

Notes & News

Synod of Alberta and the Territories

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Note: Some items may be time dated 

ATTEND CLAY (Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth) GATHERING 2010 WITH ASK AND IMAGINE

Ask and Imagine is a wonderful youth leadership and training program of the Anglican Church. Lutherans are welcome! It will be held in London, Ontario at Huron College. This year the *Ask and Imagine* Program will incorporate the national youth gathering 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.

NEW ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP

We welcome the Rev Dr Larry Kochendorfer as the new assistant to the bishop. His term will begin August 1, 2010. The installation will be at Ascension, Edmonton in September. We happily anticipate serving with Larry.

We also thank Rev Phil Hink for his many years of service. His retirement begins June 30. We will miss you, Phil.

We welcome letters of appreciation for Pastor Phil and/or welcome for Pastor Larry. You can send them to the Synod office at the address sited above and we will forward them.

NATIONAL DIRECTORY

All rostered people who did not get their picture taken at the Synod Convention are asked to submit a picture to the Synod office. The picture should be a minimum of 300 dpi and be 4 x 6 or smaller.

All digital photography should be taken at best quality setting on your camera to ensure proper resolution. Please send original, uncropped digital files. Please do not send photocopies of photographs, only originals will be accepted.

STEWARDSHIP NOTES

- **Bulletin insert** – “Stay Healthy” Spiritual health needs our constant attention, especially in the summer. When we go on vacation, it’s easy to go on vacation from God, as well.
- **The Story of Stuff** (<http://www.storyofstuff.com>) is being used in classrooms all across the country and around the world. The website features a compelling message about the impact our production and consumption patterns are having on the planet and on each other. Along with “The Story of Stuff” there is also “The Story of Bottled Water”, “The Story of Cap & Trade” and soon to come, “The Story of Electronics.” These are important stories for all ages. Use it for adult discussion, youth projects, etc. Teaching tools are available on this site.
- **Financial Stewardship** – In J. Cliff Christopher’s book, *Not Your Parents’ Offering Plate: A new Vision for Financial Stewardship* (Abingdon Press, 2008) he chides church leaders who sound the alarm and plead for more money for ministry: The church is the only non-profit that seems to believe that the more you cry that you are sinking, the more people will give to you. The exact opposite is true. No non-profit would ever send out a donor letter stating that they are running a horrible deficit and they just want the donors to help balance the budget. They know that such a letter actually discourages giving rather than motivates it. A non-profit board will deal with budget matters in a board meeting but never publicize such to its donor base. The church goes out of its way to do just that.

Christopher stresses that “money follows mission.” He asked a group of pastors why people give: They started blurting out, “taxes, guilt, involvement...” No one was even close. Finally, a lady who had been sitting quietly in the back raised her hand and said, “Number one is a belief in the mission. Number two is a regard for staff leadership, and number three is fiscal responsibility.” She was right.

The absolutely most important factor in why people give is mission: People want to make

the world a better place to live. They want to believe that they can truly make a difference for the better. There is embedded in us, it seems, a desire to finish out our work on this earth with a sense that we amounted to something. To sum it up, people want to be a part of something that changes lives.

The best way to raise money for your church is simply to do your job. Christopher gets frustrated reading newsletters of church after church that tell how the men’s group is going to have a breakfast on Saturday and the women are going to have a bazaar next Thursday and the youth will have a dance next Friday after the ball game. Then, over in the corner, usually separated by a bold line so that it stands out, financial statistics, which usually indicate that a certain amount was needed and a lesser amount was received, with a quote underneath, “God loves a cheerful giver.”

“What have I got to be cheerful about? Did you show one life story in this newsletter about how the church has been making our world better? Is there one life-changing story in the entire document? Do you really exist so that men can have breakfast, women a bazaar, and youth can dance? What is it exactly that you want me to support?”

Christopher confirms that after working with over two hundred churches he learned that the person leading the flock makes a lot of difference in whether today’s donors contribute as completely as they can. When they see a pastor who has a great vision and shows excellent skills in leadership, they will invest in that pastor’s vision and trust in his or her skills to make the hopes of the donor come true.

Gleaned from “Money and Mission” Bishop Will Willimon, Luther Seminary

DELEGATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTION

By November 30, 2010, the names of the rostered delegates (clergy or diaconal) to the 2011 National Convention have to be determined and communicated to the National Office.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE...



Celebration:

- Early on June 3, Rev Jeff and Deanna Decelle (Edberg – New Norway Parish) had a baby boy, Daniel James
- Rev Jim and Angie Appleby (Armena Parish) welcomed their son Johah Gordon on June 4.
- Rev Tim and Carollyne Posyluzny (Chairperson, ABT Synod and pastor of Holy Spirit, Edmonton) received the joyful announcement that their son Trevor and his wife Shawna are parents to Anastasia Grace Posyluzny, born on May 9.

In need of prayer for health concerns:

- The Rev Dr Arnold Hagen (Camrose – retired), had knee replacement surgery on June 8.
- JoAnn, wife of Rev Alvin Oberhammer (interim – Lac La Biche) had spinal surgery May 25.
- The Rev Dr Richard Kraemer, president emeritus of Concordia University College, suffered a collapsed lung.
- Rev Ted Arndt (retired – Sherwood Park), has been hospitalized in St Albert.
- Rev Allen Severson (retired – Camrose) was hospitalized with heart problems.
- Barbara, wife of Rev Ron Weatherington (retired – Calgary), suffered a heart attack.
- Rev Richard Reimer (Chaplain, U of A, Edmonton) has untreatable cancer on his lung and in his lymph nodes.
- 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.
- Gay, wife of Rev Paul Eriksson (retired, Edmonton) is recovering from a small stroke.
- Michelle, daughter of Rev Jim Krause (retired – Milk River), is undergoing treatment for Bell's Palsy.
- Norma Alksne, wife of Rev Arnold Alksne (St John's, Calgary), has been diagnosed with myeloma – a cancer of the blood plasma.

Death:

- Lorna, wife of Norman Jacobsen of Arrowwood (both members of the Synod's Mission Committee), was diagnosed with cancer on May 3, and died peacefully at home May 29.
- Lily Linda Slobod's husband, Ken, died June 14 after suffering from Alzheimers for several years.

KAIROS

The Kairos Prairies North Regional event will be held at the Providence Renewal Centre in Edmonton in October – please let those interested in your congregation know to mark their calendars for October 15 – 17. Overnight accommodation will be available at a reasonable price, and there will probably be some funds available for car pooling.

The national theme and resource material continue with Re-Energize and will focus on Indigenous Rights and Resource Extraction. This follows up on the global work of KAIROS (and D&P) plus the Church Leaders Tour to the Oil Sands and Fort Chipewyan. These are significant issues for our region.

Those who were at the Synod Convention in Camrose will remember a Resolution on Pending Water Allocation Legislation in Alberta. We expect that this concern will also be discussed and there is some hope that local Kairos committees will facilitate ecumenical cooperation on this much needed action.

For more info contact Joyce Zutter, Social Ministry Coordinator at jzutter@telus.net or 780-467-2833.

“HEALTHY RURAL COMMUNITIES”

CirCLe M and the Saskatoon Theological Union are hosting a graduate course for rural clergy in Camrose this fall. It offers a wonderful opportunity for a fresh look at their congregations and communities.

Taught by Rev. Dr. Dittmar Mundel, Monday, November 22 – Friday, November 26, 2010, in Camrose AB, this course will examine the ecological, economic, political, social, and spiritual health of rural communities in an integrated and experiential way. To provide an experiential basis, the students in small teams will spend a part of their time preparing to do a rapid diagnostic of nearby rural communities, learning to detect what hinders or promotes the health of the community. Part of our time will be spent in reflecting upon what we have seen and experienced as well as in sociological and theological analysis. As tools for reflection, students will learn to use a variety of popular education techniques such as photovoice, casual conversations, role play, community mapping, and developing a ‘tree of life’ of the community. To deepen our reflection we will attempt to bring in a variety of local “experts” – area farmers, business people, university professors in areas such as ecology and politics.

NEWS RELEASE

From the National Office of the ELCIC

2010 Companion of the Worship Arts Recipient Announced

Winnipeg, 2 June 2010 -- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada's (ELCIC) Program Committee for Worship is pleased to announce **Robyn Simpson Mohr** has been chosen as recipient of the 2010 Companion of the Worship Arts Award.

The Companion of the Worship Arts Award is presented biennially in recognition of significant contributions to the national worship life of the ELCIC.

In her work as assistant for Campus ministry at the Augustana Campus of the University of Alberta in Camrose, AB, Simpson Mohr has mentored hundreds of students in all aspects of worship. Former students praise her influence, noting:

"At the center of this (worship life) was Robyn, filled with creativity, filled with welcome, filled with a love of worship, and above all filled with a love for the students who came to her door.

"Robyn and her passion inspired me as I found myself being drawn back to church at a time when I found the church meaningless. She was influential, not only in my spiritual journey but in my call to ministry.

"From her I learned about attention to detail in worship planning and the importance of beauty in the worship experience. Robyn knows how to feed all the senses in her creative worship planning.

"In all things Robyn exhibits grace, dignity, and humility... Robyn Simpson Mohr is a woman of deep faith in Christ and commitment to the church. I am honoured to know her as a mentor, friend, colleague, and parishioner."

Simpson Mohr has served on the worship committees of numerous national and synodical conventions, most recently as Liturgical Director for the 2009 ELCIC National Convention in Vancouver, and the 2010 Synod of Alberta and the Territories Convention in Camrose. She has also served on the worship committees of national worship conferences and youth gatherings, and as a synodical trainer for the introduction of Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

The 2010 Companion of the Worship Arts Award will be presented to Simpson Mohr by ELCIC National Bishop Susan C. Johnson at a public ceremony during the National Anglican Lutheran Worship Conference at the Vancouver School of Theology, Vancouver, BC, July 4-7, 2010. Further information on the event can be found online at: <http://nationalworshipconference.org/>