

Dear Co-Workers



Lutheran Church—Canada

The Alberta—British Columbia District

Winter 2008/2009

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

Dear Co-workers,

“Today I am going to talk about God’s greatest gift to the world,” intoned the preacher. “And, of course, we all know what that gift is,” he continued. “God’s greatest gift to the world is water.” The preacher then continued by describing water as an essential resource; he spoke of how politicians need to develop more responsible water preservation policies. And on it went. (By the way, this is a true story!)

Environmental issues have become the new religion in our western world. Politicians are far more ready to save the trees while, at the same time, they refuse to deal with abortion lest such a discussion should cost them votes.

It is such a strange and sinful world we live in. We could literally fill this newsletter with page after page of examples from around the world of sin and its consequences. One wonders why God would bother to have anything to do with us.

Theologians often talk of the mystery of the incarnation. Indeed, how God could take on human flesh is a mystery. Just as mysterious is His reason for doing so. Why would God ever want to redeem this sinful world? Why would God desire to pay so great a price to redeem sinful people like you and me?

The answer is found in His grace. His grace has moved our heavenly Father to show us His undeserved favour. St. Paul wrote, “But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” (Titus 3:4-7)

In the midst of this world’s madness we hear again the good news spoken that first Christmas Eve: “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:10-11) May our gracious God fill you with joy and peace through this all-sufficient Saviour!

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*Rejoicing in His days,
Rev. Don Schiemann, President
Alberta-British Columbia District
Lutheran Church-Canada*

DISTRICT BUSINESS

ON THE WEB

In view of the cost of paper and postage, this edition of The Co-worker is being made available as a PDF download off our District's website.

ANNUAL MEETING

Although you won't receive The Co-worker in the mail, there are still some items that will come to our church workers every year at this time. They include:

- » CPH Desk Diaries
- » Church Worker ID cards. The Church Worker ID cards may be helpful to you as you apply for hospital ID cards, parking passes and access to restricted areas such as critical care units in hospitals or disaster/emergency sites.
- » District Directory of Churches, Schools and Church Workers. Please note that the Directory is intended to be used as an "in house" directory. Subject to the privacy laws, it may not be shared outside of the church.

CPH RESOURCE ONLINE

The CPH Pocket Diary is now available as an Internet-based or downloadable calendar file. This file includes the complete set of occasions from the Lutheran Service Book Three-Year Lectionary, including descriptive paragraphs for all Commemorations, pericopes for dates in the Church Year, and additional reminders and important dates. To use this resource, please access this web page:

http://cphconnect.org/builder/docs/How_to_Use_the_CPH_Desk_Diary_Calendar

CALLS & VICAR/INTERN APPLICATIONS

March 1 is the deadline for submitting calls for pastoral candidates and DPS graduates and for submitting applications for vicars and DPS interns. April 1 is the deadline for submitting calls for Lutheran teacher candidates. All calls and applications should be sent to the District President at the District Office. The following table indicates the availability of students as of Dec. 15:

	Vicars	Pastoral Candidates	DPS Interns	DPS Candidates	Teacher Candidates
CLS	4	2			
CLTS	2	4			
CUCA			4	0	1

OFFICERS' ROSTER

Pastors and congregational Chairmen are receiving with this mailing an Officers' Roster form. Please complete this and return it to our District Office as soon as you have completed your elections for 2009. It is important for us to have an updated list of all those serving in elected capacities in our ABC District Congregations.

GENERAL RESOURCES

More and more resources are being provided to congregations and church workers on our District web page. The following items are available to churches at <http://www.lccabc.ca/congregationresources>:

- Call Documents for Clergy
- Call Documents for Deacons or Teachers
- Caring for the Called Servant of Christ Guidelines
- Congregational Privacy Policy w/Forms
- Abuse Prevention Policy
- Congregational Guidelines for Bylaws and Constitutions
- Guidelines for Congregational and Pastoral Practice
- LCMS Guide for Constitutions
- Resources for Congregations during Vacancy
- Societies Act
- Staffing Resources for Lutheran Schools
- Treasurers Manual
- 2009 Salary Calculations
- 2009 Salary Guidelines
- Lutheran Hour Ministries Daily Devotion

The following items are available to churchworkers at <http://www.lccabc.ca/churchworkersresources>

- Lectionary at LCMS website
- 2009 Salary Calculations
- 2009 Salary Guidelines
- Treasurers Manual
- When You Have a Call: A Guide for the Call Recipient

If there are specific items which you would like to see available for download, please let us know and we will see if we can post them for download.

CHRISTMAS HOURS

Please note that, except for a reduced staff providing very basic CEF services (deposits, withdrawals etc.) the District Office will be closed Dec. 24 to Jan. 4. We will reopen on Jan 5

CHRISTMAS GREETING'S

Many thanks to all who sent Christmas greetings in the form of cards and letters. We certainly appreciate your prayers and best wishes.

CONVENTION MATTERS

Items relating to the ABC District Convention (registration, information etc.) will be on a special website: abcevents.ca. Currently, Pre-Convention bulletins 1 & 2 are on the abcevents.ca website under "Documents" and can be downloaded from there. As congregations plan their annual meeting agendas, please keep in mind the following dates:

Appointment of All Convention Committees:	Feb. 15, 2009	opportunities for recognizing, promoting, expressing, conserving, and defending their confessional unity in the true faith;
Receipt of Nominations for Circuit Counselor:	Feb. 15, 2009	7. Encourage congregations to strive for uniformity in church practice, but also to develop an appreciation of a variety of responsible practices and customs which are in harmony with our common profession of faith;
Receipt of Nominations for District President:	Feb. 15, 2009	
Receipt of Nominations for District Vice-Presidents:	Feb. 15, 2009	8. Provide evangelical supervision, counsel, and care for pastors, deacons, and other professional church workers in the performance of their official duties;
Receipt for Nominations of District Officers:	Feb. 15, 2009	
Receipt of Pastoral, Lay and Alternate Delegates:	Feb. 15, 2009	9. Provide protection for congregations, pastors, deacons, and other church workers in the performance of their official duties and the maintenance of their rights;
Submission of Reports and Overtures:	Feb. 15, 2009	
Meeting of Nominating Committee:	March 14, 2009	10. Aid in providing for the welfare of pastors, deacons, and other church workers, and their families, in the event of illness, disability, retirement, special need, or death.
Meeting of Floor Committees:	March 14, 2009	

WHY DO WE HAVE CONVENTIONS?

I don't think I've ever been asked that question before, but it is a good one! A lot of energy and expense goes in to our District and Synod conventions so we should be quite clear as to why we invest so much in these events.

It really begins with understanding why we are Lutheran Church-Canada. We are a voluntary association of like-minded churches with a common confession of faith who have come together with very definite goals and objectives. These objectives are listed in the Constitution of Lutheran Church-Canada and are as follows:

1. Conserve and promote the unity of the true faith (Eph. 4:3-6; 1 Cor. 1:10), work through its official structure toward fellowship with other Christian church bodies, and provide a united defence against schism, sectarianism (Rom. 16:17), and heresy;
2. Strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word and deed to the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the world;
3. Recruit and train pastors, deacons, and other professional church workers and provide opportunity for their continuing growth;
4. Provide opportunities through which its members express their Christian concern, love, and compassion in meeting human needs;
5. Aid congregations to develop processes of thorough Christian education and nurture and to establish agencies of Christian education such as elementary and secondary schools;
6. Aid congregations by providing a variety of resources and

In carrying out our objectives, the work which we do together is not decided by any one particular member of Synod. Instead, the church gathers together every three years at a District level and every three years at a national level to elect the officers of District and Synod, to provide reports to the Church and to consider matters relating to how we might best carry out our Synod's objectives.

(To read the Entire Article, visit the Convention 2009 website at <http://www.abcevents.ca> or go to page 8 for the continuation.)

IN OUR PRAYERS

For God's Comfort:

- » Rev. Ernie Kroeger was called to glory Dec. 5, 2008. Please pray for his family.
- » Rev. Fred Rink and his wife Ursula as they mourn the passing of Ursula's sister.

Under Continued Care:

- » Rev. Norman Eifert (emeritus)

Under Doctor's Care

- » Rev. Fraser Coltman
- » Rev. Bokman Hwang

Recently or Currently Hospitalized:

- » Carole MacKay, wife of Rev. Larry MacKay
- » Leanne Zimmer, Teacher at Prince of Peace Lutheran School
- » Janice Ruf, District Office Staff
- » Beverly Harold, wife of Rev. Steve Harold
- » Rev. Roland Kubke

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- » Rev. Ed & Cristiane Goraski on the birth of their daughter, Sophia

THE DEPARTMENT OF OUTREACH



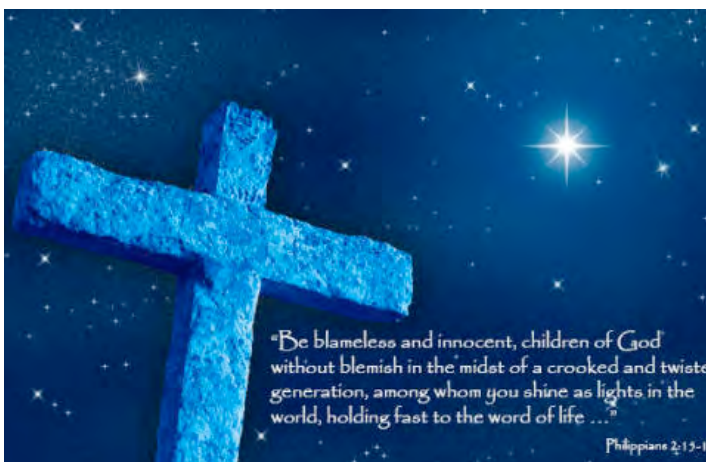
ONE 2 ONE CONNECT!

LCC wants to help you prepare to be more effective and comfortable about telling others of your faith by providing tips and information by e-mail. Over the next months you will receive regular e-newsletters that can help you go and tell about Jesus—personally. Please encourage your members to sign up for these e-newsletters by going to: the LCC website and clicking on the One 2 One: Connect icon and following the links.

LIFE SUNDAY: JANUARY 18, 2009

January 18, 2009 is Life Sunday. Excellent Life Sunday worship and Bible study resources are available (free!) at the Lutherans for Life (USA) website: [http://www.lutheransforlife.org/Life_Sunday/2009_Life_Sunday.htm](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/Life_Sunday/2009_Life_Sunday/2009_Life_Sunday.htm).

Lutherans for Life also has created many excellent pamphlets and booklets addressing issues like: euthanasia; premarital sex, abortion, stem cell research, STDs, and many others. Check out the resources at: <http://www.lutheransforlife.org/Catalog/catalog.htm>.



LIFE CONFERENCE VIDEOS ARE AVAILABLE!

Three informative life lectures from the Love Life conference held at Concordia University College of Alberta are available online. ABC District President Don Schiemann addressed the issue: "Respect for Life, and Criminal Justice." Dr. John Patrick spoke on the themes: "The Domino Effect of Legalizing Abortion" and "What Hippocrates Knew and We Have Forgotten"). These thought provoking presentations are available online at: <http://www.lccabc.ca/video>. If you prefer to have a DVD of these three presentations, please contact the Office of the Executive Assistant – Outreach and a copy will be sent to you.

SOME LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MISSION TRIPS

Many congregations and individual members are becoming involved in various kinds of mission trips. Here is some information you need to know:

- 1.The congregation (or the Church Council) should formally approve the trip's objectives and its budget (e.g. a minuted motion) and state how the mission trip is fulfilling the objects and purposes of the congregation.
- 2.The congregation should also set the budget for the trip and should decide who will participate in the trip.

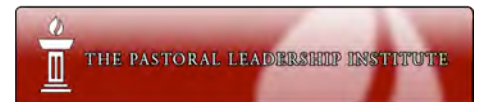
All these decisions should be minuted.

- 3.The mission trip should be set up as a separate, designated fund in the congregation's books.

- 4.The treasurer of the congregation should handle all finances (revenue and

- expenditures) and monitor the budget. The congregational treasurer should keep all receipts and invoices.
- 5.Following the trip, one of the trip's participants is to provide a summary of the activities involved in the mission trip, preferably with some pictures.
- 6.Donations ("gifts") cannot be given to a specific individual and be receipted. Donations are made to the "trip" and then disbursed according to the expenses. Donations are never for the participant personally, but for the program (e.g. mission trip).
7. If a person pays for his/her own mission trip, he/she can be receipted as long as the money was given to the "trip fund" and not to the individual.
- 8.Once a person has made a donation ("gift") to the congregation, the funds cannot be returned. Those funds no longer belong to the person who gave them.

*Watch future Co-Workers for additional information on Mission/Servant events.



PLI: A PASTORAL CONTINUING

EDUCATION PROGRAM for those whose hearts burn with the passion of sharing the gospel with the lost.

The mission of PLI is to provide advanced leadership missional thinking/training for pastors whose hearts burn with passion for the gospel and who have exhibited potential for leadership excellence. PLI is a four year educational program (with a possibility of earning a D.Min degree from either of the two LCMS seminaries). The program of study involves both the pastor and spouse (if married). There are collegial groups/events; annual learning weeks; involvement in an international cross-cultural outreach event; an annual wives retreat and many other formative learning experiences. The learning

experiences are taken back into the pastor's congregation for their missional growth and development as well! For more information, visit: <http://www.plinstitute.org/home/> or talk with Pastors Laverne Hautz, Lee Loveridge, and Vic Morris. These three men (and their wives) are in the PLI program. The Department of Outreach has also designated some funds for those who are in the PLI studies in order to help defer the cost of tuition. Please contact the Office of the Executive Assistant – Outreach for information on a PLI grant.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA: DEMOGRAPHIC STATS

- The number of Lutherans in Canada has been declining since 1971.
- Statistics Canada shows that Ontario has lost the largest number of Lutherans.
- Lutherans have moved from living in rural locations to living in cities.
- The median age of Lutherans in Canada is 43.3 while the median age of Canadians is 37.3.
- Statistics Canada 2001 shows that in Canada the number of Lutherans has declined by 3%. It is projected that the number of Lutherans will decline by 9% in 2011.

•LCC has declined by 9% between 2001 and 2008. An additional 7% decline is projected between 2008 and 2015.

HOST A CONGREGATIONAL “EQUIPPING TO SHARE” WORKSHOPS

We have EtS presenters ready to present. We simply need you to request a workshop. There is minimal cost for significant missional growth and development in the participants. Just as the disciples said, “Lord, teach us to pray” so His disciples today say, “Lord, teach us to witness!” If you would like to host an EtS workshop, please contact the Office of the Executive Assistant – Outreach.

THE HOTDOG VENDOR

This is an old story, with a powerful message.

There was this elderly man who had a profitable little business selling hot dogs on a busy street corner in a major city. He wasn't particularly well educated, but he sold great hot dogs and his customers loved him.

During the early morning rush hour, he'd wheel his mobile hot dog stand to position it near the exit of the central railway station in town. A year ago he'd added a bacon and egg roll to his range and sold scores of them to this breakfast crowd every day. At lunchtime, he'd move his stand to a popular park where he had lines of regulars.

Most nights he knew a great spot near a nightclub. Even people driving by would stop.

He'd worked hard for years and done well enough to put his only son through university who later became an accountant with a large accounting firm.

One day his son warned him that a recession was on the way. The old man asked his son what this meant. Being an educated man his son gave a very detailed explanation of how the recession would severely impact everyone in the community, particularly small business people like his father. There would be enormous unemployment; people would not be able to afford to spend money as they did now. He painted a gloomy picture of the future and warned his father that it would be wise to cut back on his expenses and “tighten his belt” financially and prepare for the worst. The old man didn't know much about the economy or interest rates, but he trusted his son. After all, he was an educated man. Recession mentality kicked in...

The old man began to cut back on the quantity of sausages and bread rolls he bought. He didn't want to get caught with stale rolls as business began to drop off. But it was hard to judge and some days he actually ran out of sausages and rolls earlier than he normally would. So he went home early and spent more time worrying about this recession that was

coming.

Soon he knew that what his son had said was right. He noticed that his takings were indeed falling. This depressed him more and so he tended to get out of bed later each day. After all, why get to the station so early when obviously more people would be eating at home rather than spending money on breakfast in the city. He decided that his bacon and egg rolls were too expensive for most people now. After all, they were twice the price of a hot dog, so he cut them from his menu and his sales continued to plummet.

Wow, his son was right, this recession was hitting hard!

He decided to save more money and not replace the batteries that powered his neon sign and lights at night. Now because he was in the dark, fewer people bought from him and soon he decided that it wasn't even worth his time setting up at night. Eventually he decided to sell off his equipment and his trolley. He was in luck though because the young woman who bought his trolley didn't seem to know how bad business was, or how severe the recession was going to be. He managed to unload the trolley for more than he thought he would get. Now day after day he stayed at home, depressed, and occasionally his son would visit him and they would discuss how bad the recession was, and how lucky the old man had been to have an educated son who had warned him in advance about this terrible recession.

So what's the moral of this story?

Recession mentality starts in one's own head. If you believe that a recession is coming and that times will soon be tough, then they will be for you. Like the old man in the story, you'll start to change your successful behaviour patterns and replace them with less resourceful habits. You'll sleep in later. You'll take longer lunch breaks, make less phone calls and go home earlier.

But it needn't be that way...

Source: Adapted from an email, author unknown.

PARISH & SCHOOL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

MEETINGS

The last Department meeting was held in conjunction with all the Departments of the District, October 31- November

1. The next meeting will be a conference call, scheduled for 10:00 a.m. MST, on February 5.

TEAM MINISTRY

At its meeting, members of the Department adopted a motion to provide an umbrella, under which the area of Team Ministry could function. Plans are already underway for the first such conference, to be held just prior to the District Convention, May 21-22, 2009, at UBC, Vancouver.

Many of the congregations of the ABC District have experience with, or interest in team ministry. For many the skills necessary for effective team functioning have come by way of on the job training. As such, stories regarding experiences and the amount of success and fulfillment in team ministry range significantly. However, from each comes an opportunity to learn and grow by God's grace.

Moving ahead with encouragement from workers and congregations of our District, the Parish & Schools Service Department is offering an opportunity for those involved in team ministry to gain valuable educational and practical experience at a seminar this spring. Being good stewards of time and money, the opportunity is being presented just prior to the District Convention in Vancouver, at which all rostered church workers will be in attendance. More details will follow, but the planning committee has already been hard at work putting the following plans and information together...

Time/Dates: May 21-22, 2009, Thursday afternoon through Friday morning, leading up to the District Convention
Location: UBC Campus, Vancouver, BC

Guest Speaker: Stephen Wagner, executive leader of the Pastoral Leadership Institute (LCMS - <http://www.plinstitute.org/about-pli/>)

Cost to the team ministry congregations: room for the additional night (approx. \$60/person in shared accommodations); meals

Special notes...

1. While team ministry includes numerous team "combination" possibilities, it would be unwise to include every possible scenario in this seminar. Ministry Teams to be included for this seminar: pastor/pastor; pastor/DPS (or similar position); pastor/stand alone preschool director. Following an evaluation of this conference, the Department will be in a better position to determine future conferences and what they will look like.

2. The District Convention will cover the costs of travel for rostered workers. Those not on the roster of Synod will be

encouraged to travel to the conference with their pastor or another worker on the roster to keep their costs down.

3. Those registering will register as teams, not as individuals from team ministries.

4. Questions at this point can be sent to Daryl (parish@lccabc.ca) and he will either answer them or forward them to someone on the planning committee.

FAMILY LIFE

Rev. Keith Habersock

khhabersock@princeofpeace.ca

Previous Co-Worker editions reported that Rev. Roger Sonnenberg, LCMS Pastor and speaker on a variety of topics surrounding "Human Sexuality" will be with us in the District next March. Dates and locations are set. Details will be sent out to local congregations as they become available. You may also contact a specific congregation...

Bethel Lutheran Church, Sherwood Park AB, Monday pm
March 2nd;

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and School, Calgary AB,
Thursday pm March 5th;

First Lutheran Church and School, Kelowna BC, Saturday
March 7th; and

Walnut Grove Lutheran Church, Langley BC, Sunday pm
March 8th.

YOUTH COMMITTEE AND THE YOUTH MINISTRY INSTITUTE

Susan Bernhardt

director@ymideas.com

It's time again for YMI spring training sessions! This year, we will be covering the topic of teaching. Participants will learn how to lead effective Bible studies and devotions for youth. Because we know that youth leaders are busy, we promise that every participant will leave with 8 pre-planned Bible studies and devotions that they can take home to use in their congregations. What a saving in time! We encourage you to invite anyone involved in ministry with teenagers, preteens or young adults in your congregation – confirmation teachers, Sunday School teachers, etc.

This year's training will be a collaborative effort between churchworkers in our district who have extensive teaching experience. Our first session will be held on Saturday February 28 in Edmonton, AB at Grace Lutheran Church (9907 – 114 Street) led by Lynn Gergens (Director of Youth & Young Families, Walnut Grove Lutheran – Langley). Three other sessions will be held in Calgary (March 14), Vancouver

and the Okanagan. Dates and locations will be provided in the publicity packages coming out this month. Come to whatever event is most convenient for you! The cost of the event is \$35 and will cover supplies, snacks and lunch. We encourage you to bring any people involved in youth ministry at your church. The group rate for three or more leaders is \$100. Concordia students are welcome to attend at a reduced price of \$15/ person.

Be sure to check out our website for help with your youth ministry. Sign up for our e-newsletter which will keep you updated on youth ministry happenings in our district! And call or email Susan Bernhardt at (403)208-4343 or director@ymideas.com anytime you are in a youth ministry bind and need some help!

DISTRICT YOUTH GATHERING 2009

Headed by Tracy Wemyss, the Gathering Committee continues planning for the next District Youth Gathering.

Theme: LOUD - based on Psalm 71:23

Location: University of British Columbia - Okanagan (UBCO), Kelowna

Dates: July 23rd-26th, 2009

Web: www.loudyouthgathering.ca

Watch for more information in the next Canadian Lutheran!

MUSIC AND WORSHIP

Michael Gillingham

mgillingham@bethelchurch.com

We're going online very soon with some articles, songs, and

links to resources for worship and music! Check the District website regularly for some helpful things for worship leaders and worship planners! Thanks! Merry Christmas to y'all!

SCHOOLS UPDATE

Administrators Conference – March 2-3, at the District Office. This year's theme will continue work on Lutheran Schools of Excellence, focusing on "Master Teacher". Dr. Perry Bresemann, one of the authors of this section and presenter at last year's LTA Conference will be here to lead the workshops.

Lutheran Teachers Association Conference – August 17-20. Edmonton area schools/preschools are working under the leadership of the staff at Faith to continue the LTA Administrators Conference theme of Master Teacher.

Preschool administrators should note that these conferences are for preschool personnel as well. The number of preschools involved in both conferences has been growing over the past 2-3 years, making sure that program and meeting time include the interests of those involved in early childhood ministries.

A reminder... Chapel offerings for January and February from participating schools of the District will go toward the start-up of our mission Lutheran school in Moncton, NB. Funds may be forwarded to the District office. Update information from Moncton will be passed along to the schools, as we receive it.

School Grant Policy and Application forms are available through the District office. Electronic copies were sent out via email to all schools of the District. If you did not receive the email, or if you are a congregational leader in a church considering a school ministry, contact Daryl.

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HERE IT COMES!

"You better stop, look around..."

*Here it comes, here it comes, here it comes, here it comes
Here comes your 48th Convention of the ABC District of
Lutheran Church Canada."*

All morning the above has been playing in the auditorium of my head, to the tune of The Rolling Stones hit song "19th Nervous Breakdown". Can you remember it? The song that is? If you can, I can probably guess your age within 5 years or so ...

You may ask, "Why is that "tune" stuck in his head today"? That would be a valid question on many levels. But here is the real reason; today I am trying to write an article for the Co-Worker that will introduce the District's 2009 Convention and its unique location. Soooooo Here it comes

That's right ... on May 22 to May 25, 2009 ... held in Vancouver, British Columbia ... live ... (or as close to live as we can possibly get it)...

The 48th Convention of the Alberta British Columbia District of Lutheran Church Canada.

We will be celebrating 88 years of the ABC District. Just a little longer than the Rolling Stones have been around. The theme for the 2009 Convention is: "His Calling: to Faith...for Life" Romans 1:7

*Kurt Robinson
Convention Manager*

Having a District Convention in British Columbia hasn't happened for some time so its location alone will make this Convention unique. Now add to that the following; the Convention is going to be held on the University of British Columbia campus. Is there a more beautiful spot on the west coast? The actual business of the Convention, the meetings and breakout sessions, will take place in the Student Union Building (the SUB for short) and we will need two campus residences to house all the attendees (there is going to be about 350 of us in attendance).

For those of you who know the UBC Vancouver Campus the first residence will be familiar to you; it is Gage Towers Residence. The second, however, may not be; it is the Marine Drive Tower Residence which was completed just this year. And for those, like me, who aren't up-to-date with the University and its campus, here is how the "brochures" describe these two accommodation locations:



WHY WE HAVE CONVENTIONS (CONTINUED)

The members of our Synod are the congregations, pastors and deacons of LCC. At a District Convention, every parish (one or more congregations make up a parish) is given the right to send two delegates. One must be a pastoral delegate and the other a lay delegate. Congregations and other Synodical entities are permitted to submit overtures to the convention. Floor committees consisting of appointed pastoral and lay delegates review the overtures and will refine and sometimes amalgamate these overtures and present them as resolutions to the Convention. Through their delegates, every parish has the opportunity to respond to these resolutions, to support them or to decline them.

A Synod Convention is very similar to a District Convention except that the lay and pastoral delegates are selected from geographic circuits on the basis of the circuit population. Small circuits may have only one lay and one pastoral delegates. Larger circuits may have as many as three of each.

The officers of District and Synod which are elected at their respective conventions are given the responsibility to conduct the regular business of the church between conventions as well as to carry out the resolutions of the conventions.

As we said earlier, Synod is a voluntary association of

congregations. Because we have agreed to walk together under common confession and with common purpose, the work which is undertaken at our conventions is something we will support and in which we will engage. The only exceptions are if an action of District or Synod is clearly contrary to the Word of God or "inexpedient as far as the condition of a congregation is concerned." (Art. VII, Constitution of Synod)

We take our conventions seriously. It is a time to hear reports from the whole church and rejoice in what God is doing among us and through us. It is also a time to determine how we might best carry out the objectives of our church and to reaffirm our commitment to work together for the sake of the Gospel. Because they are delegate conventions they provide opportunities for participation by all the members of Synod.

The next series of conventions will take place in the Spring of 2009. The Central District Convention will take place April 27-30 at Regina, SK; the East District Convention will take place May 10-13 at Windsor, ON; and the ABC District Convention will take place May 22-25 at Vancouver, BC. Please keep the parish delegates of these conventions in your prayers as they gather to consider our work together for the sake of the Gospel.

THE GAGE TOWERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

“You’re enjoying the vista from high above English Bay. Below, the sailboats tack into the wind against the layered backdrop of the North Shore Mountains. Your view is the Gage Towers at UBC.”

MARINE DRIVE TOWER

“Marine Drive tower offers contemporary condominium-units in shared four bedroom and studio suites with stunning views of the North Shore Mountains, ocean and lush green campus grounds.”

Sounds good doesn’t it? Remember this is no hotel experience. Everything will not be housed under one roof. The location and the agenda will hopefully offer you ample opportunity to enjoy Vancouver’s mild May weather as well as the “lush green campus grounds.” We suggest your bring you walking shoes to this one; you are definitely going to want to use them.

The majority of the meals will be served in the “Spirit of the Pacific” cafeteria located right in the Student Union Building; handy to the meeting rooms, the displays, the book store and a short distance from the residences. The Sunday night banquet is the exception of course, this special gathering will be held in the SUB’s ballroom where we are hoping to present a truly west coast influenced dinner to the convention’s attendees.

Right now the 2009 Convention Planning Committee, with the assistance of the Local Arrangements Committee, is busy planning a unique and exciting convention for this the 48th Convention of the ABC District of Lutheran Church Canada. What can you do to help? You can encourage your congregation to proceed with the election of their lay and alternate lay convention delegates. If more information on the process is needed, refer to: Pre-Convention Bulletin #2. A copy of this bulletin can

Marine Drive Tower



be found on the convention website (abcevents.ca). In addition, soon you will find a link to the UBC Campus map on the website, so you can familiarize yourself with the location of the various venues for the convention.

We are looking forward to hosting you in May of 2009. Help us by registering early....

PS. President Schiemann just wanted me to point out that the convention theme song will not be “19th Nervous Breakdown” or for that matter any other rock anthem from the 60’s.

Hope to see you there... God willing.

A MESSAGE FOR OUR INVESTORS AND SUPPORTERS

We are all aware of the recent financial news. It can be troubling and may leave you concerned about the impact of the current markets and related events on the financial strength of Church Extension Fund.

We would like you to know that CEF continues to maintain a strong capital position to support growth, operations and to protect our investors against losses. Our position of liquidity is healthy, with an investment portfolio of \$20 million in very marketable securities and an additional \$80 million plus invested throughout the District with congregations mostly in the form of loans for land and buildings.

MORTGAGE EXPOSURE

CEF was not negatively impacted by direct investments in subprime type mortgages, the cause of many of the losses in the financial sector. In fact, with our loan portfolio – made up of loans to congregations and other district ministries – we are experiencing normal repayment histories, with no foreclosures or write-offs to date and none expected in the future. We have experienced some paper losses, on advanced site

real estate holdings, due to falling property values. However, we fully expect to recoup these losses as the real estate markets, in Alberta and British Columbia, recover in the next few years.

INVESTMENTS

Our portfolio of investments is well diversified. We work with outside professional financial advisors in the construction of an investment portfolio that is conservative and prudent. The market down turn has affected our market investments as it has everyone's who has market exposure. However, our conservative investment policy has helped us to lessen the effects of the market slump by comparison to the overall stock market result.

STRATEGY

Doubt and concern reign supreme throughout the economic community, but the continuing global efforts to reignite the economy and stabilize financial markets is unprecedented. Canada's domestic economy continues to weather the global financial storm relatively well. Unless some countries revert to protectionist policies, we remain confident of the prospects for an economic recovery. You cannot

rule out the possibility of a technical recession in Canada, but we do not see a lessening of domestic demand in the future.

Our plan is to hold tight. We expect that the market will return as it has done time and time again in the past. We feel that the present financial climate will remain for most of next year with a turnaround starting as early as the third quarter of 2009 or possibly as late as the first quarter of 2010. We remain confident that we can meet our obligations to our investors and loan clients; God willing.

We thank you for your continued prayers and support, both of which help ensure that the funds and services that are now available through Church Extension Fund will continue successfully into the future. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us at the District Office.

Stay Faithful and Be Grateful
Kurt Robinson CFP
Executive Assistant - District Services
Lutheran Church - Canada
Alberta - British Columbia District
Tel: 780-474-0063
Toll Free: 1-888-474-0063

DISTRICT GOES ELECTRIC!

The District Office will be delivering the majority of its communications, including Co-Worker, District News and Special Event information, electronically, using direct to you e-mail as well as its new Web Site. We are hoping to improve our communications within the District.

And we invite you to get involved. Make sure we have your current e-mail address and visit the Web Site regularly.

Contact Evan Adnams at communications@lccabc.ca with your ideas your comments and your queries.

ABC District Investments RRSP/RRIF Group Plan

PLAN NOW FOR RETIREMENT!

When you invest in ABC District Investments Ltd., you are making an investment in the growth of Lutheran Church-Canada congregations, schools and entities in the Alberta- British Columbia District. Your invested money will be used to provide loans to help with renovation, or new church construction and expansion projects that allow churches to better accommodate growing congregations and expanding ministry.



Lutheran Church-Canada

THE ALBERTA-BRITISH COLUMBIA DISTRICT

7100 Ada Blvd Edmonton, AB T5B 4E4

cef@lccabc.ca

Edmonton 780.474.0063

Toll Free 1.888.474.0063

Fax 780.477.9829

"Building HIS church, together."

ABC
District
Investments Ltd.

Concordia University College of Alberta Library Benefits for Members of Lutheran Church-Canada

As a Lutheran Church-Canada member, you can have access to Concordia University College of Alberta's Library Collection such as:

- Checking out materials from Concordia's main collection and Recreational Reading collection
- In library access to electronic databases, Curriculum collection, and AV collection

To take advantage of these benefits, please stop at the Circulation Desk and register for your free library card.



LCC Members are requested to use on site resources after 5 pm weekdays or on weekends. For information on library hours and services please visit: <http://library.concordia.ab.ca/>