

New district president stresses preaching, teaching and visiting

WINDSOR, Ont. - Lutheran Church-Canada's East District Convention, May 10-13, elected new board members and officers of the district and circuits, including a new president.

With the retirement of President Allan Maleske, delegates elected Rev. Paul Zabel (St. John, Clifford, Ont.) to office. He has served on many committees and LCC's East District Board of Directors over the years. Rev. Zabel stated that he allowed his name to stand to let the Holy Spirit direct the people to decide where he could best serve our Lord and His Church.

President Zabel stated in his acceptance speech that he dearly loved three things about parish ministry: preaching, visiting and teaching. Preaching meant sharing the Word of God in all its truth and

purity—the Law and the Gospel, the Good News of our salvation, that Christ died on the cross, shed His blood for our salvation and rose again, guaranteeing our salvation. Visiting meant paying special attention to the sick and other forgotten ones. Teaching meant offering Bible studies, confirmation and adult instruction classes. He asked that all pastors be patient, and preach, teach and visit those in their congregations and communities faithfully.

President Zabel looks forward to preaching in district congregations, if asked, and to keeping his door open. He would treasure the opportunity to visit district churches. He concluded by asking that LCC members keep him in our prayers so he can serve our Lord faithfully.

Reg Tiegs, District Secretary



LCC President Robert Bugbee bestows the pectoral cross on new East District president, Paul Zabel. The cross, commissioned by Dr. Edwin Lehman and designed by Mindy Kettner, is one of 24 fashioned by Winnipeg Silver Plate in 1997 and 2004 under the presidency of Rev. Dr. Ralph Mayan. The crosses were first distributed to members of the Council of Presidents (COP) in 1997. COP members keep their cross during their lifetime.

View LCC's VideoNet recording of President Zabel's acceptance speech at www.lutheranchurch.ca/videonet

'Great, exciting things' at vacation Bible schools

BARRIE, Ont. - By the grace of God, this year's vacation Bible school at Loving Saviour Lutheran Church, July 20-24, was a huge success. Our Loving Saviour certainly did great and exciting things as He, Christ Jesus, filled our church with more than 45 children shouting God's praises all week long. More than 30 volunteers gave their time, talents and energy to make this summer school a memorable time. Indeed, God, through the Holy Spirit, is doing great and exciting things in the lives and homes of the children who participated. *Rev. Stephen Omeregje*



Vacation Bible school at Barrie, Ontario

New workers, new church welcomed



WINDSOR, Ont. - In the first business session of the convention, LCC President Robert Bugbee welcomed new East District church workers into membership: Revs. Delmar Baier; Robert Bryans; Richard Lockstadt; Siem Manna; Stephen Omeregje; Harold Ristau; Adrian Toms; and Howard Warner; along with Deacons Tina Etzl; Tara Korsch; and Bonnie Stephenson. He also welcomed newly chartered Peace Lutheran Church in Tillsonburg, Ontario, as a member congregation.

Of Jubilarians and missionaries...dedicated workers

AMHERSTBURG, Ont. - On Monday, May 11, following the day's business sessions, East District convention delegates and guests boarded buses to Good Shepherd for a unique Jubilarian and Memorial Service.

The service honoured two church workers who entered the Church Triumphant during the previous triennium—Rev. Oskar Gnadenteich and Deacon David Heimpel.

It also commemorated church workers with records of longstanding service. Remembered for 25 years' service: Revs. David Bode, Mark Danielson, Rick Frey, William Gillissie, Walter Hambrook, Gerd Hoffman (from Germany), Mark Koehler, Robert Bugbee, Peter Pakrul, James Schnarr, Dr. David Somers and Kevin Walrath, as well as Deacons Bonnie Stephenson and Roy Wicke. Forty-year awards went to Revs. Marcus Kuehn, Allen Maleske, Dennis Putzman and Paul Schult. Fifty-year service awards went to Revs. Mayo Mellecke, Carl Wagner and Dr. Roger Winger.

Following the service, delegates and guests gathered for a sit-down hot meal prepared by the ladies of Good Shepherd, with desserts donated by other local congregations. The evening wound up with a festival featuring East District missions. A dozen exhibitors displayed how volunteers proclaim the Word of God in their corner of the district. Two speakers addressed the festival, Javed Khan and Rev. Alexsey Navrotsky.

WECLO lay missionary Javed Khan spoke about his outreach to ethnic communities in the Windsor/Essex area. Windsor/Essex County Lutheran Outreach (WECLO) is a joint project between LCC East District and the LCMS English District, with five local congregations from both synods. Missionary Khan runs a number of local programs utilizing his expertise in Islam, the Koran, the Hadith and shariah law and his knowledge of four languages (English, Urdu, Punjabi and German) to evangelize for Christ. Khan is a native of Pakistan, where

he served in the army for 30 years. He came to Canada in 1999, becoming a member of First Lutheran Church. His wife, Nighat, teaches at First Lutheran Christian Academy in Windsor. Daughter Sarah will graduate as a nurse this year.

The festival also welcomed Rev. Aleksey Navrotsky, currently serving as missionary for Ukraine and as pastor in Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine's third largest city. St. Catharines seminarian Oleg Schewtschenko provided translation assistance.

On May 12 Pastor Navrotsky presented a convention report on his mission work and brought greetings from the Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Ukraine (SELCU). He discussed the difficulties a missionary faces and asked how the church can effectively bring

the message of the Gospel to people today, using Luther as an example. He showed a three-part video covering student outreach, the new Lutheran congregation in Dnepropetrovsk, and continuing construction on the mission centre and seminary in suburban Odessa. The last project, he explained, is critical for resuming normal pastoral training and will enable SELCU to deepen and expand its mission efforts in communities throughout Ukraine.



Good Shepherd proudly welcomed District visitors into the new church building.



Aleksey Navrotsky (l) and Oleg Schewtschenko providing translation.



At the festival (l-r): Missionary Javed Khan, Rev. Matthias Krey (Good Shepherd, Amherstburg), Walter Brandner and Ilene Brandner (First Lutheran, Kingsville, Ont.), part of the local arrangements committee.



Jubilarians honoured at the 2009 East District Convention for 25, 40 and 50 years of service.

East District convention recap online

- At www.lutheranchurch.ca/videonet view a webcast of the opening service, Dr. James Lamb's (Lutherans For Life) presentations on bioethics and life issues, President Al Maleske's convention address and president-elect Paul Zabel's acceptance address.
- At www.lcceastdistrict.ca/2009conv.htm read election results and resolutions adopted during the convention. Download full Convention Proceedings or daily bulletins.

Sudanese community gains missionary



HAMILTON, Ont. - On May 24, at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, candidate Peter Gatluak was ordained into the holy ministry. LCC's East District called Rev. Gatulak to serve as Missionary-at-Large to the Sudanese community in Ontario, with a central office at Pilgrim. At the installation (l-r): Revs. William Chuol, Michael Drews, Gerald Danford, Gary Kuenzel (hidden), Peter Gatluak, James Anderson, District president Al Maleske, Larry Gajdos, Jim Schnarr, Adrian Toms and Duane Peters.

Rev. James Schnarr, Pilgrim, Hamilton



From the President

Becoming the Safety Man

"So be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, even as God also in Christ forgave you" (Eph. 4:32 ASV).

One day two universities, pretty evenly matched, fought an important football game. One side held a slender lead and tried mightily to protect it. The game was almost over; they were pretty confident they'd be victorious. But suddenly the opposing team's star fullback broke through the line and ran past all the defenders until there was only one man standing between him and the winning touchdown.

That last defender was a little fellow, only about half the size of the fullback coming at him carrying the ball. Now it was all up to him, and how magnificently he performed his task! He lunged with his frail body in one of the most beautiful tackles ever seen. He seemed to be inspired beyond his capacity—because he knew he was the *only* one who could save the victory for his team.

We may sometimes find ourselves in the same position as that football player. We may be the only person who can give the help whereby victory will come to some soul. If we fail in our duty, perhaps there will be no one else to take our place.

Perhaps the task seems much too large for our meagre capacities. But if ours is a living relationship

with our Lord and Saviour from sin, there comes to us a power beyond our dreaming. The strength of the Almighty, which the occasion demands, makes us capable of conquering any situation.

In football the player I mentioned is called the "safety man," the last man in the backfield who can prevent the opposing team from scoring a winning touchdown. By prevention and intervention he secures victory for his team. Why not become a "safety man" in life? You will then devote yourself to the task of securing victory for those who might be standing on the verge of defeat. By your kindness and tenderhearted consideration you may help someone in great need of friendship. But more than that you might be the "last man" standing in the way of the enemies—the devil, the world, one's own sinful flesh—who would prevent someone from being with their Lord and Saviour in heaven!

Our Lord Jesus has won the victory over sin, death and the devil by suffering and dying on the cross for our sins. And that victory has been sealed by His triumphant resurrection from the dead. He invites us all to share in that victory with Him. As our Lord's "safety men" we can be instrumental in keeping that victory from being snatched away from others whom our Lord also desires to share in His victory with Him—by ever pointing them to our Lord Jesus and what He has done by dying on the cross for our sins and rising again on the third day!

Rev. Paul Zabel

Jesus went through every life stage we do

WINDSOR, Ont. - Dr. James Lamb, executive director of US Lutherans For Life, delivered the keynote presentation for the 2009 East District convention. Each morning Dr. Lamb addressed the convention theme, "Give Jesus Glory: Our Body, His Temple."

Speaking broadly about bioethics and life issues, Dr. Lamb pointed out how the church has been influenced by society—members have "bought into" values that aren't God-given and this has desensitized us to the value of life. We need to engage society with the Gospel, he said. We need to move as Christians from speaking about life issues as political issues to speaking of life as a spiritual issue. We can do that by speaking of

what God has done to give value to life. Scripture Dr. Lamb touched on included Genesis 1:26, Genesis 9:6, Genesis 2:7, Genesis 2:22 and Psalms 139:13-14.

Dr. Lamb spoke about *in vitro* fertilization, frozen embryos, embryonic human beings, adult stem-cell research and cloning. "We have value in every stage of our embryonic and post-birth development," he emphasized. "This is God's procreative process and we have our value because God has made us."

In his second session Dr. Lamb spoke broadly about abortion and post-abortion syndrome. He reiterated that the Gospel is the most powerful and positive "for



Dr. James Lamb, U.S. Lutherans for Life

life" message there is. The fact that our God chose to begin His life in the same place we did is critical (Luke 1:3). The fact that Jesus went through every stage of embryonic development gives value by God to each stage of life. Jesus did not take our place because we have value; His taking our place *gives* us value.

In Canada 315 abortions are performed per day, and each abortion affects 10 people. With many societal pressures on women to have abortions, Dr. Lamb challenged pastors that their silence on the issue can be used by the devil to convince women abortion is acceptable. But our great hope is Jesus' resurrection, which rescues all people from the guilt and sin of abortion.

Dr. Lamb's presentations are available online at www.lutheranchurch.ca/videonet.

Visit the East District website at
www.lcceastdistrict.ca

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

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Standing ovations guaranteed!

WINDSOR, Ont. - Dr. Tom Baker taught convention goers "How to Get a Standing Ovation" in a PowerPoint presentation that included observations on Law and Gospel and the "burning of the heart" (as experienced by the disciples on the road to Emmaus). On a modern note, those with a USB memory card could take the presentation home to use with their own congregations.



Dr. Tom Baker

East District member is outstanding ambassador



GREENSBORO, N.C. - Earl Schaeffer of Kitchener, Ontario, a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Waterloo, was named an Outstanding Ambassador (one of 30 from across the US and Canada) of Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) at the 2009 International Lutheran Laymen's League Convention. "They are a great blessing to our ministry and to the body of Christ," said LHM ambassador consultant, Roy Schmidt.