

The Lutheran Connector

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

December 2010: Year-End Edition



A WORD OF THANKS ...

It seems as though November 5-7 was so long ago; yet it was only 6 weeks ago when we were all together for General Convention. It was truly wonderful having you join us in our church and in our town for that weekend. We did sense a spirit of togetherness, which seemed to be present throughout the weekend, and this we believe had much to do with the overall success of the weekend.

Whoever will host General Convention 2011, our advice to them would be to embrace the opportunity and enjoy the ride. It is a whole lot of work ... this was certainly our experience. But when it is all over, we are convinced that you will say that every bit of sweat and effort was worth it.

So thank you for giving us the privilege to be your servants and may God bless each of your congregations richly as you serve in the places that you live. Merry Christmas.

The Congregation of Christ Lutheran – Morden



*CALC is a Community of Independent
Congregations Living Together*

*The Word of God Created Us
The Word of God Sustains Us
The Word of God Redeems Us*

*We are servants of one another
We share one another's burdens
As Jesus served us and bore our burdens*

As one we proclaim Jesus to the world

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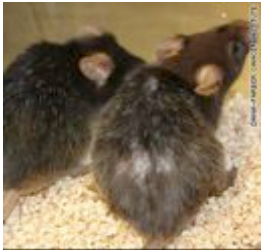
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Its Advent: "Prepare the Way of the Lord"

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

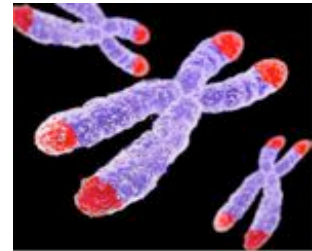
*"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.'"*

John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. (Matthew 3:1-6)



The morning of November 29th I was greeted by these words from Keera Philips, the lead anchor on CNN's morning show: "Could mice in a Boston laboratory hold the key to people living longer? Scientists think it's possible. Researchers at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute say for the first time, they have partially reversed the aging process in mice. In these mice, brain disease was reversed, the sense of smell was restored; the mice even got their fertility back. The study appears in the journal" Nature."

The news story which followed revealed that aging is related to protective caps on human chromosomes. The picture to the right shows a human chromosome. The telomeres are the bright coloured caps found at the end of each of the four arms of a human chromosome. As we age, our telomeres deteriorate and this causes changes to occur in our chromosomes which are described as the hallmarks of aging: gray hair, organ degeneration, cognitive decline and infertility. Dr. Ronald DePinho, director of Dana-Farber's Belfer Institute of Applied Cancer Science and professor of medicine and genetics at Harvard Medical School, announced that he and his colleagues had reversed some of the hallmarks of aging in laboratory mice. They produced these reversals in the aging process by manipulating the telomeres of laboratory mice. Specifically, they "tweaked" the telomerase gene in the mice so that the deteriorated telomere caps would be restored. The restoration of the telomere caps actually reversed the aging process in these mice. Declining organs were restored to health, grey hair turned black, cognitive alertness was restored, as was the fertility of the subject mice. However, before you book your trip to Boston, Massachusetts and book a room at Harvard's medical center, the reporter breaking the story warned: "Scientists can't tweak your DNA – it wouldn't be medically safe or ethical. But DePinho hopes his work with mice will help medical science develop drugs that will help people age more healthfully."



DePinho was quoted as saying: "We're not in the business of genetically engineering humans," I think we would love to develop small molecule drugs that would be able to re-activate the telomerase enzyme prior to getting into all these degenerative states."

While this may be interesting, many of you may be wondering what this story has to do with Advent, John the Baptist, Jesus or anything religious at all. For the reasons stated below, I believe that this story most certainly has something to say about Advent, John the Baptist, Jesus, and preparing the way of the Lord.

This research demonstrates how fearfully and wonderfully we are made. God created these amazing building blocks which create human beings and every other living organism on our planet. Beginning with a single cell, God makes us. The cell divides and divides again and again and again. As this division occurs

some cells are knit together to become a liver, others blood, still others a heart, some become a brain and still others skin. Each one of us was knit together in this way deep in our mother's womb. Somehow everything grows together into a complete human being. This growth continues after we are born. Day in and day out, we continue to grow and mature until we reach that point of full maturation. Then one day we decline and we die. Why? How does this happen?

To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return." (Genesis 3:17-19).

This research reveals with great clarity and lucidity how it is that our Maker fulfills the curse that was spoken by Him millennia ago. God made our telomeres defective, so that they deteriorate. When our telomeres deteriorate our chromosomes deteriorate and our organs will fail and we will die. The deterioration that occurs at the cellular level occurs in our minds, that is, in our thoughts, ideas and aspirations. "The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled." (Genesis 6:5-6).

The research also demonstrates that when our ancestors ate the forbidden fruit, it changed them and us. Our eyes are open and we can good and evil (Genesis 3:7) and if we work together we could accomplish almost anything we set our minds to (Genesis 11:6). The mind God gave us is capable of developing technology that permits us to see into our physical structure at the genetic level. The same mind has developed and continues to develop products and technologies which help us to produce food in abundance, safe shelter, medicine to battle disease, safe environments in which children can be reared and educated, and all manner of conveniences. Yet, the same mind creates weapons of mass destruction and uses them. The same mind exploits fellow human beings with impunity and creates foods and medicines which addict, poison and even kill us. The research reveals that we cannot change that fundamental human flaw with our technology. The research reveals that there is no magic bullet (powder, pill or other potion) or any amount of positive thinking that can change us. If we want to change, we have to turn one who made us and ask Him to change us. The prophet Job made this request for us:

"But a man dies and is laid low; he breathes his last and is no more. As the water of a lake dries up or a riverbed becomes parched and dry, so he lies down and does not rise; till the heavens are no more, people will not awake or be roused from their sleep. "If only you would hide me in the grave and conceal me till your anger has passed! If only you would set me a time and then remember me! If someone dies, will they live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait for my renewal to come. You will call and I will answer you; you will long for the creature your hands have made." (Job 14:10-15)

John the Baptist proclaimed that what Job longed for had come. God, their maker, was calling out to His people through John. John declared that their God was coming and called them to prepare the way of the Lord by repenting. In Biblical Hebrew "repentance" is represented by two verbs: שׁוּב – "shuv" (to return) and נִחַם – "nicham" (to feel sorrow). In the New Testament, the word translated as 'repentance' is the Greek word μετάνοια (metanoia), "after/behind one's mind", which is a compound word made of the preposition 'meta' (after, with), and the verb 'noeo' (to perceive, to think, the result of perceiving or observing). The whole word means: 'to think differently after'. Metanoia is primarily an after-thought, different from the former thought; a change of mind accompanied by regret and change of conduct, "change of mind and heart", or, "change of consciousness". John calls us and them to stop and look at what we are doing. He calls us to see that when it comes to our salvation, we put our trust in many

things, wisdom and science. He calls us to see that the fundamental problem we face as human beings; from which all of our problems emanate is that we are alienated from God and that the solution requires God to come to us. He calls us to see that it is sin (mountains and valleys) which separates us from God. God will remove the valleys and mountains, will level them.

John gave them a sign as to how God was going to come to us. He baptized them as a sign of their repentance of their sin. John also pointed to one who was going to come after him who would baptize with the Holy Spirit. Jesus was baptized by John. Jesus suffered died and was resurrected. He sanctified the waters of baptism so that when the water and the Word are administered a miracle occurs.

"Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— because anyone who has died has been freed from sin." (Romans 6:3-7)

"At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life." (Titus 3:3-7)

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:16)

In these verses the Apostle Paul declares that in Baptism, God changes us at the cellular level. We receive something new. We receive the forgiveness of sin and we also receive God's presence. God does not tweak our genes and chromosomes. Our telomeres remain the same, we will age and we will die. However, God gives us something that overcomes the deterioration and death which will come as it comes to all life. He gives us the Holy Spirit and He gives us faith in Jesus Christ through the Spirit. Jesus promised this to those who have faith in him:

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?"

God tweaks our brains through the Holy Spirit so that we can have, faith in Him and Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Through faith our relationship with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is restored today, tomorrow and into eternity. The presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives has even more implications in the here and now. Paul put it this way.

"So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ..² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." (Galatians 5:16, 22-23)

God has planted the capacity for each believer to accomplish what we, left to our own devices, are incapable of accomplishing. We can experience peace and joy, despite what life may throw at us. We can love our friends and enemies, with the love that reflects the love Jesus lavished upon us. We can have the patience of Job. We can be faithful to our calling from God and be faithful to our fellow human beings. We can be good, kind and gentle to others. We have the capacity to be self-controlled. God has put these capacities within us. The problem is, we don't seem to bear this fruit. Once again John calls us to repentance. He calls us to confess that we have forgotten we have this fruit and often try to produce

this fruit by our own efforts. He calls us to beg God to help us to let go of ourselves and let the Holy Spirit make this fruit grow, so that God is glorified through us.

On the Morning of November 29th an anchorwoman asked this question: "Could mice in a Boston laboratory hold the key to people living longer?" Certain scientists declared that it was possible following a lot of research and there are side effects (you really won't change as a person you'll be miserable longer). In pulpits throughout Christendom preachers must respond to the same question this way: "No! Those mice and the manipulation of their genes and chromosomes do not hold real hope for people living longer! We don't need longer life, we need new life. We need a transformed life today. We need eternal life. New life is not found in a lab. It is found in God's Word and is administered among God's people. It is found in faith in Jesus Christ. It is found in the Word proclaimed, Baptism and Holy Communion. It is available today at a church near you. Best of all God's transformative treatment is free and there are side effects: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

On behalf of the National Council, I want to take this opportunity to wish each and every one a blessed Advent and Christmas Season. We pray that the Lord bless you and keep you, and make His face shine on you and give you peace. We pray that as you remember the child born in Bethlehem, may you also remember to honor the child in your own heart. May you follow the light of the stars in your dreams and know that God is with you wherever you go. Let the hope that was born in a stable be a sign that God can change the world through one small child. May the spirit of Christmas warm our hearts all year long. Grace and peace be with you in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning, is now and will ever be, world without end. Amen.



In Christ's Service,

Pastor Ed Skutshek,
President, CALC

NATIONAL COUNCIL NEWS



Since the last (Sept. 2010) edition of *The Lutheran Connector*, CALC's National Council has met twice, in person in Calgary on October 2nd and by teleconference on November 25th. At these meetings, the National Council:

- Reviewed final plans for the 2010 General Convention, "Building Relationships in Christ", in Morden.
- Received a report from the sub-committee that was created to look into concerns with respect to the content of the Christ-Centred Pastoral Formation (CCPF) program. The

committee consisting of Pastor Ed, Pastor Rick Bergh, Ron Voss, Sherland Chhangur and Peggy Krause met the day before the National Council meeting. The committee came up with some Christian-grounded words as substitutes for words previously used to describe the Holistic Pathway program and CCPF component – words that that could have been misconstrued. As well, it was decided to change the name of the overall program from the "Holistic Pathway" to "The Shepherd's Pathway". The

possibility of a professor from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, teaching a course on a "Pastor's Devotional Life", as part of CALC's 2011 Pastors' Retreat, was discussed at the October 2nd meeting and approved at the November 25th meeting (See the notice for this course elsewhere in this newsletter).

- Developed a revised Reimbursement Policy for Expenses.
- Decided to circulate a funding appeal for one of CALC's partners in ministry, the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT).
- Discussed the status of the decision at the October 2nd meeting to proceed with hiring a part-time Service Coordinator and possible alternatives to doing so.
- Enthusiastically supported meeting with representatives of the Augustana District (www.augustanadistrict.org), a non-geographical district of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC), to explore how we might connect and partner in ways that could potentially benefit both associations and our mutual witness in North America.
- Decided that the next in-person meeting of National Council will take place in Calgary on Saturday, February 26, 2011.



Institute of
Lutheran
Theology

The Word at Work - Spring 2011 Course Offerings

The ILT's "Word at Work" series provides congregations with live courses over the Internet, featuring expert speakers and timely topics. Although the schedules have not all been finalized, the following is a heads-up of upcoming course offerings for the Spring 2011:

Ministry to the Missing: Working with the 18-25 Crowd – Stacey Swan (Mondays, beginning February 7)

World Religions in America – Mark Granquist (Tuesdays, beginning February 8)

The Inductive Bible Study Method: An LBI Tradition – David Patterson (Mondays, beginning March 28)

Ministry in a Multi-Cultural Setting – Susan Spitz (Wednesdays, beginning March 30)

The Prosperity Gospel & the Theology of the Cross – Michael Mueller (Thursdays, beginning March 31)

Luther's Doctrines of the Two Kingdoms and Vocation – Uwe Siemon-Netto (Dates To Be Determined)

Share Life: A Way To Witness for Young Adults – Matt Canaday (Dates To be Determined)

Crisis Management/Active Listening: Faithfully Helping Those in Need – Jeremy Lotz (Dates To Be Determined)

Check out one or several of these courses this spring by visiting the ILT's website at www.ilt.org or contact ILT's Dean of Students, Julie Smith at jsmith@ilt.org.

Note: The courses are **FREE** for members of congregations that have partnered with the ILT as "Designated Teaching Centers". Otherwise, the courses are \$50 for individuals.

IS CHRISTMAS REALLY CHRISTIAN? By Pastor Ed Skutshek (Grace Lutheran – Kelowna)

A conversation with a fellow passenger on a recent flight from Winnipeg to Kelowna gave me pause to stop and ponder anew the season which is upon us. Most Christians in North America and Europe recognize December 25th as the birth date of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. However, my traveling companion reminded me that there are many inside and outside the church who question whether the Christian Church should celebrate Christmas at all. My companion caused me to investigate why we celebrate Christmas on December 25th.

Scholars generally agree that the church in Rome began to celebrate Christ's birth on December 25th by the middle of the 4th Century AD. It was Bishop Julius of Rome (337-352 AD) who determined that Christ was born on December 25th. The church father John Chrysostom claimed in a sermon that Bishop Julius, acting on a request by Cyril of Jerusalem, had the official records of the Roman census examined and determined that December 25 was the correct date for Jesus' birth. (John Chrysostom, Homil. Diem Natal., 2; PL, 49, 552ff). Many criticised Julius for his reliance on evidence outside the Scriptures for determining the date of Jesus' birth.

Church leaders subsequently justified December 25th on other grounds. The account of creation found in Genesis 1:1-2:4 states the universe was created in six days marked by evening and morning or day and night. It was reasoned that creation must have begun with the spring equinox, when night and day are equal in length. This occurs March 25th on our calendar. It was further reasoned that the birth of Jesus heralded the beginning of a new creation and therefore must have been conceived in the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit on March 25th, the date of the spring equinox. As a consequence, March 25th is now celebrated as the festival of the Annunciation and as the anniversary of the Incarnation. The date of Christmas was calculated as nine months after the date of the Annunciation/Incarnation. While many Christians find this theory enlightening, some question the witness of the church when we celebrate the birth of the Son of God on December 25th as a fact, knowing that December 25th may or may not be His actual birth date.

In 1743, German Protestant scholar Paul Ernst Jablonski was one of the first to link the date of Christmas December 25th to a pagan holiday. During the reign of the Emperor Aurelian (270-275 AD), the Roman Empire worshiped a sun god they referred to as "Sol Invictus," the "unconquerable sun." The Romans believed the sun god was born on the date of the winter solstice, which they thought was December 25th. Christianity was legalized by the Romans by 325 AD. For many decades thereafter, Christian and pagan religious rites were practiced throughout the empire side by side. It is argued that when Christianity became the dominant religion of the Empire, the church sought to undermine the pagan festival which celebrated the birth of the sun with a celebration on the same date celebrating the birth of the Son of God. Jablonski and many after him argued that it was wrong for the Church to use a pagan holiday to celebrate the birth of our Saviour and represented "paganization" that debased the true Church.

Some inside and outside the Church challenge the celebration of Christmas as a church festival on grounds that Scriptures do not mandate the celebration of the birth of Jesus; therefore, the church should not celebrate a mass or service in honour of the birth of Jesus. So what are we to do in the face of all this evidence?

The Apostle Paul reminds us that there is freedom in the Christian life. Even in Paul's day, Christians began to set certain days apart as special days for worship and celebration. The special days caused arguments in the first century church. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Paul quelled these arguments with these words: "One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord" (Romans 14:5-6). I am fully convinced in my mind that, Christians who choose to are justified in celebrating Christmas on December 25th.

Luke's Gospel declares that immediately following Jesus' birth, an angel of the Lord went into the fields around Bethlehem and announced Jesus' birth to a group of shepherds encamped there. The angel announced that the Saviour of the world was born that night. Immediately, the angel was joined by a great company from heaven which gave glory to God in response to Jesus' birth. (Luke 2:8-22) All heaven

rejoiced at the birth of Jesus. The joy spilled out to the earth. When the shepherds came into the presence of Jesus they felt compelled to go out and share the news with others. If God, all the angels in heaven and certain shepherds celebrated the birth of Jesus, I feel free to celebrate Jesus' birth as well.

Jesus' incarnation, that is His immaculate conception in the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit, and birth in Bethlehem of Judea, is foundational to the faith in Jesus confessed by the Holy Christian Church. We confess that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ touched each and every part of what it is to be a human being, from conception through birth, maturation and finally death. At Christmas, we remember that in the Incarnation, the divine Son of God took on human flesh without changing or transforming His human flesh. What better way to witness to the world that Jesus really came from heaven to earth, took on human flesh and dwelt among us, than by celebrating his birthday?

I believe that the events around Jesus' birth, as described in Luke's Gospel, foreshadowed Easter Sunday. Speaking through the prophet Jeremiah, the Lord God promised: "I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number. I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing," declares the LORD." (Jeremiah 23:3-4) The Lord declared He would accomplish this through a descendant of King David (Jeremiah 23:5-6). The new king, like David, was to be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:6). In His birth narrative, we see God calling shepherds to come to His Shepherd King. God permitted them to see their saviour in the Christ child. God sent them out to declare to God's people that they no longer needed to be afraid, inasmuch as a saviour has been born to them to save them. I believe these events foreshadowed and pointed to God's plan of salvation. Jesus' nativity, His birth as a human being, was testimony that God's plan of salvation was based on His Son's humanity and mortality. Salvation would come from mortality, from His Son's human death. Jesus called shepherds to Him during His earthly life, namely, His disciples. They scattered at Jesus' death. Following His resurrection, the disciples were drawn once more to their Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd empowered them to go out into the world and announce that the one born in Bethlehem has come back to life, born again, and that all who believe in Jesus would be resurrected and born to new life. The disciples and their successors have called hundreds of millions into God's flock in Jesus' name and shepherded them by Jesus' grace.

December 25th signals a change in our world. The preceding months' daylight hours grow ever shorter. However, all that changes on the 25th of December: the sun begins pushing back the darkness. It begins as a little light and grows each day until daylight hours exceed the hours of darkness. Jesus began as a little light and as He matured, His light shone brighter and brighter, like the midsummer sun. What better day to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the source of our faith, the light that shines into our darkness, than the day that the sun pushes back the darkness in the world around us?

If you want to join God, the angels in heaven, and the shepherds, in celebration of Jesus' birth on Christmas Eve and/or Christmas Day, go to a church near you.



2010 General Convention Highlights

Worship, which included uplifting singing; fellowship; good food; good conversations; and reconnecting with old friends and making new friends all contributed to the success of this year's convention hosted by Christ Lutheran Church, Morden, Manitoba, November 5-7, 2010.

The convention started off on an excellent footing on Saturday morning with the devotional, "Let The Seed Be A Seed" based upon Mark 4:26-29, led by

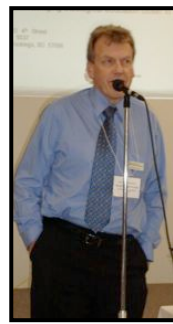


Lutheran Church-Canada President Rev. Robert Bugbee. The most important agenda item for the morning business session was CALC President, Rev. Ed Skutshek, summarily presenting two papers that he had written, one on the “Ordination of Women to the Office of Ministry of Word and Sacrament – Scriptural and Confessional Authority” (pages 31-48 in the Bulletin of Reports) and the other a “Statement on Marriage and Human Sexuality – Scriptural and Confessional Authority” (pages 49-65 in the Bulletin of Reports). Each

congregation in CALC is encouraged to study the papers over the next year. The papers may be amended following congregational review and will be presented for affirmation by the delegates at CALC’s annual General Convention, November 2011.



In keeping with CALC’s deep and abiding desire to build relationships in Christ



with other Confessional Lutheran bodies in Canada and the U.S., the theme for the 2010 convention was *Building Relationships in Christ*. To this end, on Saturday afternoon, invited representatives from four Lutheran bodies, Rev. Robert Bugbee, President of Lutheran Church-Canada (LC-C);

Rev. Mark Vander Tuig, Service Coordinator with Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC); Rev. Tom Walker, Vice-president of WordAlone Ministries; and Rev. Dr. Dennis Bielfeldt, President of the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT), introduced themselves and their bodies to the assembled gathering.

Following a busy day of business, education and edification, on Saturday evening we were treated to a delicious banquet organized by the people of our host congregation. The banquet was a time for discussion of the day’s events and building relationships in Christ as we dined and mingled before and during dinner. The evening concluded with Leland Klassen, recognized as Canada’s premier clean comedian, leaving everyone in stitches – a fitting, relaxing conclusion to a long event-filled day.



Our convention concluded Sunday morning with a service of Holy Communion at Christ Lutheran Church. We were once again treated to uplifting music. The challenging sermon message given by Rev. Ed Skutshek, President of CALC, was “There’s Room in the Pews – What do we do?”

Overall, President Skutshek’s prayer, expressed in the September 2010 issue of CALC’s newsletter (*The Lutheran Connector*), was realized, namely, “that as many of our members as can possibly attend come out for our convention and as we worship, pray, learn and sing Psalms and spiritual songs to one another, we encounter our Lord Jesus Christ in our midst and we experience the unity that he fervently prayed for”.

For those with Internet access, follow this link for an album of photos from the General Convention: <http://gallery.me.com/calc2#gallery>

A PASTOR'S DEVOTIONAL LIFE

For the 2011 CALC Pastor's Retreat, through cooperation with Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, CALC has arranged a time for study, which provides an opportunity to examine the devotional life expected of a Lutheran pastor. Applications can also be made online at Concordia's web site:



<http://www.ctsfw.edu/Page.aspx?pid=705>

While the course is intended primarily for pastors and students wishing to become pastors, interested laypersons are very welcome to attend since an active devotional life is not only important for pastors but for all Christians. For those who feel God may be tugging at them to pray and reflect upon a calling into ministry, this may be a perfect

opportunity to examine this stirring from the Holy Spirit.

The 3-day course, June 7-9, 2011, will be held at River's Edge Camp and Retreat Center which is located a short distance away from Cochrane, Alberta. The cost for lodging (4 nights) at the Retreat Center's "Country Inn" (where the course will be held), including meals at nearby Frontier Hall, is about \$300/person. For further information and queries, contact CALC at info@calc.ca.



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This is the fourth and final edition of the Lutheran Connector for 2010. It is simply amazing that another year is coming to an end! 2010 has been a year of new beginnings for CALC in many respects. New congregations have joined, a new president and new members in leadership roles. This publication has certainly been new beginnings for me too. It has been fun putting together these publications and I look forward to next year. Any input or suggestions that anyone may have is welcomed and will be well received.

Have a very Merry Christmas and may the peace and joy of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all this Advent Season.

Pastor Tom Baker
Christ Lutheran - Morden

THE LUTHERAN CONNECTOR

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