

Notes & News

Synod of Alberta and the Territories

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Note: Some items may be time dated 

SYNOD ARCHIVIST

We are pleased to announce that Rev. Gary Nickel has agreed to act as our Synod Archivist and Necrologist. If you have items to be placed into the archives, or if you are looking for information already placed in the archives, please contact Pastor Gary at 780-998-3963.

CHURCH COUNCIL WORKSHOPS

**** Please note change ****

There will be only one church council workshop next spring! "To the Ends of the Earth" will be held February 27, 2010 at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Red Deer. Bishop Ron Mayan will be our guest and keynote speaker on the theme of evangelism. Please check the synod website for more info (Leadership – Council Workshop). Register your council (and other congregational leaders) early!

CONVENTION 2010

The biennial convention of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories is fast approaching (June 3-6, 2010). These events are extremely important to the health and well-being of the Church and provide a wonderful opportunity for people from our large synod to come together to worship, dialogue with each other about issues that are important to us and to take care of the business of the church. It also provides opportunities for people to serve each other in many and various ways.

In preparation for this event, the local planning committee has identified the following opportunities for service during the convention. If any are willing and able to be of assistance, please feel free to contact the person responsible that is listed beside.

Registration – Marilyn Murray 780-672-9779;

andej@telus.net

Information Desk Attendants – Marilyn Murray
Ballot Counters – Kristian Wold 780-672-3659;

kwold@cable-lynx.net

Stewards – Kristian Wold

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

STEWARDSHIP NOTES

- **Bulletin Insert** – “What makes people happy?” is included in this mailing for distribution in your congregation. As Christians, giving is something we do at any time, but we are reminded again of its importance in light of the Haiti earthquake.
- **Past Bulletin Inserts** – Perhaps you missed some inserts or want to re-use one? Go to www.albertasynod.ca/stewardship/bulletin_inserts where all former bulletin inserts are posted.
- **Stewardship Education** ideas are included in this mailing with suggestions for stewardship emphasis and education in your congregation.

Kananaskis Stewardship Event, sponsored by the United Church, April 8-10, 2010. For more information on this event including workshops, speakers and registration, go to www.anwconf.com/public/KSE2010Brochure.pdf. All people who want to learn more about stewardship and share that learning with their congregations are welcome. While all learning is a form of personal development, these workshops focus on equipping leaders to lead. A direct link is posted at www.albertasynod.ca/stewardship/resources. Scroll down to Kananaskis Stewardship Event. Register by beginning of March.

CLWR VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE

CLWR is on YouTube! A series of six video vignettes depicting the work of CLWR are posted on the popular video sharing website. The longest of the five is just over three minutes in length and provides a synopsis of all aspects of CLWR's work from commodity shipments to refugee resettlement. The remaining videos have been designed to complement CLWR's *One Good Thing* print resources for use with Sunday school-aged children. The videos were developed by Rev. Daranne Harris, the former Director of Communications and Education at CLWR. To view the videos, go to www.youtube.com/clwrvideo

AN IDEA FOR LENT

Lent is a season when many think of making special gifts to assist those in need. If you are looking for a way for your congregation to participate collectively in a Lenten project, why not consider CLWR's new resource, *One Community*. Through the program, you can equip a representative community with a variety of material and non-material resources to help move it towards a more sustainable future. The resource highlights the comprehensive nature of community development programming by challenging individuals, families, groups or an entire congregation to equip a representative community with items from the **Gifts from the Heart catalogue**.

One Community offers an excellent way to stir intergenerational awareness of CLWR's community development work within your congregation, as well as raise funds for the valuable work the agency does toward strengthening communities in Latin America, Africa and India. You can chart your progress by creating a bulletin board display of your community and adding gift items such as fish nets, water testing kits, goats, cows, seed potatoes and medical kits as they are purchased.

All materials needed to begin a *One Community* project are included in the resource package. All you need to add are some coloured pencils or crayons and some imagination as to how you will promote the project within your group or congregation. The resource package can be downloaded from the CLWR website: www.clwr.org
<<http://www.clwr.org/>>

For more information and to download a copy of the *One Community* resource, please visit www.clwr.org

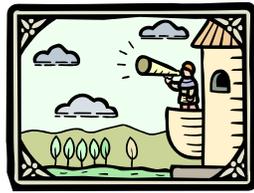
CLWR UPDATE

As of January 22, the donations to CLWR for aid to Haiti was up to \$210,000.

SYNOD OFFICE HOURS

The Synod Office is open Monday through Friday 9 am to 4:30 pm. It is closed for lunch noon to 1 pm.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE...



Celebration:

- Rev Ryan and Susie Andersen (Advent – Calgary) are pleased to announce the safe arrival of their first child, daughter Gabriella Marguerite Brownell Andersen.
- Rev Don and Inez Bolstad (retired – Wetaskiwin) were blessed with the arrival of their second great grandchild on December 22.
- Rev Dennis and Corrine Aicken (Emmanuel – Calgary) give all thanks and praise to the Lord for the gift and miracle of their second grandson born within three weeks, Benjamin William Aicken, born December 10.
- Bishop Steve and Jane Kristenson (Mahone Bay NS) wanted to let us know about the wonderful Christmas gift of a grandson, Theirry Paul, born December 22
- Rev Howard and Joan Mastin (Trinity – Calgary) are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Dianna to Kent Henker.
- Rev Doug Moffat (formerly of Calgary and now living in Kelowna) say prayers of thanksgiving are in order for the safe arrival of their first grandchild, Lili Simone Moffat.

In need of prayer for health concerns:

- Rev Richard Reimer (Chaplain, U of A, Edmonton) has untreatable cancer on his lung and in his lymph nodes.
- Herb S, friend of Rev Doug Moffat, has recently undergone a second amputation and is also dealing with cancer.
- The wife of Rev Herman Liu underwent heart valve replacement surgery in December.
- Brother of Rev Phil Hink, Bishop's Assistant, has been diagnosed with Bell's Palsy.
- Eleanor Harder, mother of Dr Cam Harder (prof at LTS) and Rev Bill Harder (Augustana Campus – Camrose) is recovering from surgery.
- Rev Lucretia van Ommeren-Tabbert's (Immanuel, Rosenthal) father-in-law and a

grandchild were injured in a serious car accident.

- Rev Dog Moffat's (ELCA) wife, Barbara, had major surgery on November 5.
- Rev Greg Anderson (Trinity, Grande Prairie) has serious back soreness.
- Barb Stolee (NCC) who works for Calgary Health requests prayer not only for those who are ill, but also for healthcare workers who are dealing with the many aspects of H1N1.
- Gay, wife of Rev Paul Eriksson (retired, Edmonton) is recovering from a small stroke.
- Doug Lyseng, father of Rev Matt Lyseng (Augustana, Edmonton) suffered a minor heart attack.
- Michelle, daughter of Rev Jim Krause (retired – Milk River), has Bell's Palsy and is undergoing treatment.
- Rev Ed Bowen (retired, Calgary) had surgery to remove a malignant tumor.
- David, younger brother of Rev Rachel Dart (LIME Chaplain, interim at Alberta Beach/Calahoo), awaits radiation treatment for prostate cancer.
- Sister Frieda Kiel (retired, Edmonton) fell and broke her hip and has received a cancer diagnosis.
- Norma Alksne, wife of Rev Arnold Alksne (St John's, Calgary), has been diagnosed with myeloma – a cancer of the blood plasma.

ATTEND CLAY 2010 WITH ASK AND IMAGINE

Ask and Imagine is a wonderful youth leadership and training program of the Anglican Church held in London, Ontario at Huron College which welcomes Lutheran participants. This year the *Ask and Imagine* Program will incorporate CLAY as part of their program. *Ask and Imagine* is available to youth in grades 9-12 in the 2009/10 school year and runs from August 12-26, 2010. The cost for this program, including the youth gathering and air fare, is only \$875. Go to youth.elcic.ca and click on the links for CLAY and *Ask and Imagine* for more details.

MEN'S RETREAT

(Feb 5-7) at Kuriakos Lutheran Camp (Sylvan Lake)

Theme: "Bringing Your Soul to Work (or Retirement)"

Presenters: Rev. Darryl Roste and Rev. Dr. Rolf Nosterud

Many today find their work to be a burden. Statistics reporting on workplace stress, burn-out, and stress-leaves are going through the roof. No workplace or person is exempt. Whether one works for a big corporation, a small business, or in government and even church offices, the stress levels have drastically increased. What's contributing to stress in the workplace, even in retirement? Is it our human nature, our expectations that have changed? Or the workplace?

If these issues disturb you, come and participate in our weekend discussion of issues like "Who Stole Meaning and Joy from Work?" Or "Why Do So Many Have a Troubled Spirit in Retirement?" and finally "How Do We Recover a Sense of Vocation in Gifted Service? (in Work or Retirement)"

The presentations, discussions, worship interludes, and lots of time for relaxation are bound to bring light to the issues and to restore your soul in solitude and service.

Register by phone at (403) 748-3927, or on line at www.kuriakos.ab.ca

COMPANION OF THE WORSHIP ARTS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Program Committee for Worship, on behalf of the National Bishop, calls for nominations to the Companion of the Worship Arts. This is an honour conferred in recognition of significant contribution to the worship life of the ELCIC at a local, synodical, and national level. The honour recognizes the ongoing inspiration and encouragement to others, together with service to God through worship, spirituality, and the arts.

Please include with your nomination:

1. Reasons for the nomination, i.e. biographical material, a listing of the person's specific contributions to the

- worship life of the ELCIC (include examples nationally, synodically, and locally),
2. An indication, with examples, of the ways the person continues to inspire and encourage others in the worship life of the church,
3. A minimum of three letters of support for the nomination from others familiar with the individual's contributions.
4. Please note, current members of the Program Committee for Worship are not eligible to receive the reward.

The honour will be conferred at the joint ELCIC/ACC Worship Conference in Vancouver, July 4-7, 2010 (www.nationalworshipconference.org). Send nomination materials to Lorraine Rheinhardt, 6070 Buchanan St., Burnaby, BC V5B 2S2 or lorrainereinhardt@shaw.ca.

REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP TRAINING COURSE AVAILABLE THIS WINTER

Want to learn more about what's involved in sponsoring the resettlement of a refugee in your community? If so, why not register for a free internet-based course being offered this winter by the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program (RSTP). The course begins on February 8 and runs to April 9 and is divided into eight modules. Topics covered include a global overview of forced migration, eligibility requirements, the application process and settlement planning.

There is no charge for the course but participants must register by January 27. For more information about the course and to access a registration form, please visit www.clwr.org

In 1979, the Canadian government began allowing groups to sponsor refugees through Sponsorship Agreement Holders such as Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR). Over this time, Lutherans across Canada have worked through CLWR to sponsor close to 12,000 refugee applications. RSTP exists to assist agreement holders in the refugee process. For more information about RSTP, visit www.rstp.ca