

## Marshmallows and bacon at EDLYA retreat

**CHATSWORTH, Ont.** - Over the August civic-holiday weekend 46 members of the East District Lutheran Young Adults (EDLYA) met at Ridgewood Springs for a summer retreat.

- Rev. David Gallas (St. Peter's, New Hamburg, Ont.) led a group discussion on the parables in Luke, guiding us to the deeper meaning of Jesus' words and how He wants us to apply them to our lives.
- With the newly unveiled and updated EDLYA songbook in hand, we sang the Lord's praises while roasting marshmallows and bacon (yes, bacon) over a well-tended campfire.
- The weather held out for most of the weekend, with just a little rain on

Saturday, and some winds on Sunday that made for great waves at the beach!

Special thanks go to the EDLYA executive for planning the retreat and to all those who chipped in! Keep your schedules open for the fall retreat, November 6-8 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Port Colborne, Ont. Go to [www.edlya.ca](http://www.edlya.ca) for details.

*Krysti Martin, EDLYA secretary*



East District Lutheran Young Adults enjoyed an inspiring weekend.

## Canoeing down the Saugeen



Paddlers from First St. Matthew's, Hanover prepare for their trip.

**HANOVER, Ont.** - For a second year, First St. Matthew's and its pastor, Rev. Mark Koehler, hosted a canoe trip down the scenic Saugeen River.

The trip included 17 youth and five adults from Hanover, Fisherville and Amherstburg, Ont. All gathered in Hanover Sunday evening, June 28, and found their billets for the night. Bright and early Monday morning, the women of the church served a hearty breakfast before dropping the group off at Saugeen River access point 8 on the Arran-Elderslie townline, near Ellengowan.

Rev. Koehler gave last-minute instructions to the less-experienced paddlers before all set out for Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area. There they camped for the night, enjoying another meal delivered by the Hanover churchwomen. "It was a spiritually uplifting experience and made memories and friendships to last a lifetime," reported Thomas Brigham.

Morning two saw the group paddling on to Denny's Dam at Southampton, where homeward-bound cars awaited.

*Thomas Brigham, First St. Matthew's*

## Seminary guild learns about 'gypsies'

**ST. CATHARINES, Ont.** - On Guild Day, April 18, more than 425 members of the Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary Seminary Guild focused both on the familiar (electing an executive committee, meeting students and their families, determining projects for the year) and the unfamiliar—ministering to 'gypsies' and other people who are perennially "on the move."

CLTS professor, Dr. William Mundt provided an overview of his research into this often-caricatured people. "Saving the Gypsy Soul" looked at the challenges pastors and lay people face in proclaiming the Gospel to cultures or families that seem rootless and unreachable.

Acting CLTS president, Dr. Thomas Winger, opened the gathering by thanking the guild for its ongoing support. Projects selected for 2009 included painting the Martin Luther Chapel and purchasing a vacuum cleaner for the seminary.

Twenty-nine students, accompanied by wives and families, introduced themselves and thanked the guild for its help and prayers. Guild Day ended with a luncheon catered by Ernie Green, a vicar from North Tonawanda, N.Y.

The second major guild event in the year is Harvest Day, planned for Saturday, October 17.

*Nancy Bryans, secretary,  
Seminary Guild Executive*

## A historic day for Maritime Lutherans

**CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.** - Ten newly-discovered “Island Lutherans” met Saturday, August 1 for a Vespers service at historic All Souls’ Chapel in Charlottetown.

Regional summer vicar Kurt Schultz (Good Shepherd, Moncton, N.B.) laboured all season to find, encourage, and establish relationships between Atlantic Canada’s scattered Lutherans and two churches: Good Shepherd and Faith (Dartmouth, N.S.). Up to 10 more Prince Edward Islanders had also hoped to attend.

Members of LCC churches from Kingston, Ont. and Quebec City, as well as Moncton and Wolfeville, N.S.—representing every province where the East District is active—attended, as well as members of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod.



Lutherans from P.E.I and vacationing Lutheran families gathered for Vespers, August 1.

A barbecue picnic afterward brought everyone together in fellowship.

Good Shepherd’s pastor, Rev. David Milette, asks for prayer for the fledgling group “so that they too may

become lighthouses of the Gospel in our maritime provinces, and beacons whereby others can find the faithful preaching of the Gospel.”

*Rev. David Milette,  
Good Shepherd, Moncton, N.B.*

## Older adult event asks: Is everything in order?

**STRATFORD, Ont.** - Seventy-five people attended the Walther League reunion at St. Peter’s Evangelical Lutheran Church on September 2, but many of those were never Walther Leaguers. They came anyway for the all-day event geared to “older adults” that began with worship and ended with *West Side Story*.

Over coffee, goodies and fellowship, everyone learned (or relearned) the Walther League song, to sing it with gusto between the featured speakers’ presentations. The organizing theme of the day was “Is Everything in Order?”

Emeritus pastor, Rev. Mayo Mellecke started worship at 10 a.m. using the Lutheran Service Book’s Vespers service. Why Vespers in the morning? Because he chose as his text 1 Corinthians 15:6: “After that, He appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.” He didn’t want any sleepers among us, but wanted



The older adults enjoyed a performance of *West Side Story* at the Stratford Festival

us to see how the words “sleep” and “death” are used in Scripture, and how we’re comforted in the face of the unknown by God’s promises.

Marilee Garner, from the local Community Care and Access Centre, brought along a host of publications and spoke about services to communities throughout Ontario. The southwest Ontario region is only one of 14 throughout the province. Help with nursing, medical supplies, personal support, nutrition,

therapies, social work and long-term care is only a phone call away.

Al Feth, representing Lutheran Foundation Canada delivered a PowerPoint presentation about the need for a will and powers of attorney. He emphasized that by writing a Christian will, particularly a Christian preamble, this important document can serve as a witness to those who will hear or read it.

Following the presentations, attendees enjoyed a roast-beef dinner

and headed to the Stratford Festival Theatre to enjoy a revival of the 1957 musical *West Side Story*.

The Older Adults Ministry Committee of LCC’s East District Department for Parish Services planned the day. Watch for next year’s event in *Seasoned Adults*, the quarterly District newsletter. Go to [www.lcceastdistrict.ca](http://www.lcceastdistrict.ca), under Publications, to read it online.

*Ron Fischer, East District  
Older Adults Ministry*

## Anniversary includes special reunion



Confirmands from Bethel's first decade return for a reunion.

**KITCHENER, Ont.** - As part of its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, Bethel Lutheran Church held a reunion of a slightly different sort. On May 31, Pentecost Sunday, thirty-nine confirmands from the congregation's first decade returned to share their memories.

One of those attendees came from the 1950 confirmation class—

the congregation's first! While that first class had only two students, the numbers grew each year. Records indicate that the church confirmed 228 people in its first decade.

At a special bilingual (English/German) service, Bethel recognized and congratulated all the returning confirmands. A potluck lunch followed, allowing time for friends

and classmates to reconnect.

Bethel, chartered on February 6, 1949 as a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, originally held its services in German, with membership largely made up of European immigrants who arrived looking for a new start after the the displacements of World War II.



### *From the President*

#### **Forever Keep the Vision**

“Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves his child as well” (1 John 5:1).

One morning a tribal chief sent his three boys into the mountains. He told each to bring back some trophy indicating how far he had gone. Then he waited for their return. In the early afternoon the first son returned. He held in his hand a piece of bark, indicating he had reached the timberline. Toward suppertime the second one returned. He held in his hand a piece of rock, showing he had reached the mountains' stony limit. It was late evening when the third returned home, and when he arrived he had nothing in his hand. His clothes were torn, and it was apparent he'd had a difficult journey. But his face was so radiant his father knew the experience must have been well worth the cost. Softly the lad began to speak: “I have brought back nothing, but I have seen the sea and it keeps beckoning me on!”

The saints in heaven testify to the glory that life can hold. They have reached the goal because they “caught the vision” that kept beckoning them on, until eternity became their home.

So often we fail to get the most out of life because we stop at the halfway point, unwilling to pay the price of the hardships we must face and the trailblazing we must do to reach that far summit. But once you have really “caught the vision”—believe that Jesus is the Christ, your Lord and Saviour from sin—that faith and trust in Jesus can inspire you to keep going, no matter what mountains you have to climb and what hardships you have to face. And remember, you do not travel alone using your own strength, for God's power is always there to help carry you through.

Catch the vision and keep it forever...and never be so foolish as to let the material things of the moment cloud your vision of the eternal.

*Rev. Paul Zabel*

## East District installs new president and board

**CLIFFORD, Ont.** -

On the warm Sunday evening of August 16, churchgoers and clergy filled the sanctuary of St. John's Lutheran Church for the installation of Rev. Paul Zabel as LCC East District's new president. Rev. Zabel, elected by the district convention delegates in May, served as pastor of St. John's for 26 years.

LCC president Rev. Robert Bugbee, as guest speaker, delivered the thought-provoking message "Come to Help This Vine," based on Psalm 80:14-15. Following this came the Rite of Installation, after which new President Zabel installed the officers of the board of directors: Rev. David Bode, first vice-president; Rev.



Back (l-r): Revs. Kurt Reinhardt, Kurt Lantz, Richard Frey, Robert Morley, Mel Graham, Mark Koehler, André Schroth, Siem Manna. Middle: Revs. David Saar, Brian Dunlop, Aaron Rubach, Konstantin Hahn, David Gallas, Adrian Toms, Eric Betsch, Peter Gatluak, Orland Welke, Larry Gajdos, Mark Hartburg. Front: Revs. David Bode, Robert Krestick, E. Croll, new District President Paul Zabel, retired District President Dr. Albin Stanfel, Kevin Walrath, retired District President Dr. Roger Winger, Joe Das, retired District President Allen Maleske, LCC president Robert Bugbee, Ronald Mohr, Robert Bruer.

Ronald Mohr, second vice-president; Reginald Tieggs, secretary; Ray Taylor, treasurer; and Lois Griffin, Rev. Warren Hamp, Dr. Naomi Klages, Paul Otterman and Paul Schultz, directors-at-large.

The choir—from Desboro,

Hanover, Mount Forest and Clifford congregations—praised God with anthems such as "Walk with the Lord" and "Go Now in Peace." Organist Judy Zabel also directed the choir; Dwayne Hachman played the organ for choir numbers, along with pianist Marya Pinder from Clifford.

Following the service, everyone joined for fellowship and a delicious lunch served by the ladies of the congregation. The offering received will remain at St. John's to assist in spreading God's Word.

*Ruth Koeslag,  
St. John's, Clifford*

Visit the East District website at  
[www.lcceastdistrict.ca](http://www.lcceastdistrict.ca)

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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@lcceastdistrict.ca](mailto:ilene@lcceastdistrict.ca)  
Fax: 519-578-3369

**Next deadline:  
October 9, 2009**

## One of LCC's oldest churches closes doors—merges with daughter

**DELHI, Ont.** - With saddened yet joyful hearts, the congregation of St. Peter's gathered to worship in their Rhineland church building one last time.

They're joyful because St. Peter's has united with a daughter congregation—St. Luke's in Tillsonburg, Ont.—to form a new entity, Peace Lutheran Church. While the congregation currently worships at the former St. Luke's, it expects to dedicate a new church building, with God's help, in 2010 in Tillsonburg.

What began in 1854 with a group of German immigrants holding services at home grew in four years to a modest log church dedicated to the glory of God. In 1862 worshippers built a newer white frame structure on the site; services continued there until 1913.



Renowned Ontario artist Sue Goossens painted this watercolour of St. Peter's (Delhi, Ont.) for the church's 150th anniversary in 2004.

The need for a larger building resulted in a third church on the same site—which was struck by lightning and destroyed in 1937. Faithful parishioners immediately began constructing the church that stands to this day, and bears witness to 155 years of God's blessings.