



Trinity Team

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Easter 2011

“Waiting into Resting”

“I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.”Psalm 130:5-6

How often do we cry out to the Lord, “Lord hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!”Psalm 130:1-2. And then we wait!

Waiting can perhaps be the most difficult task for any person. We wait in line-ups, in doctor’s offices; to hear news - good or bad, but with waiting there is the aspect of hope. We hope in the one that can provide comfort during these difficult times, to be with us as we wait so that we are not alone, and to celebrate with us in the good times.

The season of Lent is often seen as a time of waiting, reflecting, and listening. It can be a peaceful, meditative time of drawing closer to God; reflecting on His word and what it means for our life and listening to that inner voice that can bring us ever closer to our Saviour.

Lent can also be seen as a time of waiting for Easter and spring to arrive. How we like to get over the waiting part of our lives for the newness of life to arrive. But without waiting and allowing the expectation of hope to fill our being we can miss a vital step in understanding the true beauty and love of that new life.

This Easter the youth at Trinity held the Easter Vigil with the theme of waiting - leading to resting in the Lord. They looked at the various passages of Scripture that speak to this theme. In each pas-

sage the idea of waiting was portrayed through an emotion. These emotions were usually negative and yet in yielding to the moment to ponder, the outcome was transformed to a positive emotion.

The youth began the vigil with a time of silence. At first, silence is refreshing, a chance to sit and catch your breath, something most of us could use a lot of. As the time stretches out, however, impatience begins to set in and a sense of “What’s wrong” begins to take shape. Shuffling, coughing or just a general unrest is the result. What happened to the sense of

contentment experienced just a few moments before? Why is it so difficult to just wait?

After the silence a portrayal of the disciples sitting in the room huddled together, shaken, disturbed, not

knowing what has really happened and questioning, wondering what is about to happen. Jesus has just been crucified! What does this mean for them? There is no mention in Scripture regarding what the disciples did on that day but we can imagine them in a room filled with fear, doubt, anger, frustration and a sense of nowhere to turn. What would they do now and where would they turn? How often have we felt these emotions? What can we do with them?

The disciples had to wait until the moment that Jesus had prepared for them. On Easter he arose and he went to the disciples. This was his time to help them

...see **Waiting** - page 2



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deal with their emotions, address their questions and give further directions. The waiting must have been dreadful but He did come, and He did help. He is still the one to rest our hope upon.

Now the wait is over. It is Easter and Jesus has risen! He is alive. Jesus has risen! He has shown us that there is more than this life, there is eternal life and eternal love. Jesus has risen, He has risen indeed!

Jesus will always be there to help us with our own troubles but while we wait we need to know that he is right there waiting with us, allowing us to change the waiting into resting. Resting in the knowledge that he is the one that can take us from desperation to the expectation of something good to come.

I'd like to thank Edna Jabs for this prayer that I found in the display case she decorated:

The Work of Waiting

God when you ask me to wait;

I will obey and place my hope in your great love and
faithfulness.

Amen.

**Bishop's Message for Easter 2011**

In my devotional readings this Easter season, I have come across prayers of Dag Hammarskjöld, Swedish by birth, and Lutheran by faith. He was not a great theologian of his day. He was a deeply spiritual man who spent his life in service to the human family. The hallmark of that service was his election as the second Secretary General of the United Nations, which post he occupied with distinction, until his tragic death in a plane crash in Rhodesia. John F. Kennedy said, at news of Hammarskjöld's death: "I realize now that in comparison to him, I am a small man. He was the greatest statesman of our century". Hammarskjöld personally undertook the providing for and construction of a meditation room at the UN Headquarters. Some authors referred to him as "the secular pope". It is clear that – while not in an overt or forceful way – his faith informed his dealings in all aspects of his life, including his work with the nations and the leaders of the world in his role as Secretary General. His only book, *Markings*, a selection of his diary reflections over his adult life, was published in 1963. One of my favorite of Hammarskjöld's prayers, eloquent because of its dearth of words, is this one: "For what has been, thank-you! For what will be, Amen!" Here is another of his prayers for your post-Easter meditation (from *For All The Saints: A Prayer Book For And By The Church*, Vol. 1, American Lutheran Publicity Bureau):

God –

Thou who art over us,

*Thou who art one of us,
Thou who art –
Also within us.*

May all see Thee – in me also.

May I prepare the way for Thee,

May I thank Thee for all that shall fall to my lot,

May I also not forget the needs of others,

Keep me in Thy love

As Thou wouldst that all should be kept in mine.

*May everything in this my being be directed to
Thy glory*

And may I never despair.

For I am under Thy hand,

And in Thee is all power and goodness.

Give me a pure heart – that I may see Thee,

A humble heart – that I may hear Thee,

A heart of love – that I may serve Thee,

A heart of faith – that I may abide in Thee.

Amen.

+Ronald B. Mayan, Bishop

Synod of Alberta and the Territories,

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Pssst...have you been to our new website yet?

When winter finally leaves, I start making daily rounds of our yard, looking for the first signs of new life: swelling buds, a greening blade of grass, a shoot poking through the earth. I seem to discover something new every day, and even if I don't, I rejoice again in what I discovered yesterday. For me these daily rounds are as fun and satisfying as an Easter egg hunt. And I get to do it every day!

Well, there is also a new thing to discover at Trinity that is emerging and growing. Our redesigned website is up and running! Some of you have found it already, perhaps by chance, but we want all of you to know about it. The communication committee has spent long hours thinking about the types of pages we want and populating these pages. Right now, about 60 of 80 planned pages are accessible. So go online and check it out! You can google something like "Trinity Lutheran Edmonton" or "Trinity Church Edmonton" or "Lutheran Church Edmonton", and our website will be on the first page of hits. Or you can type in this link: <http://www.trinity-lutheran.ab.ca/>

The website is bilingual. You can switch between languages by clicking on the flags at the right end of the horizontal navigation bar. Currently, there is less German than English content, but we are filling new pages regularly, and overall, we are updating the website often. Particularly the *home page* (or *Startseite*), the page called *worship* (*Gottesdienste*) and the page *news & notes* (*Aktuell*) change frequently. So, we encourage you to make your daily or weekly rounds, and discover something new on each visit.

After Easter, we will offer a website workshop for people who are interested in managing the page of the

group or area they are involved in (e.g., Sunday School, Social Justice Committee, Trinetten). Please watch online and in bulletins for announcements of this workshop. You can also let us, the communication committee, know that you are interested.

Now, this time of year is not only about spring, and Easter is not only about hunting for Easter eggs. And our website, too, is not just a fun new toy that we have, or a cool new tool for Trinity. In essence, the website, like all of "church", all of Trinity (and certainly all of Easter), is about the Gospel. We want the website to communicate that God loves us, loves everybody unconditionally. We want it to attract people to God. And we want the website to remind and inspire us and every visitor to pursue this love in their daily living. This is why the motto right below our name reads *found by grace—called to love* (*Gnade erfahren—Liebe leben*). And this is also why we tried to make the first three paragraphs of the home page as appealing and hopeful as possible. We invite you all to read these sentences and think about them.

We truly hope that God will use these new pages on the internet. And we also hope that when people come to visit our actual church, they find Trinity as nice a place, with people as authentic and open as we say on the website. This means you and me: Let us, each of us, ask God to fill us with love and honesty and hope, so we are those real people with each other, with visitors to church, and with everyone we meet.

*Andrea Wilhelm
for the Communication Committee*

Sarah Rudd Consecrated as a Diaconal Minister

On Saturday, April 9, 2011, Sarah Rudd, a long time member of Trinity and an active part of our youth ministry for many years celebrated her consecration as a Diaconal Minister in the ELCIC. Here's her message for us:



This past month I had the privilege of being consecrated as a diaconal minister called to Holy Spirit Lutheran Church. My ministry began with you at Trinity, from a child in the pews to a youth in the vigil. I served as a youth leader from 2000-2004 and volunteered with a number of committees. My time of service and community at Trinity was where I discovered who I am as a child of God and where I started growing into the minister I am today. Thank you to all of you who have been my church family. I thank God for the fantastic relationships we still share and for the familiar way our two churches work together. Blessings to Trinity and all of you as members and hopefully we'll have lots of chances to continue to minister together.

Sarah Rudd.

Called into Worship

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

Anglicans and Lutherans

On July 6, 2001, Canadian Anglicans and Lutherans proclaimed their full communion relationship with the signing of the Waterloo Declaration. 2011 marks the 10th anniversary of this historic and holy moment. With the signing, congregations are encouraged to strengthen their relationship with the full communion partner in the neighbourhood.

For the past several years, Holy Trinity Anglican and Trinity Lutheran have been building connections in various ministries e.g., in youth ministry, World Day of Prayer and the community dinners. To develop our relationship further, we recently began to participate and to preach in each other worship services. To build our relationship further we will be celebrating joint worship services on Ascension Day and on Trinity Sunday.

Lutherans and Anglicans share a common heritage. Both churches were part of the Church in Western Europe before the 16th century Reformation and have been shaped by that reformation. They emerged from the Reformation believing themselves to hold to the same faith, to preach the same word, to celebrate the same sacraments and to exercise the same ministry as the apostles. Both churches have been established national churches in Europe. Yet, historically, they have lived separate and parallel existences.

We cordially invite you to learn more about the history of the Anglican and the history of the Lutheran church. Therefore we will be offering studies at both of our churches and at other places:

Learning Opportunities

Tuesday, 10th of May, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m

At: Holy Trinity Anglican, 10037 – 84 Ave.

Introduction to the history of the Anglican Church. Reception following

Tuesday, 17th of May, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m

At: Trinity Lutheran Ev. Church, 10014 – 81 Ave.

Introduction to the history of the Lutheran Church. Reception following

Tuesday, 24th of May, 7:00 p.m

At: Elephant Castle, 10314 – 82 Ave.

What does it mean to be an Anglican today?

Tuesday, 31st of May, 7:00 p.m.

(Location to be announced)

What does it mean to be a Lutheran today?

Joint Worship Opportunities:

Joint Service on Ascension Day (Himmelfahrtstag)

Thursday, June 2nd

Trinity Lutheran at 7:00 p.m. (bilingual service)

Joint Service Trinity Sunday, June 19th

10:00 a.m.: Combined Service of the Word at Trinity Lutheran

Procession to Holy Trinity Anglican on foot, by bike, by car.

Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Anglican

English – German picnic to follow in the gardens of Holy Trinity Anglican.

Please watch our bulletin for further information. If you have questions or comments, please talk to one of the pastors. Thank you!

Summer Worship Times

For the months of July and August this summer our services will be 1/2 hour earlier than usual, based on feedback from the service times used last summer.

From July 3 to August 28, 2011

German Service: 9:00 AM

English Service: 10:30 AM



Called into Learning

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

Church Health Team

*“I know the plans I have for you” declares the LORD,
“plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.
Call upon me and come and pray to me,
and I will listen to you.”*

Jeremiah 29:11-12

Trinity Lutheran Church is stepping forward with revitalizing our spiritual and congregational life using the **Natural Church Development (NCD) program**. NCD is a plan to renew and revitalize our congregation, and it is very simple:

1. We pray for our church and its future.
2. We find an area of our church life that most needs improvement.
3. We make a one-year plan for improvements and we work on making those improvements.

The next year we may repeat the process. In this way, we will steadily make improvements in the areas that need it the most.

The NCD program is guided by the Church Health Team: Marleen Gruenberg, Marvin Davis, Norm Jede, Dorothea Pfalz, Megan Broomhall, Margarete Schwarz, Pr. Markus Wilhelm

PRAYER: We ask you to pray for the future of our church. Pray that we'll find God's plan for our congregation. Please let members of the NCD health team know that you will pray. Our Team and our Church will feel encouraged and strengthened knowing that they are lifted up by your prayers.

SURVEY: A survey is filled out by selected members of the congregation. The responses will enable us to determine the area of our church life where improvement is most desirable. Those who fill out the surveys will be selected based on several factors: activity in the church, age, gender and language preference (German/English). Not everyone can be asked. So...if you are not asked to fill out a survey, know that the reason was in part due to “chance factors”. Names will be selected by June and the survey will be completed in September.

WORK: Participation by every member is required in the second and third phases. In November, you will be asked to bring your best ideas and suggestions to the table for

improving the area we have identified in the survey. The Church Health Team will then create a one-year plan with the help of key leaders for the area.

Finally everyone will be involved in the implementation of the plan.

The cycle may be repeated the following year.

Why NCD?

Church Council has been working on creating a strategic plan for our congregation. In the last few years we have seen our overall membership and worship attendance shrink. We are concerned but do not understand why this is happening.

As we were considering our situation Pastor Markus returned from a Professional Development session at Saskatoon with news about a program that helps churches identify what they need to support a healthy growing congregation.

Natural Church Development (NCD) is a **paradigm** – a way of thinking about church growth. Growth should be about quality (health) and not just quantity (numbers). In fact NCD suggests that quality should take priority over quantity in church growth thinking.

At the heart of the paradigm is the Scriptural picture of the church as a living organism, not just an organization (albeit a spiritual one). Looking at the church "organically" gives us a different perspective on what "growth" means. The growth of organisms focuses on their health, their capacity to reproduce, and how the individual 'body' parts interact. They are grown, not built. They are nurtured, not assembled.

The NCD paradigm says that if church growth is about growing an organism, the *health* (quality) of the organism will have a direct impact on its *size* (quantity). If a church becomes increasingly healthy over time, it is more likely and better able to reproduce disciples, ministries and eventually itself.

We have been tracking the numbers of people in Sunday services but really have no true sense whether the members of the church community are growing to greater spiritual maturity and contributing all they can to God's work. Is size really a true measure of health? The NCD paradigm helps you think about growing your church as a healthy living organism.

... see **NCD** - page 5

Called Into Learning

NCD - continued from page 5

Why do we need to do a survey?

At the heart of the NCD process is a sophisticated diagnostic tool, the NCD Survey. The Survey was developed in Germany and is based on the only comprehensive international research ever done into what causes churches to grow or decline. The NCD Survey complies with the highest international statistical standards for validity and reliability.

Surveys are done annually, offering an accurate up-to-date "snapshot" of your church's health. Each Survey enables the church leadership to see the current state of health, how the church's health has changed over the previous year, and what areas need greatest attention over the coming year. Put several "snapshots" together and you have a motion picture of the life of your church. This reveals longer term trends, enabling you to identify and address the most significant issues impacting long term health and growth.

Just like a blood test or an MRI can tell a doctor things about the health of a patient that cannot be easily diagnosed by looking at the patient, so the NCD survey serves as a diagnostic tool to help church leaders understand the overall health of the congregation.

As one Canadian leader so eloquently put it, "It gives every church leader the clear view of their church from 40,000 feet that they need when so much time is spent in the day-to-day."

What Can I Do?

The Church Health Team has taken responsibility for managing the implementation of NCD at Trinity. If you want more information about the NCD process please speak with any member of the church health team or any member of church council.

Frank Thede

Called into Giving

Happy is the person, who is generous - Psalm 112: 5 & 9

Opportunities to help Relieve World Disasters

JAPAN

UPDATE: CLWR will work with Church World Service (CWS) to deliver humanitarian aid to Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Victims

CLWR is partnering with Church World Service (CWS) to support the relief effort in Japan after the 9.0-magnitude earthquake and tsunami struck the northeast coast. As of March 16, 11,512 people have been confirmed dead or missing with fear of thousands more unaccounted for. More than 460,000 people are living in evacuation sites.

"Church World Service is mandated to work in Japan and is well equipped to take on the role of providing relief to victims of the earthquake and tsunami," says Robert



Granke, executive director of CLWR. "Our partnership with CWS will make a real impact on addressing this horrible disaster."

COLUMBIA

UPDATE: CLWR Issues Emergency Appeal for Columbia Flood Victims

Over two million people in northern and central Columbia are affected by the country's worst flooding in over 30 years. Heavy rains that began in April 2010 due to La Nina weather phenomenon has left almost 300 people dead. Hundreds of thousands of Columbians are living in temporary shelters and relying on food aid. Approximately 680,000 hectares of farmland have been destroyed.

CLWR is appealing to Canadians for financial support for relief operations underway to assist the people of Columbia. CLWR, through its membership in the ACT alliance, a 100 member international ecumenical coalition, will take emergency and rehabilitation action in the regions most affected by the weather.

For more information about opportunities to support CLWR see: www.clwr.org. Donations can be made through www.clwr.org/donate, left at the office at Trinity or included in your Sunday offering envelope.

Please continue to keep the victims of natural and man-made disasters in your prayers.

Called into Action

Teach me, Lord, what you want me to do and I will obey you faithfully - Psalm 86:11

C A P I T A L R E G I O N I N T E R F A I T H S T A T E M E N T O N Homelessness & Affordable Housing

On March 17, 2011, Trinity Lutheran Church was one of many local congregations that signed an Interfaith Statement on Homelessness and Affordable Housing.

The text of the statement follows:

We, leaders of different religious and spiritual communities in Edmonton and area, come together to express our shared commitment to eliminate homelessness in our community. We support the challenging goals of A Place to Call Home: Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness.

Over the years, religious and spiritual communities have done much to meet the needs of men, women and children living in poverty in our community, and have often been leaders in helping to create affordable housing opportunities for those in need. This historical engagement provides a solid foundation for us to do even more both now and in the future.

The successful launch of Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End homelessness provides an historic opportunity for us to move beyond previous short-term strategies of managing homelessness, and to commit to a long term goal of actually eliminating homelessness in our community. Leaders from government, business, community, faith, and social service sectors have come together in common cause to develop and launch Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness. This shared commitment has been a major factor in the successes achieved so far in the first year of the Plan's implementation.

Call to Action

- We call for our religious and spiritual communities to work together more closely and make a major contribution to the success of this Plan. Our religious and spiritual communities share important values: respect for human dignity, solidarity with those who are poor and

vulnerable, and an affirmation of the importance of inclusive and welcoming communities where individuals and families can thrive.

- We recognize that safe, stable, and affordable housing is a key part of this human thriving. Everyone needs a place that can truly be called home. Religious and spiritual communities and individual community members are present in every part of the city, and we commit to continue and
- expand our presence in neighbourhood and city wide homelessness and affordable housing initiatives.
- We commit our own religious and spiritual communities to continue to support present initiatives, to find new and creative ways to take action in support of Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness and address the issues of homelessness and affordable housing in our communities.
- We have prepared a Congregational Housing Action Guide to support and encourage our congregations in addressing these issues in an effective manner.
- We invite everyone from all sectors of society in Edmonton to become part of this important initiative to eliminate homelessness by committing to learn more about the causes of homelessness in our city, and to participate in specific actions in support of our homeless brothers and sisters in a spirit of solidarity and mutual respect.
- We call upon leaders of all orders of government to continue their public leadership for Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, and to provide the necessary program funding in the years ahead so that the ambitious goal of eliminating homelessness can be truly realized.

...see Homelessness - page 8)

Called Into Action

Homelessness from page 7...

Members of 23 different faith communities in the Edmonton area gathered at the Citadel Theatre to sign the Shared Interfaith Statement on Homelessness and Affordable Housing.



Pictured are, left to right:

Back row: Balvant Gandhi, Hindu Society of Alberta; Marion Perrin, Board of Elders, Moravian Church in Canada; Patricia Hartnagel, Edmonton Monthly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers); Jim Larsen, Moderator, Edmonton Lakeland Presbytery, Presbyterian Church in Canada; Rev. Mike van Boom, Pastor, First Christian Reformed Church; Archbishop Richard W. Smith, The Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton; Dr. Randy Randhawa, Siri Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara of Alberta; Rev. Brian Kiely, President, International Council of Unitarians and Universalists; Rev. Don Koots, Chair, Edmonton Presbytery, United Church of Canada; Rev. John Pasma, President, Edmonton and District Council of Churches.

Front row: Rabbi David Kunin, Beth Shalom Synagogue; Rev. Bob Gal, President, Edmonton Evangelical Ministerial Association; Master Lin Ho, Chin Yin Tang Buddhist Temple; Wil (Wilfred) Campbell, Elder, Native Counselling Services of Alberta; Dr. Steven Aung, President, International Buddhist Friends Association; Major Fred Waters, Division Commander, The Salvation Army, Alberta and Northern Territories Division; Masood Peracha, Chair, The Edmonton Council of Muslim Communities; Pam Reichenbach, Associate Pastor, Strathcona Baptist Church; Bishop Jane Alexander, Anglican Diocese of Edmonton; Bishop Ronald B. Mayan, Synod of Alberta and The Territories, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; Very Rev. Gregory Faryna, Chancellor, Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton; Igumen Alexander Pihach, St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church.

Not available for photo: Avau Fast, President, Zoroastrian Association of Edmonton .

Our Church Family

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

“Shake it Up Café”

Vacation Bible School

In this kid-friendly café full of chef's hats and aprons, pots and pans, checkered tablecloths and chalkboard menus, kids explore the Bible as a cookbook filled with recipes for living out God's word. Through play, stories, crafts and cooking up their own snacks they will learn to “Be ready for God. Give happily to God. Believe fully in Jesus. Remember Jesus often and Celebrate God forever. The cost is \$25 per person or for a family of 3 or more \$60.

August 22-25th from 9:30 - 12:30 pm.

See the table in the atrium
for registrations and please register early.

Karen requires many hands for VBS
please consider helping out!

Call Karen at 780-433-1604 for further information.

Youth News

I would like to thank Julianne Watson, Aidan McBride, Ella Wilhelm and Nathan Hay for all their assistance with the Easter Vigil. We have a very creative and energetic Youth Leader team and they are very dedicated towards our youth here at Trinity.

Watch the bulletin for further “Youth Activities” coming up!!!

The Junior Youth had a brief hiatus but will be having their next event later in May. Let's hope for warm weather so that the event can be outside. Watch the bulletin for further info.

Youth Bulletin Board

Also watch the bulletin board for pictures of the Easter Vigil and other youth events. Please feel free to post pictures or info you might have for the youth on this board. It is your board, youth, feel free to use it.

Our Church Family

Minutes of the Annual Meeting March 6, 2011

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 109TH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Luther Centre, Edmonton, Alberta March 6, 2011

Chairperson Frank Thede calls the meeting to order at 1:08PM

Attendance: 81

OPENING DEVOTION – led by Pastor Ingrid Doerschel

TACM 11-01 MSC That the Agenda be accepted as presented.

I)MINUTES

TACM 11-02 MSC That the minutes from the AGM 2010 be accepted as presented.

II)ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

TACM 11 -03 MSC That the following reports be accepted as information:

- Letter from Bishop Ron Mayan
- Letter from Church Council Report
- Ministerial Staff Report
- Director of Music Report
- Membership statistics

Nominating Committee:

Roland Mischke will be leaving church council for health reasons.

That Guillaume Morency (E) has completed her term and will allow her name to stand for re-election.

That Ella Hoyer allow her name to stand for nomination.

That Paul Ellison(E), Chris Neitsch(E), Rainer Karge (G), Barbara Onyschuk(E), Frank Thede(E), Dieter Gruenberg(E), Talita Klingbeil(G), Dan Precht(E) continue to serve their terms.

TACM 11-04 MSC That the nominations cease.

The following members are elected to Trinity Lutheran Church Council by acclamation for their first term:

Ella Hoyer

The following members are elected to Trinity Lutheran Church council by acclamation for their second term:

Guillaume Morency

(Ballots distributed)

- That Paul Ellison is elected by acclamation as a representative to the Northern Conference Convention (October 2011).

- That Darlene Schindel and Megan Broomhall are elected by acclamation as representatives to the Mulhurst Camp Congregation Association.

- That Elsie Sommers is elected by acclamation as a representative to the Lutheran Institutional Ministry Edmonton.

III)MINISTRY REPORTS:

TACM 11-05 MSC That the Ministry reports be accepted as presented.

Report on the election of representative to ELCIC National Convention:

-That Frank Thede is elected as Trinity's third representative to the National Convention (July 2011 – Pastor Markus Wilhelm and Pastor Renita Falkenstern were elected as ordained representatives at the Northern Conference Convention).

TACM 11-06 MSC That the ballots be destroyed.

TACM 11-07 MSC That the Auxillary Ministry Reports be accepted as presented.

TACM 11-08 MSC That the meeting be adjourned at 2:01PM

V)TRINITY SENIOR CITIZENS HOME SOCIETY OF EDMONTON

The 33rd Annual meeting of the Society called to order at 2:02PM by Chairperson Dieter Gruenberg.

Note: The Financials are not yet audited.

There are 3 positions to be filled this year.

Ruben Marinoske and Ken Nelson have let their names stand for nominations this year. Ken has let his name stand for the last year of the 3 year term left vacant by Manfred Jurgeleit.

That Ruben Marinoske and Talita Klingbeil be elected by acclamation for a three year term (2011-2013). That Ken Nelson be elected by acclamation for a one year term (2011), filling in the vacancy left by Manfred.

TSHSC 11-01 MSC That nominations cease.

Meeting adjourned at 2:11PM

Trinity AGM called back to order at 2:11PM by Chairperson Frank Thede.

*A very special Thank you to outgoing council member Roland Mischke for his time served on Council.

VI)PROPERTY REPORT

TACM 11-09 MSC That the Property Report be accepted as presented.

VI)FINANCES

Questions:

- When was the last time the rents were reviewed? The rents are accordingly reviewed on a contract basis.
- The large \$50,000 donation comes from an anonymous source, who wishes to remain anonymous. A round of applause was give to that person(s).
- Confirmation that we are currently running a deficit

...see Annual Meeting - page 10

Our Church Family

Annual Meeting - from page 9 YTD.

Change in staffing was reviewed by council and council voted on preparing the budget based on an estimated increase in giving by 10% instead of a change in staffing budget. A change in staff or a reduction in the percentage time that the staff works would mean having to extend a new call to the pastors as there is no way to simply decrease their existing salaries and/or time worked.

Confirmation that attendance is dropping year over year in both congregations.

TACM 11-10 MSC That the 2011 treasurer's report be accepted as presented.

TACM 11-11 MSC That the 2011 budget be accepted as presented.

Old Business:

Organ Fund interest – will be reviewed at the 2012 AGM.

New Business:

To start the German service at 9:15AM instead of 9:30AM. Motion was held and defeated. The German service start time will remain at 9:30AM. Worship and Music could use some German members on their committee.

TACM 11-12 MSC That the meeting be adjourned. (3:07PM)

Closing prayer led by Pastor Markus Wilhelm.

The Wider Church

For the Lord takes pleasure in his people - Psalm 149:4

Delegates, visitors, staff and special guests will gather for the 13th ELCIC Biennial National Convention, July 14-17, 2011, taking place in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The convention theme is Covenant People: In Mission for Others and articulates the mission and ministry of our church. This year's convention will consider 2 heavy subjects:

1. Accepting the recommendations of the Structural Renewal Taskforce
2. Accepting the new statement on Human Sexuality and related policies

The following letter from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada's (ELCIC) National Church Council (NCC) highlights the decisions to be brought to the convention:

Dear Sisters and Brothers,
Grace and peace to you.

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. —Ephesians 4:1-3

The National Church Council (NCC) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada has been meeting in recent days (April 1-3, 2011). As we began our work, the Council was deeply aware of the responsibilities commended to us by the church and we are grateful to all who have held us in their prayers.

Many of you have been anticipating our efforts as you have participated in the work of our committees and task forces. All of NCC's work will be reported out in the Bulletin of Reports. For now, with a view to openness and transparency, NCC would like to share with you some decisions around two matters: Structural Renewal and Human Sexuality.

Structural Renewal Task Force: Report

National Church Council considered the Report of the Structural

Renewal Task Force. The Task Force was given the responsibility to look at possibilities for renewal with a view (1) to equipping the Church to be In Mission for Others and (2) to developing a structural framework which is flexible, affordable and sustainable.

The report proposes that the ELCIC be re-organized into three synods, that existing conferences be reconfigured into "areas" (groupings of congregations) supported by leadership teams, that conventions of the National Church and synods be held triennially and that National Conventions be smaller in size.

As soon as the final text of the report is available, it will be published online and included in the Bulletin of Reports.

Council deeply appreciates the careful church-wide consultation and thoughtful analysis which are reflected in the Report.

NCC adopted the following motion: That the National Convention approve the recommendations of the Structural Renewal Task Force in principle and authorize the National Church Council to move forward with the implementation process.

Human Sexuality Task Force: Social Statement

National Church Council considered the Proposed ELCIC Social Statement on Human Sexuality. This proposed statement was prepared according to the vision and process articulated in The Public Witness of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada: A Policy on How the Church Addresses Social Issues (1991). Both documents are available on the ELCIC website: <http://www.elcic.ca/>.

The Statement has three sections: "Encountering the World in Which We Live" names, without judgment, some of the current issues of sexuality that face our world; "Facing God and Being Church" seeks to find common language to articulate the faith and theology which guide our life together; and "Doing Ministry" seeks to stimulate conversation about mission and ministry at the local and global level.

NCC adopted the following motion: That NCC approve and recommend for adoption to the 2011 National Convention the Proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality.

NCC is grateful to the members of the Human Sexuality Task Force for the care and integrity with which they went about their

(Continued on page 11)

The Wider Church

work and for the breadth of their consultation.

Faith, Order and Doctrine Committee: Three Motions

National Church Council asked the Faith, Order and Doctrine Committee to review the Proposed ELCIC Social Statement on Human Sexuality and to prepare appropriate motions arising from the statement.

Council is grateful for the sound scholarship and pastoral sensitivity the Committee brought to their work.

NCC approved and recommended for adoption to the 2011 National Convention the following three motions:

1. Motion on the Unity of the Church

MOVED that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada in convention adopt the following affirmation as representing the position of this church and communicate this action to congregations, partner churches in Canada, sister churches in the Lutheran World Federation and other Lutheran church associations in Canada.

An Affirmation Concerning the Unity of the Church

As a confessional Lutheran Church which bases its life and teaching on the Scriptures, the Ecumenical Creeds and the Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada affirms with the confessors at Augsburg in 1530 that "it is enough for the unity of the church to agree concerning the teaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments" (AC VII).

We affirm that the church ought not be divided because of disagreement over moral issues, no matter how distressing such disagreement might be. We believe that any attempt to divide the church because of disagreements over morals, polity or liturgy is an unacceptable confusion of Law and Gospel, which will lead inevitably to a distortion of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We encourage ELCIC members, congregations and synods and churches who share our commitment to the scriptures, creeds and confessions and who disagree with one another over issues of morals, polity (including standards for ordination or consecration) and/or liturgy to remain in dialogue and unity with one another and maintain unity in the gospel and the sacraments as St Paul recommends in 1 Corinthians 1:10-17. We encourage all Lutherans to work for and nurture the unity of the confessional witness to the Gospel which is essential to the Lutheran tradition. We ask those persons, congregations, synods and/or churches who are in disagreement to refrain from actions that will divide the body of Christ.

2. Motion on Presiding at or Blessing Marriages

MOVED that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada in convention adopt the following policy statement:

It is the policy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada that rostered ministers may, according to the dictates of their consciences as informed by the Gospel, the Scriptures, the Ecumenical Creeds and the Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, preside at or bless legal marriages according to the laws of the province within which they serve. All rostered ministers in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada are encouraged to exercise due diligence in preparing couples for marriage. All rostered ministers serving congregations are encouraged at all times to conduct their ministry in consultation with the lay leaders in the congregation and with sensitivity to the culture within which the congregation serves.

3. Motion on Standards for Ordination and Consecration

MOVED that convention actions NC-1993-16 and NC-1989-96

be rescinded and that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada in convention adopt the following policy:

It is the policy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada that sexual orientation is not in itself a factor which disqualifies a candidate for rostered ministry or a rostered minister seeking a call. Candidates and rostered ministers are in all cases expected to adhere to the qualifications and standards as set out in the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and of the synod within which they serve. Synods and congregations are expected to evaluate candidates for ordination or consecration and rostered ministers for call in accordance with a conscience informed by the Gospel, the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.

National Church Council recognizes that there are other areas of exploration that arise from the proposed statement which may require further study or action such as: "Stewardship of Media", "Oppose Sexual Exploitation", "Act for Justice" and "Create Safe Spaces" (items drawn from the third section of the statement).

A Call to Prayer

NCC is keenly aware that our commitment to a common faithful journey may sometimes challenge us or lead us into places of unease or hurt or pain. At the same time, we seek, as best we are able, to maintain the unity of the Spirit and to support one another on the journey.

At the National Convention, there will be many reasons for celebration and rejoicing: our National Bishop has called us into a time of spiritual renewal; our relationships with other Christians continue to grow; we are renewing relationships between indigenous and non-indigenous people; we are making an important witness around matters of justice; we have a wonderful 25th anniversary to celebrate; and much more.

We invite your prayers for congregations and leaders preparing for convention; for the officers of the church; for NCC; and for all who will gather at our 2011 ELCIC National Convention in Saskatoon to consider the important matters set before us and to experience spiritual renewal.

Please consider the substance of this letter and take the opportunity to study the various documents to which this letter points. As you have opportunity, please take the time to offer a word of thanks to the many people who have sought to do the church's work, on our behalf, between conventions.

Grace and peace to you.

National Church Council

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

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A copy of the complete Proposed ELCIC Social Statement on Human Sexuality is available on the ELCIC website at <http://elcic.ca/Human-Sexuality/documents> see: PRO-POSEDELICISocialStatementonHumanSexuality.pdf. Copies can also be requested from the church office.

If you have questions or concerns on any of these issues please share them directly with one or all of the delegates attending the convention. Trinity's delegates to the convention are:

- Pastor Renita Falkenstern
- Pastor Markus Wilhelm (780 433 1604)
- Frank Thede (780 722 0302)

Mulhurst News: April 2011

It has been what seems like a long winter, with a cool start to spring. But the good Lord always provides, and the seasons are changing. And with that comes thoughts to spring time and summer at our favorite "Place in the Son".

For those of you like to get your news on your computer or mobile device, be sure to add www.mulhurstcamp.ca to your favorites. That way you stay on top of all things happening at Mulhurst. For those of you who like to leisurely read your news, perhaps with a cup of tea, you will find the 2011 brochure in the atrium display so please take one home with you.

Here are the upcoming events to be aware of:

✦ April 30 is spring cleanup day and we need many hands to make the chore of cleaning and sprucing up the camp just a little easier. Bring a pail and some rags, and you will be put to work. Lunch and snacks are provided. Clean-up is from 10 -4 pm, but you are welcome to come and help for as long as you are able

✦ May 6-8 Women's retreat has been postponed. We wish all mothers a wonderful Mother's Day!

June 4 & 5 is the "Annual Fun Razer", our annual fundrais-

ing and camp awareness weekend, and this year will be extra special as we celebrate our **65th Anniversary** as a camp. Come join us for a fun time of fellowship, games, banquet and dance. There will also be a silent auction, gold tournament and bike-a thon.

All information and registration for events and summer camp programs is on the website. Call Darlene Schindel or Megan Broomhall for more information.



Looking Ahead

Learning Opportunities

Tuesday, 10th of May, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m

At: Holy Trinity Anglican, 10037 – 84 Ave.

Introduction to the history of the Anglican Church. Reception following

Tuesday, 17th of May, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m

At: Trinity Lutheran Ev. Church, 10014 – 81 Ave.

Introduction to the history of the Lutheran Church. Reception following

Tuesday, 24th of May, 7:00 p.m

At: Elephant Castle, 10314 – 82 Ave.

What does it mean to be an Anglican today?

Tuesday, 31st of May, 7:00 p.m.

(Location to be announced)

What does it mean to be a Lutheran today?

Vacation Bible School

August 22-25th from 9:30 - 12:30 pm.

See the table in the atrium for registrations and please register early

Joint Worship Opportunities:

Joint Service on Ascension Day (Himmelfahrtstag)

Thursday, June 2nd

Trinity Lutheran at 7:00 p.m. (bilingual service)

Joint Service Trinity Sunday, June 19th

10:00 a.m.: Combined Service at Trinity Lutheran

Procession to Holy Trinity Anglican

Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Anglican

English – German picnic to follow in the gardens of Holy Trinity Anglican.

REMEMBER:

Summer Services - July 3 to August 28:

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

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 May under the auspices of the Communications Committee.

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Deadline for submissions for next issue - August 23, 2011

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

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