



Forward in Faith

Vol. 3, No. 3

Lutheran Church - Canada, East District
April, 2003

President's Corner by Al Maleske, President

EASTER HOPE

"We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him." I Thessalonians 4:14

Have you been there? Have you been where death was so close it seemed like a shadow hanging over you waiting to descend? Have you kept that bedside vigil as someone you loved lingered between life and death? If you made that slow walk out of the cemetery, leaving behind the body that once contained the soul of someone you couldn't imagine living without, then Easter is a special time for you. The words above from I Thessalonians deeply stir your heart.

If you made that slow walk out of the cemetery, leaving behind the body that once contained the soul of someone you couldn't imagine living without, then Easter is a special time for you.

When I was a boy, we would often play football at recess. About five minutes into recess, our teacher, Mr. Stahlke, would come out. He would ask, "Which side is losing?" Then he would join that team. His appearance changed the whole game, for he could throw the football with pinpoint accuracy the entire length of the playground. When he joined our team, he changed us from losers to winners.

Jesus did a similar thing. Seeing that we were losing to death, he entered the game. Willingly, he died as our substitute, guilty of our sins. Then three days later, the earth quaked, the rocks split, and Jesus showed himself alive. The world shook and hell trembled, for sin was atoned for and death was now dead.

For those who are left behind, death is only temporary. When Christ gives the loud command, our mourning will be changed into never-ending gladness as the dead are raised and we are with the Lord forever. For those who are called away, it is only a doorway that separates their smaller living from the great life Jesus has promised them. Even now they are with the Lord.

**For those walking in death's dark shadow, what great comfort this sweet sentence gives: "I know that my Redeemer lives."
A blessed Easter to all of you!**

Chaplain Lee Barnai of Lutherwood CODA
will leave his post for one year beginning March 31st, to serve as Project Developer, assisting in Lutherwood's renovation projects and the construction of the 'Assisted Living Centre'

District Events

Apr 20

Registration deadline:
District Youth Retreat,
"Basic Training 101,
Faith at Work", (May 23-25)

Apr 26

10:00 a.m.
Resolutions Committee,
District Office

Ottawa Circuit Forum,
Grace, Locksley

Apr 27

3:30 p.m.
50th Anniversary Service,
Grace, St. Catharines,
Banquet following

2:00 p.m.
Kitchener Circuit Forum,
Redeemer, Waterloo

Apr 28

7:00 p.m.
Pre-Convention Meeting,
District Office

May 10

10:00 a.m., Call Service,
Concordia Seminary,
St. Catharines

May 23-25

District Youth Retreat,
Brock U., St. Cath.

June 8

3:00 p.m., Dedication of
New Sanctuary @ Faith,
Kitchener

June 8

11 a.m., 40th Anniversary
Service, Christ Our King,
Mississauga, ON

IMPORTANT NOTICE RE STATISTICAL REPORTS

The District needs your Statistical Reports.
**If your congregation is listed here,
get your report to us right away.**

| | |
|--|--|
| 30110 Beamsville, Emmanuel | 30675 Petawawa, Christ |
| 30120 Dunnville, Faith | 30690 Timmins, Christ |
| 30135 Grimsby, Christ our Saviour | 30695 Wabewawa, Zion |
| 30140 Hamilton, Pilgrim | 30720 Cobourg, St. Paul |
| 30225 London, Good Shepherd | 30730 Etobicoke, Our Saviour |
| 30230 London, Our Saviour | 30740 Georgetown, Immanuel |
| 30240 St. Thomas, Redeemer | 30750 Mississauga, Christ Our King |
| 30260 Tillsonburg, St. Luke | 30765 Oshawa, Grace |
| 30330 Logan, First | 30780 Toronto, Korean |
| 30340 Moncton, Redeemer | 30782 Toronto, St. John's Polish |
| 30350 Seebach's Hill, 1 st St. John | 30785 Toronto, ST. Peter Estonian |
| 30380 Wartburg, Second St. John | 30790 Toronto, Trinity |
| 30420 Collingwood, Christ Our Hope | 30820 Harrow, Christ |
| 30550 New Hamburg, St. Peter | 30840 Sarnia, Christ |
| 30560 Petersburg, Emmanuel | 30910 Fonthill, Concordia (Pelham) |
| 30625 Gatineau, Saveur Du Vivant | 30920 Gasline, St. John (Pt. Colborne) |
| 30650 Moncton (NB), Good Shepherd | 30950 St. Catharines, Christ |
| 30658 Ottawa, Familia de Dios | 30980 St. Catharines, St. Paul Est. |
| 30665 Ottawa, St. Luke/Hispanic | |

Please Note & Reserve:



Saturday, September 20, 2003

Lutherans Laymen's League Annual Convention

@
Faith Lutheran Church
Desboro

Featured Speaker
Phyllis Wallace
"From Woman to Woman"

Calls & Vacancies



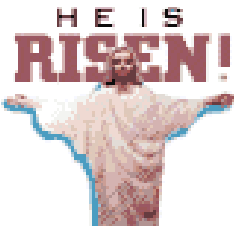
Calls Issued & Pending

- Candidate to Redeemer, St. Thomas
- Candidate to First Paul's, Wellesley

CELEBRATING
50 Fifty years of Sunday
School Workshops

Please join us in celebration on
October 25th, 2003

Guest Speaker - Mary Manz Simon
East District, Kitchener, ON



Concordia University College of Alberta will honour the following individuals with special awards at convocation events on May 10, 2003.

Rev. Dr. Roger Winger, Kitchener, ON: *Christo et Ecclesiae Award*
Mr. Frank Kobie, Edmonton, AB: *Distinguished Service Award*
Ms. Mildred Schwermann, Edmonton, AB: *Distinguished Alumni Award*

**Congratulatory messages to be presented
on this occasion are invited.**

Addressed to the recipient: c/o President's Office, Concordia University College,
7128 Ada Blvd., Edmonton, AB T5B 4E4

Email: president@concordia.ab.ca

Fax: 1-780-477-2930 or 1-780-474-1933

Outreach Update by Konny Hahn



"The Department for Outreach will assist District congregations and ministries in their work of gathering more people into a faith relationship with their Saviour." (Mission Statement)

These are Challenging Times

These are challenging times. First the good news, with the establishment of the **2003 District Budget by the Board of Directors**, the Department for Outreach is pleased to be able to report that it will be able to provide support to financially assisted congregations and missions at the levels it communicated to them in December of last year. The Department thanks the congregations of our East District for their continued support that makes it possible to assist newly established missions and financially struggling congregations in our District.

Now the bad news. The level funding allocated to the Department for this year has once again been decreased to the point that one would need to go back to 1981 to arrive at a lower level. The Department was allocated \$415,044 from congregational offerings for 2003. We are grateful that an additional \$61,956 was available from special grants and gifts some of which will be depleted this year, which brings the total to \$477,000.

To put this situation into perspective, in 1981 the Department received \$392,000. What makes this reality "challenging" is the fact that it would take \$780,750 in 2002 dollars to equal the purchasing power of the \$392,000 from 1978. **In other words the Department has fifty cents in 2003 for every dollar it was provided in 1981 to carry out its work.**

ANNOUNCEMENT

I am happy to inform you that on March 2, 2003, the congregation of **Holy Trinity Church** voted in favour of joining in membership with the East District of Lutheran Church-Canada. I am also happy to say that the vote was not divisive, in fact, 90% of the membership voted in favour.

I have sent a letter to Rev. Krueger indicating our desire to leave the SELC-LCMS and I have attached a signed copy of the resolution provided us by Konstantin Hahn. I will forward you a copy of the approved and signed resolution next week.

On behalf of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, I would like to thank you for all your assistance and we look forward to our future relationship with LCC.

Dates to Remember:

April 15: Quarterly Pastors reports due
May 12-13: Department for Outreach meeting

What this means is that financially assisted ministries have their support reduced to the level where they barely are able to function. Funding is sufficient to cover only the bare essentials such as salaries and utilities. **Virtually nothing is available for carrying on an energetic ministry that requires materials of any kind.** That is to say nothing about the prospects for starting new missions in our teeming urban centres, the expanding of currently started work that is only partially supported as for example, Sherbrooke or the filling of some vacancies such as Sauveur Vivant, Gatineau that has been without a pastor for over a year. Unless this trend is reversed, sheer necessity, quite apart from good stewardship in some instances, will continue to dictate the formation of partnerships between struggling neighbouring congregations whether they are currently assisted or self-supporting.

Spring Voter's Meetings

The purpose for drawing this matter to your attention at this time is two fold: first of all, simply to keep you informed. Secondly, to assist our congregations to prepare themselves for the up coming District convention. Please discuss in your **spring voters' meetings** the implications of the steadily declining support for the mission and support of struggling congregations that we are endeavoring to carry out together and what your congregation plans are, that would either reverse or continue this trend. While congregational delegates may not be bound by their congregations with regard to their voting, delegates are far better equipped to vote intelligently on issues before the convention when they know the thinking of their members.

Business Briefs by Anna Fierling



REPORT OF MISSION RECEIPTS FROM CONGREGATIONS For the period ended February 28, 2003

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| Anticipated Amount (1/12 of Budget) | \$103,333 | 100.00% |
| Actual Receipts | <u>\$95,878</u> | 92.79% |
| Over (Under) Amount Required | (\$7,455) | -7.21% |

Year-To-Date Receipts

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| Anticipated Amount (Budget) | \$103,333 | 100.00% |
| Actual Receipts | <u>\$95,878</u> | 92.79% |
| Over (Under) Amount Required | (\$7,455) | -7.21% |

Use of Mission Receipts

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------|
| Remitted to Synod (Year-to-date) | \$0 | 0.00% |
| For District Operations | <u>\$67,783</u> | 100.0% |

Mission Receipts Compared With Year

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Mission Receipts - Year-to-Date 2003 | \$95,878 | |
| Mission Receipts - Year-to-Date 2002 | <u>\$87,279</u> | |
| Increase (Shortfall) to Previous Year | \$8,599 | 9.85% |

INTRODUCTIONS

Being new to the position of Business Manager and having started on February 20, 2003, I am realizing the daily pressures of this position. My approach is an organized, patient and methodical one. I must thank the entire District in advance for your patience while I learn. With the Lord's direction and guidance - we can all work together for one common goal. Each and every department with Lutheran Church-Canada is important. With the Lord's blessings, each member of every congregation is provided with a safe and wonderful place to worship, allowing us all to become acquainted with Him. Then, allowing each of us to reach out to others.

There has been almost a complete turnover in staff at the District Office, in the last year. Lorne Campbell, Dianne Engler and Carolyn Wiles have all resigned their positions. Keep them in your prayers as they pursue future plans. A special thank you is extended to each of them for their service and devotion. Please welcome Carolyn Mohr as Accounting Clerk/Office Assistant, and Ilene Fortin as Administrative Secretary.

It will be a pleasure to have the opportunity to meet you all. I consider it a privilege to serve at the District. I welcome you to approach me in person or by phone with any questions or concerns that you may have.

Anna Fierling

HAVE YOU MOVED?? ARE YOU MOVING??

PLEASE REMEMBER TO NOTIFY THE CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

District Office at **578-6500** or **1-800-465-8179**.

