

The Lutheran Connector

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

Special Pre-Convention Edition

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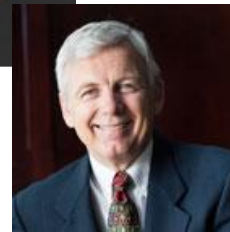
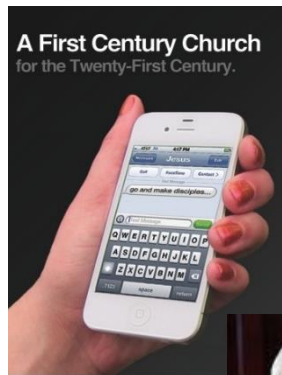
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2014 General Convention

**Living Sacrifices-
Transformed
Renewed**

October 17-19

**Grace Lutheran Church
West Kelowna,
British Columbia**



**Working
Towards our
10-Year
Strategic Plan**



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

Website www.calc.ca

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In Memory of Art Kroeker



It is with great sadness we announce the sudden and unexpected passing of a member of CALC's National Council.

His Obituary: Arthur John Kroeker, 52 years of the RM of Stanley, passed away accidentally on Wednesday, June 18, 2014.

Art was born on March 16, 1962 to John and Agatha Kroeker.

He married the love of his life Lucy Wiebe on December 18, 1982. Upon confession of his faith, he was baptized in March of 1991. Art and Lucy lived on the farm where Art was born and raised. Together they created a home that is shared with their two blessings, Brent was born in 1990 and Mark in 1994. In 1995, Art and Lucy's business opportunity became a reality when they started Art's Drilling Inc. Owning and operating the business utilized Art's many talents and skills. Despite the demands of his business, he found time for many interests such as working with cattle, restoring motorcycles and collecting antiques. Art's love for cooking and BBQ'ing extended into a joy of hosting and entertaining friends, family and groups of any size. Anyone that ever had the pleasure of attending one of the many get-togethers Art and Lucy hosted, were sure to leave with a full stomach and a smile on their face. In addition to being a husband, father, son, brother, entrepreneur, friend to many, and maintaining a large garden and yard, Art made time to volunteer with 4H, teach Sunday School, held a seat on the church council, CALC National Council, as well as being an active member in both the Antique and Vintage Motorcycle Clubs.

Among the many that will treasure Art's memory are his wife, Lucy, his sons, Brent and Mark (special friend Terri), mother, Agatha Kroeker, mother in-law Katherine Wiebe, one sister, three sisters in-law, six brothers in-law and their families and many uncles, aunts, cousins, friends and business acquaintances. Art was predeceased by his father John B. Kroeker (1999) and father in-law, Abram P. Wiebe (1992).

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Art's memory to Christ Lutheran Church (155 Gilmour St. Morden).

A Memorial service was held at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 22, 2014 at the Access Event Centre, Morden with Pastor Tom Baker officiating. The following tribute from Pastor Ed was read at the service attended by some 800 mourners.

Dear Lucy, Brent, Mark, Agatha, and Joan

It is my privilege to extend heartfelt condolences to you as President of the Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations, and on behalf of my fellow National Council members, Fred Schickedanz, Helen Zacharias, Vivien Georgeson, Pastor Peeter Vanker, Tim Bauer, Sherland Chhangur, Everley Lutz and Ron Voss.

Each of you has suffered a great loss. You have lost a beloved husband, father, son, brother, companion, mentor and source of love, wisdom, strength and encouragement. Please be assured that we too have suffered a great loss. We have lost a beloved brother in Christ and fellow member of CALC's National Council. We grieve with you.

The shock and grief caused by the loss of a loved one can sometimes be overwhelming. For me, grief is like a heavy stone that sits between my shoulder blades. It weighs me down. The strain causes me to think of that stone all the time. I want to get rid of it, but I can't. My arms are too short. Try as I might, I can't get a good hold on that stone so that I can rip it from its resting place. It just wears me down. It can keep me from getting on with life and reaching out to others.

God has given us gifts to help us in our grief.

God has given us the gift of community, one another. The weight of grief causes us to embrace one another. When we hug one another and offer consoling words, these simple gestures take some of the weight of grief way.

Tonight you have gathered together in the name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. By your very presence at this service of worship, you are all embracing Lucy, Brent, Mark, Agatha and Joan with arms of faith. With one voice you say to them: We are with you in this time of loss and grief. We too love Art and will stand with you in the days to come. We will hold you up in our prayers, and if it is possible, through tangible acts of love and kindness.

In Psalm 90 Moses asked God to teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. God reminds us that He has given us days of joy and gladness and the wonderful memories that those days produce in us. At times like this it is important to embrace the good memories each and every one of us has of Art. Art served on CALC's National Council since 2003. I have served with Art since 2009. He sat at my right hand for every National Council meeting I can remember. From 2009 to 2014 God knit us together as a National Council. God gave us a spirit of cooperation, and love and respect for one another. We worked together so well. God used Art mightily in that knitting process. He was our historian. He possessed a wealth of knowledge of CALC's past history and shared it with great love and respect. He was a man of deep and abiding faith in our Triune God. He was always hungry for God's Word and loved to learn all he could from Scripture. Service on CALC's National Council was not a chore for him, but a calling from God that he lived out with great passion. His passionate service will inspire us on National Council in the months and years ahead. I will miss his presence on my right side.

God speaks into our grief with His love. God wants all of you gathered here tonight to know that He loved Art, and all of you, so much that He "gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Jesus spoke into the grief of a beloved friend named Martha, who had just lost her brother Lazarus, with these words: "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26). Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead that very day.

A few short days later Jesus died, and like Lazarus, was put in a tomb. God raised Jesus

from the dead on the first Easter Sunday. Lazarus, the man Jesus raised, also died. However, because Jesus was raised from the dead to eternal life; Jesus promised Lazarus would not stay dead, but would arise once more to new life, this time to eternal life.

Because of Jesus' birth, life, innocent suffering, death and resurrection, Art and all those who die believing can testify:

*Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there. I do not sleep.
By baptismal water's power,
the gift of adoption, God did upon me shower.
That water bound me to our Lord Jesus and his
demise,
Thereby ensuring that, like Jesus, from death I
will arise.
Jesus bore the weight of my sin upon the tree,
So that from my sin that water could set me
free.
By God's Word, the Holy Spirit gave me a faith
true and right,
Now I live not by faith, but by sight!
Do not stand at my grave and cry;
I am not there. I did not die.
Amen.*

President's Message Convention 2014

It is my distinct privilege to invite you all to CALC's 2014 Annual General Convention as both President of CALC and one of the pastors of the host congregation Grace Lutheran Church of West Kelowna, BC. This year's convention will provide many opportunities for worship, learning and fellowship.

Dates: Friday October 17th to Sunday October 19th, 2014.

Convention Theme: We will be meeting under the theme "**Living Sacrifices – Transformed Renewed.**"

Convention Theme Verse
Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed

by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

At this and subsequent conventions we will focus on the characteristics of the 1st Century Church that account for its effectiveness in spreading the Good News of the Gospel. We will focus on the Apostle Paul's admonition to the Church at Rome (Romans 12:1-2) to offer themselves as living sacrifices pleasing to God, and in so doing offer testimony to the world around them of the power of God in their lives. The meaning of these verses will be unpacked in our learning event, Friday night worship, opening devotion for the convention and our business session. As we reflect on the church of Paul's day, it is my prayer that we will be inspired and encouraged by their example and we will experience the evangelical zeal of the 1st Century Church.

General Convention Agenda

Friday, October 17 (Grace Lutheran Church)

8:30-9:30 AM	Registration
9:30-10:30 AM	Toward a 10 Year Strategic Plan ¹
10:30-11:00 AM	Refreshment Break
11:00-12:30 PM	Toward a 10 Year Strategic Plan ¹
12:30-1:30 PM	Lunch
1:30-2:30 PM	Mission Opportunities ²
2:30-4:00 PM	Round Table Discussion ³
6:00-7:00 PM	Registration
7:00-8:30 PM	Opening Worship ⁴
8:30-9:30 PM	Hospitality

Notes to Friday Agenda:

- 10 Year Strategic Plan:** The delegates to last year's convention authorized our National Council to present a 10 Year Strategic Plan for CALC for adoption by our Association. National Council was to report back to this convention as to the specific process to be followed in the development and implementation of our plan. In furtherance of this mandate, National Council will introduce a working document entitled "Working Toward a Ten Year Strategic Plan – IMPV (Identity, Mission, Progress & Vision). This document will be introduced during the morning learning session on Friday and our business session on Saturday.
- Mission Opportunities:** We will devote this hour to hearing greetings from various organizations our CALC congregations support. Representatives will bring greetings and will update us on their organizations' activities.

- Roundtable:** CALC's National Council, congregational leaders and interested attendees will meet to discuss the joys, successes and challenges of congregational life.
- Opening Worship:** Pastor David Wunderlich will preach at our opening worship service. Pastor David will serve with me in a team ministry at Grace Lutheran beginning September 1st of this year.

Saturday October 18 (Grace Lutheran)

8:30-9:00 AM	Registration
9:00-9:30 AM	Devotions-Convention Opening
9:30-10:30 AM	Business Session #1 ⁴
10:30-11:00 AM	Refreshment Break
11:00-12:00 PM	Business Session #2 ⁴
12:00-1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00-1:30 PM	Introduction of Guests ⁵
1:30-2:30 PM	Keynote Speaker – Part 1 ⁶
2:30-3:00 PM	Refreshment Break
3:00-4:00 PM	Keynote Speaker – Part 2 ⁶
4:00 PM	Convention Closing
6:30-10:00 PM	Banquet ⁷

Notes to Saturday Agenda:

- Business Sessions:** During our morning business sessions we will:
 - We will participate in our opening devotions and open our business session.
 - We will approve our agenda.
 - We will admit new congregations and individuals as members of CALC; and admit new pastors to CALC's roster of pastors.
 - We will adopt Rules of Order.
 - We will approve the minutes of our 2013 Convention.
 - We will hear our President's Report.
 - We will hear our Trustees' Report.
 - We will hear our Elders' Report.
 - We will hear our Treasurer's Report
 - We will approve our Budget for 2015
 - We will elect the following members of National Council: **Board of Elders:** One position four year term. **Board of Trustees:** Fill the Art Kroeker's term which ends at our 2015 National Convention. Art passed away earlier this year.
- Guests:** During this half hour we will introduce and will hear greetings from invited guests.

7. **Keynote Speaker:**

Robert “Bob” Kuhn, JD, is this year’s Keynote Speaker. He is the president of Trinity Western University (TWU) of Langley, BC. TWU is a Christian university that is “unashamed of its commitment to Jesus Christ and Biblical truth.” TWU “provides a robust education, uncompromising in its excellence; an opportunity to be part of a purpose-driven, transformational experience, discovering the heart and its passion; and a launching pad for graduates to go out and impact a needy world for good.”



Most recently, TWU has taken steps to establish a private Christian School of Law. TWU has encountered various roadblocks on the road to accreditation of the proposed school. TWU is committed to enduring and overcoming these challenges.

President Kuhn’s presentation is entitled "Speaking the Truth In an Adversarial World". President Kuhn believes: “We are in very special times and need to explore how to maintain our Christian witness in a society that is disinterested or even opposed to the gospel.”

8. **Convention Banquet:** Saturday’s events will be capped by a festive catered banquet to be held at the Holiday Inn.

Sunday October 19 (Grace Lutheran)

9:00-10:00 M	Early Worship ⁸
10:30-11:45 AM	Closing Worship (Holy Communion) ¹⁰
11:45-1:00 PM	Refreshment Break

Notes to Sunday Agenda:

9. **Contemporary Worship.** Convention attendees whose travel schedules require an early departure on Sunday morning are invited to worship with us at our 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service.
10. **Closing Worship.** Our Convention weekend is crowned by our closing worship service. I will preach and Pastor David Wunderlich, my partner in Ministry, will preside at Holy Communion. Pastor David will also be installed as a pastor at Grace Lutheran Church during the service.

Registrations Fees:

- ❖ \$20 (Friday Teaching Event, coffee break and lunch)
- ❖ \$85 (Friday Event + Saturday business session, lunch, guest speaker, coffee breaks + banquet)
- ❖ \$25 (Saturday business session, lunch, guest speaker and coffee breaks only)
- ❖ \$40 (Saturday, banquet only)

Accommodations: Attendees are solely responsible for arranging for their accommodations. A list of hotels near Grace Lutheran are listed below. They have offered special room rates for convention attendees. The Super 8 Hotel is within walking distance of Grace Lutheran.

<p>Best Western Hotel 3460 Carrington Road, West Kelowna, BC, V4T 3C1 Phone: 250-707-1637 2 Queen Room – Double Occupancy \$109.00 per night plus taxes. 1 King Bed \$99.00 per night plus taxes. Call Hotel directly – Ask for Grace Lutheran Rate. Book by September 16.</p>	<p>Super 8 Motel 1655 Westgate Rd, West Kelowna, BC V1Z 3P1 Phone: 250-769-2358 1 Queen Room \$89.00 per night plus tax (3 rooms available) 2 Queen Room \$99.00 per night plus tax. Call Hotel directly. Ask for Grace Lutheran Rate. Book by September 16.</p>
<p>Holiday Inn 2569 Dobbin Rd, West Kelowna, BC V4T 2J6 Phone:(250) 768-8879 2 Queen Room – Double Occupancy \$109.00 per night plus taxes. Single Occupancy \$99.00 per night plus taxes. Call Hotel directly – Ask for CALC Convention Rate. Book by September 16. (Children & Teenagers stay free)</p>	

I am excited about this year’s convention. I hope all of you are. Our annual general convention is not just for our National Council, congregational delegates and CALC pastors. Our annual convention is for all members of CALC. It is a time that we gather for worship, singing, Christian Education, encouragement, equipping and fellowship. I encourage all who can to attend our convention. You can register on line on our CALC website at www.calc.ca. May God richly bless all of you and I look forward to seeing you at the convention.

In Christ’s service

Pastor Ed Skutshbek

National Council - Elections

Your National Council



Front Row (L to R): Helen Zacharias, Treasurer; Vivien Georgeson, Secretary; Sherland Chhangur, Elder. 2nd Row (L to R): Ron Voss, Trustee; Tim Bauer, Elder; Art Kroeker, Trustee (deceased). 3rd Row (L to R): Everley Lutz, Trustee, Pastor Peeter Vanker, Elder; Pastor Ed Skutshek, President. Top: Fred Schickendanz, Vice President.

At our 2013 Annual General Convention, National Council delegates passed and our congregations ratified amendments to CALC's constitution which authorize the election of members to National Council for staggered terms, with about one third of the terms expiring each year.

The implementation of staggered terms required transitional or shorter terms for some members of our National Council. At CALC's 2013 Annual General Convention some members of our National Council agreed to be elected to shorter terms. Our delegates elected our 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. The three members of the

Board of Trustees agreed to serve for staggered terms (a two year, three and four year term).

In staggering these terms we wanted to ensure that the President and Vice President were not elected for a four year term each on 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 amended 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.

National Council Member	Term Expires
Edward Skutshek, President	2017
Manfred Schickedanz, Vice President	2015
Helen Zacharias, Treasurer	2015
Vivien Georgeson, Secretary	2017
Sherland Chhangur, Elder	2014
Peeter Vanker, Elder	2016
Tim Bauer, Elder	2016
Ron Voss, Trustee	2016
Art Kroeker, Trustee	2015
Everley Lutz, Trustee	2017

Sherland Chhangur's term on the Board of Elders ends at this year's annual general convention. A successor must be elected to a four year term. By reason of Art Kroeker's untimely death, we must elect a successor to fill the balance of Art's term, specifically through our annual general convention in 2015.

Those who may be nominated:

- Pastors on CALC's Roster of Pastors*
- Believing members of our member congregations
- Individual Associate Members of CALC

* The number of pastors that may be elected is limited. Either the President or Vice-President may be a pastor. Either the Treasurer or the Secretary may be a pastor. The Pastors may not constitute the majority of the Board of Elders or the Board of Trustees.

Additional Qualifications for Members of the National Council: Each member nominated shall be nominated based on said person's: (1) commitment to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and to the divine inspiration, revelation, and inerrancy of the Scriptures; (2) evidencing the fruit of the Spirit in life suitable to the function of the office; (3) Spirit-bestowed gifts of wisdom, knowledge, and administrative ability; and (4) full intention to uphold this Association's Confession (Article Three), Purpose (Article Five), and Constitution. Each member of the National Council 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. (Article 10: Sections 10 and 11 of CALC Constitution).

The Board of Elders (BOE): The BOE is responsible for providing leadership and direction in the faith and life of the congregations of CALC. The BOE, or an authorized committee thereof, is specifically responsible for: (1) maintenance of a roster or list of ordained pastors of the congregations of CALC; (2) oversight in the education and training of candidates for call and ordination as a pastor in CALC; (3) assisting congregations in their examination and approval of ordained pastors for call to a CALC congregation; (4) mentoring and the provision of continuing education for pastors on CALC's roster; and (5) the discipline of pastors of CALC (which discipline may include removal from CALC's roster of pastors). (Article 12 CALC Constitution).

The Board of Trustees (BOT): The BOT has charge of the general management and business affairs of CALC. The BOT is responsible for all transactions regarding real estate, the investment of endowment and other funds received by CALC. The BOT cannot borrow money in CALC's name unless the General Convention and the Member Congregations approve such financing with the same percentages necessary to approve a constitutional amendment. (75% of the delegates to a convention approve the proposed financing and 75% of the Member congregations vote to approve such financing). The Board of Trustees prepares and presents the annual budget for CAL and monitors the income and expenses of our Association. (Article 13 CALC Constitution).

National Council meets in person in Calgary, Alberta, face to face about three times a year. They meet at the Delta Hotel at the Calgary Airport. They meet on Saturdays. Members fly or drive in Saturday morning and fly/drive home in the evening.

If you wish to nominate a candidate for either position please call or email our President as provided below. He will email or fax you a nomination form. This form must be signed by you and the person you nominate. The nominee should also fill out a biographical form, which will also be provided. Completed nomination forms, received by the President by Friday September 19, 2014, will be included in the Bulletin of Reports sent out prior to the 2014 Convention. Forms may be sent by:

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

E-mail to: president@calc.ca

Fax to: (250) 769-5691

Each nomination from will be considered by the CALC nominating committee before recommendation to the National Convention. The nominee must sign the Nomination Form in order for the nomination to be considered. The nominee should also complete the Biographical Information Form.

M-Div Candidate Interns in Ontario



John Graham is enrolled in the Master Divinity (M-Div) program with the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT). He has completed about two thirds of the academic courses necessary for graduation with an M-Div. Studying online with ILT has permitted John and his family to remain

in their native Calgary, and for John to contribute to the family economy through his painting business. He is currently CALC's only seminary student on track to receive a Master of Divinity Degree.

John is married to Amanda. She is self-employed as a consultant for charities. They have two children Adaline, age 6, and William, age 3. They are members of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Cochrane, Alberta (CALC). John has served on St. Peter's Church Council and on its committees. John has been leading worship, preaching and teaching regularly at St. Peter's during their call process.

John applied for a summer preaching position at Christ the King Lutheran Church (CKLC) in Sauble Beach, Ontario. CKLC is an independent Lutheran church. John began serving CKLC on June 1st. His internship will end in August.

Suabe Beach is a resort community located in the South Bruce Peninsula of Southwestern, Ontario. About 2,000 live in Sauble Beach year round. During the peak summer season the population can soar. At over 11 kilometers in length, Sauble Beach is said to be the second longest freshwater beach in the world after Wasga Beach. Summer recreational activities include swimming, lawn bowling windsurfing, fishing, tennis, beach volleyball, birding and an annual sandcastle contest.

John was keen on interning in a CALC congregation for 9 to 12 months following the completion of his time at CKLC. God answered John's prayers. Sunday June 22nd the people of St Peter's Lutheran Church, of Sullivan, Ontario called John to a twelve month internship beginning September 15th.

Our President will install John Graham as St Peter's Intern Pastor on Sunday September 21st at 6:00 PM. See President's Travel Itinerary on page 11.

St. Peter's is currently served by Pastor Dave Wunderlich, who will begin ministry at Grace, September 1st. Pastor Dave has served them as Interim Pastor since January of this year.

St. Peter's is located in rural Ontario, less than an hour from CKLC in Sauble Beach. They are located two blocks south of Desboro in Grey County, which is in a farming area of mid-western Ontario.



St. Peter's was organized by German Lutheran settlers from West Prussia and Mecklenberg, Germany. They were responsible for conducting the first Lutheran worship in Sullivan in the late 1850s and early 1860s. The congregation worshiped in a log building and then a stone church dedicated to God's glory in January of 1882.

The church has a parsonage, also built of stone. The Graham family will live in the parsonage.

Up to 80 gather for worship each Sunday. Holy Communion is administered on the first Sunday of the month.

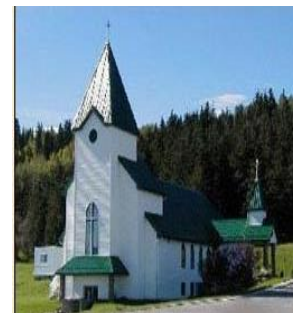
Let us all pray that God will bless John and his family as they serve the people of CKLC and St. Peter's in Jesus name.

Congregations Celebrate 50th Anniversaries in 2014.



The weekend of September 20th and 21st, the members of Faith Lutheran Church in the North York area of the City of Toronto,

Ontario, will celebrate their 50th year of ministry in their community. They plan a banquet for Saturday evening. CALC President, Pastor Ed Skutshek will preach Sunday morning. Faith Lutheran is served by Pastor Harry Huff.



St. Peter's Lutheran Church will celebrate 50 years of ministry by God's grace in the city of Cochrane, Alberta. They have planned a celebration the weekend of September 20th and 21st. All their former

pastors will speak at either the Saturday night banquet or the Sunday morning service. Due to Faith Lutheran's celebration on the same weekend, our President Pastor Ed Skutshek will provide a video greeting from CALC together with a 5-10 minute video message as well.

We look forward to articles from Faith and St. Peter's describing their respective 50th Anniversary celebrations for publication in the Connector.

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

God is Still in Control.

It's August, it's hot and summer is in high gear. I turned on the news this morning only to be overwhelmed by the tragedy I beheld. I came to see that it is heating up all over our globe.

I was first bombarded with information on the conflict in the Middle East. I saw images of armed missiles fly from Gaza into Israel. I saw Israel's "Iron Dome" spring into action. Israeli missiles intercepted the Palestinian rockets in the atmosphere. I saw tunnels from Gaza into Israel being destroyed. Hamas used these tunnels to cross into Israel and wreak havoc. There were images of Israeli missiles flying into Gaza. I saw residents of Gaza crying in anguish. They had no electricity, no running water and lived in constant fear or injury and death. I saw the aftermath of missile fire on refugee camps, hospitals and schools in Gaza. Hamas blamed Israel for these atrocities. Israel blamed errant Hamas missiles. Egypt and the US have tried and failed to broker cease fires. So far there are no signs pointing to a resolution of this crisis in the near future. All signs point to its escalation.

Following a commercial break, my screen was filled with images of the crisis in the Ukraine. A Malaysian Air flight was once again in the news. The jetliner was shot down over the Ukraine. Kiev and the West accuse pro-Russian rebels of shooting the plane down. Moscow says the Ukrainian government is responsible for the

crash, which killed all 298 people on board. The Ukrainian Army and the pro-Russian rebels are locked in battle. This conflict seems to be heating up daily. The West is gathering evidence of Russia's culpability in the Ukrainian Crisis so that more severe sanctions can be placed on Russia. Many are worried that this conflict could become global if the use of violence and sanctions increase.

Attention then turned to the outbreak of the Ebola disease in Africa. Ebola is a severe disease that is caused by a virus. Up to 90% of those who contract this disease die. It causes pain, fever, diarrhea, and vomiting. The virus is native to Africa. It developed first in animals before spreading to humans. The virus is passed by contact with blood and other bodily fluids from an infected person. It is most commonly spread among families or to caregivers when precautionary measures, such as disposable gloves and face masks, are not observed. The virus has spread in Africa due to the mass failure to use precautionary measures. The disease could spread throughout the world by infected patients traveling on international flights. Health professionals worry about the potential of this deadly disease. If this disease spreads the death toll could be massive.

It is impossible to calculate the loss of life and destruction that an escalation of one, let alone all three, of these crises would bring. The sad truth is that these three crises are only the tip of an iceberg. There are hundreds of other crises simmering all over our world. Crime, the illegal drug trade, terrorism, natural disasters, poverty, economic downturns, recessions, civil wars, and conflicts between neighboring nations are found throughout our world. The escalation of any of these crises could wreak havoc on our globe. The world seems to be spiraling out of control.

I believe all these crises are evidence of a battle between good and evil which has raged and continues to rage in this world. This global battle even finds expression in our individual lives. The Apostle Paul wrote: "So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me." (Romans 7:21-23) It seems as though no one is in control. Who can save this world?

I believe that God is still in control. I believe that God and good will prevail. I believe that God calls all Christians to become involved in the struggle of good against evil. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit call Christians to unceasing prayer for the world. God calls us to pray because prayer changes things. Prayer changes things because the power in prayer is the one that we pray to. Jesus inspired the Apostle Paul to write: "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

Jesus Christ calls Christians to pray that God take control of and inspire world leaders and soften their hearts so that peace may be found, honest labor can be protected and may prosper and the wholesome fruits of life can flourish.

Jesus Christ calls his people not only to pray for peace, but also to reach out and help those who suffer as a consequence of the battle of good and evil. Jesus Christ calls his people to reach out with the peace of Christ, the Gospel, at home and abroad, one person at a time. At first, the Apostle Paul made war on the Church. He actively persecuted, arrested, imprisoned, punished Christians and even sanctioned their execution. Jesus came into his life and transformed Paul from an enemy into a friend and then into an Apostle who was the most prolific writer in the New Testament and greatest evangelist and church planter ever.

The Gospel Paul preached declared that on our own, or by our own efforts, we cannot do good or overcome evil and death in our world and in our individual lives. He taught that Jesus Christ overcame evil and death. Jesus overcame evil by living a perfect life and by dying a sacrificial death as our substitute, bearing our sins as he suffered and died on the cross. Jesus overcame death by his glorious resurrection. The Gospel promises forgiveness and eternal life to all who believe. The Gospel promises that, just as a seed takes hold in good soil and grows and produces a crop, the Gospel message will take hold in a repentant mind and will cause faith in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to grow and cause good works to flow. Jesus admonished Christians to reach out

and give tangible aid to others, for in rendering this aid, we may indeed find that we rendered aid to Jesus himself. (Read Matthew 25:31-46).

Through his proclamation, Paul equipped and inspired Christians of his generation, and every generation that followed, to reach out to the people around them through the preaching of the Gospel and acts of sacrificial giving. The Gospel message was always and will always be attacked by the evil in our world. In Paul's day and the two centuries that followed the Roman Empire responded to the proclamation of the Gospel with violent persecution. However, in the end the Gospel prevailed and Christianity was at first accepted and then became the only religion of the Empire. This battle between good and evil continues in our world, and within the Church, and will cause much destruction. We Christians must therefore pray that God will take control of us so that by our words and sacrificial giving we preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Gospel that has the power to transform people from our enemies into friends in this life and, to grant to all who believe, eternal life with God when God brings the global conflict between good and evil to its appointed end.

Come experience the Gospel that transforms at a Church near you. At Grace we meet of worship at 9:00 and 10:30 AM every Sunday.

In Christ,

Pastor Ed Skutshek

This article was published August 8th in the Capital News of Kelowna, BC. These monthly ads are published as a part of Grace Lutheran's intentional outreach with the Gospel to Kelowna and West Kelowna, BC. Articles like this one have been published monthly since December 2008. They are read widely and have brought people to Grace Lutheran.

Church Staffing Vacancies

ONTARIO:



All Saints Lutheran
Church
Ottawa, ON

Is seeking a full-time Pastor
& part-time Youth Worker
For more information call
us at (613) 828-9284 or
email us at:

secretary@allsaintslutheran.ca

All Saint's is currently served by Pastor Doug Kranz
as interim pastor.

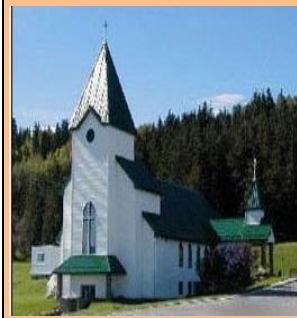
SASKATCHEWAN



St. John's Lutheran
Church
Preeceville, SK
Seeking
Pastor

Contact: Rev. Ed Skutshek
(250) 801-3860
President@calc.ca

ALBERTA:



St. Peter's Lutheran
Church
Cochrane, AB
Seeking
Pastor

For more information
contact Tim Bauer, Call
Committee Chair, at
(403) 851-0554 or email
at: tbauer@atha.com.

BRITISH COLUMBIA:



Martin Luther
Evangelical Lutheran
Church
Vancouver, BC
Seeking
Bi-lingual Pastor

(German-English)
Contact: Rev. Ed Skutshek
(250) 801-3860
President@calc.ca



Basel-Hakka
Lutheran Church
Vancouver, BC
Seeking
English Pastor

Fulltime Position
Knowledge of Chinese dialects an
asset but not a requirement.
Apply by October 15th to:
pastorsearch@bhlc.ca

CRTC 2014 - Canmore, AB



National Council members
Pastor Ed Skutshek and Ron
Voss attended the 2014
Canadian Rockies Theological
Conference, in Canmore, AB,
May 5-8. We met under the
theme: "The Lutheran Doctrine
of Vocation as Antidote to the
Lethal Me Culture of Today."

Dr. Uwe Siemon-Netto, served
as our keynote speaker. During
his presentation we learned
that for some 57 years, he
served as an international
journalist from Germany.

During his career he reported
on major world events which
included the construction and
the fall of the Berlin Wall and
the assassination of President
John F. Kennedy.

He described the years he
covered the Vietnam War a
period of five years, from 1965
until 1969 and then again in
1972. He has also written
extensively about topics ranging
from wine, food, classical music
and modern art to religion.

At age 50 earned an M.A. at a
Lutheran seminary in Chicago
and a doctorate in theology and
sociology of religion at Boston
University. His doctoral
dissertation was titled, "The
fabricated Luther: Refuting Nazi
Connections and Other Modern
Myths." He touched on themes
from his dissertation during the
conference. His dissertation has
been widely acclaimed as a
resounding argument against the
charge that Luther could have
been Hitler's progenitor. As part
of his theological studies our
speaker served as a chaplain to
Vietnam veterans in Minnesota.
As a consequence he wrote a
significant book on pastoral care
titled "The Acquittal of God: A
Theology for Vietnam Veterans." He
shared insights from this book
with us.

2014 CALC Pastor's Retreat

This year's CALC Pastors
Retreat was held at River's Edge
Retreat Center, Water Valley, AB.
It began Monday evening June 2nd
and ended Thursday morning
June 5th. Fifteen CALC Pastors
(representing CALC congregations
from BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan
and Ontario), Ron Voss, Trustee;
a pastor from Ethiopia living in
Canada, together with a potential
candidate for ministry attended
the retreat.

On Monday evening attendees were treated to a concert by Doug Rawlings of the Wilderness Ranch Ministries (WRM), a Christian Camp Ministry. WRM operates programs for families, children, youth and adults from two locations in beautiful Southwestern Alberta. Pioneers and Scouts programs operate from our base camp in the Porcupine Hills west of Claresholm. Family Camps, Trailblazers, and other programs operate at the Mountain Valley Ranch, west of Highway #22 in Canada's beautiful Rocky Mountains.

On Tuesday participants watched videos of two of the presenters at the annual gathering of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC): Pastor Kyle Idleman and Mr. Chuck Bentley. Both men spoke on the topic of Stewardship.

Pastor Idleman planted community churches around the USA. He defined "Stewardship" as generous giving – out of love. He defined the foundation of Stewardship in Jesus words in Matthew 16: 24 "Whoever wants to be my disciple must **deny themselves** and **take up their cross** and **follow me**. He spoke about impediments to denial of self, taking up the cross and following Jesus. You can view Pastor Ideman's presentation by following this link: <http://www.lcmc.net/event-presentations/rev-kyle-idleman/a486.html>.

Chuck Bentley is the current chief executive officer for Crown Financial Ministries. Mr. Bentley has traveled throughout the world teaching biblical financial principles to the affluent, middle class, poor and "ultra poor". Bentley is the co-creator of the Crown Money Map, a contributor to Saddleback Church's small group series, Managing Our Finances God's Way, and is currently writing and producing a series of short films designed to convey God's principles of provision and sustainability through dramatic Bible stories seldom captured in visual media. You can see Mr. Bentley's presentation by following this link: <http://www.lcmc.net/event-presentations/mr-chuck-bentley/a484.html>.

On Wednesday we discussed the impact on the Confessional Church of intense public pressure for all institutions of our society to buy into and promote North America's newfound freedoms and family dynamics. We shared the joys and challenges of pastoral and congregational life. Our time together was punctuated by times of prayer, worship, learning and fellowship. Thursday morning following breakfast we headed home.

President's Itinerary

August 25-28 – President Skutshek represented CALC at a gathering in Omaha, Nebraska, USA, hosted by Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC). The purpose of the meeting is to find ways LCMC can work together with their international partners.

August 31 – President Skutshek preached and presided at Holy Communion at Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church in Vancouver and met with their call committee.

September 19-23 – President Skutshek to be in Toronto area. During the weekend Pastor Ed hopes to: (1) Meet with church leaders and CALC pastors. (2) Host an open house for Toronto area CALC Churches (September 19th 7:00-9:00 PM at Faith Lutheran Church). (3) Attend Faith Lutheran's 50th Anniversary festivities, including, preaching on the morning of Sunday September 21st. (4) Install intern pastor John Graham on September 21st at 6:00 PM at St Peter's in Sullivan, Ontario. (5) Make a presentation on CALC to a church in the Ottawa Valley on September 22nd.

September 27 – President Skutshek to attend National Council Meeting in Calgary, Alberta.

October 5-9 – President Skutshek to attend the annual Gathering of LCMC in Des Moines, Iowa, USA, as President of CALC and a delegate for his congregation. Grace Lutheran Church.

THE LUTHERAN CONNECTOR

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

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