

East District - Mission, Vision, Strategic Plan Working Document

Mission & Ministry Planning Conference

November 1, 2008

Our Mission:

“Called together for service, the East District shall, by God’s grace, provide support and encouragement to our congregations and church workers as they carry out our Lord’s command to make disciples of all nations.”

Our Vision:

“Vibrant, growing congregations purposefully and joyfully reaching all with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

Our Lord has taught us to value:

- **Grace**
 - o as an undeserved gift from God
 - o in our relationships
 - o in our witness
- **Worship**
 - o receiving the means of grace
 - o in the community of faith
 - o and personally
 - o through our vocations
- **Unity**
 - o in our confession of faith
 - o support and cooperation
 - o sharing resources
- **People**
 - o seeking and saving the lost
 - o nurturing, catechizing, and
 - o encouraging believers
 - o supporting church workers
 - o recognizing and using the gifts and talents God gives
 - o honouring life at all stages
- **Faithfulness**
 - o integrity
 - o excellence
 - o accountability

Our Strategic Directions

1. Work together to cultivate Christ-centred, loving and outreach-oriented congregations by:

- 1.1 Emphasizing the vital need both for faithful participation in the Divine Service as well as personal, family and corporate Bible study and prayer; and for focus on the mission of seeking and saving the lost and straying.
- 1.2 Providing leadership training and support for church workers and parishioners.
- 1.3 Providing support both for existing work in strategic locations and for new and expanded opportunities for extending the Kingdom.
- 1.4 Addressing the increasing stress under which church workers labour, and providing them and their families with better care.

2. Work together to grow the financial and other resources available for the mission of the Church by:

- 2.1 Communicating effectively the mutual fiscal and other responsibilities and accountabilities between the District and its congregations.
- 2.2 Growing our Church Extension Fund and Planned Giving activities to maximize long-term financial stability.
- 2.3 Evaluating existing programs, missions and resources for cost-effectiveness and efficiency and taking appropriate action.
- 2.4 Developing opportunities with congregational approval for over-and-above directed giving.
- 2.5 Providing increased opportunities for our people to use their time and talents in acts of service that make a difference in the church and world.

3. Work together to develop intercultural congregations and missions by:

- 3.1 Developing and supporting a variety of intercultural mission partnerships.
- 3.2 Identifying and developing intercultural leaders.
- 3.3 Providing financial and people resources, advice and support for intercultural work particularly in urban areas.
- 3.4 Sensitizing our congregations to the opportunities for intercultural ministry and challenging them to act.

4. Work together to enhance communication and partnerships by:

- 4.1 Improving communication and cooperation between our District and congregations.
- 4.2 Seeking to remove communication barriers between our District and parishioners.
- 4.3 Strengthening the role of District Liaisons.
- 4.4 Strengthening partnerships and cooperation with Lutheran Church–Canada auxiliaries, Listed Service Organizations and other organizations.

5. Work together to strengthen and promote Lutheran theology and education by:

- 5.1 Strengthening doctrinal unity on an ongoing basis.
- 5.2 Strengthening and supporting Christian education for children.
- 5.3 Encouraging ongoing education in Lutheran doctrine for youth and adults.
- 5.4 Assisting congregations with comprehensive planning for the development of viable Lutheran schools.

Prepared in conjunction with the 2006 Strategic Plan of Lutheran Church–Canada

District and CEF chart new directions

KITCHENER, Ont. - More than 100 clergy and congregational representatives reviewed the East District's first comprehensive Strategic Plan (left) and 2009-12 projected Work Programs as they attended the second triennial Mission and Ministry Planning conference at Bethel Lutheran Church, Sunday, November 1.

The district's business manager also unveiled the "new" Church Extension Fund (CEF). Its motto, "Funding for the Future," illustrates an expanded mandate that moves beyond simply funding "bricks and mortar," to a broader support for mission and ministry.

Straw polls gauged the level of support for a number of issues, including each section of the Strategic Plan. One issue of interest was section 1.3 which commits to supporting existing work in strategic areas as well as seeking new opportunities.

The Board of Directors will process the polling, discussion that preceded it, and written responses that followed, as it works with staff and departments, workers and congregations to develop specific goals. Earlier, board members and district staff had conducted every-congregation presentations attended by more than 750 leaders and members.

An opening presentation surveyed the mission history of the district and how it has organized itself for missions and ministry since its founding in 1879.

The conference also included one-hour workshops for pastors and elders, chairmen, treasurers, recording secretaries and financial secretaries.

*Rev. Mark Hartburg,
assistant to the president,
Congregation Services and Outreach*



LCC's first Urdu services come to Hamilton

HAMILTON, Ont. - An LCC church proclaimed the Gospel in the Urdu language for the first time Sunday, September 2, at Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Accompanied by the sounds of harmonium and tabla, the service drew 160 people from Pakistani and English-speaking communities in Hamilton, Brantford, Grimsby, Burlington, Oakville, Mississauga, Toronto and Brampton.

Pastors Jim Anderson, Gary Kuenzel and Paul Lainen led the service along with People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO) missionary Javed Akhter.

After missionary Akhter's message in Urdu, Rev. Kuenzel (Christ Our Saviour, Grimsby) gave the sermon in English. A traditional pipe organ accompanied the English hymns; Pakistani musicians weaving together the harmonium and tabla (a pair of small hand drums) provided a backdrop for Urdu hymns.

Representatives from both communities brought greetings to the congregation. Rev. Mark Hartburg, assistant to the president of the East District, prayed a collect, dedicating the Urdu worship service to the glory of God.

Most people stayed for dinner, at which the menu represented both cultures and provided a perfect



Following the Urdu/English service, worshippers gathered to share foods from both cultures.

opportunity to get to know one another.

Urdu-language services continue at Redeemer each Sunday at 3 p.m. Redeemer's congregation looks forward to getting to know its neighbours and worshipping the same Saviour—the Saviour of all nations.

*Kathy Birkett,
Hamilton Intercultural Support Group*

Find out first

KITCHENER - The East District office sends weekly e-mail news. To register, go to www.lceastdistrict.ca and look for the NEW symbol. A simple click will lead you to the registration form. Be the first to know and then share the information with other members of your congregation.



How great the art

KITCHENER, Ont. - An art auction with a twist raised \$4500 for Christ Lutheran School and Collegiate Institute's 25th anniversary.

Dubbed "How Great Thou Art," the auction began when 68 invitees descended on the country home of Sandy and Jamie Hill and David Westfall, transformed into a glittering gallery for the occasion.

Once there, guests purchased tickets and viewed the art, which ranged from paintings to photography, stained glass and jewellery, to quilts and painted porcelain. The twist? None of the art had a name or label attached.

After singing "How Great Thou Art" as a group, each guest picked a number. Then, in order, guests chose their favourite piece of art—

and had to wait until the end of the evening to find out the name of their mystery artist.

Some favourite works included an oil painting by Rev. Dr. Harald Tomesch (former Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary president), photographs by Tony Keller, watercolours by Janet Main and Penny Dolittle, and four hand-carved and painted birds by Carl Schmidt.

Elegant wines donated by Joseph's Estate Wines and cheese trays from



David's Gourmet completed the experience.

Udi Scott, PTA, Christ Lutheran School & Collegiate Institute, Kitchener



From the President

Looking to Bethlehem

Not too long ago I was doing some research for a presentation to our planning conference on the role and relationship of pastor and elders. I pulled out my file on C.F.W. Walther, the first president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Back in 1987, Lutheran Witness reprinted some of Dr. Walther's articles on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his death (1887). An article he had prepared for Christmas was featured. Below are some of the profound and beautiful Christmas quotations that touched my heart from the pen of Dr. Walther:

But what is the purpose of the miracle of Christ's birth?...DO not marvel that the birth of the child at Bethlehem is so wretched and lowly. So it must be, **that satisfaction for our sins might be made and forgiveness be won for us. For our sake** there was no room in the inn...that we might be delivered from the evil of the world and brought safely to the Father's house above. **For our sake** the babe has only poor swaddling clothes for covering, that our sinful souls might be **clothed in the robe of his righteousness. For our sake** the heavenly host...were not permitted to draw near to Him, but only the shepherds in the field; by this God witnessed that the child was

born for them, for us, and that now heaven has been opened for us.

Here perhaps many will say within themselves, 'I do not feel in my heart the peace which is preached in the Christmas Gospel.' If you are troubled by this, listen! The peace which the Son of God has made between us and God is **not something within man, but something in the heart of God.** Only first accept the peace which dwells in God's heart toward you, and you will soon experience peace in your own heart...seek it in Bethlehem at the manger of the Savior—there you will find it.

Come with me to Bethlehem; here you will find...a poverty which makes us eternally rich... **Come with me to Bethlehem** and hear how the Eternal Love has come down to us...**God's love and His righteousness are united...** Will you know how great God's love is, look to Bethlehem, and there you will see.

All the host of heaven accompany this blessed message with the heavenly anthem: 'Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, goodwill to men.'

My friends, contemplate the birth of the Saviour and its meaning for each of us. A blessed Christmas to all of you.

Rev. Al Makeske

Barrie celebrates 50th and 5th anniversaries



BARRIE, Ont. – More than 140 persons including the LCC President, Rev. Robert Bugbee; Dave Aspden, Barrie’s Mayor; and Hon. Aileen Carrol, MPP; gathered to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, and the fifth anniversary of its daughter church, Loving Saviour Lutheran Church.



Over 140 gathered for a celebratory dinner at Loving Saviour, Barrie, listen to speaker, Rev. Robert Bugbee, new LCC President (at left).

The afternoon anniversary service was held on October 19 at Good Shepherd. Guest preacher, Rev. Dr. Glenn Schaeffer, and lector, Rev. Thomas Korcok, were both former pastors. At the banquet following

at Loving Saviour, LCC president, Rev. Robert Bugbee, extended his greetings on behalf of the Synod.

Rev. Dr. Stephen Omoregie, Pastor, Good Shepherd/Loving Saviour, Barrie, ON

First book for pastor/poet

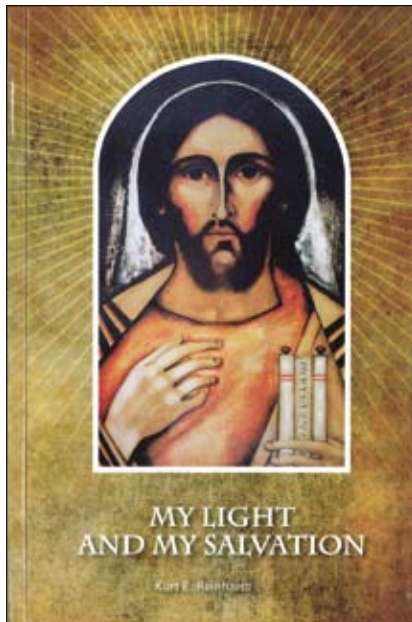
GOWANSTOWN, Ont. - You may know Rev. Kurt Reinhardt as pastor of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, but since grade school he has also been developing as a poet. In November, the church in Gowanstown (also known as Kurtzville) hosted a Reading and Refreshments afternoon celebrating the release of his first book of devotional poetry, *My Light and My Salvation*.

“Many of the poems were inspired by the life of God’s people here at Trinity,” said Rev. Reinhardt, “as by God’s grace they bear their crosses with great courage and faithfulness.”

Some poems “seek to reflect the true beauty of God’s grace and love as I have seen it unfolding in the lives of His people through His gifts.”

Others are “born of my own struggle with my weakness as I seek to carry out my Lord’s great work of ministering to His people.”

The final poem is a hymn dedicated to the children buried in the church cemetery. “From the time I arrived here,” says Rev. Reinhardt, “the long



row of little stones made a strong impression on me, as I reflected on the pain of so many parents over the past century. I wanted to give voice to the hope there was for parents of these sleeping little saints in the arms that now cradle them.”

Rev. Reinhardt also shines as a hymn writer. He began by translating three hitherto-untranslated German

stanzas of “Beautiful Saviour.” His eldest son’s baptism at Grace (St. Catharines, Ont.) inspired his first original hymn, *Baptismal Waters Cover Me* since published in Lutheran Service Book (616).

My Light and My Salvation, published by Redeemer Press in Fort Wayne, Indiana, is distributed in Canada through Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines.

Visit the East District website at www.lceastdistrict.ca

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

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