

Using talents tunefully

CALGARY – “Tunefully Made,” a full-day workshop for future church musicians, drew 18 participants—some as young as 8—to Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd April 25.

The day started with mixers and games led by Susan Bernhardt from the district’s Youth Ministry Institute. DCE Siegrid Robak (Prince of Peace Lutheran School) followed with an intergenerational Bible study that focused on the meaning of Divine Service, and service to the triune God through music.

During workshop sessions participants learned more about using their their musical talents in the Lord’s service and practiced various pieces for afternoon Vespers, attended by parents and members of Calgary-area congregations. Miriam

Winstanley (St. Matthew) helped plan the service; Rev. Markus Zeuch (St. Matthew) presided and gave a wonderful message.

One highlight of Vespers was a hymn sung by the congregation to the accompaniment of percussion instruments only. Another was a recorder group that provided accompaniment, with guitars, to a canticle from the *Lutheran Service Book*.

Sara Hagerman, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, member of Tunefully Made Planning Committee



Both plenary sessions and small groups helped teach the role of church musicians.

Fun and games celebrate Canada’s birthday

VANCOUVER - God gave Bethlehem Lutheran perfect weather for its outdoor pre-Canada Day festival, June 28-30.

At a local park for the first day, and on Bethlehem’s north lawn the next two, volunteers (with help from a neighbouring congregation and from a Christian youth group called *Fusion Canada*) played games, blew bubbles, painted faces, made balloon sculptures, created crafts, fought tug-of-wars and tossed people in parachutes. (By the way, the women’s team won repeated bouts of tug-of-war.)

They gave out 500 hotdogs, 10 dozen maple-leaf cookies, gallons of coffee, water and lemonade, and a batch of Frisbees.

The festival created an opportunity for Bethlehem to meet its neighbours and distribute invitations to vacation Bible school, ESL classes, and a Mom and Tots program planned for September. The church also plans a “back to school” festival with *Fusion* on the weekend after Labour Day.



The women’s team consistently won the tug-of-war. The fun and games amused everyone and made new connections between the church and the community.

Ninety years young

RICHMOND, B.C. - Trinity Lutheran honoured longtime member Clarence Sampert on his 90th birthday, July 26. Clarence (shown here with Rev. Steven Harold) still serves as an honorary member of the Trustee Committee. He worked on the volunteer construction crew that built the church in 1964 and on the new addition in 2003. Congratulations, Clarence, on many, many years in the Lord’s service!



Shine, hot rods, shine!



The yard at King of Kings, St. Albert, Alta. fills with vehicles

ST. ALBERT, Alta. - Despite a little rain, the parking lot of King of Kings Lutheran Church thundered with the sound of heavy metal. No, not thumping bass and wailing guitar. Mufflers, Chevys, big blocks, small blocks, exhaust...*that* kind of heavy metal. Because on Sunday, August 2, King of Kings held its first *REVREV Rod Run*, organized by REVREV Rods & Relics and the congregation. One didn't have to look far to find Rev. Jan Pastucha behind it all.

Why the parade of muscle cars, hot rods, classic cars, trucks and motorcycles? Rev. Jan Pastucha replied: For three reasons. First, we wanted to give something back to the community."

A few years ago Rev. Pastucha's brother Ron, an artist, suffered third-degree burns to his drawing hand. While recovering, "he would visit the children's wing and mentor the children, begin to get them to colour. I saw children respond. I saw kids having to learn to develop a new awareness of themselves and their burns." The church decided to raise funds and awareness for the burn unit of the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) at Stollery Children's Hospital in Edmonton. "So often a church can be in the community but not a part of it. We simply wanted to give back to the community in which we live." They raised funds through vehicle registrations and T-shirt sales. (T-shirts are still available; contact Rev. Pastucha.)

Congregation member Jason Wood spent a day welding together old engine parts and tools to create unique trophies for the car show's five categories: Mayor's Pick, Solicitor General's Pick, PICU Burn Unit Pick, People's Pick and Registrar's Pick.

Mayor Nolan Crouse of St. Albert awarded a trophy and thanked the congregation for its community involvement, as well as for helping kick off an international car show in St. Albert (Rock'n August), which began later that week.

Alberta's Solicitor General Fred Lindsay, who was scheduled to present a trophy, was called back to his office en route, so his friend Rev. Bill Ney (St. Matthew, Stony Plain, Alta.) made the presentation on his behalf. The St. Albert fire department and paramedics attended the event and awarded the PICU Burn Unit Pick.

"My favourite award, though," said Rev. Pastucha, "was the People's Pick. It allowed everyone to have a say. I love it when people can look at

a car and share memories. And when kids look at cars they have their own reasons for picking a favourite. It may be the wheels, the chrome, the paint, or how it sounds—but to them it's *their* car."

The second reason they decided to do this, says Rev. Pastucha, was to "let the community know we're here. This was our open house. It allowed people to come into the church and explore."

Third, the Rod Run "allowed our members to get involved and work together in a unique way. It was great to see people get excited about something a little different. Creative ideas, like how Jason put the trophies together, were amazing."

Sgt. Russ Gillespie of the RCMP donned his uniform, brought out a retro RCMP car and staged some pullovers—a huge hit. Larry and Shirley Brown, who'd owned a camera store, took photos. Preschool teacher Carolyne O'Neill organized T-shirt orders. "Everyone managed to

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continued from previous page

get involved. It was exciting for me to see the members embrace something that is really my passion, and for that I was touched,” says Rev. Pastucha.

The Rod Run itself wasn't just a King of Kings venture. St. Matthew's—led by Rev. Ney, a car fanatic himself—organized a barbecue. A car-cruise route took people from St. Albert to the Stony Plain church, where more cars awaited on view, along with food, drink and fellowship.

So will *REVREV Rod Run* rev up again next year? Pastucha smiles and says, “In my worst days of organizing I thought, ‘I’m not doing this again; I

just need to get it out of my system.’ Then the day came, the encouraging words came, the positive feedback came, and the people came. Right then I thought, ‘You bet we’ll do this again next year.’”

When asked about changes for next year the pastor bursts out laughing. “I’m amazed at the ideas people have come up with. We’ve been approached to build a burnout pad so we can have a burnout competition. The fire department wants to bring out a wrecked car and demonstrate their ‘jaws of life’ after people have had a chance to take a sledgehammer to the car. We’d like to get more vendors involved next year, possibly bring in

some music, some more activities for kids. And, of course, more cars.”

Rev. Pastucha and the congregation are also organizing *Friday at the Movies* nights starting in October, a monthly showing of classic and not-so-classic car films during the winter months. Buffs will meet for pizza and a movie, and bring a food donation for Edmonton’s *The Rock Inner-city Lutheran Mission*. “It’s for all those car people who get cabin fever and withdrawal from having to put their cars away for the winter.” Pastucha laughs and says, “It’s probably more for me than anyone else, but a good car movie can help you get through the winter.”



From the President

Henry William Allingham (born 6 June 1896) is a supercentenarian; at age 113, the oldest verified living man in the world. Allingham is the oldest ever surviving member of any of the British Armed Forces and the oldest surviving veteran of the First World War. He is the last survivor of the Battle of Jutland, last surviving member of the Royal Naval Air Service, and last surviving founding member of the Royal Air Force. Initially, after the fall into sin, the book of Genesis informs us that people lived much longer than they do today. For example, it is recorded that Methuselah lived 969 years! To put that into perspective, if Methuselah turned 969 today, that means he would have been born in 1040 A.D. During his lifetime, he would have seen the Norman conquest of England in 1066; the nailing of the 95 Theses on the church door in Wittenberg in 1517; the French Revolution in 1789; the first powered flight in 1903; the two World Wars; Neil Armstrong’s first step on the moon in 1969; and the destruction of the World Trade Center in New York in 2001. If Methuselah were alive today, he would consider Henry Allingham a youngster.

Reading through the book of Genesis, you will notice the effects of sin begin to take their toll. Lifespans get shorter and shorter. In our 21st century, medical advances have enabled people to extend their life and to live into their 80s and 90s. I doubt, however, that we will ever get close again to the longevity of some of those early Old Testament patriarchs.

Aging and death are inevitable. Moses wrote: “The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away” (Psalm 90:10 ESV).

When St. Paul looked at his life, he wrote: “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain....I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account” (Philippians 1:21, 23-24). It is interesting to note that while St. Paul valued the life God had given him, he was not afraid to die. He considered death a “gain.” He saw that his departure from this world would mean life in the eternal and glorious presence of Christ. The Christian faith and hope bring an entirely new perspective on death. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the sting of death has been removed. For the redeemed child of God, death becomes the door to eternal life with Christ.

The Scriptures call us to repentance. They call on us to confess our sin and seek forgiveness. Christ comes to us in Word and Sacrament and grants us forgiveness, life and salvation. The redemption we have in Christ brings the promise of death’s ultimate defeat and the glorious promise of full and unending life as God had intended. Now that’s something to look forward to!

Rev. Don Schiemann

Delegates vote to focus on Vancouver 2010

VANCOUVER - Approximately 300 voting delegates, advisory delegates visitors and guests attended the ABC District convention at the University of British Columbia campus, May 22-25. There they voted to, among other things, call a full-time missionary to Vancouver, evangelize at the XXI Olympic Winter Games, and strengthen ties with the Australian Lutheran church. For the first time, viewers could follow convention sessions by webcast.

Following a Friday night worship and communion service, district president Rev. Don Schiemann opened the convention at 8:30 a.m. Saturday.

During multiple business sessions ending Monday morning, May 25, the delegates:

- Presented *Servant of Christ* awards to Ed Novakowski and (posthumously) to Eva Ruf.
- Heard presentations by missionaries Rev. Josef Alfazema (Mozambique) and Rev. Alexsey Navrotsky (Ukraine).



Delegates at the ABC District convention

- Elected men and women to serve the district for the next three years (See chart on page 15)
- Adopted resolutions:
 - calling a full-time missionary to metropolitan Vancouver
 - encouraging more pastors to become involved in chaplaincies in their communities
 - developing mission service partnerships with the New South Wales District of Lutheran Church of Australia

- encouraging evangelistic witness by members and congregations at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver
- encouraging more outreach by Lutheran schools
- developing more support for team ministries
- issuing a directive to investigate liability insurance for congregations.

Convention chaplain Rev. Erik Trovall (Peace, Sidney, B.C.) led delegates in prayer over a number of concerns, including the health of Rev. Kwang Soo Kim (Faith, Surrey, B.C.), a cancer sufferer. On Tuesday, immediately following the convention, our Lord answered these prayers according to His will and called Rev. Kim to his heavenly home. We continue to offer prayers for Rev. Kim's family.

Kurt Robinson

Convention Highlights

- Rev. Lorne Manweiler's (Zion, Wetaskiwin, Alta.) organ playing, a solo sung by Monica Schultz, and Michael Gillingham's playing and singing during the opening service.
- Post-service wine and cheese reception for 300, sponsored by Concordia University College of Alberta, Concordia Lutheran Seminary Edmonton, Canadian Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Foundation Canada.
- Essayist Dr. Carl Fickenscher II, who spoke on the convention theme: "Give Jesus Glory: His Calling to Faith, for Life."
- A great synod report delivered by the LCC executive led by President Robert Bugbee.
- Ten breakout sessions to choose from on Saturday and Sunday.
- More than 30 displays to visit.
- Two events to choose from Saturday evening: a Vancouver bus tour or a special showing of Ben Stein's movie *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed*.
- Saturday night banquet featuring a barbershop quartet, *Antique Gold*.
- Plenty of time to reconnect with old friends and make new ones.

Visit the ABC District website at
www.lccabc.ca

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

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