

## Convention reflections

**REGINA** - The Eighth (47th) Regular Convention of Lutheran Church–Canada Central District took place April 27-30. According to evaluations returned after the convention, most of the 124 delegates enjoyed their time in Regina.

First-time delegates commented on the stirring effect of a large gathering of Christians singing together, and were impressed by the dedicated and friendly group of delegates who volunteer their time to conduct district



Conducting convention business: Rev. Bruce Corson (New Beginnings, Regina) at microphone #1.

business. Some noted that certain groups (e.g., women, younger people, people of colour) did not seem well represented, perhaps in part due to the scheduling of sessions over four business days.

In his report to the convention, district president Rev. Thomas Prachar commented, “The reports in the convention workbook and the presentations made at this convention by our district, synod and auxiliaries tell the

story of the wonders God has done in and through us, His forgiven people.” The district office has mailed each congregation a copy of convention proceedings, including minutes, election results and resolutions.



Essayist Dr. Gene Veith presented three sessions on the Doctrine of Christian Vocation.



LCC president, Rev. Robert Bugbee (standing, second from right) along with district president Rev. Thomas Prachar (at left) welcomes new workers: (l-r) Revs. Kyung-Hyun Kim, Ted Giese, Jason Schultz, Artem Litvinov, James Chimirri-Russell, Joshua Reynolds, Murray Keith, and Deacon Lindah Turnquist. Seated are convention secretary Rev. Michael Keith and assistant secretary Rev. Arron Gust.



The convention logo, designed by Rev. Ted Giese (Mount Olive, Regina). Donna Pudrycki of Regina designed the convention banner.

## Ministry milestone observed

**WINNIPEG** - Lutheran Volunteer Ministries celebrated 25 years of visitation ministry with an appreciation banquet May 4. *Prairie Fire*, a local youth music ministry, provided entertainment, and Peter Dueck shared some of his experiences in 23 years of volunteering. After a brief annual meeting, Rev. James Fritsche (Beautiful Savior) received a gift thanking him for leading services at Deer Lodge Centre for the past ten years. Valerie Olson accepted a gift on behalf of her husband, Ankor, in acknowledgement of his many years of volunteering. Ankor now resides in a personal-care home after suffering a stroke.

Volunteers who visit in hospitals and care homes note that followers of Christ they meet exhibit a “peace that passes all understanding” as they put their trust in God, regardless of circumstance. The volunteer is truly blessed to be able to visit a patient with such an attitude! Visiting with others who “rely on their own understanding” isn’t always easy, since the peace that comes only from Christ is missing. Occasionally, however, people in those circumstances seek to renew their relationship with Christ, and reconnect with their Lutheran roots.

Lutheran Volunteer Ministries is

a joint ministry of LCC and ELCIC, with 45 volunteers—not nearly enough to cover more than 3000 hospital patients and more than 5500 residents in care homes. Statistics show that five percent of these patients are Lutheran, and two out of three have no church affiliation. What a mission field!

Please remember Lutheran Volunteer Ministries in your prayers. If you are in the Winnipeg area and interested in volunteering with the ministry, or know someone who would benefit from a visit, call 204-255-4274 or email ppdueck@mts.net.

Phyllis Dueck

## Anniversary celebrations continue

### MOOSE JAW, Sask.

- About 275 people gathered at Emmanuel Lutheran Saturday, June 6 for an evening of fun and celebration marking the congregation's 75th anniversary. Comedienne Jan Struck from Appleton, Wisconsin entertained the crowd with two comedy routines about life in the Lutheran church. The congregation formed a special four-part choir under the direction of

Gloria Moffatt, assisted by Dorothy Johnstone on piano, to perform a number of pieces during the evening program. Hors d'oeuvres followed in the fellowship hall to conclude the evening's events.

District president Rev. Thomas Prachar served as guest preacher at the Sunday morning anniversary service. Assisting were former pastor (1971-77) Rev. Gerald Schienbein (Carseland, Alta.) and a son of the congregation, Rev. Rod Buck (St. James, Winnipeg). Former director of parish services, Christine Dorsett from Tulsa, Oklahoma, helped with the children's message by making a balloon cross. Anniversary booklets were handed out after the service. (Some are still available, free of charge, from the church office.)

In the fall, a pictorial directory including photos of the various events and services held during the year will be the final anniversary offering.

As part of its anniversary the congregation dedicated a new work of art for the sanctuary in May. Commissioned by the church, local Moose Jaw artist Grant McLaughlin created a relief sculpture rendered in earth tones to give the modern image a timeless look.

"The figure of Christ reaches out to touch two hands as if reaching out to help and give inspiration in



Rev. John Kreutzwieser poses under the new sculpture with this year's confirmands.

life," says McLaughlin. "It's a large relief sculpture, but I designed it to suit the area, so the majority of the congregation would get the best view."

The project began in the fall of 2007 when a committee formed to find an original piece of art to best represent the name of the congregation—Emmanuel, which means "God with us." Fifteen submissions arrived from artists across the province, and the committee narrowed its selection to three. "We met with the three artists and ultimately chose Grant McLaughlin's work, feeling it was

the best design for the sanctuary," said Rev. John Kreutzwieser. The church, a longtime supporter of the arts community, has various works around the building, including a large stained-glass window.

## Renovating and rededicating sacred spaces

### PLUMAS, Man.

- After Zion Lutheran received a government grant and many personal donations to make its building more wheelchair accessible, members built a large outdoor ramp and installed a new door into the sanctuary. They also built a wheelchair-accessible washroom off the sanctuary, and revamped the foyer and basement offices.

At a special service June 14, the congregation thanked God for blessing this large project. Rev. Richard Klein led the rededication, Robert McLaughlin cut the ribbon, chairman Don Kunzelman officially opened the doors, and the building committee (Glen Mauthe, Howard



Rev. Richard Klein leads participants in the rededication at the new entrance.

Buffi and Mervyn Smith) stood by to oversee. After the service came a potluck lunch and church picnic including games for all.

Zion's History Committee also dedicated its most recent project—three photo frames of all the pastors who have served the congregation since its founding in 1901.

*Lenora Buffi and Donna Lach*

## Pastor's arrival raises the roof

WINNIPEG - Members of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd welcomed Rev. Harold and Annette Borchardt to their church family Sunday, July 5, in an installation service attended by many area pastors. A luncheon prepared and served by ladies of the congregation followed.

In June the congregation had raised the roof, literally, for the new pastor. To counter many years of water damage, they built a peaked roof over the sloping roof covering the church's main entrance and office. They re-shingled the south side of the roof (it had suffered hail damage) and built a new office, just in time for Pastor Borchardt's arrival. Most of the workers were congregation volunteers, including two women who provided meals and snacks during the week.



(back, l-r) Revs. Richard Beinert (Immanuel, Winnipeg); Rod Buck (Saint James, Winnipeg); Thomas Prachar (Central District president); Dale Mohr (emeritus, Winnipeg); Karl Koslowsky (emeritus, Winnipeg); Robert Bugbee (LCC president and guest preacher); Richard Kruesel (Holy Cross, Winnipeg). (front, l-r) Revs. Ward Yunker (Peace, Winnipeg); Brad Schollenberg (Peace, Winnipeg); Harold Borchardt; Alvin Borchardt (emeritus, Neepawa); James Scholz (Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Winnipeg).

## Coming events

**October 4-6** – North-South Saskatchewan Pastors' Conference, Lumsden

**October 5-7** – Manitoba-Northern

Ontario Pastors' Conference, Kenora

**October 31** – Portage Circuit Forum, Portage La Prairie



## Ponderings from the president

In light of the upheaval in the auto industry this year, I happened to come across this quote attributed to Henry Ford: "Quality means doing it right when no one is looking." Wise advice, whether you are working on the assembly line, in the office, or at home.

We all have that Pharisee within us who likes to put on a show—doing all the right things but for all the wrong reasons. We like others to recognize and praise our commitment and hard work. When no one is looking, it's so much easier to cut corners, waste time by daydreaming or sleeping on the job, or simply do the least you have to do.

A guest was checking out of a hotel when she realized she had forgotten something. "Would you go up to Room 1402 and check to see if I left my purse there?" she asked the bellboy. A few minutes later the bellboy returned to the lobby and reported:

"Nothing to worry about, lady. Your purse is still there in Room 1402."

*Quality means doing it right when no one is looking.* If people followed this philosophy, just think how much more productive businesses might be. Think of the craftsmanship going into a product—so that anyone purchasing the item would not need a repairman on speed-dial. Think of the pride and self-esteem of the person doing the work. He could sleep well at night knowing he had done his best. His good work could spur him on to even better or more creative heights.

When we are tempted to give only our second best, do the absolute minimum, or do only what is required, we can remember our Saviour who gave His very best for us. Whatever our vocation, we do our best, not because He is watching, but out of love for Him who first loved us. "So...whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

*Rev. Thomas Prachar*

## 105 years and counting



**CHURCHBRIDGE, Sask.** - Helen Thies (**seated, left**), a longtime member of Trinity Lutheran, celebrated her 105th birthday in May with her family, including (**l-r**) Ray Thies, Rosanna Loughin, Don Thies, Wilma Fritz, Lois Stasiuk, Eleanor Hinde (**seated, right**), Calvin Thies and Wilfred Thies. Helen has 27 grandchildren, 40 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. She lives in a special-care home in Langenburg, Saskatchewan.

## Preachers meet for retreat

**LUMSDEN, Sask.** - Twenty-nine pastors from Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and Montana gathered for the 4th Annual St. John Chrysostom Lutheran Preachers' Retreat at St. Michael's Retreat, June 22-24. Keynote speaker Rev. David Petersen presented on "The Living God and His Living Word."

Throughout the retreat the pastors gave much time to hearing the Word of God and to joining in prayer. The group gathered for Divine Service Monday evening and throughout the retreat for Matins, noon prayers, Vespers and Compline. Rev. Petersen

preached at two of the services; Revs. Garry Heintz (Redeemer, Kakabeka Falls, Ont.) and Mark Dressler (St. Paul's, Saskatoon) also preached. Many find these services a high point of the retreat. Ample time for relaxation and "mutual conversation and consolation of the brethren" is also included.

Organizers plan the next Preachers' Retreat for June 7-9, 2010. Check <http://lutheranpreachers.worthyofpraise.org/> for more information and to hear audio files from past retreats. This year's audio files will be available soon.

*Rev. Michael Keith*



## District board begins business

**REGINA** - The district Board of Directors started its work right after the April convention, meeting June 8-9 to begin the process of implementing resolutions passed by the delegates.

As its first order of business, the board elected Michael Maunula (Thunder Bay), chairman, and Rev. Michael Keith (Our Saviour, Fort Qu'Appelle), district secretary. Rev. Rudy Pastucha (Faith, Saskatoon) was elected first vice-president. Since there were no nominations at the convention for lay members from two regions, the board appointed Claudia Edel from Neepawa to represent the Winnipeg region, and Gloria Rathgeber from Yorkton representing the Yorkton region. Both women have accepted their appointments.

The board also assigned the resolutions adopted at the district convention to various groups or individuals for implementation. They spent the rest of the meeting time taking care of business matters, orientation and strategic planning.

Visit the Central District website at [www.lcccentral.ca](http://www.lcccentral.ca)

Send news, photos, articles and announcements six weeks prior to publication month. Elaine Stanfel, district editor  
Box 471, Nipawin, SK  
S0E 1E0  
306-862-3723  
E-mail:  
[billandelainestanfel@sasktel.net](mailto:billandelainestanfel@sasktel.net)

**Next deadline:  
September 18, 2009**