

## Servant event experience for lay grads

**WINNIPEG** - The Lay Leadership school grads met for a weekend retreat January 16-18 at Laureate's Landing (formerly a Roman Catholic centre called Villa Maria), a setting both conducive to contemplation and to sharing great ideas.

Friday night provided a time for renewing relationships and welcoming newcomers. Sharon Kentner (Lappe Lutheran Church,

Thunder Bay, Ont.) gave an update on the efforts of Thunder Bay area churches, lay leaders and pastors to find new ways of working together. Sharon's presentation sparked lots of lively discussion.

At 8 Saturday morning the group gathered at Siloam Mission in downtown Winnipeg, a converted four-storey warehouse that provides sleeping accommodations, meals, clothing, and life-skills training to the homeless. Medical care comes from a fully-staffed clinic in the building. Lay grads took a full tour of the facility led by Marilyn Swain (Peace, Winnipeg) and helped serve breakfast and lunch. Some of the group also helped sort through a mountain of clothing in the basement, with Marilyn providing spirited guidance.

Reaction to the servant event was positive: "Loved it. An opportunity to reach out with God's love to others." "A real eye-opener" and "very beneficial. It was great to have hands-on experience" read some of the comments.

In another activity over the weekend, a first for the retreat, the

## 2009 Lutheran Lay Enrichment School

Friday, May 15 (6 p.m.) to  
Saturday, May 23 at Luther  
College, University of Regina.  
Registration deadline: March 31.

For more information contact Rev. Sye Van Maanen, Central District office, 306-586-4434 or (800) 663-5673; e-mail [syevanmaanen@accesscomm.ca](mailto:syevanmaanen@accesscomm.ca); or visit the Central District website ([www.lcccentral.ca](http://www.lcccentral.ca)).

group discussed the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) paper "Public Reading of Scripture in the Divine Service"—a challenging task made easier by the capable guidance of Rev. Sye Van Maanen (assistant to the president, Central District). A summary noting the group's questions and comments will be forwarded to CTCR.

The lay grads have met for more than five years and hope to continue well into the future. Special thanks go to all who contributed in making this weekend retreat a rich experience.

Brian Wonnick



John Cullen (Immanuel, Winnipeg) brings bags of clothing to sort at Siloam Mission.

## Preachers' retreat to focus on the Living Word

**LUMSDEN, Sask.** - "The Living God and His Living Word" will provide the focus for the fourth annual St. John Chrysostom Lutheran Preacher's Retreat, June 22-24 at St. Michael's Retreat Centre. This year's speaker, Rev. David H. Petersen, pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church (Fort Wayne, Indiana) writes a widely read blog called *Cyberstones* (<http://redeemer-fortwayne.org/blog.php>). Rev. Petersen is also a columnist and editorial associate at *Higher Things: Dare to be Lutheran*, an editor at *Gottesdienst: A Quarterly Journal of the Evangelical Lutheran Liturgy*, a regular radio guest on *Issues, Etc.*, and has served as guest lecturer in liturgics at Luther Seminary, South Korea.



LCMS pastor, writer and blogger Rev. David H. Petersen is the keynote speaker at the 2009 pastors' retreat in Lumsden.

The annual retreat aims to provide a time for pastors to gather and discuss the art of preaching. Previous speakers have included Rev. William Cwirla, Rev. Dr. John Nunes and Rev. Wil Weedon. The retreat includes several opportunities for hearing good preaching; Matins, Vespers and Compline are prayed throughout. Ample time left in the schedule allows for relaxation and casual conversation. LCC and LCMS pastors and seminarians are welcome to attend.

For more information or to register, contact Rev. Mike Keith (Our Saviour, Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask.) at 306-332-5921. Visit the website <http://lutheranpreachers.worthyofpraise.org/> for more details and audio files from previous retreats.

## Basic training for North Sask. youth: putting on the armour of God

**CHRISTOPHER LAKE, Sask.**

- Thirty-seven youth from congregations in Saskatoon, Warman and Middle Lake—along with 17 adults (including youth leaders, pastors and one vicar)—enjoyed a great winter get-away January 30 to February 1 learning about “The Armour of God.”

The setting, Camp Kinasao on Christopher Lake, north of Prince Albert, provided a great “basic training” facility for indoor and outdoor games and activities. Presenter Rev. Sye Van Maanen (assistant to the District president) began by discussing the different clothes and labels we wear and how, in our baptism, we are all clothed with the robe of Christ’s righteousness and what that all means for our lives. “Padre” Van Maanen told some great stories to the troops (we sure did get to know his dad!) and helped everyone realize all over again the importance of our baptism.

In keeping with the army theme, everyone made “dog tags” as a keepsake. Each participant also had a “winger” buddy—an “armoured” rubber duck—to accompany him or her everywhere. Some youth grew so attached to their pals that they’re planning to take the ducks on upcoming trips to Paris and Rome.

*Rev. Rudy Pastucha, Faith, Saskatoon*



Youth and leaders from Saskatoon, Warman and Middle Lake enjoyed a fun-filled winter weekend



There was time for small group study and conversation indoors and winter fun outdoors

## Food for body and soul

**ROBLIN, Man.** - Our Saviour Lutheran Church hosted a perogy-and-chili supper at the Roblin Drop-In Centre March 1. Congregation members and guests from neighbouring churches enjoyed the meal and fellowship, then attended a service at the church officiated by Vicar Daniel Larson. After the service, the group returned to the drop-in centre to try to finish the tasty desserts!

Our Saviour is a preaching station of Zion (Yorkton, Sask.), served by Rev. Daniel Moeller and Vicar Larson.

*Gaylene Ziprick*



(l-r) Jack Ziprick serves perogies to vicar Daniel Larson as Eli Bodnariuk awaits his turn. In the background, Gerald Zimmer ponders whether he should have another helping of chili.

## Congregation honours dedicated worker

**REGINA** - Honouring her more than 45 years of faithful service as Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church's office secretary, Shirley Walton received special recognition upon her retirement. Rev. Glen Stever made a presentation after the Sunday-morning service August 31; congregation members then gathered for fellowship and lunch in the church basement.

Shirley began part-time in 1960 in a small office in the back of the church building. In 1986 the congregation built a seniors' high-rise connected to the church, and the first floor of that building was used for Sunday school rooms, storage, a main assembly area and office space. The office has since been relocated to the front of the church building on

Victoria Avenue.

Over the years Shirley has worked with Revs. Murv Kentel, Harold Ruf, Warren Steckelberg, Donald Koch, Ingo Dutzmann, Rudy Pastucha, Lowell Dennis and Glen Stever. Many vicars served at Grace during Shirley's time in the office, including Brian Dill, Ted Strelow, Ervin Kostizen, Bill Jordan, Jim Schuelke, Adolph Manz, Paul Dobberstein, Mike Gallagher, Scott Pinks, Roger Daene, Mark Sabol, Kurt Lantz, Fred Rink, Todd Hoeffs, David Haberstock and lay worker Don Adams. Shirley remembers typing the Sunday bulletin on a stencil and running off copies by hand. The old folding machine is still in use, although the last time it needed repairs finding parts proved difficult.



Shirley Walton

Though there have been many changes at Grace during the time Shirley served as secretary, what has remained is her dedicated service. The 101 things she looked after each week helped things run smoothly. Shirley also has a phenomenal memory for people and their connection to Grace's church family over the years.

Asked what she will miss, Shirley says it's the many friends she saw, usually daily, in the busy church office. As for what she will do now, she replies, "Maybe some volunteering if something interesting comes up. Or just whatever I want, I guess!"

The members of Grace give thanks to God for Shirley's dedicated service over all these years, and wish God's blessings for her as she begins a new chapter in her life.

*Grace Church Council*



## Ponderings from the president

### Famous last words

People have said some interesting things just before they died. Explorer Marco Polo, before breathing his last, said: "I have not told half of what I saw." George Bernard Shaw declared, "Dying is easy; comedy is hard." Lee Harvey Oswald proclaimed, "Ain't no one gonna shoot me," just before he was shot by Jack Ruby. American frontiersman Kit Carson whimsically remarked, "I just wish I had time for one more bowl of chili."

Some last words were utterances of defiance. Actor John Barrymore said, "Die? I should say not...No Barrymore would allow such a conventional thing to happen to him." When her housekeeper began praying aloud for her, Joan Crawford warned: "Don't you dare ask God to help me."

Some people have left us with words of inspiration. Nathan Hale, an American spy hanged in 1776, said: "I only regret that I have but one life to lose [give] for my country." When asked if he had any last words of wisdom, hotel magnate Conrad Hilton chose: "Leave

the shower curtain on the inside of the tub." Perhaps Karl Marx said it best when his housekeeper asked him for his last words: "Go on, get out! Last words are for fools who haven't said enough!"

I don't know if the Lord will give me the opportunity to utter something humorous or pithy before I breathe my last. I may only have time with Edgar Allan Poe to say, "Lord, help my poor soul." But that will be enough!

Most observers standing at the foot of His cross thought that our Lord's last words were "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" (Luke 23:46). But because of His resurrection from the dead, Jesus had much to say to His followers over the next 40 days. He assured them He was indeed alive. He assured them—and us—that because He lived, we would live also. He told us to stop being afraid. Before ascending into heaven He left us with words of forgiveness and peace.

Those are "last words" worthy of our attention!

*Rev. Thomas Prachar*

## What goes on at a district convention?

**REGINA** - The registration forms and initial workbook pages already mailed out give a preview of the form and substance of the Eighth (47th) Regular Convention, Lutheran Church-Canada Central District. Pastors, deacons, workers, delegates, guests and visitors will gather April 27-30 at the Ramada Hotel and Convention Centre to, as the convention proclaims, "Give Jesus Glory" and "Tell Everyone What He Has Done" (Psalms 105:1-2).

Sharing information is essential to the district's operation, so its various administrative officers and committees submit reports of their activities over the three-year period since the last convention. At intervals throughout the work sessions, reports from the president, board of directors, circuit counsellors and executive director/treasurer will be presented. The convention will also hear reports from the departments of missions, congregational services and youth, the archivist, and the salary review committee. District auxiliaries and agencies such as Lutheran Laymen's League Central District, Lutheran Women's Missionary League-Canada (LWMLC) and the Manitoba & Saskatchewan and Ontario Sonset



Districts of LWMLC, and the district's Church Extension Fund will have opportunity to report as well. Reporting from the synod office is Ian Adnams (communications), Dwayne Cleave (treasurer) and Inge Schroeder (worker benefits). Also on hand to speak will be LCC president Rev. Robert Bugbee and representatives from LCC Financial Ministries, Concordia University College and the two seminaries. Rev. Ralph Mayan will make a special presentation on LCC missions. Other reporting bodies include Concordia Lutheran Mission Society, Lutheran Hospital Chaplaincy (Regina), Lutheran Care Society of Saskatoon and Lutheran Community Care Centre (Thunder Bay, Ont.). Many of these organizations will also have booths set up for delegates to ask questions or receive even more information about their work.

An important part of convention business is discussion of various overtures and recommendations, proposed resolutions or petitions submitted by members of congregations or other recognized groups. Delegates also vote on district leadership for the next triennium. The convention is also this year's annual meeting of

the district.

Essayist Dr. Gene Edward Veith, Jr., will deliver three presentations between business sessions. Dr. Veith, provost and professor at Patrick Henry College, Purcellville, Virginia, and author of 18 books, and is well known for his insights on Christian vocation.



Convention speaker Dr. Gene Veith

The opening service, always a convention highlight, will be held at Regina's Grace Lutheran Church. Convention participants will also enjoy morning worship to begin each day. The convention closes with a service and installation of newly elected officers.

Each congregation in the district will receive a comprehensive report of the convention proceedings at a later date.

## Coming events

**April 27-30** District Convention, Ramada Hotel and Convention Centre, Regina

**May 15-23** Lutheran Lay Enrichment School, Luther College, Regina

**May 17** 100th Anniversary, Emmanuel, Southey, Saskatchewan

## Where do you find missionaries?



Rev. Jacob Quast (Church of the Lutheran Hour, Fort Frances) and Rev. Gary Heintz (Redeemer, Kakabeka Falls) at the Ontario Circuit pastors' retreat."

**THUNDERBAY** - Rev. David Maffett, executive director of Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada (LBTC), attended the Ontario Circuit pastors' retreat in January near Thunder Bay to talk about the need for missionary recruitment in LCC congregations.

Rev. Maffett suggested his colleagues are their congregation's "eyes and ears" in identifying and encouraging gifted individuals considering missionary service as a career path.

*From a report in LBTC Messengers of Christ*

Visit the Central District website at [www.lcccentral.ca](http://www.lcccentral.ca)

**Send news, photos, articles and announcements six weeks prior to publication month.**  
Elaine Stanfel, district editor  
Box 471, Nipawin, SK  
S0E 1E0  
306-862-3723  
E-mail:  
[billandelainestanfel@sasktel.net](mailto:billandelainestanfel@sasktel.net)

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March 27, 2009**