

Fall fair yields many blessings

BEAUSEJOUR, Man. - Grace Lutheran LWML-Canada Society hosted a fall fair Saturday, October 3, at the church in conjunction with LWMLC Sunday. The women offered crafts and baked goods for sale, along with donated garage-sale items. Hungry customers could buy hotdogs and doughnuts outside.

Some of the proceeds from the successful event went to a local play

centre in memory of an 11-year-old boy who died from burns caused by a gas fire he lit. Some of the funds will be used to repair steps going into the church building.

Congregation members thank the Lord for this event, which united the congregation and reignited zeal in their hearts to serve Him in their community.

Olga Relf



Some of the craft items for sale.

Dual gathering for pastors and deacons

KENORA, Ont. and LUMSDEN, Sask. - Saskatchewan pastors and deacons met in conference at Lumsden's St. Michael's Retreat Centre October 4 to 6, at which guest presenter Rev. Tom Baker (an LCMS pastor and director of development for Concordia Mission Society) spoke on Law and Gospel in preaching and life.

Pastors and deacons from Manitoba and northwestern Ontario met October 5 to 7 at Luther Village on the shores of Dogtooth Lake, southeast of Kenora, Ontario. LCC President Rev. Robert Bugbee spoke to the group on "Pastor as Intercessor."

Both conference schedules included time for discussion among



Pastors enjoy food and fellowship, too!

the church workers, and a number of pastors led worship services.

Women invited to *The Healing Waters of Christ*

MOOSE JAW, Sask. - Plans continue to come together for Lutheran Women's Missionary League-Canada's Manitoba and Saskatchewan District convention, June 11 to 13 at Heritage Inn.

The theme, *The Healing Waters of Christ*, is based on John 7:37-38: "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

Scheduled participants include:

- Keynotespeaker, LCC president Rev. Robert Bugbee
- Mission speaker, Central District assistant to the president Rev. Sye Van Maanen
- Bible study leaders, Revs. Daryl Solie (Prince of Peace, Regina) and Lowell Dennis (St. Paul's, Cupar, Sask.)

Three community organizations will benefit from ingathering gifts: Moose Jaw Women's Transition House, Moose Jaw and District Food Bank, and Hunger in Moose Jaw. Proceeds from the planned mission walk will go to Canadian Lutheran World Relief for clean-water projects.

Look for more information and registration forms in January.



Music students share talents for a good cause

WINNIPEG - Beautiful Savior Lutheran School's violin students raised their bows and played for a great cause October 20. Students from grades 2 to 4 performed at St. Vital Centre during a Keeping Abreast event, which recognizes breast cancer survivors and celebrates life after the disease.

Decked out in pink, the students collected donations in empty violin cases during their two 20-minute sets—and were excited to learn they raised \$195 for Keeping Abreast.

This was a great opportunity for students to showcase their talents and develop hearts that serve their community.

Leslie Kolmel, BSLS, Admissions Coordinator



Violin students raise funds for cancer-awareness group.

Saskatoon celebrates the Reformation

SASKATOON - The Lutheran community of Saskatoon gathered at Faith Lutheran to commemorate the Reformation with an afternoon event for youth, a potluck supper for youth and parents, and a special Divine Service Sunday, November 1 at 7:30 p.m. The service included area pastors and youth, and featured a mass choir and special music.



Area youth and pastors take part in processional.

Kiitos from StreetReach



Michael Maunula (left), Lutheran Community Care Centre CEO, and chaplain Rev. Neil Otko with the more than 120 Thanksgiving bags StreetReach collected.

THUNDER BAY, Ont. - StreetReach Ministries and the Lutheran Community Care Centre say *kiitos* (“thank you” in Finnish) to area Lutherans for their support during the ministries’ second annual Thanksgiving food drive. The drive resulted in bags full of items necessary to keep the ministry going—staples such as coffee creamer, juice, cookies, peanut butter and jam. Many donated other items which were included in hampers distributed to needy individuals and families.

Support for StreetReach continues to grow. The ministry is a front-

line one, reaching out to those suffering from the effects of poverty, mental illness and substance abuse in Thunder Bay’s Simpson Street area. People share God’s love over a cup of coffee, build relationships and offer prayers with and for anyone who drops by. This ministry, connected with Lutheran Community Care Centre and generously supported by the Central District, continues to meet the real needs of the area with an attitude of Christian love and support.

Rev. Neil Otko

New workers meet



New Central District church workers and some of their families gather in Regina (back, l-r): Rev. Douglas Taylor, Vicar Douglas Zahner, Rev. Ward Yunker; (front, l-r): Vicar Lorne Reddeman, his wife Rita and their son Seth.

REGINA - Workers new to the Central District met at the district office October 19-20. Present for orientation were Vicar Lorne Reddeman (St. Paul's, Saskatoon) with his wife Rita and son Seth, Rev. Douglas Taylor (Unity/Wilkie dual parish, Sask.), Rev. Ward Yunker (associate pastor, Peace, Winnipeg) and Vicar Douglas Zahner (Yorkton/Springside dual parish, Sask.) with his wife Tricia and daughter Cordelia.

Cookies with purpose



Mabel Dutka, Sandy Harper and Jill Adams, three of a larger group who helped bake dozens and dozens of cookies.

SASKATOON - A cookie bee organized at St. Paul's Lutheran gives parents and other members of the congregation a chance to socialize during the Sunday school hour. This

activity is one of the opportunities provided by the congregation for socializing and fellowship, at the same time providing a snack for parents to enjoy as they visit.



Ponderings from the president

Our Light has come

Every Christmas season, especially on Christmas Eve, people gather in growing numbers at cemeteries to remember loved ones by lighting candles at their graves. For several years now, Lake of the Woods Cemetery in Kenora, Ontario, has been home to an annual Ice Candle Festival of Lights. People can place their own candles at gravesites, or purchase candles to be placed by volunteers. Cemetery manager Barb Manson reports that late on Christmas Eve, many families brave the cold and snow to have prayer services or sing Christmas carols at a loved one's gravesite. One recent Christmas Eve, an estimated 6000 candles lit up the cemetery.

People express grief in many different ways. Every family has different traditions they observe at Christmas. For Christians, putting the two together can be a challenging, yet beautiful, witness to others of our faith in Jesus our Saviour.

I'm certain a cemetery looks quite beautiful covered in snow at night and illuminated by thousands of candles. What an opportunity this presents for Christians, on Christmas Eve, to tell the grieving families who have no hope that the Child born long ago is our Saviour, Jesus—the Light of the world! Isaiah foretold His coming: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined" (Isaiah 9:2 ESV). Jesus' birth into this world with human flesh assures us He came to do what we cannot do: conquer the darkness of sin, death, and the power of the devil through His death and resurrection.

I don't think we need to cancel our Christmas Eve candlelight services. But maybe on the way home we could drive by our local cemetery and, at the very least, say a prayer for those families who still grieve. For we know that someday in heaven we will "need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be [our] light, and [we] will reign forever and ever" (Revelation 22:5).

Rev. Thomas Prachar

Congregation marks anniversary with uplifting project

SWIFT CURRENT, Sask. - At a celebration of the congregation's 80th anniversary October 4, Mount Calvary's Rev. Brad Julien dedicated a new lift installed as an anniversary project. Also participating in the service were Central District president Rev. Thomas Prachar, who preached, and assistant to the president Rev. Sye Van Maanen, who led the liturgy.



(l-r): Revs. Thomas Prachar, Brad Julien and Sye Van Maanen.

Green is the colour



Rev. Robert Bugbee in Grey Cup form

MIDDLELAKE, Sask. - Participating in the mission festival hosted by Faith Lutheran on November 21, LCC president Rev. Robert Bugbee models garb doubly appropriate—for the church season and for a Saskatchewan Roughriders fan.

The next issue will feature a complete report on the mission festival.

Visit the Central District website at 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

**Next deadline:
January 11, 2009**

Congregation celebrates 100 years

CUPAR, Sask. - More than 200 members, former members and guests filled the sanctuary of St. Paul Lutheran Church to capacity as they marked the congregation's 100th anniversary June 21. Celebrations began with a service of worship featuring guest preacher, Central District president Rev. Thomas Prachar. The church choir sang for the special occasion, and God joined in with a thunderstorm that roared outside.

Following the service guests and members gathered at the town hall for a meal prepared by the men and women of the congregation. Honoured guests brought congratulatory messages; those not able to attend sent more greetings. A humorous fashion show and a concert by the German Boys of Southey provided enjoyable entertainment.

Formed in 1909, St. Paul began with services held in members' homes. In 1910 the congregation built a parsonage on four acres of donated land outside the town, followed by a church building in 1913, expanded in 1949. In 1962 the congregation decided to move into the town of Cupar and dedicated a building there early in 1963. They constructed a new

building in May 1971, dedicated on Reformation Sunday that year to the glory of God, which continues to serve His people.

The congregation offers thanks to Rev. Lowell Dennis for his guidance and prayers in organizing the day's events, and to members of the Anniversary

Committee for their hard work before and after the celebration. With God's guiding hand the day was filled with hope, praise and thankfulness, as well as warm fellowship.

Eileen Mitchell



The anniversary theme.