

notes from Hosanna JUNE 2009

HOSANNA LUTHERAN CHURCH **Volume 23 Nbr. 6**
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WELCOME, PASTOR TIM !

PASTOR TIM GRAFF, our new senior pastor and team leader,
starts at Hosanna on Monday, June 1.

On the following Sunday, June 7, plan to stay after
the worship service for cake and coffee and an informal
time to welcome and meet Pastor Tim, Beth and family.

INSTALLATION SERVICE for Pastor Tim
Sunday evening, June 7, 7:00 pm.
Please join this special celebration and stay
for sweets and treats after the service.

June, 2009

Dear People of God,

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.
(1 Timothy 1:2)

I am writing this message from my office at All Saints in Calgary knowing
that very shortly I will be saying my last farewell to God's people here so
that I might begin my journey to Edmonton and to the community of God's
people at Hosanna.

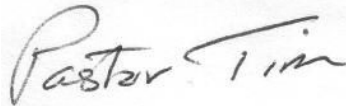
By the time you read this I will have settled into my office and begun the "honeymoon" of our relationship.

As I begin my ministry among you as an ambassador of Jesus Christ sent to advise and equip you for the work of God's kingdom of love, I recognize that my work, like all work done by imperfect people will fall short of the goals of God's kingdom. Yet I am grateful to God for what you and I will be able to achieve together and for the strength the Spirit will grant us as we prepare to enter into the good news of God's kingdom.

So I offer God my life, in whose name and for whose glory I have been created. I pray that through my ministry in your midst that many will come to a better understanding of God's kingdom and a fuller knowledge of Jesus Christ, the living Word of life, to whom I have been called to represent and bear witness to as his ambassador.

My family and I look forward to worshipping with you on the morning of Sunday, June 7 and then officially celebrating my installation as your pastor that evening. I trust that you will join us in marking this time as another milestone in the journey of this community towards God's kingdom come.

Grace be with you.



Pastor Tim Graff

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, HOSANNA!

This year, Hosanna celebrates her 22nd anniversary on June 7th.

Council designated the Anniversary Offering to 2 funds: the Koh Kandal School Project in rural Cambodia and the Hosanna Bursary at the Lutheran Theological Seminary-Saskatoon; the offering will be divided equally between the two.



Ah, summer! Wait a minute, that should be

AAAAAHHHHH, SUMMER !!!!!

I don't know about you, but about this time of year, anticipation for summer is visceral. Warm breezes, sun, green grass, the colour of flowers, shrubs and trees all collaborating together to break out into something we have been pushing and longing for since the beginning of April. It always makes me chuckle when, in early April, those brave souls who can wait no longer, wander around our streets in windbreakers, shorts and sandals. In my heart, if not in reality, I am right there with them. Not that I try and minimize or discount other seasons, or think less of them. It's just that here, we live in a climate that doesn't take summer for granted. Most of us try to gain from summer every ounce of summer that we can.

If spring is the season of new beginnings, then summer is the season of growth. Long hours of sunshine and warm temperatures, sprinkled with thundershowers, transforms those new beginnings into luscious, longed for mature growth. We spend time weeding and pruning to enhance that growth so we can appreciate and enjoy the fruits of summer even more. Barbeques, evenings on the deck or in the back yard, trips to the cottage or



lake, summer vacation, cycling, hiking, and leisurely family time are all images of summer that make us smile.

In the church year this is the time of Pentecost. The season of Pentecost occupies half of the calendar year, beginning with fifty days after Easter, the Feast of Pentecost, and continuing a full twenty six weeks until the first Sunday in Advent. It not only symbolizes the season of growth. It states boldly that this is the season of growth. This is the time when we pray that our roots may sink deep into the soul (soil) of the Spirit, that the pruning shears would prune, shape and mould us, that the lives we live in joyful celebration of the resurrection would be abundant with the fruit of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit, writes Paul, are these, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self - control (Gal. 5: 22 - 23). May the fruit of the Spirit find rich, dark, deep soil in our hearts and minds throughout this summer season in our work, family, recreation, leisure, and worship here at Hosanna.

Throw open your arms as we do towards the sun and its warmth and allow the Spirit full sway in your life. With the gift and flame of the Spirit, the community formed in baptism is now fired, prepared and propelled into a new life and journey which resists being domesticated, but rather is continually growing, enlivened and being transformed by the Spirit to continue the work of Christ. May we always be able to say with warm, inviting smiles, "That's us. In the name of the risen Christ, Welcome!"

Peace, Pastor Ron

OUR PRAYER CHAIN

To request prayer for yourself or for others, contact:

Del Bennett, or the pastors
at 780-484-3932.

If you are interested in being part of the prayer chain, please also contact any of the above.

PLANT WITH PURE JOY!

The weather has finally warmed up! It is with a sense of relief and excitement that we are at last able to get outside and start planting. Some of us may have ordered seeds from a specialty catalogue, or we may have made a trip to a nursery or greenhouse to purchase seedlings. The seeds and plants are sitting there, full of potential for the bright flowers and vegetables that we hope will come later in the summer as a reward for our efforts. We begin our planting however with an element of uncertainty. "How will these grow this year?" we ask as we place seeds in the earth, or "The package says these will grow up to 6 feet high. I wonder if that will happen for me?" is another thought that may come to mind.

Planting the seeds of ministry is a similar exercise. There is going to be some anxiety mixed in with the anticipation. Maybe you have decided to volunteer in an area of ministry that is new to you. "How will I do?" you may wonder, or "Will I have anything to offer this committee?" or "Will anything worthwhile come from my decision?" As Paul reminds us in c. 12 of his Letter to the Romans, we

have all received gifts from God.

But just as seeds sitting in a drawer do no one any good, so it is with our gifts from God. Paul's message is brief and to the point - get planting!



Four years ago a small group of Hosanna members met to discuss an idea - the possibility of putting on a meal for needy individuals and families in our community. That was all it was at the time - an idea. No one knew what would come of those discussions or where they would go with that idea. Four years later how that seed has grown! Hosanna now has a flourishing Community Meal ministry program, attracting about 80 guests per meal, and which has engaged the interest and commitment of many dedicated volunteers, both from within Hosanna and from outside the congregation as well. It would be sad to imagine the gap in our ministry presence in West Edmonton if that group had not decided those four years ago to

jointly plant their gifts in the garden of God's ministry.

As you contemplate the ways in which you would like to commit your gifts of time and talent in ministry at Hosanna during the Time and Talents Campaign which will run from May 31 to June 14, please heed Paul's words to the Romans in c. 12, v. 6:

"So we are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us."

That message was written for us! As we prepare to plant our seeds of ministry for the year ahead, let us all thank God for the many opportunities that he provides us to be in mission and service to others. Plant with pure joy!

The Stewardship Committee
(John Campbell, Margaret Sadler,
Cindy Schriener,
Rick Hernder and Pastor Ron)

NEWS FROM THE SENIORS GROUP

The Seniors have held their usual meetings on the third Wednesday of the month. Kari Heise has had just excellent meals for us. Attendance has been down a bit, about 30 to 40. Any one who is 55 is invited to attend. Please phone Elaine Hammer by the Monday before if you are not already on the phoning list, to reserve a plate.

The entertainment has been wide and varied. For music, seniors have had Rippling River, Jim Bennett and George Morin, Jack Hennig, and then Margaret and Marcus took us to Cambodia to look at how the people lived there. From there we went travelling - a travelog of a mule train ride down the Grand Canyon, a tour of the eastern part of Alberta and Moose Jaw, SK. On one evening, Eugene Ulmer had a movie of a canoe trip from

Rocky Mountain house to Fort William, ON. that the explorer David Thompson took many years ago. Eugene was able to participate for a week in this.

The May entertainment was a wonderful dance presentation by the Valhall Scandinavian Folk Dancers. If you were not there, you missed something very special by this group of young people. Pastor Ron has had the sermonettes which are appreciated by all. Thank you from the group.

At Christmas, there was a very lovely luncheon. From the proceeds, we sent \$95 to the Christmas Bureau. This was Christmas dinner for a family of four.

The Luther Place Seniors are a friendly and a caring group. Come join us at our monthly get-togethers. Watch the calendar for exact dates.

The time after Pentecost, like summer, is a long, gentle season of growth, and images of the natural world abound in the prayers and the gospel readings. It's no wonder the liturgical colour is green. Many of the verbs in the prayers and gospel readings are gentle ones related to life in the physical world: shelter, graft, nurture, pilot, preserve, instruct, shepherd, feed, protect, comfort, defend, heal, transform, shape, shine, turn. *

(Taken from Sundays and Seasons, © 2008 Augsburg Fortress Press)

What an exciting time, as finally we begin to have warmer temperatures and can enjoy the benefits of the sunshine. Once again, at the beginning of our summer months, there are opportunities for each of you to prayerfully consider how you can contribute to life at Hosanna in the areas of worship and music.

Here are a couple of ways you could do this:

1) Some of you may be interested in presenting special music as part of our Worship Services during the summer (June 21 - August 30). There is a sign-up sheet on the black counter - **I would love to hear from you!!!** In the Fall, we will be implementing a schedule for special music, just like the Worship Volunteers, where individuals, families and other groups will be scheduled to provide special music at our services - **BE LOOKING FOR IT!!!**

2) The Stewardship Committee begins our Time and Talents campaign on May 31. Before and after the service you will have a chance to sign up for various volunteer positions under the umbrella of Worship & Music: Lesson Readers; Communion Assistants; Worship Assistants; Ushers; Altar Guild - as well as for various musical opportunities - special music; Chancel Choir; Handbells; Youth/Children's Choir; various instruments - brass; woodwinds; strings, including guitar; percussion; keyboard and so on...

**Please sign up whether you are already involved,
or if you are new to the ministry!**

These sign-up sheets will be available until June 14.

Community:

We will be using Marty Haugen's musical setting of the Communion liturgy entitled

"Now the Feast and Celebration." We trust that those of you who are familiar with it will sing with exuberance as you enter into worship. We hope those of you who are not familiar with it will enjoy the learning experience, and be able to worship with equal enthusiasm.

Communion Wine:

For the time being we will continue using the golden wine as the Worship and Music Committee continues its deliberations on this important issue. We trust you will understand that this is not an easy decision to make, and we do not want to rush the process. Thank you for your patience.

Looking ahead:

June 7	Holy Trinity Sunday; Anniversary Sunday; Pastor Tim Graff's first Sunday with us 7:00 pm Installation Service for Pastor Tim
June 14	Sister Parish Service (Divine Redeemer in El Salvador)
June 21	Children's Emphasis Service

May God grant you a gentle season of growth and blessing.

Evelyn, Director of Worship and Music

***"Now the feast and celebration,
All of creation sings for joy
to the God of life and love and freedom:
praise and glory forevermore!"***

(From Now the Feast and Celebration"
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EDUCATION and FAMILY MINISTRIES at Hosanna



This year's **Vacation Bible School** runs from
Sunday, July 5th to Thursday, July 10th
from 6:30 - 8:15 at Hosanna.

Explore the Wonders of the Word in a fast-paced and fun desert canyon atmosphere. Bible stories come alive through loads of fun activities - cool crafts, catchy song, fun games, science experiments and of course, snacks! Come one or two days or all week. Friends are always welcome.

Please note the Sunday to Thursday schedule.
On Thursday, bring the whole family for a hot dog barbecue
and group activities to wind up the week.

Many people are needed to help make VBS great! We are in need of
volunteers at craft and activity stations throughout the week. These are
pre-planned with supplies already there for you.

Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- ▶ Decorating - transforming the sanctuary, hallway and north end into an inviting, desert canyon themed space, and taking down the decorations after the week is over
- ▶ Music leaders - teach songs and lead music in opening
- ▶ Drama leaders - act out the Bible story
- ▶ "Junior Rangers" leaders - lead preschool aged children in crafts, games and other activities during activity time
- ▶ Craft leaders - set up and lead kids in craft activities, making connections with the daily theme
- ▶ Science leaders - set up and lead kids in science experiments, making connections with the daily theme
- ▶ Games leaders - lead kids in active games related to the theme of the day
- ▶ Snack - set up and lead kids in preparing snacks; clean up

Please consider signing up to help as many evenings as you can - sign-up sheets are in the narthex.

All volunteers are expected to attend the volunteer orientation session on Monday, June 15 at 7:30pm to receive everything needed to help you do your part to make

this a smooth-running and memorable event for the kids. Those who have not already attended a training workshop regarding the ELCIC Policy for the Protection of Children Youth and Other Vulnerable people should come at 7:00. **For more information, please talk to Gaylene Layden or Sonja.**

Ladies' Night Out The Women's Bible Study group invites all ladies to join them for an evening of food, fellowship and fun on Friday evening, June 12. For what has now become an annual and much anticipated event, we will meet at Louisiana Purchase (10320 - 111 Street) at 6:30pm to enjoy a delicious dinner and a chance to visit. Come one, come all - you do not need to have attended a Bible study (but you may want to after getting to know everyone better!). Please RSVP to Sonja at 780-484-3932 or sonja@hosannalutheran.ab.ca by Wednesday, June 10 so we can let the restaurant know how many to set the table for.

All-Education Meeting On Wednesday, June 10 at 7:00, representatives of each of the sub-committees and areas falling under the mandate of Education Ministries meet with the Education Committee to look at the past year - what was good and where improvements can be made as well as to look ahead and see where Christian education at Hosanna could go next year. Please ensure that someone from your area attends this very important meeting. This meeting is also open to anyone in the congregation that has an interest in the education ministries of Hosanna. If you're not able to attend this meeting but would like to give your input, please contact Sonja at 780-484-3932 or sonja@hosannalutheran.ab.ca .

THANK YOU

- ★ to Valerie Orydzuk for her creative talents in helping to paint a mural in one of the Sunday School classes. Plans are in the works for more murals to bring some color & cheer to the previously rather dull classrooms!
- ★ to all the children who assisted in worship in various ways on April 26, when we had a children's emphasis in our worship. Children are welcome and encouraged to help at other times as well - please talk to Sonja or one of the ushers before the service if you would like to help

- ★ to those who have supplied some of the missing confirmation class photos for our "wall of fame" in the hallway to the north end. If you have a photo of a class that is not displayed, please talk to Sonja.
- ★ a big thank you to all who have given their time and talents toward the work of Hosanna's education and family ministries this past year.

Many people are needed to provide the wide variety of learning opportunities that we offer: Sunday School, Confirmation, VBS, Adult Forum, Youth Forum, Bible Studies, Cradle Roll, etc. , and I would like to say a special word of thanks to all who willingly shared their gifts in this area. May God grant you times of rest and renewal this summer.

Sonja Carmichael, Director of Education and Family Ministries

A TROUBLING INCIDENT:

This past Sunday evening, our janitor found some items in the men's washroom - a wallet, car keys and clothing. A phone call Monday morning gave us the rest of the story.

The items were stolen on Sunday morning from a locker at JP Pool, just across the street. Exact time is not known but it was during our morning worship hours when our doors are all unlocked. It doesn't take much detective work to realize that the thief with the stolen items came into our washroom, likely where the wallet was emptied of cash and credit cards and left behind. (The owner was very grateful for our phone call.)

A few months ago, we published an article titled "Safety for our Children." We would like to repeat some of that now, in light of the above incident.

"Hosanna is a second home to many of us and we may feel comfortable allowing our children to have the same independence here as they do in our homes.The church is open to the public. Doors are often unlocked, allowing anyone to easily enter unnoticed.... Please help us keep our children safe by ensuring they are supervised, whether playing in the Social room or going to the washroom (including during Sunday worship), and that any child that leaves the building is with an appropriate adult."

news from the COMMUNITY MEAL COMMITTEE

A special **THANK YOU** to the Quilters for the purchase of a second warming tray to be used in the serving of the meals. We really appreciate your support.

Community Meal committee members met with reps from Good Shepherd Catholic, Trinity United and Spirit West United parishes to review the success of the joint "Soup and Buns" project at Jasper Place Health and Wellness Centre this past winter. The volunteers said it was a wonderful experience and they

appreciated the leadership provided by Hosanna volunteers. A highlight was the "ecumenical" aspect of working together in the community. One youth commented that he had never talked to a homeless person before and now realizes they are "real people just like everyone else and friendly to talk to". Plans were made to continue this program next year and the date of Sunday afternoon, Nov. 8th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. was set for a "kickoff/orientation" event for interested volunteers.

Needed: COOKIE AND MUFFIN BAKERS! We would like to compile a list of people who would be willing to bake cookies or muffins for one of our meals when either are on the dessert menu. Please call the office if you would be willing to be "on call".

THIS IS NEW! THIS IS NEWS! THIS IS "THE COMMUNITY MEAL NEWS"

This is a newsletter developed by John Campbell which will be distributed at our future meals. It will feature articles like "Cooking with Kari" with recipes and tips on nutrition and meal planning; Upcoming community events in the west end; Sources and resources for help and how to access them such as the We Cope Society in the Lymburn community, or St. Vincent de Paul Society for furniture & household items,

the Community Services Referral Line (Dial 211), etc. Copies will be available on the black counter in the narthex June 7th for any Hosanna members who would like to have a copy of the first "News" that will be distributed at the June 6th meal. If you would like to contribute to the "News" or have ideas for articles that you think would be of interest, please contact John Campbell or Gerry Landro.

NEXT MEAL: JUNE 6TH

PLEASE JOIN US AS A VOLUNTEER OR A GUEST

Help needed Friday evening and Saturday.

See the sign up sheet on the black counter in the narthex

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS!

- to this year's High School graduates from Hosanna. We're very proud of you and wish you all the best in your future endeavors. Shane Buller, Keir Campbell, Sami Silver, Heather Ulmer, Jenn Vandermeer, Andrea Vogel, and Emily Wold. (Here are those that I know of at this time - if your name is missing, please accept my apology and do let me know!)

THANK YOU

I would like to extend a special thank you to all those who have participated and continue to be involved with Youth this year. I would also like to thank all of those who have supported us by attending our fundraisers, driving, making muffins, and more!



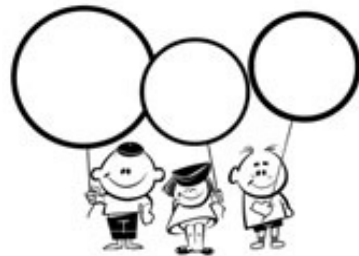
The youth have an on-going collection of bottles and other recyclable items as a fundraiser. If you would like to donate these items to the youth group, please bring them to the kitchen back entry for the youth to relocate to a designated area.

If you have any questions about what kinds of items can be recycled please see the Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Corporation website (www.abcrc.com).

UPCOMING EVENTS:

FRIDAY JUNE 12, 2009—WIND UP EVENT @ LINDSAY AND CHRIS'S HOUSE 7:00-9:30

We'll meet at the church and then head over to Lindsay and Chris's house for snacks and a whole lot of fun. We'll play outdoor games across the street at the park and may even have a water balloon fight! We'll also take some time to debrief the year and come up with ideas for next year. It will be a great time...and besides, who doesn't want to know where the youth leader lives 😊.



SUNDAY JUNE 21, 2009—MUFFIN MORNING 10:00

Come out and support the youth and their marvelous muffins.

FRIDAY JUNE 26, 2009—WELCOME GRADE 6's! 6:30-9:00

All youth and your families are invited to this event. We'd like to take this opportunity to welcome the upcoming Grade 6's into our youth group. We'll meet at the church and then head over to Jubilee Park for a picnic supper and organized outdoor activities. It will be a great chance to get to know one another and have some fun while doing it. Please bring a picnic meal to feed your family as well as any lawn chairs, blankets, and sporting equipment (baseball and glove, football, Frisbee, etc.) that you can't live without at a picnic. Hope to see a whole lot of you there!

NEEDED:

- ★ **VOLUNTEERS** - We can always use an extra helping hand (**ESPECIALLY FROM YOUNG ADULTS**)! If you are interested in working with the youth this year please contact Lindsay for more information.
- ★ **MUFFIN MAKERS** -Please sign up on the youth bulletin board if you are able to bring muffins on **SUNDAY JUNE 21, 2009** or at any other time during the year, or e-mail lindsay@hosannalutheran.ab.ca.
- ★ **E-MAIL LIST** - As we live in a technologically advanced society, I would like to compile a list of parent and youth e-mails so that I can make sure to get a hold of everyone when there are important youth announcements or upcoming events. Please write your e-mail legibly and put it in my mailbox. Thank you!
- ★ **DRIVERS** - We rely on the help of parents in this area. If you are able to drive at any time throughout the year, please sign up on the youth bulletin board and look forward to a phone call.

Happenings at Hosanna

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT: Hosanna is seeking someone to work from end of June to mid-August. The position is mostly in the office, along with some janitor work and possible minor maintenance or painting. Monday-Friday during the day, except into the evening for Vacation Bible School week. To apply, contact Johanna in the office with your resume by June 15.

The Canadian best-selling **LUTHERAN COOKBOOKS** are in! If you ordered one, please give your cheque (or cash) to Johanna to pick up your book. Both the original "Family Favourites Cookbook" and the "Family Celebrations Cookbook" are a collection of recipes from congregations across the country - see the samples on the black counter! \$20.00 per book; more will be ordered so add your name to the sign up sheet or call the office (780-484-3932) This is a fund raiser benefitting our Paving Stone Fund.

DISHWASHER FOR SALE:

Some time ago, a household dishwasher was donated to Hosanna, but this is not something we can use, so we are offering it for sale. It's a basic model, a GE, brand new (though no warranty), and was still wrapped in its box until we opened it to take a few photos (on the bulletin board). Suggested price is \$150.00 If you are interested, please talk to Johanna or Erven Rendflesh.

OFFERING > Ever wonder how the amount you give in a year is all added up to a tax receipt at the end of the year? Sunday morning **OFFERING COUNTERS** are the first step in the process - and **YOU** can help! See the sign up sheet on the black counter seeking Offering Counters for the summer months. Sign up for one week or many weeks. If you have never done this before, you will be paired with someone who can help you learn, or talk to Pat or Morley Becker for some lessons.

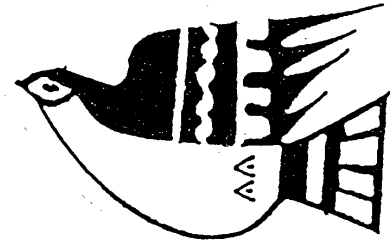
THANK YOU

- to the **WINDOW WASHING CREW:** Louise Rau, Jack Smale, Myrna Pinchbeck, Christine Birkenhagen, Hilda Schweitzer, Dorothy & Erven Rendflesh. Another thanks to Louise who took some of the curtains home to wash.

- to all of our "on-call" **REPAIRMEN**, especially Erven Rendflesh who came to my rescue last Friday when there was a urinal threatening to flood the office; and to Alex Ropchan who came to help with the repairs.

- to our **SPRING CLEAN UP** crew! Great job, everyone; the grounds look really good. There were about 12-15 willing workers who raked, trimmed, bagged, etc. and got spring clean up done in a short time.

El Salvador Support Group NEWS



Hosanna's sister parish relationship with Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church in San Miguel, El Salvador, stretches back to the early 1990s. Through the support and involvement by members of Hosanna (including visits by Hosanna members to El Salvador) our sister parish relationship has developed in various ways.

One is through scholarship support, which allows students in San Miguel to attain an education that otherwise might not be possible. Through the El Salvador Student Fund, we currently support nine students, from the elementary through to the university level. Elementary schooling to Grade 8 is free in El Salvador but some students do not have a chance to attend because families cannot afford to give up the extra income that a child might gain by working rather than going to school. The support we provide may swing the decision.

Through our El Salvador Parish fund we also provide assistance to supplement the salary of the pastor at Divine Redeemer. Through this fund, we also have help for medical emergencies for members of Divine Redeemer and funds to meet other congregational needs. (We recently provided some funds to upgrade security measures at the church following some break-ins.)

Our Sister Parish Service - being held at 10 a.m. on June 14, provides a means to celebrate and renew our special relationship with our brothers and sisters in El Salvador. This year, we will again have a special liturgy with a Latin American flavour. It will be followed by a lunch put on by the El Salvador Support Group with a free-will offering going to support our students. We look forward to your participation.

News About Saul Fernandez

You may recall that last year a number of persons within and outside Hosanna responded generously to a special appeal to pay for cataract surgery for Saul (age eight), the son of Divine Redeemer Pastor Miguel Fernandez. Saul had successful surgery on one eye last fall and we are told by his mother Antonia that the operation has made a huge difference to Saul's ability to keep up in school. An operation to remove the hereditary childhood cataracts from the other eye has been delayed several times to ensure that Saul is fully free from infections. The plan is now to proceed with the second operation this fall.

Be a Volunteer

for Fundraiser in August

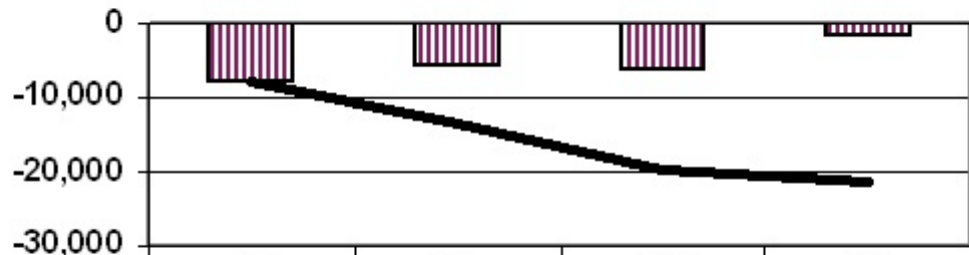
The El Salvador Support Group is always looking for ways to raise funds for our student scholarships. We have successfully applied to be part of a program at Edmonton's Heritage Days Festival during the August long weekend whereby volunteer and church groups that recruit a team of 15 to sell food tickets (NOT 50-50 TICKETS) from central booths receive a total of \$500. For having 15 people available for three hours from 1 pm to 4 pm Saturday Aug. 1, (the first day of the festival) the El Salvador Support Group would receive \$500. If you can volunteer at that time, please contact Lois Flakstad, Chair
El Salvador Support Group

What's Happening With WEICOP?

At the latest meeting of the West Edmonton Interfaith Coalition on Poverty (Weicop) held on May 14, 2009, a number of new projects for possible action by the Coalition congregations were discussed. These included a very interesting collective kitchen program that is based in the Ormsby community. It was in operation last year, but is in need of a person to act as a director, as well as new funding, in order to start up again in the fall. Another program that was highlighted was Christian Auto Mechanics, which is operated by Beulah Alliance. This program receives donations of used cars, and then has them refurbished by volunteer auto mechanics. The cars are then donated to needy individuals or families. The Program needs more volunteer mechanics. If anyone is interested in helping out with these projects, or in learning more about them, please contact John Campbell at 780-439-0939 or at: johncam@telusplanet.net.

John Campbell
Hosanna Representative to Weicop

**Receipts Minus Expenses
(short \$21,481 so far this year)**



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Monthly Shortage	-7,990	-5,695	-6,059	-1,738
Cumulative Shortage	-7,990	-13,685	-19,743	-21,481

CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE, January 1, 2009 \$14,923.

RECEIPTS EXPENSES

January	\$22,418	\$30,407
February	\$25,834	\$31,529
March	\$31,187	\$37,246
April	\$36,823	\$38,561

BALANCE, April 30, 2009 (\$6,558)

THE CHURCH AT LARGE

INNER CITY PASTORAL MINISTRY

Hosanna supports Inner City Pastoral Ministry (ICPM) by providing lunch once a year for the post-Worship meal. This is served at Bissell Centre West on Sunday mornings. ICPM recently held its Annual General Meeting and the following ministry points were highlighted:

- ICPM celebrated 30 years of service as an interdenominational Christian ministry of presence. The Ministry Team builds solid pastoral relationships with the people of the inner city by visiting in agencies, drop-in shelters, transition houses, the Remand Centre, Federal Prisons, city hospitals, on the street and in the home.
- In 2008 ICPM moved to a permanent office in Bissell Centre East where the ministry staff is able to share with Bissell staff and Aboriginal Elders the work and ministry of the inner city.
- 1500 individual crosses were distributed to residents of the inner city who attend worship at Bissell West or who request one from ICPM staff.
- In 2008 the Sunday Lunch was provided by 91 different churches reflecting an ecumenical mosaic of Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic, United, Mennonite, Christian Reformed, Baptist, Jewish and Arab service groups.
- Average weekly attendance for worship was 110 and lunch attendance was 270.
- Approximately 5000 volunteer hours were contributed on site for Sunday service and lunch.
- ICPM presided at 5 memorial services.
- "After the Lunch", an annual education event for church contacts and volunteers, was held on October 4, 2008. 62 people attended.
- A special 30th Anniversary service was celebrated on October 5, 2008 with sit down table service for the members of the Community of Emmanuel (the regular worshippers).
- 1049 Christmas Sacks were created to be distributed to members of the Community of Emmanuel and other inner city agencies. These large Ziploc 'sacks' were filled with items such as socks, waterproof gloves, hats, scarves, and a treat.

Thank you for your prayerful support of the Ministry Team and the ICPM board. Further information on ICPM can be found on the website www.icpmedmonton.ca or you may speak to me.

Susan Querengesser, Board member ICPM

Bishop's June E- Message



The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada will be gathering in National Convention later this month on the UBC campus in Vancouver. As has seemed to become standard fare in the months preceding recent National Conventions, tensions heighten as people across the Church wonder what will happen and predict possible resolutions and results.

These are not easy days for the ELCIC - they are not easy days for our life together as Church. Issues divide us. We discover that it is not 1986 any longer.

Our Church has grown too small for its britches. Re-structuring is the order of the day. Finances are problematic as congregations, Synods, and the National Church are trying to achieve economies of scale that maintain and expand the mission with lessening financial and personnel resources.

The challenges are great. The institutional suspicion is high. Yet signs of hope abound at the grassroots level. As I visit with congregations and with rostered workers, as I preside at ordinations and consecrations, as I rub shoulders with congregational members formally and informally, I cannot escape the reality that God is mightily at work among us - whether because of us, or in spite of us. This is God's Church! And we are God's people! My vision is good enough to see that far, and that clearly.

If these are not easy days for our Church, recognize that these are not easy days for our Church leaders at every level. Henri Nouwen wrote (in *Bread for the Journey*, April 10 entry) that religious leaders can be admired and revered but also hated and despised. We expect religious leaders will bring us closer to God; therefore we watch them carefully and listen to them critically. But we are easily disappointed and even feel betrayed when they prove to be just as human as we are. The switch between admiration and unrestrained anger is easily toggled.

Nouwen urges us to "try to love" our religious leaders, forgive them their faults, and see them as brothers and sisters. In so doing, we will enable them to lead us closer to the heart of God. Even as I criticize Church leaders (and am criticized), I pray for them daily. Even as I wrestle with the Church (and am wrestled with), I commend the Church to the Lord daily. I dare to urge you to do the same. Let prayers rise for our Church this month.

And may faith inspire this confidence in us, that this Church is the Lord's!

+Ronald B. Mayan, Bishop

COUNTDOWN TO CONVENTION (Information from the ELCIC)

WORSHIP has always been central when we gather together as church.

Attendees at this year's convention will have many opportunities to come together and worship as one family as the morning and evening worship will be integrated into the convention agenda versus having to break from the convention and move to a separate venue, as had been the case at past conventions. Opening and closing worship will also be rich with song, prayer and liturgy with offerings going to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (opening worship) and Canadian Lutheran World Relief (closing worship).

LEARNING: This year's convention will differ from previous sessions in several ways. A new highlight to convention will be a number of delegate forums which will take place on Friday afternoon. The workshops will centre on each of the ELCIC's five organizing pillars adopted by National Church Council in March 2008. Workshops are designed to be interactive and include strategies for helping members express faithful mission through their local congregations and in their local context.

BUSINESS: The National Convention is the highest officiating body of the ELCIC and meets every two years. Delegates to convention meet to discern the business of the church. This work is done through the presentation of reports, respectful conversation and motions before convention. Motions can come from a variety of sources. National Church Council brings motions to convention (these can be found in the Bulletin of Reports). Motions can also be forwarded by Synod councils, congregations and individuals. These motions are brought to convention through the Committee of Reference and Council who review them, make sure they are in order, and then make recommendations to convention regarding their disposition.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: We are invited to pray for the whole church and those preparing for the upcoming convention. Hosanna's delegates are Marlene Grinde and Colleen Vogel.

Spring 2009 Issue of **CELEBRATIONS** now on-line! (Copies posted on our round kiosk).

In this issue: Bishop's Report - The Alberta Advantage? Dirty Oil; Around the Synod - Coming Events; Synod Council 101; Sheep Shear Shepherds; Growing Ideas Flourish Funds; and more.

Go to www.albertasynod.ca and click on the link at the bottom of the page.

"Celebrations" is a publication of the Communications Committee of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories.

CHURCH CAMP BROCHURES are available in the bottom row of mailboxes (below the V-W section). Information on all the programs at Mulhurst, Kuriakos, Hastings Lake and Wilderness Ranch.

SASKATCHEWAN SYNOD NEWS

+ REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH, Saskatoon celebrates 50 YEARS

June 6th, 2009. Church office @306-374-7585 or EMAIL

redemer.luth.stoon@sasktel.net

+ CLOSING SERVICE: On May 31 at 1:00 pm the members of St Paul Lutheran Church, Rabbit Lake, Sk will hold their closing service in their church building. The congregation is disbanding, the building is being sold to a community non-profit society for community use. Please remember St Paul in your prayers in thanksgiving for God's faithfulness since May 1, 1913. Greetings may be sent c/o the Saskatchewan Synod office by post or by email at smckeown-closs@elcic.ca.



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Agnus Day is the creation of Pastor James Wetzstein, a Lutheran pastor, serving as University Associate Pastor at Valparaiso University.