

## God adds to His family



On April 18, 2010, vacancy pastor Rev. Jim Fritsche baptized Serena Tteul An and confirmed Dave Yeremy. We rejoice that both Serena and Dave are now members at Zion Lutheran Church in Golden Spike, Alberta.

## Financial reps listen and learn

**CANMORE, Alta.** - At ABC's April 16-18 Church Extension Fund conference, congregational reps and KIDS (Kids Into Discipleship & Stewardship) Coordinators heard Allen Schellenberg (Lutheran Foundation Canada) speak on the importance of estate planning, Terry Bodnar (FI Capital, FaithLife's investment management subsidiary) speak on financial markets, and Rev. Marv Ziprick (Bethel, Sherwood Park) on stewardship. It was a weekend filled with education, fellowship, and celebration in the work God makes



CEF Conference: Church Extension Fund Representatives listen to one of the presentations over the weekend.

possible through Church Extension Fund.

## Extreme makeovers of a spiritual kind

**CAMPBELL RIVER, B.C.** - On April 24 the women of Bethany Lutheran enjoyed the chance to experience *Extreme Makeovers: Jesus' Edition*. Unlike the TV variety, the makeovers involved no house renovations or costly surgeries. Instead they focused on the reconstructive work of the Holy Spirit, and the way believers have been transformed into wonderful women of God.

During three sessions participants defined what beauty means to them, sifted the differences between God-given beauty and beauty the world sees, and looked at what beauty and confidence means to a woman of God. For fun, putting on facial masks



The women of Bethany Lutheran refreshed and refilled after a day of learning about God's ideas of beauty.

accompanied a spirited discussion of Colossians 3:10: "and [you] have put on

the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge of its Creator."

## First-ever presidential visit wows Kootenay Circuit

**CRESTON, B.C.** - Kootenay Circuit folk are still talking about LCC President Robert Bugbee's visit—the first made by a synod president to this circuit. On March 13, Rev. Bugbee

flew in from Winnipeg to attend the circuit forum in Creston and preach at East Kootenay Lutheran Parish congregations. About 60 people gathered on March 14 at Creston's Redeemer Lutheran for the convocation, which included a communion service on the theme of *Unity in Christ*; a delicious lunch with time for fellowship; a Concordia Lutheran Seminary presentation by Daniel Deyell; and a "state of the synod"



Rev. Robert Bugbee speaks to members of the Kootenay Circuit.

report from the president. On Sunday President Bugbee joined Rev. Fraser Coltman for worship services in Cranbrook, Fernie and Elkford, B.C. The president's warm gospel preaching and pastoral care greatly encouraged all churchgoers.

Doug Kidger, a member of the East Kootenay Lutheran Parish, can take some credit for the visit. A delegate to the ABC District convention in May 2009, he heard the president preach and urged Rev. Coltman to invite him.

### CORRECTION

The March/April issue of *The Canadian Lutheran* incorrectly reported the first name of Concordia boys' basketball coach Keith Kruse, who has coached the team for the past 31 years. We apologize for the error.

## What does Easter taste like?

### WEST KELOWNA, B.C.

- When we think of Easter we think of chocolate bunnies, coloured eggs and elaborate meals. But Redeemer Lutheran's *Journey to the Cross* demonstrated that our senses find deeper fulfilment learning about the true story of the Resurrection and the depth of Jesus' love.

On Saturday, March



Virtually the entire membership of Redeemer volunteered in some way for the *Journey*.



Pounding nails into boards gave a sensory experience of the crucifixion.

27 children (and adults) used their senses to discover an interactive program set up at stations inside the church and staffed by volunteers. Dressed in Biblical costumes, some volunteers served as guides while others told the story of the last days of Jesus' life.

Travellers tasted and discovered that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8). They used the sense of sight to see the beautiful garden of Gethsemane. They used their ears to hear the story of Jesus and His love for them.

They used the sense of touch while washing their hands before tasting samples of Passover foods, and when they took up hammers and pounded nails into wood. How terrible the pain must have been for Jesus when the nails pierced His body and hung Him to the cross. They used the sense of smell to experience the pungent vinegar and spices used during crucifixion and burial. They heard an angel tell of how Jesus was no longer in the

tomb, but had risen as He said He would.

After the *Journey to the Cross*, travellers joined an Easter egg hunt and found many of the places they had just smelled, heard, felt and seen and truly discovered that the Lord is God and He is good.

What joy, at the end of *Journey to the Cross*, to be reminded that Jesus lived and died for us. What joy to know the journey does not end there but continues on, because He loves us.

## Answered prayer: new shepherd for Saviour Lutheran Church

**DELTA, B.C.** - With his new congregational family around him, Rev. Steven Apollo Naylor received the Rite of Installation from Rev. Sandy Schelp December 13 at Saviour Lutheran Church. Blessings and words of wisdom of the seven area pastors included Rev. Steven Harold preaching on "Prophet, How Far Are You Willing to Run?" Following the service came coffee and fellowship, with Saviour's members and guests singing "Welcome to the Family." Rev. Naylor, from Florida, is a recent graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Catharines, who served his vicarage in Manitoba and Australia. God has answered a long-



Welcoming the new shepherd (back row, l-r): Revs. Kyung-Hyun Kim, James Paulgaard, Mark Chiang, Sandy Schelp, Karl Keller; (front, l-r): Revs. Steve Harold, Steve Naylor and Al Dudiak.

held prayer for a full-time pastor and the congregation looks forward

to His path for Rev. Naylor and his new flock.

Linda Rittaler

## Installation also honours church supporters

**CHILLIWACK, B.C.** - Rev. Norman Miller became Mission Development pastor for White Rock Lutheran Church (a newly formed mission congregation) and New Life Christian Church on Sunday, May 2.

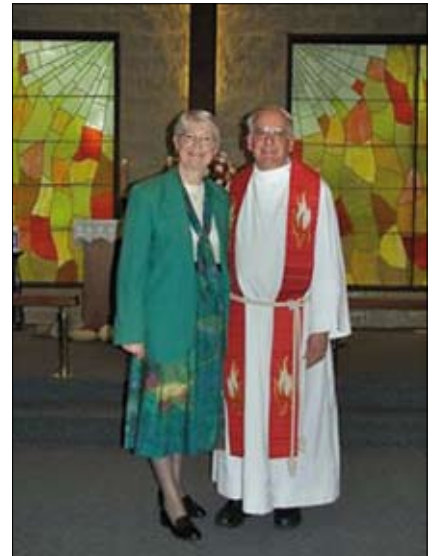
Dr. Karl Keller led the service, held at Zion Lutheran Church in Cloverdale, B.C. LCC President Robert Bugbee delivered the message, and ABC District President Don Schiemann installed Rev. Miller.

President Bugbee used 1 Corinthians 15:3 as his text: "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures." He told the gathering to witness not just on Sunday, but to "pass on what you have received in your daily lives." He also stressed the need for regular Bible classes to be rooted in Jesus Christ.

Michael Dirk played the organ, Betty Otke directed the choir, and Cindy Goddard led Zion Cloverdale's contemporary-worship team.

Following the service Rev. Miller and his wife, Ruth, joined close to 200 guests at a thanksgiving banquet. Bill Mulder (White Rock's chairman) introduced President Bugbee and Mrs. Bugbee. President Bugbee spoke on various LCC mission projects.

White Rock Lutheran recognized the following individuals for faithful service during its first year: Dr. Keller, who gave the initial push to get the church started; President Schiemann, who came out from Edmonton to guide and support; Dr. Don Mossman, retired theology professor, who led services twice monthly; senior pastor of Zion Lutheran Church and School in Cloverdale, Rev. Jeffrey Koenig, who offered consultation and Bible study; Fraser Valley Circuit Counsellor James Paulgaard, pastor at Walnut Grove; Rev. Jarmo Tuomisto; Zion Cloverdale's Rev. Andrew Craig and Brother Manfred Schmidt; former LCC President Ralph Mayan; and lay people Dr. Victor Mollerup, Dr. Bill



Rev. Norman Miller and his wife, Ruth.

Dahl and Ken Souter, who also led worship services.

The day concluded with a concert performed by Langley Ukulele Ensemble under the direction of Peter Luongo.

## Changing of the guard at Riverbend

**EDMONTON** - Two hundred members and friends attended the installation of Rev. Sye Van Maanen at Riverbend Lutheran Church, April 18. Circuit Counsellor Rev. Forrest Stroup (Bethlehem, Edmonton) installed Rev. Van Maanen, with Rev. Mark Hennig (Concordia Lutheran, Edmonton) serving as liturgist and Rev. Jan Pastucha (King of Kings, St. Albert) preaching the sermon. Fifteen area clergy assisted with the installation, many of whom attended Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Edmonton with Pastor Sye.

Rev. Van Maanen comes to Riverbend from LCC's Central District office in Regina, where he worked as assistant to president Tom Prachar, responsible for outreach. Prior to that he served as chaplain at the North Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, and Trinity Lutheran Church in Thunder Bay. He will be a



Panoply of pastors (back row, l-r): Revs. Jan Pastucha, Harold Witte, Forrest Stroup, Vern Raaflaub, Les Gierach, Warren Steckelberg, Garry Dombrosky, Larry MacKay, Dr. Glenn Schaeffer; (front, l-r): Revs. Mark Hennig, Ken Edel, David Kihn, Sye Van Maanen, Paul Eifert, Riverbend's retired pastor Cliff Haberstock, and Al Schmidt.

presenter at the 2010 National Youth Gathering in Edmonton in July. And as a Canadian Forces chaplain, he looks forward to meeting up with his new unit in Edmonton. Following the service some 175 people mingled at a potluck supper, which gave Pastor Sye, wife Sharlene

and daughters Madalynn and Molly a chance to get to know people they'll be working with in ministry. He replaces Rev. Cliff Haberstock, who retired in 2009 after serving Riverbend for more than 20 years.

*Debra Heichert*

## Lessons from the field

One of the highlights of my involvement with Pastoral Leadership Institute (PLI) has been my visits to “mentor congregations”—churches with which the institute works closely to provide hands-on learning experiences in growing ministries around the US. My most recent visit was to Katy, Texas and Cross Point Community Church. My collegial group, consisting of pastors from Texas, Missouri, Washington, Alaska and Iowa, met up at Katy for three days beginning October 30, 2009. The purpose? To immerse ourselves in the life of the congregation and meet with the leadership to learn as much as we could about how they “do” ministry. Let me share a few highlights and some of the insights a mentor congregation can offer.

### *Spotlight on: The name*

Yes, it’s a Lutheran Church. No, “Lutheran” is not in their name. And no, they aren’t embarrassed to use the word Lutheran. So what’s up? This 13-year-old congregation calls itself Cross Point Community Church because its main desire is to reach its *community* with the Good News. Don’t overthink it. Congregation members just aren’t that interested in reaching more Lutherans. I could just tell by listening to the people and talking to their leaders.

### *Spotlight on: Annual Fall Fest*

Although a young congregation, Cross Point puts a lot of energy and effort into hosting key community events such as its yearly Fall Fest. Essentially it’s a family-friendly Halloween party inside the church. For many families in the community, it means a fun, safe and welcoming environment to come and play games and win some candy! It was an “all hands on deck” kind of event when



Children enjoy flag football in Cross Point’s church-run league.



Baptisms in the outdoor heated pool at Katy, Texas.

we visited. Senior pastor Bill Woolsey stood at the front door greeting everyone who entered the building, and by the time the night was over, more than a thousand people had gone through the doors. The place was alive with community.

### *Spotlight on: Sports ministry*

I had the privilege of speaking with John Moore, the congregation’s sports director. I found the approach clear and simple: they use sports to introduce families to Jesus Christ. In the Saturday morning flag-football league, for example, each game begins with a Christian Bible-based devotion and prayer. Each of the 20 teams has a coach—some churchgoers, some not. The congregation relies on the YMCA for referees and a top-quality program laid out by NFL Flag Football.

Kids have fun and learn to honour God by the way they play sports. Families come together. The church serves the community in a relevant way.

### *Spotlight on: Belonging before you believe*

What struck me most was a phrase I heard when listening to the Sunday sermon at Cross Point. The preacher said, “This is a place where you can belong before you believe.”

Even on a short weekend visit, I could tell those

weren’t just words. “Belong before you believe” could be seen in almost every facet of their ministry. It was lived out in the life of the congregation. With the help of the Holy Spirit, it takes strong effective leadership to lead a congregation clearly in this way—building a church that is open to all so they can experience God’s grace and mercy through His life-saving Word and the gifts of baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

What a blessing to witness 20 or so baptisms in Cross Point’s outdoor heated baptismal pool!

What a celebration of new life! But as our PLI group sat down with the leadership, we saw how God uses normal people (not really that different from us) with normal resources (not really that different from ours), and uses it all for His glory, bringing attention to the words and work of His Son, our Saviour. Cross Point continues to inspire me to look at my community in new ways and strive to connect that community to Jesus Christ.

*A veteran since 2007 of the Pastoral Leadership Institute (PLI), Rev. Lee Loveridge (First Lutheran, Kelowna, B.C.) credits this virtual campus of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod with giving pastors new perspectives on church life. Visit [www.plinstitute.org](http://www.plinstitute.org) for more information.*

## Prayers for shepherd answered

**REVELSTOKE, B.C.** – After being vacant for more than three years, Resurrection Lutheran Church celebrated the installation of Rev. Richard Klein on February 7. The congregation rejoiced as its prayers for a spiritual shepherd have finally been answered. The presence of the CREW Ministries team, *Tirzah* helped enrich the installation.

Previously Rev. Klein, with his wife Rosemarie, served in Plumas, Manitoba. He now looks forward to spreading God’s Word and love in the mountains of British Columbia.



Surrounding Rev. Klein (centre), attending pastors from B.C. (l-r): Revs. Michael Colbeck (Summerland), Lester Carlson (Osoyoos), Victor Morris (Penticton) and Jonathan Asmus (Westbank).



### From the President

It didn’t seem to matter what sport it was, he was always there. The Olympics, the Superbowl, the Stanley Cup playoffs or the World Series—somehow this individual could always procure tickets. And good ones too! Television coverage almost always included him when they panned the spectators—there he was, in their midst, with his ever-present sign that simply read: “John 3:16.”

It was a simple way for him to witness to the Gospel. People who were intrigued by an apparently cryptic message might investigate what that passage of the Bible had to say. In so doing, maybe they would explore further into God’s Word.

John 3:16 has been called “the Gospel in a nutshell.” Most Christians seem to be able to quote that verse. But isn’t there so much more to the Christian faith than what is conveyed in that single and simple Bible verse? Is there a danger of reducing the simple Gospel truth of John 3:16 to a simplistic faith? What about the rest of Scripture? What about the other 31,101 verses in the Bible?

In his second epistle to Timothy, St. Paul wrote: “...and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:15-17).

Sadly, there appears to be a growing trend toward biblical illiteracy among many Christians. On census forms, people indicate they are Christians and yet know almost nothing about the Christian faith.

What makes the difference between a simplistic “milquetoast” faith and a faith that is muscular and robust in its substance, practice and confession? As Christians we need to be immersed and grounded in God’s Word. The Bible is God’s Word of Law and Gospel to us and it is through these same Scriptures that the Holy Spirit works to create, sustain and nurture faith.

The Bible does not contain everything we want to know; it does, however, contain everything we need to know. It tells us about our sin and God’s grace. It reveals to us that God entered human history to carry out His plan of salvation for us. It conveys to us the undeserved promises of God we have through Jesus Christ.

The Christian is strongest when he is rooted and grounded in God’s Word. With that assurance comes an invitation to all of us to become more faithful in reading and meditating on Scripture. The Church will stand stronger when her members are biblically literate.

Numerous guides exist for reading through the Bible in a year. Whichever approach works best for you, I would challenge all of us to become more regular and faithful in reading God’s precious gift to us. Jesus has promised: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away” (Luke 21:33).

*Rev. Don Schiemann*

## St. Peter's closes; *The Rock* lives on

**EDMONTON** - On March 14 St. Peter's Historical Lutheran Church—founded in 1904—celebrated its final service. While it is saddening to see one of the older churches in Alberta close its doors to regular worship, we rejoice in the opportunity the Lord has provided in its closing, as the group known as *The Rock* carries on.

Over the past 10 years attendance at St. Peter's has been dropping, and the focus of the church shifted from Sunday services to the needs of the inner-city community surrounding it. The area has many earthly needs: a large proportion of lower-income families as well as a homeless population. By ministering to the body, God provides opportunities to share the saving news of Jesus with His people. Out of St. Peter's has grown an organization vital in ministering to this community.

Founded in May 1996, *The Rock* Lutheran Inner City Society has grown from three volunteers serving 12 people breakfast once a week to 65 volunteers serving breakfast three times a week—more than 55,000 meals a year. Most of those volunteers are seniors: 25 are over the age of 73, and 20 are over the age of 80! We thank God for their dedication and faithful service.

In addition to the breakfast program, a children's ministry called Monday Night Kids (MNK) thrives. Every Monday night, 25-40 children

(up to age 15) come for a hot meal and snacks and to learn about the Bible, how to live in today's world with faith and how to resolve conflicts. Many MNK volunteers are university students; others are young adults. Several volunteer year after year and have developed strong relationships with children and youth in the program. Also popular is a Mother-Tots program, where moms and their children can come and learn about having a personal relationship with Christ and feel they belong with people who care about them.

St. Peter's congregation has transferred the church, parsonage and parish hall to *The Rock* organization for as long as it serves in the McCauley (inner-city) community. Bethel Lutheran Church (Sherwood Park, Alberta) has agreed to partner with *The Rock* by providing ministerial support in the form of programs and faith celebrations. We look forward to seeing what possibilities God will provide to Bethel and *The Rock* in the coming years as they minister to the less fortunate in the area and show them the saving grace that is in Jesus.

*The Rock* Lutheran Inner City Society thanks all those who supported the ministry over the years, and eagerly looks ahead with trust that God will provide the workers and the means to continue the work that has begun in this area.

## Seminary students support urban outreach

**EDMONTON** - At the beginning of each new academic year, full-time MDiv students at Concordia Lutheran Seminary (CLS) designate the CLS daily chapel offering toward a mission of their choosing. This year students agreed to send the offering to *The Rock* Lutheran Inner City Society. *The Rock*, established in 1996, provides a warm breakfast on Tuesday and Thursday mornings to the hungry and homeless in Edmonton's inner-city neighborhoods of Boyle-McCauley and Norwood. For more information on how you can help, call 780-426-1122 or visit [www.connect.ab.ca/~rockministries/TheRock/Welcome.html](http://www.connect.ab.ca/~rockministries/TheRock/Welcome.html).



Mark Schultz (left), secretary/treasurer of Concordia Lutheran Seminary's Student Association, and class president Dan Barr present *The Rock's* Barry Reeder with a cheque for \$551.64 on May 28.

Visit the ABC District website at [www.lccabc.ca](http://www.lccabc.ca)

Send news, photos, articles and announcements six weeks prior to publication month.

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## A pet project creates outreach opportunity

**GRAND FORKS, B.C.** - At Christ Lutheran's first Pet Blessing on Sunday, May 2, six dogs, one cat and one horse (along with their owners) received special attention from Rev. Ken Schauer. Here the pastor blesses Apollo and Zeus, brought by Deborah Lafleur. The idea rose out of last year's Friendship Sunday when the congregation discussed new outreach ideas.

