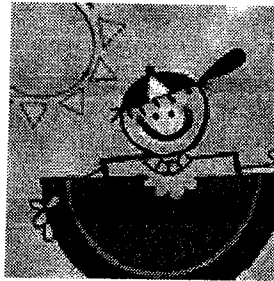


Summer 2007 Newsletter



Christ Our King Lutheran Church,
2150 Dundas Street West,
Mississauga, Ontario L5K 1R5
905-822-8931
coklutheran@christourking.ca
www.christourking.ca

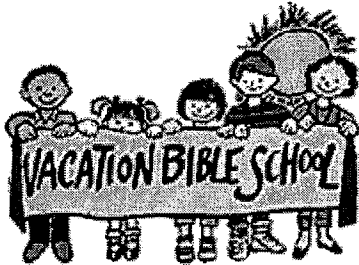
Youth Page

Thursday, July 5 – Tuesday July 10

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING IN OTTAWA

See Donna Prusha or Julianna Scharrer for details about this exciting retreat.

Monday, July 9 – Friday, July 13 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Be a classroom helper with crafts or outdoor games. The kids love having a teen participate. You are the 'cool' model for them. Send a message to Pastor Flohr or see Sharon Thibault at church if you would like to be involved.

Sunday, July 29 *POOL PARTY AT THE SCHMIDT'S!!!!****

Keep your fingers crossed for hot sunny weather, but rain or shine, we'll have a good time. Watch for time to be announced



Sunday, September 9 - HOCKEY AND GAMES

Welcome back! We want to hear about your summer and what you're planning to do this fall.

Friday, September 21 – Sunday, September 23
RETREAT AT PASTOR'S COTTAGE

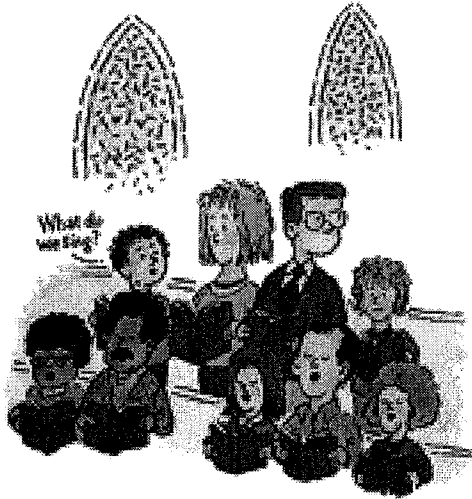
WRITE THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!!!

We had a great time last year swimming, canoeing, playing volleyball, badminton, campfires, marshmallows, singing and praying together.

*We hope you can make it to all these events cause we'd love to see you.
Keep safe in all the summer stuff you do!*

Summer 2007

Friends in Christ Jesus,



Back a week ago or so, our men's Bible Study Supper met for our usual feeding on God's Word as well as a great meal. We brought along a topic study this time that was aimed at getting us to think about and pray about and get ready for fall when we plan to take part in Lutheran Church – Canada's national open house outreach.

We spent some time looking at an article from the March 2007 Lutheran Witness (LCMS) titled, "Strangers in the Pews." It tells the story of a family on vacation visiting various churches throughout the country. It focuses on how welcome they were each place they visited.

When they arrived, the parking lot was full, and there were no parking spaces reserved for visitors. The husband dropped the family off at the door and drove off in search of a parking space. They got into the church just in time to sing the first hymn, except they couldn't figure out what it was. Neither the hymn text nor the number of the hymn were printed in the worship folder. They looked around for the hymn board but couldn't see it. They asked the woman sitting one pew in front to show them the number of the hymn and they got in by the third verse.

By the second hymn they still hadn't figured out where to find the hymn numbers and the woman they had just asked for help showed no interest in assisting them a second time. The index at the back of the hymnal got them to the right one in time for the last verse. They never did figure out what the third hymn was.

As they left the church, the pastor was friendly, but the church members gathered in their tight groups, showing no interest in them as first time visitors. It was only as they got into their van to leave that someone else spoke to them about their optimistic predictions of that afternoon's baseball game.

As they drove away, they reflected on the morning's experience. What if, instead of being one-time visitors, they had been new to the community, searching for a church home? Would they have come back or looked elsewhere?

We are called by our Lord to be "Great Commission" people. The mission of a congregation is not to simply centre on itself, but to look for ways to share the Good News with others. Welcoming visitors to our church is one way to reach out to our neighbours who want to know more about Jesus' saving love for them.

There is another facet of this that is equally as important. We also need to grow in our care and fellowship with one another. It's far too easy to just talk to the people we know. Others, whom we have seen here before may get a glance or a nod or a polite "hello," but far too often we don't know their name. We figure that we should, since we've seen them before, so we're too embarrassed to ask them. Sometimes we're not even sure if they are a visitor or not and we're afraid to embarrass them or ourselves. Far, far too many people come in and go out without having any kind of meaningful conversation with anyone else.

Don't you remember that as children of the same heavenly Father, we are sisters and brothers in Christ? We are called to love one another and care for one another. What can you do? Introduce yourself (Hi, I'm ... we might have met, but I don't know your name). Invite them to join you for Bible Class if you haven't seen them there before. Sitting down around the Word is the best place to get to know someone.

There are some things we can do better as a congregation as well. If you are one of those who arrive at church one minute before the service starts and/or has to leave right away because of other commitments, how much time do you really have to talk with your sisters and brothers?

Imagine that someone invited you for dinner at their house, with the meal to be served at 6:00 p.m. Would you expect that you could arrive at 5:59 and go straight to the dining room table? Would you then excuse yourself from dessert and leave right after?

If we are to grow in our connection with one another and make the Lord's church a more welcoming place for visitors and members, then we all have to take up the challenge to be here early enough to have time to talk to one another before the service, and to have enough time to sip a cup of coffee or tea afterwards.

As a congregation we desperately need to find a place in the Lord's house where we can do that without having to go downstairs. Last Sunday we had a unique opportunity to try something daring. Earlier in the week our Lord had called Mrs. Fina Kriwetz home to heaven and her funeral was on Saturday in Tillsonburg. Many of the congregation were not able to attend or to express their sympathy to her son Jeff and his family, Christine, Samuel, Matthew and Benjamin. In order to provide that opportunity last Sunday we set up coffee and juice and cookies in the upper narthex, just outside of the sanctuary and invited people to stay and visit with one another and to bring condolences to Jeff and Christine.

What was the result? It was refreshing to see almost 50 people stay around for 15 minutes or more, on Fathers' Day! We actually had time to talk with one another.

How much we need to do more of that! In 1 Corinthians 11, St. Paul chides the Christians in Corinth for their lack of love and care for one another. Their communion or fellowship with one another had so deteriorated that St. Paul told them that their gatherings were doing more harm than good, and that they had ceased to even have the Lord's Supper. How could they have oneness and fellowship with God when they simply walked past each other time after time after time with no real love, care or concern for one another?

My challenge to you is simple. Come to worship early enough to have time to talk with one another. If you see someone whose name you don't know, tell them yours. Ask them how their week has been and be ready to share how Jesus was with you during your week. I know that we all have other commitments from time to time, but come prepared to stay after worship and use that time to greet and talk with one another too.

In the weeks ahead, almost every Sunday gives us an opportunity to have a coffee fellowship after worship. We have a baptism today. Take the time to congratulate the parents and to welcome the newest member of the congregation. Next Sunday, Candidate Adrian Toms will lead worship in our midst. He has been our adopted Seminary student over the past year and will be installed in Bradford and Orangeville on September 9th. Take time to congratulate him and his wife Beth on this new chapter in their lives. The week after that we focus on our Vacation Bible School ministry, and have another baptism a couple of weeks later.

Pray that God would fill your heart, as well as the hearts of your sisters and brothers with the desire and the wisdom to show true Christian hospitality to one another and to those who come to join us in worship.

Peace and Joy in Jesus

Pastor Larry Flohr

**Ten surprises about the unchurched (continued from June Newsletter)
by Dr. Thom Rainer 08 Aug 2003**



Surprise No. 6

Many of the unchurched have a church background. From the most recalcitrant unchurched person we encountered to the most receptive, many have some type of church background. Some had previously been members of churches and left for various reasons. Others visited one or more churches for a season. Still others were taken to church as children. The point is simple. Do not assume that all unchurched persons are clueless about the church. A majority can recall many years of church in their past.

The reasons they left the church are numerous. Some had negative experiences. Others who went as children dropped out when their parents dropped out. And a number of unchurched tried church but left unimpressed and inspired.

Conventional wisdom about the unchurched suggests that these men and women are total strangers to the church. Such is not the case with the majority of the unchurched.

Surprise No. 7

Some types of "cold calls" are effective; many are not. A debate persists in the Christian community about the effectiveness of cold-call evangelism. The definition of "cold call" is simply "uninvited." The type of cold-call evangelism most often resisted by the unchurched is an uninvited visit to their homes.

"I really don't mind talking to people from churches," Roger S. of Wisconsin told us. "But please don't show up at my home without an invitation. It reminds me of a telephone solicitation, only worse!"

The formerly unchurched agreed. These new Christians said that unexpected visitors in the home were rarely welcomed. Sarah F. of a small town in Alabama noted, "I was most positively impacted by Christians who asked for permission to meet me or talk with me. The cold-call visitor to my home was a pain. I ended up accepting Christ through the witness of a church member who took me to lunch on three different occasions. I knew what her agenda was, but at least she invited me to lunch."

But not all cold calls are ineffective, the unchurched told us. We heard numerous stories about Christians who always seemed to be able to share their faith in casual conversations. They were not invited by the unchurched to talk to them, but these churchgoers often seemed to find a way to move a conversation to eternal issues.

"Eric is a trip," Peter W. of San Diego told us. Peter is an unchurched man who works with Eric. "We will be talking about the Chargers or the Padres and, before I know it, he's telling me something about his church or God. I really respect him, you know. He doesn't beat me over the head with his beliefs, but he sure isn't shy to talk to me about it. Most of the church people I know act like they are ashamed of what they believe."

The bottom line of cold-call evangelism seems to be to make the most of every opportunity God gives you. Pray for such opportunities. But showing up at someone's home without an invitation was one of the biggest turnoffs articulated by the unchurched.

"I would be glad for church people to come talk to me in my home," said Millie B. of Odessa, Texas. "I just want to know when they're coming."

Surprise No. 8

The unchurched would like to develop a real and sincere relationship with a Christian. Our study of the unchurched continued during 2001 and 2002 with a noticeable intermediate point of Sept. 11, 2001. The attack on our nation that day engendered many questions from American citizens, and many of the questions were about God. Though the door was open for Christians to develop relationships with non-believers before Sept. 11, the opportunities increased after that infamous day.

The leader of our research team, Twyla Fagan, stated this issue clearly to me in a memo she wrote about the progress of our research project: "Most of the unchurched that the team is interviewing would respond positively to a 'genuine' Christian who would spend time with them in a gentle, non-judgmental relationship." Twyla continues, "Most of the unchurched can easily tell the difference between 'drive-by' evangelism and a person who rally cares."

I learned how to share my faith by reading "Evangelism Explosion" by D. James Kennedy. The manner in which Dr. Kennedy taught me how to start a conversation with a non-believer, and the way he taught me how to share a biblical plan of salvation are infinitely invaluable to me.

Kennedy's book is one of the more popular training tools in personal witnessing. It belongs to a category of tools sometimes called "canned evangelism." The label "canned evangelism" is unfortunate because it implies an uncaring, notch-belt approach to evangelism.

But the book originated from the heart of a man who is passionate about the lost and deeply concerned for the unchurched. When Christians used a canned evangelism tool to witness to the unchurched with no obvious concern for the person, the unchurched immediately detected this impersonal approach.

"I had some people come to see me from the Baptist church just three blocks from here," Monte G. of Baltimore told us. "I felt like they were meeting a soul quota with me. They just wanted to spill their presentation and move on. But I would've been happy to talk with them for a long time if I thought they really cared."

The "soul quota" use of canned evangelism tools is neither the intent nor the desire of those who created these programs. But many of the unchurched quickly recognized the abuse of these good tools.

If we who call ourselves Christians really believe that a person is lost outside of salvation through Christ, we would make the lost and the unchurched one of our highest priorities. And if we really had broken hearts for these unchurched persons, we would take whatever time is necessary to get to know them and to share the love of Christ in word and deed.

Winning the lost and reaching the unchurched is really no big mystery. There are millions of these men and women waiting for one of us Christians to spend time with them and to show them we really care. Jesus desired that none would perish. In this midst of his packed schedule, He took time to show His love to sinners. Are we willing to do likewise?

Surprise No. 9

The attitudes of the unchurched are not correlated to where they live, their ethnic or racial background, or their gender. The unchurched are not a monolithic group. That reality came through with the wide variety of responses we received.

One cannot therefore expect a certain attitude from an unchurched person from Georgia just because he or she lives in a Bible Belt state. And we could not describe to you the common characteristics of an Asian-American unchurched person. The variety of responses within each ethnic group was significant.

The only pattern where we saw any correlation was related to income. The higher an individual's income level, the more resistant to the gospel he or she is likely to be. Jesus Himself warned us of the power of money to be like a god to us: "Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." (Matthew 18:24)

Surprise No. 10

Many of the unchurched are far more concerned about the spiritual well-being of their children than themselves. A few years ago my research team and I studied the Bridger generation, those born between the years 1977 and 1994. We discovered a large unchurched population among these young people, but we also discovered a generation highly receptive to the gospel.

In my consultation ministry with the Rainer Group, I have found that churches that are highly intentional about reaching youth and children tend to be among the most evangelistic churches in America.

And now, in this research project, we found that the unchurched with children at home are deeply concerned about the spiritual welfare of their children, even if they articulate little concern for themselves.

Perhaps in our encounters with these unchurched persons, we need to mention their children. Perhaps churches in America need to be more intentional in reaching children and youth. And perhaps we need to heed more closely the words of the Savior, who exhorted us to let the children come to Him.

Please pray for our efforts in September to invite our neighbours and community ...

Elders Update July 2007

Our board's focus continues to be on fellowship. Fellowship is our connection with one another through Worship, Word and Sacrament, and it is also our connection with the Lord. As we grow in fellowship with God, we should also grow in fellowship with one another.

Every Member Visit



The Elders and Pastor Flohr are continuing to work our way through the congregation with an 'Every Member Visit' program. At this time, about 70 families have been visited with another 50 families yet to be visited. As part of the visit, the Elders are providing the families visited with resources about Lutheran agencies and websites. The visits provide the Elders with an opportunity to get to know the members better as well as well as talk about our church and ways we can all work together to help fulfill Christ Our King's mission of 'making disciples of all nations'. The Elders are sending out a member survey in advance of the visit. When the Elder visits the member(s), they will review the completed survey as well as have a short devotion. We would like to have these visits completed by September so keep an eye open for your Elder to contact you.

As we are in the busy summer months when many people leave for vacations, it is becoming harder to set up visits with our members, so when your Elder gives you a call, please try to find a suitable time to get together for these short visits.

Life Light



The Life Light Bible study group will be starting up again this Fall. We plan to study the book of Acts. We will continue to meet on Tuesday afternoons at 1:00PM at Kay Atkinson's home. If you have the time, we have the space. Come and join us while we study God's Word together.

Crossroad Bible Institute



We have been looking at opportunities for our members to help spread the good news to those around us. One opportunity that looks promising is the Crossroad Bible Institute family of programs. They have a series of programs designed to allow a Christian to witness to those incarcerated in prisons in North America. They provide an educational program for the prospective mentor as well as Bible lessons for the inmate. The beauty of their program is that you do all of this from the comfort of your own home. It is a correspondence program. We will be looking into this in more detail and presenting this to the congregation later this Fall.

Jim Mulligan
Board of Elders Chair

Elders Every Member Visit Update

One of the questions on our Every Member Survey is: How do you feel about the worship service format (current hymnal liturgy, contemporary liturgy, hymnal music, contemporary music, choirs)?

Why do Lutherans have a distinct hymnal and hymns? The direction of communication in the Divine Service is primarily from God to us. That means that the service, which includes the sermon, texts, and the hymns should teach people about Jesus Christ who was crucified for our sins. Prior to the Reformation, people in the pews did not sing. Only the choirs sang, and this had been the custom for almost a thousand years. Luther changed this. He and other early Lutherans wrote the church hymns because they believed that hymns taught doctrine. Three of the eight hymns in the original German Lutheran hymnal were: “Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice” (Luther), “A Mighty Fortress” (Luther), and “Salvation Unto Us Has Come” (Speratus). Luther published a hymnal so the congregation could learn to sing and in doing so learn valuable truths of doctrine.

Hymns also praise God. The greatest way to praise God is to tell everyone what He has done. Praising God is telling what he did for us in Christ. When you look at the three Ecumenical creeds: Apostles’ Creed, Nicene Creed, and Athanasian Creed, you see that they are not only confessions of the Christian faith but are also statements of praise to the Triune God for the marvelous things He has done for us. The creeds praise the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The greatest praise we can give to God is to recount the things that he has done for our salvation. Hymns praise God by telling the story of Christ. In the process of praise, doctrine is taught.

What about the ‘praise’ songs? The distinguishing feature of most contemporary praise songbooks is the focus on the sentiment or feelings of those doing the singing rather than upon Jesus. Here is an example of a typical ‘praise’ song and a praise hymn from the Lutheran Service Book.

I Love You, Lord (Laurie Klein - 2000)

I love you, Lord
And I lift my voice
To worship You
Oh, my soul rejoice!

Take joy my King
In what You hear
Let it be a sweet, sweet sound
In Your ear.”

How Great Thou Art (Carl Gustaf Boberg – 1859)

O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

Compare the message or doctrine in these two songs. The Christian message in this praise song is that God takes joy in our songs and therefore we need to praise Him because He is just so wonderful. The praise hymn in the Lutheran Service Book tells us that God created the world and continues to provide for it and maintain it through His awesome power. Therefore we praise God for His mighty acts. Most ‘praise’ songs say very little about Jesus or even about God. They claim to praise God but don’t mention the name of Jesus or tell what He has done for us. Also notice the direction of the communication in these two examples. The ‘praise’ song is all about the person doing the singing. It is not about what God has done or is doing, rather it is what we feel, we think or we do. ‘Praise’ songs are ‘me’ focused rather than God focused. The Lutheran praise hymn is directionally about what God has done and is still doing today. Songs that do not give God the glory and praise but rather focus on our feelings and sentiments are not appropriate for Divine Worship because they contain no doctrine and do not tell us what God has done for us.

The purpose of music in church is to promote Christ. As our Lord gathers us for worship on Sunday and as we sing our Lutheran hymns, we join the entire company of heaven in praising our good and gracious God. We maintain a unity of doctrine with all the believers that have gone before us who also sang these same Lutheran hymns. The saints on earth and the saints in heaven praise Him who is the beginning and the end, the first and the last, the Alpha and Omega, even our Lord Jesus Christ, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit reigns as one God, world without end.

Jim Mulligan
Board of Elders Chair

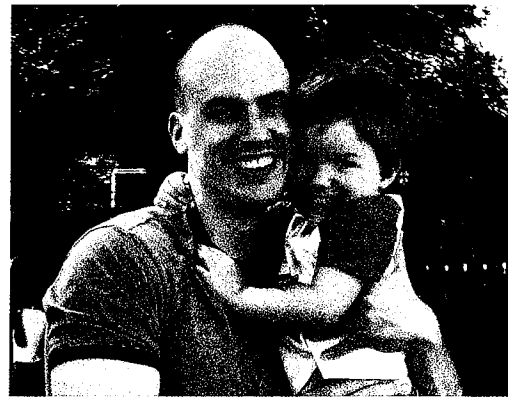
**From the Principal's Desk
Greetings from Lois Munz
Christ Our King Lutheran School
Friday, June 22, 2007**

The month of June brings with it the close of one school year and the promise of new experiences for the future.

As with any facet of life, the school year 2006 – 2007 brought its rewards, but also its challenges. We praise God that He blessed us with the opportunity to guide the students physically, emotionally, academically and spiritually. It was indeed a privilege to meet and get to know each of the children and his/her family.

Our school year, now passed, seemed to be one of many changes. Watching Cathy Sookhoo prepare for her role of new mother, and then getting to meet Baby Rylan was very special. Christ Our King Nursery School and Kindergarten welcomed two new staff members, Jenny Concannon and Corinna Brown, to teach the half-time morning Kindergarten class and cover the maternity leave. They have worked very hard to transition into their respective positions.

Lynda Morell has been the constant in these changes as she continued to support and give background as to how the school had operated over time. She also did lunch supervision for the children who stayed for the full-day program.





If a picture is worth a thousand words, then indeed there is a library here!

This collage is made up of pictures from our Father's Day event and our trip to the strawberry farm.

The children are engaged in learning at its best. Every part of them is soaking up information, and it is being done under the guidance of caring adults, be it teachers and/or parents.

Christ Our King Nursery School has about the average number of children enrolled for September that it usually does at this time of year. We pray that the Kindergarten enrolment numbers will increase before school begins in September.

The school continues to be advertised in parent-targeted publications in the Mississauga/Oakville areas. There will be some additional advertising initiatives in the Fall due to new funding opportunities within Lutheran Church Canada.

May God bless and keep us all as we enjoy life at a little more leisurely pace during the coming Summer months.



June 15, 2007

Lutheran teachers placed

Three 2007 graduates of Concordia University College's Education After-degree program have received placements in LCC schools.

- Charolotte Mackin: Prince of Peace, Calgary
- Nicole Otterman: St. Matthew, Stony Plain, Alta.
- Andrea Trembly: Concordia, Penticton, B.C.

Read more about these new deacons at www.lutheranchurch.ca/canluth/edu0507.pdf



Nicaraguan roof-raising

A circuit meeting in Chinandega this week turned into a roof-raising as pastors joined workmen to begin constructing the roof on the Martin Luther Chapel at the LCC Mission Centre. "Many of our neighbors who live close to our centre came to join us," reports LCC missionary, Rev. Sandor Arquello. "They were interested to know about any dedication celebration to start worshipping our Triune God in our new church facility." Funding and construction of the chapel is a project of the Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary student's association in St. Catharines, Ontario. The seminary takes responsibility for theological education in Nicaragua.

A unique way to say "thanks"

A mother in Saskatchewan came up with a unique idea for end-of-year teacher's gifts. Consider giving a donation in the teacher's name to support the children's Christian education program operated by LCC's mission in Nicaragua. LCC will supply you with a receipt and a card to give to the teacher.

Gifts will help provide a uniform, shoes and school supplies for a year. Each Nicaraguan child attends a public school for half a day and then comes to the mission schools where they receive Christian instruction and academic tutoring.

For more information contact Janice Schultz at 1-800-588-4226 ext 2211 or e-mail pres_sec@lutheranchurch.ca

Almost halfway there!

The number of congregations participating in the National Lutheran Open House is nearing the 150 mark! That's almost half of our congregations! Thanks be to God!

- As part of the open house, every congregation has access to professionally designed invitations, newspaper ads, door hangers, and flyers that you can customize with your information. See www.lutheranchurch.ca/openhouse/publicity.html
- Using the resource base at www.lutheranchurch.ca/openhouse/resources.html you can conduct neighbourhood surveys, learn how to welcome and follow-up visitors more effectively, and put together an effect community outreach campaign.
- We've ordered thousands of inexpensive DVDs about Jesus for you to distribute to your community. Your congregation received a free copy of each! Order more at www.tobiascom.com/lcc.

Everything is done for you except the personal contact, and that's the most important part.

Send in your stuff!

To provide up-to-date coverage on VBS and summer activities in *The Canadian Lutheran*, send your stories and photos to your district editor as soon as possible after the event. Check the news sections of the magazine for the editor and e-mail address.

Canadian speaker on The Lutheran Hour

"What does God see?" asks guest speaker the Rev. Dr. Bryan King, from St. Luke Lutheran Church, Ottawa, Ontario in his June 24 message on The Lutheran Hour in Canada.

With a message based on (Galatians 3: 23-29) Pastor King reminds us that "God is not blind to the needs of people" in fact God understands our needs, and has provided for them and is always striving to help us. He continues to work through people to meet our needs... demonstrating His abundant love for us. Hear this special pre-Canada Day message on your usual Lutheran Hour station. For a listing of stations and broadcast times in Canada go to www.lll.ca/radiotelevision or call 1-800-555-6236

The Lutheran Hour is a media outreach program of the Lutheran Laymen's League and its Lutheran Hour Ministries. For more information or a transcript of the message contact: Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada, 270 Lawrence Avenue, Kitchener, Ontario, N2M 1Y4 (helpful@lll.ca).

Lutheran Church-Canada, East District
District Liaison "Minute Man" Presentation (Reading Length 1¾ minutes)
June 2007

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you may know, Lutheran Church-Canada's theme for this triennium is "Proclaiming His Faithfulness." It's very fitting then, that our congregations have the opportunity to take part in our first National Lutheran Open House during the last weekend of September. As of June 6 over 130, or 40%, of LCC congregations have registered on-line. To help us reach out to our communities our Synod is preparing print and radio advertising, brochures and other resources, and a website especially designed for the unchurched, challenging them to ask "What do you believe?" They can then get information about our churches and ask questions about the Christian faith.

Another major goal is for our active members to give out at least 3 copies of the DVD *The Story of Jesus for Children* to our friends and neighbours. The cost for three is only \$10, less than a lunch at Tim Hortons! For \$5 we can also get DVD copies of Dr. Paul Maier's well-known *Jesus: Legend or Lord*. A complimentary copy of these DVD's has been sent to all our churches. In addition, an idea piece called *101 Ways* to use these DVD's has been published in the Open House update that registered congregations receive bi-weekly.

To prepare for Open House, our East District is planning a Weekend of Prayer for September 7-9. It will begin on Friday with our District Evangelism Task Force and continue on Saturday morning with all elected and appointed leaders. On Sunday all our congregations are being asked to pray for God's blessings upon the Open House in particular and upon missions in general.

Prayer is an essential part of our support for missions. It directs us to the "Lord of the Harvest" to supply the resources needed. Of course, one of those resources is finances. To date Mission and Ministry offerings from East District congregations for the work of the church-at-large are running about 9% behind budget. Please keep this in your prayers as our assisted missions and congregations rely on this support, and a number of new needs and opportunities are emerging.

The 125th Anniversary Thank Offering has certainly helped in this regard. Already funding has been granted for three "new congregation or expanded ministry" projects and for eighteen local outreach initiatives. You can check them out on the District website on the 125th webpage. Congregations, groups of congregations and circuits are being encouraged to apply for grants in connection with Lutheran Open House.

Please remember that, in all these things, "The District is Us!" Together by God's grace we can continue to serve Him, His people and the world as we "Proclaim His Faithfulness."

Thank you.

From the Office of the Secretary
Rev. Dennis J. Putzman

May 14th, 2007

Dear Fellow Redeemed in Christ:

As we prepare for the eighth convention of Lutheran Church-Canada to be held in 2008, the Committee on Convention Nominations has prepared the enclosed documents for your participation in the process of nominating future leaders for the Synod.

Any individual member of the church may recommend one or more persons for nomination to the following offices:

Board of Directors

To be elected: 2 lay East; 1 lay Central; 1 pastor at large

Commission on Theology and Church Relations

To be elected: 1 pastor serving a congregation; 1 lay person

Commission on Adjudication

To be elected: 1 lay ABC; 1 pastor Central; 1 pastor East

Board of Regents, Concordia University College of Alberta, Edmonton AB

To be elected: 2 pastors; 1 lay

Board of Regents, Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines ON

To be elected: 2 pastors; 1 lay/deacon (one from Central and two from East)

Board of Regents, Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton AB

To be elected: 2 pastors; 1 lay/deacon (one from Central and two from ABC)

It is not necessary for a congregation to vote on individuals recommended for nomination. A list of offices for which nomination recommendations are being requested is enclosed along with a description of the major responsibilities and desirable qualifications for each position.

You should note that not all candidates for elected office are nominated by this process. The exceptions are:

President: Each congregation will be sent an official nominating ballot. Candidates for office of the president must be nominated by a duly called meeting of the Voter's Assembly of the congregation. The five candidates who receive the highest number

of nominations will constitute the ballot at the convention.

Vice-president: Each congregation will be sent an official nominating ballot. Candidates for office of the vice-president must be nominated by a duly called meeting of the Voter's Assembly of the congregation. The three candidates from each district who receive the highest number of nominations will constitute the ballot at the convention.

All other candidates will be nominated by the Committee on Convention Nominations which will select nominees and alternates from recommendations submitted on the enclosed forms. Additional nominations may be made from the floor of the convention provided the candidate has given written consent.

The committee will need your prayerful recommendations as soon as possible. Please duplicate the form should you wish to recommend more individuals. Individuals may be recommended for as many positions as you desire.

To assist the committee in completing their work in an orderly manner, please ensure that all recommendations are returned to Lutheran Church—Canada office in Winnipeg ***NO LATER THAN September 28, 2007***. Your cooperation and assistance in distributing the enclosures is greatly appreciated. I have also enclosed the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Committee on Convention Nominations. Should you have any questions concerning the process, please contact one of the committee members.

This letter constitutes the official notice of solicitation of names for nomination as outlined in the constitution and bylaws of Lutheran Church—Canada. May our gracious God bless you and guide you in your deliberations.

In Christ,



Rev. Dennis J. Putzman, secretary

"Recommendation for Nomination" forms are available on the mailbox table.

Seasoned Adults

Vol. 7:2 A Newsletter of the Older Adult Ministry Committee of Lutheran Church-Canada, East District Summer 2007

Walther League Reunion

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Stratford

- 9:00 Fellowship and Refreshment
- 9:50 Prepare for Matins Service
- 10:00 Worship Service: Rev. Paul Pollex
- 10:40 Welcome and Housekeeping
- 10:50 Rev. Mark Hartburg: Assistant to the President for Outreach and Parish Services
- 11:20 Aftermath of 2005 Resolution, Stretching and Singing
- 11:30 Small Group Discussions Topic: Selflessness (Phil. 2:3)
- 12:00 Roast Beef Dinner (and distribution of theatre tickets)
- 2:00 Festival Theatre show of "Oklahoma"

About 60 tickets are still available for the matinee performance of "Oklahoma". **Deadline for registration is August 1.** Cost of the total package is \$66 per person. Attending the morning program and dinner, without the theatre ticket, cost \$16.

Walther League Reunion Registration Form

Name(s) _____

Contact Information:

Telephone: _____

e-mail address: _____

Enclosed is \$ _____

Please make cheques payable to: "Lively Lutherans", and mail to the following:

Ron J. Fischer
#401 - 40 Long Drive
Stratford, ON
N5A 8A3

As of June 11, the following have registered:

Les Schwantz, Doreen Schwantz (Tew), Marg Kelly (Tew), Anna Mae Huras, (Swartzentruber), Barbara Arthur (Tew), Joyce Banks, Ron Fischer, Paul Rockel, Jean Rockel (Eisler), George Brickman, Marg Brickman (Seebach), Ewald Hachman, Louise Hachman, Madeline Honderich, Donna Diegel, Geraldine Galbraith (Kritsch), June Weiberg, Freida Keller, Doreen Bannikoff. Ed Schoenherr, Lois Schoenherr, Janet Schlonies, Margaret Letter, Rev. George Reinhart, Faye Reinhart (Weames), Lauretta Wright, Cathy Kuhl, Marilyn Wearing, George Wearing, Tony Griffin, Lois Griffin, Robert Abell, Marion Abell, Mary Cook, Rev. Carl Wagner, Jean Wagner, Vivian Huehn, June Pettie, Hilda Schenn (Knebel), Erna Lukowski (Knebel), Rev. Mayo Mellecke, Adelma Mellecke, Stan Diehl, Shirley Diehl (Douglas), Mavis Winch (Maluskie), Lloye Wathke, Norm Schaeffer, Doris Schaeffer, Doreen Skinner (Ratz), Ralph Schaeffer, Doreen Schaeffer (Dettman), Vivian Huehn, June Pettie, Lillian Kreis (Ratz), Marjorie Luckhart (Biesel), Doreen Kocker (Biesel), Jerry Klages, Judy Klages

Morning program only – Rev. Paul Pollex, Ardith Pollex

Rev. Walter Schoedel, who visited us in the East District in 2003, is still going strong with Older Adult Ministry and shares the following words: **Being Senior Sensitive.**

In Dr. Richard P. Johnson's new book, "Parish Ministry for Maturing Adults", he writes, "We need to move beyond social activities alone to a new model of spiritual growth and personal development – one that adds vitality and vibrancy to the lives of older parishioners."

Might I suggest you enlarge and enhance your older adult ministry by following an outline promoted by Richard H. Gentzler in his book, "The Graying of the Church".

Spiritual – Encourage worship, Bible study, prayer groups, support networks and rituals to mark milestones and transitions.

Enrichment – Schedule classes, workshops, discussion groups, seminars, travel and other opportunities to learn new skills.

Nutrition and Fitness – Promote balanced meals, exercise groups and activities.

Intergenerational – Provide opportunities for all ages to work, study, serve and play together.

Outreach – Stimulate interest in reaching out to the homebound and the unchurched.

Recreation – Plan programs for recreational and social events.

Service – Involve using senior skills and wisdom in worthwhile projects.

PARISH MINISTRY FOR MATURING YEARS
by Richard P. Johnson, Twenty Third Publications, New London, CT, ISBN 978-1-58595-621-0 (2007)

Once again, Richard P. Johnson shows his passion for enhancing the lives of adults in their maturing years and excites the reader to age gracefully and gratefully to the glory of God. Parish leaders will find much food for thought in this, Johnson's 15th book. It is an excellent guidebook for helping seniors embrace aging as a gift from God and practice principles, plans and proposals for an enriched life. To be sure, the book has a Roman Catholic "spin", but the ideas are ecumenical. The author offers a bonus with 14 mini-courses in addressing ongoing spiritual needs. This book should be in every church library. You can order by calling 1-800-321-0411.

Engaging Quotes

The goal of a personal longevity program is to add life to your years, not necessarily years to your life. This happens as you care for your body, keep your mind sharp, and flex your spiritual muscles.

Carol Luebering

Getting old is a fascinating thing. The older you get, the older you want to get.

Keith Richards

Helpful Resources

PHILIPS LIFE Home Safety DVD

Learn how to increase safety and independence in your home. Visit online at www.safeandindependent.com

CARING TODAY

A magazine with practical advice for family caregivers - a very helpful tool for this special ministry. Visit online at www.caringtoday.com

HOPE AND HEALING

A Bible study designed for folks suffering from cancer or other long term illnesses. Download at www.faithlutheranstl.org

FACING LIFE

Abby Press promotes what they call "Care Notes" – many different care booklets that provide wisdom, guidance, and direction. This year they are placing special emphasis on aging. Visit online at www.carenotes.com

Beatitudes for Friends of the Aged

by Esther Mary Walker

Blessed are they who understand my faltering step and palsied hand.

Blessed are they who know that my ears today must strain to catch the things they say.

Blessed are they who seem to know that my eyes are dim and my wits are slow.

Blessed are they who looked away when coffee spilled at table today.

Blessed are they with cheery smile who stop to chat for a little while.

Blessed are they who never say, "You've been told that twice today."

Blessed are they who know the ways to bring back memories of yesterdays.

Blessed are they who make it known that I am loved, respected and not alone.

Blessed are they who know I'm at a loss to find the strength to carry the cross.

Blessed are they who ease the days on my journey home in loving ways.



**LUTHERAN HOUR
MINISTRIES**

People Of Christ With A Message Of Hope

Waterloo Hosts 57th Annual Convention of East District Lutheran Laymen's League

“Let Your Light Shine!” based on Matthew 5:16 is the theme for the 57th Convention International Lutheran Laymen's League (Lutheran Hour Ministries) - East District which is being held at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Waterloo on Saturday, September 22, 2007.

Lutheran Hour Ministries, a “*People of Christ with a Message of Hope*”, is an important part of the mission and ministry of the International Lutheran Laymen's League, whose mission statement is “*Bringing Christ to the Nations and the Nations to the Church*”.

Lutheran Hour Ministries can be found in 42 countries around the world equipping engaging Lutherans in proclaiming a ‘changeless Christ in a changing world’ to millions of unsaved people.



Convention attendees will hear inspiring presentations from guest speakers, including LLL- Canada's newly elected governor from the International Convention held in Duluth, Minn., July 26-29; LLL-Canada's Managing Director Stephen Klinck and Jane Ford (Faith Lutheran Church, Kitchener) who will be giving a short presentation on her mission trip to Nicaragua's orphaned children.

Kitchener Zone LLL President, Earl Schaeffer (Redeemer, Waterloo) and the convention committee extend a warm invitation to all to attend this year's convention. If you have not attended a previous convention, prayerfully consider being a part of this event. “You will be impressed with what the league has to offer in regards to the mission and ministry of the Lutheran Laymen's League”, exclaims Earl, “and how you can be a part of ‘Bringing Christ to the Nations and the Nations to the Church’”.

For registration, hotel/motel information and a map to guide you to Redeemer Lutheran Church in Waterloo, contact the registrar: **Mr. & Mrs. John and Linda Lingard, 71 Ellis Cresc. Waterloo, ON, N2J 3N5 (519 – 725 – 9574)**.

(After June 1, 2007 – these forms will also be available for download at <http://www.lll.ca/resources/districtinfo.html> in the East District section).