

The Spirit at Bethel

October 2011

Sherwood Park, Alberta

Sharing the love of Jesus with a hurting world

St. Paul's Thanksgiving Prayer

Pastor Marv

Some call the letter to the Philippians St. Paul's "Joyful Letter." Others call it his Thanksgiving Letter." Prayers of joyful thanksgiving for his readers' response to the Good News of Jesus are a hallmark of the opening greeting in many of his letters. As St. Paul writes to the Philippians, the basis of his prayerful thanksgiving for them is not only their reception of the Good News – it is also their active support of his ministry.

"I thank my God . . . (etc., etc., etc.) . . . from the first day until now. . ." (Philippians 1:3-5)

In 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, Paul articulates the concrete ways in which the Corinthians partnered with him in his ministry. They did it financially. He characterizes their giving as:

- Rich generosity
- Beyond their ability to give
- Pleading with us for the privilege
- Giving themselves first to the Lord.

I join St. Paul in his thanksgiving prayer. I thank God for the many generous partners in our ministry: for the many who faithfully support our Lord's ministry week after week and month after month; for the many who see financial giving not as "have-to" or "duty" but as "delight" and "privilege"; for the many whose giving is a response to God's abundant blessings in their lives. It is this kind of attitude that delights God. St. Paul writes, "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). Cheerful givers are those who have the heart of Jesus. I regularly think of the cheerful givers at Bethel – I thank God for you often – and I also pray with joy because of our partnership in the Gospel.



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The Spirit at Bethel is the monthly newsletter of Bethel Lutheran Church, Sherwood Park, Alberta. Laila Klaszus and Kris Buchholtz are co-editors.

We welcome articles (650 words or less) of people and events relevant to Bethel and the Church. Please leave a copy of your submission with Ann in the office or email it to bucbunch@telus.net with the following SUBJECT LINE:

November Spirit—YOUR NAME.

If possible, also include pictures, preferably as separate attachments. **The deadline for the November issue is Monday, October 24, 2011.**

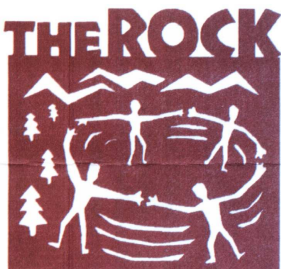
Mission of the Month for October: The Rock

Pastor Marv

Grace and mercy! We are all recipients. They are freely and graciously given to us. Yes, they are gifts from God. They are poured out into our lives. We taste of their goodness and we partake of their abundance. None of these gifts are intended for us to hoard. God grants them to us so that we can freely and graciously share them with others.

For 15 years, the Rock has been serving the least of these our brothers and sisters in Jesus' name. Here are some information points concerning the Rock and its ministry:

- During an average breakfast, the Rock uses 35 loaves of bread, 23 kg of pancake mix, 22 kg of oatmeal, 10 kg of white sugar and 5 kg of brown, 7 kg of powdered milk, 7.5 L of syrup, 3 kg of peanut butter and jam, 2 kg of coffee, 113.5 L of juice, 600 eggs and 27 kg of sausage.
- On average, they serve 35,00 meals per month (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) with between 10-15 volunteers each day.
- The oldest current servant volunteer is 85 (and eight others who are serving are over the age of 80).
- The street people, homeless and low-income people who use the Rock's services come from Northern Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and several from the Maritimes; in addition some are immigrants of various ethnic backgrounds.
- The average client utilizes the Rock's ministry for about 3 months (while some have used it for years and others for only a single time).



You may assist in supporting this Mission of the Month in several ways:

1. **Prayer:** Pray for those who use the Rock's services; for those who work at the Rock; and for those who support the Rock
2. **Volunteers:** Volunteers are need on an ongoing basis. Currently the major need is for people to serve on Wednesdays and Thursdays.
3. **Support:** Taking a food bag with the grocery list, filling it and returning it to Bethel **AND/OR** writing a cheque to Bethel Lutheran Church and earmarking it "The Rock" or "Mission of the Month".

In Matthew 25 Jesus says, "*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.*" (Matthew 25:35-36).

In sharing from the abundance of our blessing with those who are hungry, thirsty and strangers – as well as with those who are naked, sick and in prison – we are giving to Jesus. Jesus continued, "*whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.*" (Matthew 25:40)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Marv.



PALM Ministries

Pastor Matt

The mission of PALM Ministries is "to be the fragrance of Jesus the Messiah" to immigrants and refugees who come to Edmonton from the Middle East, Persian Gulf, Africa and Asia. Many of these newcomers to Canada have come out of hopeless situations and so they are hurting and suffering – they need to be embraced with God's love, mercy and compassion. For more info. contact Pastor Matt.





Phil Brose and John Dawe (left) keep watch over the roasting meat while Pastor James (below) serves up some vittles to those who attended Bethel's Fall Kick-Off Barbecue after the worship services on Sunday, September 11.

September Beginnings

Deloyce Elle

For many, September is an exciting month of new beginnings: starting a new grade in school, meeting new friends, new sports teams, new after-school school events. Every day brings another adventure. September was also full of new beginnings for the 110+ children we welcome each Sunday, from the littlest ones in Blessing Place all the way through to the veteran Grade 6 students.

Those in Grace Land (Kindergarten to Grade 4) are starting the year off focusing on the theme "God is our Rescuer". We are learning about the events in Joshua, Judges and Ruth. During Advent, we will be studying the Gospel of Mark, meeting the God-Man, Jesus.

The Quest 56 bunch were very excited to have so much space in their new rooms upstairs. This is a much-needed move as the classes continue to grow. These students will be learning about teen heroes in the Bible and traveling through "Prayer Walk Mall" when they focus on the Lord's Prayer.

Just as God richly blesses us, it is exciting to share these blessings with others. With this term's offerings, the children will be purchasing "Kits for New Moms" through Compassion Canada. For \$40, mothers in Africa are able to receive pre- and post-natal care, vaccinations for



their child, as well as education and support in raising their child, particularly focusing on stopping the spread of HIV. Be sure to check out the bulletin board between Rooms 5 and 6 to see how many babies and their moms we are able to share God's love with through this wonderful gift.

The Sunday morning children's ministry would not be possible without the wonderful teachers. Please be sure to take the time to meet your child's teacher and introduce yourself.

If you have any questions about Blessing Place, Grace Land, or Quest 56, please speak with Deloyce Elle.



First Communion Class

Pastor Matt

For youth in grades 3-4 and up, First Communion classes prepare youth for receiving Communion. Parents are asked to attend. We'll meet on Saturdays: October. 15, 22 and 29 from 9:00-10:30 a.m. For more information, contact Pastor Matt. To register, please call the church office.



Confirmation

Michael Gillingham

Classes for youth in Grades 7 - 9 and their parents are up and running as we begin another year of Confirmation classes. Our topic this year will be a survey of the major stories and themes of the Bible in the Old Testament and in the Gospels. We'll be focusing on the God who made us, who loves us and who saves us from sin, death and the power of the devil. Classes are offered on Sunday mornings from 9:45 - 10:55 am or Wednesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:15 pm. We meet in the Activity Centre. Call Pastor Matt or Michael if you have further questions.



Ministry Market

Pat Sonnenberg



The Ministry Market on September 11 was successful due to all the time and effort put in by the many groups that provided in-

formation on their various ministries. The sounds of people mingling plus the yummy smells coming from the activity center attracted much attention. Some of the comments heard from the people walking through the displays were:

"We have been members at Bethel for many years and had no idea that there were so many programs and activities that are available" and *"The people at this church are so friendly."*

The Ministry Market participants were very happy with the response that they got as people were signing up to be part of the various ministries.



Senior High Retreat

Michael Gillingham

Our Senior High youth will be heading out to Camp Kuriakos for our fall retreat on October 14 - 16. It's a great opportunity to get away from our busy lives and full schedules for some restful time in the woods. It's also a great opportunity to focus on time with God and with our Christian friends. If you'd like to attend, please let Michael Gillingham know.



Stewarding our Children

Paul Schoepp

One of God's most precious gifts to us is our children, yet in today's society children are often abused and may even be sexually exploited. Come to this study to hear what God says about the gift of children and to learn how to be an advocate for the safety of kids in the family, in the church, in the school, and in the community. We'll be using a curriculum of prevention and response published by "Darkness to Light." We can protect our children by understanding seven steps which include such things as understanding risks, minimizing opportunity and getting involved. It's a tough topic, but it's one the church needs to speak about. Registration fee is \$10/person. Come yourself and consider inviting a friend along, too.

Sign up for the course in the church office. The plan is to offer the course in two formats: four Sundays (October 30 through November 20 at 9:45 a.m.) or two Mondays (November 14 & 21, 7:00-9:00 pm). Watch the weekly bulletin for confirmation of these dates. Contact Paul Schoepp if you'd like more information.



Foundations of the Faith

Pastor Matt

The *Foundations of the Faith* classes will explore the central themes of the Scriptures and the mysteries of the gifts God gives. They will begin on Thursday, November 3 at 7:00PM and will run for 6 weeks. For information, please contact Pastors Matt or James.





Financial Peace University

Paul Schoepp

The Financial Peace University (FPU) class is off and running this fall for 13 weeks with 13 households from Bethel and the community involved. We live in a credit-driven world that has lots of people living at or beyond their financial means. FPU is designed to help people get hold of their finances and to teach practical money management skills from a Biblical perspective. FPU helps people to think about three uses of money (spending, saving, and giving) and to put them into an intentional and healthy balance. The course follows a video instruction and small group discussion format. Though the fall class has already started, you can start thinking about the sessions that start on Monday nights in January. You can check the course out at <http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/home> or come as a visitor to one of the classes this fall on Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm. Want more info? Contact Paul Schoepp at paul.schoepp@bethelchurch.com.



Contemporary Christmas Choir

Normay Wiebe



Come and join us as we sing favorite Christmas carols in an updated style from *Let Heaven and Nature Swing* this upcoming Christmas season. We sang this collection of music a few years ago, and many people mentioned that it was one of their favorites. Practices are Wednesday, October 19 through Wednesday, December 7 (omit November 9) and presentations will take place during Sunday morning worship on November 20 and December 11. CDs and music will be handed out ahead of time. Contact Normay if you're interested in joining us at 780-417-7757 or normay.wiebe@bethelchurch.com

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Calling All Instruments!

Normay Wiebe

The Orchestra will once again play on Thanksgiving Sunday, October 9. Practice is Saturday, October 8 at 3:30PM. Music will be given out ahead of time. Please contact Normay if you're interested in joining us. (normay.wiebe@bethelchurch.com or 780-417-7757).



Blended Choir

Our Blended Choir meets Wednesdays evenings at 7:00 PM in Room #5 (the Preschool room). Please contact Heather Higgs at 780-476-8061 for more information.



Waltzing for Wollaston

Kris Buchholtz

Join us on the evening of Saturday, October 22 at 6:30 PM at Bethel, where we will be waltzing for Wollaston to raise funds for our mission trip to Wollaston in northern Saskatchewan this upcoming July! Tickets will be available at the door for \$20.00/family, and all proceeds from the ticket sales for this ballroom dance fundraiser will go towards our LAMP mission trip to this Dene community as the team seeks to reach out with the love of Jesus to the hurting children and youth who live there.

No previous ballroom dancing experience is required since lessons in the waltz, the foxtrot and the jive will be provided (as will the music and beverages!). Just bring a nut-free snack to share and your dancing shoes! Feel free to dress up as much – or as casually! – as you'd like.

Please RSVP to Darrel at 780-417-3025 or buchbunch@telus.net if you think you may be coming so we have a rough idea of numbers, but feel free to come even if you don't RSVP!!! We look forward to seeing you there!



Letters from Our 2011 Senior High Servant Event Team



Dear Bethel:

Muchas gracias for your prayers and financial support for the YLM Senior High Servant Event. Also appreciation is extended to family members and all of the senior high students and adults for sacrificing a week of their holidays to serve in Texas and Mexico. Many great memories were crafted, numerous laughs were shared, and tears of joy and compassion shed as a result of our spiritual and physical growth. There were so many special moments where God's love, patience, kindness etc were shared with community members and amongst our group. I am so proud of and love each of these youth as if they were my own. All of this could not have been possible without Bethel's and others' assistance and for that we are very grateful. I am most certain that staff and the families we helped would echo that sentiment. Thank you for the awesome experience to help make a difference in people's lives!

Catherine Williams

I truly do appreciate all the financial and spiritual support that has been given to make this trip to El Paso possible. I learned and was blessed more than I expected and was glad that I could also enter Juarez to help build a house there. On this trip, I was reminded of how blessed we are in Canada and how we should give thanks to God for everything He's done and is doing for us. This trip will stay in my mind for a long time and I look forward to next year when I might have a chance to come on this trip again. Muchas gracias.

Jonathan Schoepp

Thank you so much for all the fundraising and support our team got for sending us to El Paso and Juarez. I'm sure I speak for all of us when I say that we all grew physically, emotionally and spiritually closer to God. The trip was amazing and the memories I have will last a lifetime, so thank you so very much.

Emily Scharf

Thank you for the fundraising and sending us to El Paso and Juarez. I had a great experience and enjoyed going to help families and meet new people. I loved playing with the kids in Mexico and hope to experience something like this again in the future. The group accomplished so much during the five work days. I'm going to miss all the kids I met in Juarez and my group I went with on this mission.

Ariel Bulycz

Thanks for helping to send us to El Paso. It was a great opportunity for me to use the construction skills I developed while working with Habitat for Humanity so that I could please God through service to others. The trip also allowed me to connect with people my own age so I might not be as much of a "loner" at church on Sundays. Therefore, from the bottom of my heart, I thank you.

Sean Molzan

Thank you for this opportunity to return to El Paso for my second mission trip in two years. It was great to return to serve in Mexico and Texas. I was and am so proud of what we were able to accomplish for others and for ourselves. It was a great time for me to grow in faith and love of our Lord. What an amazing group of kids! Thank you for your prayers and support.

Tim Gillingham

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to go and experience Juarez and El Paso. This entire trip has been a great experience and a lot of fun. The experience I gained and the lessons that I have learned will be something I will always remember. And once again thank you for the support.

Josh Luedtke

Thank you, Bethel, for your love, prayers, encouragement and support. I was truly amazed at how blessed I was to be given the opportunity to serve God with this group of youth. You should be very proud of them. They were eager to serve, kind, considerate and hard-working. I never heard a harsh word from any of them. I pray that you continue to encourage and support them as they share God's love with a hurting world.

Kerry Cameron

This is my second time going on the Texas trip and it was just as amazing as the first time. Each year I get the chance to know the different team members and myself on a whole new level, as well as many, many new construction skills and tricks. (There is a trick for everything!) Thank you all so much for the fundraising that allowed us to all be able to take part in this experience, and especially for your prayers that have kept us safe while doing nearly everything from demolition to roofing to drywalling. I look forward to being able to come again next year and strongly encourage anyone in senior high to come along. ;)

Kendra Cottrell



The 2011 Senior High Servant Event Team

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to go to Juarez and El Paso. The entire trip was filled with experiences that helped me (and I'm sure everyone else) grow physically, emotionally and spiritually. This experience and the invaluable lessons I have learned will stay with me for the rest of my life. Once again, thank you so much.

Kelsey Johnson

Thank you for this incredible opportunity to serve with your church. As a church you should take pride in the impact your generosity has had in both El Paso, Texas and Juarez, Mexico. The team you sent touched the lives of two families, two communities, two countries. Thank you also for the privilege of meeting and getting to know your children for they are your greatest achievement. Vayas con dios, Bethel!

Steve Martin

Being able to travel to El Paso Texas on a mission trip and having people at Ysleta Lutheran Mission site being so hospitable was a great pleasure. The experience one can gain by going on a trip such as this will change you forever. Thank you for your support including financial help, without which I could not go. Thanks soooo much!



Lagan Dabbler

Gracias for the fundraising and support; my summer vacation has been a blast because of this trip. The things that I experienced are indescribable. El Paso was wonderful, being able to help families and developing as a group and getting closer is an experience everyone should have. Thank you Bethel for making it possible.

Jordan Tennant

When I think back on this trip, I realize how much closer to God and this team I have gotten. It was amazing to see how much we accomplished in such a short time. But mainly because of the prayers and support from you. We all overcame fears and challenges as well as the heat...and for some of us, lack of sleep. I look forward to sharing my experience with you. I pray God blesses you as much as you have blessed us. Thank you!

Sarah Cameron

I would like to thank everyone who helped make my week in Texas and Juarez possible. The fundraising was amazing, and the week was a very special time for me. I met lots of new kids and made friends with the entire team. I grew in my faith and closer to God as well. Thank you again for providing me with resources to have such a life-changing week.

Kevin Chambers

Thanks for supporting us! I had a great week with all the people on our team, learning and experiencing many new things. It was an amazing opportunity that I will never forget.

Kate-Lyn Titosky

As I reflect on this week, what stands out the most is what a wonderful group of people God has blessed our church with. The students: the determination they displayed to learn the new skills bestowed upon them; the patience they had while waiting for tasks to be completed or instructions to be given—all in the blazing heat; and the love of Christ that radiated through their kind words and their joyful attitudes as they played with the children and talked to the adults of Juarez and El Paso. The leaders: the constant patience and understanding that they displayed while interacting with and teaching our youth. And of course I think about the sacrifices made by the families left behind this week as they hoped and prayed all was well with their loved ones. Thank you to our wonderful congregation for all of your prayers and your financial support. We are truly one family in Christ.

Lori Titosky

The Texas/Mexico mission trip with Ysleta Lutheran Missions is one of the most fun and life-changing trips I've been on. No matter what you expect coming on this trip, there are always surprises waiting. Throughout the week, God brought me joy, stretched me and challenged me, and taught how to be a better servant. This has been an amazing experience and I hope to bring what I've learned into other areas of my life as well—because you don't have to leave the country to serve other people! But the real purpose of this letter is to let you know how much our whole team appreciates the donations and prayer support from you, the people we left behind for a week. This amazing opportunity would literally not be possible without you. Thanks so much.

Erin Strand

Moved by The Spirit

Normay Wiebe

On the Junior High mission trip to La Ronge this summer, we joined the congregation at La Ronge Lutheran Fellowship for the Sunday morning worship service. Adding 36 people into a small church where there was also a baptism and many extra visitors made for cozy seating arrangements. As we sang together, I was blessed by how heartily our youth joined in. In some teenage circles, singing is not considered to be a cool thing, but these youth sang and worshipped at the top of their lungs. In fact, I noticed a few of the other congregants looking over wondering who was singing with such conviction. I was blessed to be in the midst of a group of people who meant what they sang and were not ashamed to do that.



The church in La Ronge

Another moment in the service that truly moved me was during communion as we sang the song "Freedom Reigns." I do not believe that it was coincidence that

the Bethel congregation at home was singing that same song at about the same time as we were singing it in La Ronge. (That's one of the perks of knowing the service order even when we're away!) It felt like we were singing with you. We may have been away in the body, but we were with you in Spirit, both declaring that freedom and Jesus reign in these sister churches.



L.W.M.L. Canada News

Irene Plunkie

The Bethel L.W.M.L.C. is hosting a Fall Rally at Bethel on October 22, 2011. All ladies are welcome to join us. Our guest speaker, Karen Baron, will be speaking about the Lutheran Historical Institute of Archives.

For more information, please see the posters on the bulletin board for the time and date, or contact Irene Plunkie at 780-431-9806.



Connecting with Bethel

Pastor Matt

Our *Connecting with Bethel* orientation and information sessions provide an opportunity to ask questions and find out more about Bethel, our life and our ministry. They will be held on Thursday evenings, October 13, 20 and 27 from 7:00 to 8:15 PM.



God's Plan For a Man

Pastor James

In society there are many images thrown at us. Sometimes it is hard to raise a boy into manhood in this current cultural context. What makes a man? How can we pass our faith on to our sons as they become men of integrity? Manhood is a process that accompanies physical maturity. It comes about through key life events like entering junior high and high school, graduation, moving away from home, marriage. Becoming a man also has a spiritual side to it. A Christian man takes ownership for his faith as he professes Christ and is willing to serve One who is greater than himself.

It is crucial that Christian men pass these traits on to future generations. On December 2 and 3, Bethel will be hosting a *God's Plan for Men* retreat as part of our Faith Legacy series. At this retreat, we will discover that a man of God is courageous, honorable, and faithful to the end. This event is open to all boys in grades 5, 6, and 7 and their fathers or male mentors. The cost of the retreat is \$50 which includes all meals and accommodation. Watch for more information coming soon. If you have any questions about this event, please talk with Pastor James or Deloyce.



Welcomed into the Kingdom

Welcomed into God's Kingdom here on earth by the rite of Baptism were the following saints:

- ◆ Everly Violet Anderson
(daughter of Ryan and Koreen Anderson)

Welcomed into God's eternal Kingdom to partake of the heavenly feast were the following saints:

- ◆ Blair Antoniuk
- ◆ Ron Reeves

Worship with McCauley Kids

Krysta Davis

Faith Haven

On September 18, we started a new ministry down in the McCauley area, giving kids in McCauley a chance to come and worship together. Calling our Sunday gathering “Faith Haven” gives the kids a safe place to explore the faith they have been given. They were given the chance to sing, hear a Bible lesson, participate in activities that enforce the lesson, and learn about God’s promises for his children. Kids have a great chance to learn and grow in their faith while playing, singing and listening to stories.

It is also a great opportunity for families from Bethel to minister to and worship with families in McCauley. Please consider joining us from 1:00 - 2:00 pm on Sunday afternoons. Come and share your musical talents, be a part of a skit, or simply just be with the kids as we worship God. If you have any questions please contact Krysta Davis (780-417-7775).

Monday Night Fun

Monday nights in McCauley are in full swing! With programs for kids, youth and moms, there is something for almost everyone. We begin at 6:00pm with a family supper, with kids, parents, youth and volunteers sharing a meal. From 6:30 to 7:30pm, each group has time to separate and learn together. This fall the kids are going to be learning about the early Old Testament families and the promises that God gave them. They will be learning that just as God took care of families then, He continues to provide for families today.

This is a great chance to invest in kids as Bethel continues to share the love of Jesus with McCauley. If you wish to see if this is a place where you can serve, please contact Krysta Davis (780-417-7775) or join us at 5:30pm on a Monday night.

As we go into the fall months, please keep both Faith Haven and the Monday Night programs in your prayers. Pray for the kids who attend, for the volunteers who serve, and for those who we might be able to reach in the McCauley area.



Kids’ Bike Clinic at McCauley

Paul Schoepp

We weren’t sure how many would show up for it but we couldn’t have asked for a nicer fall day with just a bit of a nip in the air and lots of sunshine as we



opened up our first ever Kids’ Bike Clinic in McCauley on Saturday, September 17. Krysta, Matt and Paul serviced eight bicycles and shared coffee with some local residents as they brought their kids’ bikes by for minor repairs and free tune-ups. We received a couple of kids’ bikes as donations and will give them out as need arises. We’re satisfied with our first effort, have a few ideas to tweak the event in the spring, and we’ll be doing it again. If you’d like to help out with the Kids’ Bike Clinic in the spring, or if you have a child’s bike to donate, contact Krysta at krysta.davis@bethelchurch.com or Paul at paul.schoepp@bethelchurch.com.



Winter Clothes for McCauley



Pastor Marv

As families return from summer activities, I look at many of the children and think, “Wow! Have they ever grown this past summer!” If this has taken place in your family, you’ll know it when you check out their winter clothes. If the winter clothes still have some good wear in them (please check all buttons and zippers), consider placing the clean clothes in a bag, label the bag (so we know what is inside), and drop it off at

Bethel. We will distribute the clothing to boys and girls who are in need in the McCauley community. If you have questions please contact Pastor Marv.



Getting Real About Sexuality

Greetings in the Name of the Lord of life!

The Love Life Organizing Committee is excited to announce that the 6th Annual Love Life Conference will be held Saturday, November 19, 2011 at Concordia University College of Alberta.

If you attended last year's Love Life conference, you may recall that the theme was *Getting Real About Sexuality: Celebration, Truth, and Consequences*. We received so many positive comments from attendees about the content of the conference that we decided to organize *Getting Real About Sexuality: Celebration, Truth, and Consequences: PART 2*.

We are planning to have an outstanding lineup of speakers:

- Mr. Ted Kober of Ambassadors of Reconciliation will speak on the topic of *Reconciliation and Sexual Sin*."
- Dr. Simon Sheh, a local Christian psychologist, will discuss "*Porn is Not About Sex*."
- Rev. Richard Docekal of All Saints Lutheran Church (Edmonton) will present "*Playing House: A Brief Examination Concerning Cohabitation*."
- Julie Parr, one of the speakers from last year's conference, will speak on the devastating effects of a promiscuous life under the theme, "*That'll Leave a Mark*."

In addition to the presentations, we will provide a lunch and snack for the pre-registration fee of \$25.00 (\$30.00 at the door). **Students are invited to attend the conference FREE of charge (yes, lunch included)!**

We are planning to have an online registration form and an online payment option. For those people who prefer to print their registration form and send it in, that option will be available as well.

For more information regarding the presentations and speakers, please visit our website at www.LoveLifeEdmonton.com. Posters and bulletin announcements will be made available soon.

We encourage you to invite your friends and

fellow church members to this conference as we would love to see more people benefit from the material that will be presented at this conference. We look forward to seeing you at the Love Life Conference on Saturday, November 19.

Sincerely,

The Love Life Conference Planning Committee:

Rev. Dr. Glenn Schaeffer

Brigitte Mueller

Doug Haberstock

Dr. Jonathan Strand

Kris Buchholtz

James Schutz



Comfort Dolls for Kenya

Marilyn Jansen

CALLING ALL KNITTERS! If you know how to knit and purl, this mission project is for you!

Bethel Lutheran Women's Missionary League is sponsoring a **Comfort Dolls for Kenya** project, and invites all knitters to join us.



These knitted dolls are approximately 8-10 inches tall, and oh, so very **cuddly and cute**. They are very simply knit in one piece, and you are able to use left over worsted yarn (4-ply) for this project. In April, a group will get together, for the first time, to sew, stuff with fiberfill and form into dolls, so we hope to have lots of dolls to create. We plan to continue this project for approximately two years when, hopefully, another group will be going to Kenya, and we can send these **comfort dolls** with them.

The original pattern was submitted to Canadian Lutheran World Relief as a project for distribution to orphaned and lonely children around the world.

Just call Marilyn Jansen (780-467-7412) or email her at marilyn.jansen@shaw.ca and she will be happy to provide you with a pattern.



Strathcona County Ecumenical Mission 2011 Schedule of Events



LIVE IT UP

In the Abundant Life Jesus Gives

Theme verse: “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.

I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” John 10:10 (ESV)

Sessions (Sunday, October 23—Wednesday, October 26):

Sunday October 23 Potluck Supper: 6:00 PM at Bethel Lutheran

Sunday, October 23 Opening Service (7:30 PM) Bethel Lutheran

LIVE ABUNDANTLY (The challenge and possibility)

Luke 15:1-32 Jesus and sinners

Monday Breakfast Session (6:30 PM) OLPH Roman Catholic

LIVE IT UP IN JOY (in uneventful days)

Luke 8:22-39 Jesus and his disciples

Monday Lunch Session (12:00 PM) St John Lutheran

LIVE IT UP IN SIN (Thoughts on Luther’s “Sin Boldly!”)

Matthew 5:21-32 Jesus’ teaching on righteousness exceeding the Pharisees

Monday Evening Service (7:30 PM) St Thomas Anglican

LIVE IN THE GLORY OF JESUS (in Jesus’ absence)

John 12:20-36 Jesus and the Greeks

Tuesday Bible Study (10:00 AM) Ardrossan United

LIVE AS HEIRS TO A FORTUNE (in the presence of other’s sinfulness)

Luke 16:1-15 Jesus and the wasteful manager

Tuesday Tea Session (2:00 PM) Glory Lutheran

LIVE AS KINGS AND QUEENS OF HEAVEN (in chaos and destruction)

Matthew 15:21-28 Jesus and the Canaanite woman

Tuesday Evening Service (7:30 PM) Sherwood Park United

LIVE AS ROCK STARS (in Jesus’ presence)

John 11:1-45 Jesus and Martha

Wednesday Lunch Session (12:00 PM) Mount Olivet Lutheran

LIVE AS WARRIORS OF PEACE (in the presence of aggression)

John 4:1-42 Jesus and the woman at the well

Wednesday, Closing Service (7:30 PM) OLPH Roman Catholic

LIVE AS ANGELS OF LIGHT (in judgment)

Luke 9:1-45 Jesus and the man born blind

***Worship Together.
Learn Together.
Grow Together in Christ.***

Our 2011 Ecumenical Mission Leader: Pastor Craig Tufts



Pastor Craig Tufts, our Guest Speaker, graduated in 1976 with a degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Alberta, and in 1989 with a Masters of Divinity from Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Edmonton.

His early engineering work took him to Edmonton, Houston, Texas and Italy, where he attended local churches. From believing as a young man that the Church did more harm than good, he eventually became a minister, a change he credits to the person of Jesus. His relationship with Jesus inspires his love of life, the Church, and God. Craig is committed to working on ways the Christian Church can express its oneness in Christ so the world may believe Jesus really was sent by God.

Craig and Donna, parents of three children, have been married 33 years. Since his ordination, Craig has served parishes in Scotland, England, the Okanagan and Vancouver Island, where he is currently the pastor of Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Parksville, British Columbia.