

Thundering off to provincials

EDMONTON

- After a strong season, the Thunder—Concordia High School (CHS) boys' basketball team—won the right to compete in 1A Provincials in Vermilion, Alberta, March 18-20. Though they didn't advance, Concordia qualified for Provincials for the second time in the past three years and finished the season in the top 12 (out of 131) schools.

The Thunder's season record, including Provincials, totals 20 wins and seven losses.

At departure time March 17 for the Vermilion games, some team members felt unwell, but coach Kruse hoped their health would improve by game time on Friday. Unfortunately, the players' health deteriorated and Concordia lost two games straight, sending the team home Saturday morning.

After the game, coach Kevin Kruse took the moment to announce he is stepping down from coaching CHS basketball after 31 years.

Earlier, on March 12-13, the Thunder had competed in North Central Zone 1A boys' championships. The first game, with



The Thunder headed for provincials.

the Thunder (seeded No. 2) vs. Holy Trinity Academy, proved no problem and CHS won 87-21. In the semi-final CHS had a more difficult time against Fort Assiniboine, but came out on top (75-58). This resulted in a much-anticipated match-up against Parkland Immanuel Christian School—who had won the zone championship five out of the past six years. In a hard-fought, back-and-forth, physical game, the Thunder emerged victorious (55-51), behind the strong presence of Jack Panas and timely outside shooting of Dylan Bonyai.

CHS will strongly miss the strength and presence of graduating Grade 12 students Bonyai and Panas for next year's team. However, with a strong core of remaining players to build around—Ashish Baburam, Jordan Bonyai, Shammah Egege, Kevin Ho and Brandon Hutchings—optimism for next year's team runs high.

Exploring southern China

CRANBROOK, B.C. - Rev. David Morton shared his 1994 mission experiences in southern China with Mount Zion's LWMLC members at their February meeting.

Through PowerPoint, maps and photos, Rev. Morton provided a powerful witness to God's work in Guangzhou and other areas of southern China seldom seen by foreigners. Seeing his team visit an orphanage, learning about China's government-sanctioned "Three-Self" churches and hearing about a visit to an underground church brought a distant part of the world closer to Canadian hearts.

Rev. Morton was one of 13 North Americans selected for the six-week "Summer of Sharing" program run by the World Council of Churches. Currently, he shares pastoral duties with Rev. Fraser Coltman in the East Kootenay Lutheran Parish.



Rev. David Morton showcases his experiences in southern China to share how Christians in faraway places worship and minister to others.

Strolling through memories at Immanuel's 75th

WEMBLEY, Alta. - On June 14 of last year, Immanuel Lutheran celebrated its 75th anniversary. A worship service led by Rev. Ken Eifert drew approximately 80 people. After the service, members and visitors strolled through the church grounds and cemetery, visited with friends and family, shared stories about past church events. Celebrations continued with a catered lunch at Goodfare Hall. A book on the church's history was available by donation.



Sharing memories and conversation at anniversary.

Immanuel Lutheran Church thanks all those who attended the celebration, those who helped organize it, and those who made

donations to offset the cost of printing the anniversary book and painting the church.

In addition, many church members dedicated significant time to sprucing things up for the event: painting the fence, painting the church sign, cleaning the church, and so on. A heartfelt thank-you goes out to those who helped. Without the dedication of church members, the celebration would not have happened.

Cross Pointe prospers in south Calgary

CALGARY - Cross Pointe Lutheran Mission continues to grow, its congregation coming together as a church to serve as a lighthouse of the Gospel. Though it started with only a handful of worshippers, the number was up to 97 on February 7.

Rev. Jay Holdner, ABC District evangelist, reports many new visitors after his mission team distributed a community newspaper, *City Spirit*, sharing the good news and hope we have in Christ Jesus.

Outreach goes forward this year under the banner *Let us magnify the Lord*. English as a Second Language classes continue, and a big, lively youth group helps keep things going and growing.

From a report by Rev. Jay Holdner, ABC district evangelist

(Below) Trevor Hubbard preparing *City Spirit* for mailing. A small newspaper distributed to the community, *City Spirit* gives information about the mission and spreads the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



An energetic youth meeting at Cross Pointe



Turning tools toward the Lord

CHILLIWACK, B.C. - St. Paul's 95-year-old member Herman Bloch graciously contributes his God-given skills as a woodworker to the church. Among many other pieces, he has created smoothly turned offering plates, flower stands, a crucifix holder and a baptismal parament holder. When asked why he gives so generously of his work, Herman says: "God has given me all these years. If I am blessed with more I shall keep on working for Him." Herman—whose passion for woodworking started, he says, the day he first held a saw—also gives from the heart whenever the church needs donations for charitable causes (though he enjoys remaining anonymous). St. Paul's gives thanks to God for him.

Knitting hearts together



Big smiles, busy hands, warm hearts, colourful gifts: meet Redeemer's Knit-Wits.

Now the Knit-Wits—who meet weekly but also work at home—have expanded their efforts to reach children in

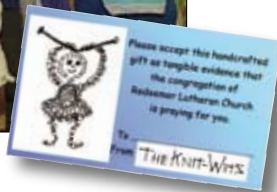
Canada and overseas. They've added pullovers, tuques, mitts and teddy bears, besides the original shawls and knee rugs, to their repertoire.

A label bears the Knit-Wits logo and mission statement.

Already gifts have been sent out from this small community to Calgary's Ronald MacDonald House, to eight countries in Europe, Africa, South and Central America and to northern Canada. Mission people, and the generosity of a Vancouver company, take care of the transportation.

CRESTON, B.C. - On Sunday, February 21, the Knit-Wits of Redeemer displayed an array of gifts they'd created over the winter months, ready for blessing by Rev. Harry Haberstock and distribution to children around the world.

Early in 2006 the group came together to knit and crochet prayer shawls as gifts of comfort (for those suffering pain or loss) or celebration (for those celebrating the joy of birth). Donors provided a roomful of yarns, needles and patterns, and the group really got to work.



Rev. Wayne Lunderby and Herman Bloch with some of Herman's masterly woodwork.

“Alive at 2010” plays on past the Olympic Games

VANCOUVER - Interested in reading highlights of the ABC District’s daily efforts in Gospel-sharing at and around the Olympic Games? Visit the blog <http://aliveat2010.lccabc.ca/> for an illustrated record spanning February 8 to March 1 of outreach efforts by three Vancouver-area churches: Bethlehem, Prince of Peace and Trinity (Richmond, B.C.).

Members of these congregations deserve commendation. Christians who travelled to Vancouver to share Christ’s love through words and deeds deserve applause. The fruit of their efforts, in terms of conversion, may never be measured in this world, but heaven will surely be much richer because of the work done at the Vancouver 2010 games by these devoted disciples.



qSarah performed at Trinity on Friday evening between periods during the Canada/Slovakia hockey game.

you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you” (Phil. 4:8-9).

Our brothers and sisters in Christ have provided an example worth imitating. Other churches can

St. Paul writes, “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever

use their God-given resources—as individuals and as congregations—to share the love of Christ through word and deed. Think first and foremost of those in your community who do not yet believe in Christ as their Saviour, and seek ways to interact with them for the sake of sharing God’s Word. May you not only proclaim to your community, “Come and see,” but with renewed vigour and boldness, may you “go and tell”—in your homes, schools, neighbourhoods, workplaces, hockey rinks, playing fields, coffee shops and malls—the Good News of Jesus’ life, death, resurrection and ascension.

May the Holy Spirit empower you through His Gospel to be alive, and to be Christ’s witness, throughout 2010 and beyond.



From the President

I was in Richmond, B.C. when Canada won the hockey gold medal. Along with a neighbourhood crowd,

I watched the game on a 20-foot screen in Trinity Lutheran Church’s parish hall.

Apparently we weren’t alone. Live broadcasts from Toronto, the Maritimes and other centres showed large crowds rejoicing at Sidney Crosby’s gold-medal-winning goal. In fact, estimates say some 80 percent of Canadians watched all or part of the gold medal game. By my math that amounts to around 24 million people!

Another important event initially went largely unnoticed. Yet over the years that event has gained more attention and had more impact on people’s lives of than any gold medal hockey game could ever hope to have. The Apostle Paul describes it in these words:

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For

I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God (1 Cor. 15:3-9 ESV).

What wondrous news! The God who created the universe became one of us to make payment for all our sin! Think of it—the very thoughts, words and deeds that separate us from God and cause so much misery in our world and in our lives have been atoned for. Through Christ comes redemption. When in repentance and faith we stand before our heavenly Father, He sees us as His redeemed children.

But wait! There’s more. Christ conquered death. He who was crucified, died and was buried rose from the dead. This is a victory that knows no equal. His resurrection carries with it the hope of all believers, for He has promised we will share in this victory.

We read in St. John’s Revelation: “After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” (Rev. 7:9-10).

Now that is a victory celebration! I can hardly wait.

Rev. Don Schiemann

Chili cook-off fosters fellowship and supports youth projects

EDMONTON - Barley? Cocoa? Hoisin sauce?

These were just a few of the secret ingredients cooks used to entice palates at the Chili Cook-off hosted by the boards of Fellowship and Young Peoples' Work at Grace Lutheran.

More than 60 guests of all ages relished seven tantalizing varieties of chili and all manner of accompanying dishes, including a full array of desserts, and then cast ballots for their favourites. With few votes separating the contenders, and with several chili pots scraped clean, assessing the top crowd favourite seemed difficult—but the mushroom/barley chili concocted by Kurt Robinson of the ABC District office finally topped the list.

Following dinner, with musical



Checking out the results of chili cook-off.

accompaniment by solo guitarist Alex Tanasychuk, all ages settled down to play a wide variety of games, from cards to *Guitar Hero*. The evening concluded in fellowship and laughter, and with a free-will offering of \$555 collected to support two

important youth projects: attending the National Youth Gathering in Edmonton and participating in a mission trip to Hazelton, B.C., as LAMP volunteers assisting with vacation Bible school programs in this remote community.

Dual Alberta parish installs pastor

LLOYDMINSTER, Alta. - A joyous installation celebration on Sunday, January 24 brought Rev. Quentin Adams into office as pastor of First Lutheran (Lloydminster) and Zion (rural McLaughlin). Rev. Mark Ruf (Grace, Calgary) preached the sermon and Rev. Richard Williams (Bethany, Fort Saskatchewan, Alta.), who is Elk

Island Circuit Counsellor, served as liturgist. DPS Leah Becker read the lessons and the choir sang an anthem.

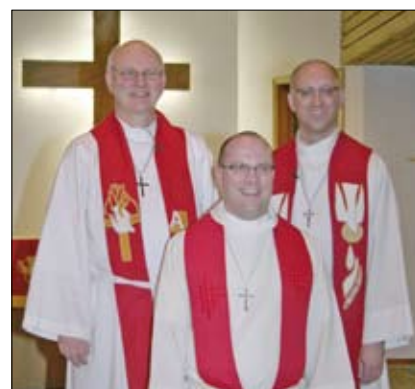
Representing District President Don Schiemann, who was unable to attend, Rev. Williams conducted the installation. An unpredicted winter storm had rolled through most of Saskatchewan and parts of northeastern Alberta, preventing many guests and clergy from attending.

Following the 4 p.m. service, First/Zion members and community visitors, who turned out in good numbers, enjoyed a potluck supper and fellowship in the church basement, getting to know their new pastor and his family—wife Kerri-Ann and sons Jacob, Seth and Ethan.

Rev. Adams served for eight years at Emmaus (Drayton Valley, Alta.), his first call out of Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton. He accepted the call to First/Zion and preached his first service there on December 20, 2009.

The parish welcomes Rev. Adams and his family to the community and prays God's richest blessings for them in their ministry.

*Arnold Pittao, elder,
First Lutheran, Lloydminster*



Standing before the cross at Lloydminster's First Lutheran (l to r): Revs. Richard Williams, circuit counsellor, liturgist and officiant; new pastor Rev. Quentin Adams, and Rev. Mark Ruf, preacher for the day.

Tirzah on tour

CRANBROOK, B.C. - CREW Ministries' current full-time team, *Tirzah*, visited Mount Zion on February 23. Jessica Roth, Michelle Groening and Stephanie Roller of CREW's first (and so far only) female group spent the afternoon with confirmation classes and gave a great evening concert.



Tirzah are Jessica Roth, Michelle Groening and Stephanie Roller.

Visit the ABC District website at
www.lccabc.ca

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and announcements six
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