

Advent concert and outreach event

OSHAWA, Ont. - Grace Lutheran's first-ever Advent concert followed the church's Advent dinner on Saturday, December 12. The dinner—a “pot-blessing” rather than pot-luck—drew an enthusiastic gathering of members and guests. Two weeks earlier, volunteers had walked the neighbourhood handing out invitations, and were rewarded when more than 25 neighbours and their families attended.

Both the choir and a sizable group of young musicians—on violin, flute, guitar, clarinet and percussion—performed traditional holiday fare spiced with a Cuban carol, a Polish lullaby, and a German carol with one verse sung in the original language. Thanks go to all the musicians and volunteers (including PowerPoint expert Marshall Hohmann) for a splendid night.

Anne Carson, Grace, Oshawa



Grace's choir (back, l-r): Bob Southern, Carolyn McLeod, Lucy Southern, Alannah Hohmann and Rowena Parmar; (front): Sandy Doyle, Anne Carson, Debbie Vincent and Reta Curran.



The Advent orchestra (back row, l-r): guitarists Leo Hohmann and Ryan Grootendorst, violinists Selby Hohmann and Rev. Jack Hetzel, and Alannah Hohmann on flute; (front, l-r): keyboardist Paula Hohmann, violinists Bianca Parmar and Christa Hruska, Brennan Parmar on clarinet and Brianna Parmar on flute. Brennan and Brianna also played percussion.

Funding infusion for mission trip

DASHWOOD, Ont. - With a little help from their wives on October 17, Zion Lutheran Men's Fellowship served 165 people a home-cooked supper of ham, scalloped potatoes, corn, turnips, coleslaw and pie. For the past 14 years, proceeds from this annual fund-raiser have gone to benefit international LCC missions.

This year the men raised more than \$1300 they'll use to buy food baskets in Nicaragua during their upcoming mission trip, March 12-21. Previous years' funds have gone toward building supplies in Nicaragua and missions in Haiti and Ukraine.

Doris Osgood, Zion, Dashwood



Men provide meal to raise funds.

Gracias for uniforms

KITCHENER, Ont. - Sunday school students at Faith Lutheran Church say *gracias* for supporting their Nicaragua mission project which helps other children. Offerings from a December 13 Christmas program, along with fourth-Sunday offerings and a matching grant from



(left and above) Children from Faith, Kitchener support mission

FaithLife Financial, went into the project. Besides uniforms (essential for attending school in Nicaragua), it provides shoes, backpack, books, tutoring and other necessities for a child's year of Christian education. A selection process identifies children most in need.

Rev. Warren Hamp, Faith, Kitchener

Another pull for the record books

COBOURG, Ont. - Rev. Kevin Fast, pastor and strongman of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, set a Guinness world record on September 17 when he successfully pulled a C-17 Globemaster III cargo plane 8.8 metres across the tarmac at CFB Trenton. One minute and 16 seconds was all it took to claim the record for heaviest aircraft pulled by an individual. The plane weighs 188,694 kilograms.

"This is something I've been wanting to do for a long time," Fast said of the feat. An Australian had

set the previous plane-pull record, just under 187,000 kilograms, in 1997.

Rev. Fast also made the record book in 2007 for pulling two fire trucks, weighing 63 tonnes, more than 30 metres (see *The Canadian Lutheran*, July/August 2007). At the time he explained, "Setting a record involves a combination of things: God's gift of strength, technique, and desire to fight through the pain to finish. My confirmation verse has been my theme not only for truck pulling but for life—Joshua 1:9."



Rev. Kevin Fast—pastor and strongman.

Outreach carnival reaches Sudanese community

HAMILTON - A fall Outreach Carnival on September 26 at Pilgrim Lutheran provided games, prizes, balloons and more—a great opportunity to get to know the community's Sudanese brothers and sisters in the faith. Morning activities culminated in a blending of the two cultures, singing and hearing God's Word, followed by a potluck meal. Rev. Peter Gatluak, ordained in May 2009 at Pilgrim, serves as missionary-at-large to the Sudanese community in the greater Hamilton area. Sudanese worship service at Pilgrim takes place at 2 p.m. each Sunday.

From a report by Rev. Jim Schnarr and Rev. Peter Gatluak, Pilgrim, Hamilton



Rev. Jim Schnarr (left) and missionary-at-large Rev. Peter Gatluak make their carnival rounds accompanied by Shrek.

Chrismons repaired after 40 years

LONDON, Ont. - In 1969 several women of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church made chrismons (ornaments symbolizing Christ's name) for their church Christmas tree. As the years went by, some of the meaningful ornaments broke or faded; more were lost when the decorated tree toppled over several years ago. This Christmas the tree had a larger, more secure stand, and the church's Mary Martha

L W M L C society spent an evening with tacky glue, glitter, sequins and

pearls repairing the chrismons for 2009 and future years.

Ethel Kuhl, Good Shepherd, London



(l-r) Mabel Keller, Lorine Ryan and Tracey Klages.



Clowns and balloons delighted festival-goers. Face painting, a magic show and an inflatable bouncer rounded out the options.

LCC's new French hymnal available globally

N I A G A R A FALLS, Ont. - The French-language Lutheran Church-Canada hymnal, published during Reformation Week 2009, is a trail-blazing document both in content and size. Never before has such a complete service book and hymnal been available in French for members of any church body, Roman Catholic or Protestant.

What lends *Liturgies et cantiques*

luthériens such importance? First, the mere availability of a Lutheran hymnal in French. The last such hymnal rolled off the presses in 1975 and quickly went out of print. Surviving copies are few and falling to pieces. Second, no other French-language hymnal has been so comprehensive and reflective of Lutheran practice and doctrine. *Liturgies et cantiques luthériens'* 864 pages include 434 hymns and three settings of Divine Service, along with Matins, Vespers and Compline, Holy Baptism, Marriage and Funeral services, among many other liturgical resources. Slightly more than half the hymns have parallels with the Lutheran Service Book (LSB), and one Divine Service setting is a translation of LSB's Setting Four.

Anglophone members of LCC may find it difficult to imagine, but there simply has never been anything like this resource before. The United Church of Canada does have a hymnal for its French-speaking congregations—a three-ring binder with few hymns. The Roman Catholic Church has a hymnal for francophones, but even the cathedral in Montréal doesn't stock it in the



Welcoming LCC's French hymnal, *Liturgies et cantiques luthériens*, into the East District with the rite of Blessing were (l-r): Revs. Jason Kouri, David Milette, David Saar, Kurt Reinhardt, Charles Ravelonjato, Brian Dunlop, Razafy Razafindrakoto and President Paul Zabel, at the church workers' conference in November.

pews. A generic Protestant hymnal reprinted in Québec gets some use among evangelicals.

All this is to emphasize our synod's progressiveness in publishing *Liturgies et cantiques luthériens*. In doing so, we have made a unique contribution to hymnody in Canada, North America, and even the world.

In France, a pastor of a once solidly confessional Lutheran church body (now part of a Reformed/Lutheran fusion) has arranged for sale of the hymnal in the oldest Protestant bookstore in Strasbourg. He hopes the witness of the printed page in Lutheran form might result in increased interest in the living application of historical Lutheran worship.

Nascent Lutheran churches in Haiti rejoice over this new reality of a completely Lutheran, completely French service book. They advanced-ordered it to replace the Baptist hymnals they had been unwillingly using. A new Haitian Lutheran body just being formed will begin its worship life based on this solidly Lutheran source—something never before possible.

In real and important ways this volume not only restores

but strengthens and establishes evangelical Lutheran practice and teaching in Francophone churches as never before. A case in point is the Athanasian Creed. Considered by Luther the jewel of creeds and his personal favourite, this creed was excluded from French Lutheran liturgies for centuries—one of the rude surprises to researchers as work progressed on the new volume. Now the Creed's liturgical role has been restored to its rightful place,

based on documented historical use.

An additional feature is the Holy Communion hymn section, the richest collected in French for depth and breadth of eucharistic themes. The unfortunately common Lutheran practice in France of infrequent communion services reduced to a minimum the number of communion hymns, and the teaching, though solid, was down to a handful of texts, limited in scope. This has been corrected, and Holy Baptism hymns augmented as well.

Looking for a unique mission project? Lend a helping hand by making a French-language hymnal available to a congregation that otherwise would simply not have the Lutheran hymnal. Where? Take your pick: Haiti, Dominican Republic, Africa, or help out our sister church in France. For more information, email ascensio@bellnet.ca or cantiques@egliselutherienne.ca.

Order *Liturgies et cantiques luthériens* from Concordia Publishing House online at www.cph.org (type "French hymnal" in the search box), or phone 800-325-3040.

From a report by Rev. David Somers, Église luthérienne de l'Ascension, Montréal

Word of Life mission hits restart button in new location



Worshippers gathered at Word of Life's new home last November

GUELPH, Ont. - More than three dozen people gathered for a special "restart" service celebrating Word of Life mission's new location, Trillium Waldorf School. Volunteers from the mission's mother church (Bethel Lutheran, Kitchener) helped hand-deliver invitations for the November 1 event around the neighbourhood.

Rev. Aaron Rubach called community response "encouraging," adding: "We hope to have them back for other events we have planned."

East District President Paul Zabel served as guest preacher, assisted by liturgists Rev. Jim Keller and Rev. Rubach, and reader Rev. William Gillissie.

Trillium administrator Karyn Kirkwood brought greetings from the school. Pastor Rubach expressed thanks to Stone Lodge, Word of Life's first home, where Divine Service is still celebrated twice a month (on the second and fourth Sunday at 2 p.m.).

Bethel's evangelism committee continues to offer spiritual, financial and volunteer support to its offspring, and Rev. Rubach and Rev. Earl Allsopp doggedly share the Gospel in this city—inviting, encouraging and nurturing as broadly as possible, with God's love and His Word.

In 2009 Word of Life held its first marriage service, officiated by Rev. Rubach.

An Advent and Christmas carol service on December 20 drew more than 30 people, who were invited to return for Christmas Eve service.

A core group of dedicated individuals, bolstered by faith in Jesus Christ, continues planning for an even more exciting 2010.

Trillium Waldorf School is located at 540 Victoria Road North in Guelph. Word of Life Mission services take place every Sunday at 10:30 a.m., with Bible study at 9:30.

From Heaven Above

BARRIE, Ont. - Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd and Loving Saviour Lutheran Church held a family Christmas program, *From Heaven Above*, on December 20. Through music, drama, songs,

readings and recitations, the Sunday school children brought the story of Jesus' birth to the combined congregations.

Rev. Steven Omoregie, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd/Loving Saviour, Barrie



Children share story of Jesus' birth.

Founder of outreach to the blind celebrates 90th



Frieda Fink and her great-grandchildren.

ELMIRA, Ont. - Frieda Fink, founder of Lutheran Braille Workers of Canada, celebrated her 90th birthday at St. Paul's, the church where she has long been a member. A luncheon in her honour followed the Sunday service on November 15. Rev. Richard Frey surprised her with a tale of how she "broke him in" when he first came to Elmira as pastor. Peter Holling, Frieda's nephew, provided some fond and funny memories of his aunt. Frieda's great-grandchildren helped with the all-important task of blowing out the candles on her birthday cakes.

Stephen Klinck, St. Paul's, Elmira

Nourishing body and spirit

DASHWOOD, Ont. - A *Spiritual Spa Day* on November 7 drew 45 women to Zion Lutheran Church for this fifth annual event designed to spark the spirit and relax the mind. Keynote speaker Kathy Birkett led a Bible study, *Women Who Saw Jesus*, examining Christ's response to their needs and to our needs today. Along with a phenomenal lunch came soothing and uplifting musical interludes and skits. Afternoon speaker Heather Keller had women

take a closer look at *Life Nourishment*, exploring what, how and why we eat, traditions and roles regarding food both at home and at church.

*Doris Osgood,
Zion, Dashwood*

Right: Women gather at Zion, Dashwood for a renewing event.



From the President

A New Year...A New Tomorrow Morning

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,

for His compassions never fail.

They are new every morning;

great is your faithfulness (Lamentations 3:22-23).

There is something exciting about a new year! Things of the past seem to come to an end or conclusion—even if, in reality, they carry on. A new year brings opportunity to *turn over a new leaf, turn the page, take a new path, set new goals* or some other expression of altering the course of one's life. Many people approach the beginning of a new year with eager anticipation—ready to get going, enjoy new things and new people, and make something happen. And all of this is good!

But when all is said and done, our talk about the new year is more a matter of perception than reality. January 1 is really just the day after December 31. This time around, New Year's Day happened to land on a Friday following a Thursday. Looking at it from this perspective sort of takes the starch out of all the build-up, doesn't it?

But is that as negative or blasé as it sounds? I imagine it might be, depending on the person speaking. But what if we look at things from the perspective of the Scripture passage above, recorded for us in the book of Lamentations? Something simple but profound is stated here in these words about God, and it applies specifically to us. As for God's loving-kindnesses (also translated as *compassions, mercies, kindness or steadfast love*) — they never cease! They do not wear out, get

old, break down, and become faulty or out of date. They do not weaken, struggle, and become impotent or otherwise incapacitated. Now think about this for a second. The only reason we need something new is that the old no longer suits us or does its job. But this is never a problem with God's loving-kindnesses and mercies!

These gifts are new every morning. We do not have to await a new year to open them. They aren't refreshed because they've become worn or useless. God's loving-kindnesses are fresh the moment our eyelids greet the dawn. Whatever it is that burdens our hearts at the beginning of the day, God gives something to help us bear it. Whatever joys thrill our souls, God gives something to make it even better. Whatever blessing you need (and the key word here is not *want* but *need*) God's loving-kindnesses are ready to rain down upon your head. Oh, to have this kind of perspective every day!

I like it when a new year rolls around. When January begins I often make my own lists of changes, goals and projects I hope to complete during the upcoming days and months. But I am really counting on the fact that with God the first day of the new year is just another day—one in which His loving-kindnesses, His mercies, are brand-new, just like they were yesterday. This is not being blasé, this is the confidence of a faith that knows God's divine resources are new with each new morning. With this in mind, I think I can make it. Because I am sure God will send a heap of new loving-kindnesses my way tomorrow morning, and His gifts of renewal won't ever be dependent upon it being a new year.

God's blessings on *your* new year—or, I should say, "on your new tomorrow morning"!

Rev. Paul Zabel

New treatment for MS sparks interest for church member



Christopher Alkenbrack at home in Nova Scotia.

DARTMOUTH, N.S. - When news of an astonishing development in multiple sclerosis research hit Canada, the media turned to Faith Lutheran's

Christopher Alkenbrack for comment. *The National*, Halifax local news, and French CBC news station RDI (Réseau de l'information) came calling on this past president and treasurer of the Nova Scotia MS Society.

Congregation treasurer Christopher (also assistant treasurer at Good Shepherd in Moncton, N.B.) attends Faith with his wife Claire and children Nicholas and Leah.

About the media attention, he says: "My only goal in all of this is

to get the new treatment that was discovered by a group of researchers in Italy." (On November 20, 2009, the *Globe and Mail* reported on the work of Dr. Paolo Zamboni, a professor of medicine at the University of Ferrara, and the experimental surgery he performed on his wife, an MS sufferer since 1995. Dr. Zamboni's studies suggest that MS is a vascular rather than an autoimmune condition.)

Since his public appearances the Alkenbracks have been deluged with messages—by phone, email, Facebook and more—from current and former co-workers, neighbours, schoolmates, even total strangers, all expressing good wishes and many offering to help directly if they can.

Please pray for Christopher and other MS sufferers, and sick people everywhere, that they neither fall into despair nor put their hopes in

too small a glory here below, but rather receive every gift from God. Pray for the Gospel in Word and Sacraments to go out mightily, along with a temporal cure for MS if the Lord wills it!

Rev. David Milette, Good Shepherd, Moncton, N.B. /supervising pastor, Faith, Dartmouth, N.S.

Coming Events 175th anniversary in Kitchener

KITCHENER, Ont. - Historic St. Paul's Lutheran Church celebrates its 175th anniversary in May with the theme "Tell the next generation" (Psalm 145:4). Established in 1835 to serve the many German Lutherans in the area, it is Kitchener/Waterloo's oldest congregation. On the weekend of May 29-30, the church invites current and former confirmands, members and friends to a reunion, 2-5 p.m. Saturday, May 29, and divine worship at 3 p.m. the next day, with LCC president, Rev. Robert Bugbee serving as guest preacher. A reception follows. If planning to attend, RSVP as soon as possible to office@historicstpauls.ca or 519-745-4891.

Visit the East District website at www.lceastdistrict.ca

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

Ilene Fortin, district editor
East District Office
275 Lawrence Avenue,
Kitchener, Ontario N2M 1Y3
E-mail:
ilene@lceastdistrict.ca
Fax: 519-578-3369

**Next deadline:
March 26, 2010**

New shepherd at Kincardine/Southampton



In attendance (back, l-r): Revs. Robert Bruer, David Saar, Kurt Lantz, Kurt Reinhardt, James Keller; (middle) Revs. Brian Dunlop, Robert Clifford, Raymond Maher, District President Paul Zabel; (front) Revs. David Gallas, Paul Schult, William Kramer and Marvin Bublitz.

KINCARDINE, Ont. - With 92 in attendance, Rev. Robert Clifford became pastor of the Grace/Southampton dual parish.

At the installation, 12 of the 14 visiting pastors assisted with the service, including District President Paul Zabel who reminded the parish and pastor of their unique obligations to each other. Serving as liturgist was Rev. Kurt Reinhardt and as lectors, Revs. William Kramer, Marvin

Bublitz and Kurt Lantz. Susan Otterman played the organ for the Sunday communion service.

Rev. Clifford served Christ the King (100 Mile House, B.C.) for the past ten years, since his ordination in 1999. He replaces Rev. Kurt Lantz, who served Grace/Kincardine since 1998 and the dual parish since 2003, before accepting a call to Resurrection (St. Catharines).