

# The Lutheran Connector

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

## Reformation/All Saints Edition

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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

# President's Message

## All Saint's Sunday

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

It was my privilege to share All Saints Sunday with the people at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Cornwall, Ontario. The church is located on the very banks of the mighty St. Lawrence Seaway. As we worshiped together, ships navigated the waters of the seaway. International and domestic commerce flowed a few hundred feet from us, completely oblivious to our worship and praise of our Triune God.



It was my great privilege to preach and preside at Holy Communion. The Gospel Lesson for Sunday November 1<sup>st</sup> came from the 11<sup>th</sup> Chapter of John's Gospel. One of my favorite Chapters in Scripture. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead!

The Lazarus' resurrection was laden with agony and ecstasy. Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha were described as "beloved friends" of the Lord Jesus. Lazarus fell gravely ill. The sisters sent word to Jesus: "Come and heal our brother." Jesus did not respond immediately. He waited. Lazarus died. When Jesus finally arrived, Lazarus had been in the tomb four days. By this time nature would have taken its course, Lazarus' body would have begun to decay.

When Jesus finally arrived, he met Martha first. *Lord, Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."* (John 11:21-22) Martha made a powerful confession of faith. She affirmed Jesus' power and authority over sickness. Yet, in her words we can hear some agony: "If you had been here....." The question underlying her words: Why were you not here? Yet, in the midst of death and mourning, there was a glimmer of hope, a statement of faith: "Even now you can act and shed some light into this darkness."

Jesus immediately drew Martha's thoughts to resurrection. He assured Martha that her brother would rise from the dead. Martha took Jesus words to mean the resurrection of the dead that Isaiah, Daniel and Ezekiel spoke of. A day that would occur in the distant future.

Jesus immediately brought her to the present with these words: *"Jesus said to her, "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 went on to meet sister Mary. She, like Martha, made the confession of Jesus' power over illness, that Lazarus

would have lived if Jesus had got there in time. She pondered in her heart the reason of Jesus' tarrying.

Jesus took the sisters and the bystanders to Lazarus' tomb. The stone sealing Lazarus' tomb was removed over the sisters' protestations that Lazarus' body was in a state of decay and a foul odor would emerge. Jesus spoke these words: **"Lazarus, come out!"** (John 11:43) The response: *The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.* (John 11:44). By his words Jesus returned life to a decaying corpse. New life erupted in Lazarus' body.

These verses paint a picture of the church then and now.

Much of secular Canadian society sees the church like Lazarus; in tomb, hidden away. The church has become increasingly irrelevant to our modern society. They mock the Ten Commandments. (The very foundation of our Common Law and the rule of law). The courts have carved out a new law. The new law declares: while every Canadian has a right to practice religion; every Canadian also has a right to be free from religion. As a consequence, City Halls across Canada, and soon many other public gatherings, will join our public schools as Christianity free zones. Canadian society is becoming more and more like the ships on the mighty St. Lawrence, sailing past St. Matthew's and all other churches, oblivious of what goes on inside. A growing crowd of Canadians want to keep us within our little tombs.

Many in the church lament to one another that our churches are full of gray-haired parishioners. In a decade or two, many say, they will be gone. We wonder aloud: "When this 'builder' generation is gone, who will be left to keep our church buildings vibrant houses of worship?"

Many in the church see Canadian Society is like Lazarus in the tomb, dead in their trespasses, unable to heed the Gospel call. If only you had been here Jesus. If only you had been allowed back into the schools, this generation would not have died.

Jesus tells us to take heart. By this Gospel lesson he reminds us that he brought Lazarus back from the dead by his word and his authority. Jesus proved that he was the Son of God, who was with God in the beginning, who is God, and through him the heavens and the earth and all that is in them came into being. The words he spoke brought a dead man to life and caused new faith to erupt and break forth in Mary, Martha and all those in the crowd who God called to believe. Jesus promises us that through the faithful proclamation of the Gospel, he will: breathe new life into his Church and bring us out of our tombs; resurrect a saving faith in the lapsed; and cause new life and new faith to erupt in the hardest of hearts and the minds of the most committed atheists.

On All Saints Sunday we give thanks to God for the ones who have died in Christ and have new life in him in heaven. We give thanks for their service in the Kingdom of God on earth. We also give thanks for Christ's continued presence among us and the harvest of souls he has put before us. We give thanks for the faith and trust God has given us that one day we will all be together with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in eternity.

In Christ's service

*Pastor Ed Skutshiek*

# Convention 2015

## Highlights

**Our Convention Theme:** *“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.”* (1 Peter 3:15-16).



Emmaus Lutheran Church of Edmonton, Alberta, hosted CALC's 2015 Annual General Convention October 16th, 17th and 18th. I want to thank God for our Convention. He blessed our weekend mightily. Pastor Lucretia and the members of Emmaus Lutheran Church are to be commended for graciously opening their facilities up to us, their warm welcome, their planning, and their hospitality. A recap of our weekend follows.

### Friday October 16:

**Keynote Speaker:** The convention began at 9:30 AM with our annual Educational Event. Reverend Doctor Joseph Boot of Westminster Chapel and the Ezra Institute of Toronto, ON gave two lectures on Friday morning. He is one of Canada's foremost Christian apologists. In his two morning lectures Pastor Boot described the challenge facing those who wish to proclaim the Gospel in North America. Highlights of his lectures are found on page 5 below.

We enjoyed some great Alberta hospitality on Friday. The folks at Bardo Lutheran Church of Tofield and Immanuel Lutheran Church of Rosenthal provided for our coffee breaks and lunch. The ladies from Emmaus provided sandwiches and soup Friday evening.

**Breakouts:** Following lunch visitors and delegates were given the opportunity to participate in two hour long breakout sessions. The first breakout session went from 1:00-2:00 PM and the second from 2:30 to 3:30. Convention participants had five options.

1. **Mosaic Center Field Trip.** About 30 delegates and visitors took a field trip to the Mosaic Center, a ministry to the poor and disadvantaged in Northeast Edmonton. The center is a ministry of Emmaus Lutheran Church and two other local congregations. A separate article on the Mosaic center is found on page 3 below.
2. **Evangelism:** Randall McLeod, member of CALC's Board of Elders and Immanuel Lutheran Church of Rosenthal, spoke to a group on evangelism.
3. **Missions:** Tom Brook of Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) and Pastor Rob Lewis of World Mission

Prayer League (WMPL) gave a presentation on the work of their organizations around the globe.

4. **Theological Education:** President Rev. Dr. Dennis Bielfeldt and Director of Students, Pastor Timothy Swenson, gave a presentation on the Institute of Lutheran Theology, CALC's seminary.
5. **Governance:** Pastor Ed Skutshek and Treasurer Helen Zacharias gave a presentation on ideas for more effective governance.

**Friday Night Worship:** Emmaus Lutheran Church planned and led Friday evening worship. Emmaus Lutheran's Praise Team provided musical leadership. *Good 4 the Soul* a quartet of ladies from Immanuel Lutheran Church, Stony Plain, AB, provided special music. Pastor Lucretia van Ommeren-Tabbert delivered a powerful sermon on our convention's theme text. She assured us that the Holy Spirit will give us many opportunities to share the Gospel of Jesus with many people in many situations. On our part we must believe that the Holy Spirit will give us the words to say to them. She encouraged us to be immersed in God's Word, the vehicle the Holy Spirit uses to make us ready for any and every opportunity for sharing.

The fellowship which followed the service was amazing. Members of Emmaus provided us with dishes from their homeland. We enjoyed everything from Lumpia to Samosas and Pierogis. These refreshments were a real treat.



*Good 4 the Soul* of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Stony Plain, AB.

### Saturday October 17:

**Business Meeting:** 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

**Opening Devotion:** Pastor Alvin Sorenson gave a powerful devotion based on a Youtube video entitled "I am a Christian but I am not....." In the video a number of young people make statements about their faith. They make statements like "I am a Christian ..... but I am not judgemental." "I am a Christian ..... but I am not uneducated." Then these same people said: "I am gay.....I am open minded.....I have friends from other religions and I love them as they are."

Pastor Sorenson noted that not one person said: "I am a Christian because I follow Jesus Christ...or...I am a Christian because Jesus is the way, the truth and the life and the only way to the Father." This video was evidence that vast numbers of congregations that claim to be Christian are not preaching and teaching very core beliefs of the Holy Christian Church. It also shows how our young people are impacted by the surrounding culture. We must clearly and unambiguously teach that to be a Christian is to follow Jesus, the only begotten Son of God almighty.

**Quorum:** 48 Voting Delegates, 5 non-Voting Delegates, 9 members of National Council and 25 Visitors registered for the 2015 CALC General Convention; with representatives from 29 congregations from 5 provinces – 16 representatives from BC, 48 representatives from Alberta, 6 representatives from Saskatchewan, 3 representatives from Manitoba and 11 representatives from Ontario. Also in attendance were representatives from the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT), Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR), World Mission Prayer League (WPPL).

**New Congregation:** Victory Lutheran Church, Medicine Hat Alberta, was admitted as a full member congregation of CALC.

**Change in Status:** Goodwood Uxbridge Lutheran Church (GULC) of Goodwood, ON, was admitted as a full member congregation of CALC. GULC began several years ago as a mission congregation started by a core group of committed Lutherans, including four individual members of CALC and Pastor Peeter Vanker.

**Individual Members:** Pastor Rick Bergh; Pastor Harry Huff; and Pastor Zakaria Mandara, were admitted as Individual Associate Members of CALC.

**Congregations in the Call Process:**

- All Saints Lutheran Church, Ottawa, ON
- Basel Hakka Lutheran Church, Vancouver, BC
- Faith Lutheran Church, Calgary, AB
- Immanuel Lutheran Church, Stony Plain, AB
- Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Mission, BC

**Installations/Ordinations/Interim Ministry:**

**Installations:**

Pastor David Wunderlich  
Grace Lutheran, West Kelowna, BC

Pastor Bart Eriksson  
St. Peter's Lutheran, Cochrane, AB

Pastor Manfred Schmidt  
Martin Luther Ev. Lutheran Church, Van., BC

**Ordinations:**

Pastor John Graham  
St. Peter's Lutheran, Sullivan, ON

Pastor Ted Hill  
Calvary/Asker Parish, Wetaskiwin & Ponoka, AB

**Interim Ministry**

Pastor Zakaria Mandara  
St. Matthew's Lutheran, Cornwall, ON

Pastor Bill Flath  
Immanuel Lutheran-Rosenthal, Stony Plain, AB

**Elections:** Our delegates elected the following persons to fill the following positions, for 4-year terms, which came vacant in 2015..

**Vice President:** Helen Zacharias

**Treasurer:** Brenda Evjen

**Trustee:** Dennis McGuire

See page 8 for a detailed description of the transition in our leadership.

**Ten-Year Plan.** The delegates approved the 10-Year Plan submitted by National Council and introduced by Pastor Ed Skutshek. The Plan is described on page 6 below.

**Adjournment/Next Year's Convention:** All Saint's Lutheran Church, Ottawa, ON, volunteered to hold CALC's 2016 Annual General Convention. All Saints' delegate Garth Teskey, challenged all of our congregations to send one pastor and one delegate from each congregation. He suggested that congregations begin fundraising now.

Music for the morning devotions and early afternoon was provided by Andrew and Dieta Carlson from Hastings Lake Bible Camp, near Tofield, AB, and Doug Rawling of Wilderness Ranch Bible Camp, near Claresholm, AB.

Rev. Dr. Joseph Boot gave his second keynote address following lunch. See page 5 for a summary of his presentation.

**Banquet:** Saturday was capped off with a banquet prepared by the people of Emmaus. The main course included roast pork (donated by a member of Bardo Lutheran Church, Tofield, AB) and turkey, roast potatoes, rice, vegetables, and salads. The meal was capped off with dessert. The meal was amazing!

The people of Emmaus blessed and nourished our bodies with a wonderful meal. After dinner they blessed and nourished our hearts and souls with some very beautiful music and singing.



The choir from *Good News Message Church* sang for us. The choir included men, women, teenagers, grade school children and very young children. The women wore traditional African clothing. The choir often used drums in their hymns. This congregation worships at Emmaus on Sunday afternoons. The church includes immigrants from the Congo and Angola. They sang for us in English, French and the languages of the homeland. *Good 4 the Soul* from Immanuel Lutheran, sang for us again. Their repertoire included some songs from the 30's, 40's, 50's and sacred music.

*Essence of Praise*, a choir made up of six young men, sang for us. They are an acapella group. They all hail from the country of Zimbabwe, in Africa. All six are from the Zulu Tribe. They are a part of a Seventh Day Adventist church that meets at Emmaus on Saturdays. They sang hymns for us, including a traditional hymn using the Zulu language.

**Sunday October 18:**

**Closing Worship.** Emmaus Lutheran's worship team provided musical leadership. Good 4 the Soul provided special music. Pastor Lucretia led worship and presided at Holy Communion and President Ed Skutshek preached. Worship was followed by a luncheon.

# Keynote Speaker's Address

## Rev. Dr. Joseph Boot



Our convention's keynote speaker the Reverend Doctor Joseph Boot, of Toronto, Ontario, addressed us at our Friday morning learning event and Saturday afternoon as our convention Keynote Speaker. Reverend Boot is one of Canada's leading Christian Apologists, defined as a

defender of the faith. Rev. Boot's address was given in two parts. On Friday morning he outlined the challenges facing the Church in the propagation of the Gospel in Canada. On Saturday afternoon he outlined a way forward for the Church.

**The Challenge:** Rev. Boot began his presentation by making a distinction between evangelism and evangelization. Europe and North America were once evangelized. The government, school and church worked together to ensure that the fundamental message of the Old Testament, most especially the Ten Commandments, and Gospel were communicated and were a part of the fabric of public and private life. The general population knew the basics of the Salvation story. For this reason in the 1960s and 1970s Billy Graham could fill up a soccer stadium in London, England (seating 50,000) every night for 3 weeks in a row. However, when Billy Graham came to London in the mid 1980s he barely filled up the same stadium three nights in a row. What happened?

Rev. Boot spoke of a very intentional and systematic plan adopted by those in education and government to specifically promote atheism and paganism.

During the 1960's through to today, intellectuals, and pop culture figures like the Beatles, have pushed eastern religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism and Wicca. He called this movement a new paganism. In describing the new paganism that is based on eastern religions, Rev. Boot distinguished between one-ism and two-ism.

One-ism's fundamental belief is that nature, our world and the surrounding universe, is the only reality. Nature is divine. Everything is a part of the divine. We all therefore contain the divine. Human beings are therefore a true reflection of nature. Human beings are nature capable of thinking of nature. These tenets underlie all eastern religions.

Two-ism states that an uncreated creator, hidden from our sight, created the universe. The universe is God's creation. God is not in what He created. There is an absolute distinction between the Creator and His creation. Christians proclaim two-ism.

Scientists, academics and politicians have pushed God right out of the world. They are completely against the idea of a divine being of any kind behind creation. Communists in both Europe and Asia have attempted to institutionalize atheism. The university is especially hard on Christianity. The faculty of arts and the science faculty in most all institutions of higher learning give Christianity a good

intellectual beating whenever they can. It is no wonder that 70-80% of Christian students stop practicing their faith in University.

Rev. Boot contended that paganism in every age and modern atheism are founded upon the most ancient of lies. The lie goes right back to the Garden of Eden. It is the Devil's promise: "*For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.*" From the moment of Adam and Eve's transgression, human beings have taken the Devil's challenge and have acted as though we are gods.

The Apostle Paul helps us understand our contemporary situation in the first Chapter of Romans. He exposed an exchange that has taken place and its consequences. Paul claims that human beings have always seen God's *invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.* (Romans 1:20). They exchanged this truth for a lie. The truth of a transcendent God is exchanged for the human mind and our ability to determine good and evil. The exchange of the truth for a lie in the realm of faith led to idolatry. Men have constructed and continue to construct religions systems, creation myths, moral codes, idols, and sacrificial systems. The modern mind has transcended our historical roots and some have even thrown the divine out of the mix altogether.

The exchange of truth for a lie in the realm of faith led to an exchange of truth for a lie in the human realm. A symptom of this exchange is seen in the expression of human sexuality. Men and women left the natural God-given expression of human sexuality and engaged in all manner of sexual relations, including same-sex relationships. The exchange of the truth for a lie went even further. This exchange led to: unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice, envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness, gossip, slandering, God hating, insolence, haughtiness, boastfulness, inventors of evil, disobedience of parents, foolishness, faithlessness, heartlessness, and ruthlessness. (Romans 1:29-31)

Rev. Boot contended that the rise of atheism and the new paganism have changed our culture. North America and Europe are no longer evangelized nations. Our people no longer know the Ten Commandments of the Salvation story. These times are thus like the Apostle Paul's times.

In Paul's time the world did not know God. There were pockets of Jews in almost every town throughout the Roman Empire. The Jews knew the Old Testament promise of salvation. The Jews passed the promise of salvation on to Gentiles who became God-fearing Gentiles. When Paul came to a town he went to the Jews and God-fearing Gentiles. His only task among them was to prove Jesus was the Messiah promised in the Old Testament. Jesus' birth, ministry, suffering, death, resurrection and ascension were a fulfillment of the Old Testament promises concerning the Messiah. The rest of the world did not know about the Messiah and the promises.

**The Solution:** Paul's proclamation of the Gospel to the vast majority of the Gentiles had to be very different. In Acts 17:16-34 we see Paul preach the Gospel from a very different starting point. Paul started with the statues of the

gods all over Athens. Paul noticed an empty pedestal. This pedestal was dedicated to the "UNKNOWN GOD." He declared that he was going to reveal the unknown god as he told of God the Father and God the Son. Some came to believe and others just scoffed at him.

Atheists and neo-pagans don't know the salvation story, and they can't see God in the world. However, the Apostle Peter contends that they may see God in us. As Peter said: *But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord.* Peter speaks of the process of sanctification. As we come to Jesus, hear his word, and are transformed by the power of the Spirit, Jesus will be Lord over more of our lives. As Jesus becomes Lord over more of our lives, hope will well up in us and this hope will be seen by others. Peter admonishes us to: *Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.*

Our hope is found in Jesus Christ. We must confess that before Jesus we had no hope because we were in bondage to a lie. We must declare that we could not free ourselves from this bondage. Only Jesus could do this through faith in him.

Rev. Boot bemoaned the fact that many contemporary Christians in North America have reduced Christianity to simply coming to Jesus for the forgiveness of sin. While this is important, and is essential, it is only the very beginning. We must proclaim that Christianity involves setting Jesus apart as Lord over our lives, a lifelong journey with Jesus within a body of believers who also walk with him.

## Adoption of CALC's 10-Year Strategic Plan

The delegates to our 2015 convention approved a 10-Year Strategic Plan for CALC. Strategic plans are a product of the secular corporate world. A corporate plan generally includes the following:

- Identity Statement
- Mission Statement
- Vision Statement
- Statement of Values
- Summary of the company's current position
- Long-term objectives
- Strategies for meeting the objectives
- Short and Long term Action Plans

**Identity Statement:** CALC is an association of independent Lutheran congregations, bound together by a common Confession of faith and certain common objectives.

Individual congregations are called to fulfill Jesus' Great Commission to baptize in the name of our Triune God and make disciples, defined as those who obey Jesus' teachings. Our congregations own their own properties, call their own pastors and develop their own programming.

**Mission Statement:** CALC's mission to:

- assist member congregations in their fulfillment of the Great Commission by gathering them together for worship, encouragement and education;
- work together with congregations in the call, training, and discipline of pastors;

- develop relationships with like-minded Christian groups and secular groups for the furtherance of our congregations' mission; and
- if practical, provide group pension and other employee benefits.

**Statement of Values:** We believe:

The Holy Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God.

Our faith and life are rooted in and shaped by the Holy Bible and our Lutheran Confessions.

Our common mission is found in Christ's Great Commission.

Christ's Great Commission is lived out in the local congregation, and local congregations naturally seek union with other congregations in order to more effectively fulfill their mission.

CALC believes that there are two expressions of the church in the world, the Holy Christian Church on earth, which exists from age to age and the individual congregation. CALC is therefore not seen as an ecclesial authority over congregations. Congregations voluntarily comply with CALC's programs. No congregation can be required to take part of any CALC program.

Church growth comes from the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is God who is responsible for the growth of each individual Christian and our congregations. ".....you are God's field, God's building. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow." (1 Corinthians 1:9, 6-7).

CALC's identity and mission call us to keep our governance model very simple and uncomplicated.

**Current Position:**

Thirty-three (33) congregations call CALC home. Most all have come to CALC through separation from the ELCIC. ELCIC will not be a significant source for new member congregations.

A small number of our congregations are located in large urban areas. The bulk of our congregations are located in rural areas and small towns.

Many of our congregations are challenged by declining and aging membership.

**Long Term Objectives:**

In the next 10 years God is calling our congregations to: grow in grace, faith, service, outreach and number; and to partner together to plant new congregations and for CALC to be actively involved in the process by coordinating the efforts of congregations in the attainment of these goals.

**Strategies for Meeting These Objectives:**

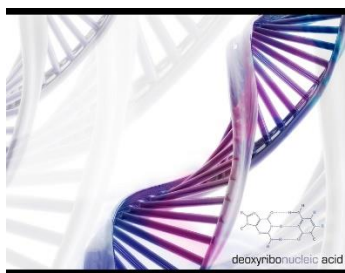
**Vision Statement/Action Plan:**

- CALC continue to hosts conventions, conferences, and cluster meetings that will encourage, educate and equip our member congregations so that they may joyfully and enthusiastically fulfill Christ's Great Commission.
- CALC continue to develop and refine our Shepherd's Pathway to Pastoral Ministry for the training of our pastors.

- Regularly gather our existing pastors together for study retreats in order to foster continued professional development.
- CALC continue to provide materials for use in connection with the call and discipline of our pastors.
- CALC continue to cultivate relationships with likeminded Christian groups and secular groups for the purpose of the mutual support and edification and with the goal of entering into joint projects and supporting endeavors of mutual interest and benefit.

## LCMC Convention 2015

### Highlights



**Convention Theme:** LCMC's DNA  
**Convention Location:** Dallas, Texas

**DNA Defined:** Our bodies have around 210 different types of cells. Each cell does a different job to help our body to function. There are blood cells, bone cells, and cells that make our muscles.

Cells get their instructions on what to become and what do to from their DNA. DNA acts sort of like a computer program. The cell is the computer or the hardware and the DNA is the program or code.

Within each string of DNA are sets of instructions called genes. A gene tells a cell how to make a specific protein. Proteins are used by the cell to perform certain functions, to grow, and to survive.

Although DNA looks like very thin long strings under a microscope, it turns out that DNA has a specific shape. This shape is called a double helix. A helix is an object having a three-dimensional shape like that of a wire wound uniformly in a single layer around a cylinder or cone, as in a corkscrew or spiral staircase.

On the outside of the double helix is the backbone which holds the DNA together. There are two sets of backbones that twist together. Between the backbones are the nucleotides represented by the letters A, T, C, and G. A different nucleotide connects to each backbone and then connects to another nucleotide in the center.

About 99.9 percent of the DNA of every person on the planet is exactly the same. It's that 0.1 percent that is different that makes us all unique.

If you unravelled all the DNA molecules in one cell of your body it would measure 2 meters. If you did the same to every cell in your body and placed them end to end, it would stretch to the Sun and back several times.

Jesus is the one who made DNA. When we become children of God, Jesus is our DNA. He determines what we become.

Through various speakers, including past and present leaders of LCMC, and other Lutheran leaders, LCMC's DNA was unpacked.

### LCMC's congregations are:

**Free in Christ:** Freedom as defined by Martin Luther: "A Christian man is the most free lord of all, and subject to none; a Christian man is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to every one." Freedom is thus not about unbridled liberty, but rather, through Jesus Christ, to have freedom from sin, death and the Devil together with the privilege of being God's people. Christians are also called to be free of false teachings. Like CALC, LCMC was formed as a lifeboat for individuals and congregations who wanted to be free of the false teachings of the ELCA (sister body to the ELCIC).

There must be freedom in the expression of worship, provided that worship conforms with our confessional understanding: For it is sufficient for the true unity of the Christian church that the Gospel be preached [with one accord] in conformity with a pure understanding of it and that the sacraments be administered in accordance with the divine Word. It is not necessary for the true unity of the Christian church that ceremonies, instituted by men, should be observed uniformly in all places. It is as Paul says in Eph. 4:4-5 "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism." We should not continue to bicker about worship styles.

**Accountable to One Another:** Congregations of LCMC are bound together by a common Confession of Faith. The Association disciplines its own. There is no need for a Bishop who is part of the Apostolic succession. The Reformation was an escape from the tyranny of the Pope. Lutherans had to learn to live together. Lutherans believe that the Reformation continues. We must disassociate with those who would bind us to false teaching.

### **Rooted in Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.**

LCMC's congregations are committed to making Disciples. Discipleship is rooted in the study of Scriptures and the application of Scriptures to daily life, including our vocation. Disciples of each generation must be committed to passing on their faith and beliefs to the next generation.

LCMC congregations are also rooted in our Lutheran Confessions. Our Confessions can be distilled to this statement Word = Faith. It is the Word of God, most particularly the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that the Holy Spirit uses to create faith in our Triune God. It is the Word, together with the elements used in the Sacraments that wash us, justify us and create faith and trust in God the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

### **The congregations of LCMC find their common mission is found in Christ's Great Commission.**

Speakers encouraged delegates to think in this way:

LCMC's congregations are called to be mission congregations and each congregational member is called to be a missionary.

Weekly worship should be seen as a time to praise God, be fed with the word and Sacrament and be strengthened for service.

Preaching and teaching must urge congregants to become Disciples of Christ that are called to bring Jesus to their neighborhood, school and workplace.

# CALC National Council

## Transitions

Our 2015 Convention was a time of transition in the leadership of our Association. One existing member of National Council has changed portfolio and two new members were added to our council. Two incumbents left National Council. In the days following our convention, one of our Trustees resigned leaving a one year unexpired term. An outgoing member of National Council has agreed to fill the unexpired term.



**Vice President:** Helen Zacharias was elected to the position of Vice President of National Council by acclamation. Helen comes to this position with some significant experience on National Council. She has served as CALC's Treasurer for the past 8 years. As our Treasurer, she faithfully kept our books and records, presented our financial statements at our conventions, paid our bills and spearheaded the preparation of our annual budget for each year of her tenure. As Treasurer she acted as the secretary of the Board of Trustees. As Vice President she will serve as Chair of the Board of Trustees and will fill in for our President when and if required. She will also work together with Pastor Ed in implementing resolutions of our Association and our National Council.

Helen is a member of Christ Lutheran Church in Morden, Manitoba. Helen is an accountant with the firm of Krahn Friesen Neufeld Chartered Accountants, of Morden Manitoba. She serves on the Board of Youth For Christ in Morden. She is the Treasurer and a member of the Board of Directors of the Institute of Lutheran Theology Canada Society. She has served in various capacities on Christ Lutheran's Church Council and is active in worship. She is married to Ron. They have two married adult sons and two grandsons.



**Treasurer:** Brenda Evjen was elected to the position of Treasurer of CALC by acclamation. As our Treasurer, her responsibilities will include keeping our books and records, presenting our financial statements at our annual convention, paying our bills and spearheading the preparation of

our annual budget. As Treasurer she will serve as the secretary of the Board of Trustees.

She holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Alberta and a Computing Science (Honours) degree from Northern Alberta Institute of Technology. She is currently enrolled in the CPA Canada Pre-requisite Education Program (PREP) of the Alberta Accountants Unification Agency, Calgary. She has completed 11 of 12 courses in PREP. She anticipates entry to the CPA Professional Program the Spring of 2016. She has served as an account and office administrator for corporate employers for many years.

Brenda is a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Rosenthal located near Stony Plain, Alberta. She has

been involved in the life of Immanuel Lutheran. She has been in charge of the Missions Committee; she has been in charge of the Media Show; has served on various other committees; and has maintained Immanuel's website. She has been an AWANA instructor. She has served as a board member and provided technical support for the Edmonton Missions Fest.

Brenda is married to Dale. They have four sons. She has home educated her sons. Two have graduated, one is in his 2nd year at University of Alberta and one is working. Two are still at home, one is in Grade 9 and the other in Grade 12.

**Trustee:** Dennis McGuire was elected to the position of Trustee. Dennis, Helen, Brenda, Everley Lutz and Sherland Chhangur will form our Board of Trustees. They will be responsible for the administration of the temporal affairs of our Association.



Dennis calls Chesley, Ontario home. He has a diverse working background. He farmed for many years. He has been a truck driver and is experienced in the repair of farm machinery. He worked for the local school board as an Educational Assistant. He drove school bus for many years. More recently he was executor for a

large estate and found it to be another learning experience.

He has served in the church since 19 years of age. He served over 20 years on church councils at two Lutheran congregations in Chesley and Elmwood, Ontario. For half of that time he was council chairperson and was Financial Recording Secretary for seven years. He served on most congregational committees over the years, as well as ushering, teaching Sunday School in three congregations and teaching confirmation class in the Elmwood congregation. He also sang in the church choir and has led numerous Bible Studies. During pastoral vacancies in his home congregation or neighboring congregations, he preached and led services. He stepped into the breach and served his congregation during his pastor's year and a half sick leave. He took services, lined up supply pastors for communion Sundays, taught confirmation and first communion classes, and took communion to the sick and shut-in members and held service with them. He was a director on the board of a small, local museum in Chesley, Ontario. He also was a director and secretary for the Queen's Bush Rural Ministry, which offered assistance and counselling to farm families in crisis.

Dennis has been married to Ruth for 36 years. They have been blessed with 2 children who are grown and married and they have two grandchildren with another one expected early next year.



**Outgoing Vice President:** Fred Schickedanz has faithfully served CALC as Vice President and Chair of the Board of Trustees for the past six years. He has faithfully prepared the agenda and chaired National Council meetings in support of our President's efforts.



Fred brought great wisdom and experience to the Board of Trustees. He is the CEO of Schickedanz West, an enterprise established in the Calgary area in 1979 – an offshoot of Schickedanz Bros. Ltd., which began building in eastern Canada in 1951. For 30 years, Schickedanz West has been involved in some of western Canada's finest residential, recreational and commercial real estate developments.

Fred's unique contribution to the National Council and CALC was fuelled by his passion for the training and education of our pastors. Under his capable leadership, that passion led to action and concrete results. He urged the National Council to authorize and oversee the development and implementation of CALC's innovative Shepherd's Pathway to the Pastoral Ministry. He encouraged CALC to use the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT), an online seminary located in Brookings, South Dakota, as our primary seminary under the Shepherd's Pathway. He has served and continues to serve on the Board of ILT. He was a founding member and serves on the Board of Directors of the Institute of Lutheran Theology Canada Society (ILTCS), a registered Canadian Charity, whose purpose is to facilitate the theological education of Canadian seminary students through ILT and provide scholarships and grants to Canadian students studying at ILT. Fred's vision has taken on flesh in the seven CALC students currently studying at ILT. One of them has received his Pastoral Ministry Certificate (PMC) and is pursuing his Master of Divinity degree and the other six are studying in the PMC program.

Fred is married to Robin. They have one son and three daughters. They have three grandchildren and another one is on the way.



**Outgoing Trustee:** After seven years of faithful service on our Board of Trustees, Ron Voss tendered his resignation in the days following our National Convention. A year remains in his second term as Trustee.

Ron's unique contribution to National Council and CALC was his willingness and desire to work in partnership with our President during CALC's growth phase, from 2009 to the present. Ron and Pastor Ed would respond to requests from congregations for information on CALC. Ron's presentation focused on CALC's organization, its early history and structure. Pastor Ed would speak to the issues which led congregations to consider uniting with CALC.

Ron also worked with Fred Schickedanz and Pastor Rick Bergh in the development and implementation of the Shepherd's Pathway.

The partnership between Ron and Pastor Ed began in 2005 when Ron encouraged Pastor Ed to draft a congregational petition in opposition to the ELCIC's plan to

change the definition of marriage and who could be ordained as a pastor. Ron, Pastor Ed, Pastor Peeter Vanker (who currently serves on our Board of Elders), together with others, spearheaded the formation of Solid Ground Ministries Canada (SGMC), a registered Canadian charity. SGMC united clergy and laity within the ELCIC who were opposed to the ELCIC's teaching with respect to marriage and ordination.

Ron and Pastor Ed were instrumental in organizing and leading a conference in 2007 entitled "*Equipping the Saints for God's Mission.*" Three hundred members of the ELCIC from across Canada met to encourage one another and to coordinate opposition to the new teachings of the ELCIC.

Ron has a passion for the Book of Concord. He has written a presentation which summarizes the main points and tenets of the Book of Concord. He has given this presentation in several CALC Churches. Ron has a Ph.D in Chemistry. Ron also has a passion for CALC's official position on creation. "We hold to the creation and fall of humanity as described in the first chapters of Genesis, not as myth, but as historic facts." He has written a presentation which defends the earth's creation in six days and offers powerful proof against the Theory of Evolution. He has given the presentation on creation vs evolution at several CALC churches. He is willing to make these presentations at CALC churches. You can view his presentation on creation by following these links:

- <https://vimeo.com/67568539>
- <https://vimeo.com/67568541>

Ron is married to Diane. They have two grown married children. They have one granddaughter.

We should all praise and thank God for Fred Schickedanz and Ron Voss. God has used them as His instruments and has equipped and encouraged them to make contributions they have made to our Association. May God continue to bless them with wisdom, strength, courage and faith to live each day.



**Incumbent Trustee to Fill Unexpired Term:** Sherland Chhangur was appointed by National Council to fill Trustee Ron Voss' unexpired term as Trustee of CALC. Sherland is a veteran member of our National Council. He was first elected to the Board of Elders in 2009. He served as an Elder until 2013. In 2013 he agreed to run for election to the Board of

Elders for a one year term. This short term was necessary to implement staggered terms for National Council members as mandated by constitutional amendments passed by convention delegates and ratified by our congregations. He agreed to run to fill an unexpired term on the Board of Trustees left vacant by Art Kroeker's sudden and unexpected death.

He is a member of Faith Lutheran Church located in the North York area of Toronto. He has served as chairperson and in other capacities since 1985.

Professionally, Sherland has attained the designation of Registered Real Estate Broker of Record in Ontario in 1985. He is the founder and owner of his own real estate business, "The Realty Market Inc. Brokerage" which he

began in 1985. In addition to serving his clients' real estate needs, Sherland manages his own personal real estate portfolio, which includes commercial, industrial and residential properties. In 2009 he attained the designation of Registered Mortgage Broker in the Province of Ontario. He is also licensed as a Real Estate and Mortgage Broker in the State of Florida, USA.

We look forward to Sherland's continued contribution to the work and the deliberations of our National Council and the life of our Association.

Sherland is married to Shanta. They are a dynamic duo, working together to manage the family real estate business as well as their private holdings. Shanta has served as chair and held other positions of leadership at Faith Lutheran. They have five children. Three are married. They have five grandchildren.

## Emmaus Lutheran The Mosaic Centre



2015 Convention host Emmaus Lutheran Church had a vision for reaching out to the homeless in Edmonton. Six years ago, Emmaus and two partner churches launched 'The Mosaic Centre.' Here is a brief summary of The Mosaic Centre provided by the staff.

*Mosaic Centre is a safe place within the community where people facing homelessness and 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 and other Centre users have become a 'community' of support and 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 6 years of operation on November 9, 2015. 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. 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.*

*We offer assistance with accessing resources and on-site assistance with:*

- a warm cup of coffee
- friendly conversation
- resume development
- job search
- laundry
- winter clothing
- bike repair
- free haircuts
- tax returns
- mailing address
- computer access
- support groups
- approved visitation site for parents with children in care
- direction to addiction counselling
- referral to family counselling
- referral and form completion to residential treatment centers
- assistance with housing search
- follow-up mentoring
- winter emergency warming access

### 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.*

The Mosaic Centre helped over 125 clients transition from the street to life in an apartment. They have a single mother's group that meets weekly to plan and cook a meal that they can take home to their families. They learn meal preparation skills and budgeting.

During the convention we learned that the centre's pick-up truck was vandalized and not driveable. The truck was used to move clients' belongings into the transitional rental housing and for neighborhood beautification projects. We dedicated the offering from the Friday Night Convention worship service. We raised \$1,255.00 for The Mosaic Centre. The ladies of Trinity Lutheran Church of Leader, SK, made dozens of quilts for the clients of The Mosaic Centre. Trinity's Convention delegates delivered the quilts.

# GOD'S SMILE AFTER ORDINATION SERVICE

by Mary Golem

Worshippers at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Sullivan, Ontario felt assured of God's presence and promise to all of them - yesterday, today and always - when a smiling rainbow appeared above the church steeple on the day of Pastor John Graham's ordination.

We're convinced God was saying "Well done, good and faithful servants" when the rainbow appeared - yes, in the form of a smile! - immediately after the September 20, 2015 ordination service.



It was a beautiful autumn afternoon, when about 90 people gathered to witness Pastor John Graham's promise to faithfully serve His Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ as a pastor in the Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations.

Pastor Ed Skutshek, the president of CALC, and special friends of Pastor John - Pastor John Lewis of Omaha, Nebraska, pastor of Lutheran Church of the Master and also the first graduate of the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT) and Rev. Dr. Dan Grimminger, pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Grove City, Pennsylvania and a professor of liturgy at ILT - participated in the ordination service.



L to R: Pastor Edward Skutshek, Pastor John Graham, Pastor John Lewis, Rev. Dr. Dan Grimminger.

There had been no rain that afternoon and yet, as photographs were being taken following the ordination service, people gathered outside the church noticed a rainbow, directly above the church steeple.

However, this rainbow was not like ordinary rainbows, which normally point downward. This one was clearly a rainbow smile - God's smile of approval, not only of Pastor John's decision to enter into ordained ministry, but also to the congregation's faithful witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ during its 153-year history.

Pastor John Graham has been at St. Peter's since September 2014 when he started a one-year internship placement, under the supervision of Pastor Sheila Fletch of Owen Sound and Pastor David Wunderlich of Kelowna, British Columbia.



Pastor John is originally from Calgary, Alberta. He and his wife, Amanda and their two children, William, age four and Adaline, age seven, live in the stone parsonage beside the church.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Sullivan has been a member of CALC since June 2013. It is a small - but friendly! :) - rural congregation located in mid-western Ontario, about two hours north of Toronto.

## Edward "Ted" Hill's Ordination Service



On Sunday October 18<sup>th</sup> Edward "Ted" Hill was ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament at Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church, Rural Route #2, Wetaskiwin, AB. Pastor Ed Skutshek, CALC's President, served as ordinator, preached and presided at Holy Communion.

Pastor Ted serves a two point parish consisting of Calvary Lutheran Evangelical Lutheran Church and Asker Lutheran Church, RR#1, Ponoka, AB.

Prior to devoting his life to active parish ministry, Pastor Ted studied engineering at the University of Saskatchewan. While studying engineering, Ted felt God's call to serve Him. Ted enrolled in the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute in Camrose, Alberta and completed three

years of study there. Before accepting his call to Calvary/Asker Parish, Ted served as a youth pastor in Edmonton, for a year and Lay Pastor of a Lutheran congregation in Eastend Saskatchewan for five years. From April 2002 to the present he has faithfully preached the Gospel and administered the Sacraments in the Calvary/Asker Parish.

It was a powerful moment when members from the Asker and Calvary congregations assembled for the ordination, Pastor Ted's family and friends joined Pastor Dean Rostad and Pastor Glen Carlson in laying their hands on Pastor Ted. Pastor Ed prayed these words:

*Eternal God, through your Son, Jesus Christ, pour out your Holy Spirit upon Ted, fill him with the gifts of grace for the ministry of Word and Sacrament.*

This prayer was followed by this blessing:

*Bless his proclamation of your Word and administration of your Sacraments, O Lord, so that your Church may be gathered for praise and strengthened for service. Make him a faithful pastor, patient teacher, wise counsellor. Grant that in all things he may serve without reproach, that your people may be renewed and your name be glorified in the Church; through Jesus Christ our lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.*

Pastor Ed declared that the laying on of hands, the prayer and the blessing pointed to the past and affirmed that God had called Ted to this ministry of Word and Sacrament, had equipped and enabled Ted's ministry and had inspired and moved Calvary and Asker congregations to affirm God's call. The very same rite of ordination pointed to the future. We all called upon God to continue to bless Pastor Ted in his preaching, teaching and pastoral care through a continued outpouring of the Holy Spirit.



Pastor Ted is married to Deborah. They have four children Briah, Garrick, Tegan and Liam. They have one grandchild Hannah.



The clan gathered for the ordination.

## Religion and Violence: Outbreak and Overcoming

By Pastor Zakaria Mandara



Sometimes we think that if we exclude the violent person/group from our community things will be better. But this creates rather a false kind of security, since the person/group waits for the opportunity to fight back. At other times, we try to solve the problem but disempowering or silencing

the violent person/group through oppression and persecution. This also does not work. Instead it makes the person more violent. These different ways have been tried by many nations, but in vain. Violence only breeds violence.

I would argue that churches need a mature theology which relates to the reality of the people it addresses, but which is also imbedded in the grace and love of God. Some of the aspects religious people may be willing to look at in order to overcome violence include recognition of the offense, repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation and tolerance. In all aspects, religious people have to be vigilant: to anticipate the problems and create tomorrow by preparing people for whatever lies ahead.

**PRACTICAL TIPS:** Whenever violence damages our relationship with one another and with God, religious people should concentrate among others things, on:

**Recognition of the wrong that has been done.** This is a major breakthrough in the process of putting things right. It is an open recognition that our relationship both with our neighbors and with God has been broken or deeply affected by the course of action taken. There is little to expect from somebody who cannot even admit that he or she has done wrong. As humans we also have the natural plight of being sinful, weak and falling short of the glory of God.

**Repentance.** If someone acknowledges the sin but does nothing about it, it makes no difference. He or she is just a cynic. Repentance points to the remorse of the offender, the genuine willingness to make amends and the determination not to commit the sin over again. It points also to the grace and forgiving love of God. By repentance, our sinful nature and weakness are transformed into strength by the grace and forgiving love of God that hold us together and give a meaning to our lives.

**Forgiveness.** This double act involves God and the person that has been offended. An act of violence normally calls for a reaction of the same kind. In other cases, people prefer to keep violence within themselves, but only because of their physical weakness to hit back. Forgiveness means not only that they no longer see the crime committed as being on their offender's head but also that they will not hit back and will not hold violence within themselves. It is to let go of the burden and resentment against the wrongdoer. This is why some psychologists hold that forgiveness has profound healing power, both psychologically and physically.

**Reconciliation.** Derived from Latin, reconciliation refers to 'to come together', 'to assemble', 'to walk together' or an act by which people who have been apart and split-off from one another begin to stroll or march together again. Reconciliation contains four dimensions: reconciliation with God, reconciliation with the self, reconciliation with one's neighbors and the human community at large, and reconciliation with nature. Two of these four dimensions tend to be minimized, if not ignored, in the process of reconciliation: reconciliation with the self that underlies the internal conflict with oneself but once achieved produces tranquility, peace and harmony within individuals; reconciliation with nature that embraces our relationship with God's creation.

**Tolerance.** This is to acknowledge that human beings are all different, physically, intellectually, and psychologically, and that human relations have to be characterized by a great sense of mutual respect. In this context, to tolerate would mean to endure or put up with a person, identity, activity, idea or organization to which or whom one does not really subscribe. People agree to disagree, live together with their difference [Blacks and Whites, Christians and non-Christian, Muslims and Hindus, educated and uneducated, weak and strong, rich and poor, those with different opinions and so on] without any attempts to dominate, exploit, discriminate or kill each other.

In places which have not yet experienced a great deal of violence religious people might also consider these two points:

**First,** anticipate the dangers, most people silently observed the country running towards the catastrophe. Despite all the signs, the majority of Christians were taken by surprise and seemed unprepared to deal with the tragedy. Little was done to prepare the population or the community for the impending destruction of the community.

**Secondly,** do not just pray but also do something. Many people believe that not only did Christians not rise above their ethnic allegiances to put into practice the love of the neighbor, but also that there is little prophetic voice to warn those struggling for power about the consequences of their actions on the nation as a whole.

How many Christian communities such as Lutheran, Romans and other groups warn Libya, Tunis, Egypt, Syria, Yemen etc.

#### **Final Comment**

Our experience with violence has been a catalogue of failure: failure to share power and resources, the failure of Christians to appreciate that their faith is not about personal salvation abstracted from social realities and that liberation from outer violence cannot be achieved without addressing inner violence. Our big temptation was to overcome violence by violence. This did not pay off, and our response has been inappropriate. We are still struggling with internal divisions, physical and spiritual wounds. But the healing can occur when the members of the Christian community recognize their own violence, and then repent of it. What makes Jesus Saviour is that he takes our violence on himself, keeps it and does not pay it back.

In Christ  
Pastor Zakaria Mandara

## Pastor's Study Retreat 2015



We held our annual Pastor's Study Retreat two days before our convention in Edmonton on October 14th and 15<sup>th</sup>.

The retreat was held at Camp Nakamun, a Christian camp located on the shores of Lake Nakamun. The camp is near Busby, Alberta, about an hour and a half drive west and north of Edmonton.

Twenty-five (25) registered for the retreat, including 20 CALC pastors, 2 seminarians, 2 diaconal ministers and Pastor Mark Vander Tieg, service coordinator of LCMC joined us. The retreat began about noon on Wednesday the 14th. It concluded Thursday evening. Pastors stayed at the camp Wednesday and Thursday nights. Friday morning they traveled to Emmaus Lutheran, in Edmonton, our convention site.

Pastor Rick Bergh, M-Div. CT was this year's keynote speaker. Pastor Rick has served in the pastoral ministry for many years, most recently for about ten years at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, CALC, in Cochrane, AB.

Pastor Rick is designated as Certified in Thanatology (CT) by the Association for Death Education and Counseling (ADEC). After 30 years of experience as a palliative caregiver, pastor and grief counselor, Pastor Rick authored several books so that others could benefit from all this experience.

His sessions reminded us of the importance of Pastoral Care around the terminally ill, those actively dying and those left behind to grieve for them. He shared these sobering statistics: 2 in 5 Canadians will be diagnosed with cancer. Of those diagnosed with Cancer 1 of 4 will die from the cancer. The average lifespan after diagnosis with cancer is 5 years. Highest incidence in diagnosis with cancer is between the ages 60 to 69. The death rate will double in the next fifty years.

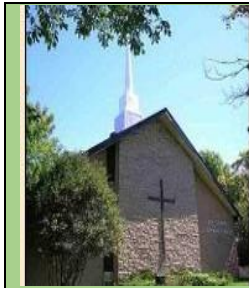
On top of all of this our federal government is required to draft legislation which will empower Canadians to ask their physicians to actively participate in their death. They call it Physician Assisted Suicide. It is a right that is guaranteed.

Where will the patients diagnosed with terminal illness and their families go? Who can help them? How do we help them?

Pastor Rick shared his own experience as a husband and father who lost his wife to cancer. Pastor Rick shared his journey with his wife as she died and his grief and mourning and new life following the loss of his wife. He inspired us and encouraged us. He got us to talk about our own experiences with grief and loss. He encouraged us to discuss how we might better journey with those who are actively dying and those who are left to grieve their loss.

# 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](mailto:secretary@allsaintslutheran.ca)

## BRITISH COLUMBIA:



Basel-Hakka Lutheran Church Vancouver, BC  
Seeking English Pastor  
Fulltime Position  
Knowledge of Chinese dialects an asset but not a requirement.  
Apply by October 15<sup>th</sup> to:  
[pastorsearch@bhlc.ca](mailto:pastorsearch@bhlc.ca)



Mount Calvary Lutheran Church Mission, BC  
Fulltime Pastor  
For more information email us at:  
[aforstbauer@gmail.com](mailto:aforstbauer@gmail.com)

## ALBERTA:



Immanuel Lutheran Church of Rosenthal Stony Plain, AB  
Is seeking a full-time Pastor  
For more information call us at (780) 963-4048 or email us at:  
[doug7nichols@hotmail.com](mailto:doug7nichols@hotmail.com)



Faith Lutheran Church Calgary, AB  
Is seeking a full-time Pastor  
For more information email us at:  
[jakhein@shaw.ca](mailto:jakhein@shaw.ca)

## Important Dates to Remember:

### National Council Meeting:

National Council is scheduled to meet twice before our 2016 Convention.

The first meeting of CALC's National Council will be on Saturday January 23, 2016 at the Delta Calgary Airport Hotel at 9:30 AM.

### 2016 Annual General Convention:

**Where:** All Saints Lutheran Church  
1061 Pinecrest Rd. Ottawa, ON

**When:** October 14, 15 and 16.

### 2016 Annual Pastors' Study Retreat:

**Where:** A retreat setting around the Ottawa area. To be determined.

**When:** October 12 and 13.

## THE LUTHERAN CONNECTOR

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Our Website: [www.calc.ca](http://www.calc.ca)  
Our E-mail: [info@calc.ca](mailto:info@calc.ca)  
Our Telephone: (250) 801-3860  
Our Fax: (250) 769-5691  
Our Address: c/o Grace Lutheran Church  
1162 Hudson Road  
West Kelowna, BC V1Z 1J3

Our President: Reverend Edward P. Skutshek  
His e-mail: [president@calc.ca](mailto:president@calc.ca)  
His Telephone: (250) 801-3860  
His Address: c/o Grace Lutheran Church  
1162 Hudson Road  
West Kelowna, BC V1Z 1J3

Our Editor: Vivien Georgeson  
Her e-mail: [secretary@calc.ca](mailto:secretary@calc.ca)