

Edmonton church hosts community event

EDMONTON - Christ the King's annual Spring Fling June 19 included a community yard sale and an open house for *King's Kidz* Christian preschool.

Bargain hunters browsed through the tables, enjoyed barbecued burgers and hotdogs, and listened to music throughout the day under the big tent. Children took part in face-painting, making balloon animals, and bouncing their way through an inflatable T-Rex. Parents dropped by the church to check out the preschool and meet next year's teachers.

A community police cruiser also stopped by and allowed the children to explore and play in the car. Overall, it was a fun event to share with the community and Christ the King looks forward to hosting another one next year.

Johanna Schmaus



Gordon Bellerose (l) and Doug Smith enjoy cold pop on a warm day at Christ the King's Spring Fling.

VBS turns obstacles into assets



Enjoying outdoor activities (above) and a collage of footprints help illustrate the theme, *Follow the Lamb*, in Grand Forks.

GRAND FORKS, B.C. - Christ Lutheran's vacation Bible school, July 19-23, proved successful despite two seeming obstacles: the congregation consists of all elderly people and no children attend regular services.

Hiring three teenage girls as assistants, the church had a great number of volunteers helping, and everyone rallied as a team. In all, 22

neighbourhood children registered—about half of them with no church affiliation. The school's theme, *Follow the Lamb*, took inspiration from the Bible verse John 3:16. It was a great way to spread the Gospel to little ones in the area, and the church received much positive response from parents and children.

Shirley Richter

Saying goodbye and hello: Celebrating 15 years of blessings

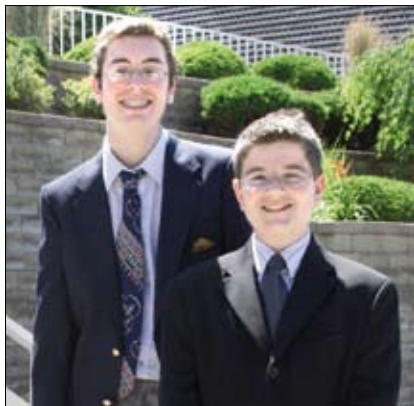
EDMONTON - Faith Lutheran School's Farewell Reunion, May 16 marked both the school's "15 years of blessings" and its move to St. Albert, where it will be renamed King of Kings Lutheran School.

Highlights of the day included Polish baseball, a favorite student game from Faith's early years and a hamburger barbecue. Current and former students, parents, teachers, principals, board members and family supporters visited, reminisced, laughed and shared memories.

A photo tribute wall to the principals and *Faith in Review*, a continuously playing PowerPoint presentation by a former student, attracted avid viewers. A Memory Hallway displayed names of children who attended the school over the years, along with photos, greetings and recollections sent by people unable to attend.

The final gathering included two former students sharing memories and a closing devotion with two Faith song favorites—"My God Is So Great" and "Go, My Children, With My Blessing"—a fitting finish to the afternoon of celebrating the blessing Faith Lutheran School has been in so many lives.

High-schoolers visit US sem for summer school



Sean Morden and Luke Partridge of St. Paul's, Chilliwack.

CHILLIWACK, B.C. - This year two ABC District students joined other young Lutheran men at Christ Academy, June 20-July 3, on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Sean Morden and Luke Partridge, both of St. Paul's in Chilliwack, attended the two-week residential program run by The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

For two weeks, the high-schoolers delved deeper into their faith, enjoyed the seminary experience and made friendships to last a lifetime. Other participants came from across the United States, Sweden and Indonesia.

2010's theme, *Evangelical Responses to Non-Christian Religions*, featured a day trip to Chicago where participants visited a Baha'i temple, a mosque and a synagogue. Students explored how to present and defend the faith "with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15).

"The growing eagerness of the youth of the church to learn Lutheran theology is given a wonderful complement in Christ Academy High School," commented Brian German, student director.

In 2011, Christ Academy dates are June 19-July 2. For additional information visit www.ctsfw.edu/christacademy, e-mail christacademy@ctsfw.edu or call 1-800-481-2155.

Telling eternal truths at museum parade



Don't rain on my parade: Noah, the ark and the rainbow at Drumheller museum parade.

DRUMHELLER, Alta. - At the Royal Tyrrell Museum's 25th anniversary, Grace Lutheran Church presented a colourful parade float reminding everyone that the evidence is indisputable: we have a God who intervened in history. Proudly displaying Noah's Ark, the cross and the rainbow, the float appealed to viewers: "Don't miss the boat!"

The world-class paleontology museum highlights the robust life existing at an early stage in the world's history. But as people make their journey from cradle to grave, surrounded by the bones of bygone days, they need to remember One whose grave held no bones, and who promised that those who believe in Him will rise to abundant and eternal life.

Rosalie Nimmo

Hive of activity for children



VBS brings many together in Wetaskiwin.

WETASKIWIN, Alta. - Creating a beehive of excitement, Zion Lutheran Church's vacation Bible school had 104 children zipping, zapping and zooming for Jesus.

Ingredients included music, games and—most important—instruction on Jesus' life and works. With teamwork and Christian love, Rev. Lorne Manweiler and the group of

more than 24 teachers, helpers and kitchen workers made the July days a buzzing success, as did generous gifts of food, money and time from congregation members. The children learned Jesus is their Saviour and best friend and we can share this good news with friends and others.

Bob and Judy Schutz

Calgary pastor witnesses God's grace in Cambodia

From July 27 to August 9, Rev. Laverne and Deanna Hautz (Foothills, Calgary) participated in a short-term mission in Cambodia as part of their involvement in the LCMS-based Pastoral Leadership Institute (PLI).

PHNOM PENH - The Lutheran presence in Cambodia, less than 20 years old, includes the recently established Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cambodia (ELCC), headed by president Rev. Vanarith Chhim, and Pastor Fungchatou Lo (a native of Laos) who serves as a full-time missionary from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's (LCMS). For nine days we travelled around Cambodia with Rev. Lo, his family, Cambodian translator Jesse, and his wife.

In this land riddled with poverty and political strife, Christianity has made a positive impact in recent years. Christian organizations helped Cambodia get back on its feet after Pol Pot's brutal dictatorship, and the government has welcomed them. In the late 1970s Pol Pot's military regime ruled and decimated the country, expelling everyone from the capital city of Phnom Penh, separating families and forcing people into rural areas to work in rice fields. The regime systematically imprisoned, tortured and killed government workers, business people and the educated, in what became known as the "killing fields." Tuslan, a school-turned-prison we visited, now holds an enclosure filled with bones found in this killing field, serving as a stark reminder of the inhumanity of humanity—and a lesson for generations to come not to allow that to happen again.

Today Cambodia is a democratic monarchy, much like Canada, with a king who reigns but does not rule and a prime minister drawn from the Assembly's ruling party. In this largely Buddhist country, with temples and shrines all over the countryside, Cambodia's Christian community makes up only two to three per cent of the population.



Children from an orphanage will enjoy their new Canadian soccer ball. Back row (l-r) Pastor Laverne Hautz; Deanna Hautz (centre) Missionary Fungchatou Lo (far right).

Only one fully established Lutheran church/school exists here—Trinity (LCMS) in Battambang. But several worshipping communities, not all with church buildings, are also in outlying areas. Though not ordained, the pastors identify themselves as Lutheran and take theological training courses organized by Rev. Lo. Like St. Paul in the first century, Rev. Lo makes periodic visits to these communities to encourage people in their faith, to train pastors and leaders, and to provide for those in need.

At one stop, near Kompong Chanang, we visited with the local pastor, Kimhai, at Jesus the Savior Lutheran Church. He serves 13 preaching stations—in his spare time and on a taxi-driver's salary. He and his wife have two children and two adopted orphans. We brought greetings and encouragement, prayed with them and sang a couple of songs. We gave them clothes, school supplies, uniforms and bicycles so the children could go to school. From the little they have, the family shared food with us on the floor of the church building.

In the case of a needy family in another town, both parents have AIDS and their baby, Philip, cannot drink his mother's milk for fear of contracting the disease. Recently the father was forced to pawn his land title to pay for infant formula. A project called Helping Hands paid off the debt, regained him the title,

and bought enough formula to last for several weeks. We dropped off a water filter and some clothes, prayed with them, and left with tears in our eyes—both at the need and at being able to supply some help.

Back at Trinity in Battambang, we had a full day of teaching, along with Rev. Randy and Nancy Buecheler (other PLI participants from California): leadership sessions with some 30 adults, and sexual purity/marriage classes with 15 young adults. The young people talked candidly about what their culture says about sex and marriage—and it was surprisingly similar to what we hear in North America. We discussed marriage vows and their meaning in a Christian context. Young Cambodian Christians sometimes face the challenge of an arranged marriage, and when they are expected to marry a non-Christian it can compromise their faith as well as deny them choice in their life partner.

On our last day of ministering we met a group of villagers who had gathered in their church building. Nancy and Deanna spent time with the women and children on the main floor; the pastors did some teaching with the men on the second level. We left Bibles and children's books at the site.

Along the road we stopped briefly at an orphanage to deliver uniforms (a prerequisite for attending school

here). We'd brought along a soccer ball from Canada, so we pumped it up, started kicking it around and left it for those children. It brought some joy into their lives.

Next we drove to a small village of Jarai people: a Cambodian ethnic group and a faithful Christian group. Once again the women and children met with the pastors' wives, while the pastors taught the men. We prayed with them and moved on.

At our last stop in the country we ministered to a family of two sisters and their seven children. Until recently they all lived under a tree; lately, an NGO (non-government organization) built them a small, simple one-room house. We went into town to purchase mosquito netting, matting (to cushion the wooden floor where they slept), several bags of rice and other supplies, all of which we delivered before dark.

At several places along the way we left clothes for children and families, and at other places we left simple water filters along with instructions on how to use them. It's sad to see so many people lacking these basic necessities we take for granted.

But there are lessons to be learned. It reminds me of what Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 8:9: "You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich."

When we saw people in their various states of need, we wanted to help them all. We wanted to be their saviour, their rescuer, to use our money to provide food, or clothes, or to adopt an orphan. But we realized we can't help them all. We can't rescue them all. We can't change all of their lives for good.

But there is One who did! Jesus, who in His divine nature was rich, willingly became "poor" and emptied Himself by being born in human nature. He did this in order to sacrifice Himself on the cross, so that we would be forgiven of the moral and spiritual poverty of our sins and be made spiritually rich by God's amazing grace. Jesus changes all of our lives, for good and for ever!

What we saw in Cambodia was people living a simple life, free from the entrapments of possessions. These people also had a simple yet sincere faith in Christ. That's all that is necessary—confessing with your mouth "Jesus is Lord" and believing in your heart that God raised Him from the dead. Even though our lives look like polar opposites externally, because we share a common confession of faith we can confidently call one another brothers and sisters in Christ. They believe. They have received forgiveness. They are headed for heaven. What we witnessed above all was God's grace in Cambodia!

Overflow crowd for 100th

HANNA, Alta. - At the 100th anniversary of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in the Hand Hills, northeast of Drumheller, a crowd of more than 100 filled the little church and overflowed outside to hear God's word preached by Rev. Richard Klein, who served St. Paul's from 1986 to 1993. Rev. Curtis Boehm



(l-r): St. Paul's most recent pastors (l-r) Revs. Eldon Ohlinger; Richard Klein, Curtis Boehm; Garry Dombrosky and Lloyd Huber.

(Grace, Drumheller) led the worship service, which included Revs. Eldon Ohlinger, Lloyd Huber and Garry Dombrosky, each of whom served the parish during its long history.

Following the July 18 service, the stories and memories continued at a reception at the Hand Hills Lake Club. The congregation gives thanks to God for the day of rejoicing, and seeks to continue in vibrant ministry to the Hand Hills community.

Visit the ABC District website at
www.lccabc.ca

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Belinda Johnson, district editor
7100 Ada Boulevard,
Edmonton, AB T5B 4E4
phone: 780-474-0063
bjohnson@lccabc.ca

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Missionary Fungchatou Lo (l) and the local pastor deliver rice, mats and blankets to needy families near Ratanakiri.

Learning to be caring visitors

RED DEER, Alta. - Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church's Board of Caring Ministry sponsored a Christian Caregiving seminar to help train members in hospital and congregational visitation skills.

Board chair Dorothy McGrandle invited Revs. Ken Rodeman and Rev. Dr. Harold Witte from the Lutheran Hospital Ministry of Northern Alberta to conduct the seminar, which took place over Palm Sunday weekend, attended by 32 members



Members learn about caregiving.

of Mt. Calvary. The seminar covered five two-hour training modules:

- God as the CURE-giver (We Are CARE-givers)

- Reflective Listening and Open-Ended Questions
- Our Toolbox: Christian Caring Tools
- The Hospital Visit (Role-Plays and Evaluation)
- Care: Before, During and After Hospitalization

For information on bringing the workshop to your church, contact the chair of Lutheran Hospital Ministry of Northern Alberta (RevWitte@hotmail.com).



From the President

In its recent bailout package, the United States committed to helping faltering industries to the tune of more than 1 trillion dollars. A trillion dollars! I've never been able to wrap my head around what a billion is, let alone a trillion. To help put it into some kind of perspective, if you earned one dollar for every second of your life and lived to age 85, your total earnings would be roughly \$2.7 billion. That still leaves you \$997.3 billion short of a trillion dollars!

But how about this one: it's estimated the human brain has more than 40 quadrillion synaptic connections. I can't even come close to an illustration that would help with that number! Although my human brain will never be able to grasp that figure, my brain experiences all of those connections on a moment-by-moment basis.

I am reminded of the words of the Psalmist: "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well" (Psalm 139:14). As scientists uncover more and more of the complexities of the universe and life, many of them are beginning to acknowledge what is called "intelligent design." In his book *The Language of God*, Francis Collins, former head of the Human Genome project, tells of his journey from atheism to faith. Basically he states that the more he studied the complexities of the human genome, the more he saw the fingerprints of the Creator.

Again in the Psalms we read: "When I consider your

heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honour. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!" (Psalm 8:3-9).

It is indeed humbling to know God has invested so much into us, ranging from the complex and intricate design of our human bodies to our election in Christ before the foundations of the world were laid. God's providential and gracious care is constant in the lives of His children.

What a tremendous comfort when faced with seemingly formidable and insurmountable situations and challenges in life! The magnificent Creator of the universe became one of us to redeem us from the curse of sin and overcome death and the grave. The cross and the empty tomb have their origins in the mind and heart of God. The Creator visited His creation and through His atoning life, death and resurrection has redeemed us. "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God" (John 1:12-13).

Rev. Don Schiemann

Military salute for retiring chaplain

OSOYOOS, B.C. - On Sunday, May 16, as Rev. Maj. (retired) Chuck Cooley stepped down from full-time ministry, he received accolades from Rev. Gen. David Kettle, chaplain general of the Canadian Forces. Chief Clarence Louie of the Osoyoos Indian Band presented Rev. Cooley with a First Nations Vietnam veterans' medallion inscribed *Duty-God-Country*. Grace Lutheran (Osoyoos, B.C.) and St. Paul (Oliver, B.C.) also made presentations to Rev. Check and Ann Cooley. Two hundred guests attended the service, followed by a dinner and dance.



Chief Clarence Louie (l) presents Rev. Maj. Chuck Cooley (standing, r) with a commemorative medallion. Guest speaker Rev. Gen. David Kettle applauds.

Pastor takes reins at Golden Spike

GOLDEN SPIKE, Alta. - On June 27 Zion Lutheran Church welcomed Rev. James Fritsche as its pastor, installed by circuit counsellor Rev. Darren Siegle. Rev. Dr. Ralph Mayan (LCC president emeritus) preached for the occasion; Rev. Roland Kubke (St. John's, Beach Corner) served as liturgist, and Rev. Bill Ney (St. Matthew's, Stony Plain) as lector.

Rev. Fritsche accepted the call to Zion after a brief time as the church's vacancy pastor. He and wife Nancy moved to Edmonton in 2009 after serving Beautiful Savior in Winnipeg for 26 years. He's also served in Bruderheim, Alberta for four years and in Luseland, Saskatchewan for



Serving the cross (l-r): Revs. Lowell Eckert, Harold Ruf, Roland Kubke, Mark Hennig, Bill Ney, James Fritsche, Darren Siegle, Cliff Haberstock, Harold Witte, Ed Lehman, Ralph Mayan.

five. Rev. Fritsche has held a number of positions in district and synod: most notably, nine years as a vice-president of Lutheran Church-Canada, as well as spots in the district departments of worship, youth, education, student

aid and recruitment.

Zion members served a meal after the service for the more than 120 people who attended.

Gary Lukawesky

German country-western tunes at Stampede Breakfast

CALGARY - Every year for 10 days in July, Calgary celebrates its cowboy roots with the Calgary Stampede. Many businesses, associations and churches join the fun by hosting a Stampede Breakfast.

St. Matthew in Bridgeland—a dual German/English-language congregation—chose Sunday, July 11, for its breakfast and decided the church basement would be the best venue given the cool temperatures. Volunteers provided everyone with sausages, bacon, pancakes and eggs,

with plenty of juice and coffee.

Pastor Markus Zeuch brought his guitar and entertained the group with country and western songs, sung in both English and German. According to the pastor, it was a “YEE-HAW good time!”

St. Matthew normally has two services each Sunday, German at 9:30 a.m., English at 11. After the breakfast, a satisfied group, including visitors from the US, moved into the church to worship together in a single bilingual service.



Pastor Markus Zeuch sings country and western in English and German