



Messiah Messenger

July August 2010 Volume 30, Issue 7

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***Please bear with us as we continue to learn to develop electronic material.
We don't know how to insert hyperlinks in PDF material
without some expensive new software that is not in the budget.
If you have some insight into what might be done,
please contact Pastor Kenn.***



OUR SUMMER SCHEDULE
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
9 A.M. TO NOON
JUNE 28 TO SEPTEMBER 3

SUNDAY SERVICE 10 A.M.
June 27 to September 5

WEDNESDAY COFFEE FELLOWSHIP 9:30 A.M.
Every Wednesday in July & August

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M.
July 8 to August 26

OUR NEXT FOOD BANK SUNDAYS
JULY 18 & AUGUST 15



**On the 3rd Sunday
of each month
let's overflow
the grocery cart
in the Narthex
with gifts
for the Food Bank.**



I am making a plea. Please help!

The City of Camrose is entered into a Community EcoAction Challenge. Calgary, Edmonton, Grande Prairie, and Airdrie have challenged us. It is an internet challenge. The goal is to get as many residents as possible to sign up and commit to doing at least one little thing that can make a big difference to the environment.

And please, please sign up to make a little, itty, bitty change that can end up having a significant impact on the environment that God created.

And then could you please get your spouse to sign up too. Then contact your network of friends to sign up. I really need help with this.

Here is the link: <http://www.onesimpleact.alberta.ca/get-involved/ecoaction.asp>

- Click on the link and go to sign up
- Register

You are not alone!!!! So hit the "Join a Team" tab on the left - type in City of Camrose and hit search and then join.

(My son Bryan has started a Messiah Stewards of the Environment Team - so hit the 'Join a Team' tab again and join his team too!). You can join more than one team, but be sure that you join the City of Camrose team to count for Camrose.

Then commit to one simple, easy act for the environment.

Please help! It really is cool to see how much difference little actions can make when we all work together.

Oh . almost forgot to mention . if there are five people in your family - then make sure all five sign up. And kids . no matter how young or old . your actions count toooooo, so please sign up!!!!

*From a fellow steward of creation .
Vicki Cole*



CLERGY CORNER

A few weeks ago I used *The Paradoxical Commandments* in a sermon. Several people asked if I would print it out for them.

I offer it here for your reflection during the summer. I hope this will be a season of renewal for all of us so that we can return to our regular routines in the fall refreshed, renewed and ready to respond to the new opportunities that will be coming our way.

God bless.
Pastor Kenn Ward,
Senior Pastor

The Paradoxical Commandments

People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered.
Love them anyway.

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives.
Do good anyway.

If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies.
Succeed anyway.

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow.
Do good anyway.

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable.
Be honest and frank anyway.

The biggest men and women with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men and women with the smallest minds.
Think big anyway.

People favour underdogs but follow only top dogs.
Fight for a few underdogs anyway.

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight.
Build anyway.

People really need help but may attack you if you do help them.
Help people anyway.

Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth.
Give the world the best you have anyway.

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FROM OUR SYNOD BISHOP

The ABT Synod Convention is completed; it's a done deal. A bishop was re-elected. Resolutions on pending water allocation in Alberta were passed by the Convention. National Bishop Susan Johnson articulated the case for restructuring the Church, and sought the feedback of Convention delegates to inform the work of the Task Force on Restructuring.

Of fundamental importance was the pervasive attention to morning and evening worship each day as part of the Convention Agenda itself. Worship and praise were the bookends of every session.

We inaugurated the Tommy Turtle Award for congregations that – like turtles – have stuck their necks out in order to move ahead. A half-dozen congregations were nominated for innovative and “risky” ministry initiatives, and the first Tommy Turtle Award went to St. Albert Lutheran Church’s inner city mission work with sex workers. They will hold Tommy Turtle until our next biennial Convention. Well done!

A majority of delegates and attendees felt the Convention was uplifting; a distinct minority felt it was the worst convention ever. As we have heard and seen before, two people can attend the same event and have quite different reactions to it. The difference in the reactions is not found in what happened at the event, since they were the same for both people; but the difference is found within each person.

This much I know: our Synod requires an “extreme makeover” – a change of heart and mind. The time of navel-gazing, quibbling and clashing needs to give way to missional thinking and “possibility thinking”. We need to enjoy one another’s presence under the Lordship of Jesus, rather than abhor one another because of obvious (and continuing) disagreements in theology and pastoral practice. The issues will not magically go away – only a disillusioned fool would hope for that at this juncture. But we have to put an end to the notion that being Church together is a “gladiator sport”. The culture of our Synod needs to change. Our June Convention was an effort to move us in that direction. Most delegates felt the difference.

Here’s a prayer to reflect on from my devotions this morning: “God our Father, we rejoice in the faith that draws us together, aware that selfishness can drive us apart. Let your encouragement be our constant strength. Keep us one in the love that has sealed our lives; help us to live as one family the Gospel we profess. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.” (*FOR ALL THE SAINTS: A Prayer Book For and By the Church*, Volume IV, page 101. American Lutheran Publicity Bureau, 2005).

+Ronald B. Mayan, Bishop
Synod of Alberta and the Territories
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

NEW ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP



The Synod Council, meeting Sunday June 6th, voted unanimously to extend a call to special service - Assistant to the Bishop, to the Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer (Ascension - Edmonton). Larry was introduced as the Assistant to the Bishop at the closing Eucharist of the Synod Convention and was greeted with applause and a standing ovation. Larry will assume his duties on 1 August, 2010 and will be installed in September at a date and time yet to be set. The installation service will take place at Ascension, Edmonton.

2010 COMPANION OF THE WORSHIP ARTS RECIPIENT



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, she has mentored hundreds of students in all aspects of worship.

She 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*.

STRUCTURAL RENEWAL IN THE ELCIC

In February 2009, the officers of the National Church and all five synods met to look at the current challenges facing our church. They agreed that these challenges will become more severe in the next few years and that there is need for major changes to the organizational structure of the church. At the same time, the officers noted the need to increase work in the areas of evangelism, outreach and stewardship as we try to live out our call to be a church *In Mission for Others*.

National Church Council (NCC) heard these concerns and appointed a Structural Renewal Task Force with the mandate to develop a structural framework for our church which is flexible, affordable and sustainable.

NCC asked the Task Force to identify segments of the church's constituency which will be impacted by structural changes and consult appropriately. As well, the task force is to consult with our partners including the Evangelical Lutheran Women, Anglican Church of Canada, Canadian Lutheran World Relief and the seminaries - Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon and Waterloo Lutheran Seminary.

All of this work is to be done in preparation for presentation of a detailed proposal, including constitutional amendments, which are to be brought forward to the 2011 National Convention.

The Task Force has begun its work and is currently preparing proposals which will be shared with NCC and Synod Councils this fall. The feedback they receive will be critical in the preparation of a model for presentation, to which the wider church will be asked to provide feedback. There will be a wide consultation process including presentations and discussions at Synod Conventions next year, on-line surveys, discussions with partners and as many conversations as we can generate across the church.

How can you help?

- Pray for our church and the Task Force. May God will guide us to a new model of being church, equipping us to live out our vision to be a church *In Mission for Others*.
- Participate in the process. Encourage the members of your congregation and your colleagues to participate in the process as well.
- Go to the "Resources" button on the ELCIC website and click on "Structural Renewal." This will take you to an online response form that can be completed in about 15 to 20 minutes.

THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION ASSEMBLY



The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Württemberg, Germany, is gearing up to host the LWF Eleventh Assembly, July 20-27. Representatives from across the globe will gather in Stuttgart to worship, debate issues facing their churches, and give direction to the Lutheran communion's life and work.

You can learn more about the Assembly and follow the events at

<http://www.lutheranworld.org/Assembly2010.html>

The Assembly theme is "Give Us Today Our Daily Bread."

This fourth petition of the Lord's Prayer challenges the LWF and its assembly delegates to define prophetic responses to all injustice that threatens life in abundance: exclusion, poverty, lack of safe water, HIV and AIDS, neoliberal globalization, interreligious conflict, human rights violations...

The vivid green bud of the Assembly logo illustrates this universal need for nourishment - how the petition for "daily bread" is both simple and vital, a basic commitment to ensuring life in dignity for all.

The LWF Assembly meets every six to seven years. It is the highest governing body of the 140-member communion.



KIDFEST KIDBITS

Messiah is not having a VBS this summer, but I encourage you to check out the following, and any others that will be advertised in our local papers, or by phoning other churches.

Solid Rock - 4501 52 Ave. Register by phoning 780-672-1848, July 12-16, 9-11 am. Age 4-11. Free. High Seas Expedition - Exploring the Mighty Love of God

Century Meadows Baptist - Register online www.centurymeadows.ca July 12-16, 9 am - 12 noon. K- Gr. 6. High Seas Expedition - Exploring the Mighty Love of God

Also, please keep in mind that we will be having another Messiah Campout at Miquelon Lake early in September. Please watch the bulletins for more info!!

Camp brochures are at the back of the church. Check it out for your kids, and/or your family!

Blessings on your summer activities!

Thanks to everyone for your contributions to KidFEST this past year!

*Marlys Sorenson
Children's Ministry Coordinator*



RALLY WEEKEND

July 10 & 11. Triathlon participants will raise pledges and race on Saturday. Come cheer them on. Also, come share a service on Sunday at 2:30 pm with Calvin Skriver and entertainments with Gary Adam and Old Tyme Melody.

ANOTHER GREAT SUMMER PROGRAM

There are a lot of great things to experience in a week at camp. We have room in almost all our programs. Camp brochures can be picked up at the Church Office, the Information Centre or from the rack at the back of the Sanctuary.

ELW HIGHLIGHTS

There will be no circle meetings in July or August but circle cleaning responsibilities continue.

Gentleness Circle is inviting all women of Messiah to a **Sujinkai**, a women's gathering, on August 11 at 2:00 p.m. downstairs at Messiah. A grace gifts offering will be received. Please bring a tea cup. Charity and Grace Circles will serve lunch.

Opportunities to serve our neighbors will still be available during the summer. Messiah ELW is pleased to collect Campbell Soup labels for our Anglican sisters to assist them in their project to purchase computers for needy schools. ELW's collection agent, Carol Roy reports that not a Sunday passes without Campbell Soup labels appearing in her Messiah mailbox. Since the beginning of the project, two shoe boxes of labels have been delivered to the Anglican women. Thanks be to God!

The Canadian Bible Society continues to collect **used stamps** cut with a border of 1/4 inch. Stamps for the Canadian Bible Society may be deposited in the box at the Information Centre. Thank you to Mary and Allen Severson for delivering the stamps to the Bible Society. Pails of labeled cookies for Hastings Lake Bible Camp may be left in the Fellowship Centre for delivery to the camp. Copies of the Family Favorites Lutheran Cookbook are still available in the office.

Church Council has directed that the surplus funds from the Soup and Sandwich Lunches be applied to the purchase of a **dishwasher for the Fellowship Centre kitchen**. The fund is well underway with a \$2000.00 contribution from the ELW and another \$100.00 donation from an ELW circle. Here's a challenge to the rest of the congregation: match the ELW contribution by the end of September.

May the Lord bless you during these days of summer, refreshing you for continued service to our neighbors in the Name of Jesus. "The LORD watch between you and me, when we are absent one from the other." (Genesis 31:49)

Submitted by Lorene Pinno for Messiah ELW

MARTHA'S TABLE

Currently, members at Messiah are assisting with Martha's Table at St. Francis Xavier Church during the months of March and May. Our thanks to Laverne Hoveland and his crew of dedicated volunteers for making this happen.

During a meeting of the pastors and church council of Messiah and the Camrose United Church, it was suggested that one way we could work together would be to assist with Martha's Table at the United Church.

The Service Committee decided that we should have enough willing helpers at Messiah to do this and we have agreed to assist with Martha's Table on Wednesdays during the month of September. Volunteers are asked for a time commitment of two hours from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on the day they are assigned to help. Duties of the volunteers are to make sandwiches, set out dishes, and cutlery, etc., serve the soup and clean up. If we have enough volunteers, it would only be necessary to assign each person to one Wednesday.

If you are able to assist in this ministry, please call Karen Hansen at 780-672-4643 or Elaine Taylor at 780-672-2829. (Elaine will be out of town until July 16)

Submitted by Elaine Taylor for the Service Committee



BC MISSION BOAT

TRAVEL WITH A PURPOSE

The BC Mission Boat offers an opportunity to serve right next door. This is primarily an outreach program to BC coast First Nations communities. It is year round, but the boat takes groups of volunteers on one-week trips during July and August.

It is a rewarding ministry week with a First Nations community and a small crew, with a holiday experience on the ocean—a travel with a purpose—God's purpose.

The current schedule for volunteers begins on July 10 and ends August 21. You can learn more from their website: www.bcmissionboat.org

from material submitted by Sylvia Espe

ME, A WITNESS?

*Reach out and touch a soul that is hungry,
Reach out and touch a spirit in despair.
Reach out and touch a life torn and dirty
A person who's lonely, if you dare.*

This is a beautiful song about Mother Teresa, and how she reached out and touched the needy around her — people on her doorstep and on her street.

She reminds us to reach out and touch the people at our doorstep, on our block/apt., in our family and in our neighborhood. We are called to reach out and touch those who are part of our daily lives. Many surrounding us are in need of the gospel. We are called to go to these people in love, talk with them, and be with them.

In that relationship we may find a way to naturally and freely talk with them about Christ. We may be the ones whom God calls to bring another person into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ—the One who loved them enough to die for them.

As a church, we must ask, "What is our purpose? To maintain the organization? To keep the faith? or to reach out and win people for Christ?" Are we living out our mission statement "To share Christ with all people?"

Jesus said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)

Submitted by Berniece Sogge, the Witnessing Committee

THE OPEN DOOR SAYS THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

The Camrose Open Door Association would like to thank you for your kind donation [from funds raised at the Panflute-Organ Concert] and express our sincere thanks for your generosity and support.

The Open Door is focused on providing support and services for the youth in the community who are in need. It is our hope to help youth work towards a brighter future through job training, counseling and temporary housing.

As our organization continues to grow and develop, the need for our services grows as well. Through gifts such as yours, we are able to continue to provide the emergency items that youth do not have access to otherwise.

Once again, my personal thanks for helping us meet the needs of youth who find themselves at risk. Your donation is much appreciated.

Randal Nickel
Executive Director

ELCIC LIFE PROGRAM

Did you know there is an investment strategy available to ELCIC members that can help you grow your own finances while at the same time assisting the growth of the church?

The ELCIC Lutheran Investment Funds and Endowments (LIFE) Program can help to accomplish both of these goals.

Through the ELCIC LIFE Program, your investment not only helps you plan for the future but assist the growth of the church by enabling funds to help ELCIC congregations purchase land, expand current facilities or begin new building projects that benefit ELCIC members and surrounding communities. The funds can also be used to support special projects and ministries of the church.

Over the past ten year, the ELCIC LIFE Program has provided 24 mortgages and short-term loans to eligible congregations and affiliated ministries of the ELCIC.

Further information can be obtained online at www.elcic.ca or by contacting ELCIC Director of Finance and Administration, Gloria McNabb, gmcnabb@elcic.ca toll free 1-888-786-6707 (ext 178)

IN OUR PRAYERS

Corporate prayer is one of the principal tasks of the Church. Prayer changes people, and people, inspired by the Holy Spirit, change things. There are many people and situations that may not be mentioned in our prayers regularly at our worship service. This list offers a few as one focus for our prayers for May.

✠ We remember Evangelical Lutheran Women with thanksgiving and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in discerning the future for the valuable ministries of ELW.

✠ for safe travel, refreshing vacations and joyful homecomings during this vacation season

✠ for the Outdoor Ministry of our synod and for Hastings Lake Lutheran Bible Camp

✠ for Brian Rude, our missionary as he accompanies AIDS prevention/awareness and wellness workshops in prison in El Salvador and through the Quetzacoatl Foundation

✠ for our youth, particularly those planning the Mission Trip to Mexico next summer

✠ for the right Rev. Jane Alexander, Anglican Bishop of Edmonton, and the members of St. Andrew's Anglican Church as they anticipate the arrival of their new priest.

✠ for our National Bishop, Susan Johnson, and for our National Church Staff

✠ for all who work in agencies that minister to the poor and homeless, including the ministry of Neighbor Aid, Martha's Kitchen and the Foodbank

✠ for our Companion Synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia, its leaders and people

✠ for our Synod Bishop, Ron Mayan, and for the synod staff, rostered members and people of our synod

✠ for the coalition forces serving in Afghanistan and their families. Keep them safe from harm and bring them home to their families and friends. Protect their hearts also from all the disaster and pain they must encounter as they serve. Given them and their loved ones, the people of Afghanistan, and all those in the other places of conflict on this planet strength, encouragement, and peace.

*You are also encouraged to make use of **Additional Prayers** beginning on page 72 in **Evangelical Lutheran Worship**.*

We welcome requests for prayer. If a person is to be prayed for at one of our services, we must have that person's permission to use their name.



ELCIC GLOBAL MISSION

This past year has brought many new opportunities to how our church is *in Mission for Others* in the area of ELCIC Global Mission. I want to thank you for all you have contributed, as individuals and as congregations, to this vital work we are called to as a church.

Through the long-standing partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), this past year saw the integration of the ELCIC's Mission in the World and ELCA's Global Mission programs. Effective partnership with the ELCA means our work *In Mission for Others* is multiplied.

Throughout this new enhanced partnership, the ELCIC remains committed to our global partnership relationships with the Peruvian Evangelical Lutheran Church (ILEP), the Salvadoran Lutheran Synod (SLS), United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina (IELU), Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana (ELCG), Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia (IELCO), the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon (EELC), the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL).

The ELCIC as remains committed to supporting our three long-term missionary positions with Rev. Brian Rude (El Salvador), Rev. Fran Schmidt (Peru), and Lori Endress (Thailand).

In addition the ELCIC funds a local mission pastor in Peru and two in Argentina.

Thank you for your partnership in ministry. Your support of the ELCIC Global Mission enables Missionary Personnel in their programs and ministry.

*Rev. Carla Blakely
Assistant to the Bishop, Global Mission*

ELCIC SOCIAL STATEMENT ON HUMAN SEXUALITY

The Church Council had hoped to be able to provide an opportunity for discussion and response by the congregation but was unable to complete the necessary arrangements in time for such a meeting to be possible.

Members are asked to submit their personal responses directly to the ELCIC National Office as indicated in the document. The deadline for feedback is August 31, 2010.

WEBSITE MANAGER SOUGHT

We need someone with computer skills, about an hour every week or two, and a bit of imagination to manage Messiah's website.

While a computer is available at the Church Office, this work could be done by someone at home with a computer linked to the Internet. Minimal training is required because Vital Effect has provided us with a system that is very easy to work with.

Please contact Pastor Kenn for the full job description and further information 780-672-3444.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
SHARING JESUS CHRIST WITH ALL PEOPLE.
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MESSIAH MESSENGER

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To request email delivery or to submit articles by email, write to messiah@cable-lynx.net

Members, staff, committees and groups are encouraged to submit articles so that we are aware of who we are, what we are doing and where we may be going in our congregation.

Next Issue— September
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