



“Celebrations”

A publication of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories

Summer 2006

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(Header photo of stained-glass window courtesy of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Calgary. Window design by Geoff Jamieson.)

Wind of the Spirit

A sound like the rush of a violent wind announced the coming of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus' disciples as they celebrated Pentecost. From that moment on, the Christian church literally exploded onto the world's stage. Frightened men and women suddenly became bold proclaimers of the Gospel: Jesus Christ is alive! Forgiveness of sins, reconciliation, and eternal life are available to all who believe, no matter what language or any other barrier might divide human beings from one another.

The wind of the Holy Spirit continues to blow among us 2000 years later. People with no hope receive hope. We are the bearers of that Good News now just as the first disciples were. As the warm summer winds blow around us, may they be a reminder to us of the Holy Spirit's presence. We are very fortunate to live in a part of the world that has such spectacular summers. The long, sunny days and very short nights

energize us, propel us out-of-doors, and seem to draw us out of ourselves. We have great opportunities to share the love of Christ with all we meet out there in the wide world of summer.

One of the best places to connect with both the Holy Spirit and with others is at our Bible Camps. Outdoor ministries have been a mainstay of our ministry together for many years. We have some of the finest camps in the ELCIC here in our synod. There are programs available for all ages. Family camps are incorporating our Partners in Faith emphasis in their programming. Passing on the Christian faith to the next generations is a critical part of our witness in and to the world, and what better place to practice than at family camp?



Lake Huron, ON.

I love the scent of sun-heated evergreens wafting on summer breezes. May the wind of the Spirit blow in and through you in a very special way this summer, so that the fragrance of Jesus' love may be experienced by all those around you.

Rejoicing in the Son,

+Stephen P. Kristenson, Bishop

Around the Synod



On September 29-30 at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Red Deer, come join a conference about helping congregations and families grow and nurture strong families of Faith! The Homegrown Faith Conference is designed to help prepare and equip congregations, individuals and families to build an effective ministry partnership between home, church and community. Primary responsibility for faith formation will be assumed by families, equipped and supported by the congregation and community. You will learn from some great theologians and practitioners. You will learn about some of the latest research and thinking in the field and be introduced to some great resources and opportunities. Together we'll laugh and cry. Together we will sing, pray and worship. You'll leave feeling upbeat about being a partner in the faith building of the generations. You're invited. The registration fee is \$85 for the first person

registered from a congregation and \$65 for each additional person from a congregation, if registered together. For more information, contact the synod office at 780.439.2636 or www.albertasynod.ca/family_ministry.

Grants Available

The Lutheran Triune Educational and Benevolent Society of Calgary is a non-profit charitable organization whose objective is to support the mission of the Church of Jesus Christ through the work of our synod and the ELCIC, by funding projects and activities of a charitable or educational nature not covered by their operating budgets. Grants are awarded on an annual basis to qualified applicants. The deadline for applications is September 30, 2006. Application forms can be obtained from the synod office at 780.439.2636 or abtsynod@elcic.ca. For those wishing to assist in the furtherance of the above objectives, the Society also accepts charitable donations.

Learning and Working in Grenada

I shift my old Honda quad into second gear to take another run at the stubborn snow drift stretching across the driveway. Imagine, only three sleeps ago my wife, Gail, and I were slathering on sunscreen in preparation for another day of work in the +30 degree heat of the Caribbean Isle of Grenada, a stone's throw from the Venezuelan coast. "Can someone please pull that banana tree branch out of the way of the string line?" I shout as we straighten the ridge

on the roof we are repairing. Not quite the request I've grown accustomed to here on construction sites in Canada. Shovelling cement, building roofs, scraping paint, repainting walls and pews, rebuilding lives-- what an awesome experience.

The Calgary Diocese of the Anglican church has a companion diocese relationship with the Anglican Church of the Windward Isles. Companion relationships should entail more than "being able to find your partner on a world map!" It's about exchange, understanding, sharing and relationship. Each day it seems we are inundated with news of meteorological disasters elsewhere in the world. Several Canadians have been directly affected by these natural disasters, either through personal experience or that of close friends and relatives. But really, like most Canadians, we are relatively distant from such catastrophes.



One of many damaged churches visited.

In the Caribbean, disaster from one storm can compound the already devastating damage from a previous one, whether it happened yesterday, last week, or even last year. All Anglican churches, rectories and schools throughout the Windward Isles suffered significant damage from



Phil and Gail Berg, Mark and Marla Ree (Grace, Bentley) and Per and Bernice Sakstad (Victory, Medicine Hat) along with six Anglican representatives made up the mission team.

Hurricane Ivan, which hit over a year ago. Some were completely destroyed. About 90% of the island homes also sustained damage, some missing a corner of the roof, and some with only a corner of the foundation left intact. St. George's Parish in Grenada, like many others, is still rebuilding. It is only fitting that the call came to St. George's, Calgary, to reach out with helping hands. After many months of planning, a team of 12 volunteers, half Lutheran and half Anglican, set off to Grenada in early February to assist in the rebuilding efforts of fellow family members in Christ.

The first of our 14 day immersion involved a tour of the island with stops at several Anglican churches and schools. This was the beginning of our ascent up the learning curve of understanding the depth of Ivan's destruction in Grenada. We saw churches and schools left roofless, with no windows. We saw homes that would leave a Canadian building inspector speechless. Homes thrown together from salvaged plywood and tin, teetering on cracked, leaning foundations. We met families that live in less space than the average North American single car garage. We stood dumbfounded outside a church one day as the familiar words "Count your many blessings, name them one by one" poured out through the open doors and broken and missing windows.

Part of our cultural exposure involved getting used to waiting. Our preconceived notion that we could hit the ground running ran into a few snags as we had to wait for authorities to release the

tools that had been shipped to Grenada. Then adjusting to the altitude, heat and humidity, certainly slowed our pace but never dampened our enthusiasm.



Balcony of St. George's Anglican Church, one of many damaged churches visited.

The project that used Gail's talents involved prepping and painting the inside of a church. This church was sporting a new roof but the rains had damaged the interior of the structure. Also, in the process of replacing the roof, new concrete to embed the rafters had been placed and needed to be primed and painted to spruce things up. This gift of love to the people of Mt. Moritz parish was very well received and several of the local congregation showed their appreciation by helping or by providing fresh fruit and refreshments each day. The washroom for the work crew was at a temporary school across the road, which

afforded the painting crew the chance to visit the school and get to know the teachers and children. This exchange turned out to be a highlight for everyone, as both the staff and the children enjoyed the chance to mingle with our Canadian delegation.

Phil volunteered to be a driver, which gave the house rebuilding crew a vehicle to transport both tools and crew each day. This project involved replacing a badly damaged roof with new rafters, plywood, strapping and metal. Completing that project was encouraging for the owner and rewarding for the volunteers. In addition, I worked to enclose a steeple to protect the clock and bells. The view of the ocean from five stories up was somewhat distracting, but we did manage to complete that project also.



Children gathering outside the temporary school across from Mt. Moritz Parish Church.

So the challenge goes out. The next time you think about booking a cruise or time at a resort, consider the opportunity God is providing for you to share the gifts with which you have been graciously entrusted. Outside the congregational and denominational initiatives, there are dozens of international organizations who specialize in volunteer placement around the globe. Consider sponsoring others who are willing to engage themselves by offering financial resources and prayer support.

We initially joined the reconstruction team hoping to be God's servants, angels of some sort. As we absorb the experience, we now realize it has been as much about cultural exchange as it was



Mark and Marla Ree begin the interior reconstruction at St. Albans.

about hard work. It was about witnessing Christ in their lives and sharing Christ through our involvement. The people with whom we travelled and the experiences we encountered have touched and changed us forever. For that, we give God thanks and praise. To God be the glory.

By Phil Berg (Grace Lutheran, Bentley, AB)

Whole Body Worship -- A Celebration of 50 years of Lutheran Campus Ministry



In celebration of its 50th anniversary, Lutheran Campus Ministry gave the gift of an experiential workshop to stimulate renewal in worship and give contemporary expression to the gospel. The featured speakers for the event this past March, Marty Haugen and Susan Briehl, creatively explored how to plan transformative worship. They used the image of the body, both our physical bodies and the body of Christ which we become in worship. Haugen and Briehl modelled worship which engages all the senses and then goes beyond the walls of the church building in service to the world.

Reflecting on Luke's Road to Emmaus story, Susan Briehl lifted up the heart of worship as being an encounter with the crucified and risen Christ. They explained that the bones of worship are the four central elements of the liturgy where this meeting occurs: in the Gathering, the Word, the Breaking of Bread, and Sending into service. Marty Haugen described the role of a music minister in worship as one of servant leadership, being an animator to the Body of Christ so that the bones of worship can come alive.

There were 128 enthralled and invigorated participants representing 34 ELCIC congregations and seven other congregations. An offering of \$1157.62 at the Friday evening Festival of Song was received in support of the Quetzalcoatl prison ministry initiated by ELCIC missionary to El Salvador, Brian Rude and currently staffed by LSM-Edmonton alumni Jessica Heine and Ryan Fontaine.

Lutheran Campus Ministry – Celebrating 50 Years in Canada

Imagine a congregation where the average member stays for only 4 or 5 years. People don't actually transfer their membership, but they embrace the congregation as family. Many leave town for 3 or 4 months every summer. This is the congregation of a campus pastor.

Campus Ministry is a vital ministry in our Evangelical



Rev. Richard Reimer (in front) with students.



Rev. Don Voigts (right) with students.

Lutheran
Church in

Canada (ELCIC). Some may say "vital" is a strong word when there are so many worthwhile ministries in the ELCIC. However, I believe that campus ministry is the one way we can reach out to the future leaders of our society and teach them to know, love and follow Jesus Christ. Campus Ministry reaches out to people at one of the most significant times in their lives. As students leave the

protective umbrella of those who raised them, they are learning who they are as individuals in the adult world. They are determining what their place will be in society. Many students are



This house, the initial student centre in Edmonton, was located at 11143 – 91 Ave. Coincidentally, this is where HUB mall is now situated and precisely the location of the current chaplain's office at 169 HUB International!

defining their own spiritual views. Some will have grown up in a supportive Christian family and be deciding whether their parents' church is for them or not. Some will be rejecting what their parents taught them and be searching for their own view of the spiritual world. Some will have no church background at all and be searching for some kind of meaning in life. They all have their own stories. However, the key is that many students are searching for their place in the adult world. Campus Ministry provides a vital artery between post-secondary students and the church. This year, Lutheran Campus Ministry in Canada is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary. This anniversary is celebrated with both joyful thanksgiving and prayerful concern.

First and foremost, there is much to celebrate. Lutheran Campus Ministry in Canada formally began at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Pastor Don Voigts was called as Canada's first full-time Protestant University Campus Chaplain in 1956. Pastor Voigts had a vision and energy that was instrumental to the success of campus ministry. His pioneering

spirit is evident in his decision to privately purchase a house near the University of Alberta campus to serve as a Lutheran student centre and a residence for the campus chaplain. He was able to convince many people of the importance of Campus Ministry. To quote Campus Chaplain C. Robert Pearson from his September 1985 article in the Western Canada Lutheran,

“Voigts contented that at the university level we were dealing with 2% of the population, but that 2% constituted the cutting edge, the leadership of the nation. Government leaders, educators, business heads, and other decision-makers needed to be confronted with the claims of the Gospel. He held that the church could only neglect that responsibility at its peril.”

Through Campus Ministry student centres, Pastor Voigts wanted to create a “home away from home” for university students. That idea has spread across the country over the years. In 1957, the Rev. John Vedell became chaplain at the University of Western Ontario. Shortly after that, a student centre was purchased. Today, there are Lutheran student centres in Victoria, Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Saskatoon, London, and Waterloo. Lutheran campus ministry is currently funded at U of Victoria, U of British Columbia, U of Northern British Columbia, U of Alberta, U of Alberta Augustana Campus, U of Calgary & SAIT, U of Lethbridge & Lethbridge Community College, Portage College, University of Saskatchewan, Luther College, U of Winnipeg, U of Manitoba, Lakehead U, U of Western, Wilfred Laurier U & U of Waterloo, U of Toronto, and Dalhousie U. In previous years, Lutherans also funded campus ministry at Concordia U.



Saskatoon delegation to Waterloo conference.

In order to truly understand how Campus Ministry and our Campus Chaplains impact the lives of the students they serve, one must look at the personal stories. Here, I share my own story of how Campus Ministry touched my life as a student and continues to be a part of my life today.

However, be aware that this is only one story, my story, and there are many other stories out there.

Partial List of those who have served Lutheran Campus Ministry in Canada:

Jim Anderson, John Anderson, Ana Beck, Bart Beglo, Paul Bosch, Clayton Beish, Ray Christenson, Allan, Christiansen, Roger Christianson, Daniel deBlock, Mac de Waal, Tim Dutcher-Walls, Eric Dyck, Barry Faires, Renita Falkenstern, Peter Fischer, Martin Garber-Conrad, Jane Gingrich, Bob Gmeindl, Walter Goos, Volker Greifenhagen, Marvin Haave, Jim Halmarson, Herbert Harms, Tim Hegedus, Brian Heinrich, Val Hennig, Jim Hill, Ellie Hummel, Donald Johnson, David Kaiser, Herb Keil, Dawn Kilarski, Donald King, Bill Kirschinsky, Lois Knudsen Munholland, Mark Koenker, Richard Kraemer, Kenneth Kuhn, Stephen Larson, W. Garnet Leach, Art Leichnetz, Hilde Lorenz, Ed MacKinley, Alfred Maier, Lawrence Martin, Norman Mattson, Lyle McKenzie, Clement Mehlman, Greg Moroz, Daryl Niedermeyer, Roger Nostbakken, Klaus Ohlhoff, Carl Onofrio, C. Robert Pearson, Erin Phillips, David Primmer, Barry Rasmussen, James Rasmussen, Richard Reimer, Robert Rock, Helmut Saabas, Elaine Sauer, H. Paul Schmidt, Jonathan Schmidt, Raymond Schultz, Richard Schulz, Peter Schwabe-Fry, Doug Scott, Bob Shantz, James Slack, Jr., Annette Smith, Randy Smith, Matti Terho, Llano Thelin, David Lee Thompson, Cheryl Toth, Richard Urdahl, Barry Vall, John Vedell, Donald Voigts, Bill Wade, George Wawin, Eric Weingartner, Craig Wentland, Marc Wermager, William Wiegert, Ralph Wushke

I grew up in a Christian home with loving, supportive parents. When I arrived at the University of Guelph, I arrived with pretty much the belief system of my parents. As I began my university education, I started to wonder what I really believed. Did I really want to be a part of the Lutheran church within which I grew up? There were other denominations that attracted me as well. In years 3 and 4, my housemates included a Baptist, a Pentecostal, a United worshipping in the Presbyterian church, and an agnostic. We took turns worshipping at each others churches on occasion and learned more about each others beliefs. My faith grew through my interdenominational friends. Sometimes we found ourselves in agreement and at other times, our discussions seemed to confirm and strengthen our differences of opinion. Regardless, we lived, studied and grew in our faith together, as a household community. I am thankful for those relationships, as I believe my faith has grown for the better because of them.

In my days at the University of Guelph, I also connected with a very small Lutheran group on campus, the Lutheran Student Movement (LSM). This was a local chapter of the national student run group. Unfortunately, there was no Lutheran chaplain on campus. However, a small group of us met with Rev. Jon Fogelman and volunteers from his congregation, St.

John's. They had a heart for campus ministry and for the students who crossed their paths. I found support and friendship with them. The worship space at St. John's spoke to my heart and soul on many occasions. I learned so much there and appreciated what they offered.

However, I never realized what I was missing at Guelph until I went to the University of Western Ontario and lived at Luther House on Richmond Road, across from the University gates. Being a part of a Lutheran student house community further solidified my commitment to the Lutheran church. At Western, there was a campus chaplain, Rev. Annette Smith. Having a chaplain meant there were more organized activities and many more opportunities for discussion and growth. We had weekly suppers, worship,



Lutheran Campus Ministry students playing volleyball. Rev. Klaus Ohlhoff, in white shirt, jumping high on far side of net.

discussion evenings and social events. I firmly believe that the more you put into Campus Ministry, the more you get out of it. Having a campus chaplain allowed for more students to grow in their faith through their relationship with Campus Ministry and the ELCIC. Many more students connected with the ELCIC at Western than at the U of Guelph, where there was no campus chaplain. In addition, having a Lutheran student house where we all lived together allowed for a closer connection between all of us. We lived, studied, worked, worshiped, prayed, and played together as a Lutheran community. Rev. Annette was our pastor. Luther House was a hive of activity that became a central place in the lives of many students.

Looking back, I realize that many of the university friends with whom I am still in contact are my Lutheran Campus Ministry friends. The vast majority of those friends are still very active members of the ELCIC. My husband, a U of Alberta graduate, and I met through the Lutheran Student Movement in Canada in our final years of university. We both served on the National Co-ordinating Committee. Most of our wedding party were Lutheran Campus Ministry friends. Rev. Richard Reimer, chaplain at U of Alberta, led us in our marriage preparation. Another campus chaplain, Rev. Robert Shantz, married us. Several of my campus ministry friends went on to become pastors in the ELCIC. Lutheran Campus Ministry impacted our lives and today my university friends and I are active members in congregations all over Canada. Lutheran Campus Ministry is an effective way to grow the faith of students and create life-long members of the ELCIC.



National Coordinating Committee of LSMC for the 1993-94 school year. Rev. Jim Halmarson on far right.

Now, 11 years after graduating from university, I find myself again impacted by Lutheran Campus Ministry. I am a member of Faith Lutheran Church, Calgary. Our congregation owns two houses next to our church that we rented for many years. The rent from the houses was helping our congregation to make our ends meet financially. Knowing the great impact a student centre could have on our local campus ministry, my husband and I suggested our congregation use the houses to minister to the students in our community. The members of Faith Lutheran caught that vision and, despite the financial loss to the congregation, embarked on a journey to serve our local students. In association with Lutheran Campus Ministry – Calgary and Pastor Klaus Ohlhoff, we are completing our 4th year of running Faith Lutheran Student House (FLSH). The members of Faith Lutheran have impacted the way campus ministry runs at the U of Calgary through their willingness to follow a vision. I am now one of six people serving on the Faith Lutheran Student House operating committee. It seems that once Lutheran Campus Ministry touches your life, it gets into your blood and you can't help but support it with praise and thanksgiving to God!

That pioneering spirit of Don Voigts back in 1956 is still apparent in campus ministry today. Faith Lutheran Student House is one example of that. Another is found at Portage College in Lac La Biche. For many years, the members of Lord of Glory Lutheran Church saw the need for campus ministry in their community. When they called their current pastor, Rev. Mac de Waal and his wife, Diaconal Minister Lila de Waal, they wanted them to explore providing chaplaincy to the campus. To quote Rev. Mac from an article in the September 2005 issue of *Canada Lutheran*, "It only took a year-and-a-half for the doors of opportunity to open and there we were on campus one day a week, with office space and even some of our operating costs covered by the

college.” The vision of the members of that congregation led to the baptism of 5 people in the local swimming pool. This non-Christian college campus arranged to send 21 staff and students on a ten-day Christian mission trip to Mexico in 2005. They wanted to teach their community something about global citizenship. Rev. Mac was asked to go with the group. Another trip is planned for this year. God is working through campus ministry at Portage College and it is exciting!

Despite the many successes and verbal support for campus ministry, it seems that it always comes down to dollars and cents. With shrinking budgets, many of our synods have cut back their funding for campus ministry over the years. Chaplains have been cut from full-time to part-time. Some campuses that previously had chaplains, no longer have them. There are so many important and worthwhile ministries in our synods and the larger ELCIC. Yet, there are only so many dollars. I was recently reminded of the many resources we have in the ELCIC. Imagine if we all pooled the resources available to us. What if we all tithed a certain percentage of our income? This is a controversial topic for many, but if we all gave even a small percentage of what God has given to us, we would not be in the position of deciding between the many ministries of this church. We are the wealthy in this world. We need to re-evaluate the stewardship of our financial resources. If we could do that, we wouldn't be in the position of cutting vital programs. We'd have enough money for those and many more.

Given the current financial climate, are we making a mistake by reducing our funding to campus ministry? I think so. In preparing for this article, I was in contact with various Lutheran campus chaplains in Canada. In one email, I asked them why they felt campus ministry is so important. Below is the response I received from Rev. Renita Falkenstern at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon.



Rev. Richard Reimer, displaying campus ministry's open door welcome to students.

“Ask any convention of Lutherans today to stand up if they had a connection to Lutheran Campus Ministry and half of them will stand. Campus Ministry is a training ground for leaders in the church, both clergy and lay. It is also a training ground for leaders in society--teachers, pharmacists, computer scientists, lawyers, and farmers. People in their 20s are asking themselves who they are, questions of meaning, identity, and faith. The church needs to be there to accompany them and to help them integrate their faith with their own questions. Campus ministry is a way for the larger ELCIC to be intentional about ministry to the university. It is not enough to hope that students will come to our churches. We must go to them, incarnate the good news in their midst, or we'll lose them.

In addition, young adults are tired of people doing things for them. They want to explore and do things for themselves. They need opportunities to share their gifts as leaders with a forgiving community -- from organizing and leading worship to leading bible studies to drama, to volunteering in the community, to cooking supper. Young adults facing the challenges of university life, especially those away from home, are in need of a welcoming and supportive community that accepts them for who they are. The Lutheran Campus Centre is a "home away from home," and through Christ's spirit of welcome and hospitality, it is a place for grace.”

Lutheran Student Residences

For more information or to apply for residency at one of the Lutheran student centres, contact each of them directly.

University of Victoria
Rev. Lyle McKenzie
3787 Cedar Hill Road
Victoria, BC V8P 3Z4
Phone: 250.477.6222
Email: lutheran@uvic.ca
www.stas.uvic.ca/chap



University of Alberta
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University of Calgary
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www.uwo.ca/chaplain



**Vancouver Centre not currently offering housing.*

Happy 50th Anniversary Lutheran Campus Ministry! On behalf of the many students and staff whose lives have been enriched and transformed through your ministry, I give my praise and thanksgiving to God.

If you are interested in supporting Lutheran Campus Ministry, contact the synod office or your local campus ministry. Local campus ministry contact information can be found on the web at www.elcic.ca/direct/campus.html.

By Lisa Rude (Faith Lutheran, Calgary)

A shorter version of the above Campus Ministry article first appeared in the April/May 2006 [Canada Lutheran](#) (pages 36-38) and is printed here with their permission.

"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, Lisa Rude at:

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Please include name, phone number and email or address with all submissions. All submissions will also be considered for the ABT Synod section in *Canada Lutheran*.

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