



Saints Alive!

LIVING GENEROUSLY!

by Pastor Nancy

"Saints Alive! Living Generously!" is our theme for the coming church year. This theme comes from Saint Paul's first letter to the Church at Corinth. It brings to mind a picture of all the baptized young and old, energetic, vibrant, participating fully in the life of faith with big hearts and open hands, full of kindness and grace.

What does it mean for a saint like you to live generously, not in terms of money only but to live generously with your whole life? Specifically, what does it mean for you to *live generously*...

- in your family?
- in your neighbourhood?
- at work?
- when you're making a budget? (at home, at work, at church)?
- when you're making decisions? (at home, at work, at church)?
- when you're considering what to study or read or watch on TV?
- when you're parenting and/or grand parenting?
- when you're giving to the church?
- when you're deciding how to volunteer?
- when you're considering what to do in your retirement?
- when you're making your will?

Living Generously is so much more than how much money you put in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Consider this:

One of our members, Helen Weber, has answered the call to open the doors of her home to a young woman in danger in her own country. The woman is living undocumented in Thailand; originally she comes from

Nepal. In October, St. Mark's Council signed the official forms to help Helen answer God's call to apply to protect her in Canada. Helen's relatives will contribute the funds necessary; St. Mark's will offer moral and spiritual support. **Saints Alive! Living Generously!**

When I opened the doors to the church one Sunday morning, I saw 92 prayer shawls draped over the pews, waiting to be blessed and given to those who ask for our prayers. Two prayer shawls left the church that morning draped over the arms of two strangers who appeared at worship. The prayer shawls were knit with love by **Saints Alive! Living Generously!**



St. Mark's kids gathered sticks and stones and pinecones to make an altar at Laurel Creek during Worship in the Woods. At the end of worship when we shouted, "Go in peace; Serve the Lord," the kids returned the sticks and stones and pinecones to the woods. **Young Saints Alive! Living Generously!** *continued on page 2*



Saints Alive! Living Generously!

continued

Our young people are scattering themselves around the world in increasing numbers: Dorothy Hall now in Ghana, Holly Pearson and Heather Pryse returned from Denmark and Ethiopia, Shannon Magwood-Brown involved in Children's International Summer Village. Maybe there's more. ***Youthful Saints Alive! Living Generously!***

Our "kitchen saints" are laughing and talking and making breakfast for KCI students, lunch for Friendship Circle and supper on Wednesday nights. Louise Richber was one of these "kitchen saints". Even after Louise turned ninety, she was still making pancakes, frying bacon and welcoming KCI students into her wide embrace. Louise was one of those ***Saints Alive! Living Generously!*** In fact, she still is!

Take notice of signs you see of people living generously. Living generously is a compelling, and at times disarming, witness to the wide embrace of our Lord Jesus Christ. God created you to live generously. Maybe someone is taking notice of you!



Life at St. Mark's



Photos from the Worship in the Woods at Laurel Creek Conservation Area

Baptism

Laiylah Marie Williams-Reidt
September 18, daughter of
Natalie Williams & Justin Reidt



Matthew Keagan May
September 25, son of *Amanda Underwood*
and *David May*

Celebrate with our confirmands...

Claire Bergen, Julia Cresswell & Benjamin Petrie.
Confirmation Sunday, November 20.
One service only at 10:15 AM.

100th Anniversary Update!

by the 100th Anniversary Committee

Here is an update of some of the exciting activities that are being planned for the 100th Anniversary Celebration of St. Mark's! Details are still being finalized, but we want you to start planning!

1. Narthex Windows

- Covenant window and mural is approved
- Consider dedicating the window in memory of loved ones

2. Congregational Meal

- Lunch at St. George's Banquet Hall
- November 10th or 17th is being proposed
- FUND to cover costs

3. Doors Open

- Saturday, September 21st, 2013
- Tour of St. Mark's

4. Music Event - Gift to the Community

- April date is being proposed
- Music event will be announced soon!
- Anniversary fund will cover the event

5. Calendar Fund Raiser – 2013

- Calendar for sale for Anniversary year
- Consider dedicating a month in memory of a loved one

6. Church Directory

- Updated directory for St. Mark's
- Historical photos will be included in the introductory pages

7. Look for more information to come!

- Caring for creation
- Special Sunday School project

COUNTDOWN TO 100 FUND (as of Thanksgiving) = \$5,451

We have...482 days or 1 year & 3 months & 24 days or 68 weeks or 1,568 hours to reach our goal of \$7,000 by February 3, 2013! Let family and friends know they could make a donation in your honour for - a special birthday, anniversary, or in memoriam for a loved one or a St. Mark's member who was special to you. Donations can be put in a COUNTDOWN FUND envelope or designate your own offering envelope. If you have any questions, please contact the church office. A number of donations have already been recognized in bulletins - sharing with family and friends celebrations and blessings as we COUNTDOWN TO 100.

Narthex Windows

These windows will be a permanent remembrance of our 100th anniversary celebration. Consider dedicating a window in memoriam by purchasing the window individually, with your family, with other families. These are renderings of the proposed windows.



New Covenant Window and Mural*

\$2,075 each or \$4,150 for both

* This window has been approved and will be part of the 100th Anniversary celebration.



Celebrating Music



In the Beginning was the Word



Luther Rose Window
\$1,730

Liturgical Windows
\$2,300 each

Please contact Diane Bonfante at 519-578-1369 for more information or to find out about contributing to a window!

Seriously Serially Speaking Lifelong Learning at St. Mark's


By Harold Remus


The Adult Education Hour, every Sunday, 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Church Parlour, has some significant series in store – always enlivened by lively discussion, of course.


Peter VanKatwyk, The Good Life, the Life of Faith – and Their Adversaries, on what theologians, psychologists, and philosophers have said about the “good life” and what marks “good people” (Nov. 13, 20). We know about IQ. Peter comes up again on Feb. 5 with a session on **AI (artificial intelligence) and EI (emotional intelligence) and how they figure into our lives**.


Turn around once or twice and someone will confront you with a desperate scenario for the End Times or for the Rapture & the Millennium, stitched together out of disparate Bible passages. **Tim Hegedus, Robert Kelly, and I** look at **End Times: Apocalypses, Dreams, and Visions**. It's our Advent Bible study, with a look at the origins of such scenarios in ancient Jewish texts – biblical and apocryphal – as well as in the New Testament. **Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11, 18**. Could be revealing.

Hurting Times is the January series:

 **Jan. 15, When Life Becomes Too Much: Suicide: A Question (and Questions) for Everyone**, led by Tana Nash, Coordinator, Waterloo Region Suicide Prevention Council

 **Jan. 22, When Life Becomes Terminal: End-of-Life Decisions before Life Ends**, led by Myra Van Katwyk, St. Mark's.

 **Jan. 29, When Pastoral Care Is Needed: Ministering to the Sick and Dying**, led by John Loughheed, Chaplain, Grand River Hospital, and Pastor Nancy Kelly, St. Mark's.

 And for a starter, on **Nov. 6, William Huras, Bishop Emeritus, Eastern Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada**, addresses the question, **What Exactly Does A Bishop Do?** – his own personal story.

The very popular Monday morning Daily Discipleship sessions continue, 9:30-11:00. It's Bible study – the gospel lesson for the next Sunday – applied to daily life.

On Wednesday afternoons, 5:00-5:45, it's Community Bible Study, and on Thursdays the very productive Prayer Shawl Group where St. Markers gather, 9:30-11:30 a.m., to knit, crochet, talk, and pray together.

Where? Church Parlour. All part of the lifelong learning that sustains us for our journey of faith, day to day, on to our final days.

*Mondays, 9:30 a.m., Church Parlour
Daily Discipleship.*

*Wednesdays, 5:00 p.m., Church Parlour
Community Bible Study.*

*Thursdays, 9:30 a.m., Church Parlour:
The Prayer Shawl group.*

Congregational Meetings

Church Council

There will be a Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, December 11, 2011**. This meeting will be held **immediately after the 10:15 a.m. service** in the worship space area. There will be **no early service at 8:30 a.m. on this day**. There will be only 2 items on the agenda, and they will be the proposed budget for 2012, and a motion regarding the ELCIC's Social Statement on Human Sexuality and policies which bear on Christian unity, marriage and ordination.

There will be **another congregational meeting**, in the Parish Hall, on **Sunday, February 26, 2012**, after the 10:15 a.m. service. This meeting will involve discussion on committee reports and the election of council for 2012.

 **inshallah** sings

**Sunday, November 13th
ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Songs of Faith
From Around The World:
Inshallah Sings**

**Free - Donations
accepted for
Community Ministry**

7:30p.m. - 8:30p.m.

Lutheran Pioneers: SPREADING SEEDS - STILL GROWING

by Diane Bonfonte



To conclude a series of articles honouring our connections to Seminary and Synod, I hope to captivate your imagination with Lutheran pioneers. Their influences connect to our own heritage.

Sources used are - "A History of the Lutheran Church in Canada". Authored by Dr. (Rev.) Carl Cronmiller (Pastor Vern's father). It was commissioned by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and published during Synod's 100th Anniversary in 1961 (Dr. Jacobi was President). Another is Rev. Roy Grosz's (first son of St. Mark's to enter the ministry) "Mission and Merger" Wheels of Change". Both are in our library.

"In the spring of 1849, members of the Vaughan (Ontario) congregation met and delegated Adam Keffer to visit...Pennsylvania" in search for a Pastor to serve this congregation. At sixty, Keffer walked round trip - almost 500 miles/805 kms! He spoke before the Mission Committee of the Pittsburgh Synod (the "Missionary Synod") in 1849. His "plea" was finally answered. Clergy were sent to Vaughan and Waterloo and so began Lutheran mission congregations in Upper Canada.

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**We ask for God's comfort and peace
for the family and friends of beloved
members of the congregation:**

Louise Richber October 1, 2011



Sunday, February 5, 2012

One Service - 10:15 a.m.

BISHOP W. HURAS (retired)
GUEST PREACHER

LIGHT LUNCH TO FOLLOW
IN THE PARISH HALL

99th ANNIVERSARY BANNER

COMMEMORATIVE WORSHIP BULLETIN

"Building the Walls of Zion" -
Dr. Jacobi, Canada Lutheran 1939

SPECIAL DISPLAY OF PHOTOS, ARCHITECTURAL
DRAWINGS AND MORE!

ST. MARK'S
99th
ANNIVERSARY

**Come celebrate (to the day) when St. Mark's
opened its doors 73 years ago on Sunday,
February 5, 1939.**

Members, if you know of former members and/or family of former members, please encourage them to attend this historic celebration.

AS REPORTED IN KITCHENER'S DAILY RECORD...

"An overflow congregation of more than 1,000 people waited outside...while H.J. Ball (building contractor) handed the key to the edifice to Rev. A. J. Jacobi...who opened the doors."

**New Edifice
Is Dedicated**

**Former Pastor Officiates
At St. Mark's Ceremony
Attended by 1,000**



Sunday, February 5, 2012

On Sunday February 5, 2012 our 10:15 a.m. worship service will celebrate a milestone day (in our 99th year).

Your help is needed to locate family (by end of Dec., 2011) related to any of our 87 FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHARTER MEMBERS.

If you are related, or know of someone who is, please contact St. Mark's office: (519)-743-6309 or stmarksluth@on.aibn.com.



FIRST ENGLISH CHARTER MEMBERS' LIST - FEBRUARY, 1913

**Beside a name indicates a present family member is known. The titles describe how a member transferred into First English Lutheran (once located across from today's St. Peter's, Queen Street North, Kitchener).*

BY CARD

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| 1. John H. Barkley | 30. John Mahn* | 59. Gertrude Weber* |
| 2. Mrs. S. Burkholder | 31. Cora Mahn* | 60. Ethel Weber |
| 3. Charles Bierwagen* | 32. Christine Mahn* (Mrs. Christine Hagen) | 61. Mrs. N Willison |
| 4. Ernst Bindernagel* | 33. Henry Niergarth | 62. Gertrude Zinzz |
| 5. Mrs. Alma Bornhardt | 34. Mrs. Henry Niergarth | BY CONFIRMATION |
| 6. Mrs. Charles Conrad | 35. Edna Niergarth | 63. Sylvester Burkholder |
| 7. Mr. Charles Conrad | 36. Mrs. Lorne Oberholtzer | 64. Mrs C. Bierwagen* |
| 8. Charles Emmrich | *37. Mrs. Robert Phillimore | 65. Mrs.E. Bindernagel* |
| 9. Mrs. Isaac Emerson | 38. George Peiffer | 66. Addison Bock |
| 10. Mrs. Ida Franks | 39. Mrs. George Peiffer | 67. Mrs Addison Bock |
| 11. Charles Hohmeier | 40. Amelia Peiffer | 68. Mrs. Charles Emmrich |
| 12. R. H. Heinbecker | 41. Barbara Peiffer | 69. Isaac Emmerson |
| 13. Mrs. R. H. Heinbecker | 42. Georgia Peiffer | 70. Mrs. Charles Homeier |
| 14. John Hammond | 43. Jonas Rudy | 71. R. W, Huhnergard |
| 15. Mrs. John Hammond | 44. Jacob Rosenberger | 72. Mrs. Adam Henrich |
| 16. Aaron Homacher | 45. Mrs. J. Rosenberger | 73. Mrs. John Knorr* |
| 17. Maude Homacher | 46. Norman Rosenberger | 74. Mrs. H. O. Klinck |
| 18. Viola Homacher | 47. Arthur Rosenberger | 75. Mrs. Charles Kreller |
| 19. Edna Niergarth | 48. Katherine Sachs | 76. Mr. Charles Lossing* |
| 20. J. W. Huhnergaard | 49. Mrs. S. Steckley | 77. Mrs. William Liskau |
| 21. Mrs. J. M. Johnson | 50. Carrie Sutter | 78. Joseph Litfin |
| 22. John Kran | 51. Fred J. Sahrekenberg | 79. Lorne D. Oberholtzer* |
| 23. H.O. Klinck | 52. Harry Steiss* | 80. Robert C. Phillimore |
| 24. Charles Kneller | 53. Dan Staley | 81. Harry O. Planz |
| 25. Lizzie Knack | 54. Mrs. Nina Smith | 82. Percival Shantz |
| 26. Charles Kramp | 55. Mrs. Alfred Sutton | 83. Mrs. Harry Steiss* |
| 27. Mrs. Charles Lossing | 56. Carl Sorrensen | 84. Mrs. Dan Staley |
| 28. William Liskau | 57. Ezra Steiss* | 85. Alfred Sutton |
| 29. Mrs. Joseph Litfin | 58. Mrs. A.S. Uttley | 86. Elizabeth Warrall |
| | | 87. Clayton Bock |

Community Ministry

by Marilyn Shaw



How sad it seems at this particular season of the year when the bounty of a good summer growing season has been gathered in that there are so many in our own region who are hungry. Every year in March, the Waterloo region Food Bank does a particular survey of the 71 local agencies that access food from the food bank. Community Ministry is one of those agencies.

So in March there were 6,148 households that received hampers representing 14,575 people. Nearly 40% were under 18 years of age. They included folks who were working full time, part time, on social assistance and disability pensions as well as some students. There were 42,497 meals served in the month of March.

Agencies that receive food from the food bank use the food to prepare food hampers for distribution, for meal preparation for community meals and shelters that use the food for the clients that are housed with them.

The cost to feed nutritious meals to a family of four for a week is \$168.45. A family of 4 relying on Ontario Works would have \$189.00 a month left over for all the rest of their monthly expenses if they spent that amount of money on food. There are many nutritious items in food hampers but very little fresh produce and limited amounts of protein. These are the essential items that growing children need to be healthy, to participate well in school and feel well.

Many items in food hampers are high carbohydrate items that contribute to the ever growing problem in our society of childhood obesity and associated health concerns like diabetes and heart disease. So too for the adult population that relies of food hampers, they too are experiencing increasing health risks.

What does this mean for us? When we contribute items to food banks, think about what those items are. It is easy to pick up a few packages of Kraft dinner but just as easy to pick up **canned meats** such as **chicken and turkey, tuna, peanut butter, whole grain high fiber cereals and crackers, fruit in natural juices**. When we have the opportunity share this information with those you know who also contribute to food bank donations.



Get to know some people who rely on the services of the many agencies in our community. Hear their stories and understand how they struggle to make nutritious meals for their families and themselves. It is surprising how often the stories we hear reflect on own lives which may be difficult to hear but it reminds us how connected we are when we find out who really are the people in our neighbourhood.

Jesus says in Matthew 25, *"For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me."* *"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'"* *"He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'*

Saturday, November 5th

RENISON COLLEGE - 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m..

Participants will experience teaching and worship, prayer and music, with a focus on the relationship between the shape of liturgy and liturgical role. A day for worship teams to rediscover the possibilities in the liturgy with Anglican and Lutheran teachers who will focus on the shape of the liturgy and liturgical roles. Plenary sessions, worship, and practical workshops.

Registration Fee \$25/person or \$75 for 3 to 6 people from a congregation

REGISTER BY OCT 28th AND SAVE! Register with Marilyn Malton 519-884-4404 x 28628 or mmalton@uwaterloo.ca



Fall Friendship Circle

Third Thursday of the Month

- **November 17**
Holy Communion (Confirmation)
- **December 15**
Holy Communion (Advent)

Please mark these special dates on your calendar.

Meet Ken Pfaff

by Diane Bonfonte

Daniel Pfaff (paternal grandfather) emigrated from Germany and married Katherine Hollinger from Woolwich Township on January 26, 1864 at St. Peter's Lutheran, Heidelberg (officiated by Rev. F.W. Bindemann- founder). Later, son Henry Pfaff now a member of St. James, Lutheran Elmira married Caroline Sieling (a member St. James Lutheran, St. Jacobs) at Elmira's church on December 1, 1904. Circa 1916, Henry and Caroline raised their family at 386 Guelph Street. Behind the Pfaff home, the neighbourhood pond froze every winter. "It was a natural hollow where water gathered", Ken recalls with a smile, "you had to be pretty good to keep the puck".

Henry worked as a cutter for Hydro City Shoe (across from the train station) owned by Lorne Oberholtzer - another First English family whose son Lyle and his wife Rita were loyal St. Mark's members until their passing in the 1990's.



Ken Pfaff and Karen Quigley-Hobbs

Henry and Caroline Pfaff joined First English. A family of dedicated lifelong members with baptisms, confirmations and marriages: Laura (Roy Seibert), Gladys, Kathleen (Albert - David Knorr's parents), Wilfred (Barbara), Clinton (Rita) and the youngest, Ken (Helen) - born December 10, 1919 - the surviving member of his generation. Presently, Ken holds the distinction of St. Mark's longest, sustaining male member!

For years the Pfaff/Knorr families worshiped weekly filling one or more pews. Clinton always sat in the back pew in the right transept for "for as long as anyone can remember" until his passing in 2008.

This family served in many capacities from their beginnings such as: Henry Pfaff (Council, The Brotherhood), Mrs. H. Pfaff (Ladies Aid Society, treasurer), Rita taught alongside Evelyn Vogt for 25+ years and Gladys (Luther League, treasurer).

Ken and Clinton throughout their lives were always close. Around ten years old, they went with their mother on Saturdays to Kitchener's Farmers' Market but not to help her shop. The boys stood outside the Market with their wagons offering to deliver shoppers' purchases for a fee. The price was non-negotiable, "you took what you got and soon you knew the people who paid a quarter or better!" There were other boys who did the same so Ken and Clinton worked together to build their own customer base. Ken's money usually went into his bank account at Waterloo Trust. At twelve, he also kept a "real job" caddying at Westmount. Clinton worked there too. They occasionally played "when members were scarce".

At sixteen, Ken was employed full-time at Electrohome's Breithaupt Street plant crafting the trim on wood furniture and radio chassis. He worked through the Depression while beginning to play serious hockey as a centre or left wing with the Kitchener Greenshirts (Jr. B team). His "quick wrist shot" was a formidable weapon and earned him the nickname 'Sniper'.

In 1939, Ken and his teammates (that included close friends Ken Huber and Bill Wilhelm), traveled to New York City via train to board a ship to play hockey in London, England! What an adventure for these teenage lads at a time when dark days loomed.

Ken's granddaughter Cristen created a scrapbook Ken treasures filled with Kitchener Daily Record clippings about the 'Greenshirts'. It's interesting to see the large amount of coverage the team received. In fact, in an article I noticed Dick Behling's name (Norma's late husband) who went to England to play hockey in an earlier year. There is also a postcard of the ship they sailed on in 1939 - Cunard, White Star Lines! Upon disembarking, they were issued gas masks - England and France had just declared war on Germany (Sept. 3rd). They proceeded to Canada's High Commission and were introduced to the High Commissioner, Lester B. Pearson, who, besides providing help them get home sooner, gave each a Canadian silver dollar that Ken has today. The team played in the Earl's Court Arena with its windows blackened for protection against air raids. Ken scored four goals helping the team to win the opening game of a series.

At nineteen, Ken volunteered for the RCAF - trained in Trenton and Cambridge. He was stationed in Gander, Newfoundland then P.E.I. He worked

mostly in the control tower and had various ground crew duties. Oh yes, the War didn't stop Ken from playing hockey - outdoor games were arranged on the base.

During his training in wireless school in Cambridge, Ken attended a concert in Victoria Park where he met Helen Anne Guil. Officiated by Dr. Jacobi, they wed at St. Marks on May 30th, 1942. Clinton was the "best man". Newly married, they returned to P.E.I. living off base for duration of the War (celebrating VE Day there).

Eventually, they had a home constructed on Lexington Avenue (Waterloo) surrounded by fields with the old airport hanger across the street. After WWII, veterans were offered two acres of land or equivalent value in money under the Veterans Land Act. Also Electrohome, like many companies, offered returning veterans their seniority. Ken returned to Electrohome and soon became a foreman and was promoted to an expeditor at the Fairway Road plant retiring in 1985 after 50+ years.

Through the years, Helen worked at Kaufmans, Schneiders and B.F. Goodrich and began a career as a cosmetician. For many years, she was employed at Towers (Bridgeport Road) then Shoppers (Waterloo Towne Square) retiring in 1987.

Like most young women, her professional life was interrupted. On January 29, 1958 their first and only child, Karen, was born at K-W Hospital. In fact, our mothers were in the same ward. I was born on the 23rd. We attended Sunday School concurrently and after three years of study, we were confirmed with our class of seventeen on April 1st, 1973. It wasn't Palm Sunday or Easter, just April Fool's Day. Ours was one of the first confirmation classes with no gowns or formal photo. Karen was often a soloist (midnight Christmas Eve service) for the Junior Choir (directed by Dulcie Fotheringham) and I, not really being much of a singer, joined with my friend the short-lived all teen-age girls Intermediate Choir (directed by Bette Cronmiller). We still recall singing the hit pop single, 'Morning Has Broken' at the packed 7:00 a.m. Easter service and another song at the 9:00 a.m. service followed by Sunday School. We taught Sunday School for a year or two and always attended VBS (held for two weeks).

Ken and Helen enjoyed their retirement travelling every March (with friends) to Florida. They attended spring training games of their beloved Blue Jays. Since 1968, they had Kitchener Ranger season tickets too. With a sudden diagnosis of cancer, Helen passed away in a short time in 1994.

Karen graduated from U. of T. nursing. She has been employed with the Region of Waterloo for thirty years as a Public Health Nurse and is

the Director of Infectious Disease, Dental and Sexual Health. In the fall at flu time, she is often a spokesperson in the local media.

Karen is married to Wayne Hobbs and blessed with Cristen (born, 1988) and Timothy (born, 1985). Ken is very proud of all his family. He resides at Terrace on the Square, Waterloo where this article's accompanying photo was taken with Karen and his scrapbook. Just two years ago, Ken stopped attending Ranger games with David and Joan Knorr. Most days he watches sports on TV - some lifelong pleasures never change. Every Sunday, dinner is with the family otherwise he enjoys the company of his regular mealtime companions.

Ken's service to St. Mark's included much - "two stints on Council" and many years on the Property Committee. Helen always sat near the back on the left side so she they could manage some worship time together when he frequently ushered.

A special mention of gratitude to everyone who has and continues to help Ken attend worship: Norma Behling, Ralph Beam, Pat Milburn, Allan and Prijna Gingrich, and Pastor Vern and Bette. The importance of weekly worship has not faded; another wonderful testament of a life lived "as a good and faithful servant" to family, hockey pals and cherished friends at St. Mark's.

"Ken, may God's abundant grace and peace continue to bring you endless love, joy, peace and contentment!"

Address and Information Changes



New addresses are available for the following members. We will no longer publish the address due to privacy issues. They are available to members from the office if you need to contact them.

Cora Reist

Catherine Schweitzer

Barry & Jean Gutzeit

Rosslyn St. Clair

Huang Hailing

Philippe Cadieux and

Tania Portillo

August 20th

Cara Culkin and

Joseph van der Laan

October 1st



Remembering FOR THE FUTURE

This title is synonymous with our Synod and Seminary milestone anniversaries in 2011. *SYNOD (from the Greek translation into English) = on the way together.*

The history of both these institutions is engaging and enlightening. While preparing St. Mark's present showcase and viewing this CD, I came to realize we stand on the shoulders of our forebears, 'titans', whose leadership put God's living word into our hands (and hearts) by building up places for learning, praise, thanksgiving and service to the Glory of God.

At September's WLS Women's' Auxiliary Annual Meeting, the Remembering For The Future video was premiered. It is informative, entertaining and divided in two parts - Seminary and Synod. Each has topical sections (approximately 5 to 10 minutes) portraying historic events.

One section entitled "WWI" is especially poignant and directly relative to our roots as First English Lutheran, Berlin. It conveys the German and English language controversy in schools, businesses and within Lutheran churches. An unsettling part of our local history is brought to the forefront. Our founder, Rev. M.J. Bieber and our first Pastor, Rev. H.J. Behrens (not specifically mentioned in the video) were subject to physical attacks by soldiers stationed on Queen Street along with ordinary citizens.

Since we just celebrated Thanksgiving, I thought it timely to mention the video conveys the reality of students' struggles during the Depression. Students knew for Thanksgiving, local Lutheran churches sanctuaries were decorated with food. One year, student Delton Glebe 'rounded up a truck' and with others, drove around K-W collecting this food on Thanksgiving Day. These students were all welcome to it!

A copy will be available in our library.



Showcase

September - December

Celebrating Synod & Seminary

2011 is a milestone anniversary year for both.

Translated from Greek:

Exodus = on the way out

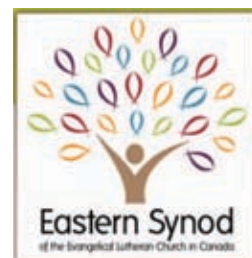
Synod = on the way together

To present days, the evolution of the Lutheran Church in North America is a vast study as well as the establishment and growth of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. Both impacted by immense changes through the decades. Beginning with First English, we are notably intertwined with these two institutions.

The showcase display honours the dedication and commitment of Pastors, interns, student assistants and employees of our congregation who connect to one or most often both. Documents available recording their work (and accomplishments) seem infinite.

The bulletin board beside the showcase highlights our connections to the work of the W L S Women's Auxiliary (in its 98th year).

Our congregation has hosted several conventions convened at First English and St. Mark's. Also, we have the unique distinction to be considered a (if not 'the') leading congregation in Canada to have lots and lots of direct history connecting us to Synod and Seminary - past and present. Photos and official publications shown are a meager sampling reminding us all of their ministry and service - 'Remembering for the Future'.



Three Days in July: What Took Place at the ELCIC National Convention in Saskatoon?

by Mark Burgess

Church conventions – nothing more dreary? Nothing farther from the truth! Along with Lyle Pearson, your other lay delegate, I was privileged to represent St. Mark's at what was a momentous (indeed historic) convention. It was a very busy three days, stretching on into the late hours. Among the highlights:

- Many wonderful worship services.
- The re-election of Susan Johnson as our National Bishop.
- A moving presentation called the "Blanket Exercise" by KAIROS on the history of the relation of European settlers and the Indigenous nations of Canada, an address by Saskatoon Tribal Chief Felix Thomas, and a resolution "Encouraging Right Relationships with Indigenous Peoples."
- A resolution asking "members, congregations, and synods of this church to engage the issue of ethical investing in their private and collective practice."
- Greetings from the primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, a representative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the general secretary of the Mennonite Church Canada.
- A banquet marking the 25th anniversary of the founding of the ELCIC, which included greetings by all past national bishops and a recognition of the passing of the Evangelical Lutheran Women—an organization so important in the life of our church over the years.

The most important matters up for discussion were the Social Statement on Human Sexuality, three motions deriving from it, and structural renewal.

After lengthy, often passionate discussion, the Social Statement was approved by a vote of 213 to 134. The Statement describes changes in society in recent decades, provides theological and ethical foundations for assessing them, and applies insights from these first two sections to present-day society. If you have access to the internet, you can read it at <http://elcic.ca/Human-Sexuality/documents/PROPOSEDELICISocialStatementonHumanSexuality.pdf>.

Three motions based on the Social Statement were passed after much debate: one affirmed church unity in the midst of differences; a second allows for (but does not impose) marrying of same-sex couples; a third states that sexual orientation is not a barrier to ordination.

As for structural renewal, a quite intricate motion was passed, involving changes in the ELCIC constitution and bylaws, changing the frequency and size of national conventions, and merging the BC and Alberta synods and the Saskatchewan and Manitoba synods—thus bringing each of the two new synods closer to the size of the Eastern Synod. Underlying the motion is reduced funding in recent years and a desire to function more missionally in the 21st century. Synods will be voting on various parts of the motion at their conventions in 2012.

I want to thank St Mark's for allowing me to attend such an important and historic convention in the life of our church. I'm proud to belong to a church that has the courage and imagination to embody the absolute inclusive nature of the Gospel.



Lutheran Pioneers: SPREADING SEEDS - STILL GROWING

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In his book, Dr. Cronmiller describes Keffer as "a shepherd for the scattered flocks of our brethren in Canada." A trail blazer extraordinaire whose pioneering enabled the formation of the Canada Conference of the Pittsburgh Synod in 1853 - our first Lutheran Synod! Adam Keffer, a father of Synod - a determined, persistent pioneer who, over time walked - 1,260 miles/2,028kms (measured by today's highway's distances) through wilderness, good weather and bad!!

As written in Dr. (Rev.) Oscar-Cole Arnel's book (on display in our showcase) - "Perhaps the most successful of all the Lutheran missionaries in Eastern Canada was the controversial Friedrich Wilhelm Bindemann. Virtually every Lutheran congregation established in Waterloo County from the 1830's - 1850's was inspired directly or indirectly by this great church builder...his contributions to the planting of Canadian Lutheranism are incalculable. He may well be the most successful Lutheran missionary in Canada".

From Prussia to Pennsylvania, this rugged, undaunted, pioneer organized St. John's (Waterloo) and Historic St. Paul's on Queen Street (Kitchener) where he served for 32 years. Eventually, his theology turned congregations against him. Some from Historic St. Paul's, Queen Street (Kitchener) broke away to form St. Peter's, Queen Street (Kitchener). Bindemann's conflicts with urban and rural congregations are infamous.

Best known as "the marrying parson" - Bindemann offered a 'no frills ceremony' in his living room. It is believed he married a couple thousand of Lutherans - "You want each other. Now you've got each other, two dollars." In fact, Ken Pfaff's grandparents were married by him at St. Peter's Heidelberg (which he founded). Perhaps other St. Mark's members have ancestors who were married by him.

As was his wish, this Lutheran pioneer is buried in the First Mennonite Cemetery, Kitchener. Until his death in 1865, Bindemann resided in an unassuming, white frame two-story house located at 820 King Street, West - across St. Mark's. Some of our members may recall this house. It was demolished in 1961 to build the Swedenborgian church - now gone. Source: KPL/Grace Schmidt Room, Waterloo Historical Society journals.

Our chancel's three-step Latin cross is dedicated to "the memory of Rev. Alexander Oberlander" given by his son Rev. Fredolin Oberlander. Both were clergy at St. Peter's, Kitchener. Alexander was very involved in the political conflicts of the day (circa 1913) which included First English-us! Fredolin concerned himself to further new medical treatments during the tuberculosis outbreak in the 1900's. His knowledge of treatments in Germany, and his influence locally, led to establishment of Freeport. Quite the story to be found in "Heeding the Call" published in 1988 for St. Peter's, Kitchener 125th Anniversary. A copy is in our library.

Also from Pennsylvania, Rev. M.J. Bieber (founder of First English) was a mission developer who became the best-known missionary in the United Lutheran Church along with his position as Canada's first president of Luther League (1909-1912). Source: St. Mark's archives.

Our congregation's connections to Synod and Seminary are many - never a dull moment, then or now.

