

Church family continues serving in Uganda



Tim, Joanne, Judah and Samuel Specht stand in front of a tree in the narthex, with leaves symbolizing offerings toward their work in Uganda.

SIDNEY, B.C. - Members of Peace Lutheran were delighted to worship this summer with missionary family and congregation members Tim, Joanne, Judah and Samuel Specht, who have been serving in Uganda with Africa Community Technical Service (ACTS). A congregational lunch in their honour and barbeque at a church family's farm offered extra time for fellowship.

Primarily a technical organization, ACTS goes into rural communities and builds gravity-fed water systems (among other projects), teaches income-generating skills and provides sponsorship or relief for selected individuals. An interdenominational Christian organization, ACTS is also in the business of spiritual transformation and started a discipleship training program this year. Although Tim and Joanne experience times when they lose hope and wonder how God can ever save Uganda, they continue to see His bright light and watch Him at work. "God is doing this in Canada, in Uganda and all over the world" says Tim. As the Spechts look ahead to their eighth year as missionaries to Uganda, the prayers of Peace go with them.

Ev Wiggins

Vicar welcomed

DIDSBURY, Alta. - On August 16 Redeemer Lutheran Church hosted a potluck supper honouring seminarian Rod Parker and his wife Tammy, then installed Rod as vicar

for both Redeemer and Shepherd of the Hills mission in Airdrie, Alberta.

Roger Hall, president, Redeemer



(l-r): Dr. Glenn Schaeffer (district executive assistant, outreach), Redeemer's pastor Rev. Rob Mohns, new vicar Rod Parker, Rev. Jim Schuelke (emeritus) and Rev. Laverne Hautz (Calgary circuit counsellor).

VBS sparks outreach

GRAND FORKS, B.C. - With 20 children attending each day, vacation Bible school at Christ Lutheran became the church's largest ever. Volunteer's called it a miracle! Of the 20, only six belong to a church, and two families

expressed an interest in attending the church. All the children received invitations to Christ's Sunday school, which started September 13. All the families will be invited to Friendship Sunday in October.

Jim and Shirley Richter.



Volunteers called vacation Bible school at Christ Lutheran a "miracle."

How loud was LOUD?

KELOWNA, B.C. - July 23-26 saw 174 Lutheran Church–Canada youth and leaders descend on the University of British Columbia Okanagan campus for **LOUD**, ABC District’s 2009 youth gathering. Some highlights of a get-together that combined study, service, relaxation and relationship-building:

- Servant events around Kelowna (many participants’ favourite LOUD element). Running a free carwash, cleaning a church and a community centre, serving at a fund-raising softball tournament, making meals and cleaning at Kelowna’s Gospel Mission (a Christian organization that serves the homeless) helped youth gain firsthand experience of God’s call to serve others in response to His amazing love for us.

- Keynote speaker Gary Brucker’s Let’s Get Loud sessions, taking participants on a journey through the Old and New Testaments, focusing on God’s desire for relationship with us, the redemption of His people through His Son Jesus, and how we respond to this love by caring for a hurting world.

- Bible studies called simply Word, challenging youth to go deeper into Scripture and into the **LOUD**



Keynote speaker Gary Brucker quizzes Alex Neame (Riverbend, Edmonton) and Melissa Scott (First Lutheran, Kelowna) on the relative LOUDness of natural sounds vs God’s Word and Sacraments.

theme—proclaiming His Word boldly.

- **LOUD** chaplain Rev. Tom Kruesel (Bethany, Campbell River, B.C.), who prayed and talked with participants throughout the gathering and led candlelight worship on Saturday evening.

- **Impact** (breakout) sessions in which youth learned from presenters, leaders and each other about prayer,

sharing our faith, social justice, and having faith like a child—simply finding joy in God’s love for us.

- Chris Rehmann of Vernon sharing his considerable skills as MC, engaging youth in improv, mixers and various “get the spirit” sessions.

- Worship band City Sounds, also of Vernon, playing and leading praise songs.

Touched by God’s amazing love and grace, many young people will be inspired to live a faith life that is **LOUD**.

*Deacon Tracy Wemyss,
director of youth and family ministry,
St. Paul, Medicine Hat, Alta.,
LOUD Planning Committee chair*

VBS success in Drumheller



DRUMHELLER, Alta. - Grace Lutheran Church’s vacation Bible school, July 27-31, drew 34 active and involved children. The church rejoices in the work God does through His people. Photo by Curtis Boehm.



Bible studies challenged youth to dig deep into God’s Word to explore the LOUD theme.

Pastor celebrates fifty years of service

LEDUC, Alta. - Members of St. Peter's Lutheran Church commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of Pastor Harold Clark's ordination Sunday, September 13 with a celebration giving thanks to our gracious God and Saviour for the ministry of His Word and Sacraments.

After the morning service, a letter of congratulations from LCC president, Rev. Robert Bugbee, was read to Pastor Clark and the congregation. The celebration continued at Telford Hall where the congregation



Rev. Harold Clark

gathered for lunch and refreshments during which Pastor Clark received a gift from the members of St. Peter's, a 2009 Canadian commemorative coin collection and a certificate from Lutheran Church-Canada recognizing his 50 years of service. Local Lutheran Women's Missionary League president Delores Jensen also thanked Pastor Clark

for his contributions as pastoral

advisor to their society. She reported that donations were made in his name to Concordia Lutheran Seminary and to the Parkland Zone Bursary Fund awarded to students attending Concordia University College of Alberta in Edmonton.

Throughout the day's activities Pastor Clark reminded everyone to remember whom this day was honouring: our Triune God for His grace and mercy in sending shepherds to minister to His people. "It's not about me," he was heard to say. "I'm just the messenger!"

Nonetheless, we thank God for you, Pastor Clark.

Dianne Bischof



From the President

I would like to put an end to a rumour. It's a somewhat pervasive rumour, and I have been asked about it many times. Even family members who live in Ontario have called me to see whether it's true. So let me put this to rest once and for all: I have *not* accepted the call to serve as pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church in St. Thomas, Ontario.

How would this rumour have started? Really, it's quite simple. A pastor who served at Grace Lutheran Church in Camrose is about the same height as I am and probably close in age. What causes the confusion is that his name is Rev. Don Schiemann. Notice he spells his last name with one *n* at the end. I spell my name with two. *He* is the pastor who accepted the call to our LCC congregation in St. Thomas, Ontario.

It's not the first time we've been confused. Some years ago both of us happened to be on the same flight returning from an LCC Synod convention. You can imagine what near panic this caused the security agents and airline staff!

And all of this confusion over only two people! Now consider that the latest official world population estimate, from mid-year 2009, runs to almost 6.8 billion. From our limited human perspective it's difficult to comprehend how God could keep all of us straight. How can He sort us all out and not get us confused with others?

The simplest and most straightforward answer is that God is omniscient—He knows all things. But because our knowledge is limited and our capacity to understand so diminished by sin, it's easy for us to wonder if God cares

about us or if He even knows who we are.

At the end of a school day, some fathers and mothers pick up their children from school. In spite of the fact that hundreds of students attend a particular school, parents have no difficulty identifying their own children. Why? Because their children *belong* to them. Each child is the direct object of his or her parents' love.

That's the way it is with our heavenly Father and us. St. Paul reminds us: "Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: 'The Lord knows those who are his.' " (2 Tim. 2:19). Speaking through the prophet Isaiah, God says: "But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine (Isaiah 43:1 ESV)." And again: "Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands" (Isaiah 49:16 ESV).

Isaiah points us to the cross. He directs our attention to the nail-pierced hands of Jesus. Those wounds remind us that Christ died for each one of us. In these wounds we find healing and forgiveness. Because of these wounds God the Father sets his affection on us. In Baptism God has claimed every believer in Christ as His child, and as He calls us into the holy Christian church, He calls us by name. He knows and loves us better than a mother knows and loves her child.

Through Christ alone, God knows each of us perfectly as His child. He knows each of us and cares deeply for every one of us. He knows you. He knows me. Even if someone else has the same name as I do.

Rev. Don Schiemann

New pastor in B.C. capital city

VICTORIA - On August 9 recent Concordia Lutheran Seminary graduate Scott Lyons was ordained and installed as the new shepherd of Hope Lutheran Church. Rev. Phil Washeim (Redeemer, Langford, B.C.) led the service, and Scott's friend and mentor Rev. Steven Harold (Trinity, Richmond, B.C.) delivered the sermon. Rev. Harold set the tone in emphasizing that our focus should always be "centred on Jesus."

With 160 laity and 11 pastors present, the service felt like a full-scale celebration of the blessings the Lord has showered on Hope. The congregation is excited to have Rev. Lyons and his wife Linnea join the ministry in serving our Lord as the church prepares to celebrate its 65th anniversary.

A dinner hosted by the congregation followed, and warm



B.C. clergy included (back, l-r): Revs. Colin Liske (Nanaimo), Phillip Washeim (Langford), Kevin Platz (Port Alberni), Mark Beiderwieden (emeritus); (front, l-r): Revs. Steven Harold (Richmond), Thomas Kruesel (Campbell River), Scott Lyons, Erik Trovall (Sidney), seminarian Steve Hoffman, and Rev. Craig Tufts (Parksville).

wishes exchanged by all in expectation of the continuing proclamation of God's Word in Victoria.

Nicolle Rushton

New editor for ABC District news section

Meet Belinda Johnson, administrative assistant to the ABC District's Department of Stewardship and Financial Ministry, as well as the Department of Parish and School Services. As Evan Adnams moves on to a more creative role within the district, she takes on the position of District Editor for *The Canadian Lutheran*. She looks forward to receiving your "stories and pictures of all the ways God works through you to accomplish His work within our district." Please don't hesitate to contact her at bjohnson@lccabc.ca if you have any story ideas or questions.

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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Prairie team finds sea legs

GRANDE PRAIRIE, Alta.

- In August a youth team from Faith partnered with the B.C. Mission Boat Society and travelled to Zeballos Inlet on Vancouver Island. In the village of Ehattesaht, they set up a Kid's Kamp and shared Jesus with local youth.

Eleven children showed up daily for Kid's Kamp, and the team found them "most happy with the simple activities... and they loved to eat with us." Some community families were away at family camp, but the smaller numbers let the team work almost one-on-one with attendees. An Xbox-playing, movie and snack night at the local youth centre (where the team was billeted) drew another age group for fellowship.

Faith's team included Cindy, Josh, Caleb and Abi Wunsch; Blaine and Breanna Hunter; Jan and Jake Gass; and Sarah Walsh. Marcus Huff and Kristen Kahle from the



The youth team (back, l-r): Cindy Wunsch, Jake Gass, Josh Wunsch, Jan Gass; (centre): Blaine Hunter, Sarah Walsh, Abi Wunsch, Breanna Hunter; (front): Caleb Wunsch.

mission boat shared their knowledge as guides. Team members give special thanks to the Faith Lutheran congregation and vacation Bible school families for donating needed funds for this project.