

## Lutheran curlers no hacks during Calgary tournament

**CALGARY** - Did you know that “Let him who is without sin cast the first stone” (John 8:7) and “...sweep the house...” (Luke 15:8) are just two of the obscure references to curling in the Good Book? More bad puns abounded among clergy and friends gathered in Calgary in March for the Canada-wide Friars’ Briar.

When the final stone had been thrown at the Calgary Curling Club, two Lutheran rinks fared well among the 24 entries. Rev. Laverne Hautz (Foothills, Calgary) skipped the Bronze Medal rink. Rev. Chris Schwanz (LCMS, Marshfield, Wisconsin), and brothers Frank and Andy Littel rounded out the Hautz rink.

Meanwhile, Rev. Mike Kuhn (also of Foothills) placed eighth with his rink, which included his parents, Sid and Melanie (a church worker at Mt. Calvary Lutheran, Red Deer), and Otto Dusterhoft, head usher at Foothills.

The Friars’ Briar ran concurrently, March 7-15, with the national Tim Hortons Brier, and “like the Brier, the best team came from Alberta,” Rev. Hautz noted. Rev. Ed Oman (Calgary, retired from Covenant Church) skipped the Gold Medal foursome. Unlike the Brier, though, the Friars’ rinks include women, and featured participants of all ages (20 through 80 this year).

Rev. Hautz and other Calgary preachers had practised their skills every Monday morning as part of the Calgary Clergy Curling Club play, which runs all winter. Rev. Hautz has won that championship for the past three years.

Friars’ Briar participants represent many different denominations from across Canada. Did this sporting event help settle any theological differences? Perhaps duelling teams were both trying to “draw near” (Matthew 15:8) or “take out the stones” (Leviticus 14:40), or even offering competing prayers for victory. “We’ll never know,” Hautz mused.

Mark Kihn



The Kuhn rink (l-r): Rev. Mike Kuhn, Sid Kuhn, Melanie Kuhn and Otto Dusterhoft.



The Hautz Bronze Medal rink (l-r): Frank Littel, Rev. Laverne Hautz, Rev. Chris Schwanz and Andy Littel.

Visit the ABC District website at [www.lccabc.ca](http://www.lccabc.ca)

## LOUD announces main stage line-up

*Loud*, the next ABC District youth gathering, takes place July 23-26 at UBC’s Okanagan campus in Kelowna, B.C.

Gary Brucker from First Lutheran Church (Kelowna) will be bringing his creativity and infectious energy to the main stage, sharing how our God is Loud and what it means to make a Loud noise.

St. John’s (Vernon, B.C.) youth band—the freshest youth band in the Okanagan valley—leads worship.



With a reputation for fabulous music and a heart for God, they’re sure to set feet dancing.

Tying it all together, Chris Rehmann from Vernon is gearing up to pump it up as emcee.

Early Bird registration (\$285) closes April 30.

Final registration is May 29. Check out [www.loudyouthgathering.ca](http://www.loudyouthgathering.ca) for online registration.

Also, first submissions for the “Loud? Prove It!” contest have been posted. Check it out at the same

website. If your youth group is Loud, channel that into a video that could get them featured at the gathering.

Why all this noise? Well, could God have made a louder statement or greater impact on human history than sending His only Son to reconcile us to Himself? Imagine Jesus’ words from the cross—“It is finished” (John 19:30)—or the sound of the temple curtain being ripped in two from top to bottom (Mark 15:38). Our hope is that youth across the ABC District will be touched by God’s amazing love for them—be inspired to love back and get Loud.

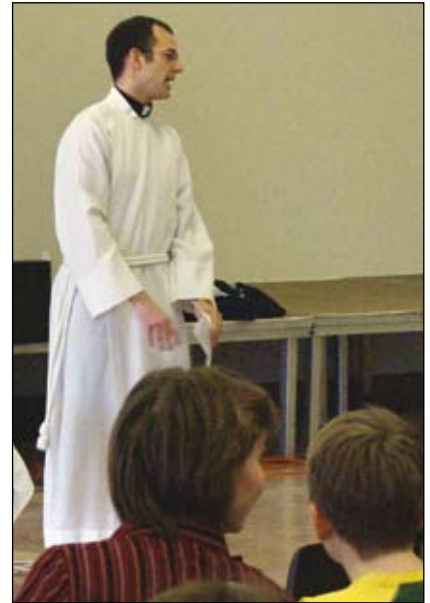
## Northeast Edmonton mission taking off

**EDMONTON** - More than 60 people gathered at Clareview Recreation Center Sunday, March 29 at 4 p.m. to listen to Rev. Vic Esperanza (Christ the King/Historic St. Peter's) preach a sermon based on 1Cor. 1:18-25 focussing on God's laughter and how He uses the "foolishness of the Gospel" to confound the wisdom

of world. Rev. Esperanza stressed how at the same God assures us of His love and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

First-year seminarian James Prophet led the liturgy; a worship team from Bethlehem Lutheran Church, organized by Scott Gamble, led the people in singing. At least six area congregations sent representatives to this northeast Edmonton mission service. A tentative date for the next outreach service was set for Sunday, April 19 at the same location.

ABC District mission executive Dr. Glenn Schaeffer invited those attending to "be a participant in developing this new church" and attend an organizing meeting April 2 at Christ the King. He called for a "committed core group who will meet to pray and to develop a vision and future direction." The goal, he said, is "to gather, form and equip the core



Seminarian James Prophet led the liturgy



More than 60 people gathered at Clareview Recreation Centre

group before launching out into the community."

Dr. Schaeffer added: "Please continue to keep this new Edmonton church plant in your prayers. And may you continue to find delight in the 'foolishness of the Gospel'!"

*From a report by Dr. Glenn E. Schaeffer*

## Registration begins for high school's next academic year

**EDMONTON** - With the excitement of another graduation nearly upon us, Concordia High School is gearing up for 2009-10 school registrations. "Spring is a big time for students to make critical decisions," says David Eifert, CHS principal. "Many students choose early registration to guarantee getting the courses they want. As well, those students choosing residence life need to register early to be sure of getting a room. We consistently fill our dorms every year and every year we have to disappoint someone. Mind you, the home stay program has been very successful so we are finding more accommodations for students all the time." Even though CHS will accept students up to two weeks after classes start in late August the majority register well before.

At Concordia High tradition and change blend easily into what has become the premier university prep program on the prairies. Without giving away any surprises, Fall 2009 is going to be an exciting start to a new school year and the plans for September 2010 are even more thrilling. Expect a very different, all new, CHS as it expands its scope.

Students interested in the best Lutheran education need only visit [www.concordiahighschool.com](http://www.concordiahighschool.com) to begin their journey. The website has nearly all of the information a student



Students at Concordia High School

needs to begin the registration process. Parents and students are encouraged and invited to visit the school. Tours of the facility can be arranged by calling Karen Lyons, 780-479-9390.

Concordia High School—eighty-eight years young and going strong.

## Penny carnival and dessert night

**WETASKIWIN, Alta.** - Valentine's Day was great fun at Zion Wetaskiwin. The LWMLC sponsored a Penny Carnival, Bake Sale and Dessert Night. We wanted to do something that would give young families a chance to get together and have some fun. The turnout was excellent and the kids had a ball playing an assortment of carnival games, with prizes, and everyone enjoyed going back to the dessert table many times to taste the huge variety of desserts.



(l-r) Jamie & Abel Befus, Steven, Rene (mom), Morgan (daughter) and Jason Dewald

The older crowd who didn't take part in the carnival had lots of time for fellowship and supporting the bake sale, the proceeds of which went to missions. They also had fun bidding on the chance to throw a pie at one of our brave young members, who kindly volunteered for the event. Great fun was had by all this Valentine's Day.

*Donna Schmuland*



### From the President

We're all familiar with the trend in our Canadian society to trivialize major religious holidays. You know Christmas is around the corner when you read

letters to the editor in the newspapers deploring the politically correct labelling of Christmas trees as "festival trees." The scene is repeated when Easter is acknowledged in the media as a celebration of spring and the new life emerging from the dead of winter. The incarnation of our Lord and His resurrection are largely ignored, except in the Church.

Easter is not trivialized in the Church—in fact, our congregations are usually filled to capacity and our people sing "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" with great gusto. It always shocks me, therefore, when we talk about the Sunday after Easter as being "low Sunday." It's as if people have done their religious duty, and the Sunday after Easter is a time to take a breather from all that worship. It's as if the resurrection of Christ has no impact beyond an enthusiastic one-day celebration.

Make no mistake—Easter is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. While it is certainly a high point of our church year, let's not minimize the resurrection by relegating our celebration to one major festival Sunday of the year. Our Catechism speaks of the importance of the resurrection as being a guarantee that God the Father accepted the Son's sacrifice for sin. Certainly it is that, but it is also so much more!

The resurrection is integral to our Christian faith and hope. As a matter of fact, we were actually baptized into the resurrection of Christ, as St. Paul writes in chapter six of his letter to the Romans: "For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his" (v.5, English Standard Version). The early church recognized the centrality of Christ's resurrection to our faith and designated Sunday

as our day of worship. The reason? Sunday is the first day of the week—the day on which our Lord rose from the dead. For them—and for us—every Sunday worship service was to be a "little Easter."

If you have the opportunity to visit a church cemetery, you'll notice that all the graves face east, in anticipation of the coming of our Lord Jesus. The day of His coming is known as the day of resurrection. Even those who have already died in Christ look forward to the day of resurrection. While they are already present with our Lord in heaven, the day of resurrection holds the promise of reunion of the resurrected body with the soul, to live—glorified forever—with our Lord.

The body that God has given to each of us will be raised incorruptible, as Paul teaches in his first letter to the Corinthians. The ravages of disease, injury and age, along with the decay of death—all the result of sin—will be forever vanquished. St. John describes the wonder and mystery of the day of resurrection: "Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:2).

The resurrection of Christ is the ultimate triumph over sin and death. It is a victory to be celebrated daily by all Christians because, through faith, that victory is ours. C.F.W. Walther stated it so well in his much-loved Easter hymn, "He's Risen, He's Risen" (Lutheran Service Book 480):

But short was their triumph; the Saviour arose,  
And death, hell, and Satan He vanquished, His foes.  
The conquering Lord lifts his banner on high;  
He lives, yes, He lives, and will nevermore die.

O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;  
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.  
For all our transgressions His blood does atone;  
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.

*Rev. Don Schiemann*

## Diamond anniversary in Alberta

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE, Alta**

- The family and friends of Hildur and Herman von Hollen gathered Saturday, February 21 to celebrate the couples' 60th wedding anniversary. Guests met at the Clearwater Centre, a Good Samaritan Society facility, where they were greeted by Herman and Hildur and reacquainted with old friends.

Sixty years ago they were married at Immanuel by Herman's brother-in-law, Pastor Alfred Miller. The attendants who could attend the anniversary event still participate in a Lutheran Church on a regular basis.

*Pastor Jim Heinbuch*



Back (l-r): Tony von Hollen; Carol Saar (daughter of Pastor Alfred Miller); Gerrie Leslie. Front: Gusty von Hollen; Hildur and Herman von Hollen.

## Pay attention to ABC convention: travellers' tips

**VANCOUVER, B.C.** - The 48<sup>th</sup> ABC District Convention—the eighth since the formation of Lutheran Church–Canada—begins Friday, May 22, at the University of British Columbia (UBC) Vancouver campus. Here are some practical tips for getting oriented and getting around:

- For those driving to convention, parking is included with your accommodations, and conveniently located beside Walter Gage and Marine Drive residence halls, depending on where you are staying. For those arriving via Vancouver International Airport, a shuttle service will be provided to get you to UBC. Shuttles run every two hours.

- Once you arrive at UBC and check in, find the Welcoming/Registration Area conveniently located in the Fireplace Lounge, directly behind the front desk of Walter Gage Residence. Convention registration will be open from noon Friday until 7 p.m. that evening.

- After check-in and registration, you will probably have some time to relax or explore the university's beautiful campus. (Look for a campus map in your welcome package.)

- Convention officially begins with 7:30 p.m. worship service, including Holy Communion, in the Student Union Building (SUB) Ballroom.

(This is where all convention business sessions take place over the next three days.) LCC President Robert Bugbee preaches; host congregation for the service is Trinity Lutheran Church, Richmond, B.C., and host pastor, Rev. Steven Harold.

- A wine and cheese reception follows the service, in the SUB Party Room (right next to the Ballroom). Convention attendees will find a coupon in their welcome package; a cash bar is also available. Sponsors of the event include Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton; Concordia University College of Alberta; Canadian Lutheran World Relief; Lutheran Foundation Canada; and ABC District Church Extension Fund. Sponsors' representatives plan to attend.

- The next day, Saturday, May 23, begins with breakfast at 7 a.m. in SUB's Pacific Spirit Cafeteria. (Don't forget that campus map!) First business session opens with devotions at 8:15 a.m.

- Convention continues through two more business sessions, breakout sessions Saturday and Sunday, and board and committee meetings. During free time, check out the Concordia Publishing House bookstore and displays from various Lutheran Service Organizations.

The Lutheran Historical Institute will be represented by its director, Karen Baron.

- Special events include the final Sunday evening banquet, a Saturday evening bus tour of Vancouver or movie night at SUB auditorium. And we can't forget the wonderful opportunities for catching up with old friends and making new friends.

- P.S. Here's a little inside information to get you thinking ahead. Plans are already under way for 2012's ABC District Convention in Edmonton!

For further information check out <http://abcevents.ca/> or go to the district website ([www.lccabc.ca/](http://www.lccabc.ca/)) and follow the Convention 2009 link.

*Kurt Robinson*

*ABC District business manager*

**Send news, photos, articles and announcements six weeks prior to publication month.**

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**Next deadline:  
May 8, 2009**