



Trinity Team

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June 2010

Water and Spirit (and oil)

In the Gulf of Mexico millions of barrels of dark crude oil have been uncontrollably gushing into the water for more than two months now. If there's one thing that's obvious about this unprecedented disaster, it is that water and oil are like... well... oil and water. They don't mix. It takes only a drop of oil to make a bucket of water undrinkable. Imagine what millions and millions of litres in the ocean do to fish, mammals, corals, birds, and humans. You've seen the pictures.

Outrage has been voiced toward companies that cut corners when it comes to safety and those who downplay the extent of the catastrophe, as well as toward oil companies and rig supply firms opposing a moratorium on deep-sea drilling. So what have they learned? What have we learned other than what we already knew: that oil and water don't mix? Not much it seems.

One of my favorite hymn verses says:

*Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore.*

*Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore, serving you whom we adore.*

ELW 705 v. 4

How do we deal with the anger and the frustration, the powerlessness, we feel in the face of evils such as this oil-in-water-

catastrophe? The question may seem as hard to answer as the one of how to deal with a well blow-out 1500 m below the sea. While outrage is appropriate given what has happened, outrage by itself is like an uncontrolled explosion. Outrage can be an important safety valve. But outrage by itself is not enough for things to change. Wisdom and courage are needed, and these are qualities of character that demand of us self-control.

The Bible says: "No one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit." (John 3:5)



When we are baptized we are washed with water in the name of the Creator (Father), the Redeemer (Son), and the Counselor (Holy Spirit). After the washing with water the pastor places both hands on the person and says: "You have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the

cross of Christ forever." With that a cross is traced on the forehead. Traditionally, oil has been used for this purpose. The sealing by the Spirit is the "Christening" - which literally means "anointing" - with oil.

Oil and water seem to contradict each other. But in Baptism they go together. Because our baptism says you are embraced by Him who embraces all the contradictions of our lives. The imagery of water and oil says: In all the contradic-
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Recognize this? See page 5

REMINDER: Summer Worship Times

July 4 to August 29

German Service 9:00 AM English Service 10:30 AM

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tions of this world and of your life, you belong with him who died on a cross and rose from the grave. You are given the Spirit of him who was anointed with oil as the Messiah (Christ) before the flood of suffering and death swept over him. And as with Jesus, that Spirit produces in us the fruits of new life. That Spirit produces life where we only expected to see death. That Spirit gives wisdom and courage where we want to resign ourselves to the way things are. That Spirit produces love where we feel hatred, joy where we are sad, patience where we are ready to "blow". That Spirit teaches gentleness and self-control where now there is only outrage. (see Galatians 5:22-23)

It is a well-known fact that oil production in Alberta uses great amounts of water and that the tar sands in our province's north leave behind huge ponds of toxic tailings. Shrinking water supplies combined with ever increasing demand has our politicians threatening to make water a market commodity. Those with deep pockets, such as oil companies, will be able to afford to take the water they need to keep their businesses afloat. But farmers, anglers, and the rest of us will find it more difficult. While the hazards of deep-sea drilling are now obvious to all, the effects of tar-sand oil production on our land and waterways is

**Save us from
weak resignation
to the evils we
deplore**

largely out of public view.

Wisdom teaches us to conserve resources and develop clean renewable forms of energy. The Spirit of God would teach us to control our appetites for energy in general and oil in particular. Wisdom would also have us question the way our economy, society, and political system function (or don't). Courage would have us speak frankly about these things and work and vote for change.

Our baptism with water and sealing with oil does **not** mean that we are saved from the challenges of this life for an eternal life in heaven. It means rather that we are thrown into a mix of daily contradictions and told that we can swim. We are baptized into Christ's death and resurrection. It means that we are called to a sacrificial life of wisdom and courage and self-control. It means we are called to announce the rule of Christ to all the powers that be.

How do water and oil mix in your baptismal life? What wise and courageous decisions are you making in response to the evils you deplore? Can you imagine what would happen, if Christians everywhere took this call seriously!?

Wishing you a summer filled with the fruits of the Spirit,

Pastor Markus Wilhelm

Thoughts from Across the Lane

by Nowlane Milner

"Be careful what you wish for, you just might receive an unexpected surprise."

I received an unexpected wish on June 8th, 2010. Let me tell you about it. First, I need to tell you what the wish was and how it happened. A few days earlier I had a conversation with Pastor Ingrid and Karen Triomphe about the new "Trinity Team". I was looking for inspiration for a topic to write about. We bounced several ideas around, but I just wasn't sure if they were the right subject for this "Team." I ended the conversations with "I need a Divine Inspiration!"

Tuesday June 8th, was one of those days with many small errands. The weather was cool with a northwest wind and a light spotted shower. By 5:00p.m. I began to wonder if the Community Dinner BBQ was going to take place outdoors or if we were going to hold it in the Luther Center. The cloud began to clear and the sun shone and the wind calmed down; it was turning out to be a great evening for a BBQ. The church kitchen was busy with volunteers preparing our evening meal. Outside a group of homeless volunteers was helping to set up the tables. At every turn I was being asked "What can I do to help?"

The food was ready. The invitation to come and eat was

given as everyone began to fill their plates; I was taking a couple of photos so I could pass them to the other 5 churches involved in preparing this meal. I stood there in awe of this incredible sight as I watched members of our homeless community gather. Talking with everyone and seeing our food bank clients coming for their evening meal I saw neighbours coming out to see what was happening in our church parking lot; they also stayed for a bit to eat. I felt very overwhelmed in that moment in time because I knew that God was present at this gathering of friends. Bill and I joined in having dinner and I got a chance to introduce him to the people I had dinner with for the last 2 years.

After dinner Bill went home and I went to work at the food bank helping to hand out food hampers with my two food bank partners. The one comment I kept on hearing all evening was "What an incredible idea and Thank You for the meal." For many new clients it was a place that made them feel at home, and it was okay to ask for help.

Afterwards I went home and told Bill about the rest of
...see *An Unexpected Gift* - page 3

An Unexpected Gift - continued from page 2

the evening and what people were saying. I began telling him about the 2 University Students I met, who needed help with a food hamper once in awhile. They didn't realize that Trinity Church was a depot for the main food bank. They were truly grateful for the information and for the help of a small hamper we were able to give them. I told him about the young woman who had been sitting beside him. She began the evening by sitting on a stump in between two parked cars to have her meal. Over the past 2 years she has been living on the street in Edmonton. She has come to the monthly meals and always sat alone. She was very wary of strangers. Having her join us in the table conversation just gave me joy in my heart. WOW.

Bill asked me about the young man that I had given a hug to as I had introduced him to Bill. I told him that he and his girl friend were former food bank clients and had been coming for dinner for the past 2 years. They needed more than just food each month. They had been going through a rough patch in their relationship and took guidance and prayer from the pastor's and those who help with fellowship each month. He was able to get his journeymen's papers and find a stable job. They now come and talk with others who struggle and keep us up to date with how they are doing.

At the table where we had been sitting was a man who had been on the street for the last 10 years moving from city to city... He would keep saying "I don't know if I can continue living off the streets. I'm not sure I could survive another winter." He wanted a place to live and a place to call his own. His wish came true. With the help of one of the Pastors and help from the Provincial Government, he is getting a fresh start at life. He now has an apartment, and is receiving AISH and has the security he was looking for. He continues to help other homeless youth teaching them how to stay safe if they continue to live on the streets. For some young adults living back home is better than the streets. They want to be reunited with their family. He has taught them listening and communication skills. He has told both Bill and I about his faith in God and wanting to help others. Before he hit on hard times he worked as a very skilled wood carpenter. He would design intricate patterns for a National Embassy in Ottawa, Ontario. We have met for lunch or coffee outside of the community dinners and I'm proud to call him one of my friends.

As the BBQ took place, I saw Pastor Ingrid Doerschel talking to a young family with 3 small children. The children were enjoying a snack and some juice. I had a chance to talk to Pastor Ingrid about the family. They too had seen

the BBQ and were curious about what was happening in our parking lot. They were interested to find information about Vacation Bible School and Church services. I also talked to another family about V.B.S.

Pastor Ingrid reminded me that it took a lot of persistence to get permission to host the Community Dinner. The dinner now has 8 – 10 churches that continue to participate throughout the year. We are helping to feed over 50 people each month. We are hoping that when September comes we are able to start the next year with another BBQ and welcome back this unique community of friends.

Later, during our conversation at home, I tried to explain to Bill why this gathering was so important to me. There was one more story about another family that would come to the dinners. They have a 10 month old boy about the same age as my great nephew. The gatherings gave me a



chance to see the little boy grow bigger each month. My favourite part of the evening was learning more about their culture and holding their son as they ate supper or while they packed their food hamper from the Food bank. They have been able to move closer to their immediate family with a \$500.00 less a month in rent. I'm now able to keep in touch by email and occasionally receive photos of their son growing up.

I received my wish. My "Divine Inspiration" was granted to me. I got to be present at this dinner; the table was set for all to come and share their hope, faith, friendship, and the willingness to help wherever they can. The people I have met over the last 2 year have shown me their unique social consciousness for those around them, in spite of the needs that may be in their own personal lives.

This is a lesson that I take to heart when I see others in need. Hopefully this is a lesson we all can learn from.

Bishop's Message for July/August 2010

The ABT Synod Convention is completed; it's a done deal. A bishop was re-elected. A new assistant to the bishop (the Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer) was selected by the bishop and Synod Council concurred by issuing Pastor Kochendorfer a call to special service. Resolutions on pending water allocation in Alberta were passed by the Convention. National Bishop Susan Johnson articulated the case for restructuring the Church, and sought the feedback of Convention delegates to inform the work of the Task Force on Restructuring.

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

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

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

for both people; but the difference is found within each person.

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

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

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

Called into Worship

Come, praise the Lord - Psalm 134:1-2

Summer Worship Times

July 4 to August 29

German Service: 9:00AM

English Service: 10:30AM

For children 3-11 years old:

Every Sunday until Sunday School starts again join Gina Friedrich in the Social Room following Kids Talk for your own devotions. Thanks to Gina's mom Karen Goldstone for helping Gina with this big task.

Rally Sunday: September 12

Partners in Faith Sunday: September 26

Confirmation: October 31

God is Everywhere

Or

You Don't Have to be Home to Worship

Summer is here again and many of us will be taking the opportunity to travel and experience more of God's wonderful creation. But just because you're travelling doesn't mean you can't worship. Consider attending a Sunday Service where you are staying. Take the time for devotions when you are awestruck by God's creation. Pray for the other people traveling, for those at home that can't travel, for those at home that need help and support and for those that have no home.

But don't forget your home congregation if you're away. Ministry happens here every day of the year and your support; your volunteer hours, your prayers and your dollars are important to keeping that ministry alive and well all year round.

Happy trails.

Called into Learning

As I learn your righteous rulings, I will praise you with a pure heart. - Psalm 119: 7, 15, 130

Vacation Bible School

VBS WILL BE HELD MONDAY TO THURSDAY JULY 12TH TO 15TH
FROM 9:30 AM-12:30 PM.

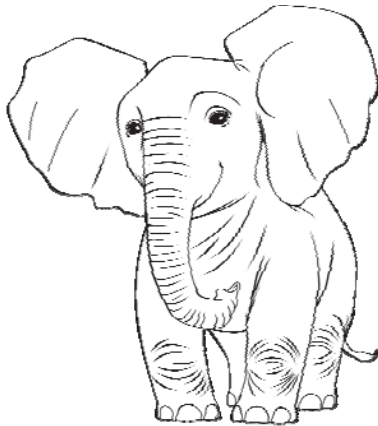
BAOBAB BLAST

BRING YOUR CHILDREN AND BRING THEIR FRIENDS AND JOIN US FOR A TIME OF ADVENTURE AT VBS. WE WILL LEARN ABOUT CHILDREN IN AFRICA AND SOME OF THE ANIMALS THERE BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY WE WILL BE LEARNING ABOUT BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS IN GOD'S COMMUNITY.

JULY 12-15TH, 9:30 - 12:30 PM

COST IS \$20/PERSON OR
\$50 FOR A FAMILY

Please contact
Karen and check
out the atrium for
the volunteer sheet
if you are inter-
ested in this ad-
venture



PLEASE REGISTER
SOON TO HELP US
WITH OUR PLANNING.
REGISTRATION
SHEETS MAY BE
PICKED UP IN THE
ATRIUM.



Called into Service

What can I offer to the Lord for all his goodness to me? I am your servant, Lord. - Psalm 116: 12, 16-19

COMMUNITY TREE

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Leaf Project this past year.

The Leaf Groups gives everyone a place to belong. If you are not part of a designated leaf group please see Karen Triomphé to be assigned to a group.

It was a pleasure to see the group participation this past year and to see how people were getting to know each other.

Schedule for the Leaf Groups for 2010/2011

September 2010
October 2010
November 2010
December 2010
January 2011
February 2011
March 2011
April 2011
May 2011
June 2011

Royal Leaf (Purple & Gold)
Light Green Leaf
Orange Leaf
Red Leaf
Beize Leaf
Yellow Leaf
Dark Green
Royal Leaf
Light Green
Orange Leaf

Our Church Family

How wonderful it is, how pleasant, for God's people to live together like brothers and sisters - Psalm 133:1

Report on the 13th Biennial Convention Synod of Alberta and the Territories, ELCIC June 3-6, 2010 Augustana Campus, Camrose Alberta

Trinity was represented at this convention by delegates Rosanne Thede, Talita Klingbeil, and myself, Darlene Schindel, our pastoral staff, Pastor Ingrid, Karen Triomphe, council members Guillaume Morency and Frank Thede. Frank has served as official parliamentarian to the synod for many years, and his service and expertise is applauded and appreciated.

The theme for this year's convention was "Rooted in Christ; Clothed with Joy", based on Colossians 2:6,7 "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

It is the responsibility of your delegates to report back on the proceedings of the convention, and there was much to cover. Providing this brief overview report will only serve as an introduction of some of the official business conducted. An important and powerful part of the convention for me was the connecting with fellow Lutherans from across the province, and the northern territories. The worship services were filled with wonderful music and singing and inspired messages, delivered by some of the most gifted pastors.

Prior to attending the convention, I had been asked by the Synod office to serve on the Reference in Council committee, which reviews all petitions for presentation to the delegates to ensure compliance with synod policy and procedure, wording and technical accuracy and so forth. This was an interesting experience and required a fair bit of preparation prior to arriving in Camrose.

For details of the convention, please refer to the Synod website <http://www.albertasynod.ca/> and click on the convention icon.

A few highlights to share:

- Bishop Mayan was re-elected for another term
- Pastor Phil Hink has retired and will be leaving the Synod office after serving as the assistant to the Bishop for over 15 years in his 42 year career in ministry. We will miss him in and around trinity, since his office was always right upstairs in the Synod office.
- Several excellent workshops were attended by the

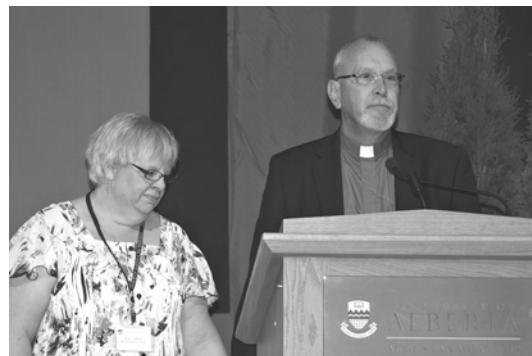
Trinity members including, *Enhancing worship through Projection, Building the Future church: Understanding Youth Ministry today, Social Media and the Mission of the Church* and others

- Lutheran Campus Ministry Edmonton received major funding for major renovations to Luther House on the UofA campus
 - Insightful report on the Task force on Clergy and Family Stress and Breakdown lead by Pastor Tim Posyluzny. This should now be addressed at each local church
 - Faithlife Financial update
- Bethany Group report
- ELCA Global Mission
- Recognition of rostered church leaders from 25 – 40 years of service
- Review of the structure and purpose of the National Church of Canada, reports by Bishop Susan Jackson
- Canadian Lutheran World Relief report
- Our Pastor Markus Wilhelm elected to Synod Council

There will be more information forthcoming from the convention proceedings as the Synod Council and our own council continues to lead us forward as a church. For me personally, this was an experience of renewal of my faith, and the work that God has for all of us, with our individual skills, talents and abilities. If we all put those God given gifts to work for him, in his mission we can be a powerful tool for Him.

...more to come.

Darlene Schindel



Bishop Ronald Mayan and his wife Dianne

Our Church Family Notes from Church Council

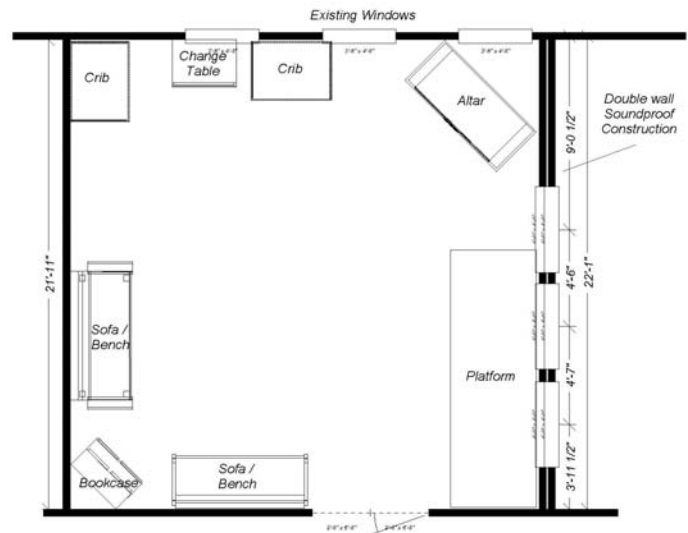
Update on the Children's Chapel

We want worship at Trinity to be an uplifting and fulfilling experience for all our members. We have an active worship committee and a sub-group that leads the planning for our Partners in Faith services. Our Sunday School has held several meetings with Sunday School parents to better understand the worship needs of our younger families. Many parents shared that they want to worship with their children but they are concerned that the normal sounds the children make, even when doing quiet activities, disturbs the worship for other parishioners. They asked us to develop a worship space that would help reduce this concern.

At a special congregational meeting on May 16 the congregation approved moving ahead with converting the chapel into a space that would function as a worship space for young families. The existing partition wall will be replaced by a permanent sound proof wall with 3 large windows in it to provide visual connection to the sanctuary. The flooring in the room will be covered with a new carpet to further control the sound. The access to the room will remain through the current doors. The sound from the sanctuary will be fed into the room with an extension speaker. The existing altar will be retained in the room to help create a worshipful atmosphere in the space.

We have received many helpful suggestions from interested parents and others in the congregation. Parents have asked that the windows allow the children to watch what's happening in the church as well, we are planning to build a platform in front of some of the windows to lower the window sill so younger children can watch what's happening in church without having to be lifted up. The German choir has asked that we try to accommodate using the

chapel as a rehearsal space for the choir before Sunday services, since many of the members are finding it increasingly difficult to navigate the stairs up from the basement. The sketch below gives an idea of what the space might look like:



We have an estimated budget for construction and furnishings of about \$10,000 to be raised by special appeal. To date we have about \$4000 committed. To contribute to the construction and furnishing of the Children's Chapel please designate your special offering to the Children's Chapel Appeal. If you are interested in helping with the construction please let Karen know or just leave your name and contact information with the church office. We are planning to have the construction completed for Rally Sunday this fall.

The Fringe at Trinity

IL DUO is a dynamic musical comedy group in the style of Smothers Brothers and other comedy duos. Their brand of musical silliness leaves no note unsung and no heart string unplucked! Il Duo has been stunning audiences since early 2010, and plan to stun the rest of the world very soon.

This audience participation show is great for the whole family, and has been performed in a variety of situations including church sanctuaries, school gymnasiums, and theatres of all sizes and shapes. The show explores many varieties of music including popera, classical, Broadway, folk and jazz.

Il Duo approached church council a few months ago with a request to use Trinity as a venue for their Fringe production. Marleen and Dieter Gruenberg attended one of the Il Duo performances and reported to council that the

show was fun, engaging and in good taste for audiences of all ages.

Il Duo Productions will rent our church sanctuary during the 2010 Edmonton Fringe Festival - August 12 to 22nd. Their show will run at 7:30pm every night for just over an hour. They have entered a profit sharing arrangement with Trinity receiving 10 percent of ticket sales. Various groups from Trinity are being invited to run a concession at each performance as a fund raiser for the group involved.

Not only is this a good fund raising opportunity for Trinity, but it is a good opportunity for outreach as new people become familiar with our location and our church. So sometime from August 12-22 plan on taking in the show here at Trinity.

The Wider Community

Youth Ministry

The following people will be attending the National Youth Gathering in August:

Ian Watson, Nathan Hay, Austin Hildebrandt, Andrew Lotz, Aidan McBride, Keira Schindel, Hillary Schindel, Lenea Becker, Ella Wilhelm, Katelynn Trainer and Julianne Watson.

Guillaume Morency and Karen Triomphe will also be attending the gathering as part of the planning committee.

The Youth wish to thank everyone for their wonderful support in helping the youth reach their financial goal to attend the gathering.

THANK YOU TRINITY

The "A-Team" Serving Easter Breakfast



Thanks to all the Trinity Men who helped out and to Larry Schindel for getting the team together for this event.

Looking Ahead

Summer Services - July 4 to August 29

9:00 am in German
10:30 am in English

September 5

German Service - 9:30 am
English Service - 11:00 am

Rally Sunday - September 12

German Service - 9:30 am
English Service - 11:00 am
Sunday School Registration - 10:45 am

Partners in Faith Service -

September 26 - 11:00 am

Confirmation

Sunday - October 31, 2010

The Trinity Team is a publication of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Edmonton, Alberta. The Team is published 3-4 times a year - in August, in December, in February, and in June under the auspices of the Communications Committee. Next publication date: August, 2010. Deadline for submissions for next issue - August 12, 2010. The Team is intended to serve the members of Trinity Lutheran Church as a comprehensive communications tool. The editors welcome your comments or questions. Please submit all Team articles, information, comments or questions to: TrinityTeam@shaw.ca or drop them off at the church office - Attn: Trinity Team © Trinity Lutheran Church, 2010 Source should be acknowledged if material reproduce in whole or in part.