

## East District gathers to honour retiring president Allen Maleske

**KITCHENER, Ont.**

- More than 160 people gathered for a service of farewell and Godspeed for Rev. Allen and Beverly Maleske at Bethel Lutheran Church on September 27. Rev. Maleske served as East District president for nine years, from 2000 to 2009. New president Rev. Paul Zabel helped officiate as one of the lectors at the service.

Rev. Mark Hartburg (Historic St. Paul's and former assistant to the president under Rev. Maleske) served as liturgist. Rev. Robert Krestick (Redeemer, Waterloo and LCC second vice-president) preached. Other lectors were Revs. Kevin Walrath (Messiah, Waterloo) and Dr. Bryan King (St. Luke, Ottawa). Vicar Oscar Castillo (Redeemer,



Rev. Allen Maleske and wife Beverly

Waterloo) served as crucifer. Carol Walrath (Messiah, Waterloo) and Paul Walrath (Historic St. Paul's, Kitchener) played the organ.

The offering of more than \$700 was designated for East District missions.

At a reception and light meal, attendees were able to greet the entire Maleske family. Rev. Dr. King, as master of ceremonies,

encouraged those gathered to solve "Maleske trivia clues" placed on each table. Recognized as "farthest traveller," Dorothy Maleske, Rev. Maleske's mother, arrived from San Antonio, Texas.

Friends and colleagues from both sides of the border, including two past presidents as well

as the current president, offered good wishes and a few anecdotes. Daughter Sarah and son Tim also spoke to their parents and to those gathered. Pastor Maleske thanked the many who assisted with the celebration, including host church Bethel Lutheran. He said he was "taking some time right now for himself and family but still plans to stay involved with the church."

## Lutheran women honoured for chemo caps

**AYLMER, Ont.** - Canadian Cancer Society's Elgin-Middlesex Unit presented Unsung Heroes awards on October 25 at East Elgin Community Centre, citing Lutheran women for providing practical, ongoing support to women living with the disease

The group Lutheran Women of London created and sews Kathy Kaps—colourful headcoverings used by women receiving chemotherapy. For more than 18 years, the turbans have provided hundreds of women with an alternative to hats and wigs, and let them know other women in their community care enough to spend time and resources making something beautiful for them. Twice a year, women from LCC's Faith, Good Shepherd and Our Saviour and ELCIC's Trinity, St. Ansgar and Redeemer work together on this project.

The Kathy Kap group also makes

shopping bags to sell at the Cancer Society's annual Walk for Cancer in June, using T-shirts left over from previous Cancer Society fund-

raising events. Sales of the bags raise additional funds for research.

*Ethel Kuhl, Kathy Kap group*



Group members display Walk for Cancer bags they've made from leftover T-shirts (l-r): Mabel Keller, Anna Wissing, Doris Jensen, Lorine Ryan, Doreen Varey, Marg Wenhardt, Cancer Society representative Nancy McFadden, Arline Hensel, Ethel Kuhl and Martha Fonger.

## Celebration marks 40 years of God's blessings

**WATERLOO, Ont.** - Messiah Lutheran Church celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary Sunday, April 19. Under the leadership of committee chair

Mara Verlis, the anniversary was a many-faceted event that ranged from handmade quilts and homemade schnitzel to *PowerPoint*.



Current pastor Rev. Kevin Walrath in fellowship with Messiah/Waterloo's founding pastor, Rev. Phil Heinze.

Spurred on by Judy Siegner, Messiah's *Sonshine Club* (the group for people over 55) commissioned a quilt in which each block represents a Biblical theme. The congregation supported this project financially, and the quilt makes a uniquely cozy addition to the narthex. Talented banner-maker Donna Schultz created an anniversary piece that now



Blake Murray demonstrates just how much he enjoyed the anniversary banquet.

hangs in the sanctuary. During the morning worship service, both quilt and banner were dedicated to the glory of God.

In the afternoon, members gathered again at church for a delicious home-cooked meal of schnitzel and sauerkraut, courtesy of chief cooks Peter and Joan Trautrim.

Following the meal, people gathered in the sanctuary to hear a bit of history. Founding pastor Rev. Phil Heinze and charter member Bruce Scheifele described life when the congregation began. Messiah's archivist, Bev Barr, with member Steve Hagedorn, brought the church's history to life through four different *PowerPoint* presentations—one for each decade of its existence.

During the celebration Rev. Kevin Walrath received a surprise gift honouring the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination and 25 years of service to Messiah. The congregation commissioned a second quilt and presented it to him and his wife, Carol.

Fun skits by the church elders, the ladies, and youth group rounded out the evening. It closed with the choir, under the direction of Florence Hall, singing the benediction.

With its Little Lamb Preschool recently celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and with the planned start of an ESL program this fall, Messiah stands ready to continue sharing God's love with the people of Waterloo.

*Carol Walrath, Messiah, Waterloo*



Members at the anniversary banquet, with theme banner in the background.

## Congregations join forces for Bible camp

**BEAMSVILLE, Ont.** - Emmanuel Lutheran Church's vacation Bible camp brought together the resources of Emmanuel, St. Matthew in Smithville and Christ Our Saviour in Grimsby. Fifteen children from all three parishes attended the three-day Bible camp *G.A.D.G.E.T's GARAGE*.

Children brought in food for Community Care of West Niagara, whose director, Cheryl Scott, visited to tell campers what her organization does.

*Rev. Howard Warner,  
Emmanuel, Beamsville*



(l-r): Katie Fitz, Joan McFarlane, Zac Wenzel, Brooke Salmon, Erin Salmon, Megan Nerbonne, Madison Nerbonne, Irma Wenzel, Evan Turnbull, Marcus Fitz, Jacob Baigent, Christian Kuhl and Nathan Kuhl.

## VBS brings children to Camp E.D.G.E.

**LOCKSLEY, Ont.** - About 80 children turned out for *Camp E.D.G.E.*, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church's vacation Bible school. It ran over four nights, Monday to Thursday, and culminated in a special Sunday service.

Rev. Clair Denninger explained how the church gave *E.D.G.E.* materials (*Experience and Discover God Everywhere*) a special

Locksley twist. "We focus on the neighborhood," he said, "and being rural we naturally focus on children in our rural community—though some town kids come, and we welcome them too. Our Sunday service had 167 in attendance and we served refreshments after. Normal attendance in the summer is just under a hundred."

All participants received invitations to Sunday school or adult classes. This is the second year for the format, which has produced pleasing results.

To view a short *Camp E.D.G.E.* video and read coverage from an online Ottawa Valley newspaper, visit <http://www.thedailyobserver.ca/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1711514>.



### From the President

#### How's It Going?

"Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near (James 5:7-8)."

**B**eing relatively new in serving our Lord and His church in the position of East District President, a question I'm often asked is: "How's it going?" During the past few weeks my response has been: "Well, I've gotten my feet wet, but they're not really firmly planted yet."

As you well might imagine, after having served as a parish pastor for the past 30 years, it's going to take me some time to get a handle on a number of things I've never done or encountered before. For example, when someone asks me a question or for information on something I know little or nothing about, I find myself responding: "I don't know," "I'll have to find out," or even "I'm supposed to do that?"

And I find myself talking to myself and saying, "I wish I knew the answer to that," "How can I find the answer to that?" or "If I'm supposed to do that, I better find out what it's all about." So one of the things I've found myself becoming frustrated and struggling with, believe it or not, is patience.

This reminds me of an incident I read about and also encountered firsthand when I served as pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in the small town of Clifford, in the rural midwest portion of southern Ontario. The incident went something like this...

A minister in a small country church came to call on one of his members who lived on a farm. As he and the farmer walked through the fields the pastor

noticed some of the soil seemed lifeless and incapable of growing a good crop. He mentioned this to his friend who replied, "That's right. But now I'm going to plant sweet clover in that field. The clover roots will reach deep down into the earth and draw up the valuable minerals the other plants don't find. So next year the soil in that field will be ready for another good crop again."

This little story illustrates to me the way our spiritual lives often go. Sometimes you and I can drift away from God. Sometimes our lives can grow shallow. It is during these times that we need spiritual nourishment. During times like these we need to become more deeply rooted in the soil if the harvest is to become plentiful. It is during these times that we need to spend more time reading God's Word and to receive the assurance that no matter how difficult the way might be, our Lord and our God is still beside us to help us to fight the good fight of faith.

Every now and again we need to sit down and have a long talk with God, not only about things that are troubling us and problems we have to face, but also the tasks He has placed before us. We need to spend quiet moments just to strengthen our friendship with Him, to come to a clearer understanding of our relationship with Him, and also to let Him know how grateful we are for all He has done for us and for all He has given us.

This encouragement we need for our spiritual lives does not just happen by chance. We need to draw upon the very depths of how much our Lord and Master really does love and care for us—so much in fact that He died on the cross for our sins and rose again for our salvation. When we have faith in this, real living will result. So...how's it going? It's going to take time...more time spent worshipping and talking with God! More time to realize how much He really does love and care for us, and to know He isn't quite done in helping us with His tasks for us yet upon this earth!

Rev. Paul Zabel

## New pastor arrives to end long vacancy

**ST. THOMAS, Ont.** - July 19 marked a joyous day at Redeemer Lutheran Church with the installation of a new pastor, Rev. Donald Schieman, called to Redeemer following a nine-year ministry at Grace Lutheran in

Camrose, Alta. Rev. Schieman (not to be confused with ABC District president, Rev. Don Schieman) is a 1994 graduate of Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines.

*Sheila Mizon, Redeemer, St. Thomas*



Fourteen pastors participated in the service, including: Revs. Al Maleske, David Bode, Dan Abraham, Ron Mohr, Paul Pollex, John Obeda, Kenneth Voegel, Larry Gajdos, Siem Manna, David Hamp, Warren Hamp, Art Schieman, and guest preacher Marvin Bublitz.

## Going greener at district office



**KITCHENER, Ont.** - The East District office took some cost-saving and energy-saving steps this year by plugging into the Ontario Power Authority's Power Savings Blitz, which offered small businesses a free energy audit and up to \$1000 toward energy retrofits. The district office upgraded 19 fluorescent light fixtures from T12 to T8, a move that's expected to save about \$300 per year in energy costs. When all fixtures are upgraded, expected savings will run \$500-\$600 yearly. Congregations can check [www.powersavingsblitz.ca](http://www.powersavingsblitz.ca) or call local utilities to find programs available in their areas.

Visit the East District website at  
[www.lcceastdistrict.ca](http://www.lcceastdistrict.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@lcceastdistrict.ca](mailto:ilene@lcceastdistrict.ca)  
Fax: 519-578-3369

**Next deadline:  
December 18, 2009**

## Two pastors installed in Kitchener circuit



Rev. Robin Korsch

**KITCHENER, Ont.** - Rev. Robin Korsch, installed as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church on August 30, previously

served as associate pastor at Christ/St. Catharines, for the four years following his ordination in 2005. He graduated from Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines in 2003 and went on to obtain his STM at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis in 2005. Pastor Rob and wife Tara are proud parents of twin daughters and one son.



Rev. Nolan Astley

**KITCHENER, Ont.** - Rev. Nolan Astley became senior pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, replacing Rev. Robert Bugbee,

who served from 1994 until 2008, when he was elected president of Lutheran Church-Canada. Rev. Astley, pastor of Zion/McLaughlin and First/Lloydminster (Alberta) from 1996 to 2009, also held the position of LCC's first vice-president before moving to Ontario. Currently Rev. Astley chairs the synod's Task Force on Seminary Education and was recently appointed to the board of *Concordia Pulpit Resources*. Rev. Astley and Susan have been blessed with four children and two grandchildren.