

The Lutheran Connector

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

September 2010: The Fall Edition



CALC GENERAL CONVENTION

Fall is here and it will not be long for November to arrive! We are anticipating a fantastic General Convention and we here at Christ Lutheran in Morden are excited to be this year's host. There are still some plans and ideas being put together and it will be another memorable time spent together.

The theme of General Convention is *Building Relationships in Christ*. National Council must be commended for selecting this theme. It is a challenging day for the church with issues and concerns that sometimes pulls away from building relationships in Christ. In keeping this theme at the forefront of our mission essentially is grassroots ministry. It is what the church is called to do and in striving to fulfill that mission ... 'the world will know that we are His disciples by the love that we have for one another.'

The General Convention Registrations and Brochures have been sent to each CALC congregation and can also be retrieved from the CALC website (www.calc.ca). It will be a Convention that no one will want to miss. There will be a great mixture of business and pleasure and celebration. Check out the brochure for more details and please do not delay in making your lodging arrangements as each hotel listed has requested that rooms be booked 1 month in advance.



*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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Pray for this weekend. Pray for God’s divine wisdom and discernment and for a spirit of unity. If we pray together God will bless and honor our prayers. We look forward to seeing you all soon and share in the joy of the Lord together.

Christ Lutheran General Council - Morden

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This is the third edition of The Lutheran Connector to be published in 2010. This publication is a work in progress and the input from everyone involved is valued. I also appreciate the feedback and suggestions that has been forwarded to us and would ask that everyone would feel free to continue to do that. The Lutheran Connector is *our* publication and it is our aim that it would be informative, resourceful and inspirational for all who would read it.

I hope this issue will be enjoyable and you can expect the next publication to be sent out sometime during the Advent season.

Blessings,

Pastor Tom Baker
Christ Lutheran - Morden

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

2010 Annual General Convention - “Building Relationships In Christ”

In this addition of *The Lutheran Connector*, I want to speak about our 2010 General Convention. Christ Lutheran Church, Morden, Manitoba, will host our gathering. It begins Friday Evening November 5th and continues through Sunday November 7th. The agenda for our convention and a commentary on the highlights of each day follow.

The Agenda

Friday November 5 th	5:00-7:00 PM	Registration
	7:00-8:30 PM	Opening Worship
	8:30-9:30 PM	Hospitality
Saturday November 6 th	8:00-8:30 AM	Devotion /Opening of Convention
	8:30-12:00 PM	Business Sessions/Breaks
	12:00-1:00 PM	Lunch
	1:00-1:30 PM	Greetings From Guests
	1:30-5:00 PM	Keynote Speakers/Breaks
	6:30-8:30 PM	Banquet/Program
Sunday November 7 th	11:00 AM-12:15 PM	Closing Worship/Eucharist
	12:15-1:30 PM	Refreshments

The Convention Theme - “Building Relationships In Christ”: There are twelve Lutheran church bodies active in Canada today.¹ In addition, a new Lutheran church body was formed in the US on August 27 of this year. The new body is called the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). NALC has invited some Canadian Lutherans to participate in its formation with the hope and expectation that Canadian congregations will be a part of the organization. In addition, the Canadian scene is blessed by Solid Ground Ministry/Canada (SGMC), a non-profit faith-based organization whose mission is to call the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) back to its confessional roots. SGMC stands at a crossroads as the ELCIC positions itself to break from its confessional roots.

¹ These Lutheran church bodies include: Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) with 612 congregations; Lutheran Church-Canada (LCC) with 320 congregations; Apostolic Lutheran Church of America (ALCA) with 2 congregations; Alliance of Renewal Churches (ARC) with 1 congregation; Association of Free Lutheran Congregations-Canada (AFLC) with 10 congregations; Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations (CALC) with 8 congregations; Church of the Lutheran Brethren-Canada-Canada (CLB-C) with 11 congregations; Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC) with 2 congregations; LC-MS English District with 12 congregations; Lutheran Churches of the Reformation (LCR) with 1 congregation; Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) with 7 Canadian congregations and over 500 US congregations; Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) with 16 congregations.

WordAlone is a non-profit faith-based organization based in the US whose mission was to call the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) back to its confessional roots. The ELCA broke from its confessional roots, and WordAlone has now moved from a reform movement to a ministry with a mission to shepherd confessional Lutherans through these turbulent times.

In the midst of all this diversity there exists a unity among these Lutheran church bodies in Canada and the US. Each Lutheran body confesses the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the divinely inspired Word of God, through which God still speaks, and as the only source of the Church's doctrine and the only authoritative standard for the faith and life of the Church; and subscribes to the documents of the Book of Concord of 1580 as witnesses to the way in which the Holy Scriptures have been correctly understood and explained and confessed for the sake of the Gospel.

At the same time, these Lutheran church bodies are deeply divided on a number of important issues. Only congregations of the ELCIC, CALC, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) and the newly formed Lutheran denomination NALC, call and ordain women to the office of Ministry of Word and Sacrament. We are also divided by, among other things, beliefs, teachings, understandings and theologies relating to the sacrament of Holy Communion and its administration; the authority of Holy Scripture; the proper means by which Holy Scripture is interpreted; and the structure of the Church.

Most recently, our traditional beliefs, teachings, understandings and theologies relating to marriage and the God-pleasing expression of human sexuality, have been challenged by the legalization of same gender marriage by our secular Canadian society. With the exception of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), societal changes in marriage laws have not moved Canadian Lutheran church bodies to permit their pastors to solemnize the vows of same gender couples. The ELCIC is currently in the process of adopting a new policy on marriage and human sexuality which many believe will pave the way to the normalization of homosexuality and homosexual behavior within that body. The adoption of the new policy will surely cause a split within the ELCIC and widen the gap between the ELCIC and other Lutheran church bodies in Canada.

At the same time, Jesus calls across the chasms which divide us to seek unity between and among us. "My prayer is not for them [the disciples] alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me." (John 17:20-21) Jesus also calls us to love one another. "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34-35). Jesus calls us into relationship whether we like it or not. Thus, we are called to strive to bridge the gaps between us, to build relationships. The words of the 13th Chapter of John's Gospel provide a blueprint for the bridge which allows us to build bridges across the gaps and gulches which divide us.

We cannot build bridges between us unless we first, at a bare minimum, get to know one another. To this end we have invited representatives from four Lutheran bodies to meet with us, to introduce themselves and their bodies to us. We have invited a representative from the Lutheran Church Canada (LC-C); Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC); WordAlone and Solid Ground Ministry/Canada (SGMC). Details concerning their presentations are set forth herein below.

Friday, November 5, 2010

Registration: Christ Lutheran will open their doors beginning 5:00 PM for registration and welcome of our visitors and delegates. This will be the time that delegates and visitors who have not pre-registered to register for the convention and receive convention materials. We urge all those who wish to attend our convention to register early by mail or on-line as directed on our CALC website. It is our hope to send out a preliminary convention package early in October, via a PDF attachment to an e-mail which will be sent to all registered delegates and visitors. Registered delegates and visitors will receive a hard copy of convention materials at registration.

Worship: Our convention opens on Friday evening with a service of worship which begins at 7:00 PM. We look forward to this time of worship. Thomas Baker, pastor of the host congregation, will lead us in worship and preach at this service.

Hospitality: The members of Christ Lutheran will provide refreshment as we come together for fellowship following worship. This will be a time when old friendships and acquaintances are renewed and new friendships are kindled.

Saturday, November 6, 2010:

Saturday Morning:

Opening Devotions: Before we begin our convention in earnest, most notably our business session, we will pause to hear from God's Word in our opening devotions. This year it is our distinct privilege to welcome Reverend Robert Bugbee, the National President of the Lutheran Church Canada, who will lead us in opening devotions.

Business Session: During the business session we will conduct the normal business of our association, we will: approve the minutes of CALC's 2009 General Convention, approve financial statements, approve a budget for CALC for 2011, and hear and approve reports from the boards and officers of CALC. In addition, it will be my privilege to introduce two papers and a policy manual on the Ministry of Word and Sacrament - Call, Installation and Discipline. The papers are summarized as follows:

1. The delegates to CALC's 2008 General Convention passed a motion which permitted the congregations of CALC to call and ordain women to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. The motion was also subsequently approved by the congregations of CALC in a referendum. The President was given the responsibility of preparing a position paper in support of the motion which approved the call and ordination of women to pastoral ministry. In furtherance of that mandate, I have prepared a position paper in support of the call and ordination of women to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. I will submit and summarily present the paper at our 2010 General Convention. It is National Council's hope that the congregations of CALC will study the subject paper in the months that follow. The paper will be discussed at the 2011 General for adoption by the Convention.
2. The minutes of the 2008 General Convention also gave the President the responsibility of preparing a position paper in support of CALC's policy with respect to marriage and the expression of human sexuality. I have undertaken to write the position paper and will submit and summarily present the paper for consideration by the delegates and ultimately the congregations of CALC for approval as described in paragraph 1 above.

Saturday Afternoon:

Greetings: Following a delicious lunch served by the people of the host congregation, the first order of business for the afternoon will be to hear formal greetings from our guests, including, the church bodies represented at our gathering.

Keynote Speakers: We will hear presentations from three keynote speakers, specifically, from Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC); WordAlone Ministries and Solid Ground Ministry/Canada (SGMC).

1. Rev. Mark Vander Tuig will be our first speaker. He is the new Service Coordinator for Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC). Pastor Vander Tuig will be formally introduced as Service Coordinator to the delegates and visitors at LCMC's Annual Gathering in Golden Valley, Minnesota, October 3-6 of this year. His presentation will introduce our delegates and visitors to LCMC and his role as its Service Coordinator. Before assuming his duties as LCMC's Service Coordinator, Pastor Vander Tuig served as Senior Pastor at Lutheran Church of the Cross, in Altoona, Iowa. He and his wife Candice have two grown daughters, Laura and Emily. He was called to Church of the Cross in 1990, when it was a small mission start. Today, Church of the Cross has around 1100 people in weekly worship and has deep roots in LCMC. Church of the Cross was a charter member of LCMC, organized and hosted the first LCMC Youth Rally and also hosted the 2005 LCMC Annual Gathering. Pastor Vander Tuig has been a part of the life of the association from its inception, including his service on the Ministry Board and his ministry alongside the LCMC congregations in Vietnam.
2. Rev. Thomas Walker will be our second speaker. Pastor Walker is the vice-president of WordAlone Ministries. He will introduce us to WordAlone. Its website declares: "Emerging from a decade of effort to bring a major Lutheran denomination [ELCA] back to its Biblical and Confessional roots, WordAlone is transforming into a service organization to support the development of confessional Lutheranism in North America. As a new day dawns on the confessional Lutheran landscape, a servant organization is needed to support the mission of growing associations of congregations. WordAlone is stepping up to that role. WordAlone excels in the production of faithful print and multimedia resources for Christian education. WordAlone innovates and incubates new ministries designed to meet the needs of congregations seeking

to make disciples in obedience to Jesus' command." He will introduce WordAlone's ministries to us. He will help us to see how WordAlone's ministries could support CALC in our mission to fulfill the Great Commission in Canada. Pastor Walker is the father of Pastor Karen Seifert who serves with me at Grace Lutheran Church in West Kelowna, BC.

3. A presentation by a representative from Solid Ground Ministry/Canada [SGMC] will conclude our afternoon session. SGMC is made up of Lutheran clergy and laity, within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), motivated by their faith in Jesus Christ and the Gospel of Grace, who are concerned about present trends and movements within their church. Its membership calls for a reaffirmation of scriptural authority, a confessional faith, and transformational theology as we address the issues of our time.

Saturday Evening:

The Banquet: Following a day of business, education and edification we look forward to a delicious banquet organized by the people of our host congregation. The banquet will be a time for discussion of the day's events and building relationships in Christ as we dine and mingle before and after dinner. There is entertainment scheduled for after the banquet. The host congregation guarantees that the post banquet entertainment will be unique and will stand out in the annals of the history of our annual gathering! Let's just leave at that for now, and simply say, "Come and see for yourself!"

Sunday, November 7, 2010:

Sunday Morning: Our convention concludes Sunday morning with a service of Holy Communion. It will be my privilege to preach at this service. It is my hope and intention that our closing worship will be a grand crescendo which embodies, proclaims and inaugurates CALC's deep and abiding desire to build relationships in Christ with other Confessional Lutheran bodies in Canada and the US.

Following worship our hosts will provide refreshments and strengthen us for our trip back home.

I look forward to this convention weekend with great excitement and anticipation. To veteran members of our CALC family, this year's convention offers an opportunity to renew friendships and acquaintances from previous years and catch up on the news and events which occurred during the time in between. To our visitors and those new to CALC, it is an opportunity to get to know our CALC family and make new friends and acquaintances. However, it is my most ardent prayer 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.



In Christ's Service,

Pastor Ed Skutshek,
President, CALC

NATIONAL COUNCIL NEWS



Since the last edition of *The Lutheran Connector*, CALC's National Council has met twice, by teleconference on April 22nd and in person in Calgary on June 12th. At these meetings, the National Council:

- Discussed congregational votes received with respect to the constitutional and by-law changes passed at the 2009 General Convention.
- Reviewed work in progress on getting application for marriage registration in B.C. approved.
- Discussed the program for the 2010 General Convention and agreed upon a theme, "Building Relationships in Christ".
- Received a report on the Pastors' Retreat held in Fernie, B. C. on April 26 - 29th.
- Discussed concerns raised by one National Council member regarding the content of the Christ-Centred Pastoral Formation (CCPF) program and agreed to set up a sub-committee to address these concerns.
- For various reasons, decided to postpone offering the CCPF program until 2011.
- Discussed the first meeting of the Pastoral Review Panel that was to occur on July 17th to assist a congregation with the call of a pastor.
- Noted that only half of CALC's congregations had submitted their annual statistical reports.
- Discussed the upcoming Lutheran Confessional Summit to take place at St. Peter's, Cochrane on June 21-22 (see page XX for a report on this meeting).
- Decided that the Next meeting of National Council will take place in Calgary on October 2nd.

GREETINGS FROM WORDALONE MINISTRIES

by Tom Walker, Vice-president WordAlone Ministries



It is my privilege and delight to extend greetings to the members of CALC from the WordAlone community! As many of you may know, we have spent the last decade struggling to help the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA, return to a theologically confessional foundation and to reconnect it to its Biblical roots. With the events of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly a year ago in August 2009, where the ELCA formally approved the ordination of practicing homosexual pastors, we realized that we had failed in that mission. We have changed our message to say that it is now time for orthodox congregations and individuals to leave the ELCA in a deliberate and orderly way.

Because of this cataclysmic event which is happening to the American church, we have sought God's guidance about WordAlone's future. As we've thought and prayed about it we realized that God has given us work beyond the attempt to reform the ELCA. During the last decade the WordAlone community has developed Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) as a new church for congregations leaving the ELCA (www.lcmc.net). It has sponsored a new faithful Lutheran seminary, the Institute of Lutheran Theology (www.ilt.org). It has enabled an initiative to create a new faithful Lutheran hymnal called ReClaim (www.reclaimresources.org). It has put on the ground a publishing venture to produce confessional Lutheran curriculum for children and adults called Sola Publishing (www.solapublishing.org). Because of these we are confident that God is calling us to continue our work to provide resources and ministries for confessional Lutherans in North America.

In order to signify this new direction WordAlone Network has changed its name to WordAlone Ministries. Our mission is to provide resources and services for preaching, teaching, and confessing Jesus as God's Word alone. We take the great commission of Jesus as the central guiding principle for our work.

(Matthew 28:18) "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

WordAlone Ministries is laboring to establish a new ministry call Salvation, Life, and Truth (or SALT) which will focus on the work of “making disciples”, through primary evangelism, multimedia ministry, house churches, and new church starts. We are just now laying the groundwork for this new initiative.

Sola Publishing forms the second aspect of our work to “teach observation of Jesus commands.” Sola is a new educational ministry designed to provide teaching resources for all ages that are trustworthy and useful, at a reasonable price. Its materials are grounded in the authority of Scripture, with a distinctively confessional Lutheran focus, centering in the gospel message of Jesus Christ.

Together SALT and Sola will form WordAlone’s mission to make and teach disciples for Jesus in full partnership with Christian Lutheran congregations across North America. As we move ahead into this new future it is our privilege to count the congregations of CALC among our friends and partners. We look forward to conversation about how we can work together to preach, teach and confess Jesus as God’s Word alone!

(<http://wordalone.org>)



The Word at Work - Fall 2010 Course Offerings

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

The Rise of World Christianity

The most dramatic development in the last 150 years of Christianity is the huge shift in its center of gravity. In 1900 a large majority of Christians lived in Europe and North America. By 2000, the clear majority of Christians live in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. There has been a tremendous growth of Christianity outside the North Atlantic world, and this will have major consequences for the future of our faith. This course will examine the history of Christianity as a World Religion, and its recent amazing rise to majority status. We will look at the triumphs and challenges of Christianity outside of the West, and what this development means for Christians in North America. **Dr. Mark Granquist** will teach this course on **Tuesdays at 7:00 pm CDT beginning September 14.**

Developing a New Start-up Congregation

They have been called "New Churches," "Church-Plants," "Mission Starts," and a host of other names, but they all share a common goal: to become a thriving community of believers that faithfully lives out the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. When the Apostle Paul said, "Forgetting what lies behind and pressing on toward the goal..." he did not have new church starts in mind, but it is so true for this effort! This course will look at new ways Christians need to view "church" and "mission" in the twenty-first century. We will reconnect with our calling to be missionaries in our home town. We will also dig into the practical things necessary to do a church-plant. And we will explore some of the models of how it may be accomplished. **Rev. Dr. Paul Spaulding** will teach this course **Thursdays at 7:00 pm CDT beginning September 23.**

Growing a Vibrant Youth & Family Ministry

Growing Vibrant Youth and Family Ministries will explore key principles of youth and family ministry with insights, ideas and resources for developing effective ministries. We'll touch on youth and family ministry theology, philosophy, strategies, youth culture, programming and resources to support God's work of growing vibrant youth and family ministry. **Martin Rathjen** will teach this course on **Tuesdays at 6:30 pm CDT beginning November 2.**

Equipping Parents to be Spiritual Leaders in the Home

Parents, by God's design, are intended to be the primary spiritual guides for their children. Although most parents no longer know how, they need to be equipped to carry out their spiritual role if we are to raise children as disciples in a post-Christian society. The strategy for infusing the four basic faith-forming practices of prayer, bible reading, faith discussions and faith in action is relatively simple, requiring hands-on learning, and uncomplicated tools to achieve measurable and significant results. The issue will be examined through biblical, theological, sociological and educational perspectives. We will explore methods for implementing the strategy in congregations and why this is a critical evangelism strategy for the 21st century. **Rev. Douglas Schoelles** will teach this course on **Mondays at 7:00 pm CDT** beginning **September 14**.

Create In Me a Clean Heart - A Bible Study for Youth (and Parents)

This six week course will look at stories of sin and redemption throughout Scripture. From David & Bathsheba to the chief of sinners, the Apostle Paul, we will see how God works forgiveness among his people. There will be two sections of this class. One is for parents and church staff who will learn the study to lead it for their own youth. The other is for youth who want to participate directly. **Rev. Julie Smith** will teach this course on **Thursdays at 7:00 pm CDT for adults** and **Sundays at 7:00 pm CDT for youth** beginning **October 28**. This course is a joint venture of the Institute of Lutheran Theology and Lutheran Bible Institute - California.

To register for a Word at Work course contact admin@ilt.org.

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.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

(North York, Morden, Cochrane, Grande Prairie, Sexsmith, Kamloops, Kelowna, Vancouver)

CHRIST LUTHERAN – MORDEN



Our biggest news at Christ Lutheran is our anticipation of hosting the CALC General Convention, Nov. 5-7. While this is a large undertaking for us it is still an honor to be this year's host. We especially are looking forward to the Saturday night Celebration Banquet. We believe it will be timely to hold such a fun evening together after having a day of business and learning ... a time of laughter and fun will be a great way to complete that day. We have invited Christian comedian, Leland Klassen to be with us on Saturday night and he has confirmed that he can be with us. Leland is a wonderful person with a heart for God and it will be wonderful having him join us.

Other news:

- We began summer with our annual Church Family BBQ held at Pastor Tom & Cara's home.
- Moved from an 11 am Worship Service time to 10:30 (we will revert back to 11 am after Labor Day Weekend).
- We had confirmed 2 students in spring and look forward to holding classes for a new group of students in the fall.
- A men's night (Gathering of Men) has been started and met 3 times throughout the summer. It provides opportunity for plenty of interesting discussion and interaction.

In fall, our regular routine will begin once again. We are praying for another great ministry year that will be filled with creativity and fun. We continue to thank God for all of our brothers and sisters in CALC and ask that He will bless the ministries that He has given to each of your congregations.

CHRIST LUTHERAN – SEXSMITH



Praise the Lord! Christ Lutheran and Journeys Lutheran, Grande Prairie together thank God for bringing Pastor Marc & Mary Lapointe to them. September 26th, Pastor Ed Skutshek will officiate the installation service for Pastor Marc. This will be a joint service between Christ Lutheran and Journeys Lutheran.

So Christ Lutheran is looking forward with enthusiasm to the years that are ahead.

FAITH LUTHERAN – NORTH YORK

We have had a busy summer season:

- Our annual Family Fun Day was held on July 3, 2010 in conjunction with our Daycare Center.
- As usual the weather co-operated with us; there were lots of visitors, food, games and music;
- Members of our congregation have been busy improving our property; we give thanks for all the helping hands.
- Our Sunday School Rally is on September 19; this occasion is always marked with crafts and a potluck/BBQ lunch.
- We welcome students from around Canada who are attending York University, we are a short walk from the campus.



We look forward to welcoming our organist Matt Pute back to our congregation. Matt had spent the past few months in Arizona on scholarship. Thanks to David Solnick for filling in; we enjoyed his time with us at Faith. Happy Thanksgiving to all.

GRACE LUTHERAN – KELOWNA



Praise the Lord for fresh beginnings!

Fall is here and, along with all our cherished regular church life activities, we are blessed with several new ones that will hopefully fill needs expressed.

Our assistant Pastor, Karen Seifert (affectionately called 'PK' by the young folk in our congregation), put her summer work hours to effective use, planning new Christian Life and Education opportunities for families here at Grace Lutheran. As we focus on 1 Timothy 4:12 (*Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity*), we recognize how fundamental it is to the continuation of our church and CALC that our children and youth understand that they are called to be examples to the whole Body of Christ. Here are some of the ways we hope to carry out this vital mission:

- 1) Children up to the age of 12 will enjoy a new resource in their Sunday school learning – Luther's terrific Small CAT series from *SOLA Publishing* that prepares children for understanding both the Holy Bible and the Catechism from an early age. Our Sunday school Christmas pageant will take on a new twist this year with the engaging play, 'All I Want for Christmas is... Jesus!' providing participation opportunities for all ages in our church family – it will be presented during our church worship service Sunday December 12. Our Kids Club is now meeting weekly and is packed with cool activities including fascinating science experiments that demonstrate the many wonders created by God.
- 2) We have been blessed with a growing Confirmation class (ages 12 and up) and special activities are planned for this age group and up, including the weekly Youth Breakfast with PK – a great start to the school day! (7:00AM breakfast and PK ensures these young people still get to school on time!) A number of our high school youth activities include the younger set, such as the traditional 'Hallowe'en sleepover' in the church – a hoot of a time, packed with crazy games, lots of food, and wholesome Christian fellowship – and to boot, everyone is still here for worship the next morning! Our Grades 9 -12 youth enjoy their coveted time with PK on Monday nights 7-9PM, a great time for serious discussion and silly fun all rolled into a faith-strengthening start to the school week.

- 3) Another new group is specifically designed for the 18 to 35 year olds and their friends – the 'College and Careers' Group'. Meeting twice a month, this group's focus is on fellowship in and around God's Word, with one night 'in' the church building, and the other 'out' in the community for some recreation!

The parents are also included in our new programs – a special 'Time Out' group for moms meets once a month for an hour and a half – with a terrific curriculum from Pastor Karen's school days entitled 'Called into Life', that will help moms affirm their spiritual gifts, guide their discipleship walk, and encourage their growth as women of faith. Moms and Dads have several great opportunities to participate in Christian Education opportunities with Pastor Ed as well – on Wednesdays (an afternoon and evening session) and on Sundays (before worship). Ranging from the study on Book of Hebrews, to unpacking the twelve parables of Jesus, Pastor Ed's sessions will also provide opportunity to study and discuss the Position Papers he prepared on Women's Ordination; Marriage and Human Sexuality, along with a summary of the ELCIC's proposed policy on marriage and human sexuality! Whoever said church was boring?!!

We are excited for the seasons ahead of us all, not only for our own congregation, but for all our congregational brothers and sisters in Christ through CALC! May God bless CALC's growth this year, and each of our congregation's endeavours in His Name and to His Glory!

JOURNEYS LUTHERAN – GRANDE PRAIRIE

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him,' but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit." (1 Cor 2: 9-10)

Over the last year, our congregation faced two challenges. First, we had a shift in families, resulting in a decline of numbers rather than growth. Second, we had no pastor, creating a need for a shepherd. As we contemplated our future, we felt led to continue gathering until June 2010, and to trust that by that time, God would reveal His plan.



Then in May, we had the pleasure of hosting Pastor Marc and Mary Lapointe in the Peace Country for an extended weekend. After their departure, we found that God had turned the hearts of our congregation toward them, and their hearts toward us. It was a process that included much prayer, meditation, seeking, and wrestling, and which eventually led to the acceptance of a call.

Today we are extremely blessed to call Pastor Marc our Pastor. We are also extremely blessed to have Mary join with us in our journey. God is so good!

MARTIN LUTHER – VANCOUVER



What a friend we have in Jesus..... a beautiful song,
We, at MLC, experienced this friendship over the last two years to the fullest.
After we separated from the ELCIC we were lost for a little while, but we
found friendship, love and dedication from CALC and its members who prayed for us

and helped to bring the spirit of God back into our church.

MLC celebrated its 75th Anniversary in September 2009. It was wonderful to reminisce how this congregation became an active part in the South Vancouver community area. It was exciting to see ministers and friends return to join us in this celebration.

Our next challenge is searching for a bilingual Pastor in English/German who will have the full support of our congregation. We would like this pastor to bring new programs to our church so it will become a church for young and old to worship. We promise to let go a little of our German stubbornness!!!!

Our Ladies circle will be very active again organizing a craft fair in November. The Ladies circle organized a garage sale in April which was very successful. They also sent donations to 3rd world countries, i.e., Haiti and Pakistan. Our Quilting club sews quilts for 3rd world countries and Inner mission.

This month, and then once every month, MLC organizes a German Sing-Along, where many people from all denominations around the Lower Mainland join us for a very entertaining evening, i.e., singing German folk-songs, hymns, listening to poems and “wise” comments. During intermission we have coffee, sandwiches and cake brought by the ladies. We are thankful to Mrs. and Mr. Robert Gretzinger who organize the Sing-Along.

Every Thursday afternoon we have Friendship Circle-Carpet bowling in the lower hall of our church. This is a very happy circle.

We have a very dedicated German choir who enjoy singing twice a month during the church service.

Martin Luther Church is looking forward to becoming a full member of CALC. First and foremost we want to be a part where people stand for the truth – we believe in the unchangeable authority of God's Word, the Holy Scriptures, the uniqueness of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and our Savior and Lord.

Psalm 23

Der Herr ist mein Hirte....

The Lord is my shepherd...

We are never without our shepherd, God's love will always surround us.

Blessings,

Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church

ST. ANDREW'S LUTHERAN – KAMLOOPS



ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN – COCHRANE



We continue to explore the unique ways in which we are called to be Christ's church in Cochrane. Our unique demographics and culture in Cochrane have forced us to continue to analyze our ministry and to ask for God's directions in being his church. We are attentive in listening to God's voice and seeking his will.

This fall we are focusing in upon our Sunday morning experience and encouraging all of our members to be involved in education, worship and fellowship: a full morning beginning at 9:00am with education, 10:00 worship and fellowship to follow. We understand people are busy and tired in our community with the majority of people commuting into Calgary and often with both parents working. It's been difficult for people to come to evening functions after a full day at work. Although we continue to offer weekly programs, our emphasis will be on Sunday morning which we will put a lot of our resources and time into this fall. We are encouraging and challenging people to commit totally to this one Sunday morning experience as families and individuals.

We have also discovered that with two worship services (contemporary and traditional) we have created two separate churches. People don't get to know each other. Our new concept is, One Church...One Worship. We are no longer using traditional or contemporary in our worship language. We will now hold one harmonized worship service each Sunday that utilizes a variety of talents and gifts at St. Peters in order to bring people together to worship Jesus as one church family.

We are also trying a new form of Sunday school called Family Bible Hour where Pastor Rick and his wife Erica invite entire families to meet on Sunday morning in the study of God's word supplementing these teachings with singing, drama, puppet plays and prayer. We want Mom and Dad to come with their children to Sunday school and learn together.

Our bible studies on Sunday mornings for adults will be shorter modules taught by a number of different individuals so that people can have some wonderful choices and opportunities to dig into God's word through a number of different avenues.

This fall Pastor Rick started a new sermon series called "Getting to know Jesus"! For 12 Sundays he will teach and preach on this topic. This sermon series will be supported with daily devotional thoughts based upon the week's previous message encouraging people to apply God's word into their daily lives as followers of Jesus.

Our internet ministry continues to evolve with pastor messages being placed on the website and now the ability to create to i-pods casts and a new pastor's internet Blog where people can enter into dialogue with each other on the pastor's previous week's message. We want people to listen, and respond to God's word in a practical way.

New also at St. Peter's is a new series of messages created specifically for our youth and young adults called On-Location where pastor's message apply to the specific need of this group and networked through such mediums as facebook and twitter. We want youth and young adults to hear God's word and to talk about its relevance for them right now in their lives.

We are pleased to welcome Erica, Pastor Rick's wife to St. Peter's. They were married July 31st in Montreal. Erica was a choral director at McGill University for the last 10 years and will now offer her gifts in forming a choir this fall which we are excited about incorporating into our worship services.

We feel blessed and are looking forward to what God has in store for us in the future. We know God will surprise us if we are open to the Holy Spirit which has the ability to make all things new!

PASTOR'S RETREAT DEBRIEF

Thank God for the pastor's retreat for CALC this year, especially for the healthy variety of so many good things. To start with most of our pastors were able to make it: Rick Bergh, Ed Skutshek, Karen Seifert, Tom Baker and we had a visiting friend pastor Jay Dyrland from Victory Lutheran in Medicine Hat (LCMC).

As for myself, the 'pastor in training', it was wonderful to have five pastors all to myself to keep me on the straight and narrow! We all had a great time staying at the Best Western in Fernie B.C. (special thanks to Fred Schickedanz for the accommodations).

Our time had been spent going over some church business, such as, the CCPF (pastoral formation program). There was also some time for relaxation and taking theology either in the hot-tub or over sipping on beer in the Boston Pizza lounge. But the highlight was surely the fellowship time and prayer. We even ended off our retreat with a healing service where we confessed, received absolution from God, communed with the saints by the blood and body of our Lord Jesus Christ, and were anointed with oil.

It was a wonderful time where we accomplished a lot and came back refreshed. Thanks be to God.

– John Graham (Note: John has been taking courses with ILT.)

WALK THE WALK

The light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection. The tailgating woman was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration, as she missed her chance to get through the intersection, dropping her cell phone and makeup. As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a

very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed, and placed in a holding cell.



After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects. He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk.

So naturally ... I assumed you had stolen the car."

Toward a Confessional Lutheran Network in Canada

AS a follow-up to an initial meeting convened by Lutheran Church Canada (LCC) in February, representatives from four Lutheran bodies met for a second time in June of this year to explore the possibility for various bodies to come together and give a common, shared confessional Lutheran witness in Canada. The following is a press release for the June meeting.

Toward a Confessional Lutheran Network in Canada June 21-22, 2010

A gathering of pastors and lay people from the Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations (CALC); Lutheran Church-Canada (LCC); the Confessional Ministerium (CM); and Solid Ground Ministries/Canada (SGMC) met in Cochrane, Alberta under the theme: "Toward a Confessional Lutheran Network in Canada." Attendees were edified by papers and presentations on topics which included: principles of Biblical hermeneutics; a historical survey of women in leadership in the Church; the case for and against the ordination of women to the office of the Ministry of Word and Sacrament; challenges for Biblical and confessional pastoral care in the 21st century and Lutheran preaching. These presentations sparked lively discussion among participants. Pastor Ed Skutshek, remarked: "Participants left the meeting hopeful that confessional Lutherans will continue to meet together for the purpose of finding common ground in matters of faith and life and concrete ways in which we can work together to further our common mission to fulfill Christ's Great Commission."

The Lutheran Connector

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

www.calc.ca

The Lutheran Connector is published by the Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations four (4) times a year.

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