

SEPTEMBER
2011



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In this Issue:

Treasurer's Report	2
Urgent Message!	
SCS News	
Good bye Brenna	3
St. Paul's Gardens	4
Delegate Report	
On Convention	5
Edgewood Golf	
Tournament	10
September Calendar	11

One of the things that I enjoy in life is telling a story. I love reading a children's story to young people as I am able to use inflexion to create the excitement and creativity of the author. A well known local children's author that I like is Robert Munsch. He has written memorable books titled, *Murmel, Murmel, Murmel, Thomas' Snowsuit*, and *I Have To Go!*, just to name few. When I was the Executive Director at Edgewood Camp and Conference Centre, many times I read one of Munsch's books to our enthusiastic campers who loved the repetitive lines.

Stories happen everywhere we are. During my July summer vacation I took the time to listen to many stories that family, friends and strangers told. Old acquaintances from school shared what was happening in their life. Family members told of what it was like in Brandon, Manitoba with the dikes that had to hold back the rising waters that could have caused major disasters. Some towns and roadways were washed away in Southern Manitoba and Saskatchewan and the devastation was unbelievable to see. While traveling we stayed in hotels and I met some very interesting people who had a story to tell including a former Roman Catholic priest.

I also love reading the Holy Bible as there are many interesting and captivating stories to hear. Jesus was an exceptional storyteller. He was able to tell a story, a parable, which enabled the listener to understand the Word of God in a way that challenged the people of the day to understand what God was doing in the world. One particular Biblical story that I re-read often is the Emmaus walk found in Luke, chapter twenty four. Here we have two disciples who are walking to Emmaus recounting the events of Jesus' death and burial. While on the road Jesus meets up with them and a conversation begins. When Jesus is puzzled by what they are talking about, Cleopas says to Jesus, "Are you

the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” Jesus says, “What things?” This enables the disciples to tell him about Jesus of Nazareth, who, unbeknownst, is with them. What a story. At the end of the story, the disciples say to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?”

Stories open our hearts, our mind, our eyes, our ears to experience something new in a creative way. The church, that is, the people of God have an incredible story to tell of what God is doing in the world, in our communities, in our congregations, and in our lives. Bishop Susan Johnson, in her report for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada at our national convention, wrote that during her time as Bishop she has “encouraged our church in the direction of spiritual renewal and living a deeper discipleship.” This is done, as she inscribes, through the call to, “read, pray, worship, study, serve, give and tell.” I found her words refreshing and inspiring as I take up the task to be a deeper disciple.

All of us have a story to tell. Life experiences are unique and they make up who we are as God’s disciples. Throughout the year, I hope to explore and examine with you, how we as congregation and personally can go deeper into our faith and spirituality through reading the scriptures, praying together as a community, providing uplifting worship, opportunities for studying together, serving our community, giving – stewardship of time, talents and offering, and telling the story of what God is doing here in the lives of the people at St. Paul’s.

Remember the words of a beloved loved hymn, “I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story, because I know it’s true; it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do. I love to tell the story; ‘twill be my theme in glory to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love. (EvLW - # 661)

Create and tell the story.

Peace my friends. Pastor Jeff

<i>Treasurer's Report as at July 31, 2011 by Sandra</i>	
Offerings	\$89,435.90
Other Income	\$1,891.60
Transfer from Investment Portfolio	<u>\$10,500.00</u>
Total Income	\$101,827.50
Total Expenses	<u>\$109,684.48</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>(\$7,856.98)</u>

An Urgent Message from the Treasurer

As you can see from the chart on the previous page, the church is in a negative position of \$7,856.98 at the end of July. This will only get worse by the end of August. We all know that our offerings are low during the summer, but last year our negative position at the end of July was \$4,070.85, so we have encountered a significant drop. I am asking you to please give generously in September, whether you are playing catch up for the summer or just adding a little extra to your regular offerings.

Thank you, Sandra



SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL REMINDER!

The **FIRST DAY OF SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL** will be September 18th, 2011. Hope to see you there!!

****Please bring your school backpack to be blessed!****

Any questions contact Janet or Jean



Brenna, we wish you all the best in your journey!

An emotional service was held on Sunday, August 21, as we bid farewell to Brenna. Brenna is about to begin her teaching career in Swan River, Manitoba. Pastor Jeff led, and the congregation participated in, a special blessing on Brenna.

Goodbyes are not forever
Goodbyes are not the end
They simply mean we'll
miss you
Until we meet again!



A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again. Finally she spoke up, "Grandpa, did God make you?" "Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago." "Oh," she paused, "Grandpa, did God make me too?" "Yes, indeed, honey," he said, "God made you just a little while ago." Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

Thank you to all who came out to help with the flower gardens on May 14th

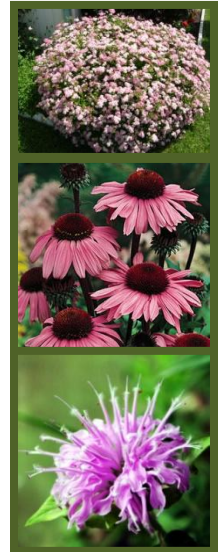
So much was accomplished and the new flower beds have so much potential. Fall is often a time to weed out flower beds and plants and shrubs can also be planted.

The Wish List for the front flower bed includes:

- | | | | |
|----------|--------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Shrubs - | Downy Serviceberry | Euonymus | Ninebark |
| | Spirea | Rose of Sharon | Forsythia |
| | Japanese Yew | | |
| Plants – | Grasses | Coreopsis | Columbine |
| | Peonies | Coneflower | Lupine |
| | Bleeding Heart | Bergamot | |

If you would like to donate any of the above, I would be very happy to hear from you.

Laura





Delegate Report on the ELCIC National Convention

In attendance at the convention: **197 lay delegates**
 157 rostered delegates
 195 visitors (non-voting)

The convention theme for our gathering was - Covenant People: In Mission for Others. Bishop Susan Johnson highlighted in her report, "This theme focuses upon the responsibility we bear toward each other and toward others by virtue of our heritage as *covenant* people."

I was very impressed with Bishop Susan Johnson's leadership throughout the convention. She was sensitive to the mood of the convention especially when difficult decisions were being made. I will talk about these issues later on in my report.

In Bishop Susan's report she wrote, "If you have heard me speak or read anything I've written in the past two years, you know I have been encouraging our church in the direction of spiritual renewal and living a deeper discipleship. Throughout our assembly, and in particular through our worship life together, we will explore aspects of this call to **read, pray, worship, study, serve, give and tell**. My hope and prayer is that we will all leave convention called to spiritual renewal, committed to deepening our own discipleship and eager to take that invitation home to our families, friends, co-workers, congregations and specialized ministries. The National Office has worked to prepare resources which will be distributed at convention to help you do just that!"

When I left convention, I was excited to take up the challenge laid before all of us.

DAY ONE:

We began the convention with worship with delegates being reminded of the promises made through God's covenant, which include: to live among God's faithful people; to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper; to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through work and deed; to serve all people, following the example of Jesus; and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. We did just that in the liturgy of Renewal of Baptism, hearing the Word, singing and praying together, and in partaking of the bread and wine. A great start to the day.

We then moved into the first ballot for Bishop. Bishop Susan was the front runner after the first ballot but we required a second ballot as she did not have the percentage needed to be elected.

We proceeded to discuss the Proposed ELCIC Social Statement on Human Sexuality. The Convention entered into a session for Committee of the Whole whereby it departed from parliamentary procedure to allow delegates time for questions and comments. The Statement is available online by going to www.elcic.org. Overall the conversation was very informative.

DAY TWO

The agenda included:

Delegates Welcome Saskatoon Tribal Chief Felix Thomas
Resolution Regarding Ethical Investing
Anglican Primate, Fred Hiltz, Offers Solidarity and Encouragement
Second Ballot for National Bishop
KAIROS Blanket Exercise
CLWR and ELCIC Share Rich History
Human Sexuality Social Statement
Election of Secretary
ELCIC Receives Greetings from the ELCA
LCBI President Addresses Delegates



We received many greetings and encouragement in our deliberations from guests in attendance. It was important to hear Tribal Chief Felix Thomas speak as he laid the groundwork for what would be called The Blanket Exercise, highlighting the history of the indigenous people in Canada. Later in the day, we passed a motion, “Encouraging Right Relationships with Indigenous Peoples” (CC-2011-45). The resolution encourages congregations and church members to endorse the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to support the work and goals of Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and to seek out opportunities to deepen understanding of indigenous rights and to renew relations between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples in our varied contexts. The motion was amended to read, that congregations, in their annual reports, be encouraged to include a summary of participation in relationship-building activities with indigenous and non-indigenous peoples; and that the ELCIC and the ACC, at their joint 2013 national conventions in Ottawa, seek to ensure that the rights of indigenous peoples and our ongoing reconciliation focus are priorities.

More information and resource material can be examined on the bookshelf in the library in the back of the worship area.

Bishop Susan was re-elected Bishop for a second four year term. In her acceptance she said, “I covet your prayers, and I thank you very much for the trust you have placed in me.”

Following more than two hours of debate, delegates approved a Social Statement on Human Sexuality. The results came late in the day and were done by written ballot, with 213 votes in favour of the motion and 134 against. This was not an easy decision for our Church. Bishop Michael Pryse, at the conclusion of the convention, gathered all of the Eastern Synod delegates together to pray for patience and healing within our ELCIC congregations.

Robert Granke, executive director of CLWR, discussed the long relationship between the church and CLWR – one of Canada’s oldest relief and development agencies. I brought back a Video CD that was made on CLWR and will show it to the congregation during a coffee break after worship in the fall. Very interesting and educational.

DAY THREE

Highlights of the day include:

New Secretary of the ELCIC elected – Murray Walter

Mennonite Church Canada Brings Greetings

Elections for National Church Council (NCC) and GSI – I was elected to serve on NCC

Luther College Report – A vibrant Christian education institution

Delegates Approve Structural Renewal Recommendation in Principle

Delegates Approve Motions on Unity, Same-Sex Blessings and Qualifications for Ordination

Delegates Approve other Motions



Structural Renewal - Motion #23: That the 2011 National Convention approve the recommendation of the Structural Renewal Taskforce in principle and authorize National Church Council to move forward with the implementation process. CARRIED.

The proposed structure in capsule form, states:

Congregations:

- Congregations are the essential element of the structure, since the majority of our mission and ministry happens at the local level.

Areas:

- Replace the existing conferences (geographical groupings of congregations working together)
- Led by Area Leadership Teams (1 – 3 rostered or lay members; serve 3 year renewable terms)
- Electoral Regions (1 or more Areas) nominate candidates for Synod Council and National Convention delegates.

Synods:

- Currently there are 5 synods. Under the new structure there will be 3 (East – 201 congregations; SK and MNO (193 congs.); BC and ABT (202 congs.)
- Role of synod will be to focus on supporting Area Leadership Teams and Congregations
- Synod assembly will meet once every 3 years (meets every other year now)
- Delegates nominated by Electoral Regions will be elected to attend National Convention at synod convention.

Roles and responsibilities redefined

National convention once every three years (currently every other year)

Smaller convention (150 total delegates)

Funding for attendance at national convention will be paid for by synod (presently paid for by congregations)

It is hoped that this new structure will equip the church to be in mission for others and develop a structural framework, which is flexible, affordable and sustainable.

Motions of Interest

Motion #26: An affirmation concerning the Unity of the Church

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, 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.

CARRIED. (after lengthy discussion)

Motion #27: rostered ministers may, according to the dictates of their consciences...may preside at or bless legal marriages according to the laws of the province within which they serve...

This motion allows rostered ministers to preside at or bless same-sex marriages. CARRIED (after lengthy discussion)

Motion #28: It is the policy of the ELCIC that sexual orientation is not in itself a factor which disqualifies candidates for rostered ministry or a rostered minister seeking a call.

CARRIED (after lengthy discussion)

From a delegates perspective, following the vote of each of the motions, the mood of Convention was respectful and tearful. Tearful, in that, there were those who were excited about the ministry opportunities that lay before us and others who were saddened by the decision that had been made. Hence, when Bishop Michael Pryse asked that the delegates of the Eastern Synod pray for patience and healing in the months ahead, it was a heartfelt request and that which I will honour.

In Conclusion:

I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to meet new people and renew friendships. The host city of Saskatoon and the Convention planning committee were fantastic. It was very exciting to see the ELCIC, as a church body, in action. I think that as long as the people of God can continue to meet face to face in order to talk about even the most difficult issues and being in Mission for Others, the church will continue to be a healthy place. I am excited to participate in God's Church, in God's Mission.

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the ELCIC National Convention.

Rev. Jeffrey Smith



Come raise your voice:

Retell, Reclaim, Rejoice!

Raise your voice in a Synod-wide gathering on **October 23, 2011 at 2 pm!** This special celebration marks the conclusion of our Synod and Seminary anniversary year of *Remembering for the Future*.

Voices from across our synod are converging on St. Peter's Lutheran in Kitchener, Ontario, to create a mass choir which will sing Bach Cantata No. 80, based on the Reformation chorale *A Mighty Fortress*. And mighty it will be when choristers are joined by the fifteen piece orchestra all directed by Dr. Peter Nikiforuk. Singers representing nearly every conference from Sudbury to Montreal have made plans to attend.

The Bach Cantata of our Lutheran heritage retells and reclaims the gospel message proclaimed through music that has inspired Christians around the world. Rejoicing in our future will also be pivotal to our worship experience. Integrating today's technology, we will explore our hopes and dreams for the future. Your participation in congregational song and prayer will be a vital element in our worship together. This special worship celebration will also be taped for broadcast on CKCO TV on Reformation Sunday.

Please come and add your voice to this unique worship gathering as we close our anniversary year. Mark your calendars for **Sunday, October 23, 2:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Kitchener, ON.**

It is not too late to become a choir member. For nitty-gritty details, or to register to participate, contact Choir Coordinator Scott Knarr at Mount Zion, Waterloo. e-mail: scott.knarr@mzlc.ca. Or call him at Mount Zion at (519) 886-5820. Rehearsal schedules and recordings of individual parts can be found at <http://www.mzlc.ca/worship-music/synodchoir>

Children in Church

Submitted by Marisela

A little boy was attending his first wedding. After the service, his cousin asked him, "How many women can a man marry?" "Sixteen," the boy responded. His cousin was amazed that he had an answer so quickly. "How do you know that?" "Easy," the little boy said. "All you have to do is add it up, like the pastor said, 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer."

After a church service on Sunday morning, a young boy suddenly announced to his mother, "Mom, I've decided to become a minister when I grow up." "That's okay with us, but what made you decide that?" "Well," said the little boy, "I have to go to church on Sunday anyway and I figure it will be more fun to stand up and yell, than to sit and listen."

A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write a sermon. "How do you know what to say?" he asked. "Why, God tells me." "Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?"

A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mommy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"

Ms. Terri asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favourite Bible stories. She was puzzled by Kyle's picture, which showed four people on an airplane, so she asked him which story it was meant to represent. "The Flight to Egypt," was his reply. Pointing at each figure, Ms. Terri said, "That must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. But who's the fourth person?" "Oh, that's Pontius - the pilot!"

Swing Low Golf Tournament

In Support of

**Edgewood Camp
and Conference Centre**



edgewood-camp.on.ca

Saturday, September 17, 2011



Brookfield Golf Course,

Cambridge

1:30 Shotgun Start

***Have fun and help raise funds for
Edgewood Camp and Conference Centre***

- * \$100 per person includes 18 holes of golf, cart,
box lunch & steak BBQ dinner***
- * hole sponsorships available***
- * for more info, email golf@edgewood-camp.on.ca
or call 519-856-9622***

**Thanks for your support.
Your Chariot Awaits !!**



THE "HOMELESS" MAN

It was a cold fall day that Sunday. The parking lot to the church was filling up quickly. I noticed as I got out of my car that fellow church members were whispering among themselves as they walked to the church. As I got closer, I saw a man leaned up against the wall outside the church. He was almost lying down as if he was asleep.

He had on a long trench coat that was almost in shreds, and a hat topped his head, pulled down so you could not see his face. He wore shoes that looked 30 years old, too small for his feet, with holes all over them. His toes stuck out.

I assumed this man was homeless and asleep, so I walked on by through the doors of the church. We all gathered for fellowship for a few minutes, and someone brought up the man lying outside. People snickered and gossiped, but no one bothered to ask him to come in, including me.

A few moments later, church began. We all waited for the preacher to take his place and to give us the Word, when the doors to the church opened. In came the homeless man walking down the aisle with his head down.

People gasped and whispered and made faces. He made his way down the aisle and up onto the pulpit. He took off his hat and coat. My heart sank. There stood our preacher. . .he was the "homeless man."

No one said a word.

The preacher took his Bible and laid it on the stand. "Folks, I don't think I have to tell you what I am preaching about today."

--Author Unknown-- Submitted by Klaus

SEPTEMBER 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 -Al-Anon 7:30-8:30 pm Parish Hall ← Pastor Jeff at ===	2 = Conf. Camp =>	3 ← =====
4 12 th Sunday after Pentecost Holy Communion 10:00 am (Rev. Dr. Jon Fogleman) =====	5 LABOUR DAY -AA 6:00-8:00 pm Parish Hall == Pastor Jeff	6 -50+ Club 12 noon, Parish Hall -Ladies' Fellowship 6 pm, Parish Hall -TOPS 6-8 pm, Choir Room on Vacation =====	7 -Quilting 9 am-12 noon Parish Hall -Finance Comm.Mtg. 7 pm, The Parlour =====→	8 -Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm, Sanctuary -Al-Anon 7:30-8:30 pm, Parish Hall ← Pastor at National	9 Church Council Mtg	10 in Winnipeg, Man →
11 13 th Sunday after Pentecost Holy Communion 10:00 am	12 -AA 6:00-8:00 pm Parish Hall	13 -Scrapbooking 9 am-12 noon, Parish Hall -TOPS 6-8 pm, Choir Room	14 -Quilting 9 am-12 noon Parish Hall	15 -Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm, Sanctuary -Al-Anon 7:30-8:30 pm, Parish Hall	16	17
18 14 th Sunday after Pentecost Holy Communion and Sunday School 10:00 am	19 -AA 6:00-8:00 pm Parish Hall	20 -50+ Club 12 noon, Parish Hall -Men's Fellowship 6 pm, Parish Hall -TOPS 6-8 pm, Choir Room	21 -Quilting 9 am-12 noon Parish Hall -Women of St. Paul's (ELW), 12 noon, The Parlour	22 -Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm, Sanctuary -Al-Anon 7:30-8:30 pm, Parish Hall	23	24
25 15 th Sunday after Pentecost Holy Communion and Sunday School 10:00 am Deadline for October Connections	26 -AA 6:00-8:00 pm Parish Hall	27 -TOPS 6-8 pm, Choir Room	28 -Quilting 9 am-12 noon Parish Hall -Holy Communion 7:30 pm -Church Council Mtg. The Parlour	29 -Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm, Sanctuary -Al-Anon 7:30-8:30 pm, Parish Hall	30	