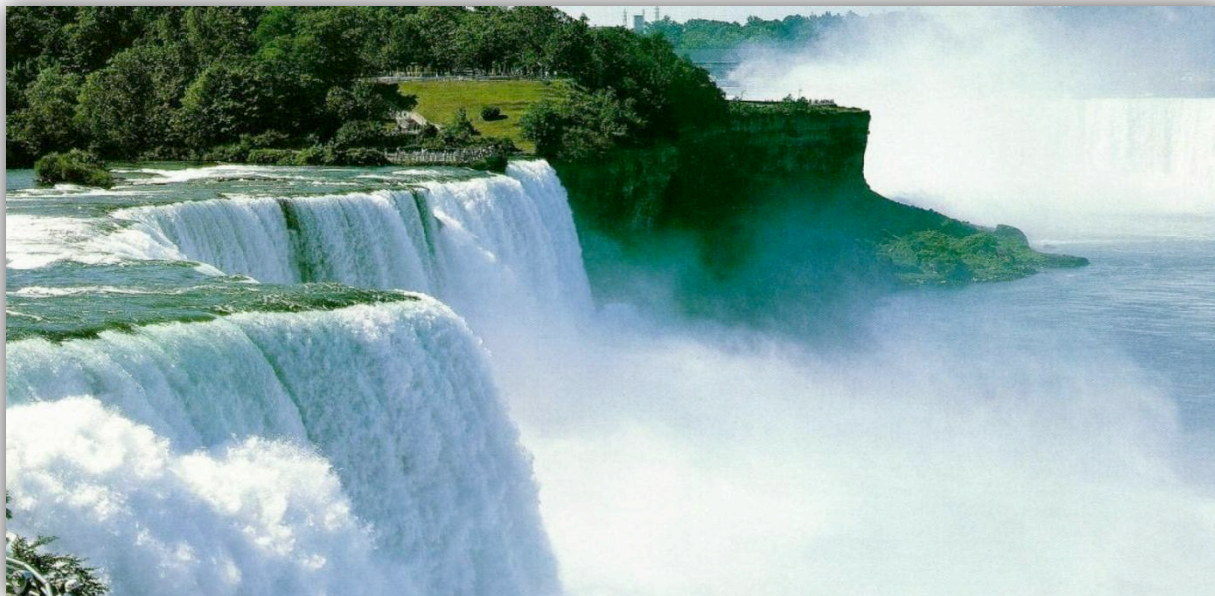


# The Lutheran Connector

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



*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

The Official Publication of the Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations (CALC) [www.calc.ca](http://www.calc.ca)

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## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Convention 2013

I am really excited about our upcoming Annual General Convention. This year we will meet from Friday November 1<sup>st</sup> through to Sunday November 3<sup>rd</sup> at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Stony Plain, Alberta. My excitement is fueled by a number of unique opportunities presented by this year's venue.

- God has blessed Immanuel Lutheran with wonderful facilities. There is plenty of room for worship, study and fellowship.
- God has blessed CALC with a cluster of member congregations around Immanuel Lutheran, including: Emmaus Lutheran in Edmonton; Bardo Lutheran in Tofield; Golden Valley Lutheran in Viking; Trondhjem Lutheran in Round Hill, Salem Lutheran in Kingman; Sharon Lutheran in Irma; and Peace Lutheran in Wainwright, Calvary Lutheran in Wetaskiwin, and Asker Lutheran, Ponoka. Members of all these congregations have an opportunity to participate in all or any part of our convention.
- Bardo Lutheran in Tofield is holding a CALC Rally on September 14<sup>th</sup>. What a great opportunity for the CALC congregations in the area to get together and get to know one another. I will be able to share the latest information on the convention with those present. **See report on the Rally on page 18.**

CALC's mandate is to gather our member congregations together for worship, learning, study, prayer, and Christian fellowship so that we are transformed by the power of God's Word and work of the Holy Spirit among us and we are thus better equipped, encouraged and inspired to fulfill Christ's Great Commission. Each day of our convention has been planned to include time for praise, worship, learning and fellowship.

### Friday November 1<sup>st</sup>

Annual Learning Event (9:30 AM to 4:00 PM).

**Whole Group Session: 9:30-10:30 AM: *The 1<sup>st</sup> Century Church***. By the time the Roman Emperor Constantine legalized Christianity and gave it most favorable status in the Roman Empire in 319 AD, Christianity had transformed Roman Society. The Book of Acts records that on the First Pentecost Sunday about 3,000 were added to the fledgling church. Some three hundred years later about half of the estimated 70 million people who inhabited the Roman Empire professed to be Christians. From about 3,500 to 35 million in about three hundred years. This monumental societal transformation is explored by Sociologist Dr. Rodney Stark in his work "***The Rise of Christianity.***"

**Warning:** This book is not written by a Christian primarily for other Christians. It is not meant to lead people to Jesus. This book is written by a sociologist and is filled with a lot of the jargon used by sociologists. It seeks to find scientifically verifiable reasons for the rise of Christianity.

So why are we studying this text? How can a book written by a social scientist help us? Stark's work quoted by Christian speakers throughout North America. However, Stark's work is always revealed through the speaker's lens and is used in a way to augment and compliment the speaker's thesis. In this hour I will unpack Stark's tomb. He will present Stark's thesis on how and why Christianity blossomed and grew in Stark's own terms. Following a coffee break, from **11:00-11:30 AM**, we will engage in a discussion on Stark's work and its applicability to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church and our individual congregations.

If you want to read Stark's book in advance of my presentation, Stark's work may be cited as follows: Stark, Rodney, ***The Rise of Christianity***, (subtitled either "***A sociologist reconsiders history***" or "***How the Obscure, Marginal Jesus Movement Became the Dominant Religious Force in the Western World in a Few Centuries,***" depending on the edition) (1996/97) Princeton University Press & Harper, San Francisco. 272 pages. ISBN: 978-0060677015. New and used hardcover and paperback copies of the subject book are available on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

**Breakout Sessions (11:30 AM to 12:30 PM) & (1:30 to 2:30 PM):**

This year we will offer two breakout sessions of one hour each. The first breakout session will be presented from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM. The second session will follow lunch from 1:30 to 2:30 PM. Breakout Session I and II will further be broken down into two half-hour segments. Classes, roughly a 25 minutes in duration, will be offered as follows:

**Session I** from 11:30 AM–12:00 PM and **Session II** from 1:30-2:00 PM

CALC 101 <sup>1</sup>	(Moms Canada <sup>2</sup> - Session II)	ILT <sup>3</sup>	CLWR <sup>4</sup>	LBT <sup>5</sup>
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**Session I** from 12:00-12:30 PM and **Session II** 2:00-2:30 PM.

Creation Apologetics <sup>6</sup>	(Moms Canada - Session II)	CLBI <sup>7</sup>	WMPL <sup>8</sup>	MOSAIC <sup>9</sup>
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<sup>1</sup> <b>CALC 101:</b> In this class the speaker will summarize CALC as a church body, the theology behind its organizational structure, call and certification of CALC pastors and the emerging models for ministry in CALC congregations. <b>Speaker:</b> Pastor Ed Skutshek, CALC’s President.	<sup>2</sup> <b>Moms Canada.</b> MOMS Canada, is a charitable organization based at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Rosenthal, our convention host, who provides support and office space. The speaker will introduce participants to Moms Canada, its mission and organizational structure, and its programs. <b>Speaker:</b> Meda Weir.
<sup>3</sup> <b>ILT. Christian Education- Training Pastors..</b> The speaker will introduce participants to the Institute of Lutheran Theology \ its organizational structure, its methods of instruction, and its programs that are designed to train up a new generation of pastors and enrich, equip and educate congregations. <b>Speaker:</b> Dr. Dennis Beilfeld.	<sup>4</sup> <b>CLWR. - World Mission -Aid.</b> A speaker from Canadian Lutheran World Relief will describe its organization and mission and inform the participants of mission projects currently being undertaken by CLWR.
<sup>5</sup> <b>LBT. – World Mission -Access to the Word of God.</b> A speaker from Lutheran Bible Translators will describe its organization and mission, and inform the participants of translation projects currently being undertaken by LBT.	<sup>6</sup> <b>Creation Apologetics:</b> Today the Biblical account of creation has been attacked by various secular theories of creation, including, the Theory of Evolution. In this class the speaker provide a summary of a presentation that he is willing to give in CALC congregations on this most important subject. <b>Speaker:</b> Dr. Ron Voss, PHD.
<sup>7</sup> <b>CLBI – Christian Education/Discipleship</b> The Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute is a Lutheran Discipleship Training Centre. From this community, leaders are sent out to serve Christ and His church in their called vocations throughout Canada and the world. The speaker will introduce participants to the CLBI, its organizational structure, its methods of instruction, and its programs. <b>Speaker:</b> Rev. Harold Rust.	<sup>8</sup> <b>WMPL: - World Mission - Discipleship.</b> A speaker from World Mission Prayer League will describe its organization and mission, and inform the participants of mission projects currently being undertaken by WMPL.
<sup>9</sup> <b>MOSAIC: - Local Mission and Outreach.</b> Mosaic Centre is a non-profit wellness centre serving people challenged by poverty, hunger and homelessness in northeast Edmonton. Mosaic is a partnership of Emmaus Lutheran Church (a member congregation of CALC), with two other local congregations. A speaker from MOSAIC will describe its organization and mission, and inform the participants of projects currently being undertaken by MOSAIC.	

The Breakout Sessions are designed to be like a mini “Missions Fest,” offering information on global and local missions, Christian Education, Pastoral education and formation and Christian apologetics. Each participant will be able to hear four of the nine presentations. A congregation with more than two representatives at the convention can gather valuable information from all nine presentations.

Most of the presenters will have booths set up for the duration of the convention. The presenters will be available at their booths following the Breakout Sessions.

**Round Table Discussions (2:30 to 4:00 PM)**

This session is open to all, but is designed primarily for pastors and church council members attending the convention. It is hosted and moderated by CALC Trustee and Vice President Fred Schickedanz. We first held a Round Table discussion at our Convention in Toronto last year. Participants exchanged information on congregational life and the joys and challenges of their ministries. They talked about their programs and activities that worked and those that were not as successful. The consensus of all those present was that congregational growth, the aging of our congregations and the lack of participation by youth and young families were common concerns and challenges in ministry. We hope this year’s discussion will be as stimulating and thought provoking.

## **Friday Evening Worship**

A day of learning will be capped off with a service of worship. We will be given an opportunity to speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. We will sing and make music in our hearts to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Pastor Jim Bredeson, senior pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, our convention hosts, will preach. Following worship we gather for a time of refreshment and fellowship.

## **Saturday November 2<sup>nd</sup>**

### **The Convention**

#### **Opening/Devotions**

Pastor Ted Hill will lead opening devotions. He is the pastor of a two-point parish made up of Calvary Lutheran, Wetaskiwin and Asker Lutheran, Ponoka, Alberta. Our convention will be officially opened at this time. We have set aside the entire morning for our keynote speaker.

#### **Our Convention's Keynote Speaker**



**Greg Musselman**, Vice-President of Outreach, for Voice of the Martyrs-Canada has travelled to more than 25 countries to interview persecuted Christians and produce video documentaries for the mission. Based in Edmonton, Greg began full time ministry with the Voice of the Martyrs in January 2003. A popular speaker, Greg also ministers to churches across Canada by sharing stories of our persecuted family and ways we can be involved in serving them. We are blessed to live in a peaceful and tolerant nation, but most Christians – far more than live in Canada – suffer grievous oppression for their belief in God. We often feel so far removed from persecution in North America that it can be hard to relate to those suffering for their faith. His book, *Closer to the Fire - Lessons from the Persecuted Church*,

sharing stories of the faithfulness amid persecution of Christians from around the world helps Christians in free countries to identify with and learn from believers in the persecuted Church. We look forward to his presentation.

#### **Business Meeting:**

During the business session we will hear reports from various officers and boards of our association. We will begin to look at some suggested changes to our Shepherd's Pathway to pastoral ministry. However, the most important item of business on our agenda is the election of candidates to fill seven of the ten positions on our National Council. It is unusual for seventy percent (70%) of seats an organization's board to come vacant in one year. CALC's constitution is structured in a way which this occurs regularly. National Council believes that such a drastic turnover on the National Council this is not in the best interests of our Association and want to propose constitutional amendments which would provide for staggered terms. **See page 21** for details. I also want to announce that Grace Lutheran's chairman nominated me for the position of President of CALC. I have accepted the nomination and will let my name stand for election to the office of President of CALC.

#### **Banquet:**

A day of devotions, learning and business will be capped off with a sumptuous banquet at the Best Western Hotel in Stony Plain. It will be an opportunity for us to reflect on the business of the convention, make new friends, catch up with old friends and enjoy a program.

## **Sunday November 3<sup>rd</sup>**

### **Closing Worship**

Closing worship is at 10:00 AM at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Stony Plain. I will be preaching and host Pastor Jim Bredeson will preside at Holy Communion.

## Please Pray!

Please pray for our convention. Pray that God continue blessing Immanuel Lutheran's planning and preparation for our convention. Pray that God would protect all those who travel to and from the convention. Pray also that God will bless our National Council and our voting delegates with discernment. Pray that God would guide the hearts and minds of those who shall choose candidates to fill vacancies on CALC's National Council, that we may receive faithful servants who will care for God's people and equip us for our ministries. Pray that all who attend the convention are fed by God's Word, that we grow in faith and that we leave refreshed, rejuvenated and inspired to serve Jesus in new and exciting ways.



In Christ,  
Pastor Ed Skutshek,  
President of CALC

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE LUTHERAN



**Rev. Ana Beck**  
**Resurrection Lutheran Church – Pembroke, ON**

"What does it mean to be Lutheran?" is not the whole question. Unless we add: in the Body of Christ, we end up seeking to define the Institution rather than discovering our function in God's Plan of Salvation. I think we have not taken time to really immerse ourselves in the question of what it looks like to be created in the image and likeness of God. Image speaks of the parts. God is a Trinity, and we too have three parts to our makeup: body, soul, spirit. The soul itself is trinitarian: mind, emotion, will. Is this accidental? I think not. These parts are given to us so that we can indeed be creatures after God's own image. Well and good. But what about likeness? Likeness refers to function. We all have the parts of God, but until we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we most certainly do not function like God, using all our parts to think, behave, imagine, and operate towards Truth and Grace. After the Fall, those parts got disengaged and scattered. As we well know, the mind can conceive of one thing and the emotions come along and throw it to the wind. We will one thing and the body seizes control to cause the opposite. St. Paul knew all about this, and discusses it in a way that makes it very clear that the likeness of God can never be invented by our efforts. This forces us to admit that we are creatures of a creator. A master workman creates all the parts that make up a car. The pieces are scattered on the garage floor. Those pieces will never, ever rise up and put themselves into working order. The workman is the one who must create order out of chaos, and who knows exactly how the pieces fit together to get that car on the road toward a destination.

Having these kinds of discussions in our congregation, we have asked the question: what does it mean to be Lutheran in the Body of Christ? Where do we begin in discovering what our exact function is to be according to God's Plan? We could think about what we would like to do. We could get excited about a particular task. But without a good hard look at our history, it is an exercise in wishful thinking. Our history is Martin Luther at a particular time in the past, when God was distinguishing a new function in his Body. A body, as we know, begins as an amorphous, formless chaotic mass (sound familiar in creation?) and, little by little, specifics begin to emerge. Organs, eyeballs, toes, circulation – all emerge at specific times in order to form an identifiable person who, when all the parts are put together correctly, can function according to the laws inherent in being a human being. What was going on when God formed the Luther-function? Well, what did Luther have to do? It seems he had to act in the capacity of white blood cells whose job it is to encounter,

identify, destroy and remove rogue elements that seek to contaminate and dis-ease the body. Perhaps the Lutheran function is to be the immune system of the Body, protecting it from infectious agents.

Our congregation was formed, before we had these function-discussions, out of a circumstance in which certain determinations had to be made regarding what it meant to be Christ-like, identifying the agents of contamination. Of course, at the time, we had no idea that the Lord was teaching us how to “function” in his Body. The only way we learned this was to follow our deep desire to study, learn, and apply his Word. Well, study, learn and apply are exactly the functions of white blood cells: they circulate in the blood and tissues, recognize foreign matter and act to annihilate their power to cause disease. This seems to match what Luther did. Immersing himself in the Word of God, he was enabled to identify the wrong beliefs that were cancerously growing, hurting God's people, and he acted to stand against and repel these pathogens.

Not every congregation would be excited about this level of study but we are, and that tells us that we have received this assignment from God. So we focus on the Word of God, gleaning from it how God intends for us to apply that Word to our everyday circumstances. With various courses of study offered to the community, we discover, together, how to identify in ourselves, in our society and culture those elements that are weakening and corrupting the image and likeness of God.

What would happen to the Church if each denomination and congregation became clear about why they exist and what their function is? It sounds like a lot of work, but it is up to the Lord of Life to enlighten us and enable us to discover and put into practice the very function that will bring life to us and to those we serve. There is nothing so restful, so satisfying and so effective as being who you are meant to be.

## CALC CONGREGATIONAL HI-LITES

### Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church – Vancouver, BC



Here are the hi-lites of our church for 2013:

1. We have Sing Along from October 2012 to June 2013. We come together once a month in the lower hall of our church and sing German Folk songs and German Christian songs.
2. We have carpet bowling in the lower hall of our church all year long. Seniors love to come to bowl and socialize. At the end of the year they go out for lunch.
3. We have a Sewing Circle that makes quilts for 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries. The leader of the group is Mrs. Ida Reitenbach. There are 4 other ladies in the group. We all love to come together once a week to sew quilts.
4. We have a German Ladies Circle. We come together once a month and Mrs. Martha Bayer, our president, recognizes birthdays and has a special verse from the bible for the birthday lady or ladies of that specific month. Then the birthday lady or ladies will choose their song from a Christian song book. Martha then reads an article from a religious book which is always very interesting. We also discuss how much money and to which charity we should send our money to. We always end the meeting with a beautiful spread of sandwiches and cakes.
5. On June 2, 2013 we had a wonderful picnic at Lake Hatzic just outside of Mission, BC. After church we all had our lunch and then everyone enjoyed the beautiful day.
6. We have a wonderful German Choir which will resume singing again in the middle of September. The director is Robert Jordan and the pianist Roger Parton. We practice once a week and sing twice a month in church. Most of the time we sing in the German service but we also sing once in a while in the combined service.
7. Easter morning, the congregation enjoys eating an “Easter Breakfast” after the church service.

The Ladies Circle always boil and color the eggs and prepare the tables with Easter bread, cinnamon bread, hot cross buns and rye bread the day before the day before. Everyone enjoys Easter Breakfast.

8. Our Craft Fair, which is held every year at the end of November, is always a great success. Martha Bayer and a few helpers prepare the sauerkraut in the middle of October. People come from far away to buy Martha Bayer's sauerkraut. The day before the craft fair everything is prepared.

On Saturday you can buy your lunch sauerkraut, sausages and potato salad. We usually have 2 types of soup, rye bread, buns and delicious fancy cakes. We also have a table full of home-made cakes, Christmas cookies, stollen and sauerkraut etc. Usually everything is sold very quickly.

Submitted by Erika Gunther

### **Mount Calvary Lutheran - Mission, BC**



The mission/purpose statement of Mount Calvary Lutheran Church is:

*"We commit ourselves to the Word of God And to encourage, love and care for one another; So, together we carry out the command of our Lord: 'Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations.'"*

It is one thing for a congregation to have a mission/purpose statement, but unless the statement is put into practice in the lives of the people, it only exists on paper. This article for the "The Lutheran Connector" will highlight some of the ways the members of the congregation are involved in ministry. At Mount Calvary, ministry takes place within and outside the building.

Among the ministries happening inside the building are: worship, Bible studies, youth ministry, prayer time, designated prayer for healing times; on December 1, 2012, John-Mark Bredeson, a former member and intern, was ordained; with the assistance of Youth Unlimited's Jesters Theater and Camp Luther, two children's programs were held the summer of 2013; as July and August have 31 days, members of the congregation were invited to read the chapter of the day from Proverbs as well as praying the proverbs for themselves, the congregation and community; numerous people are involved in Bible studies, service and hospitality at care homes, hospital, hospice and independent living centres in the community.

Members have a connection with an orphanage in Baja California, Mexico and have coordinated "mission service" trips to Vicente Guerrero for over 25 years. This long connection with Foundation for His Ministry, which has ministries in Tijuana, Baja California, Oaxaca, Morelia and beyond, has given many people a missions perspective that is challenging and life changing.

After a journey of several years as an independent Lutheran congregation, after a very supportive mandate from the members, Mount Calvary made application to affiliate with CALC. It is our expectation that this affiliation will prove to be a mutual blessing as we continue to be the church in action.

In Christ  
Michelle Schlein  
Secretary

## Grace Lutheran – Kelowna, BC



### Outreach Around Canada Day Weekend. The Parades.

Grace Lutheran Church marches in two Westside parades which happen around Canada Day. We planned on marching in the Westside Daze Parade on Saturday June 29th. When it began to rain Saturday morning, Pastor Ed and Everley Lutz made the decision not to march in the parade. A cloud burst would have ruined our paper-mache puppets and could have soaked the interior of vintage convertible.

The weather for Peachland's annual Canada Day Parade (July 1<sup>st</sup>) was much more cooperative. It was hot and sunny Monday afternoon. We had our four larger than life puppets in the parade. Pastor Ed donned the Goliath puppet; Reegan Forsyth donned the King David puppet, Julia Emmond donned the Saul puppet and Deni Skutshek donned the Queen Esther puppet. Pastor Ed carried the VBS banner. Julia, Reegan and Deni passed out candy to the children along the route. Everley & Linda Lutz and Lauren Forsyth motored behind the puppets in Linda's 1950's Buick convertible. Pastor Ed and Reegan Forsyth are under the puppets in the picture to the left.



### Vacation Bible School 2013.



Fifty-one (51) children registered for Grace Lutheran's Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2013. Most of the children came from our surrounding community. A majority of the families indicated that they attended a church regularly, however, many of the families stated that they had no church home.

On Friday the 5th we invited our student's parents, grandparents and friends to our closing program. All were invited to a pizza lunch.

**Fall Schedule:** We look forward to the fall. Sunday School, Confirmation and Youth group will start up again. Our weekly study on the first five chapters of Genesis with an emphasis on Creation and the Fall using Luther's Works Volume #1 as our guide.

## St. Andrew's Lutheran – Kamloops, BC



Greetings and Blessings from St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in beautiful Kamloops B.C. And a special WELCOME to the congregations who have become members of CALC his year.

St. Andrew's continues to be a vibrant congregation with special seasonal and year round programs well attended. These include four weekly Bible studies, praise and worship devotions and practice and men's prayer breakfast. The demographics of our membership results in a small Sunday School roster but it continues on with enthusiastic and devoted

teachers and pupils.

The regular events and celebration of Easter this year was complimented by a special weekly study during Lent. A video viewing, study and discussion was held every Tuesday afternoon at the Church and Wednesday evening at Pastor David and Cathy's home for those who could not attend the afternoon session. The video featuring Ray Vander Laan titled "The Path to the Cross" proved to be very educational and a Blessing to all who attended.



The start of summer was highlighted by our annual Family Camp, held this year at a beautiful Provincial Park campsite just east of the city. Camp programs started late Friday afternoon and finished Saturday evening. The location allowed non over-nighters to attend the Friday eve activities and then return next morning for a full day of good old Bible Camp programs.

A good time was had by all 49 people attending.

Outreach financial assistance was provided to a youth member of our congregation to assist her attendance with a Christian Youth groups mission trip to El Florido, Mexico. Special benevolence in gathering of funds in the spring and summer provided substantial assistance to the Kamloops Pregnancy Care Center and aid to the congregation of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in High River Alberta in support of flood disaster in that congregation.

July was also special for St Andrew's as we had a confirmation of two young ladies, Taylor Borth and Sidney Nielson. This was the first confirmation in several years is a sign of our growing congregation.

The special summer study, "In the Garden", held every Sunday evening at the Schumachers' was based on the review and study of the book "Follow Me" by Pastor David Platt. This study revealed the true meaning of Jesus' call, "Follow Me". A very interesting read and study. Oh yes, we never did get to enjoy time in the Schumacher's garden; had to go inside to the air conditioning, it was just too hot this summer!

We will be represented at the CALC Annual Meeting in Stony Plain in November and look forward to the sessions, services and fellowship of the CALC family.

God Bless,  
Dennis Kujat,  
Vice President

#### **Christ Lutheran – Sexsmith / Journeys – Grande Prairie, AB**



Journeys Lutheran Church of Grande Prairie continues to worship with Christ Lutheran Church in Sexsmith. Our two small congregations have not grown significantly in numbers in the past year, while as a family of brothers and sisters in Christ we have learned more about God's Word for us and our relationship to each other as members of God's family. Although we quietly celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of Christ Lutheran in Sexsmith, we have no major plans for the remainder of the year, while we daily continue to look to God to lead us in doing ministry in our community, trusting in God's promise "I will never leave or forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5).

Peace,  
Rev Marc Lapointe

#### **Emmaus Lutheran Church – Edmonton, AB**



Emmaus Lutheran has a vision for reaching out to the homeless in Edmonton. It will be 4 years this November since launching a ministry that is still carrying out this vision. The ministry is the establishment of what is called, 'The Mosaic Centre.' Here is a brief summary of The Mosaic Centre:

Mosaic Centre is a safe place within the community where people facing homelessness & all aspects of poverty turn to for direction to housing, rehabilitation and mentoring. Staff build relationships with clients & assist them in identifying their needs as they overcome challenges. Staff & other Centre users have become a 'community' of support &

encouragement for individuals that formerly had no substantial, dependable social network.

Our foundation is our calling to serve all of God's people just as they are and to treat them with every bit of dignity and respect as we would each expect to receive.

To say that Mosaic Centre is any 'one' thing to any 'one' group of people would be impossible as it functions as a family of support for a family of people whose needs are as individual as the stars in the heavens.

Mosaic Centre will celebrate 4 years of operation on November 9, 2013. In this period we have developed relationships with over 400 people in the community. Some who use the centre's resources on a daily basis and others who have become more independent and rely on Mosaic Centre for ongoing support and mentoring.



There are many different things that we do and provide at Mosaic Centre and many different strategies that we use to help people fulfill their goals and reach their dreams. Every day at Mosaic Centre looks different but the one thing that remains the same is the steadfast love, acceptance and dedication of each and every one of our more than 70 volunteers and members of supporting community agencies and 35+ supporting churches who are important and unique pieces in this Mosaic Ministry.

We could go into great detail about numbers such as the 100+ people that these volunteers serve daily; the 20% drop in area crimes since 2009; the 80+ people that they have helped to house or the 50+ people who have gone to rehabilitation. We serve God, not statistics. Though statistics are important tools which help us acknowledge that we are making positive changes in the community, more important are the people whose lives have been changed, the people who have found hope and have found acceptance and community and the people who have come to know a real Jesus who lives in each of our volunteers. Without their pieces in this ministry, our Mosaic would not be complete.

### **Sharing Our Vision**

We feel blessed, every day, to be living the Mosaic Centre vision that was given to us. Thank-you seems inadequate to express our appreciation to the community of support that makes this Mosaic possible. Our heart's dream is to access funding to hire a housing team and provide start-up housing assistance. This will allow us to begin to offer a wage to some of our volunteer staff who work tirelessly, day and night and weekends, helping people to transition into the lives they desire and deserve.

### **Immanuel Lutheran Church of Rosenthal – Stony Plain, AB**



Immanuel Rosenthal is looking forward to hosting the CALC National Convention November 1-3. Immanuel has a newly renovated gym in which we will host lunches and coffee breaks. We have prepared a program and banquet to be held at the new Best Western in Stony Plain. Stony Plain is located 25 km west of Edmonton on the western edge of the suburban area. Together with our adjacent community of Spruce Grove roughly 40,000 people live here. It is a growing community with a vibrant Main Street boasting a number of murals depicting life in this region. We are located about 40 minutes from the Edmonton International Airport and just 25 minutes from the famous

West Edmonton Mall. We hope to see many of you here.

Immanuel itself pre-dates the founding of Stony Plain and is the second oldest Lutheran congregation in the province of Alberta. It was founded by Germans from the old Austria-Hungary Empire in the area today known as the Ukraine. The founders had originally settled near Medicine Hat in southeastern Alberta but relocated to find farmland more in tune with what they were used to. The settlement was called "Hoffnungsaue" or Hope Meadows. The name Rosenthal is German for "Rose Valley" and is thought to refer the wild roses that were found growing nearby.

On a sadder note, our associate pastor, Lucretia Van Ommeren-Tabbert, will be leaving us on September 30. Her ministry and counselling skills will be sorely missed not to mention her joy and sense of humor.

We are looking forward to the completion of our kitchen in the next year. This is a long awaited project that is finally coming to fruition after many years of waiting. We are also completing purchase of an additional five acres which originally belonged to Immanuel as a crown grant at the church's founding.

Immanuel is pleased to be part of the CALC family and pray each week for one member congregation as well as CALC as a whole.

### **Bardo Lutheran – Tofield, AB**



As we look back over the summer we give thanks:

➤ For the continuing opportunity to do Vacation Bible School in our community alongside our brothers and sisters from the Tofield Alliance and Mennonite Churches, and led by one of the summer teams from The Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute (CLBI). This year 107 children from the community participated.

➤ For being able to send a team of 8, in partnership with the BC Mission Boat Society, on our 5<sup>th</sup> annual trip to the first nations community of Kyuquot on Vancouver Island.

As the fall season quickly approaches, we look forward:

- To welcoming CLBI intern, Derrick Naslund, who will be learning and serving with us and with Golden Valley Lutheran Church, Viking, for the eight months from September to April.
- To beginning a second cycle of *GriefShare*, and providing Christian care and support for the grieving of our congregation and community.
- To hosting a gathering of 9 neighboring CALC congregations on Saturday, September 14, and to a day of rich fellowship, inspiration and worship.

Please pray for us as we continue to pray for you. We look forward to meeting many of you in November at the annual General Convention.

Pastor Kevin Langager

### **Golden Valley Lutheran Church, Viking AB**



Golden Valley Lutheran Church (GVLC) is located at 5327-56 Ave in Viking Alberta, and will be entering into its 110<sup>th</sup> year of ministry in this community this coming November. Recently we celebrated the 50 anniversary at our present location.

GVLC partners with Mission to Many, and several of our members will be heading to Honduras this coming December for a two week mission working alongside Jeff and

Monica Carlson of Brighter Horizons Ministry. This Thursday evening, August 22 the mission group will be hosting a community block party and BBQ here at the church, for as the name suggests, their ministry is to the “many” both near and far.

Golden Valley is active with the social needs of the Viking community through its Helping Hands Committee. The activities of this committee are as varied as the needs of the various individuals, and can include everything from driving members to various appointments to renovating their houses.

GVLC is also a training site for Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute interns, and beginning this September will be the working with our 4<sup>th</sup> intern student. Should any of our other CALC churches desire to be involved with this internship program, please contact the school at 780-672-4455 for more information.

Worship time is 10:15 Sunday morning, with adult study (Lutheranism 101) beginning at 9:30, and Sunday school at 11:00. Currently in our midweek studies we are working our way through the entire Bible, and will be covering the books of Romans and Habakkuk this fall. The Alpha series will be offered to the community beginning in the New Year. This course was previously held at the local sports complex, and will likely be held at the Rocket bowling alley/theatre this year. When people are hesitant to come to the “church”, it’s important that the “Church” at least makes some attempt to come to them. Our Confirmation class begins in September with a fall retreat at Hastings Lake Bible Camp. An ecumenical men’s ministry meets at the church each Tuesday at noon.

We would be glad to have any CALC members join us for worship on Sunday mornings if you happen to be travelling through Viking. Blessings to you all as you serve our Savior in your corner of the world.

Pastor Alvin Sorenson

### **St. Peter’s Lutheran – Cochrane, AB**



We are in a time of transition. At the end of July, Pastor Rick Bergh who had been with us for eight years chose to pursue his calling to the grief ministry ([www.intentionalgrief.com](http://www.intentionalgrief.com)) which has been on his heart for years. We wish him God’s blessings on his new venture.

Earlier this year we did a church survey and some retreats to take a good look at what we as a church felt we needed and where we felt God was calling us to go. We reaffirmed our past Mission which is to be and make disciples for Jesus Christ, and our past Purpose which is to reach our neighbors for Jesus Christ and together to develop into his fully devoted followers. We added a new Vision – to reach the next generation for Jesus Christ.

For the time being St. Peter’s is without a pastor, but not without leadership. Council under the leadership of Cliff MacRae has taken on many of the ministries that Pastor was doing before. We have chosen to see this as a time for all of us to become more involved and to do our part. We put in place plans for our services and the needed ministries of the church and we are learning how to do that together. It is exciting to see people step up and take on new roles and to explore new possibilities.

Our call committee will be working on finding a pastor for us, but we have decided not to be in a hurry about that. We want to be sure that we find the person who is right for us and the Mission, Purpose and Vision of our church. We want to be sure of God’s calling for us and for our new pastor.

We are busy preparing for our fall programs. We are blessed with some very capable leadership for Alpha, Children's chapel, Ladies Bible Study, Seniors Fellowship Group, Kids Aglow, Sunday morning Adult Bible Study and more. We're even starting to plan for some Christmas events!

We look forward with anticipation to what God has in store for us in the months and years to come.

Submitted by Evelyn Marinowski

### **Trinity Lutheran – Leader, SK**



God continues to do wonderful things here in Leader, SK. The spring saw us working through the book of James and being challenged to live authentically in our relationship with Christ. Trinity continues to identify itself as a missional church, one drawn by God and sent by God. We had the privilege of sending one of our own on a short-term mission trip to the Ukraine with Eastern European Mission Network; this was part of our growing relationship with that organization. We also continue to be active in supporting the Canadian Food Grains Bank and had a phenomenal harvest on the community's Growing Project Field in support of the hungry around the world!

In the fall we look ahead to numerous Bible studies resuming as well as an outreach weekend planned for Oct. 25-27 where we will be looking at the question "What Do Christians *Actually* Believe?" This weekend is meant to encourage those already in the church but more importantly, engage those in the community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a relevant and meaningful way. Please pray with us that God's Kingdom will come in Southwestern Saskatchewan!

Pastor John-Mark Bredeson

### **St. John Lutheran – Preeceville, SK**



Here is a brief update on what is happening here at St. John Lutheran Church in Preeceville:

We are getting very excited for the arrival of Pastor Bob Deobald and his wife Dianna. They will be moving into our recently renovated parsonage the last week of this month.

We will be having an installation service on Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup> and are very happy to have Pastor Ed Skutshek coming to join with us. It will be a service of celebration and thanksgiving.

Lynnel Person – Church Council Chairman

### **Christ Lutheran – Morden, MB**



It's hard to believe that September is here! We hope and trust that all of you in our CALC family had a wonderful summer and feel rejuvenated for the Lord's service as we begin another ministry year together.

Christ Lutheran has continued to gradually grow and we are thankful for this. We are having conversations in how we might be able to provide Christian education venues for primary aged children. It will take some work in getting going, but the blessing is that we are now at that point where we must concern ourselves with this task! We are gradually broadening the age spectrum in our church.

We are anticipating what we hope will be a fantastic new ministry season in CE ministries and with planned social outlets that will serve to bring greater cohesion to our existing congregation. Our hope is that this will also be a natural outreach outlet for us too. Christ Lutheran is also nearing the completion of establishing a website which has been an exciting process in considering the possibilities in how we might communicate who we are as a church in our area and also how we might communicate the glorious grace of God through a personal website.

So, while summer is slipping by, a new season in Fall also brings new possibilities. May God bless you all through another new season of ministry.

Pastor Tom

### **Faith Lutheran – North York, ON**



After hosting the National CALC Convention, last November, and playing a major role in having the April 2013 biannual LAMP (Lutheran Assoc. of Missionaries & Pilots) take place in our city for the first time, we are breathing a sigh of relief- before embarking into the future plans God has for us.

Our congregation expanded its cultural parameters with the arrival of a Lutheran family from India; and a mainland Chinese family seeking to learn more about God. To again see through the eyes of immigrants and non-Christians has taught us how to see through a newcomer's eyes.

A newly-built condominium complex has been built next to our property, with some 40 units. Since the first arrivals moved in a few months ago, and door-to-door invites, and church brochures being dropped off ... we are still waiting to see our first visitors to a church service. Many of the residents do come from religions other than Christianity. Please remember this mission field in your prayers.

Faith Lutheran has been the home of a Daycare for over 25 years, with children ages 18 months to 5 years of age. Hardly any families, nor staff, have ever made our church their home. The question has often been asked, by many members, 'Why?' I believe because a high percentage of families are not Christian. Plus, they might not see our commitment to them going further than collecting fees and rent. I believe we need to show them we care for them personally. We need to ask them what we can do for them. Workshops. Film nights. Barbecues. Field trips. If they then come to church, praise the Lord. If not, we have made new friends.

So, the summer is nearing an end (though its official is Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>), most of us believe it's the day after Labor Day. For many of us it stands for possible beginnings. It has taken us, into our 49<sup>th</sup> year, to finally have a wheelchair accessible washroom. We expanded our Daycare playground area; and installed 2-large screen T.V.'s so that our services can be seen without the need of a bulletin; and workshops presented online in our Fellowship Hall.

Each and every one of our congregations need to ask God the same question: 'Lord, who do you want us to be, where you have planted us and our church?' And, 'What do you want us to do?' And then, prayerfully listen and follow up with actions empowered by the Holy Spirit.

September 2014, will mark our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, as a congregation. Pray that this fall will be one of obedience and fruits of the Spirit.

Pastor Harry Huff

### All Saints Lutheran – Ottawa, ON



After joining the CALC, our congregation celebrated 50th church anniversary. We are now in transition searching for a pastor and a youth leader. We may have more to contribute in future.

Blessings  
Albert Pigilam, Council chair.

### St. Peter's Lutheran – Sullivan, ON



Greetings from St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Sullivan, Ontario – one of CALC's newest – and most likely the smallest! - Associate Member Congregations.

Locate Georgian Bay on an Ontario map and pretend to drive about 30 km south and you'll be at St. Peter's, Sullivan. Our congregation is 151 years old and our historic stone church was built in 1881.

For the past 126 years, we have been part of the Sullivan-Williamsford Lutheran Parish with St. James' Evangelical Lutheran Church, Williamsford.

After much discussion, both at the congregational and parish level, and two congregational votes – one in March and the other in June of this year - St. Peter's members decided to leave the Eastern Synod of the ELCIC. St. James', however, decided to stay with the ELCIC and so our historic vote to join CALC resulted in the end of our two-point parish.

We are a small, but determined, rural congregation and with God's Grace and His Direction, we are confident in our future now that we are part of CALC.

We are blessed to have two CALC pastors nearby, both of whom are helping us during our current pastoral vacancy. Pastor Sheilah Fletch of Owen Sound served our congregation for 17 years before her retirement. Last year, she left the ELCIC and joined CALC. Pastor Harry Huff, who serves as a part-time pastor at another CALC congregation, Faith Lutheran Church in Toronto, is also a former member of our congregation. He has been helping our newly-established Worship and Music Committee set up a Sunday morning worship service schedule, as well as leading worship services for us. We are grateful to God for both of them! Lay members, retired pastors from other Lutheran churches, as well as other denominations, and community members have all stepped up to lead services and give messages at our Sunday morning worship services.

Since joining CALC we have seen a slight increase in both attendance and givings and again we are confident both of these will continue to grow. Perhaps most noticeable is what many members refer to as "the good feeling" that exists at St. Peter's since our decision to join CALC. Perhaps some of it is a sense of relief members feel after finally having the entire voting process over with, but we are also much more confident in our future knowing CALC provides a "home" for

Biblically-faithful Canadian Lutherans. We know – and have already experienced – help and encouragement from our CALC brothers and sisters as we strive to be His disciples and reach out into our community.

In July, we held an outdoor worship service and barbecue called “Picnic in the Pines” and raised over \$670 for Alberta flood victims. This was a co-sponsored event with Faith Life Financial who contributed an additional \$250 special matching grant.

In August, we held our annual Summer Music in our church’s historic stone church shed. Proceeds from that evening will be used to put a new roof on our stone parsonage, located beside the church.

Plans are now underway for an Oktoberfest Supper in mid-October and in December, we will be hosting a Live Nativity – complete with live animals – in the church shed. This has become a very popular event among non-church-going members of our community and a wonderful opportunity for us to share the story of Christ’s birth.

We look forward to meeting and getting to know our brothers and sisters in other CALC congregations across Canada. But for now, it’s time to go ... God has assignments for us and the people He wants to see gathered at St. Peter’s, Sullivan on Sunday mornings!

Mary Golem

### St. Matthew’s Lutheran – Cornwall, ON



In April we celebrated our 50th anniversary as the Lutheran church on the Seaway with a special worship service followed by a dinner. We were blessed by the presence of a number of charter members and two former pastors. Our guest preacher was Rev. Steven Olson, who served as pastor twice (1983-1989 and 1994-1998). Rev. Dr. Peeter Vanker, representing CALC, lead us in a Re-affirmation of Faith (this rite was based on the original order of Organization of the congregation from 1963).

An outreach prayer ministry was launched during our anniversary celebration. We call this ministry **Prayer Care**, and our goal is to reach out to our neighbourhood and community with the love of Christ as we pray for them. Our motto is: “*Whoever you are, Whatever your need, We will pray for you.*” The ministry is still in its infancy, with our prayer network being shaped and materials still being prepared. Outreach events are being planned for the months ahead. We are trusting God to use our little church to impact the Cornwall area for Christ.

Rev. Peter Hincke





## PASTOR DEOBALD INSTALLED AT ST. JOHN'S - PREECEVILLE



L to R: Ron Voss, Pr. Vern Roste, Pr. Ed Skutshek, Deanna & Pr. Bob Deobald.

Pastor Robert (Bob) Deobald was installed as fulltime pastor of St. John's North Prairie Lutheran Church, in Preeceville, Saskatchewan, on Sunday September 1, 2013. Pastor Edward Skutshek, President of CALC, preached and presided at the installation. CALC was also represented by Ron Voss, Trustee and Pastor Vern Roste, and his wife Sonja. Pastor Roste was the first President and a Charter Member of CALC. Pastor Vern grew up in the St. John's North Prairie Parish. The weekend was truly a thrill for Pastor Roste. The Lord allowed him to see the parish of his youth join CALC and the installation of its first CALC pastor.

The Gospel text for the Sunday was Luke 14:1, 7-14. In the Gospel lesson, Jesus invited the Pharisee he dined with to invite the poor, the blind, the crippled and the lame to his dinner table. Pastor Skutshek reminded all present that

Jesus had called Pastor Bob to preside at a feast, a foretaste of the feast to come, each Sunday at St. John's. God had called him to feed the congregation with God's Word and the bread and the wine of Holy Communion. Pastor Skutshek reminded the congregation that they come to the feast spiritually blind and poor in spirit. Their worries and sins cripple them and make them lame. He declared that God calls them to this feast and be fed and healed. They are called to listen to the Word, to meditate, to repent, to confess, to beg forgiveness. For Jesus' sake, God forgives them, heals them and they receive the real presence of Christ. The installation followed the sermon. Pastor Bob presided at the Holy Communion which followed.

It was wonderful to see the church full. The sun shone through the entire service. Worship was followed by a delicious potluck lunch.

**About the new Pastor:** Pastor Deobald recently retired from the Canadian Armed Forces. He served as a Chaplain in our military for 25 years (1985 to 2012, interrupted by a return parish ministry from 1997-1999). Prior to retirement, he served as Senior Wing Chaplain in Canadian Forces Base at Cold Lake, Alberta. He served as a parish pastor in the Parkside Lutheran Parish and the Kindersley Lutheran Parish, in Saskatchewan. He graduated from Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon, in 1982, with a Master of Divinity Degree. Before entering the ministry Pastor Deobald was a Jr. Secondary School teacher. He held teaching positions in Prince George and Port Alberni, British Columbia, and Eyebrow, Saskatchewan. He was ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the ELCIC. He resigned from the ELCIC roster upon leaving the Armed Forces.

Pastor Deobald is married to Deanna. She has served as an Educational Assistant at the Battleford Central School since January 2000. They have four adult children, two sons Shaun (Candice) and Nathaniel; and two daughters Krista (Jesse) and Tiffany. They are the proud grandparents of Trey, Jemma and Keetly.



**About the Congregation:** St. John's Lutheran Church, pictured on the left, is truly a landmark in the Town of Preeceville (about an hour north of Yorkton). The town is located near the north bank of the Assiniboine River. It was first surveyed in 1911 and became a village in 1912. The town derived its name from the Preece family. Mrs. Louise E. Preece immigrated to Canada in 1905. She and her son Fred settled on a homestead where Preeceville now stands. Railroad crews working on nearby tracks were fed by Mrs. Preece. Her home came to be known as a refuge for early pioneers in need of food and shelter upon their arrival in the district. The St. John's Lutheran Church was built in 1913 and has been a vital part of the community ever since.

St. John's merged with North Prairie Scandinavian Lutheran church which was built in the country west of Preeceville. The two-point parish came to be known as the St. John North Prairie Lutheran Church.

North Prairie Scandinavian Lutheran Church, pictured on the left, is a Municipal Heritage Property located within the Rural Municipality of Preeceville No. 334 approximately 13 km northwest of the Town of Preeceville. The property features a one-story, wood-frame church constructed in 1918 and a cemetery.



It was built with the volunteer labor of some of the first pioneers in the municipality. The building has served its surrounding community since that time, making it the oldest public building in the area. The grounds feature a cemetery which contains the remains of the forefathers and foremothers of many the current residents of the community. St. John's congregation holds Sunday services at the country Church once a month during the spring and summer.

Please pray for Pastor Deobald. Pray that he may faithfully fulfill the duties of this new ministry, to build up God's Church, and glorify His name; and continue to preach the Gospel in its purity and administer the Sacraments rightly. Pray that the Holy Spirit sustain and encourage him to persevere to the end. Beseech the Lord to bless his wife, his family and loved ones. Pray for the mission of the congregation, that together with Pastor Bob they reach out to their community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and their lives together embody and reflect the high calling they have received in Christ Jesus.

## CALC RALLY AT BARDO LUTHERAN CHURCH



Pastor Kevin Langager and the members of Bardo Lutheran Church of Tofield, Alberta invited the nine other CALC congregations in and around the greater Edmonton area to a rally in Tofield on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. The rally began around 9:00 AM. Closing worship concluded around 4:20 PM. The following congregations were represented at the rally: Trondhjem Lutheran Church, Round Hill; Salem Lutheran Church, Kingman; Asker Lutheran, Ponoka; Golden Valley Lutheran, Viking; Peace Lutheran in Wainwright; Sharon Lutheran, Irma; Emmaus Lutheran, Edmonton; and Immanuel Lutheran Church of Stony Plain. The rally provided an opportunity for members of these congregations to get to know one another as well as an opportunity to hear the latest news about our upcoming annual

General Convention. Despite the fact that it was beautiful fall day and the fall harvest was in full swing, more than 50 brave souls came out for the event. Pastor Kevin Langager welcomed all those present and opened the rally with prayer. Dean and Debbie Zepick (Asker Lutheran) led us in song. CALC was represented by our president, Pastor Ed Skutshek and Ron Voss, Trustee.

Pastor Ed updated those present on plans for our upcoming convention (November 1-3, 2013 at Immanuel Lutheran near Stony Plain). Members of the congregations represented were then asked to introduce themselves and their congregations in creative ways. Bardo Lutheran presented a humorous sketch which outlined how their two-point parish became one (lightning strikes and fires figured majorly in the story). Immanuel Lutheran told their story as a Greek Tragedy. Golden Valley's PowerPoint presentation used comic strips to tell their story. Emmaus Lutheran led us in a cheer. As we all faced and pointed to the east we shouted "God is in control." Immediately thereafter we faced and pointed west and shout "Prayer Changes things." Tiina Hohn then told those gathered about Emmaus'

mission and ministry. Pastor Ron Hobden introduced the Peace Lutheran, Wainwright and Sharon Lutheran, Irma, parish. He and his wife Pastor Elaine Hobden described themselves as pastors from a Wesleyan background who agreed to serve the congregations for several months that turned into seven years. They also introduced Ron Laferriere who has begun studies at the Institute of Lutheran Theology with the goal of achieving a Pastoral Ministry Certificate. Ron is active in parish life and has begun a youth group at Peace, Wainwright. Members of Trondjem Lutheran and Salem Lutheran described their journey from the ELCIC to CALC.

The ladies of Bardo Lutheran provided the most delicious snacks and lunch. Following lunch, Pastor Harold Rust, President of Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute (CLBI), brought greetings and informed those present of upcoming events at the school. Pastor Rob Lewis of the World Mission Prayer League (WMPL) also brought greetings and informed us of WMPL's mission and ministry. We look forward to our annual Convention when Pastors Rust and Lewis will lead a breakout session.

Dean and Debbie Zepick (Asker Lutheran) continued to inspire and lead us in song. We then viewed a presentation by the Reverend Gemechis Buba, Director of Missions of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). He reminded us that every baptized Christian is an Ambassador of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:16-21). We represent Jesus as a diplomat in all that we say and do outside our congregations. He reminded us that the marks of a good Ambassador include: absolute love of and devotion to their King; a desire to learn and understand the King's foreign policy; and the desire to explain and implement their King's foreign policy with absolute clarity and without deviation.

Pastor Kevin Langager led closing worship and presided at Holy Communion. Pastor Ed Skutshek preached. His sermon challenged all present that we are mostly ducks sitting in a row, however, with the help of the Holy Spirit, repentant ducks can fly like eagles (Isaiah 40:27-31). Thanks to Pastor Langager and the people of Bardo Lutheran for a truly inspiring day!

## **FOLLOWING JESUS — What would you call it?**

*By Paul Kroeker (permission to print this article granted by Christian Week)*

While having lunch with a friend, he offered the following perspective. "You use the words 'disciple' and 'discipleship' a lot—don't you think that word is out of date? You need to use a new term...something that will communicate...something people will understand."

It was important for me to hear him. If my friend did not understand the term discipleship, it became obvious to me that others would be in the same boat.

So what does discipleship mean? And, are there other words that say the same thing?

- Apprenticeship describes being trained by a master, but it does not imply spiritual training.
- Mentoring suggests guidance and friendship, but does not require following Jesus in obedience.
- Counseling helps you deal with life's choices and decisions, but tends to happen in an office.
- Spiritual direction is great, but again, it implies professional appointments.
- Coaching is well-respected in our society, but coaches may fail to deliver on deeper life issues.

Discipleship is a biblical term. It was a word that Jesus used in the New Testament to refer to a small group of people He had invited, saying, "Come follow me." He called them His disciples; a small band of followers who joined His apprenticeship program and received mentoring, counseling, coaching and spiritual direction. These disciples spent time



Photo courtesy of Dan Boon at Columbia Bible College

with Jesus. They ate with Him. They travelled with Him. They listened to His public lectures and talked with Him privately about what He meant. They argued together. They doubted Him. They asked questions. And at times, they got angry and wanted to walk away.

Following Jesus and being His disciples was an invitation into a relationship—doing life together with Jesus. It was demanding, inspiring, exciting, challenging, rewarding and difficult. It required humility because Jesus had a way of seeing right through any facade, or pretense and would speak directly about the real issues of the heart. You couldn't hide your junk. Your hidden thoughts and bad habits had a way of showing up, and Jesus would speak to you about them; lovingly, but not always subtle.

It was inspirational to be with Jesus. His understandings of human nature drew them close and made them want to be more like Him. Being with Jesus was a safe place, a place where you could let down your guard and know you were loved—loved and accepted by Jesus just for who you were.

Being a disciple required obedience. It came with accountability. They spent a lot of time together. In doing so, Jesus saw hidden pain that needed to be healed. He saw the attitudes that were self-destructive and harmful to others. He saw their self-centeredness and their resistance to change.

Being with Jesus was dangerous. He spoke of being a king and of having a Kingdom; an upside-down Kingdom that challenged the status quo and called into question the kingdoms of this world. No wonder it was dangerous—there were risks involved.

Above all, Jesus loved His disciples and taught them how to love. It was His love that inspired devotion. It was His love which inspired obedience. It was His love that allowed them to change.

After three years of being with Jesus the lives of these disciples were transformed. They began to look like Jesus, act like Jesus, live like Jesus and love like Jesus. People who met them would say, "Isn't he a follower of Jesus? Isn't he one of His disciples?"

What is discipleship? Discipleship is following Jesus, being with Jesus, learning from Jesus and becoming like Jesus. You too can be transformed by Jesus through a life-on-life process. What would you call it?

## NATIONAL COUNCIL UPDATE



Since the last (January 2013) edition of *The Lutheran Connector*, CALC's National Council has met three times in Calgary on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, June 8<sup>th</sup> and September 7<sup>th</sup>. At these meetings:

- Plans for the 2013 Pastors' Retreat, May 27-30, were discussed.
- Congregational ratification of the amendments to CALC's Constitution and Bylaws adopted at the 2012 General convention: Twelve churches voted and the amendments were passed. A letter to the congregations was sent out advising

them of this.

- Met with a financial adviser exploring ways to provide assistance to CALC's pastor on such matters.
- Preliminary discussion of CALC's budget for 2014.

- The schedule for the 2013 General Convention was finalized.
- Approved the creation of a fund to support a CALC Ministry Training Award.
- Reviewed and discussed the situation with respect to seven positions up for election to National Council at the 2013 General Convention.

Next meeting of the National Council is to be held by teleconference on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Proposed Constitutional Amendments – Staggered Terms for National Council**

CALC’s Model Congregational Constitution and most of our congregational constitutions elect a congregational Council of not less than six nor more than fifteen members for terms of three years each with approximately one-third of the terms expiring annually. We stagger the terms of council members for the sake of the congregation. Staggered terms of office allow: (a) the congregational council to maintain an experienced core over time and (b) new council members to come on board every year. Staggered terms also ease the burden of nominating committees. Potentially replacing an entire council every three years is a daunting task. Unlike its model constitution and bylaws, CALC’s constitution does not provide for staggered terms for the members of our National Council.

Our Constitution and Bylaws provide that the members of the National Council are elected to four-year terms. If we follow our Constitution to the letter and every member on the National Council serves their entire term, we could have a whole new National Council every four years. Continuity on the National Council is achieved if key members of the National Council run for a second four-year term. Our constitution provides that a person cannot hold an office on the National Council for more than two consecutive terms. However, if we have a resignation during a four-year term, our National Council, elects a successor to fill the vacant position on the National Council until the next General Convention when a successor is elected by the General Convention to a full four-year term (which begins from the year of election at General Convention). Thus, resignations during a term cause a staggering of terms. Resignations in the past have caused three of the terms on National Council to be out of sync with the rest of the National Council. This Convention we will elect seven (7) of the ten (10) positions on the National Council. It is a daunting task to replace seven people. These are the positions which must be filled at our 2013 General Convention:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Qualifications</b>
President	4 years	Either the President or Vice-President must be a lay person
Vice President	4 years	Either the President or Vice-President must be a lay person
Secretary	4 years	May be a lay person or a pastor
Board of Elders	4 years	Must be a lay person in order to preserve lay majority on Board of Elders
Board of Trustees #1	4 years	Two trustees must be lay people to preserve lay majority on this Board
Board of Trustees #2	4 years	
Board of Trustees #3	4 years	

Our current National Council and the dates upon which their terms expire are set forth below:

<b>Name/Position</b>	<b>Year Elected /Re-elected</b>	<b>Term ends</b>
Pastor Edward Skutshek, President/Elder	2009	2013
Fred Schickedanz, Vice President/Trustee	2009	2013
Peggy Krause, Secretary/Elder	2009	2013
Helen Zacharias, Treasurer/Trustee	2011	2015 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Term)
Tim Bauer, Elder #1	2012	2016 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Term)
Pastor Peeter Vanker, Elder #2	2012	2016
Sherland Chhangur, Elder #3	2009	2013
Tim Hartness, Trustee #1	2009	2013
Art Kroeker, Trustee #2	2009	2013
Ron Voss, Trustee #3	2009	2013

All seven whose term expires in 2013 are eligible to serve for an additional four-year term.

**Staggered Terms:** At our 2013 General Convention, National Council will introduce amendments to our constitution which will authorize the election of members to National Council for staggered terms. We will amend sections 2.2 and 2.5 of Article 10 of our constitution to accomplish this goal. We will amend Section 2.2 to allow for election of our Association’s officers, elders and trustees in staggered four-year terms, with about one third of the terms expiring each year. In order for staggered terms to occur, there must be a transitional term or shorter term for some members of our National Council. This means that for this annual General Meeting in 2013, and this time only, some members of our National Council will be elected to shorter terms. At our 2013 General Convention we will elect the President and Secretary to four-year terms, the Vice President to a two-year term, a member of the Board of Elders for a one-year term, and three members of the Board of Trustees who will serve for staggered terms (a two-year, three and four-year term). In staggering these terms we want to ensure that the President and Vice President are not elected for a four-year term each in the same year. Staggering the term for President or Vice President ensures that every time a new President is elected, the sitting Vice President will have had at least two years of experience on National Council and can help acclimate the new President. We will amend Section 2.5 to provide that if a National Council member resigns, is removed or dies before the end of his/her term, the National Council will elect a substitute who will serve until the next annual General Convention, at which time the delegates to the Convention will elect a successor to fill the unexpired term of the National Council Member who caused the vacancy.

**Transitional Terms:**

Position	Term	
<i>President</i>	<i>Elected to a 4-year term in 2013</i>	<i>Elected to a four year term in 2017</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Elected to a 2-year term in 2013</i>	<i>Elected to a four year term in 2015</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Elected to a 4-year term in 2013</i>	<i>Elected to a four year term in 2017</i>
Treasurer	Serving a four-year term which ends in 2015	Elected to a four year term in 2015
Board of Elders #1	Serving a four-year term which ends in 2016	Elected to a four year term in 2016
Board of Elders #2	Serving a four-year term which ends in 2016	Elected to a four year term in 2016
<b>Board of Elders #3</b>	<b><i>Elected to a 1-year term in 2013</i></b>	<b><i>Elected to a four-year term in 2014</i></b>
<b>Board of Trustees #1</b>	<b><i>Elected to a 2-year term in 2013</i></b>	<b><i>Elected to a four-year term in 2015</i></b>
<b>Board of Trustees #2</b>	<b><i>Elected to a 3-year term in 2013</i></b>	<b><i>Elected to a four-year term in 2016</i></b>
<b>Board of Trustees #3</b>	<b><i>Elected to a 4-year term in 2013</i></b>	<b><i>Elected to a four-year term in 2017</i></b>

**Congregational Ratification.** These proposed amendments must approved by a majority (51%) of the registered delegates to our 2013 General Convention. We will elect seven new members to our National Council. However, for the staggered amendments to become effective, they must be approved by our congregations. Three quarters of the ballots cast by congregations would have to approve the amendments in order for them to take effect. In the event that the proposed amendments are not ratified by the congregations, all seven will be elected for four-year terms.

**Existing Section 2.2 of Article 10:**

2.2 Each member shall be elected by majority vote of the registered delegates at the General Convention for a term of four years and may only hold the same office for two consecutive terms, holding office until a successor is elected and assumes office. The member takes office upon election.

**Proposed Amendments to Section 2.2**

**2.2** *The registered delegates shall elect, by a majority vote, a National Council for terms of four years each, with approximately a third of the terms expiring annually. In staggering the terms of office, the President and Vice President shall not be elected to four-year terms at the same annual General Convention. Members of National Council may only hold the same office for two consecutive terms, holding office until a successor is elected and assumes office. The member takes office upon election.*

*Transitional Provisions - 2013 General Convention: The registered delegates shall elect: the President and the Secretary to four-year terms; the Vice President to a two-year term; a member of the Board of Elders to a one-year term; one member of the Board of Trustees to a two-year term; one member of the Board of Trustees to a three-year term; and one member of the Board of Trustees to a four-year term. The four-year terms of the previously elected and serving Treasurer (2011) and the two previously elected and serving members of the Board of Elders (2012) shall continue and their successors shall be elected in 2015 and 2016, respectively. In determining the length of the term of office of the three members of the Board of Trustees elected, the following principles shall apply: any incumbent Trustee elected will take the shortest term(s). Newly-elected members of the Board of Trustees will take the longer terms.*

**Existing Section 2.5 of Article 10:**

2.5 If the President dies, resigns, or is unable to serve, the Vice President shall serve until the next General Convention. If any other member dies, resigns, or is unable to serve, a temporary replacement shall be elected by the National Council to serve until the next General Convention.

**Proposed Amendments to Section 2.2**

**2.5** *If the President dies, resigns, or is unable to serve, the Vice President shall serve until the next General Convention. If any other member dies, resigns, or is unable to serve, a temporary replacement shall be elected by the National Council to serve until the next General Convention. At the next General Convention the registered delegates shall elect a successor for the unexpired term of the National Council Member who died, resigned or was removed.*

**Call for Nominations for National Council**

Our constitution states that any member of a member or associate member congregation of CALC, or an individual associate member of CALC may run for office on the National Council. No officer or member of the Board of Elders or Board Trustees can serve more than two consecutive or back-to-back terms for the same office. CALC nomination forms were sent to every congregation. If you want to nominate someone for election to one of the vacant positions on the National Council, please request the forms from me and then return the completed form to me at the following addresses:

By Mail: Pastor Edward P. Skutshek, President  
Grace Lutheran Church  
1162 Hudson Road  
West Kelowna, BC, V1Z 1J3

By E-mail: [Ed.Skutshek@gracelutherankelowna.com](mailto:Ed.Skutshek@gracelutherankelowna.com)

By Fax: (250) 769-5691

Nomination forms must be completely filled out to be considered. The nominee (person you are nominating) must accept the nomination and sign the Nomination Form before it is submitted to me in order for the nomination to be considered. The nominee should also complete the Biographical Information Form which is included in the nomination package. Completed Nomination forms received by me by Monday September 30, 2013, will be included in the Bulletin of Reports sent out prior to the 2013 Convention. The new members of the National Council elected at the General Meeting will be installed at the General Meeting, as they take office on election.

The following have been nominated for election to the National Council and have agreed to let their names stand:

**President:** Pastor Ed Skutshek  
**Vice President:** Fred Schickedanz  
**Secretary:** Vivien Georgeson  
**Elder:** Sherland Chhangur  
**Trustees:** Ron Voss and Art Kroeker.

## CANADIAN ROCKIES THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

Ron Voss, Trustee and Pastor Ed Skutshek, President, attended the second annual Canadian Rockies Theological Conference held April 8-11, 2013 in Canmore, AB. Renowned Lutheran theologians Dr. Carl Braaten and Dr. Robert Jenson shared their thoughts, concerns and hopes regarding the Church of Christ around the world especially in relation to what it means to be a Lutheran today. Braaten and Jenson's volume "Christian Dogmatics" is required reading at most Lutheran seminaries and widely read outside the Lutheran church. Dr. Robert Jenson was unable to attend the conference in person due to ill health. His papers were read by Pastor David Wendel of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). After his papers were read, Dr. Jenson answered questions on his paper via the telephone. The papers presented by these theologians were extremely complex and dealt with very weighty theological questions. The summary which follows merely scratches the surface of the presentations. Braaten and Jenson have had long and distinguished academic careers. Their presentations focused on the areas in which North American Theology has failed over the past decades and proposed a way forward for orthodox and confessional Lutherans.

1. **The Name of God.** The Bible clearly names God Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Yet, in the past five decades, the historical name of God has been changed from God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit to neutered terms like: Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier. The Bible has been translated so that masculine references to God the Father and God the Holy Spirit have been neutered. You see this most vividly in the translation of the Bible known as the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV).

Those that have changed the name of God have done so with what they believe are noble intentions, including, presenting God in the best light. The Bible, they say, was written to predominantly patriarchal or male dominated societies, which readily accepted reference to God as male. However, they say, we live within a democratic society which has been heavily influenced by feminism; therefore, referring to God as a male will make God less attractive to our society. They further argue that many women have been hurt by abusive fathers, spouses and male relatives. They contend that women are still discriminated against by their society for being female. If male references to God are removed, they reason, God will not be perceived as abusive toward women.

Braaten and Jenson concluded when mainline Protestant Churches neutered the name of God in authorized translations of the Holy Bible, they failed the Lord and his Church by blatantly altering the scriptural text to serve the wills and sensitivities of some of the people reading the text.

2. **The Authority of the Scripture.** Many Lutheran seminaries have and continue to use what is called the Historical Critical Method to study and interpret the Bible. These scholars check the accuracy of what the Bible says about the history of its time against what modern historians, archeologists and other social scientists have found about the historical period during which any portion of the Biblical text was written. They try to find the meaning and purpose behind the text by looking at its structure. The problem with the Historical Critical Method is that it treats the Bible in the same way it treats any ancient text. By way of example, the Bible would be treated the same way Historical Criticism treats Homer's "Odyssey." The Bible becomes just another book and not the living Word of God. If the Bible is "just another book", it can be compromised and reinterpreted in order to serve the wills and sensitivities of some of the people reading the text.

3. **The Uniqueness of Jesus.** The Bible clearly teaches that the risen Jesus and Jesus of Nazareth are the same. Braaten and Jenson identified several scholars, beginning with Albert Schweitzer, who believed that the resurrected or risen Jesus is a creation of the Church. They believe that the Jesus constructed by the Church after Jesus' crucifixion was distinct and different from the Jesus that lived in history. They believe that the historical Jesus can be recovered from the Jesus created by the Church in the Gospels. They believe that if the historical Jesus can be set free from the risen Jesus constructed by the Church, the historical Jesus could cause some real social change in this world today.

Those who have mined the Gospel for the historical Jesus, have found a wise sage who teaches us how to live this life. The historical Jesus who was baptized, taught love your enemy and the poor, and was crucified, died and buried, was not interested in sin, death, the Devil or Heaven and Hell. The historical Jesus was interested in the poverty, equality and violence of his day and if alive today would be interested in pollution, hunger and war and overcoming these evils.



4. **The Uniqueness of Christianity and Salvation. Universalism.** Christian Scholars are readily willing to place Christianity on par with the religions of the world. They say that religious life is like climbing a mountain. God is at the top of the mountain and we know there are many paths to the top of any mountain. They believe God has spoken through the various religious texts that are found throughout the world and still speaks to people today. However, they reason, God has spoken imperfectly. The quest of scholars is to find the universals between and among the various religious groups. In response to this diatribe, Robert Jenson remarked: "Now God is even telling the Atheists that He doesn't exist."

**Individualism.** The uniqueness of Christianity has always been the free gift of God to humanity: salvation, eternal life through faith alone in Jesus (John 3:16). The Church has always taught that salvation is given through the Means of Grace, the Gospel proclaimed in its purity, Baptism and Holy Communion. However, Braaten and Jenson reminded those present of the different theologies on salvation among Protestants. Some Protestant denominations stress free will, a decision to let Jesus into your heart and adult believer Baptism. Lutherans have always challenged the notion of free will when it comes to believing in God and Jesus. We believe faith is a gift from God that comes through the proclamation of the Gospel. Others Protestants stress predestination, that is, some are predestined for salvation and some for eternal judgment and they are powerless to change the outcome. Lutherans have always maintained that predestination is a part of salvation, however, double predestination puts the emphasis on God's decision before the world was created and not on the power of the cross of Christ. These different theologies on salvation lead to constant debate between and among Protestants.

5. **Ecclesiology.** There are many understandings on how the Church should be organized. The study of church structure is called Ecclesiology. Lutherans came out of the Roman Catholic tradition. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that it is the one true church divinely founded by Jesus Christ. It also teaches that its bishops are the successors of Christ's apostles and that the Bishop of Rome, as the successor to the head of the apostles, Saint Peter, has supreme authority over the Church. When the churches of the Reformation left the Roman Catholic Church, they did not develop a specific structure for the church. Therefore, some Lutherans have organized themselves as synods with Bishops. Other Lutherans place the emphasis on congregational autonomy and have developed congregationally based associations of congregations.

Braaten and Jenson believe that Jesus calls Christians to unity. The attainment of this unity, they say, has never been as important as it today. They believe that most mainline Protestant denominations (ELCIC, ELCA, Anglican Church of Canada, Episcopal Church in the US, some Presbyterians and United Church in Canada and the United Church of Christ in the US) have been corrupted by the study of the Bible using the Historical Critical Method and the search for the historical Jesus. As a result, these denominations are in the severe decline, therefore, to remain aligned with them is to share in their demise. They further contend that Evangelical Protestants (Baptists, Pentecostals and Mennonites) emphasize decision making (adult believer Baptism) and predestination (God makes an irrevocable decision to save or condemn). They have difficulty with core doctrines of Lutheran Theology such as infant Baptism and the real presence of Jesus Christ in with and under the bread and wine of Holy Communion. The differences in theology will spark constant debate between Lutherans and Evangelical Christians. These debates will impede the progress of the mission of the Church.

In the final analysis Braaten and Jenson see alignment with the Roman Catholic Church as the best way forward for Lutherans. They could envision Lutherans working as an order within Roman Catholicism. They acknowledged that two major hurdles exist which have historically and continue to keep Lutherans and Roman Catholics apart, namely, the Roman Catholic understanding that: (1) whenever the Eucharist or Holy Communion is celebrated, a present sacrifice of Christ occurs; and (2) the infallibility of the Pope. They urged Lutheran and Roman Catholic scholars and leaders to continue to discuss and debate around these issues for the sake of the unity of the Church. Needless to say their conclusions sparked some lively and passionate debate during the question and answer period which followed the presentation and into the evening and next morning. Braaten's proposition was a hard pill for many at the conference to swallow.

Braaten and Jenson were followed by a presentation by Greg Musselman from Voice of the Martyrs- Canada on Thursday morning. President Skutshek and Ron Voss were so impressed with his presentation, that they resolved then and there to seek Pastor Musselman's consent to speaking at CALC's annual gathering.

The participants in April's conference enjoyed the world class amenities offered by the city of Canmore. However, the town was devastated by flooding in late June of this year. Many of Canmore's business owners and homeowners returned to mud-caked floors, damaged and destroyed inventory and belongings and structures ravaged by water. Many families are struggling to find ways to clean up and rebuild. Several Christian mission and service organizations have mobilized volunteers to help in the efforts. Some of our presenters at the educational event at our annual general convention will make us aware of specific ways we can help Albertans hurt by the June floods.

## INSTITUTE OF LUTHERAN THEOLOGY



Institute of  
Lutheran  
Theology

*Where The Reformation Lives ...*

### EQUIPPING THE BODY OF CHRIST

*by David R. Patterson*

*Pastor, Pioneer Lutheran Church, White, SD*

*Director, ILT Information Services*

*Director, ILT School for Faith and Life*

The Institute of Lutheran Theology -- through its Christ School of Theology -- has become well known as an independent, Lutheran theological graduate school, committed to a deep understanding of the western theological tradition and its intellectual context. Lutherans across North America have come to know that the Christ School of Theology can be depended upon to educate the next generation of faithful Lutheran theologian-pastors/teachers. The Master of Divinity, Master of Religion and Master of Sacred Theology programs of the Christ School of Theology are providing a world class graduate theological education to students across North America, but did you know that this is only a fraction of what the Institute of Lutheran Theology is doing?

The Institute of Lutheran Theology is committed to the equipping of every member of the Body of Christ. ILT is dedicated to the real fulfillment of Christ's Great Commission to "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, **teaching** them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:16-20, ESV). Christ commanded us to make disciples and teach them. The saving faith in Jesus Christ is given as a free gift of the Father, this is not our responsibility. However, the making of disciples and the teaching of Christ's disciples, this is very much our responsibility; a responsibility that we at the Institute of Lutheran Theology take very seriously.

It is truly important to provide a world class graduate theological education for our pastors and teachers, but not every congregation across North America has the resources to support full-time dedicated pastors and teachers with a graduate education. Does this mean that the Holy Spirit has determined that these congregations are undeserving of pastors and teachers? By no means! Every congregation is a part of the Good Shepherd's flock and He would not leave His sheep without a shepherd (John 10). In every place where the Good Shepherd's flock is pastured, He calls His servants to care for those sheep. For every congregation of His Church, the Holy Spirit calls pastors and teachers. He does not only call pastors to sheep that can afford a professional graduate educated theologian. Understanding this, ILT has devoted itself to providing the education to equip all disciples called by the Holy Spirit as pastors and teachers. For some, that means pursuing a world class, graduate theological education; for others, that means an equally rigorous, but short-term educational program to equip the pastor or teacher called out of the congregation, seeking to be faithful to a call above and beyond his or her work in the world. To meet this need, the Institute of Lutheran Theology -- through its School for Faith and Life -- offer both a 2 year Pastoral Ministry Certificate program and a 1 year Associate in Ministry Certificate program.

But there is more. It is not enough to educate pastors and teachers for the Body of Christ, for we are called to "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, **teaching** them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:16-20, ESV). Pastors and teachers are entrusted with the educating and equipping of the sheep in their care so that they too might be sent out in fulfillment of the Great Commission (Ephesians 4:11-16). The Institute of Lutheran Theology is dedicated to supporting the efforts of pastors and teachers to fulfill this responsibility around the world. To do this, the Institute of Lutheran Theology has formed the ILT Congregational Partners Network. Any partner congregation of ILT with the necessary Internet connections and computer systems can, as a part of their ministry in fulfillment of the Great Commission, take the classes being taught in their congregation and make them available to others around the world. They can also make use of classes from other congregations to equip their own congregations.

But there is even more. While the sharing of the labors of pastors and teachers around the world to equip the Body of Christ is a great start, it is not enough. So the Institute of Lutheran Theology -- through its School for Faith and Life -- is now developing a new program for systematic congregational education for the one flock around the world. These courses will be offered through ILT's partner congregations serving as Designated Teaching Centers of the School for Faith and Life in their communities. Each class in this program is able to support upwards of 100,000 students around the world at any one time, bringing to them the world class scholars of the Institute of Lutheran Theology, but supported and facilitated by local pastors and teachers, providing the Body of Christ both a great Christian education and the spiritual maturing that best happens with the local congregation of believers. The Body of Christ, each member equipped and bound together for service. The Body of Christ, sent to make disciples of all nations. This is the ministry of the Institute of Lutheran Theology.

The Institute of Lutheran Theology is an independent, Lutheran theological project, holding that God in Jesus Christ brings sinners to repentance and new life. ILT is here to support denominational bodies around the world such as Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations, Lutheran Congregations for Mission in Christ, North American Lutheran Church, Augsburg Lutheran Churches, and the Lutheran Church of South Sudan. ILT is here to support the one flock of the Good Shepherd wherever its sheep are pastured. ILT is here to support you!

## **Word at Work – Upcoming Fall 2013 Course Offerings**



**Institute of  
Lutheran  
Theology**

The ILT's Word at Work Series provides individuals and congregations with live courses over the Internet, featuring expert speakers and timely topics.

### **Survey of the Old Testament with Rev. Steven Dunkel**

Join us for six weeks of journeying through the entire Old Testament, with an overview of each book and a presentation of God's story from Eden to Everlasting!

### **Stewardship Strategies with Dr. Eugene Grimm**

Stewardship Strategies is designed to give pastors and members an overview of some of the basic principles involved in effective stewardship ministries.

### **Learning to Follow with Rev. Moe Redding**

Have you noticed there is a huge market for books on Leadership? And yet, how many books are there teaching us how to follow? Only one, as far as I know: the Bible.

### **Principles of Counseling with Dr. Buddy Mendez**

A foundation course providing an understanding of the content and process of counseling.

For more information, go to the ILT web site at <http://www.ilt.org/> and click on the "Congregations" tab at the top of the web site and choose "Word & Work Courses".



**NEW: COMING IN ADVENT 2013!**

### **Sola Publishing's New Online Worship Resource Site**

Congregations have been asking when Sola Publishing will produce a worship resource similar to Augsburg's *Sundays and Seasons*™ that follows the recommended Sola lectionary. Sola Publishing is pleased to announce that, beginning in Advent of 2013, we will go online with the **Sola Online Worship Resource Site**, which will provide a host of downloadable worship resources, representing a solid biblical and traditional Lutheran theology, offered at a reasonable price.

Given that this will be a web-based resource, we are better able to serve our customers in Canada. Since we're not packaging into our resources automated generic bulletin-making software or general music-licensing, we are able to offer our subscription at half the price of other online resources.

We are doing something different, in order to provide our congregations with worship-support materials they actually need and use, providing the kind of pre-formatted and flexible worship resources that congregations print every week, including: bulletin inserts, children's bulletins, devotional inserts, weekly lectionary text studies, liturgical clip-art, cover art, service settings, etc. We are also providing a wealth of worship-planning resources, including: seasonal suggestions, weekly hymn suggestions, lectionary summaries, prayers of the church, sermon starters, bulletin templates, PowerPoint backdrops, and much more!

To read more about the new site, go to the Sola Publishing website at: [www.solapublishing.org](http://www.solapublishing.org) to download a free brochure.

## **PORNOGRAPHY – THE SECRET OBSESSION**



First, there's the multi-billion-dollar pornography industry, which through the Internet is magically being transported into previously unreachable market territory – namely, the sanctity of millions of middle-class homes. By all accounts, Internet pornography has become a genuine national epidemic, ensnaring millions of people who never had a pornography problem before. Online porn is immediately accessible, almost totally anonymous, inexpensive (or free), and highly addictive. Indeed, it has been called “the crack cocaine of pornography.”

According to Internet Filter Review, which analyzes and rates Web content filters, revenues from pornography exceed those of all professional football, baseball and basketball franchises combined. There are 4.2 million pornographic websites – that's 12 percent of all websites in the world, totaling 372 million pornographic pages. Pornographic search engine requests total 68 million per day.

Exactly how damaging is pornography? After all, some “scientific studies” – mostly from Scandinavia, of course – claim pornography can actually be beneficial.

Not quite. As scientist and adjunct law professor of bioethics Dr. Kelly Hollowell points out:

*Studies reveal that acts of sexual violence are commonly linked to pornography and the numbers of victims are massive. According to sworn testimony before the U.S. Senate, experts reveal that by the time a female in this country is 18 years old, 38 percent have been sexually molested. One in eight women will be raped. Fifty percent of women will be sexually harassed on their jobs during their lifetimes. In fact, sexual dysfunction is on such a rampant rise that experts are calling it more than an epidemic. They are calling it a sexual holocaust.*

Just hours before he was executed on Jan. 24, 1989, notorious serial killer Ted Bundy was interviewed by Focus on the Family chief Dr. James Dobson, a clinical psychologist. Bundy movingly revealed how pornography had fueled his thought world and later his murderous rampages, and also confirmed the central role porn played in the lives of virtually all the other violent offenders with whom he was incarcerated.

Chillingly, Hollowell discloses that “when one study group was exposed to as little as five hours of non-violent pornography, they began to think pornography was not offensive and that rapists deserved milder punishments. They also became more callous and negative toward women and developed an appetite for more deviant or violent types of pornography.”

Driving it all, of course, is money. Pornography is a lucrative business. As PBS reported in its “Frontline” documentary titled “American Porn,” many U.S. companies have profited handsomely from peddling smut. The Marriott, Westin and Hilton hotel chains, for instance, have enjoyed a nice income stream from making X-rated fare available in their hotel rooms. Many other mega-corporations including AT&T, News Corporation and Yahoo! have earned big bucks over the years from their involvement in cable and Internet distribution of “adult entertainment.”

But pornography is just the fuel. A quick survey of the sexual fires now blazing is even more disturbing:

There is a youthful epidemic of “hooking up” – widespread, casual recreational sex, often with multiple partners. Turbo-charged by President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky’s high-profile example – “if it’s OK for the president, it must be OK for me” – middle and high school children are experimenting with sex in the bathroom stalls at school, behind the gym, and in the back of the school bus. More children, at earlier ages, are engaging in sexual acts than ever before. Often, the only way parents and school authorities find out is when confronted by an epidemic of sexually transmitted disease infecting large numbers of kids in the same social group.

Homosexual sex, a generation ago, was widely considered both immoral and pathological. Today it’s enshrined as a constitutional right and the hallmark of a new “protected class.” Government schools nationwide teach children as young as five that homosexuality is normal – and that disagreeing with this viewpoint brands you as an intolerant “hater.” The popular culture *always* portrays homosexuals sympathetically, and often as heroes. America’s bedrock institutions – from its legal system to the news media, from its schools to its churches – are rapidly reversing millennia of traditional values on homosexuality.

One by one, the time-honored sexual taboos of Western Civilization are crashing down with dizzying speed. When the Supreme Court in its controversial 2003 Lawrence v. Texas decision struck down that state’s anti-sodomy statute, the court opened the legal floodgates not only to homosexual marriage, but to the total legitimization of *all* “consensual” sex acts, including bestiality, polygamy and adult incest. Indeed, polygamists have jumped onto the “Lawrence” bandwagon and are pushing to have marriage with multiple partners legalized in the U.S. After all, they argue, their relationships are consensual and they are adults – so what’s the problem?

Sexual slavery is no longer confined to the Far East, Australia and other exotic locales. Statistics vary widely, but somewhere between 20,000 to 50,000 women and children are trafficked each year into the United States, primarily from Latin America, countries of the former Soviet Union and Southeast Asia, for exploitation in prostitution and the “sex industry.”

Believe it or not, even child sexual abuse, rape and incest (which its apologists euphemistically now call “adult-child sex” and “intergenerational sex”) are slowly but surely gaining respectability. As far back as 1999, the American Psychological Association, which claims to be the largest association of psychologists worldwide with more than 150,000 members, published in its peer-reviewed journal, APA Bulletin, a report disputing the harmfulness of child molestation. Titled “A Meta-Analytic Examination of Assumed Properties of Child Sexual Abuse Using College Samples,” the report by Bruce Rind, et al., claimed child sexual abuse could be harmless and beneficial.

Many people seem to think having sex with children is a good thing, as 100,000 websites now offer illegal child pornography, reports Internet Filter Review. Worldwide, child porn generates \$3 billion in revenues every year. And culturally, adult-child sexuality is creeping, ever so artfully and gradually, into the public consciousness.

For instance, in the 2004 movie “Birth,” Oscar-winner Nicole Kidman plays Anna, a young widow who thinks her deceased husband has been reincarnated – into the body of a 10-year-old boy. Thus, one scene depicts Kidman tenderly kissing the boy on the lips. Another scene has her asking the boy – played by 11-year-old Cameron Bright – if he has ever had sex. In still another scene – which elicited boos from the audience when “Birth” was first screened at the Venice International Film Festival – the boy slowly undresses in front of Kidman before joining her in the bathtub.

“The film disturbs some people and it makes them uncomfortable,” Kidman admitted in a Hollywood interview, according to the New York Post. “It’s meant to do that, but not in a way where you’re trying to exploit a young boy.”

Well now, what an ingenious way to justify intimacy between an adult female and a male child: The little boy is not your normal kid, you see, but is actually the reincarnation of the woman’s grown husband. We, the audience, “understand” her behavior since she’s not actually seducing a little boy, but rather, is just being intimate with her husband. In reality of course, she’s sexually corrupting a child in front of millions of viewers.

How on earth did America get to this point where we’re literally drowning in sex and corrupting each other right and left? How can we return to a more innocent time, to a culture of morality, and of real respect between men and women? Is it even possible?





Maybe the first question we have to answer is: Exactly how and when did we “buy into” wanton sexual anarchy disguised as freedom?

Excerpted with permission from “*The Marketing of Evil: How Radicals, Elitists, and Pseudo-Experts Sell Us Corruption Disguised as Freedom*” by David Kupelian.



## CONGREGATIONS SEEKING PASTORS AND MINISTRY CHANGES

CALC's website has recently been upgraded to accommodate congregations in the call process. About halfway down our "home" page you will find a new text box entitled "Church Staffing." A link in the text box navigates you to our staffing page. Our current Church Staffing page reveals that:

	<p><b>All Saints Lutheran in Ottawa, Ontario</b>, is seeking a fulltime pastor and a part-time youth worker. The congregation is in the process of forming a call committee and is discerning God's direction for them as they move forward in mission in our nation's capital. The congregation has called Pastor Doug Kranz for intentional Interim ministry during their call process. For further information on either position call (613) 828-9284 or email them at <a href="mailto:secretary@allsaintslutheran.ca">secretary@allsaintslutheran.ca</a></p>
	<p><b>Grace Lutheran Church, Kelowna, BC</b>, is seeking a Second Pastor. The successful candidate would work together with our existing pastor as a team in all aspects of congregational life so that the pastoral and administrative needs of Grace Lutheran Church are met. The successful candidate would have a heart for leading the youth of our congregation, providing leadership and mentorship for our Sunday School leaders, and visiting members of our congregation. The ideal candidate would have at least five years experience in a parish setting. If you are interested please send an e-mail expressing your interest to <a href="mailto:ed.skutshek@gracelutherankelowna.com">ed.skutshek@gracelutherankelowna.com</a>.</p>
	<p><b>St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Cochrane, Alberta</b>, is seeking a fulltime pastor. The congregation has formed a call committee. If you are interested please contact Tim Bauer, their call committee chairman at 403-851-0554 or email him at <a href="mailto:tbauer@atha.com">tbauer@atha.com</a>.</p>
	<p><b>St. Peter's Lutheran Church, in Sullivan, Ontario</b>, is seeking a pastor. If you are interested please contact Mr. Steve Lembke, their congregational chair at 519-363-0152 or send an e-mail expressing your interest to <a href="mailto:stpeterssullivan@gmail.com">stpeterssullivan@gmail.com</a>.</p>

### Seeking Call/Change in Ministry:

Pastor Zakaria Mandara has resigned as Pastor of All Saints Lutheran in Ottawa, Ontario. He is currently seeking a call. Pastor Lucretia van Ommeren-Tabbert resigned as associate pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Rosenthal, Stony Plain, Alberta, effective September 29, 2013. She also is seeking a call. We thank God for Pastors Mandara and van Ommeren-Tabbert and their ministries at All Saints Lutheran and Immanuel Lutheran, respectively. We pray that God will bless them and their families as He opens new door and new opportunities in ministry for them. Pastor Rick Bergh resigned as pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Cochrane, Alberta. Pastor Bergh is enrolling in post graduate studies in *Thanatology*, pastoral care to those who are dying and their grieving loved ones. We pray that God will bless Pastor Rick's studies and path going forward.

## Additions/Changes to the Roster of Congregations and Roster of Pastors.

### Alberta:

Addition of: Trondhjem Lutheran, Round Hill and Salem Lutheran, Kingman, and their Pastor Garfield Vikse; and Asker Lutheran, Ponoka, and Calvary Lutheran, Wetaskiwin, and their Pastor Ted Hill.

### British Columbia:

Addition of Vancouver Chinese Lutheran Church and their Pastors Eddie Kwok and Richard Hung; and Mt. Calvary Lutheran in Mission, BC and their Pastor Alan Boerner.

### Ontario:

Addition of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Sullivan.

### Saskatchewan:

Trinity Lutheran, Leader from Associate to full Member; and St. John's North Prairie the addition of their Pastor Bob Deobald to the roster of Pastors.

## DID YOU KNOW?



### Online Donations

CALC has registered with CanadaHelps to process online donations to CALC. Clicking on the "Donate Now" button on CALC's web site takes one to CanadaHelps' donation page for CALC.

The drop-down menu permits donations to be made to a choice of four CALC funds: General Operating, Church Extension Fund, Gathering Fund and Pastoral Formation Fund.

As we approach the 2013 General Convention, please consider a donation to the *Gathering Fund* which is intended to maximize attendance at CALC's two annual gatherings, the Pastors' Retreat and the General Convention. This fund will provide financial support for travel, where required, by delegates to the General Convention and CALC pastors to the Pastors' Retreat. Thus, if you are a congregation that will incur relatively minor travel costs to attend the 2013 General Convention, please consider helping to subsidize attendance by delegates from those congregations that are further away.

Also, at its September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, National Council approved the creation of a fund to support a CALC Ministry Training Award. The purpose of this award is to encourage, through financial support, those individuals enrolled in programs preparing them for pastoral ministry. Individuals and congregations are encouraged to make such support possible through donations to the Pastoral Formation Fund. Further information about the award and an application form can be found at the Pastors page at CALC's web site.



## CALC GENERAL CONVENTION 2013: *A First Century Church*

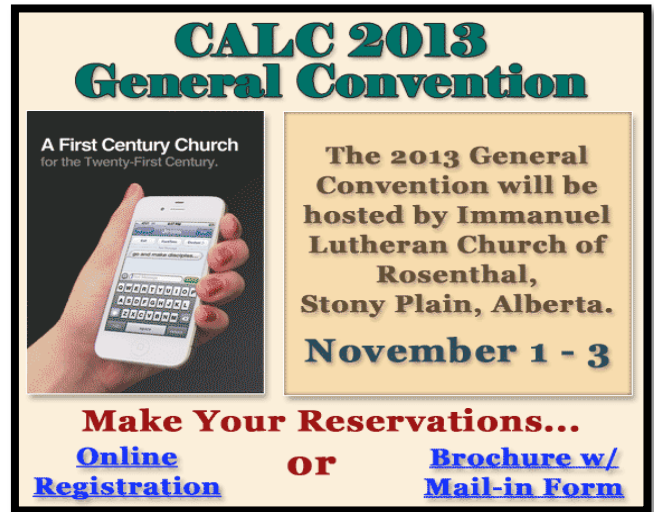
Immanuel Lutheran Church of Rosenthal – Stony Plain, AB

### A First Century Church for the Twenty-first Century

At this and subsequent conventions CALC will focus on this theme learning about the 1st century church – the characteristics of the 1st century church that account for its effectiveness in spreading the Good News of the Gospel, learning about creative ways to recapture the evangelical zeal of the 1st Century Church.

**Register Today!!** Registration brochures can be found at

[www.calc.ca](http://www.calc.ca)



**CALC 2013  
General Convention**

A First Century Church  
for the Twenty-First Century.

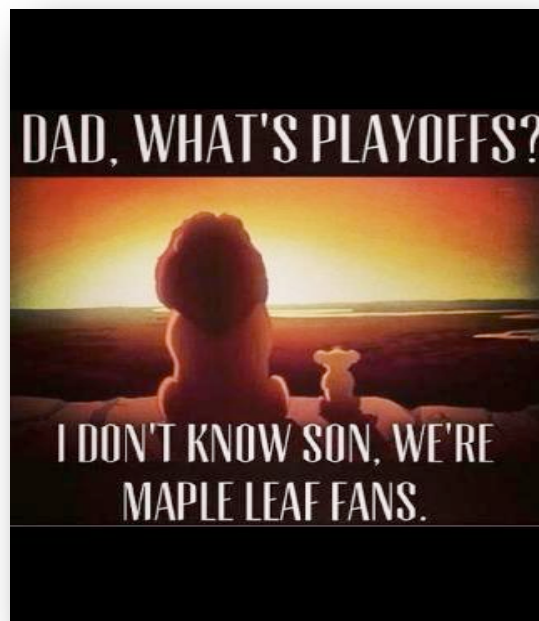
The 2013 General Convention will be hosted by Immanuel Lutheran Church of Rosenthal, Stony Plain, Alberta.  
**November 1 - 3**

**Make Your Reservations...**  
[Online Registration](#) **OR** [Brochure w/ Mail-in Form](#)

## CONGRATULATIONS, PASTOR HARRY (Faith Lutheran – North York, ON)

Celebrating your 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as an ordained ministry this past June.

And may your favorite team celebrate something significant too one day ...



### **THE LUTHERAN CONNECTOR**

*The Lutheran Connector is CALC's official publication and we would welcome the addition of more people who would like to contribute to developing and improving our publication.*