



# “Celebrations”

*A publication of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories  
Winter 2010*

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Header photo of stained-glass courtesy of Faith Lutheran, Calgary. Window design by Geoff Jamieson. All photos in Celebrations by Colleen McGinnis, unless otherwise stated.

## **Finding Our Voice**



Browsing in the *Washington Post On-Line* I was drawn to an article entitled “Church’s Influence on Politics Shifting”. The Rev.

Patrick J. Walker of the New Macedonia Baptist Church in southeast Washington was quoted: “It wasn’t that long ago that there was no such thing as putting a pastor on hold when the leader of a D.C. church called city hall”. Walker wanted to sit down with D.C. Council members to discuss a number of issues related to traditional values. Some of the Councilors refused to meet with him. Walker concluded: “This city is certainly no longer church-friendly”. Without too much difficulty and reading between the lines, the D.C. politicians talked to church folk when everyone was pretty much on the same page. That is not the case any longer. The politics have changed, just as the culture, ethos and values of the city of Washington have changed. The perception is that traditionalist pastors and churches have not. Councilors and their staffers have dismissed the voices of Washington’s African-American churches as irrelevant.

In this time of changing paradigms, how will Christians find a voice to speak to the powerful and the privileged, those whom St. Paul called the principalities and powers of this present age? How will we articulate the faith amid a culture that believes it has superseded religious claims? The prevalent notion that Christianity is irrelevant is too simplistic. The pluralism, consumerism and secularism of our society are powerful forces, conditioning people to tune out any exclusive faith-claims.

Hunter Baker, writing for *Mere Comments* on the Touchstone Magazine blogspot (<http://merecomments.typepad.com>), tells the story of a college professor from India who decried monotheism and declared the benevolent goodness of polytheism and its modern ally, secularism. Polytheism, of course, was the norm in the Roman Empire. The

Empire managed its many gods by uniting everyone in a common worship of the emperor. Secularism is, indeed, like polytheism in this sense. Have whatever religious sensibility you like, as long as you recognize that your ultimate allegiance is to the secular state that is representative of the real world. Don't ever let your religion get between you and the dominant culture. Keep it private. Keep it in hobby status. (Of course, Hunter Baker has his tongue firmly planted in his cheek).

Yet some Christians are trying to re-assert their public voice, attempting to speak prophetically to the dominant culture. On November 20<sup>th</sup>, 152 religious leaders – Evangelical, Roman Catholic and Orthodox – with a few orthodox Anglicans thrown in for good measure (no Lutherans of note) – gathered in New York to issue the Manhattan Declaration, a 4700 word document uniting (some) Christians to defend (1) the sanctity of human life, (2) the dignity of marriage as the conjugal union of husband and wife, and (3) the rights of conscience and religious liberty.

“It is a call to conscience – for the church”, said Chuck Colson – who together with Robert George (McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence, Princeton University) and Timothy George (Professor, Beeson Divinity School, Samford University) drafted the declaration. Colson continued: “It is also a crystal-clear message to civil authorities that



*For as the rain and snow  
come down from heaven ...*

we will not, under any circumstances, stand idly by as our religious freedom comes under assault”. Within four days of being issued, the Manhattan Declaration had in excess of 100,000 signatories.

The Christian faith is more resilient than we believe. It has been expressing itself with truth, purity and power - in season, and out of season. Whether Christianity had a dominant place in the prevailing culture or a diminished role and voice, the Gospel was not silenced and the Holy Spirit was not quenched. We are living in challenging times as Church, to be sure. But this is also a time to remember the promise of God through the prophet Isaiah: “For as the

*rain and snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth... so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth: it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it”. (55:10,11) Good words to hold onto for the living of these days.*

+Ronald B. Mayan, Bishop

**Around the Synod**



**Coming Events**

**“Hands On” Youth Gathering**

*“ ... we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.” Isaiah 64: 8b*

August 19 – 22, 2010 the ELCIC and the Anglican Church of Canada are bringing the Youth of the nation together in London, Ontario. CLAY (Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth) is accepting registrations now. Find out more at [www.clay2010.ca](http://www.clay2010.ca) or contact Rev. Paul Gehrs (204-984-9156) at the ELCIC National Office to receive a hard copy of the registration materials. Join the CLAY Facebook group to see what’s happening.



**Plan Now for Synod of Alberta and the Territories Convention 2010**

The next Synod Convention will be held at the University of Alberta Augustana Campus in Camrose, from June 3 – 6, 2010. Come for the worship, the fellowship, the dialogue and the important task of taking care of the business of the church. Call the Synod office for information. (780-439-2636)

**“To the Ends of the Earth” - Church Council Workshop 2010**

On Saturday, February 27 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Red Deer, Bishop Ron Mayan will give a presentation on the theme of evangelism, entitled “The Gift is the Call.” Workshop registrants will be given helpful information on a variety of topics related to leadership within the church. Call the Synod office for more information. (780-439-2636)

**Images of Spirituality**

21st annual ecumenical weekend for Christian women to experience nourishment, refreshment and friendship will be held April 16 – 18, 2010 at the Entheos Retreat Centre near Bragg Creek.


*Session Leader:* Carolyn Pogue; (United Church) published author, creative and passionate in her work toward world change through word change.

*Worship Leader:* Pastor Marty Tuer (ELCIC)

*Registration Fee:* \$225.00

*More Information:* [www.imagesofspirituality.ca](http://www.imagesofspirituality.ca) or call Carol Hayes at 403-239-6658.

***Please remember Haiti as the people rebuild their lives ... Call Canadian Lutheran World Relief at 1-800-661-2597 to find out how to help.***



**Living Faithfully In Oil Country**

**Social Justice Institute**  
**Saturday February 27, 2010**  
**9:00 am to 4:00 pm**

**Workshops on:**  
**Sustainable Living**  
**Water Resources and Energy**  
**Earth Charter Churches and the Carbon Fast**  
**Families, Housing and Sustainable Living**

**\$30.00 (includes lunch)**  
**Register by February 20**

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
**10014 – 81 Ave, Edmonton**  
**780-434-4330**

## Whom Shall I Send?

*Diaconal Ministers Answer God's Call to Serve.*



Photos provided by Karen Triomphe

Members of Diakonia at the World Assembly in Atlanta pray for the Diaconal Ministers of Fiji who have just found out that there was a military coup that day in their homeland.

God calls us to use our gifts and talents in many ways. We serve as members of church council or committees. Some teach Sunday school, become convention delegates, or remember birthdays and special occasions in our congregations. Others play musical instruments or sing in choirs. We shovel snow from the church steps. We lend a hand, an ear, or a shoulder to cry on. Some of us become pastors and others diaconal ministers, serving in the church and in the world.

“Jesus Christ Lives For Us, With Us, In Us!” In a pamphlet published by the ELCIC, diaconal ministers are described as servants for The Servant who washed his disciples feet, who welcomed the children and had compassion on the sick and the hungry and the marginalized. What Jesus did in his ministry to the people on earth, diaconal ministers do by telling the story of Jesus in their work with children, youth and adults. Their focus is on reaching out to people in need, and in lifting up the needs of the world to the church. There are about 20,000 diaconal ministers in many denominations and in many countries, all united in a worldwide organization called Diakonia. Educated in Lutheran theology and doctrine, the diaconal ministers of the ELCIC are part of the geographical region now known as Diakonia of the Americas and the Caribbean (DOTAC) the roots of which go back to 1947.



Ms. Karen Triomphe

Karen Triomphe realized that God was reaching out to her when she began working at Trinity Lutheran Church as a Parish Assistant in 1996. She had completed her Bachelor's degree in Christian studies, attending Taylor University and Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Edmonton, and the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon, so she already knew the church would be a focal point in her life. Then she discovered the Diaconal program and grew very interested in this ministry of word and service. This was what God wanted her to do, and in 2002 she was consecrated. She continues to work at Trinity in administration, youth ministry, leadership development and community service, using her gifts to see Christ in those she serves and to help others see Christ in their own lives.

In 2009 Karen traveled to Atlanta, Georgia where she joined more than 300 people attending the Diakonia World Assembly. For eight days Deacons, Deaconesses, and Diaconal Ministers from all over the world met to discuss how their ministry brings reconciliation to a hurting world, focusing on how to bring Christ to those who need Him – the poor, the downtrodden and the suffering.

In his keynote speech, the Reverend Doctor Walter Altmann, moderator of the World Council of Churches, emphasized that, "Diakonia, which means servant or serving, has to become the dominant role for the church, especially the churches in the north. Those who have so much, need to serve those who do not. As the Priesthood of all believers, our faith in Christ needs to be put into action for transformation to occur. The poor and the suffering will not come to us. Rather, we need to go to them."



The Rev Doctor Walter Altmann



Naz, a Diaconal Minister originally from Pakistan, speaks about women in her homeland.

Those most in need are often those without a voice. In order to give presence and power to these people, work must be done both locally and globally in following Christ's model of servant leadership. In Canada we are insulated from many human injustices, but we are not immune.

"I attended two workshops," says Karen. "One on human trafficking and one on the treatment of women in Pakistan. I didn't feel that human trafficking had significance in Canada, only to find out that a man recently brought 14 young people to Edmonton for that very reason."

Karen wept for the women in Pakistan who have no power, no authority, no equality, no voice and no justice – things we accept as our privilege here. She says,

“Even among the Christians there is a cultural understanding that women are owned by men. Many are hurt physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Some are put to death for crimes that didn’t occur.”

She met people from Honduras and the Philippine Islands whose family members have been imprisoned or tortured for their faith. She asked them how they got through it and whether they ever got angry with God. “They were quick to answer that it is not God who is evil, but humans who have little regard for the lives of others,” Karen says. “Their faith in Christ helps them cope every day.”

While the World Assembly met in Atlanta, a military coup took place in Fiji. Concern for the Fijian sisters in attendance and the welfare of their families was high. Would they be able to go home? What was happening to their loved ones? As a community the assembly participants gathered around them, praying together, placing their faith in Christ to guide and direct these women as well as the government in Fiji. Finishing the prayer they began to sing, first in English and then in everyone’s first language in turn. “It was a profound experience,” Karen says, “to be able to feel the sense of oneness, knowing this community represented the whole world.”

The next morning a report was received saying the Fijian Government had reconsidered and the Christians were being allowed to go back to their homes.



A Chinese Deaconess gives her report to the assembly. China is one of the newest members of Diakonia.



A local Atlanta choir shares their gospel music with the appreciative participants in the 2009 Diakonia World Assembly in Georgia.

Karen often sings, “*Open the Eyes of my Heart, Lord*”. She looks for Jesus in the faces of people everywhere. He is in the world, working His will through those who have been called to serve. *Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.* (Micah 6:8 NIV) These words are comfortably and securely worked into the fabric of the Diaconal Ministry.

When God calls out, “Whom can I send forth for the work of reconciliation?” Karen says, “Oh, that would be me.”

DOTAC meets in Oklahoma City in July of 2011. Karen Triomphe, together with many others who answer that call, will be there.

## From the Pew

***We are accustomed to messages and stories*** being delivered from the pulpit. In this section of "Celebrations" you will read words belonging to people who sit in the pews. Over time, stories will be collected from churches throughout our Synod. They may tell of personal faith journeys or memorable experiences from the present or past – something uplifting, something funny or something sad. This first offering comes from Ascension Lutheran in Edmonton.

### ***Helen Holth: Carried by God***

Photos provided by Helen Holth



Helen at fifteen years of age.



The farm in Saskatchewan.

I grew up in Saskatchewan, the seventh in a large family of ten children. We were poor and most of us had to go out to work to help support the family. My dream as a little girl was to be a nurse but when I finished grade eight I had to leave school, as there wasn't enough money. I felt that maybe my dream would not come true. I got a job as a maid in St. Joseph's Hospital in Estevan for the winter. The sisters were good to work for because they worked beside me. By watching them I learned a lot about caring for the sick.

In April my mother said they needed me at home to help on the farm. Some family friends gave me a ride to our hometown of Torquay, where arrangements had been made for me to stay with my Aunt. My parents were to come in the morning to get me. When I got to my Aunts home, she said I could leave my suitcase but that I couldn't stay. What was I to do? Our farm was 7 miles north of town. I began to walk. It was already about 6:30 pm and it soon turned very dark with no moonlight and no farms for at least 5 miles. I could hear the coyotes howling and I prayed that God would take care of me. Then a dim light appeared in front of me. Worried, I turned around to go back, but as I did, the light went out. Whenever I turned towards home, I would see the light. Then I knew God had sent his angels to guide me home. I can't remember walking the rest of the way. I heard one of the neighbour's dogs barking, and the next thing I knew I was walking into my parents' yard at 11:00 pm. God must have carried me.

God did not forget about my dream, and neither did I. After a few years of "odd jobs", I began work in 1947 at the Psychiatric Hospital in Weyburn, where they were setting up a program to train nurses. I approached Dr. Bates, Director of Training, and asked him if I could please take lectures even though I had only a Grade 8 education. I waited for his decision and prayed. Days later, Dr. Bates told me I could attend the lectures but that it was up to me to pass them. Within a few years I received my Grade 12 diploma, passed my university exams and became a Registered Psychiatric Nurse. I worked for thirty-three years, and I thank God for every one of them.

*Submitted by Helen Holth, Ascension Lutheran Church, Edmonton*

## **Mark Rintoul: The Wrestling Match**

It was 1986. I was 23 and living in Edmonton, having spent the previous 5 years moving from place to place and job to job, trying to grow up, trying to figure out what direction I should take in life. I was confused and unsettled. Nothing seemed to make sense and I prayed for God's mercy. Although I didn't receive an instant answer, I remember my heart experienced a peace that told me God heard my cry.



Following the dream, Mark goes north.  
Mark's sister, Donna, and "Bear" are on the right.

Photos provided by Mark Rintoul

I had a dream one night about moving north to get away from my troubled heart and mind. Soon after this, my sister told me she was moving to Hay River, NWT to take up a nursing position in the Hospital. She flew to Hay River and asked if I could bring her belongings up by truck. So I traveled north and when I arrived I had an overwhelming feeling that God had something for me in Hay River – I just didn't know what.

Hay River is considered the Hub of the North. One of the companies operating there is Northern Transport, a large shipping yard filled with tugboats and barges that transport goods up the Mackenzie River and Great Slave Lake. The work is seasonal, dependent on the timing of the spring thaw and fall freeze-up. Perfect for a young man who might be looking for a new direction and a short-term job that paid well enough to cancel debts and help with a plan to go back to school.



Waiting for spring thaw.

I felt drawn to this company. My dad had worked on the tugboats off the coast of B.C. when he was my age and in a nostalgic way I felt as if I was connecting with him. I applied and they told me they weren't hiring. I gave them my phone number and said if anything changed, call me. They told me if there was work I would have to be available and living in Hay River. Without hesitation I went back to Edmonton, quit my job, packed my stuff and moved to Hay River.

I spent three months waiting for a job I wasn't sure was going to materialize. I believe this was God's way of getting me to slow down and learn to trust him as a loving Father. Sometimes it felt more like a wrestling match. Walking along the shores of Great Slave Lake in minus 35-degree weather I remember watching the Northern Lights sparkle and dance. One moment I





Mark Rintoul - 1986

would be in total awe of God's creation, the next I'd be frustrated with God because it was taking too long to get a job. One night I was ready to give up. I went down to the shipping yard and just sat there looking at it, wondering why I had stayed in Hay River, wondering why I had wasted

my time. I was upset with God because nothing had come together like I thought it would. I cried and prayed; opened my bible and started reading Psalm 90, which speaks about God's timing vs. man's timing. God was talking to *me*; putting me in my place. I felt comforted, knowing that ultimately God is in control. I was ready to accept whatever God had in store – in his timing, not mine.

I didn't sleep much that night. The next morning the phone rang and it was the transport company offering me a job. The timing was incredible. I worked for about 8 months, 4 months longer than most of the seasonal workers. Things began falling into place. I paid off my debts and put money away for school. I met a wonderful girl and married her. I went back to school and became a Respiratory Therapist. I was at peace. At every turn God was there, being the guiding Father I had been so desperately seeking.

*Submitted by Mark Rintoul, Ascension Lutheran Church, Edmonton*

### **Stephen Wildfang: A Still, Small Voice**

Photo supplied by Darla Wildfang



I moved to Edmonton in August 1982 to begin training as a Chartered Accounting student – the first step in fulfilling my career aspirations. At the time I saw this as just a “temporary relocation” – albeit 2000 miles away from my family. I saw myself moving back home after two or three years with some “life experience”. Thirty years later, after spending a number of years with a large public accounting firm, working a while for LAMP, then back to the same accounting firm, and finally building my own professional practice, I'm still in Edmonton. Life has been good. I'm married to a special woman I met in 1987 in the same church we attend today, and we have two great children. It seems as if life “just happened”. I

wondered from time to time why I never experienced a distinct call from God, why the temporary relocation lasted so long.

Then I began to wonder if God had been revealing a plan for me all along – leading me on a journey of discovery of my particular gifts and talents and graciously bestowing blessings and mercies every day. By setting down roots here in Edmonton, God was bringing me into relationship with others and thereby into a closer relationship with him. I finally realized I'm not going anywhere – God has brought me to this place for a reason.

I have been called by God, not by some earthshaking conversion experience, but by a

still, small voice that speaks through others. I have been enriched by numerous opportunities to serve in the church at many levels and in the community with the particular talents that God has gifted me. Through these ongoing opportunities I continue to come into relationship with more of God's faithful people every day. I have begun to understand that God calls us all to serve others as we are able through Jesus' example of service and sacrifice. God is working in us and through us to bring God's goodness and mercy to the whole world. What a truly remarkable thing this is! If I were to choose a verse that sums up my faith journey to this point in my life it would be 1 Corinthians 12:5-6: *There are different ways to serve the same Lord and we can each do different things. Yet the same God works in all of us and helps us in everything we do. (CEV)*

*Submitted by Stephen Wildfang, Ascension Lutheran Church, Edmonton*

### **Judy Bauer: The Circle in which I Move**

Photo by Les Stahlke



Many years ago I was a teacher in Florida. I loved my job, but the salary for a woman teacher was low and the added responsibilities of playing organ for Sunday services, directing a children's choir, coaching sports as well as other school-related duties eventually took its toll. Was this what I was supposed to be doing for the rest of my life?

While attending a national church convention in California, I heard about LAMP, a young flying ministry in Canada's North. I was intrigued by its volunteer Christian-in-Service program whereby people lived out their Christian witness in a northern community through various occupations. Perhaps I could teach in a community where I would ONLY have to teach. I

began a letter writing campaign to schools in northern Alberta and Saskatchewan. They would love to have me ... if only I had Canadian teacher certification. In order to be certified, I needed to be a landed immigrant. In order to be a landed immigrant I needed a job offer, but it couldn't be teaching. Doors began closing.

How was I to know God's will? In frustration I kneeled by my bed one night and asked God for peace for whatever direction my life might take. As I prayed, I remember having an overwhelming sense of peace wash over me. The very next morning I informed my principal that I wouldn't be teaching the following fall. It was a risky decision: I had no job prospects, minimal savings, and the unemployment rate in Florida was high. One week later I received a call from Concordia College in Edmonton offering me a part time position as a counselor. In less than a month, a record time unheard of, I had my immigration papers in hand.

Moving to Canada became a turning point in my life. The irony is that I never did teach in Canada even though I received my certification and was sure that teaching was God's plan for me. Instead I became employed in the LAMP office, and frequently had the opportunity to travel in the North as I had hoped. And God's will for me? I realized it is a very large circle in which I can move, rather than a tiny dot like a bulls eye I have to hit.

Have I made mistakes in this journey? For sure! Have I felt forgiven? Often. Have I been blessed? Beyond measure! Do I know what the future holds? Hardly. But I continue to look to a loving God who I realize more and more only wants the best for me.

*Submitted by Judy Bauer, Ascension Lutheran Church, Edmonton*

**Impulsive Generosity at Trinity Lutheran Church, Falun:** Before the church service began on the Sunday after the earthquake in Haiti, Pastor Angela Bergquist invited congregation members to speak what was in their hearts and on their minds. As thoughts were shared, it was pointed out that it isn't easy for small congregations to carry on, but it seems that God always provides. As a result, the entire collection received that day was given to Canadian Lutheran World Relief for the Haiti fund.

**Christmas Eve at St. Albert Lutheran Church**

At 10:00 on Christmas Eve, people gathered in the sanctuary for a service with Holy Communion. The candles on the advent wreath were lit, and the service culminated with the singing of Silent Night as the flame, symbolizing Christ's light in the darkness, was passed to the whole congregation.

Submitted by Patricia Gagnon



Corey Smith



Pastor Phil Gagnon flips the cloth over the Elements while managing to avoid the candle flame. He says he's never hit it yet!



Sophie and Elias Gagnon

Photos by Patricia Gagnon

**Rollyview Raises Money for LIME**

St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Rollyview invited Wayne Corbin, president of Lutheran Institutional Ministry – Edmonton, to supper on November 13, 2009. It was no ordinary supper, however. The long table in the church hall groaned with the weight of dozens of delicious homemade salads, main course dishes (including turkey and all the trimmings) and desserts. "It was a masterpiece!" said Wayne. And the best was yet to come. A whopping \$1350.00 was raised for the LIME hospital ministry of Edmonton.

Submitted by Doris Corbin



**Above:** Thanks to the "kitchen staff" and Pastor Mike Wellman (far right) for their supreme organizational skills!

**Right:** It was minus 25 degrees, but that didn't keep 93 year old Sister Frieda Kiel (in blue jacket) of Augustana Lutheran Church, Edmonton from visiting her friends in Rollyview.



Photos by Doris Corbin

## ***Volunteer Visitors Bring Jesus' Healing to Hospitalized People in Calgary***



During 2009 fourteen volunteer visitors with Lutheran Hospital Ministries Southern Alberta (LHMSA) devoted over 1,250 hours to visiting 2,527 patients in 14 acute care and long term care facilities, mostly in Calgary.

In short weekly visits volunteer visitors bring Jesus' healing love by offering a listening ear, a compassionate shoulder and, whenever appropriate, sharing prayer and scripture with people who denote Lutheran faith on their admission to a hospital or care facility. Many patients are frightened by their strange environment, worried about treatment outcome, anxious about family concerns, fearful of not surviving and of unknown procedures, and often feel very lonely. The visitors focus on understanding patients' concerns, walking with them as they express their feelings and offering hope and peace of mind. Family members are often ministered to in the same way.

LHMSA volunteer visitors are recruited from our Lutheran community and then undergo a 12-hour training course led by the Director of Pastoral Care, on completion of which they receive a certificate. This certificate authorizes them to make pastoral visits in hospitals, care facilities and/or their home congregations. Our volunteer visitors follow designated procedures for each facility, providing for their recognition as visitors and the privacy and safety of all involved in the visits.

LHMSA is a service organization with charitable status, supported by all Lutheran groups in the Calgary and Southern Alberta area. It receives no Government or Health Region funding and depends on the generosity of congregations, individual donors and fund-raising. All income goes towards improving visiting services for patients via volunteer visitor training courses, encouragement and support of visitors, provision of Christian publications and devotional materials, advocacy, awareness, fund-raising projects and minimal administration costs. Office premises are provided by a Calgary Lutheran church.



Photo by Mark Hambridge

LHMSA Board of Directors (L to R): David Hicks, General Administrator; Floyd Schneider; K. Ann Hambridge, PR & Marketing; Pastor Mark Lobitz, Director of Pastoral Care; Pastor Lee Woolery, Chairperson. Absent: Pastor Jay Holdner, Vice Chairperson; Heide Myrthu, Treasurer

LHMSA can be contacted by phone at 403-264-4045, or by email at [lhmsac@gmail.com](mailto:lhmsac@gmail.com). Check out the website at [www.lhmsa.ca](http://www.lhmsa.ca).

The organization continues to grow. Care facility visiting has now extended to Canmore and will soon be available in other Calgary neighbourhoods. As well, LHMSA recently received a grant of \$5,000 from the Lutheran Triune Educational and Benevolent Society of Calgary. Earmarked for volunteer visitor training, this grant has already enabled an additional 10 students to enroll.

Photos by Mark Hambridge



Pastor Bob Glasgow, founder and director of Alberta Health Services bereavement counseling program, speaks at the 2009 LHMSA Volunteer Visitor Appreciation event.



Volunteer Visitors. They include active and retired pastors, lay Lutherans and two newly trained lay visitors. In March BettyAnn Rietze (4th from right) will receive Alberta Pastoral Care Association Calgary Chapter's "Distinguished Service Award (2010)" in recognition of over 27 years of volunteer visiting.



A decorated Ice Cream Cake celebrated the Lutheran Hospital Ministries Southern Alberta new look - "Bringing Healing". The challenge was to eat it before it melted!

### Dust to Dust ...

When I was a teenager, I worked as a maid in St. Joseph's Hospital in Estevan, Saskatchewan. It was a Catholic hospital and the sisters were faithful in observing their religious customs. One day, I was asked to dust the Chapel and the sister inquired if I had something to cover my head. "No," I said. "But I'm sure the chapel isn't *that* dusty!"

*Helen Holth, Ascension Lutheran Church, Edmonton*



LHMSA began in 1976 as the Lutheran Ministry to the City (of Calgary) Committee, a sub committee of the Lutheran Welfare Society. In 1985 it was incorporated as Lutheran Pastoral Ministries under the Alberta Societies Act, receiving charitable status. Following that, the name changed to Lutheran Hospital Ministries and now 'Southern Alberta' differentiates it from LHM Northern Alberta. The latest change occurred in 2009, when LHMSA launched its new logo at its annual Volunteer Visitor Appreciation event, produced its first newsletter, and created its website [www.lhmsa.ca](http://www.lhmsa.ca).

*Submitted by K. Ann Hambridge*

### **Celebrations** IS A PUBLICATION OF THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE SYNOD OF ALBERTA AND THE TERRITORIES.

#### **ITS PURPOSE** is...

- ...to connect the people and congregations of our synod.
- ...to provide a forum for celebrating the people, places and mission of the congregations in our synod.
- ...to help us learn from each other and encourage each other in our work for Jesus Christ.

**SUBMIT** articles and photos about the life, work and mission of the congregations of our synod to the *Celebrations* editor, Colleen McGinnis at:

mail@caelinartworks.com  
4728 – 50 Avenue  
Wetaskiwin, AB T9A 0R7  
780-352-3519

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