



**Certain** words sound like what they describe. It's called "onomatopoeia." The word "grumble" is one of those words. The Greek word is very much like it: goggu,zw (pronounced "gongizo").

In Numbers 11 we read of the Israelites' corporate grumbling and complaining. It was not because they had no food to eat, but because they grew tired of the manna that God daily and faithfully provided. "If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost--also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!" (Num. 11:4-6) Can you hear the grumbling?

Perhaps it was a tiresome thing to have to eat the same thing every day. And in the wilderness, it's doubtful that there was a "Company's Coming" cookbook on the preparation of manna. But in focusing on the manna issue, they lost sight of the bigger picture - that God had chosen them to be His children, had rescued them in miraculous ways from slavery in Egypt, and was leading them to the Promised Land. This was all part of God's plan of salvation to bring to fruition the promise made to Abraham that, in his seed, all the world would be blessed. Israel was the carrier of the messianic promise.

As we look at recent events around us, it is tempting to respond like the Israelites. Economic recession. Possible pandemic. Denominations approving the blessing of same-sex marriages and ordination of practising gays. Proposed debate on the legalization of euthanasia.

In the midst of all of this there is a temptation to lose sight of all the blessings that God has so freely poured out upon His people. Forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ is still proclaimed. Little babies and adults are brought to Jesus in the waters of holy baptism. Christ still feeds us with His body and blood in the Lord's Supper. Materially, Canada is still one of the wealthiest countries in the world and we enjoy a standard of living seldom even imagined by others. Each of us could enumerate a significant list of blessings both spiritual and material.

Among these blessings is the forgiveness we have in Jesus for our times of grumbling. I pray that in this season of thanksgiving and harvest that the grace of God in Jesus Christ will move us all to offer Him songs of thankfulness and praise.

Thankfully yours,

Rev. Don Schiemann

Dear Co-Worker

I first shared my four “Vision Statement” to the Convention in my report to the delegates. I believe that these goals or priorities will be an essential part of our work together for the next three years.

Again, here are the vision statements:

As God’s people, we are called to be salt and light in this world. As we seek to be faithful to God’s calling, the strength of Lutheran Church-Canada has been: a) its commitment to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions; b) its clear proclamation of Law and Gospel in mission and ministry; c) its dependence on the means of grace to create, nurture and sustain its life with God through Christ. In our ever-changing world, these strengths have been constants for our church and the hallmarks of our mission and ministry.

Based on these strengths and the challenges and opportunities we currently face in our nation, my vision for the Alberta-British Columbia District is:

1. That we might effectively provide emphasis and resources for parishes, schools and church workers to enhance the ministry of Word and Sacrament. This includes enhancing Biblical literacy among our people to equip them to be able to give an account of the hope we have. (1 Peter 3:15)

2. That we assist our parishes, schools and church workers to engage church members in our work together as Lutheran Church-Canada. This will include more active recruitment of future church workers; opportunities for participation in daughter church-planting; opportunities for church workers and lay people to be involved in mission projects at home and abroad; and a greater sense of participation and ownership in the work of District and Synod.
3. Recognizing the diversities of size and settings along with the challenges of distance which is a part of life in Western Canada, that the ABC District will provide resources and support for team ministries in larger city congregations on the one hand and for ministries in parishes made up of smaller congregations in rural and small towns on the other.
4. Recognizing the changing times and the resulting stresses faced by church workers, the ABC District will seek to be more responsive and provide greater levels of care and support for our church workers. It is my desire that our church workers and their congregations will have a sense of this care and support as they confidently carry out the work to which they have been called. We will seek to enhance the health and well-being of all of our church workers.

### Circuit Conventions

2010 is a non-convention year and, according to our Synodical Handbook, it is the year Circuit Convocations. The Handbook describes the convocations as follows:

4.51

*Circuits shall arrange for a circuit convocation, which is a larger gathering of members from circuit congregations*

*held during a year in which there is no district convention or Convention. Its purpose is to provide a setting in which congregational members may know of and celebrate the ministry pursued by each congregation, may review and discuss the work of the circuit forum, and may receive information on various phases of the work pursued through districts and the Synod. As*

*such, its emphasis should be on inspiration, education, and motivation.*

We encourage our circuits to begin now to plan for these convocations. A ‘how to’ hand-out is available online at the District website ([www.lccabc.ca/missions](http://www.lccabc.ca/missions)).

## All-Canada Church Workers' Conference

The Conference, for all rostered church workers, is tentatively scheduled to take place in Calgary, Nov. 1-4, 2010. This will include all rostered church workers from across Lutheran Church-Canada. Representing the ABC District on the national program committee is Rev. Mark Ruf, first vice-president of the ABC District.

### Alberta–British Columbia District Synodical Vice-President

Rev. Nolan Astley, first vice-president of Lutheran Church-Canada, and from our ABC District, accepted a call to Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Kitchener, Ontario. Consequently, Rev. Astley had to resign his position. The Synod's Board of Directors appointed Rev. Tom Kruesel from Campbell River to take his place and is now third vice-president representing the ABC District. We pray God's blessing on his service.

## Called to Glory

Two of our pastors were called to their heavenly home in recent months. Rev. Kwang Soo Kim died May 26 and Rev. Carl Beiderwieden died Sept. 16. We give thanks to God for their years of faithful service.

## In Our Prayers

- The Hansard family as they mourn the loss of Rev. Dan's father and Pat's mother;
- Rev. Bob Bauer as he struggles with health problems;
- The Beiderwieden and Kim family as they mourn the passing of Rev. Kwang Soo Kim and Rev. Carl Beiderwieden.

We apologize if anyone was missed in these announcements. Please let our office know of illnesses, deaths, births or other events so that we may bring the needs and blessings of our people before our Lord in prayer.



**It's never too early to start thinking about retirement! RRSP investments are available through ABC District Investments Ltd. and offer excellent rates (annualized projected rate for 2009 is 5.0%), while providing financial assistance to congregations for building programs and ministry opportunities. We can make things very easy for you! We can transfer from another financial institution, or automatic deposits (EFT) are available. By making monthly deposits you can maximize your investments with compound interest. Don't wait until the end of the year – making monthly payments is easier on you financially. Contact the ABC District Office at 1.888.474.0063, email: [cef@lccabc.ca](mailto:cef@lccabc.ca).**

# Serving You in the Alberta–British Columbia District

Every three years our District Convention elects people to serve in various capacities. In addition, others are appointed to serve on Departments and committees. We give thanks to God for these willing servants and encourage you to support them with your prayers. The following is a list of these elected and appointed servants:

## District Board, Department, and Committee Members 2009-2012

Synodical President:	Rev. Robert Bugbee
ABC District President:	Rev. Donald Schiemann
1st District Vice-President:	Rev. Mark Ruf
2nd District Vice-President:	Rev. Harry Haberstock
3rd District Vice-President:	Rev. David Dressler

### Board of Directors

Rev. Mark Ruf, 1st VP  
Rev. David Dressler, 3rd VP  
Mrs. Judith Burns  
Mrs. Melanie Kuhn  
Rev. Harold Haberstock, 2nd VP  
Mr. Jim Kentel, Chairman  
Mr. Harold Schmidt  
Mr. Greg Giese  
Rev. Keith Haberstock, 2nd VP  
Rev. Wayne Lunderby, Secretary  
Mr. Michael Gillingham  
Rev. Don Schiemann, President

### Circuit Counselors

Rev. Laverne Hantz - Calgary  
Rev. Forrest Stroup - Edmonton  
Rev. Richard Williams - Elk Island  
Rev. Fred Rink - Lethbridge  
Rev. Noel Smith - Peace River  
Rev. Darren Siegle - Stony Plain  
Rev. Al Lewis - Wetaskiwin  
Rev. Alan Visser - Cariboo  
Rev. James Paulgaard - Fraser Valley  
Rev. Fraser Coltman - Kootenay  
Rev. Michael Colbeck - Okanagan  
Rev. Bob Willie - Vancouver Island  
Vacant - Vancouver

### Executive Committee

Mr. Jim Kentel (Board Chair)  
Rev. David Dressler (3rd VP)  
Rev. Harry Haberstock (2nd VP)  
Rev. Mark Ruf (1st VP)  
Rev. Don Schiemann (District President)

### Constitution Committee

Dr. Rollie Nystrom  
Rev. Tim Rumsch  
Mrs. Linda Fenske  
Rev. Bob Willie

### Salary Review Committee

Dr. Stephen Chambers  
DPS Tara Barnes  
Rev. James Avery  
Kevin Steegtra - Lay Representative  
Rev. Mark Hennig  
Lynn Giese - Lay Representative  
Rev. Lowell Eckert  
Board of Directors Appointee  
Staff: Kurt Robinson

### Department of Parish & School Services

Rev. Keith Haberstock (Chair)  
Rev. Harry Haberstock (VP)  
Miriam Winstanley  
Michael Gillingham

Jamie Fulton  
Judith Burns  
Staff: Mr. Daryl Becker

### Department of Outreach

Rev. Wayne Lunderby (chair)  
Mrs. Melanie Kuhn  
Rev. David Dressler (VP)  
Ms. Tara Barnes  
Rev. Phil Washeim  
Mr. Steve Kentel  
Staff: Dr. Glenn Schaeffer

### Department of Stewardship & Financial Ministries

Harold Schmidt (Chair)  
Stan Lee  
Jim Kentel  
Frank Kobie  
Greg Giese  
Dick Lutz  
Rev. Mark Ruf  
Darla Hennig  
Brian Lewis  
Staff: Kurt Robinson (District Services); Janice Ruf (CEF Manager); Amy Thera (Accounting and Finance Manager); Belinda Johnson (DSFM Administrative Assistant); Jon Teschke (Communications & Stewardship Assistant)

## Welcome New Workers

While we struggle with a significant number of vacancies in our District, we also rejoice in the number of new worker who have come to us recently. Specifically, we welcome:

Rev. Mark Smith at Trinity Lutheran, Fort McMurray, AB  
Rev. Nathan Fuehrer, associate pastor at Immanuel, Lethbridge, AB  
Vicar Rod Parker at the Airdrie mission  
Vicar Ian Wemyss at Shepherd of The Valley, Salmon Arm, BC  
Rev. Ken Edel, military chaplain in Edmonton, AB  
Rev. Scott Lyons at Hope Lutheran, Victoria, BC  
Rev. Clint Magnus at Kitimat, BC  
Rev. Norm Miller at South Surrey Mission, BC  
Vicar Jeremy Schwem at Trinity, Abbotsford  
Michelle Gamble, teacher at Faith Lutheran School, Edmonton, AB  
Miriam Winstanley, DPS Intern at Foothills Lutheran, Calgary, AB  
Amanda Knodel, DPS Intern at Bethany Lutheran, Campbell River, BC

## Announcements

Is your church having an event in the near future? Grab a camera, take a picture or two, and send them in to the District with a short write up! We love to see the ways that God is working in our congregations! Keep the news and pictures flowing! You can either email them to [bjohnson@lccabc.ca](mailto:bjohnson@lccabc.ca) or mail them to the District Office (7100 Ada Boulevard, Edmonton, Alberta, T5B 4E4)

## Convention

Around 300 voting delegates, advisory delegates and special guests attended our most recent convention which was held on the University of British Columbia Campus in Vancouver, British Columbia.

President Rev. Don Schiemann opened the Convention following Friday night's worship service. A wine and cheese reception was also held that night. This event was sponsored in part by Concordia University College of Alberta, Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Canadian Lutheran World Relief, and Lutheran Foundation Canada.

Some highlights included:

- Dr. Carl Fickenscher II who spoke on the Convention theme
- Servant of Christ awards were presented to Ed Novakowski and posthumously to Eva Ruf
- Presentations given by missionaries Rev. Josef Alfazema from Mozambique, and Rev. Alexsey Novrotsky from Ukraine.
- We were also fortunate enough to have Synod President Rev. Robert Bugbee, Treasurer Dwayne Cleave, Gift Planner Allen Schellen-

berg, Canadian Lutheran editor Ian Adnams, Group Plan Manager Inge Schroeder.

During our business sessions, which were web cast for the first time, several resolutions were passed. It was decided to call a full-time missionary for work in metropolitan Vancouver. Also resolved was a need to encourage more pastors to become more involved in chaplaincies within their communities. Another resolution passed was that there is a need to develop a mission service partnership with the New South Wales District of Lutheran Church of Australia. The ABC District is also encouraging members and congregations to make plans to evangelize at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. We also would like to see more intentional outreach by our Lutheran schools. There is also a need to develop a better support system for team ministries. We are also investigating liability insurance for congregations.

**Give Jesus Glory – His calling...  
to Faith...for Life**

# Wanted: LCC Members Willing to Witness and Serve at the Winter Olympics

**Over** 300,000 visitors from other countries will be attending the Winter Olympic Games (February 12-28, 2010) and the Paralympics Games (March 12-21, 2010) in Vancouver. Many of these visitors and a majority of the people who call Vancouver home do not believe in Christ as their Saviour from sin, death and the devil. Would you like to volunteer to serve as a Christian witness for two, three, or four days or possibly a week or two while at the same time experiencing the Winter Olympics? What an opportunity for congregational outreach teams to participate in a short-term outreach trip! What an opportunity for Christian musicians and congregation worship teams to share the Gospel through concerts!

**Outreach** Trinity Lutheran Church, Richmond and Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Vancouver are planning outreach events (e.g. internet café; children's sports camp; evening music concerts, etc.) throughout the Olympic Games (February 12-28, 2010) and need your help.

To see what outreach activities are being planned and how you might be able to help out, visit the ABC District website at: [www.lccabc.ca](http://www.lccabc.ca). Some of the LCC congregations, in the Vancouver Metropolitan area, are providing lodging to volunteers either in their church building or some fellow Lutherans are billeting outreach volunteers. This lodging information is also available at: [www.lccabc.ca](http://www.lccabc.ca). All volunteers need to contact the host congregations, fund their own expenses, and arrange/reserve their own lodging.

## Use the Olympic Games as a Local Outreach Event to Your Community

**O**lympic "fever" will be spreading all across Canada with the advent of the Vancouver Winter Olympic Games. The Winter Olympics provides us with an excellent opportunity to connect with our communities and share the Good News of our Lord!

How might the Olympic Games provide your congregation with local outreach opportunities in your own community?

- Host a sports outreach event (i.e. block party) at your local park or your gym.
- Host an open crowd and big screen community festival (e.g. the Opening Ceremonies and/or the Gold Medal hockey game might be projected on a large screen in your gym or fellowship hall)
- Organize a weekend sports camp for kids, similar to a VBS;
- Distribute sports specific Christian literature in your community.

## Excellent Resource for Olympic Outreach Events

You might want to visit the website More Than Gold ([www.morethangold.ca](http://www.morethangold.ca)). More Than Gold is a network of Christian churches and organizations that are working together to provide a Christian witness at the Olympics. More Than Gold is looking for people to serve in the area of creative and performing arts or on mission teams or in internet cafés or at sports camps or in social ministry initiatives. More Than Gold can also provide you with ideas/resources of how to organize and host local outreach events. You can sign up on the More Than Gold ([\[ethangold.ca/content/churches\]\(http://ethangold.ca/content/churches\)\) website as a participating church and then request information. More Than Gold has inexpensive outreach resources that you can purchase \(E.g. a Gospel of Mark is \\$1.00; a copy of the New Testament is @2.00\).](http://www.mor-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

More Than Gold has also recently released a “how to” outreach manual. You can download this PDF file at: [http://www.morethangold.ca/sites/default/files/General%20Guidelines%20for%20Open%20Door%20Churches\\_0.pdf](http://www.morethangold.ca/sites/default/files/General%20Guidelines%20for%20Open%20Door%20Churches_0.pdf).

## XEE: An Evangelism Training Course

XEE is highly relational. It recognizes that most non-Christians have little or no connection with a Christian church, nor do they feel the need to make one. So conversations about God will most often take place in the ordinary courses of life between people who share a personal relationship. Furthermore, those conversations will naturally relate to the life experience of the non-Christian’s concerns. God intends to meet them in their world.

XEE prepares us to be witnesses in a post-churched world by doing it. It makes our everyday world the experiential classroom in which we learn to share our faith. The DVD format of each equipping session is ideal for peer training in a small group setting.

To learn more about XEE and how it prepares and trains people to share their faith, visit their website at: <http://xee.info/>. The material is not produced by Lutherans.

The Facilitator’s kit is \$39.00. The Student kit is \$14.95 (each). To order a copy of these kits you can visit Tobias Communications at: [www.tobiascom.com/catalogue/page,shop.browse/category\\_id,8](http://www.tobiascom.com/catalogue/page,shop.browse/category_id,8).

### Worship for Shut-Ins

“Worship for Shut-Ins” is a Lutheran television 30 minute worship service. It includes the Propers for the day, prayers, and a LCMS pastor delivering a message that is one-on-one to the viewer. Also included are up to four choir selections. There are no commercials or repeats. All LCMS pastors are from Indiana.

It is not a tape of a Sunday morning service, but a special taping done just for the viewer at home, who is shut-in or who doesn’t attend church for whatever reason.

You might want to link to the site from your website. Check out the site at: [www.worshipforshutins.org/](http://www.worshipforshutins.org/).

### Empower Kids for Mission

*“For God love the world so much that He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.”* (John 3:16, NLT)

You just did something that nearly 200 million people cannot do. You read God’s Word in the language you have most likely spoken since infancy – the language you understand best and that touches your heart.

Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada is working towards fulfilling Vision 2025. This initiative is that all languages still needing scripture in their mother tongue will have translation work begun by the year 2025. Lutheran Bible Translator believe that children are essential in fulfilling Vision 2025 and are prepared and equipped to assist you.

Are you looking for missions resources aimed at children?

You are encouraged to see what Wycliffe Bible Translators has created for kids: games, activities, stories, and many other free resources that are good for use at a Sunday School program or some other education program.

Check out their website at [www.wycliffe.ca/kids](http://www.wycliffe.ca/kids) (Please note that this website is not Lutheran)

## Canadian Lutheran Agencies in Mission (CLAIM)

Have you heard of CLAIM (Canadian Lutheran Agencies in Mission)? CLAIM is an organization consisting of Lutheran Church – Canada auxiliaries and Listed Service organizations dedicated to proclaiming the message of Jesus Christ to the lost people of this country and around the world. To learn more about member organizations and to follow links to their web pages visit: [www.lcl.ca/claim/memberagencies.htm](http://www.lcl.ca/claim/memberagencies.htm).

CLAIM has also produced a devotional booklet that is suitable for Christians and for people who are exploring the Christian faith. The devotional booklet is called, “Proclaim His Name” and addresses questions like, “Who is God? How does He describe Himself to us in His Word? What promises and gifts has He promised to you and to the world? How can your life be changed as you grow in your knowledge about the one true God who loves you more than you can

imagine?

The Bible tells us our God is a Triune God, one God yet three persons in the Godhead, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Scripture speaks of God’s many attributes: holy, all-powerful, all-knowing, eternal, never changing, loving and forgiving. As powerful as God is... He wants to be your friend.

Each Name God has given Himself tells us something specific about Him and His relationship with us. In Proclaim His Name the Names of God reveal the many ways He demonstrates His love to us: compassion, protection, guidance, forgiveness, strength and peace. Each Name shows us how our Almighty God provides for our every need, both temporal and spiritual. You can download this booklet free of charge at: [www.lcl.ca/claim/](http://www.lcl.ca/claim/). You can also order a “hard copy” from the ABC District office.

## Men’s Network

Lutheran Hour Ministries has launched a new website directed at men called the Men’s NetWork ([www.lhmmen.com](http://www.lhmmen.com)). The Men’s NetWork website is one of those rare websites where you can learn about creation, start a fantasy football league, learn how to develop impact community events, or plan your summer mission vacation — all in one place. How many web sites can make that claim

The MNW is designed for guys... hopefully it will make you laugh, make you think, and provide a place where you can speak your mind. First and foremost, it is a Christian

site, so whether you are wondering what this whole ‘Jesus thing’ is about or you have been a Christian since you were a baby, there is plenty here for you to do. Don’t be a stranger, visit the site.

MNW just released a new Bible study entitled ‘How We Got The Bible’ featuring Dr. Paul L. Maier. Dr. Maier addresses the production, collection, transmission, and preservation of the Scriptures in this five-part Bible study. Also available is ‘Challenge of Islam: Defending the Christian Faith’.

## Recruiting Pastors for Learning Communities

Are you interested in growing in your leadership abilities and skills? Are you interested in working with your congregation to structure your congregation around the mission of seeking and saving the lost people of your communities?

Learning communities for pastors are being formed this year. Each learning community will have a regional facilitator and will include at least three to four other pastors. Participants will meet monthly (either in person or on Skype) in order to discuss a book they are reading, to pray for/with one another, to discuss their homework assignments and so on. The pastors then teach the material to the leaders of their congregations. It is estimated that the cost for travel and books will be less than \$100.00 a month.

You will be learning more about learning communities at the Church Workers conferences, but contact Dr. Glenn Schaeffer for more information.

### Spanish Language Sermons Available Online

Visit the LCMS Indiana District website at: [www.in.lcms.org](http://www.in.lcms.org). Follow the link at the bottom of the Indiana District home page.

# Upcoming Conferences and Events

## 4th Annual Love Life Conference

The 4th Annual Love Life Conference will be held in the Tegler Centre at Concordia University College of Alberta on Saturday, November 7th. Dr. Robert Weise, of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will address the topic: "Cloning for Stem Cells: The Art of 'Celling' Yourself." In addition, due to popular demand, Dr. John Patrick, will return to present, "How Did We Get to Here? How Abortion Became Acceptable" and "On Using Our Own Language in the Public Sphere." Registration begins at 8:30 p.m. and the conference runs from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The fee is \$25.00 (before October 31) or \$30.00 (at the door) and the student fee is \$10.00. (Lunch is included!) Information/registration forms are available at: [www.concordiasem.ab.ca](http://www.concordiasem.ab.ca) or call the District office at 780-474-0063. This conference is co-sponsored by Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Concordia University College of Alberta, and Lutherans for Life – Canada.

## 2009 Canadian National Pro-Life Conference

The 2009 Canadian National Pro-Life Conference will be held in Saskatoon, SK from October 29-31. The theme for the conference is: "Building Bridges: Making Choices for Life." One of the keynote speakers will be: Dr. James Lamb, the Executive Director of Lutherans for Life (USA). Full conference and banquet registration is \$175.00 (or \$195.00 after Sept. 30). For additional information call: 306-683-0829 or visit the website: [www.saskprolife.com](http://www.saskprolife.com).

## Lutherans for Life (USA)

Dr. James Lamb, the Executive Director of Lutherans for Life (USA) spoke at the East District convention. His lectures are available online at the LCC website: <http://www.lutheranchurch.ca/video.php>.

## Bible Studies

Timely, relevant, Christ-centered Bible studies are available through Lutherans for Life. Check out the Lutherans for Life online Life Resource catalogue. These resources lead people to the Lord of Life for help and hope. Through these resources, members will see the relevancy and power of the Gospel in addressing life issues.



**A partner in the Lord's work...You can partner with fellow Lutherans in the ABC District by investing some of your savings in Church Extension Fund. Invested dollars are loaned to congregations, schools and other ministry entities to reach out through new, additional and renovated facilities. Current rates are: Savings: 2.0%, 1 year term: 2.25%, 2 year term: 2.50%, 3 year term: 2.75%, 4 year term: 3.00%. 5 year term: 3.25%. (Bonus ¼% for 3, 4 & 5 year term investments over \$25,000). To find out more, contact the ABC District Office 1.888.474.0063, email: [cef@lccabc.ca](mailto:cef@lccabc.ca) or visit our website <https://cef.lccabc.ca>.**

## Department Highlights

**The first** Department meeting for this term took place on September 12, 2009 at the District office. Following the first Board of Directors meeting the day before, it was primarily a meeting of orientation. While new Department members acquaint themselves with what has been done and what can be done in the next three years, those who provide continuity from previous terms are ready to move forward into the next three years in serving the workers and congregations of the District. The Department’s next meeting is scheduled for November 6 & 7, 2009 at the District Office.

The Department plans to make use of technology to keep costs down for some of its future meetings, but hopes to include the idea of moving around the District for the face-to-face meetings in order to gain a greater understanding of ministry areas for its Spring meetings.

Please note that those responsible for specific ministry areas will be giving updates in the future and can be contacted directly for information. For this edition, however, I’ll “get the ball rolling”...

Daryl dbecker@lccabc.ca

## Other Areas of Parish Services

### Ambassadors of Reconciliation–Canada

A meeting with Ambassadors of Reconciliation (Ted Kober) in October will enable us to get a partner organization off the ground in Lutheran Church – Canada. I have been approached by a number of people in our District, requesting further opportunities for training. It is the goal of those involved in Ambassadors of Reconciliation – Canada to not only provide training opportunities, but the publication of materials, organizing of workshops, providing Biblical support to those in conflict situations, and support to congregations in establishing reconciliation ministries.

### Front to Back

The Parish and School Services Department recognizes its leadership role in getting people into the Word. Inside Out – The nurturing of God’s people is for the purpose of equipping them for mission and ministry. Upside Down – By God’s grace, may He use us to turn the world around us upside down as new Christians are transformed by the life giving Word! (needs work!)

### Natural Church Development

I continue to work with congregations in the preliminary steps of Natural Church Development. The new ‘Profile Plus’ is available to congregations going through the survey, allowing them an in-depth look, question by question, in each area of ministry, as well as in comparison of strengths and weaknesses.

# District Youth Gathering 2009

The Department recognizes and appreciates the amount of work that went into the success of this past summer's youth gathering. We thank Tracy Wemyss and her committee for the hours that went into this event and pray that God's Word planted and watered in our youth will be nourished by the Holy Spirit and produce much fruit.

From July 23-26, 174 LCC youth and leaders descended on the Kelowna campus of the University of British Columbia Okanagan for LOUD: ABC District Youth Gathering 2009. Gary Brucker, the Gathering's keynote speaker, set the tone for the weekend through his infectious enthusiasm and energy. Through his "Let's Get Loud" sessions, Gary led youth and leaders on a journey through the Old and New Testaments: learning about God's desire for relationship with us, the redemption of His people through His Son Jesus, and how we respond to this love by caring for a hurting world.

"Word" Bible Studies challenged youth to go deeper into God's word and the LOUD theme, while growing deeper in relationships with each other. Impact (Breakout) Sessions saw youth learn from presenters, leaders and each other about prayer, sharing your faith, social justice, and faith like a child (simply finding joy in God's love for us).

Chris Rehmann of Vernon lent his considerable skills to the roll of MC, engaging youth in improv, mixers and just getting pumped up for LOUD activities. The worship band "City Sounds" of Vernon also shared their gifts, leading the group in praise and worship songs, while the LOUD chap-

lain Pastor Tom Kruesel (aka PT) prayed and talked with participants throughout the gathering and lead the Candle-light worship on Saturday evening.

Servant Events in various locations around Kelowna helped youth gain first-hand experience in God's call for us to serve others in response to his amazing love for us. For many this was the highlight of the weekend. Youth engaged in activities like a free carwash, cleaning a church and a community centre, serving at a fundraising softball tournament, and making meals and cleaning at Kelowna's Gospel Mission (a Christian organization which serves the homeless in Kelowna).



LOUD also included lots of time for fun, games, relaxation, and relationship-building among the youth of our district. Youth from our District and beyond look forward to youth gatherings as a time to reconnect with old friends and make new ones.

Thanks to everyone in the District and beyond who kept LOUD and it's participants in prayer. Our prayer is that through LOUD youth across the District have been touched by God's amazing love and grace, and will in turn be inspired to live a life that is LOUD.

Tracy Wemyss  
LOUD Planning Committee Chairperson  
Director of Youth and Family Ministry  
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Medicine Hat, AB

Pictures of LOUD have been posted on their site:  
[www.loudyouthgathering.ca](http://www.loudyouthgathering.ca)

## Multiple Staff Ministries

Those involved in the Multiple Staff Conference prior to the District Convention last May were pleased that they had the opportunity to be a part of the first of such events. The responses were very positive and a Committee, lead by Rev. H. Haberstock, will go over the evaluations to help determine next steps in this new ministry area. The District staff recognizes the efforts of Rev. Marv Ziprick and his staff in making the first conference a success. We thank God for them and their willingness to get things going!

Department Contact: Rev. Harry Haberstock (hhaberst@mail.kootenay.com)

## Youth

New to the Department in the area of Youth, is Rev. Pastucha. Following the first Department meeting, he will be gathering information from previous members of the Department in gaining an understanding of the Committee's history and vision.

Department Contact: Rev. Jan Pastucha (revrev@telus.net)

## Youth Ministry Institute

The Department accepted Susan's letter of resignation with regret, but also with an appreciation for the work that Susan has done in promoting the YMI, with a vision for the training of youth leaders since the YMI's beginnings. We are thankful that Susan will be available during this time of transition and pray that God will continue to bless her as she focuses on her vocation as a wife and mother! The Youth Committee will be reviewing the job description and seeking nominations for the position later this fall.

## Worker and Family Health

Following the Symposium that preceded the Synodical Convention (2008), the work of this Task Force may seem to have been completed. That was not that attitude of those serving on the Task Force, however, and following the resolution of the District Convention in May 2009, Rev. H. Haberstock will continue the work begun at the District level.

Department Contact: Rev. Harry Haberstock (hhaberst@mail.kootenay.com)

## Family Life

Over the past term, this Committee was instrumental in bringing keynote speakers to lead workshops throughout our District (Ben Fredenburg, Roger Sonnenberg). It has been the hope of this committee to gather information and provide lists of appropriate resources for the various areas of family life. With Rev. K. Haberstock taking over the position of Chair on the Department, the plan is to have someone who has worked in this area in the past take over the leadership role while still serving on the Department. Stay tuned...

Department Contact: Rev. Keith Haberstock (khaberstock@princeofpeace.ca)

## Parish Education

This Committee, under the leadership of Doreen Dotzler, will continue its work in providing assistance to our congregations in educational ministries. They have been instrumental in the organization of educational workshops in the past, which can be mirrored throughout the District. Department member, Judith Burns, will be the new member to the Committee, serving as

liaison between the Committee and Department.

Department Contact: Judith Burns (itsreallysimple@gmail.com)

## Seniors

We are excited to have Miriam serving on the Department, responsible for the Seniors Committee. Miriam served a key role in the District's original Seniors Committee. Since she is currently serving as a DPS Intern at Foot-hills, Calgary, her first year of this term will be one of organizing and planning.

Department Contact: Miriam Winstanley (miriam@foothillslutheran.ca)

## Music and Worship

Michael will be putting together a task force this term, continuing to work on resources made available on the District web page.

Department Contact: Michael Gillingham (mgillingham@bethelchurch.com)

## Young Adult and Campus Ministry

This position on the Department currently needs to be filled. If you, or someone you know, has a passion for and expertise in this ministry area, please touch base with Daryl (dbecker@lccabc.ca) or Rev. K. Haberstock (khaberstock@princeofpeace.ca).

# Department Members

Rev. Keith Haberstock – Chair (Prince of Peace, Calgary, AB)

Rev. Harry Haberstock – VP, Worker Health, Multiple Staff (Redeemer, Creston, BC)

Michael Gillingham – Worship and Music (Bethel, Sherwood Park, AB)

Judith Burns – Parish Education (Bethel, Sherwood Park, AB)

Jamie Fulton – Lutheran Schools (Hope, Port Coquitlam, BC)

Miriam Winstanley – Seniors (Foothills, Calgary, AB)

Rev. Jan Pastucha – Youth (King of Kings, St. Albert, AB)

Daryl Becker – Staff

## Schools

### School Committee

While Keith Kruse will continue to chair this Committee, Jamie will be the liaison between the Committee and the Department. The Committee fulfilled its mandate in the last term by providing policy and guidelines for school grants and looks forward to a greater vision in serving the schools and preschools of the District.

Department Contact: Jamie Fulton (daveandjanmie@telus.net)

### Lutheran Teacher's Association

Another successful LTA Conference was held this past August with the staff of Faith Lutheran School, Edmonton hosting the event. The 70 registered participants appreciated the planning that went into the event, as well as the great facilities made available by Concordia University College of Alberta. Hope, Port Coquitlam will be hosting the 2010 Conference from August 16-18, 2009. Plans are currently underway for the Administrators Conference from March 1-2, 2009, also to take place at Hope, Port Coquitlam.

Department Contact: Lorilee Schelp (lorilee@canada.com)

### Pre-School Committee

Melodie Maliszewski, in British Columbia, and Laurie Sales, in Alberta, have served faithfully over the past

few years on our District's Preschool Committee. We have been averaging one preschool opening every year for the last 10 years. The latest preschool that has opened is Christ the King in Edmonton. I thank these ladies for their commitment to organize preschool administrators and teachers, encouraging all preschool personnel to be part of our Lutheran school system and the Lutheran Teachers Association (lorilee@canada.com).

Department Contact: Melodie Maliszewski (sowingseeds@telus.net)

### School Reports

My new administrative assistant, Belinda, will be working with the schools and preschools of our District to ensure that all reports will be in to the District Office by the end of October. If you have gotten behind in your reports to the District and/or Synod, she will also be working with you to update these records. I look forward to analyzing the data, sharing the demographics and trends with the Church, and praising God for the blessings of Christian education to our communities in mission and ministry through Lutheran schools.

Department Contact: Belinda Johnson (bjohnson@lccabc.ca)

## Supplemental Unemployment Benefit (SUB) Plan

In 2004, the Salary Review Committee of the LCC—ABC District Board of Directors reviewed the disability coverage after a number of incidents that impacted our church workers as well as congregations in the District. One major question needed answering: How do congregations cope with the financial difficulties that their worker may be put under while waiting for long term disability benefits to begin? This period of time (known as the qualifying period) lasts for 91 days or 13 weeks. Within the benefits industry there is coverage for this qualifying period. It's called short term disability benefits. However, due to the prohibitive costs, a significant portion of Canadian employers decline it.

The financial impact on a worker could be significant. The possible impact relates to how a worker can manage the financial consequences of a disruption of their typical activities for an extended period of time. This potential impact affects not only the church worker, but their family as well as the congregation.

If you are reading this, and wondering 'Am I covered? What would happen if I suddenly became sick or injured?', you should know that this qualifying period problem has a solution. Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) has a program that partners HRSDC and the employers (the individual congregations). This partnership is intended to reduce the financial pressure on the worker when illness, injury,

or quarantine disrupts the ability to work for an extended period of time.

This partnership program agreement is called the Supplemental Unemployment Benefit (SUB) Plan. This plan helps bridge the time between when a worker is unable to work and when they either begin to work again, or begin to receive long term disability benefits. When a worker is incapable of continuing to perform their duties, they may apply for Employment Insurance, which can pay them a maximum of 55% of their usual wages. If your congregation has an agreement with the HRSDC, then the congregation can then 'top up' your pay with an additional 40% of your usual wages. This means that instead of only receiving 55% of your usual wage, you would receive 95%.

### ***How does the ABC District fit into this plan?***

The ABC District maintains a supporting pooled fund that allows congregations who have an agreement with the HRSDC to receive compensation of money paid to a church worker using the SUB plan after the worker either returns to work, or begins receiving long term disability benefits.

Although we encourage congregations to consider this plan, participation is completely optional.

Please contact Belinda Johnson (bjohnson@lccabc.ca) at the ABC District Office for additional information and clarification that might be required on this initiative.

## Investing in Turbulent Times

Here is a comment written by Terry Bodnar, President & CEO of FI Capital Ltd. FI Capital is one of the companies Church Extension Fund invests with and I thought it would be a commentary worth sharing with you.

*“Less than eight months ago, market pundits were forecasting the collapse of the global financial system and the onset of another Great Depression. At present, many of these same prognosticators are claiming the recession is over and that we have started a new equity market rally. (Since the market lows recorded in early March 2009 the S&P/TSX is up nearly 45% while the S&P 500 is higher by more than 50 %.) At FI Capital, we never believed there would be a meltdown of the Canadian banking system so we were selectively buying high-quality equities and bonds when others were abandoning market-based investments for the safety of GIC’s and money market funds.*

*With respect to recent equity gains, we are suspicious of the sustainability of any rally that is so highly dependent on government handouts and bailouts. Make no mistake, while the U.S. and Canadian economies are improving, we think we are in the midst of what can best be described as “less of everything”-- jobs, revenue, income, profits, and consumer spending. Any corporate profitability being reported is primarily the result of management slashing labour and production costs, not from higher revenues. With nearly 10 million Americans receiving some form of government benefits, banks still tightening credit guidelines, 1 in every 8 American mortgages either in arrears or in the foreclosure process, 1 in 6 Americans either unemployed or underemployed, and 1 in every 7 U.S. housing units sitting vacant, it is difficult to understand why the current equity market is priced for 40% profit growth and GDP growth of 4.0%. Sustainable economic recoveries are dependent on consumer confidence and spending. Statistics like these seem to suggest further retrenchment, not additional spending.*

*At FI Capital, we believe that we are headed for an extended period of sub-par economic growth. As a result, we urge extreme caution and recommend that now may be an appropriate time to review your current investment portfolio to ensure it is consistent with your risk tolerance. Know what you own and own what you know.”*

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Although I don't totally buy into all that Mr. Bodnar has said in his comments, I do think we need to remain cautious. I feel there is one more market down turn or a least slow down out there before year-end. Bearing that in mind, we intend to continue to meet with our brokers on a regular basis to review our investment portfolio.

I believe that Mr. Bodnar's last comment "Know what you own and own what you know", is very valid and I will be working hard to improve my investing knowledge during this time.

We must not forget that the market securities, although the most visible part of our investment portfolio, actually accounts for less than 20% of our total holdings. The majority of our fund, 80% plus, is invested in land and buildings, which at the present time seem to be holding their value

There is an old management saying that I like to use because I believe it is true, it states "whatever is monitored will improve", I can assure you we will continue to monitor these funds.

Kurt Robinson

Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily! Be a rock for me, a strong fortress to save me! For you are my rock and my fortress; and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me.

**Psalm 31:2-3**

**For God so loved the world, that he gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.**

**For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. John 3:16-17**



**For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39**

In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me, and save me! Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may continually come; you have given the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress. Psalm 71:2-3

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