

The Lutheran Connector

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

Fall Edition

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Celebrating our Annual General Convention for 2014

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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President's Message

Convention 2014 & Beyond

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

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

I want to give God thanks and praise for our 2014 Annual General Convention. I heard many of those in attendance say that they felt the Holy Spirit move among us. A visitor sent this greeting to me after the convention.

“Dear Ed,

First of all, thank you to you and the folks at Grace for hosting such a wonderful CALC Convention! What a great group you have there. Each of us was warmly welcomed and your volunteers took such good care of us all weekend.

The event was so well organized! I must say that I was very impressed with the ten year plan and the vision it sets for CALC. May God bless and guide as this mission is played out over the next decade. It is great to be able to attend a church convention where the focus is Christ, the fellowship is sweet and the foundation is the Word.”

I give God thanks for the people of Grace Lutheran Church who worked so hard to make our convention such a success. I am so very proud of them.

In this edition of the Connector we have included a report on our 2014 convention prepared by one of Grace Lutheran's delegates. Over the years CALC has developed a relationship with an American church body known as Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC). Four of CALC's congregations are also rostered with LCMC. For this reason we have also included a report given by one of Grace Lutheran's delegates to LCMC's 2014 convention.

Two positions on our National Council were vacant going into our 2014 Convention. A seat on the Board of Elders for a four year term, and the last year of a term of one of the members on the Board of Trustees. Sherland Chhangur of Faith Lutheran Church, Toronto, was elected to fill the term on the Board of Trustees that will expire in 2015. Dr. Randall McLeod, of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Rosenthal was elected to fill a four year term on the Board of Elders. This edition

contains a brief biography on each of our candidates.

Robert “Bob” Kuhn's keynote address to the convention was well received by all in attendance. An article on his presentation is also included in this edition.

Two motions submitted by congregations were passed by the delegates:

- A motion that acknowledged the contribution of the late Art Kroeker to CALC as member of the Board Elders and Board of Trustees (see September 2014 Connector).
- A motion that CALC, encourage its pastors and congregations to recognize the third Sunday of every January as Sanctity of Life Sunday as a time to focus on the sanctity of life, to teach their people about life issues, and to pray for those affected by life issues like abortion and euthanasia.

A motion to add CALC's annual pastor's study conference either before or after the Annual General Convention was tabled.

Background information on CALC and the process by which our ten-year plan will be carried out was also unveiled during our learning event. The consensus reached was that:

1. A one page executive summary of the components of the 10-Year Plan is to be prepared.
2. The executive summary is to be presented to cluster gatherings of our congregations during the first part of 2015. Each cluster is defined below.
3. Input and consensus as to the shape and priority of each component of the ten-year plan is to be solicited at each cluster gathering.
4. The results of the cluster gatherings, to be compiled, published and disseminated during June of 2015.
5. Based on the consensus reached at the cluster meetings, a proposed Ten-year plan is to be drafted for presentation at the 2015 Annual General Convention.

It is hoped that one of the congregations in each cluster will agree to host the cluster meeting. The cluster meeting would begin at 10:00 AM and end at 3:00 PM on a Saturday. The hosting congregation would be responsible for lunch and a morning and afternoon coffee break. I would preach at the host congregation on the Sunday.

Below please find a tentative schedule of cluster meetings.

Date	Congregations in a Cluster
Jan. 31-Feb. 1	<u>Alberta Calgary</u> : St. Peter's Cochrane; Faith, Calgary; & Victory Medicine Hat
Feb. 14-15,	<u>Toronto and Area</u> : Faith Lutheran and Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Toronto; St. Peter's Sullivan, and Goodwood Mission, Uxbridge.
Feb. 28-Mar. 1,	<u>Ottawa and Area</u> : All Saints, Ottawa; St. Matthew's Cornwall; Resurrection, Pembroke.
Mar. 14-15	<u>Morden, MB</u> : Christ Lutheran Church
Apr. 18-19	<u>Alberta Capital Region</u> : Immanuel, Stony Plain; Emmaus, Edmonton; Bardo Tofield; Golden Valley, Viking; Peace, Wainwright; Sharon, Irma; Calvary, Wetaskiwin; Asker, Ponoka; Salem, Kingman; Trondhjem, Round Hill; Christ, Sexsmith; Journey's, Grande Prairie.
Apr 25-26,	<u>Saskatchewan</u> : Immanuel, Parkside; St. John, Preeceville; Trinity, Leader.
May 2-3,	<u>BC</u> : Vancouver Chinese Lutheran Church of Burnaby; Basel Hakka Lutheran Church of Vancouver; Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church of Vancouver; and Mount Calvary Lutheran Church of Mission; St. Andrew's Kamloops; Grace, Kelowna.

Emmaus Lutheran Church of Edmonton, Alberta, has agreed to host CALC's 2015 Annual General Convention. The convention will be held the weekend of October 16th, 17th and 18th.

Theme: 1 Peter 3:15-16. *"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."*

Our constitution states that the emphases of our Association are evangelism, missions, prayer, the study of the Holy Scriptures, and the application of these to daily living within congregations and caring ministries. 1 Peter 3:15-16, speaks about everyday evangelism, being able to share your faith with people who ask you to. Evangelism also takes place when our faith is challenged by those around us. Their challenge provides an opportunity for us to defend what we believe.

Sharing and defending our faith can be daunting. Where do I start? What do I say? How can I handle the thorny questions that arise? Our

convention's keynote speaker the Reverend Doctor Joseph Boot, of Toronto, Ontario, one of Canada's leading Christian Apologists (defenders of the faith) will address us at our Friday morning learning event and Saturday afternoon as our convention Keynote Speaker. A tentative schedule for next year's convention is set forth below:

2015 General Convention Agenda

Friday, October 16

8:30-9:30 AM	Registration
9:30-10:30 AM	Keynote Speaker Session #1 ¹
10:30-11:00 AM	Refreshment Break
11:00-12:00 PM	Keynote Speaker Session #2 ¹
12:00-1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00-2:00 PM	Breakout Session #1 ²
2:00-2:30 PM	Refreshment Break
2:30-3:30 PM	Breakout Session #2 ²
6:30-7:00 PM	Registration
7:00-8:30 PM	Opening Worship
8:30-9:30 PM	Hospitality

Saturday October 17

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

Sunday October 18

11:00 AM	Closing Worship (Holy Communion)
12:30 PM	Refreshment Break

1. Rev. Dr. Joseph Boot will speak on Christian Apologetics.
2. Hour long sessions on topics of interest, governance, missions, evangelism.

Our convention weekend revealed how richly God has blessed our association and its member congregations. We have grown in numbers. Our members continue to support our association's work generously. I look forward to our cluster meetings and receiving your input as our Ten Year plan takes shape. I pray that when we gather for Convention 2015 the Holy Spirit will once again move among us and we will eagerly adopt a ten-year plan, be strengthened and equipped to go out into our communities and fulfill Jesus' Great Commission with renewed courage, passion and joy.

In Christ's service

Pastor Edward P. Skutshek, President.

CALC Convention 2014

A Snapshot

On October 17th to 19th Grace Lutheran Church hosted CALC's 2014 Annual Convention. As a delegate for Grace, I have prepared a brief summary of the convention. If you wish to have more detail, and have access to a computer, you will be able to view videos of the entire convention on our church website www.Gracelutherankelowna.com. The closing Worship Service, of Sunday, October 19, has already been uploaded and can now be seen on Grace's website in the "Vimeo" format.

There has never been such an opportunity to become informed and involved as through the media we have today. We urge you all to get tuned to the "Websites of Grace and CALC" as they are excellent sources of information about ourselves.

There was a very good turnout with 58 voting delegates and 33 visitors. Delegates came from a total of 27 congregations spread over five provinces.

5 churches from BC
12 from Alberta
2 from Saskatchewan
1 from Manitoba
7 from Ontario

There were several other representative groups present:

- The representative from LCMC, Pastor Steve Lein, was impressed with the convention and gave words of inspiration for our cross-border, cooperation and understanding between our two church bodies.
- Two representatives from "The Institute of Lutheran Theology", Rev. Dr. Dennis Beifeldt and Rev. Timothy Swenson from North Dakota were there. Five (5) candidates are, now, actively engaged in Seminary studies in their School with the goal to attain a call from a CALC Church.
- Christian Ministers Association (CMA) representatives, Steve Schroeder and Dan Friesen represent a "Fellowship of Ministers Program." It encourages friendship and cooperation between Ministers within Canada. Steve Schroeder presented Pastor Ed with a plaque adorned with a large key. A symbolic gesture of appreciation for our Pastor's leading role and interest in matters related to friendship and cooperation.

- The Canadian Lutheran World Relief representative, Jennifer Clark, from Winnipeg, re-affirmed the good deeds that are on-going through this organization. The CLWR is one of Canada's most experienced relief and development agencies.
- This year's Keynote Speaker, was Robert Kuhn, the President of Trinity Western University from Langley B.C. He spoke on the theme "Speaking the Truth in an Adversarial World". Recently, the University had taken steps to establish a private Christian School of Law, but encountered various roadblocks for accreditation of the proposed school. He will deliberate further as he believes that, in these special times, we need to explore ways to maintain our Christian Witness in a society that is disinterested or even opposed to the gospel.

The delegates of last year's CALC convention had voted to begin the process of developing a "Ten Year Strategic Plan". The plan is intended to provide our congregations with foundational information and options for a path forward. It is intended, through hard deliberation, that the plan will be adopted at the next Annual Convention in 2015.

During the rest of this year and before the 2015 Convention, all congregations will have had the opportunity to put forward views on what course should be taken in formulating the proposed ten year plan. The basis for discussion will be:-

- Our Identity - (who we are)
- Our Mission - (why we are here)
- Our progress - (where we have been)
- Our Vision - (possibilities for our future)

From this convention I get a sense, from some of the Pastors and Delegates, that our purpose needs to be more clearly defined; perhaps with some change to our Traditional past. Pastor/President Ed Skutshek will seek input from all CALC congregations through "Regional Cluster Gatherings".

In closing - It is anticipated that our Pastor Ed's workload, on behalf of CALC, will no doubt increase as the CALC Community continues to grow. Accordingly, it is evident in CALC's 2015 budget; there is an increase in funding to our Grace Church to help offset the cost for increased demands on Pastor Ed's time.

Submitted by Otto Litke,
Delegate for Grace Lutheran Church.

National Council Elections

Election Results: The delegates to our 2014 National Convention elected candidates by acclamation for two positions on our National Council. **Dr. Randall McLeod** was elected to a four year term on our Board of Elders and **Mr. Sherland Chhangur** was elected to serve out the last year of Art Kroeker's (deceased) term on the Board of Trustees. Below please find some information on our New National Council members.

Dr. Randall C. McLeod.



Dr. McLeod is a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Rosenthal. His service at Immanuel and other churches has been extensive. He has served as Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary of Immanuel's Church Council. For

more than ten years he has been involved in Children's Sunday School & Camp Ministry. For more than 30 years he was involved in Music Ministry in the Hospital and Nursing Home setting. He received training as a Lay Preacher in the Anglican Church of Canada. He has experience providing Pulpit Supply and leading worship.

Professionally, Dr. McLeod is trained as a Chiropractor. He received his Doctorate of Chiropractic degree in 1976. He practiced in Edmonton and Stony Plain since then. He took a brief hiatus from his chiropractic practice to pursue other interests. When he returned to practice in 1999 he focused his attention on Chronic Pain Management and Rehabilitation, obtaining a specialty fellowship in 2006.

Immanuel Lutheran Church is committed to being a safe place, and a center of healing and hope. The congregation established a Healing Centre as a community outreach facility. The healing center is intended to address the emotional, physical and spiritual needs of their community. Dr. McLeod's chiropractic practice is an integral part of this congregational ministry.

Dr. Randall C. McLeod is also known as "Cowboy Randy." Cowboy Randy has been writing and performing songs and cowboy poetry for over 20 years. His critical successes include: 1998 ARIA Award - Best Children's Artist - CD - God Made Dinosaurs Too; 1998 CDIS Write on 98 - Semi Finalist; 1997 SOCAN Jury Appraisal - "Great

little song..a gem..gets your attention on first listen" - Leftover Lovers." 1996 Alberta Music Project - "lyrics, music and production values were very strong.." 1990 ARIA Nomination - "Jesus Train."

When asked to describe his Spiritual Gifts, Randall responded: evangelism and teaching. When asked to describe his hopes for CALC he responded: that CALC continue to reach out ecumenically and our congregations continue to witness evangelistically within Canada.

Randall is married to Patricia Ann, a pharmacist, geriatric specialist, currently pharmacy lead (manager) for the hospital in Camrose. She has served on church council as a member, secretary, vice chair and chair. She served as convention registrar at our 2013 Annual General Convention at Immanuel Lutheran of Rosenthal. They have six children.

Daughter Sarah Beth is married to Mark Taylor. She serves as a worship leader at Immanuel Lutheran. She is a song writer, and is experienced at recording, piano, guitar and flute. Son Matthew is married to Shenoa, they have one child. They live in Camrose, and Matthew is in auto sales. Daughter Bonny is married to John and they have three children. They live in Camrose. She is a homemaker and hair stylist. Nicholas is engaged to Sarah Colleen Samson. They live in Calgary. He is a licensed aircraft maintenance engineer. Daughter Hannah of Calgary, is single and a budding journalist. Igor is an orphan from Ukraine, currently an ESL student, and registering at NAIT.

Sherland Chhangur.



Mr. Chhangur 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 and is currently the Congregational Chair of Faith Lutheran Church

located in the North York area of Toronto. He has served as chairperson and in other capacities since 1985.

Professionally, Mr. Chhangur 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, Mr. Chhangur 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.

When asked to describe his Spiritual Gifts, or corporate experience that would benefit CALC Sherland responded: "My vast sales, management, public relations, negotiating and business experience will be an asset at this young stage of development of CALC to help in the visioning and expansion of this blessed body."

When asked to describe his hopes for CALC he responded: "My vision for CALC is to see it grow beyond the Canadian Borders and for CALC to grow exponentially in the next decade. I thoroughly enjoyed being a member of CALC during these past five years of growth. I am proud to have been able to make my contribution and to work with a wonderful group of people who have worked so diligently and unselfishly giving of their time to promote the Word of God by providing spiritual leadership that is so wanting."

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. Sherland and Shanta worked tirelessly on the 2012 CALC Annual General Convention hosted by Faith and Good Shepherd. They have five children. Their eldest is Jaime. She is married to Mike Busgith, they have four daughters - Shara, Sandy, Serena and Simone. Their daughter Jennifer is married to Derrick Sloan, they have one daughter - Fiona Rose. Their son Jason is not married. Their daughter Jaelyn is to be married to Vicren Pillay on November 11, 2014. Their youngest son Jonathan is not married.

Let us thank God our Father for calling Randall and Sherland to serve on our National Council. Let us remember that God called them to work

with their brothers and sisters on our National Council so that the work of Christ is accomplished in our Association and in our member congregations.

We also pray that the Lord will give them the wisdom, courage and strength to serve in their office of elder and trustee, respectively, and that by their service our Lord will be glorified.

We pray also that the Holy Spirit will move among all the members of our National Council, so that together they may be examples of faith active in love and that peace and harmony in our Association and our member congregations is maintained.

50th Anniversary Faith Lutheran Church, North York, ON



The weekend of September 20th and 21st Faith Lutheran Church of the North York neighborhood of Toronto celebrated their 50th Anniversary. The celebration began with a banquet and program the evening of Saturday September 20th and ended with a celebratory worship service on Sunday September 21st, with a luncheon thereafter.

The banquet was professionally catered. It was a most delicious meal. The venue for the banquet was an enormous tent pitched in the church's parking lot. Hanging lanterns provided light. The ambiance of the tent and lighting made the evening most delightful.

Musical entertainment was provided by Sherland Chhangur, the congregational chair and fellow musician Hilton Arnajallum. An array of speakers brought greetings and shared some insights into the congregation's past.

The program was opened with devotions led by the congregation's pastor Reverend Harry Huff. His devotion was preceded by a welcome back

from the congregational chair. Pastor Huff had been hospitalized earlier in 2014 by a heart condition. By God's grace, he survived septuple bypass heart surgery and returned to duty at Faith that very weekend. The congregation gave thanks to God for Pastor Harry and for the successful surgery several times during the weekend.

Those that brought greetings included Judy Sgro, Member of Parliament for York West. She brought greetings from her leader, Justin Trudeau. She praised the people of Faith Lutheran for their commitment to God and their community and hoped that the congregation would continue to be a pillar of their community. The MP was followed by Anthony Perruzza, City of Toronto Councilor. Mr. Perruzza thanked Faith Lutheran for their leadership and their commitment to their community. He declared that the churches of North York were a backbone and a foundation for their community. He declared that it was in the church that people come to faith and learned to live lives of love and service to one another.

Pastor Sylvia Free, one of Faith's pastors, also gave greetings to those assembled at the banquet. CALC was represented by our President, Pastor Ed Skutshek. During his address, Pastor Skutshek acknowledged the contribution that Sherland Chhangur, Faith's congregational chair, had made to CALC. He had served on National Council for five years as a member of the Board of Elders. Sherland's unique contribution to the National Council was his ability, as we dialogued on various issues, to ask good questions that sparked lively discussion and his ability to speak the truth in love.

Greetings were also brought by Pastor Audley Goulborne the chair of a Ministerial group representing a coalition of Churches in the Jane/Finch area of Toronto. In his remarks he compared the life of faith to a journey, like a ride in a car. He likened the celebratory weekend to looking through the car's rearview mirror, remembering their journey from 1967 to this very day. He urged those assembled to remember that an open road was before them and that God was calling them to look at the road ahead of them, for the best was yet to come.

Those who provided insights from the past included three children of Pastor John Judt Sr., the first pastor who served the congregation. The building was constructed in 1967 as a mission congregation of a Lutheran Church body that became a part of the ELCIC. The area was described as rural with many dirt roads. Pastor

Judt moved his family from Vancouver, BC, to take the call to Faith Lutheran. When the family arrived in Toronto in their station-wagon, the first thing they did was to go to the church building. It was completely empty. The pastor gathered his family in the Sanctuary and bid them to kneel on the steps to the altar area and pray with him. He thanked God for keeping them safe on their journey from BC and asked God to bless them. He prayed that God would establish a congregation here and fill the building.



God answered Pastor Judt's prayers. The Sanctuary was eventually filled with pews, a pulpit and an altar from the Chapel of a nearby military base. Over the 50 years that followed, God filled those pews with many wonderful people and the pulpit with faithful pastors. Several of Faith's former pastors attended either the banquet or the celebratory worship service.

Over the past 50 years, Faith Lutheran has certainly reached out and continues to reach out to meet the needs of their community. Their first pastor worked tirelessly to establish an alternate school for severely emotionally disturbed children in their community. The Powell-Brown School for Emotionally Disturbed Children was established. The school operated out of Faith Lutheran's educational wing. Powell-Brown served many severely challenged children and their families faithfully over its years of operation. The school eventually closed its doors. In 1987 the congregation established "Rainbow's End Faith Lutheran Daycare." This fully licensed child care, serves children 1 year 6 months to 6 years. They also have an after school program. The staff speaks Arabic, Italian and Mandarin in addition to English. The cost of living today forces both parents to work. When extended family cannot fill the need, families must look outside the extended family. Faith Lutheran has stepped in and continues to step in and provide the safe place children need.

The weekend was crowned by a celebratory worship service led by Pastor Harry Huff who

presided at the Communion Table. President Edward Skutshek preached. The text was Matthew 20:1-16, the Workers in the Vineyard. The sermon title was "Getting What You Deserve." In his sermon Pastor Ed thanked God for the vineyard He had established at 96 Hucknall Road and all of the workers He had called to work in that vineyard. He declared that the congregation could continue resolutely on its course, trusting that God had brought them together for this very purpose and would continue to call workers into their vineyard.

The people of Faith acknowledged the presence of the brothers and sisters from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (CALC), of Toronto, and their Pastor Goddy Hodanu, at the banquet and the celebratory worship service.

Let us all thank God for what He has done at Faith Lutheran and pray that He will continue to bless their ministry as together they grow in grace, faith and their relationship with God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

25th Anniversary St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Cochrane, AB

The weekend of September 20th and 21st St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Cochrane, Alberta celebrated their 25th Anniversary.



Cochrane's "Little White Church on the hillside," started as a vision in Pastor Knut Neumann's eye as he drove down the Cochrane hill. Pastor Neumann began offering Pastoral Care services at Cochrane's Bethany Care Centre, a Lutheran care home. He then began offering Sunday evening services for residents of Bethany Care. He asked for volunteers who would attend the service to help with some of the residents. One of these volunteers, a woman named Margaret, was so moved by the new preacher's proclamation that she invited a few of her friends to come and hear him. Those attending the Sunday evening service

from outside Bethany Care began to grow. Within a short time a steering committee was formed to begin a church.

Pastor Neumann led worship and shepherded the new flock until March 1991, when he and his wife Kathy moved to Medicine Hat. By this time attendance had grown to 30 or 40 a Sunday and St. Peter's was organized as a congregation. Pastor Bob Moland was called to pastor the flock. Sadly, growth stopped, attendance declined and finances suffered following Pastor Neumann's departure. As a consequence Pastor Moland resigned from his call the fall of 1992.

In December 1992, the Lord brought Pastors Bent and Eleanor Damkar to the congregation and they called the couple as their pastors. They worked tirelessly for next-to-no salary and only minimal benefits. They taught the people at St. Peter's the importance and power of prayer. The couple showed them how to run a church. It was under the leadership of Pastors Bent and Eleanor that the congregation was able to build their church building.

The Lord blessed St. Peter's even more. In December of 2000 Pastor Norm Miller and his wife Ruth were called to St. Peter's. Pastors Bent and Eleanor worked alongside Pastor Norm for a period of time. Pastors Bent and Eleanor then accepted a call to Immanuel Lutheran in Stony Plain, AB, in December 2001.

The congregation continued to grow under Pastor Norm Miller's leadership. Church staff grew by one as they added an office administrator. Pastor Norm and Ruth led the congregation with great energy and devotion.

August of 2005, the Lord blessed St. Peter's once again when Pastor Rick Bergh was called and began his ministry at St. Peter's. Pastor Miller accepted a call as a mission developer in June of 2006 and was called to develop a mission church in NW Calgary.

From August 2005 to July 2013, Pastor Rick Bergh, led St. Peter's Lutheran Church with distinction. In 2007, St. Peter's became a member of CALC, the Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations. Pastor Bergh resigned his call at St. Peter's so that he could further his studies. He is working on an advanced degree and certification in the field of Thanatology, the study of the process of death and dying.

The congregation has been in the call process since the fall of 2013. Pastor Bart Erikson has

accepted a call to fulltime ministry at St. Peter's which will begin in the new year.

St. Peter's congregation has much to be thankful for. September 20th to 21st they celebrated their 25th Anniversary as a church and the 15th Anniversary of their building.

On Saturday evening the 20th, a celebratory catered banquet was held at the Bearspaw Lifestyle Centre. Approximately 125 members and guests attended the banquet and thoroughly enjoyed the program which followed. MC'd by Brock Smith, the program included Brock's stories told as only he could tell them, music by Brock and Merry Jo, and personal stories and comments from former Pastors Bent, Norm and Rick.

The Anniversary service on Sunday September 21st was a true celebration of St. Peter's past blessings. The worship service was led by Pastor Paul Knudson, a long-time member of the congregation, who also presided at Holy Communion. Pastors Norm Miller, Bent Damkar and Rick Bergh, three of St. Peter's former pastors, each gave a message during the service. CALC's President, Pastor Ed Skutshek, delivered a greeting from CALC and a short message in a pre-recorded HD video format. He delivered a video greeting by reason of his attendance at the 50th Anniversary of Faith Lutheran, Toronto, held on the same weekend.

During his greetings, President Skutshek acknowledged St. Peter's contribution to CALC's life. Pastor Rick Bergh was instrumental in the development of CALC's Shepherd's Pathway to Ministry in partnership with the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT). Fred Schickedanz has served as CALC's Vice President with distinction for five years. Fred has and continues to serve on the Board of Governors of the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT), of Brookings, North Dakota, USA. Ron Voss has served on the Board of Trustees for five years. In the past five years he and President Skutshek have been ambassadors for CALC, visiting the congregations that eventually joined CALC. Tim Bauer has served with distinction on the Board of Elders. Tim has a real heart for pastors and pastors in training. We have treasured his wisdom and discernment.

The first 25 years of St. Peter's journey are now history and their next 25 years are a mystery, yet to be revealed by God. The people of St. Peter's do not know what the future will hold, however, they can be confident that God holds the future in His hands. For that reason they may move forward

confident of God's guidance and providence. "What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?" (Romans 8:31-32).

Victory Lutheran, Medicine Hat, AB, Joins CALC



Sunday November 16th the delegates to Victory Lutheran Church, of Medicine Hat, Alberta, voted overwhelmingly to join CALC as a full member congregation. Medicine Hat is located just under 300 kilometers east and south of Calgary, Alberta.

Victory's website proudly proclaims: "We value God's Word and the Holy Sacraments of Communion and Baptism. We endeavour to Follow Jesus, Know Jesus and Share Jesus. Our congregation reflects a combination of young and old, traditional and contemporary, new and experienced. We are people on a journey with the Bible as our guide. As a church family we walk in faith, we sing our song, we preach the Word and welcome people of all ages to join us. We believe "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 15:57"

Victory Lutheran was established in 1978. They were members of the ELCIC. They voted to sever their ties with the ELCIC and join Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, LCMC, in 2008.





Victory is currently served by Lila de Waal, Administrative Minister. Lila is called to perform most all of the tasks of an ordained Pastor. The administration of the Sacraments is provided for by

ordained clergy arranged for by the Board of Elders.

Judy Brown serves as Victory's Office Administrator. Victory's pastoral vacancy has increased Judy's responsibilities as she works closely with Lila and the congregation's Board of Elders in the daily life of the congregation.



Victory Lutheran is a busy and dynamic congregation. They gather for worship every Sunday morning for a Traditional Service at 9:00 and a Contemporary service at 11:00. Weekly and monthly events include: music/choir practices, various Bible Studies, Women of Victory Lutheran Church, a Senior's Lunch, a Breakfast Program the church runs at a local school, Movie with a Message, and sewing and quilting groups.

The people of Victory have invited outside groups to use their facilities, including, Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Al-Anon, a Cancer Support Group, TOPS (weight management), Teddy Bear Club and a Coin and Stamp Club.

Victory Lutheran has been without a lead pastor since the middle of June of this year. They are actively in the call process.

We are all indeed individuals and congregations on a journey. Let us give thanks to God for Victory Lutheran Church. Welcome to CALC! It is our prayer that God will continue to bless Victory Lutheran and all CALC's congregations as we move forward together into the future: called and gathered by the Holy Spirit, rooted in the Holy Scriptures and our Lutheran Confessions, with Jesus as our Shepherd.



Pastor Installed at Emmaus Lutheran Church



Sunday morning November 2, 2014, Pastor Lucretia van Ommeren-Tabert was installed as the fulltime pastor of Emmaus Lutheran Church, 5015 144 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB. CALC President Ed Skutshek, assisted by Pastor Glen Carlson, officiated. The congregation included a delegation from Immanuel Lutheran Church of Rosenthal, Pastor Lucretia's former pastorate. The installation was followed by a celebratory luncheon, better described as a banquet, all prepared by the ladies of Emmaus.

Emmaus has been and will continue to be truly blessed by Pastor Lucretia's ministry among them. She brings much depth and experience with her.

She was born and raised in Paramaribo Suriname, a former Dutch colony on the east coast of South America. She is the youngest of five children. She was raised by her father, a hospital administrator, and her older siblings, as her mother had passed away in childbirth. She was baptized and confirmed in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname (ELCIS).

During her confirmation Lucretia experienced an epiphany, and she committed her life to the Lord. During her youth she was always deeply involved in church life. Through her pastors, who were her mentors, she experienced God's call to pastoral ministry. However, at that time the ELCIS did not ordain women to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. She struggled with the call that was in her heart. Despite her own doubts and the chorus

of those around her that “women should not be pastors” she followed God’s call to pastoral ministry.

Upon completion of high school she attended teacher’s college and earned a degree in 1979. During her senior year at Teacher’s college, she clearly heard God’s call to pastoral ministry and in October of the same year she enrolled at the Moravian Theological seminary in Suriname where she received a degree in Pastoral Ministry (1982). From 1982 to 1986 she attended seminary at the United Theological College of the University of the West Indies in Jamaica. She received a Diploma in Ministerial studies and a Licentiate in Theology. From 1986-87 she studied at the faculty of Theology of the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands to study Lutheran History, Lutheran confessions and Theology and Liturgy since the seminary in Jamaica did not offer Lutheran studies.

Pastor Lucretia was ordained July of 1987 in the ELCIS upon her return from the Netherlands, and became the very first woman ever to be ordained in Suriname. Her ordination was both a national and interdenominational celebration. Pastor Lucretia describes being the first woman ordained in her country was both a challenge and a blessing. She was ordained and began serving in the church at a time of political turmoil in Suriname. People were being killed in order to silence dissenting voices. She served God and her flock during trying times.

Following seven years of service she took a sabbatical. From 1994 to 1996 studied at The Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary of the University of Berkeley in California. She earned a Master’s degree with a major in Pastoral Care and Counselling. In 1996 she returned to Suriname where she resumed ministry for the next four years; planting and growing a thriving church. During 2000 she met her husband Martin Tabbert. He helped her through her battle with cancer 2000-2001. Martin eventually brought her to Canada in July of 2004.

Pastor Lucretia felt God’s call to ministry in Canada. December of 2008 she received a call from Immanuel Lutheran Church of Rosenthal, near Stony Plain, Alberta, as associate pastor, with Pastor Jim Bredeson, as senior pastor. She accepted Immanuel’s call with joy and gratitude. After four years of ministry at Immanuel, she accepted a call to interim ministry at Emmaus. The interim ministry blossomed into a call to fulltime ministry.

Lucretia is married to Martin Tabert. Martin is a senior level technician for Stanley Doors of Canada. He is a part of a team responsible for the maintenance needs of Stanley’s commercial and industrial clients around Edmonton. They live on an acreage just outside Edmonton.

Pastor Lucretia cherishes pastoral visitation... “just visiting with a cup of tea and getting to know the people better.” She has a passion for children’s ministry, counseling and working with the most vulnerable whoever they may be. Lucretia’s passions fit in well with Emmaus’ mission and vision.



Emmaus Lutheran Church was founded in 1980, as a mission congregation, by CALC’s first President, Pastor Vern Roste. The congregation was a member congregation of the ELCIC until 2013, when they voted to sever their ties with the ELCIC and join CALC. Emmaus has graciously offered to host CALC’s 2015 Annual General Convention, October 16-18.

Worship at Emmaus is vibrant. Their Praise Band leads the congregation with passion and professionalism. Pastor Glen Carlson served them as Interim Pastor for many years prior to Pastor Lucretia’s call. The congregation is most appreciative of Pastor Glen’s ministry. He led them through a most difficult time in their congregational life. They praise and thank God for Pastor Glen.

Emmaus congregation has a passion for the less fortunate. Their passion has taken on flesh. Together with Trinity Christian Reformed Church and Steele Heights Baptist Church they joined together to bring to fruition a shared vision of a drop-in center for their community.

The centre’s website declares: “Mosaic Centre was created in response to the needs of people in the community of Northeast Edmonton as a result of the increase in poverty, hunger and homelessness.”



“We offer an open door and believe that all people are created in the image of God and are entitled to a full measure of dignity, respect and compassion. We know that through building healthy relationships people can be encouraged and mentored towards safe and healthy lives.”

Mosaic Center offers assistance with accessing resources and on-site assistance with: a warm cup of coffee and friendly conversation; resume development; job search; laundry; winter clothing; bike repair; free haircuts; dental care; tax returns; provision of a mailing address; computer access; Alcoholics Anonymous; parent and tot drop-in group; 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; and winter emergency warming access.

Thank the Lord that the people of Emmaus have been inspired to help those who find themselves on the streets with food and clothing and provide a safe place for adults and children in need. Let us all pray that God continue to bless their work at the Mosaic Centre, and that He inspire them to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ in their community and abroad under Pastor Lucretia's leadership.

Pastor Installed at Grace, West Kelowna



During the closing worship of our 2014 Convention. Pastor David Wunderlich was installed as a fulltime pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in West Kelowna, BC.

Pastor David has been in the Ministry for 15 years. He earned a Bachelor of

Arts Degree (with Honors) with a major in Economics in 1993 from the University of Guelph, in Guelph, Ontario. In 1998 he earned a Master of Divinity degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Sir Wilfred Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario. He was ordained the same year as Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran of Canada (ELCIC).

From 1998 to 2003 he served at St. John's Lutheran Church, Hamilton, Ontario, in a team ministry. During his time at St. John's in Hamilton, he worked to initiate some church community partnerships. The people of St. John's partnered with McMaster School of Nursing students to provide food, clothing, and foot care to people in downtown Hamilton. St. John's also helped with the resettlement of refugees in their area.

From 2003-2013 he served as sole pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Ayton, ON. Ayton is located in the Owen Sound (Georgian Bay) area of Ontario, about 165 kilometers north and west of Toronto. Under his leadership, the congregation grew in numbers and in faith. Their Sunday School flourished and a youth group was formed. Pastor David's ministry extended into the community of Ayton.

From 2005 to 2013 he served as a Volunteer Firefighter with the West Grey-Ayton Fire Station, Ayton, ON. While a volunteer firefighter he attended training to upgrade and maintain skills, responded to emergency calls, participated in community outreach and education, exercised crisis intervention skills, offered and conducted follow-up counselling as needed.

He served as a coach in the Neustadt Minor Soccer League in 2013. Promoted a donation drive for Women Centre (Grey & Bruce Counties) during 2011. He also served as a Public Speaking Judge at Normanby Community School in 2010 and 2011. He has also collaborated on food collection campaigns for the local Community Food Bank. He led and coordinated music and worship services at area nursing homes. He sang and played bass & guitar in band that performed country and contemporary Gospel music. The band performed in Grey and Bruce Counties.

Trinity Lutheran Ayton, was a part of the Georgian Bay Conference, Eastern Synod of the ELCIC. Pastor David was called to provide leadership in his conference and beyond. He was elected as the Dean of the Conference and served in that capacity from 2007-2011. As Dean he collaborated and organized gatherings for the 13 parishes that made up the conference, facilitated pastoral support for clergy colleagues, and performed duties on behalf of Synod Office (acted for the Bishop when the Bishop could not be present).

Pastor David has a concern for the development of leaders in the Church. From 2010 to 2014, he served as Pastoral Supervisor for Christ the King Lutheran Chapel, Sauble Beach, Ontario. He supervised seminary students who participated in a summer preaching internship. Pastor David communicated with Chapel Council, and directed and oversaw the ministry work of summer intern. Pastor David supervised CALC Master of Divinity candidate John Graham June through August of this year.

He resigned as Pastor of Trinity Lutheran in Ayton, on Reformation Sunday 2013. His reason for resignation: "So let me bear to you what is on my conscience that has deeply troubled me. Here I stand, before you today, to say I will be resigning from the ELCIC. I have served the ELCIC for over 15 years since my ordination in 1998, and I have been part of the church for most of my life. As you know I have expressed my discomfort with the direction that the ELCIC is going theologically and also in the way they relate to congregations. I stand on the Word of God and I can do no other."

From January to July 2014 he served as interim Pastor at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Sullivan, Ontario, a country church located about a half hour drive from Ayton. During his brief time at St. Peter's attendance increased and a new vitality was injected into congregational life. During this time Grace Lutheran Church, West Kelowna, BC,

began a dialogue with Pastor David. Pastor David sensed a call to Grace. Pastor David actively facilitated a 12 month internship for John Graham at St. Peter's, Lutheran Church.

Pastor David accepted a call to Grace Lutheran Church, with service beginning September 2nd of this year. Pastor Wunderlich is called to a team ministry with Ed Skutshek, a pastor at Grace and CALC's president.

Pastor David is married to Innes. They have two school aged children, Madeline and Sebastian.

Pastor David's presence at Grace Lutheran Church permits Pastor Ed to devote more time to the administration of CALC.

Please pray that God would continue to bless Grace Lutheran's ministry in West Kelowna, and that God knits Pastor David into the life and ministry of Grace Lutheran.

Vicar Installed at St. Peter's, Sullivan, ON



CALC Seminarian John Graham (center above) is currently serving St. Peter's in Sullivan, Ontario on a one-year internship placement. Intern pastors are sometimes called "Vicar." Vicar John and his wife, Amanda and their two children, Adaline and William are living in St. Peter's stone parsonage. He was installed during a special service at St. Peter's on September 21, 2014, with his pastor supervisor, Pastor Sheilah Fletch (right of John) and CALC president Pastor Ed Skutshek of Kelowna, BC (left of John) participating in the service.

Vicar John is CALC's first Master of Divinity student through the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT). During his internship year he will

take greater responsibility for preaching, teaching, visitation, funerals and certain administrative tasks. He will assist Pastor Fletch in the administration of the Sacraments and marriage.

During his internship year, Vicar John will also be taking a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at the Owen Sound Medical center.

In addition to the supervision and oversight provided by Pastor Fletch, an Internship Committee made up of members of St. Peter's will be involved in Vicar John's supervision. Pastor David Wunderlich (Grace, Kelowna) will also be involved in Vicar John's supervision. Pastor David will make four weeklong trips to St. Peter's to assist St Peter's in mission development and practical supervision for Vicar John. His first trip was October 22 to 29th. Pastor David's visits will occur quarterly.



St. Peter's Lutheran Church was established by German Lutheran settlers from West Prussia and Mecklenberg, Germany, who moved into the area in 1858 and 1859. The settlers longed for authentic Lutheran worship in their mother tongue. They wrote to nearby German Lutheran Churches for pastoral supply. By the spring of 1862, Pastor Christian Behrens came to Sullivan on horseback from Normanby Township to conduct the first worship service. The service was held in the home of Ernst Luben. Attendance grew and within three years they soon needed a church building.

Congregants built a log church near the present church building. The congregation thrived. In 1881 the congregation built the stone church shown above. It was dedicated to God's glory January 12, 1882. Worship has continued uninterrupted in that building to this day. The church grounds include a stone parsonage and

attached office and an enormous shed that once accommodated the teams of horses and wagons that brought parishioners to worship. The shed is used for church events, including, a live Nativity scene during Advent.

Let us fervently pray for God's continued blessing on St. Peter's ministry in Grey County. Pray also that God bless Vicar John and his ministry at St. Peter's.

Convention 2014 Follow-up on our Keynote Speaker's Presentation.



Robert "Bob" Kuhn, JD, was this year's Keynote Speaker. He is the president of Trinity Western University (TWU) of Langley, BC. President Kuhn's presentation was entitled "Speaking the Truth in an Adversarial World." The purpose of this article is to

highlight portions of his address and follow-up on the progress on TWU's law program. It is important for the members of CALC to be exposed to the facts in this case so that we can better support Trinity Western University with our time, talents, treasures and our voices.

The focus of President Kuhn's presentation was the establishment of TWU's Christian Law School. They hope to begin classes in September 2016. They had applied for and received approval from the Law Society of British Columbia. They have been approved by Law Societies in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Prince Edward Island. President Kuhn emphasized time and again that the Bencher's approval of TWU's proposed law program was based on the foundation established by the Supreme Court of Canada in a law suit filed by TWU against the British Columbia College of Teachers ("College of Teachers").

TWU's lawsuit against College of Teacher's was sparked by the commitment or promise that is required at TWU. The faculty, administration, employees and students of TWU believe they are called by God to lead lives that reflect their high calling in Christ. To this end they require all those who teach, work and learn at TWU to sign a Community Commitment. Members of the TWU community commit themselves to:

1. Cultivate Christian virtues, such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, compassion, humility, forgiveness, peacemaking, mercy and justice.
2. Live exemplary lives characterized by honesty, civility, truthfulness, generosity and integrity.
3. Communicate in ways that build others up, according to their needs, for the benefit of all.
4. Treat all persons with respect and dignity, and uphold their God-given worth from conception to death.
5. Be responsible citizens both locally and globally who respect authorities, submit to the laws of this country, and contribute to the welfare of creation and society.
6. Observe modesty, purity and appropriate intimacy in all relationships, reserve sexual expressions of intimacy for marriage, and within marriage take every reasonable step to resolve conflict and avoid divorce.
7. Exercise careful judgment in all lifestyle choices, and take responsibility for personal choices and their impact on others.
8. Encourage and support other members of the community in their pursuit of these values and ideals, while extending forgiveness, accountability, restoration, and healing to one another.

In keeping with biblical and TWU ideals, community members voluntarily abstain from the following actions:

9. Communication that is destructive to TWU community life and inter-personal relationships, including gossip, slander, vulgar/obscene language, and prejudice.
10. Harassment or any form of verbal or physical intimidation, including hazing.
11. Lying, cheating, or other forms of dishonesty including plagiarism stealing, misusing or destroying property belonging to others.
12. Sexual intimacy that violates the sacredness of marriage between a man and a woman.
13. The use of materials that are degrading, dehumanizing, exploitive, hateful, or gratuitously violent, including, but not limited to pornography.
14. Drunkenness, under-age consumption of alcohol, the use or possession of illegal drugs, and the misuse or abuse of substances including prescribed drugs.
15. The use or possession of alcohol on campus, or at any TWU sponsored event, and the use of tobacco on campus or at any TWU sponsored event.

TWU's community commitment was tested by the College of Teachers. They refused to certify TWU's Teacher Training Program based on their authority under Section 4 of BC Teacher's Act. The

College of Teachers believed that BC public schools are mandated to "develop civic virtue and responsible citizenship and to educate in an environment free of bias, prejudice and intolerance." The Teacher's College saw TWU's community commitment as discriminatory, on two grounds: (1) it stopped homosexual people from applying for admission to TWU's teaching program; and (2) the program would produce public school teachers with a bias against gay and lesbian students and teachers, thereby intentionally introducing bias, prejudice and intolerance in the public school system. The College of Teachers refused to certify TWU's teacher training program on those grounds.

TWU took the College of Teacher's to court. The case went all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada. In an 8 to 1 decision, that came down in May of 2001, the Supreme Court of Canada held that College of Teacher's action in denying TWU's application for certification of their teaching program was unfair as a matter of law. The majority opinion of the court was based on these principles:

- The requirement that students and faculty adopt the Community commitment had indeed created differential treatment of homosexuals and would probably prevent homosexual students and faculty from applying to TWU. However, the court had to consider the true nature of the community commitment in context in which it occurred.
- The court declared that many Canadian universities have traditions of religious affiliation and that religious public education rights are enshrined in Section 93 of the Constitution Act, 1867. The court reminded all that a religious educational institution is not considered to breach B.C. human rights legislation where it prefers adherents of its religious group. The court reasoned further, while gay people may be discouraged from attending TWU based on religious beliefs, they are not prevented from becoming teachers (there are many other teacher training programs).
- The freedom of religion and the right to be free from discrimination based on sexual orientation must out of necessity coexist in a democratic society.
- The majority opinion declared that: "Neither freedom of religion nor the guarantee against discrimination based on sexual orientation is

absolute.” There will inevitably be conflicts between religious freedoms and certain civil rights which conflict with religious belief.

- A balance had to be found between the freedom religion and civil rights of Canadian citizens that conflict with religious beliefs. The court had to ...“reconcile the religious freedoms of individuals wishing to attend TWU with the equality concerns of students in B.C.’s public school system, concerns that may be shared by society generally.”
- Finding that balance between competing rights involves drawing a line between belief and conduct. The freedom to hold beliefs is broader than the freedom to act on them.
- The majority opinion declared: “Absent concrete evidence that training teachers at TWU fosters discrimination in the public schools of B.C., the freedom of individuals to adhere to certain religious beliefs while at TWU should be respected. Acting on those beliefs, however, is a different matter. If a teacher in the public school system engages in discriminatory conduct, that teacher can be subject to disciplinary proceedings before the College of Teachers. In this way, the scope of the freedom of religion and equality rights that have come into conflict can be circumscribed and thereby reconciled.”
- The evidence presented was that graduates from the joint TWU-SFU teacher education program had become competent public school teachers, and there was no evidence of discriminatory conduct.
- Based on the foregoing, the eight judge majority ruled the College of Teachers acted unfairly.

The “Benchers” or governing body of the LSBC were responsible for approving TWU’s law program. The Benchers spent considerable time and effort in approving TWU’s Law School. The Benchers followed the guidelines established by the decision reached by the Supreme Court in TWU’s case against the College of Teachers.

The Benchers’ action was met by loud criticism from certain members of the Law Society. These critics called for a Special General Meeting of the Law Society which was held on June 10th of this year. The resolution considered at the special meeting was:

WHEREAS: Section 28 of the Legal Profession Act permits the Benchers to establish, maintain and support a system of legal education.

TWU requires its students to sign a covenant that limits sexual intimacy marriage defines as one man and one woman.

The BC lawyer’s oath requires the lawyer to uphold the rights of all citizens.

There is no compelling evidence that the approval of a law school premised on principals of discrimination and intolerance will serve to promote and improve the standard of practice of lawyers as required by Section 28 of the Legal Profession Act.

The approval of TWU, while it maintains and promotes the discriminatory policy reflected in the covenant, would not serve to promote and improve the standard of practice by lawyers.

RESOLVED: The Benchers are directed to declare the TWU faculty of law is not approved.

On June 10th 2014, a total of 4,178 lawyers met at eleven locations around BC, all linked together by conferencing technology. The vote on the resolution went this way: 3,210 lawyers voted to approve the motion to rescind TWU law school’s approval and 968 voted against the motion and supported TWU. At their September 26, 2014 meeting the Benchers resolved to conduct a referendum of all members of the Law Society of British Columbia. The referendum, a written ballot, asked all BC lawyers to either approve or reject the motion approved at the special meeting.

The referendum ballot was sent out to the 13,530 practicing, non-practicing and retired lawyers in BC. For the results of the referendum to be binding on the Benchers these conditions had to be satisfied: (1) at least 1/3 of all BC lawyers had to vote in the referendum; and (2) 2/3rds of the those who voted in the referendum cast their ballot in favor of the resolution passed at the June 10th Special Meeting. A total of 8,039 BC lawyers, or about 59%, voted in the referendum and returned their ballots. The vote: 5,951 lawyers approved the resolution of the June 10th meeting demanding TWU law school’s approval be revoked and 2,088 lawyers supported TWU. A total of 74% of those participating in the referendum voted against TWU.

The June 10th Special Meeting, and the Referendum which followed, clearly violated the principals laid down by the Supreme Court in TWU vs. College of Teachers. The Supreme Court of Canada had clearly stated that the beliefs held by teachers trained by TWU were constitutionally protected and could not be deemed a threat to BC Schools as a matter of law. The same standard must be applied to students and teachers in TWU's law school. The court also held that while TWU grads employed in the BC School system could act on their beliefs in a way that actively discriminated against gay students and teachers, a mechanism was put into place that protected gay students and teachers from acts of discrimination. The disciplinary arm of the College of Teachers would discipline any teacher that discriminated a gay student or peer. Like BC teachers trained at TWU, a risk exists that graduates of TWU's law school admitted to the bar could discriminate against their clients, staff and/or peers based on sexual orientation. However, the Law Society of BC has been put into place to protect BC residents from lawyers who may discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.

During his presentation President Kuhn alluded to a statute that could be used in TWU's defense in any litigation pursued against the BC Law Society. It is found in the Canadian Civil Marriage Act (CMA). Section 2 of the CMA declares: "Marriage, for civil purposes, is the lawful union of two persons to the exclusion of all others." Section 3 of said act protects faith communities: "It is recognized that officials of religious groups are free to refuse to perform marriages that are not in accordance with their religious beliefs." In order to protect Freedom of conscience and religion and expression of beliefs Section 3.1 was added: "For greater certainty, no person or organization shall be deprived of any benefit, or be subject to any obligation or sanction, under any law of the Parliament of Canada solely by reason of their exercise, in respect of marriage between persons of the same sex, of the freedom of conscience and religion guaranteed under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms or the expression of their beliefs in respect of marriage as the union of a man and woman to the exclusion of all others based on that guaranteed freedom."

TWU is a religious school that is supported by churches. Its mandate is to educate Christians in secular professions, provide Christian Education (including a Seminary) and to instill and inculcate a Christian worldview and Christian values in the students attending TWU. Christian Education and

the instillation and inculcation of a Christian worldview and values necessarily includes instruction on Christian marriage and Biblically appropriate sexual relationships. TWU is being deprived of the approval of their faculty of law solely and specifically because they believe marriage is between one man and one woman. Section 3.1 of the CMA ensures that government, and those that governments appoint, cannot discriminate on the basis of belief that marriage is between a man and a woman.

Why would BC Lawyers act in ways that seem to defy clearly laid down legal principles? Their action was not without any legal foundation. It goes back to the case of TWU vs. College of Teachers. Justice Claire L'Heureux-Dubé did not agree with the majority in the TWU vs College of Teachers. She wrote a dissenting opinion. She believed that the College of Teachers did act fairly in denying certification of TWU's teacher training program.

She believed that the College of Teacher's mandate was to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that gay and bisexual students and teachers were protected in the BC public schools. She asserted that the College of Teachers fulfills the role of gatekeeper to the profession of public school teaching. Ensuring equal treatment of all students is a central component of the public interest that the College of Teachers is charged with protecting in the classrooms of BC. The College of Teachers was required to consider the value of equality in its assessment of the impact TWU's program will have on the classroom environment.

Justice L'Heureux-Dubé argued that the modern teacher has to be both an educator and a counselor. She declared that evidence shows that there is an acute need for improvement in the experiences of homosexual and bisexual students in Canadian classrooms. Without the existence of supportive classroom environments, homosexual and bisexual students will be forced to remain invisible and reluctant to approach their teachers. She argued that without support and acceptance by teachers gay students could become victims of "identity erasure." She believed that gay students' perspective must be the paramount concern and, even if there are no overt acts of discrimination by TWU graduates, this vantage point provides ample justification for the College of Teacher's decision.

We must never forget that minority opinions often provide the basis for what in later years becomes

the majority opinion of a court. The resolution passed by the members of the BC Law Society follows the logic of the minority opinion in TWU vs. College of Teachers. Their resolution declares that the highest value for lawyers is that they be bias free so that they can serve all British Columbians. They declare that the TWU community covenant makes lawyers trained in their program biased against gay people and thus imperils the standard of practice of lawyers as a matter of law.

Legal pundits are already predicting that TWU will have to take the BC Law Society to court and the case will most assuredly go all the way to the Canadian Supreme Court as a matter of principle and in defense of Religious Freedom in Canada. Some say the Supreme Court will uphold the principles it established in TWU vs. College of Teachers and declare the BC Law Society's actions unfair and reverse them. Other pundits say that the composition of the Supreme Court of Canada has changed during 13 years that have passed since the case against the College of Teachers. The new court may not feel compelled to uphold all of the principals they established in TWU's case against the College of Teachers. Section 3.1 seems like a knockout blow to the BC Law Society, however, they could argue that Section 3.1 is for the protection of pastors, rabbis, pundits and imams, religious representatives that marry couples and their congregations. TWU doesn't marry couples. They could argue that Section 3.1 was never meant to cover an institution that doesn't perform marriages. All these legal machinations make one's head spin. Who will win? It is hard to say.

At our Convention delegates, visitors and guests all stood up as a sign of solidarity with TWU. This solidarity even found concrete expression in small cash donations to the school's legal defense fund from those assembled together with a promise for more. As an association of congregations we covenanted to pray for them. Let us pray that God continue to grant President Kuhn, TWU's Board of Governors and the fledgling Faculty of Law wisdom to discern His will as they move forward. Ask God to give TWU the grace to reach out and attempt to settle this matter with the BC Law Society. Pray that God would soften hearts and open minds of Law Society's Benchers, so that, they take leadership in this matter and grant approval and accreditation of TWU's Law School.

In the end we cannot forget that this is the Lord's battle. The Lord calls us to work together in this

battle. Each of us has to look at TWU's community commitment. It is a laudable document. It calls all who work and study at TWU to a life that reflects the Apostle Peter's words: *"Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.*

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor. 1 Peter 2:11-17.

The faculty, staff and students of TWU have been getting in trouble for wanting to shine the light of the Gospel in their community and beyond and be salt of the earth. Standing in solidarity with TWU could mean more than just writing a check to their legal defense fund. Will we stand beside them as they, with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit, live out their community commitment?

In Christ
Pastor Ed Skutshek

LCMC Convention 2014 *Highlights*

Des Moines, Iowa October 5-8, 2014

Thank you for sending me. Al Hamilton, the primary delegate was unable to attend, so I had the honor of attending as the alternate. We hope and pray that Diane, Al's wife, has a full recovery.

Theme of the convention was based on 1 Peter 3:15. *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.*

What do we say? How do we respond? These are the questions that often face Christians and Lutherans in 2014 right here in America. We are now living in a "post-denominational era"; the way we used to do church is no longer working.

Times have changed and we now need to be able to defend, explain and affirm our faith in Christ alone. We have been given a great heritage of faith and theology through the Lutheran Reformation. This theological framework is more than capable of helping us to proclaim the Gospel to our generation. We just have to figure out how to do it, and then start.

Before I go into the content, I'd like to give you some statistics. As of Aug 11, 2014, there are 833 subscribed member congregations. There are congregations in: Australia, Canada, Cambodia, Congo, Haiti, India, Madagascar, Mexico, Myanmar, Nairobi, Belarus, Vietnam, Russia, China, Guam Puerto Rico, and the US. There were over 1000 delegates and visitors registered

Sunday, Oct 5-- Communion service with Rev. Julie Smith preaching. In her sermon, she reminded us that the Apostle Peter called the church to exemplary living. She reminded us that in many ways the Christian Church and individual Christians have not lived exemplary lives. We gossip, lie, cheat, slander, split over what seems to be ridiculous things and at best blunt Scripture and at worst render Scripture ineffectual by reinterpretation. In the end if Christians can't win people to Jesus by our example we can only win people for God when we present Jesus and him crucified.

Mon. Oct 6 Bible study leader. Pastor Destaye Crawford. She is the pastor of Every Tribe and Tongue Church in Minneapolis and with her husband Jim founded TEAM SERVE (a mission and Church planting organization. Bible study based on Colossians 4: 5-6. Be wise in the way you act towards others; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Paul gives 3 admonitions

1. Be wise (Proverbs 1:7 and 3:6) Wisdom comes from God, nothing we do makes us wise.
2. Make the most of every opportunity (every opportunity we get from God to interact with another is a divine appointment).
3. Know how to answer everyone (look how Jesus answered his critics in Luke 13:11-17; Matt. 21 21-32; Matt 4 1-11).

Keynote speaker: Rev. Dr. Walter Sundberg—Professor of Church history, Luther Seminary.

Presentation 1: Congregation as “Agent of freedom.” Intact healthy congregations built the

first schools, hospitals and established the first charitable organizations. Historically when the office of the pastor took on great significance the significance of the congregation waned. LCMC and CALC are both based on the hierarchy of the congregation up rather than the bishop down

Presentation 2: Congregation as “Agent of Mission.” Purpose or mission of the congregation is the conversion of individuals. Every free congregation, as well as every individual believer, is constrained by the Spirit of God and by the privileges of Christian love to do good and to work for the salvation of souls and the quickening of spiritual power, as far as its powers and abilities permit. Such free spiritual activity is limited neither by parish nor by synodical bounds.

If you have an opportunity to explain what you believe and the words don't seem to be coming, remember the Apostles Creed. Say it in your mind, and then put those words into words that the person you're talking to can understand. Give God the opportunity to work through you.

Tues. Oct. 7 Bible Study leader—Sean Tyler

Seminary student, Pastor Intern and Christian camp director. Titus 1-9 He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it and that trustworthy word is found in 1 Corinthians 15—Jesus, Son of God, who lived, died for our sins and rose from the dead so that all who believe will have eternal life.

Keynote speaker 9AM: Rev Margaret Manning of Ravi Zacharias Ministries- Christian Apologetics.

Jesus used stories to connect to our lives to the mysteries of God. Jesus always asked questions and then entered into a dialogue to answer them. Jesus drew from ordinary life, to connect to the sacred, seeds, sheep, fields, shared meals and the natural world around them. Jesus went outside the camp. He ate with sinners so that he could enter into conversation with them.

Jesus calls us to action. The earliest Christians were known for their service. Christianity will continue to be judged on how we treat the most vulnerable people. She gave us 5 reasons for hope:

1. God is at work in the world.
2. Salvation is God's gift. John 3:16.

3. Jesus gives us a paradigm- parables, questions and world around us- for conversations with postmodern skeptics
4. Conversations are a part of our daily lives – make them count
5. Jesus offers a way of life open to all.

On Tuesday night we were asked to volunteer to help package meals for “Meals from the Heartland”. A non-profit organization composed of volunteers who package meals for delivery to starving people locally, nationally and globally. Each package consists of 1 cup of rice, 1 cup of soy granules, 2 tablespoons of dehydrated vegetables and 5 vitamins. Each of these packages serves 5 people. On that night we packaged 270,000 packages or 1.35 million meals.

On Sunday morning we wanted to go to church, looked in the phone book, and found that the LCMC congregations were in the suburbs, so when I was looking out our window, I spotted a steeple and we decided to go there. It turned out to be a wonderful decision. It was a small black congregation. The Pastor’s sermon lasted 42 minutes precisely with a 2 hr and 40 min service. We felt welcome and filled.

At one of our meals we were sitting with a Pastor from Waco, Texas. He told us about the Colt45 hanging from his waist while he’s preaching.

LCMC and CALC are structured from the bottom up. That is, the local congregation makes the decisions, not the bishops or the national synod. With that comes a responsibility to remain true to God’s Word, the Bible, and also we decide how we will spread the Gospel, whether locally, nationally, or internationally. Many people and organizations need our prayers, our presence and our financial support. It’s up to us, but we must do something.

Thank you and God Bless us all.

Ted Schoepp,
Grace Lutheran Church
West Kelowna, BC



Remembrance Day Message

“Take Up Our Quarrel”

In Dr. John McCrae’s poem *“In Flanders Fields,”* the fallen cry out to those they leave behind:

***“Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw the
torch; be yours to hold it high.”***

These words took on flesh in recent events in our Nation’s capital and Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, a sleepy suburb of Montreal. Two Canadian soldiers are dead following two separate quarrels they were unwittingly drawn into.

Thursday October 20th 2014, Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent, 53, was killed. He was fatally struck by a car in a hit and run incident in a mall parking lot. The alleged perpetrator Martin Rouleau, a 25-year-old, “radicalized,” Quebec man, was shot and killed by police following a high speed car chase.

On October 22, 2014, Michael Zehaf-Bibeau fatally shot Corporal Nathan Cirillo, a Canadian soldier on ceremonial guard duty at the Canadian National War Memorial in downtown Ottawa, Ontario. He then launched an attack in the nearby Centre Block Parliament Building, where members of the Parliament of Canada were attending caucuses. Zehaf-Bibeau was killed inside the Block in a gunfight with parliament security personnel. Parliamentary Sergeant-at-Arms Kevin Vickers, a 29 year veteran of the RCMP, was credited with fatally shooting and killing Zehaf-Bibeau.

Both Patrice Vincent and Michael Cirillo had heard the call of their fallen comrades, had taken the torch from them and were holding it high.

Both had joined the Armed Forces, one to active service, and the other as a reservist. Both were attacked on native soil because they proudly wore the uniform of the Canadian Soldier and had made an oath to serve and protect their home and native land. In response to the senseless attacks, other Canadian heroes, who had also picked up that torch and taken an oath, stepped in. Quebec's finest, Parliamentary security forces and Parliament's Sergeant-at-Arms sprang into action to quell the attacks.

Corporal Cirillo was killed while guarding a monument dedicated to the comrades in arms from whom he had taken the torch. The crime scene for Corporal Cirillo's death points us to Remembrance Day. On November 11th, our Nation will give thanks for those who gave their utmost and their highest defending our nation from World War I through this very day. We will remember them!

In the poem, "*In Flanders Fields*," the torch described was not just passed on to members of the Canadian Armed Forces, that torch was passed on to all Canadians. We are all called to hold that torch high and shed light. Our fallen defenders call us to continue to fight foes. They call us to lives that are worthy of their sacrifice.

The fallen call us to fight the foe of selfishness. Those who fought to defend our nation, sacrificed their freedom and gave their lives for us to have freedom. They ask us to be beacons of light by putting the needs of our nation and the most vulnerable in our society ahead of our own needs. The greatness of a nation is measured not only by its soaring gross national product, its technological innovations and high standard of living, but also for its capacity to care for the least of its citizens, the poor, the sick, and the vulnerable. Canadians have made excellent progress in all of these areas, however, we can accomplish more, as more of our citizenship engages in sacrificial living and giving.

Our fallen comrades call us to examine our lives in light of the opportunities they fought to give us. They ask us to look at how we spend our time and our resources. They ask each of us this question: "What are you giving back to the society that nurtures and sustains you?" There are many charities that help at home and abroad. They ask us whether we are caring, volunteering, and donating. They ask us whether there are foes in our lives that keep us trapped and keep us from living freely. They plead with those trapped by addictions and debilitating medical conditions to

get help, to break those chains and live a free and productive life.

The fallen call us to fight the foe of apathy in our land. They call those with the necessary gifts and skills to serve in the public sector and run for public office. They call all Canadians of voting age to be engaged, to understand the issues facing our nation, to know the candidates and their platforms and to cast our ballots with integrity.

In the poem, "*In Flanders Fields*," I hear the fallen call Canadian Christians to lift high our torch. Their sacrifice points us to the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross for us. He fought a battle on the cross against our greatest foes, sin, death and the Devil. By his innocent suffering and death on the cross and his glorious resurrection he opens the gate to eternal life to all who believe in him.

The Apostle Paul calls all Christians to pray for those in authority. "*I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior.*" (1 Timothy 2:1-3). We should therefore regularly pray for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, our Governor General David Johnston, our Prime Minister Stephen Harper, the Parliament, our Premiers and their legislatures, and all others in federal, provincial and local government, who have authority over us. We must ask God to give them the wisdom and compassion necessary to govern us in a manner that is pleasing to God.

Paul calls Christians to obey those in authority over us, as civil authorities are instituted by God. God has given government the authority to keep the peace and judge and punish the wrongdoer. (Romans 13:1-4). Disobedience of those in authority is only appropriate when government requires a Christian to commit an act which contravenes God's Word. Thus Paul would call all Christians to pray for those whom God uses to keep us safe: our military, our police forces, our judges, our criminal justice system, those who work in our correctional system, all firefighters, paramedics, doctors, nurses and all who work in our medical system. We must pray that God stand guard over them, and guide and direct them as they stand on guard over us and serve us every day.

Jesus called his disciples to love: "*You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate*

your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." (Matthew 5:44) But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. (Luke 6:35). Jesus calls Christians to lift up warrant officer Patrice Vincent and Corporal Michael Cirillo to God, and pray for and comfort their families. Our nation has reached out to their families, mourned their loss and celebrated the lives of their deceased. Our nation will provide for their physical needs. The Church must reach out to them for their spiritual needs.

Christians are also called to remember the loss suffered by the families of Martin Rouleau and Michael Zehaf-Bibeau, the perpetrators in these senseless acts. I cannot imagine the grief their families are enduring. Their loved ones' names will hereafter be linked to a very dark hour in this nation's history. Each man will be remembered as a bringer of darkness, not a bearer of light. They will no doubt wonder whether we will blame them for these dark events. They may fear reprisals. They may wonder whether their lives will ever get back to normal again. We Christians are called to pray for them, mourn with them, and reach out to them with the Gospel.

Christians are called to pray for those in our land who would hurt us. Our prayer should be that God would intervene in their lives and turn their hatred for this land into love. God calls us to intervene, to reach out to them with the Gospel message.

This all seems impossible. Yet, Jesus reminds what is impossible for us, is possible for God. Look at what has happened since World War II. Look how bitter enemies have become steadfast friends and treasured allies. God calls Christians to keep the faith and keep on praying and proclaiming.

On Sunday, November 9th, we will be hosting a special Remembrance Day Worship service for Veterans and those who defend us at home and abroad. The service is at 10:30 AM and a lunch will follow. Everyone is invited and welcome to join us and pay your respects along with us at Grace Lutheran Church at 1162 Hudson Road, West Kelowna.

In Christ's service.

Pastor Ed Skutshek

Published in the Kelowna Capital News
Friday November 7th.

Conversation and Conversion.



The banquet for CALC's 2014 Annual General Convention began in the traditional way. Emcee Don Johnson welcomed all those attending, and introduced the distinguished guests among us. Unwritten Lutheran banquet regulations require that all church banquet programs to be peppered with Norwegian jokes and humorous anecdotes and stories revealing the humorous side of church life. Our emcee fulfilled these legal requirements with great flair throughout the evening. He then summoned one of the assembled Pastors to say grace. A delicious buffet meal followed. We had roast beef and potatoes on the menu for our Prairie people. Pride in our home province was manifest by the inclusion of BC Salmon on the buffet table and fine Okanagan wines (red and white) and each dinner table. Lutheran canon law also requires that the emcee determine the order that banquet attendees go through the buffet line. Once again our emcee came through with fun and humorous ways of determining the order each table went through the buffet line.

Following a lovely dinner and desert, our unwritten Lutheran banquet regulations require church related entertainment of some sort. Various members of Grace Lutheran Church stepped up to the plate and provided a short program of Christian special music. The program included an a Capella quartet, a duet, a vocal ensemble, and even a piece involving a pianist, a vocalist and a classical harmonica player. Their musical offerings were delightful.

The host congregation's homegrown musical offerings were followed by some very untraditional music. Our emcee introduced Marty Edwards and the Revival. Some of those present were excited to hear the band. They had grown up on the music they were about to play. Some attendees wondered why this band was playing at our banquet.

The band took the stage and they played popular tunes from the 70's and 80's. They played "Crystal Blue Persuasion," and "California

Dreamer” and many other hits. Many sang along and/or swayed to the beat. There were smiles on many faces. Then Marty Edwards left the stage briefly and came back as “Kinda Kenny.” He looks and sounds just like superstar “Kenny Rogers.” He sang many of Kenny Roger’s traditional hits: “The Gambler,” “You Picked a Fine Time to Leave Me Lucille,” “Ruby Don’t Take Your Love to Town,” “Lady,” and “Coward of the County.” The smiles got bigger and many really began to sing along.

At the end of the set, Pastor Ed Skutshek, our President, took the microphone. He explained how it was that Marty and his band came to play at the banquet. The convention committee had made the decision when Pastor Ed was on vacation. When Pastor Ed was informed of the decision, the committee hastily arranged a meeting between Pastor Ed and Mr. Edwards.

When they met, they were both uneasy. Pastor Ed began the conversation something like this: “Mr. Edwards, this is the first time I have had any opportunity to speak to you about the banquet and the entertainment. I hope that it was explained that this is a church function. I am afraid that some popular music seems to encourage behavior that people of faith want to avoid. Some of the Kenny Rogers music seems to be at odds with our values. “The Gambler” is about gambling, which can be a destructive vice. “You Picked a Fine Time to Leave Me Lucille,” is about infidelity.” He also indicated a deep concern for the Band. He continued: “As an entertainer I am confident that you want your audience to be enthusiastic about your performance and to walk away entertained and ready for more. It is possible that not all present at the banquet will exude that kind of excitement.” Mr. Edwards listened intently to what Pastor Ed had to say.

Marty asked Pastor Ed to listen to the lyrics of these songs carefully. He assured him that the message of each song was, in the end, positive. Pastor Ed listened to the lyrics. In the end he had to say that Marty was right. Pastor Ed was converted, he declared that the Band should play. Marty was also converted, he worked with the Convention Committee to put together the best playlist they could.

Pastor Ed invited the band to the banquet meal. They shared the wonderful meal with us. They confessed that they too had some reservations. They wondered how they would be treated. They wondered whether we would truly welcome them; or would they get a cold shoulder. They admitted

that they were pleasantly surprised by how warmly they were greeted. One of our delegates who sat at the Band’s table even prayed with Marty before he took the stage.

At the end of the evening Pastor Ed invited Marty and the Band to come to church. Marty promised he most surely would walk through Grace Lutheran’s doors one day.

Marty Edwards and the Revival taught us some very important lessons. The band taught us about the importance of communication. Many of us would not think twice about listening to Marty Edwards and the Revival if they were playing in a public area of a fairgrounds or rodeo grounds. However, when we are gathering together as people of faith, many Christians would say that secular music is not appropriate. We must be sensitive to all who are involved. We must acknowledge the needs and expectations of the audience and the entertainer. We are called not to intentionally put stumbling blocks in our brothers’ and sisters’ way.

Our biases and the Band’s biases came to the surface during the course of events that led up to the banquet. Marty simply could have walked away, when Pastor Ed stated his reservations about the music Marty played. If Marty had walked away, the band and Pastor Ed would have parted with their biases intact. However, what saved the day was that the two were willing to be in conversation. They were willing to honestly express their concerns and to work together to overcome their fears, biases and objections.

Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt [the Word of God], so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. (Colossians 2:5-6)

President's Travel Itinerary

October 5-9 – Pastor Ed attended the annual Gathering of LCMC in Des Moines, Iowa, USA, as delegate for Grace Lutheran Church and President of CALC.

October 17-19 – Pastor Ed chaired CALC's 2014 Convention @ Grace Lutheran Church.

October 25th – Pastor Ed met with Martin Luther Call Committee as they interviewed three candidates.

November 2nd. Pastor Ed installed Reverend Lucretia Van Ommeren-Tabbert, as pastor of Emmaus Lutheran Church, Edmonton, Alberta.

November 15-16th, Medicine Hat, Alberta. Pastor Ed will preach at morning services and give a presentation on CALC to a congregation interested in CALC.

December 6th: Pastor Ed will speak at Lutefisk dinner fundraiser dinner at Camp Luther in, Mission, BC.

December 7th: Pastor Ed will preach @ Martin Luther Congregation and then meet with their Call Committee and Church Council. At 7:00 PM Pastor Ed will participate in the consecration of a Deacon at Vancouver Chinese Lutheran Church, Burnaby, BC.

THE LUTHERAN CONNECTOR

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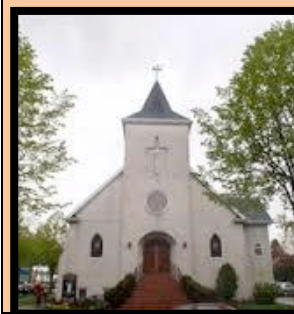
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