

## The stones speak of remembered blessings

**SHEVLIN, Man.** - Former members of St. John's Lutheran gathered with family and friends, including members of local sister congregations, Sunday, September 20, for a cairn dedication service. St. John's served the Shevlin area from 1916 until 1978 when rural depopulation finally took its toll.

Rev. Paul Borchardt (emeritus, Roblin, Man.), a former pastor of the congregation, led the service. He noted that as well as commemorating the congregation,



Friends and former members of the congregation gather to commemorate the church that closed in 1978.

the cairn also memorializes God's presence at St. John's and His many blessings poured out through the years. Former member Eli Bodnariuk opened the service by playing *Amazing Grace* on the harmonica.

The church building had fallen into disrepair since its closing, but the steeple survived even the demolition and is part of the memorial. Richard Wutzke built the cairn.

*Ed Doering, The Roblin Review  
(with permission)*



Eli Bodnariuk plays *Amazing Grace*.

## Sharing warmth on the streets

**THUNDER BAY, Ont.** - Jackets, warmers filled the sanctuary of Lappe Lutheran Church September

13, donated by Sunday school children and their families. Why? To help children and adults in need through Thunder Bay's StreetReach Ministries. As winter approaches the warm gifts will go a long way on cold streets.

Congregation members supported the Sunday school by bringing in their own donations. In all, Lappe collected 10 full bags of clothing, plus one bag of boots and one box of mittens, gloves and scarves. A hotdog lunch following the service brought in \$408.69 for Street Reach as well.

The children learned valuable lessons and shared a little bit of God's love with others in need in their own community.

*Mary-Anne Barton*



Sunday-school children with some of the donated winter gear.

## All's fair in outreach for local Laymen's League

REGINA - Members of the Wascana Zone of Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL) provided a Christian witness to thousands of fairgoers this summer at the Regina Exhibition. "It's surprising how many people we touch," said Esther Tiefenbach. "We had visitors from Alberta as well as from all across the province stop at our booth."

A video promoting LLL *Men's NetWork*, an online resource centre offering easy-to-use materials to ignite and challenge men's lives and faith, played as a new feature this year. Materials on families, parenting and other issues were free for the taking; colourful *JC PlayZone* bookmarks and prayer books made a hit with children. Lutheran Hour Ministry booklets about angels, depression, stress, and money management proved most in demand with adults.

The Capitol Zone of Lutheran Women's Missionary League-



Setting up the LLL fair booth (l): Esther Rommel, Maryanne Olson, Barry Groff, Rene Olson; (r): Esther Tiefenbach, Adeline Ullrich and Ed Tiefenbach.

Canada blessed the fair- booth ministry with a generous donation earmarked for purchasing Bibles, and volunteers handed out a number at the fair. Some visitors requested a follow-up visit and extra Bibles as well.

Booth volunteers Norm and Judy Markel commented, "God continues to open doors" and

observed how the volunteer efforts plant seeds for the Gospel. Thanks go to the congregations and faithful volunteers of Regina for another successful LLL outreach event. The seed planting has been done. We now must pray for the harvest.

*Ed Tiefenbach*

*Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,  
Regina*

## Saints and sinners in southern Saskatchewan

### QU'APPELLE VALLEY, Sask.

- Nineteen confirmation students from congregations across southern Saskatchewan gathered September 18-20 at Camp Lutherland for a weekend retreat focusing on *Saints and Sinners Throughout the Ages*. The retreat enables confirmation students of any year to get together to play, learn and pray.

Revs. John Kreutzwieser (Emmanuel, Moose Jaw) and Randy Kleemola (St. Peter's, Estevan) led various sessions on saints and sinners throughout church history, with a tie-in to chief parts of the Catechism.

Chapel services and campfires also included stories of Christian saints. Greg Vallee of Regina organized some terrific games—Ultimate Ball, marshmallow blowguns, high-energy wheelchair races and a zipline. Rocky Campbell of Regina provided music leadership.



Campers gather for a group shot at Camp Lutherland.

Ask your pastor or watch for information about next year's retreat—it will be great!

*Rev. John Kreutzwieser,  
Emmanuel, Moose Jaw*

**Found some interesting items around the church?**

Contact the archivist

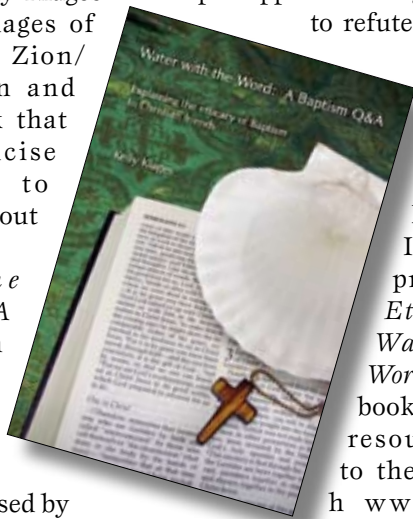
**Maxine Holm**

[rm.holm@accesscomm.ca](mailto:rm.holm@accesscomm.ca)

## Self-published book answers baptism questions

**WINKLER, Man.** - Kelly Klages (wife of Rev. Alex Klages of Trinity/Winkler and Zion/Morden) has written and published a free book that provides short, concise Scriptural answers to questions people ask about infant baptism.

*Water with the Word: A Baptism Q&A* summarizes Lutheran belief on the efficacy of baptism and the legitimacy of baptizing infants. It covers a wide range of issues often raised by Christians of other faith traditions and those that deny or question the saving nature of baptism. Kelly draws on her own experiences in the Southern Baptist church to shed light on where misconceptions and



presuppositions originate, and how to refute and challenge stereotypes.

In July Rev. Todd Wilken interviewed Kelly on the Internet radio program *Issues, Etc.* and called *Water with the Word* a “great new book, a tremendous resource.” Listen to the interview at [www.issuesetc.org/ondemand.html](http://www.issuesetc.org/ondemand.html)

(scroll down for Monday, July 13 broadcast).

For more information, e-mail Kelly at [kellyklages@mts.net](mailto:kellyklages@mts.net) or follow the links at [www.bythefont.com](http://www.bythefont.com).

## From preacher to teacher

**CARONPORT, Sask.** - Rev. Dr. John Kreutzwieser (Emmanuel, Moose Jaw) taught Foundations of Biblical Worship, a modular 300-level course, at Briercrest College (associated with the University of Saskatchewan) in October. More than 32 hours of presentations and discussion engaged 33 students over the week-long course designed to assist students in the development of a theological understanding of worship as it relates to the Bible and Christian practice over the past twenty centuries.

Topics for discussion ranged from God’s interaction with human beings in the Book of Genesis to Emerging Church principles developing in present-day Christian congregations.



## Ponderings from the president

### The summer that was

“It was quite a summer!” is a remark I’ve heard a lot lately as people think back to the summer of 2009. Often they’re referring to the uncharacteristic weather experienced in many parts of the country as weather patterns seemed to be reversed: sweltering heat for those used to moderate temperatures, and unseasonably cool days for areas that typically endure heat and humidity.

It was quite a summer for me as well. With the death of my father at 89 years of age on June 3, and the death of my 85-year-old mother August 18, it was a summer of tears, yet certainty. Both of my parents were in failing health and received nurture in a care home. Best of all, they believed in Jesus as their Saviour!

But summer just didn’t seem to be the time to concern myself with funeral arrangements and grieving. It seemed odd to receive family and friends in an air-conditioned funeral home, when we should have been catching up on news while lounging in the backyard and waiting for the barbecue to begin. It seemed out of place to be attending funeral services on a Saturday and Monday when normally churches

are empty and quiet. It seemed strange to sing Easter hymns so far removed from that great festival.

And yet how comforting to gather with family and friends to reminisce and to be witnesses of our faith in the risen Lord. What a comfort it was to come to a familiar church both my parents and I knew as our spiritual home. There I heard God’s Word proclaimed with truth and conviction concerning two people who were at the same time sinners and saints. And what a joy it was to sing hymns of certainty and hope: “He lives to silence all my fears; He lives to wipe away my tears” (LSB 461) and “Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might; Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight” (LSB 677).

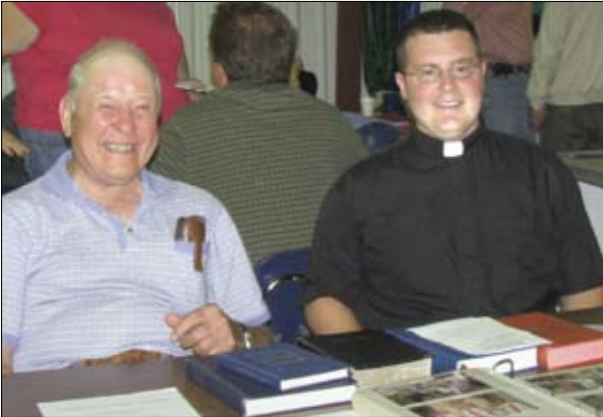
As I stood at the grave, I could hear the summer sounds of the city as people went about their routines, oblivious to faith-filled mourners who sang, *Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes; Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies. Heav’n’s morning breaks, and earth’s vain shadows flee;*

*In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me* (LSB 878).

Yes, it was quite a summer!

Rev. Thomas Prachar

## Community contact increases



Elder Richard Becker (l) and vicar Douglas Zahner man an information table at a community *Meet and Greet Night*.

**SPRINGSIDE, Sask.** - Members of St. Paul's Lutheran are reaching out to their growing community in new ways. Vicar Douglas Zahner and elder Richard Becker set up a table at Springside's Community Information *Meet and Greet Night* where they introduced their church to area residents.

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

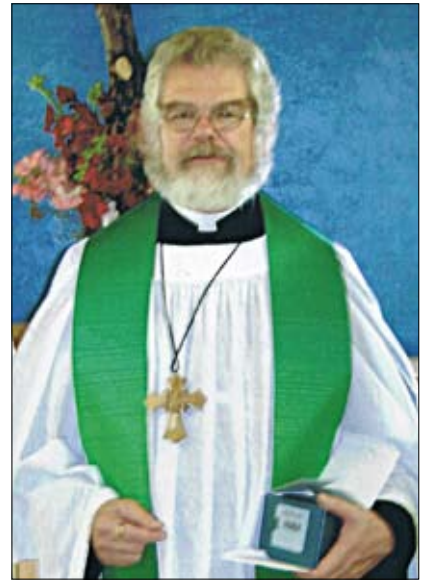
The night provided an opportunity to highlight two new programs. First, the church has started a children's playgroup to involve the many young families moving into the community. After four sessions, six families have joined, including four families with no prior church

interaction. Second, the church offers a course on Confessional Lutheranism to residents of Springside and the surrounding area.

Both playgroup and class allow for interaction between church members and their neighbours, increase awareness of the congregation throughout the community, and provide an opportunity to invite new people to worship.

*Douglas Zahner, vicar, St. Paul's, Springside*

## Faithful service acknowledged



Rev. Robert Hasselstrom

**ROBLIN, Man.** - Sister congregations St. Matthew's (Roblin) and Grace (Zorra, Sask.) joined at Jackfish Camp for a service marking the camp's summer closing.

Following the service the congregations honoured Rev. Robert Hasselstrom for his 25 years' service as an ordained minister of the Word. He received an engraved gold watch as well as a monetary gift—which he and his wife, Betty, then graciously donated to the camp.

Everyone then enjoyed fellowship and delicious potluck dinner.

*Donna Buick*

## Pastor installed in summer service



MIDDLE LAKE, Sask. - Rev. Ken Keller was installed August 9 as pastor of Faith Lutheran. Clergy attending included (back, l-r): Revs. Linden Dressler (emeritus, Saskatoon), Richard Mensch (Redeemer, Prince Albert), Irwin Pudrycki (emeritus, Regina), Randy Heide (St. John's, Warman), District President Tom Prachar; (front, l-r): Revs. Orville Walz (emeritus, Nebraska), Rob Grout (St. John's, Humboldt), Ken Keller and Rojar Singh (St. Paul's, Melfort).

## Coming events

**November 23-24** – District Board of Directors, Lumsden, Sask.

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

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**Next deadline:**

**December 18, 2009**