

Parishes merge; install shared pastor

WEST LORNE, Ont. - On April 25 Redeemer Lutheran Church (St. Thomas, Ont.) and Grace Lutheran Church (West Lorne) officially formed a dual parish and installed Rev. Don Schieman as their pastor. Rev. Schieman has served as pastor of Redeemer alone since July 2009.

After the Rite of Installation, officiated by East District President Paul Zabel, Grace hosted a reception to welcome Rev. Schieman, wife Sharon, and their four daughters—Allison, Julianna, Shawna and Krista—to the parish.

Originally from London, Ontario, Rev. Schieman received a degree in business administration from the city's Fanshawe College and worked for Via Rail as an off-train sales/



At the dual celebration (l-r): Revs. Paul Pollex, David Bode, Donald Schieman, Paul Zabel, Orland Welke and Dan Abraham.

service agent. He graduated from Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary and was ordained on June 19, 1994. Before returning to Ontario,

Rev. Schieman served pastorates in Middle Lake, Saskatchewan and Camrose, Alberta.

Rev. Paul Zabel, East District President

Newsletter named

KITCHENER, Ont. - What to name the new bimonthly East District newsletter? A general call went out for suggestions, and several people responded with variations on *ED* or *Eden*. Of these, *The EDen Report* made the cut as the new moniker. Tokens of appreciation went out to Paul Geddy, Kathy Tobi, Rev. Mark Koehler and Dr. Al Stanfel for their winning suggestions.

In the June/July issue, President Paul Zabel explains the scriptural reasoning behind the name. "And the children of Reuben and the children of Gad called the altar Ed: for it shall be a witness between us that the Lord is God" (Joshua 22:34 KJV). This verse gives the reason for the altar Joshua built on the west side of the Jordan: it served as a witness to the Lord and to the union among the tribes of the children of Israel in worshipping Him. The altar served as a reminder



to the easterners to bring their offerings to the sanctuary at Shiloh, and a reminder to the westerners that their eastern brothers were full-fledged Israelites.

Similarly, *The EDen Report* brings people together by informing congregations about how the churches of the East District are united in worshipping, serving and witnessing to our Lord—the God who created us, who redeemed us from our sin and who sanctified us to

be His own.

Issue one made its debut in April/May. The newsletter includes current news, a calendar of coming events, announcements, calls and vacancies, mission reports and business news. If you have ideas, suggestions or comments to improve *The EDen Report*, please don't hesitate to submit them to the district office.

Subscribe to news

Email news, notices, notes (EN3) is distributed to the east District by subscription every Tuesday. Anyone wishing to subscribe may do so at <http://www.lcceastdistrict.ca/register-epubs.htm>.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual and General Meetings of Lutheran Church—Canada, East District Inc. (New Brunswick Corporation) and the Ontario District, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod will take place September 27, 2010 at the East District office, 275 Lawrence Avenue, Kitchener, Ontario. This meeting will elect officers, receive financial statements, appoint auditors, and consider such other business as may come before the meeting. All members of the corporations are entitled to be represented at the meeting, in person or by proxy.

By Order of the Boards,
Reginald A. E. Tiegs
Secretary, Board of Directors

Pastors and people: together in missions

WATERLOO, Ont. - How do we as Lutherans engage the world in outreach? What issues are we up against? What do the Scriptures and the Confessions say about these things? And what is each person's individual role? The Series Four Doctrinal Unity Conference addressed these questions, beginning with what we have in common as Lutherans and exploring the fundamental reason the church exists: to bring Christ to the world. The conclusion:

We have not only permission but a mandate to share Christ with others, each in our roles as parents, associates and neighbours.

Forty-one people attended the April 15 conference at Redeemer Lutheran Church, led by Rev. Dr. Leonardo Neitzel, LCC's mission executive. (He held a repeat conference at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Ottawa the following day.) Dr. Neitzel acknowledged and provided some explanation for the challenges facing LCC outreach today—challenges that represent



LCC mission executive and keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Leonardo Neitzel

opportunities because they show the variety of needs and concerns in the people around us. We can connect to people in the middle of those needs and concerns, he said.

Dr. Neitzel gave an engaging review of the Biblical and confessional basis for local and international missionary work. He discussed past and present approaches to missions in LCC's environment as well as current efforts to support sister churches around the world. He filled his presentation with helpful

quotes from Luther, C.F.W. Walther and the Confessions, touching on the Catechism and statements by other Christians on missions.

Pointing out how some accuse Martin Luther of having no concern for missions, he showed how both these men spoke regarding sharing Christ to save souls and build up the church. Luther and Walther agree that the urge to share Christ with those we encounter daily is an essential part of living faith.

In Dr. Neitzel's friendly and thought-provoking seminars, participants dealt with the scriptural and confessional mandate to encourage each other in bringing the good news about Jesus Christ to the world—locally, regionally, globally.

Presentations from eight study groups concluded the conference. View all the day's sessions at www.lutheranchurch.ca/videonet under the title *Outreach Basics*.

*Rev. Joe Das,
District Communications Committee*

Tirzah visits Barrie congregation



Tirzah takes the stage (l-r): Jessica Roth, Michelle Groening and Stephanie Roller.

BARRIE, Ont. - CREW Ministries' first-ever all-female team, *Tirzah*, performed at Loving Saviour Lutheran Church May 22. After the Saturday evening program, they shared their talents during Sunday morning service. The travelling troupe—made up of Jessica Roth, Michelle Groening and Stephanie Roller—uses music, skits, humour and drama to share the love of God with congregations.

Rev. Stephen Omoregie, Loving Saviour

Multi-lingual intercultural outreach

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. - “How Great Thou Art,” sung in English and Urdu, formed one of the highlights of a multi-language gospel concert sponsored by LCC’s Intercultural Mission at Christ Our King on May 29. The *Hallelujah Band*, well known in the South Asian community, played and sang evangelical songs, hymns and psalms in English, Urdu, Hindi and Punjabi, as well as backing solo singers from the community.

Rev. James Luke opened the concert’s second half, singing “How Great Thou Art” in two languages as the band provided musical support. Members of the South Asian community—Muslim, Hindu and Sikh—turned out in numbers for the event, as did Christ Our King’s congregation. The audience appreciated both the music and its message in this successful outreach endeavour.

From a report by Rev. James Luke, Lutheran Intercultural Mission, Toronto



Rev. James Luke sings “How Great Thou Art” with help from the Hallelujah Band.



Hallelujah Band members: (l-r) Jonathan Devia, Aamar Samuel, Sam Inayat and Kaleem Zaman specialize in gospel music in English and South Asian languages.

Upcoming church-worker installations

• **Rev. Allen Maleske** — August 29 — 4:30 pm @ Trinity Chapel, 33 Lundy’s Lane, Kingston

You are invited to attend the installation of Rev. Al Maleske as pastor p/t at Our Saviour Mission in Kingston. Note the service will take place at Trinity Chapel. Reception to follow.

• **Rev. Jody Rinas** — September 5 — 4:00 pm @ St. John, Clifford

You are invited to attend. The service will be officiated by District President, Rev. Paul Zabel. All are welcome. A dinner will follow the service—if attending the dinner, please RSVP by August 23 to St. John’s at 519-327-8298 or stjohndoffice@wightman.ca.

• **Deacon Kaitlyn Roller** — September 12 — 10:00 am @ Trinity, Fisherville (Consecration/Installation) Call: Director of Parish Services at Trinity, Fisherville

• **Candidate Oscar Castillo** — September 12 — 3:00 pm @ Faith, London (Ordination/Installation)

Call: Assistant Pastor – Faith, London & Grace, Strathroy.

2010 congregational anniversary celebrations

| | | |
|--------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 50th | Redeemer, Sudbury | September 11 |
| 50th | Prince of Peace, Burlington | October 24 |
| 50th | St. John’s, Mount Forest, building | September 26 |
| 75th | Redeemer, Waterloo | May 16 |
| 100th | St. Peter’s, New Hamburg | September 18-19 |
| 150th | St. Paul’s, Elmira | September 24 |
| 175th | Historic St. Paul’s, Kitchener | May 30 |
| 175th | First St. John’s, Seebach’s Hill | February 16, May 15, June 18, June 20, October 23, October 31, December 31 |

For more information on any of the upcoming celebrations, contact the congregations (all in Ontario) or visit <http://www.lceastdistrict.ca/events2010.htm>.

Desks 4 Nicaragua exceeds goal

KITCHENER, Ont. - Each spring for the past several years, Holy Cross Sunday school families have taken on a special service project. This year they chose a Concordia Lutheran Mission Society initiative that seeks to provide school desks to the children of Nicaragua who learn at Lutheran Church-Canada mission/school sites.

Beginning April 11, they worked hard over the next six weeks to collect enough money to purchase more than 100 desks at \$23 each. The desks go to the same mission centres a Holy Cross mission team visited in March 2009.

During the fund-raising campaign, each Sunday morning included a “parade to the coin can” in the sanctuary as the congregation sang “God Is So Good; I’ll Share His Love.” Participants young and old marched up to deposit contributions earned through chores or in other ways. Sunday school teachers discussed how God has richly blessed us, and how He can bless others through us. Children coloured posters and added them to the narthex to build excitement as campaign donations grew. A real school desk served as part of the display.

Holy Cross praises God for moving its families to contribute a total of \$2,727.29 to this project—enough to buy 118 desks! The congregation feels blessed to be able to provide



Nicaraguan schoolchildren begin arriving.



Holy Cross (Kitchener) supports LCC Christian-education centres with its *Desks 4 Nicaragua* campaign.

for brothers and sisters in Christ it counts as dear friends.

*Beth Gibney, Parish Life coordinator,
Holy Cross*

Seminary Guild fills essential role

ST. CATHARINES, Ont. - This year’s Seminary Guild Day on April 17 brought forth an outpouring of food donations, money for the seminary’s food pantry and donations towards meals—evidence of love and compassion for the seminarians.

Guild members reaffirmed their faith in the leadership team by reelecting president Judy Zastrow, vice-president Mary Silver, secretary Nancy Bryans, treasurer Bonnie Stephenson and membership coordinator Carol Nagel. Three

appointed members work tirelessly behind the scenes—newsletter editor Kay Tiffney, historian Naomi Hohnberg and hosting coordinator Lois Juritsch.

Some projects the guild took on last year included chapel painting, student lounge decorating and purchasing a new vacuum, a diaper-changing table, and tickets to fly two students to Thailand.

The next planned guild event is Harvest Day, October 16, at which brothers Howard and Wally Bogusat

of Haiti Lutheran Mission Society will tell of their firsthand experiences in the January 12 earthquake in Haiti.

Other annual activities organized by the Seminary Guild include the Certification and Call Service, Orientation Day, cleaning days, year-opening barbecue, opening Service and Reception, Advent Service of Lessons and Carols, and Seminary Christmas Dinner.

*From a report in the
Concordia Seminary Guild Newsletter*



From the President

Worry is like a rocking chair

“Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7).

Periodically the accumulation of trash and unused items in our basement must be cleared away. Boxes that might be useful, scraps of lumber from handyman projects, and bags of outgrown clothing pile up in the corners. Finally the day comes when everything has to be sorted and discarded and cleaned.

Our lives get filled with an accumulation too. And the biggest time-wasting, strength-sapping item is worry—worries about health, worries about money, worries about finishing the many tasks we have. And over in a dark corner is the worry about what people think of us, or any number of other private worries. On top of the whole pile is the worry about “what will happen next.”

The philosopher Plato wrote centuries ago: “Nothing in the affairs of men is worthy of great anxiety.” Another pundit updated it this way: “Worry is like a rocking chair; it gives you something to do, but it gets you nowhere.”

Thomas Carlyle built a soundproof room in his home in London so he could do his work without interference from outside noise. His neighbour had a rooster that crowed several times every day and night. Carlyle protested to the neighbour, and the man said his rooster crowed only three times daily—and surely that was not a great annoyance. “But,” Carlyle answered, “if you only knew what I suffer waiting for that rooster to crow!” So it is with us. We wait anxiously for something to happen—sure that it will any minute—and so deplete our energies and dissipate our strength.

Isn't it true that most of our worries are borrowed from some other day? We worry about mountains we will never have to climb, about streams we will never have to cross, about situations we will never have to meet.

I think often of the women who went to the tomb of Jesus that first Easter morning. It must have been a glorious time, with the sun just rising in majestic splendour, the crisp, cool early spring air, and the lovely wild flowers growing along the way. But they missed all that. Instead they were worrying about who would roll the stone away. Yet when they got there they found the stone had already been rolled away. All their worry was about a situation that had been taken

care of before they reached it!

We must remember also that living a day at a time refers just as much to yesterday as it does to tomorrow. God is far more ready to forgive us than we are to forgive ourselves. Suppose you did make a mistake yesterday — do you expect to keep the shadow hanging over you for the rest of your life? If you can correct the wrong, then do so, and go ahead about the business of living today.

Have you heard the story of Willis H. Carrier, a leader of the air-conditioning industry? Years ago, as a young man, he worked for the Buffalo Forge Company in Buffalo, New York. They sent him to install a gas-cleaning device in a plate-glass factory in Missouri. The device, which cost \$20,000, was still in the experimental stage and young Carrier met with many unexpected difficulties. If he had succeeded he would have been set for life. But instead he faced utter and dreadful failure. The machine worked after a fashion, but not well enough to meet the guarantee. He wrote: “I was stunned by my failure. My stomach, my insides, began to twist and turn. For awhile I was so worried I couldn't sleep.”

In time his common sense told him worry wasn't getting him anywhere. He took three steps that saved the day. First, he analyzed the situation fearlessly and honestly, figuring what was the worst that could possibly happen because of this failure. He realized he would not be jailed or shot. He might be dismissed, but other jobs would come along. Second, having faced the worst possibility, he reconciled himself to accept it if it came. His employers might lose \$20,000, but the machine was experimental anyway and they could afford to write it off to research. Then he found his mind was no longer clouded with worry. No longer was it paralyzed with fear. He could think. Finally, as he thought, he saw that by spending another \$5000 he might make the machine work properly. He did so, saved his reputation and won his firm a handsome profit.

Analyze your worry calmly. You will find so much of it is refusal to accept something from the past that cannot be altered, something unpleasant in the present, or some calamity in the future. Accept facts. Accept the forgiveness of God. This way you can break free from the burden of the past and the burden of the future. And don't forget, most of all...“Cast all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you!”

Rev. Paul Zabel

Son of congregation ordained at home parish

HAMILTON, Ont. – God’s people gathered in the name of the Triune God at Pilgrim Lutheran Church May 30 for the ordination into Holy Ministry of Cameron Schnarr, son of the congregation and also son of Rev. Jim and Catherine Schnarr, currently serving at Pilgrim. Cam is the first graduate of Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary (CLTS), St. Catharines, whose father is also an alumnus (Class of 1982).

Rev. Kurt Lantz (Resurrection Lutheran Church, St. Catharines) preached; Rev. Paul Zabel, East District president, ordained; and Cam’s father served as liturgist. Other participants include Scripture readers Dr. Bill Mundt of CLTS and Rev. Larry Gajdos (Cam’s fieldwork supervisor).

The Pilgrim women prepared a delicious sit-down supper, and Pilgrim youth served it. Cam’s wife, Andrea, and her mother, Lesley Franic, created a handmade banner for the occasion.



Man in the middle (l-r): Rev. Kurt Lantz, Dr. Thomas Winger, Dr. John Stephenson, Rev. Jim Schnarr, Ordinand Cam Schnarr, President Paul Zabel, Dr. William Mundt, Rev. Peter Gatluak and Rev. Larry Gajdos.



Rev. Cam Schnarr and wife Andrea will be moving to Winnipeg where he will serve his first call to Beautiful Savior.

The Council of Presidents placed Cameron into his first call at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Winnipeg. He and Andrea welcomed their first child, Caleb Joseph, born July 7, 2010.

Rev. Jim Schnarr, Pilgrim (Hamilton)

Visit the East District website at www.lceastdistrict.ca

Coming events

East District Lutheran Laymen’s League annual convention



The League invites all to visit Toronto’s Our Saviour Lutheran Church (Etobicoke) Saturday, October 2, for a full day of information, fellowship, fun and food. Events will run from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., concluding with a banquet.

The theme, Spirit Driven, is based on 2 Timothy 1:7. Radio personality Phyllis Wallace of *Woman to Woman* is keynote speaker.

Seasoned seniors meet at Stratford

October 15 is the date set for the annual Older Adults Ministry Event at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church

(Stratford, Ontario). The morning program features keynote speakers Trudy Jonkman (Meals on Wheels wellness coordinator) and Andrea Martin (Victorian Order of Nurses). Following a roast-beef lunch, the group will head to the Avon Theatre in Stratford for a matinee performance of *Evita*. For a more detailed look at the day’s agenda visit www.lceastdistrict.ca/seasoned.htm and select the Spring 2010 edition of *Seasoned Adults* newsletter.

District sponsors church teachers’ workshop

A workshop for teachers of Sunday school and confirmation (sponsored by the Department of Parish Services) meets at Grace Lutheran Church (Kitchener, Ont.) October 30. Keynote speaker will be author and parenting-issues

blogger Dr. Mary Manz Simon. Confirmation teachers will have a complete morning session, and the District Worship Committee plans a special Reformation Service for closing. For details visit www.lceastdistrict.ca/events2010.htm.

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:
September 17, 2010