

# The Spirit



# at Bethel

February 2010

Sherwood Park, Alberta

## Sharing the love of Jesus with a hurting world

### The Color of Purple

Pastor Marv

Purple symbolizes royalty. It also symbolizes repentance, and so purple is the color of the season of Lent. Israel spent 40 years in the wilderness. Elijah spent 40 days on his journey through the wilderness to the mountain of God. Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness. The season of Lent is a 40-day journey (Sundays in Lent are not counted as days of Lent) that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends with Easter. Our focus is on Jesus, our King of Kings and Lord of Lords (royalty), who died for us (our repentance) so that we might be the recipients of his grace and mercy.

On Ash Wednesday (February 17) our worship service at 7:00 p.m. will include:

- a time for both private and public confession
- the assurance of our forgiveness through Jesus' death and resurrection
- the imposition of ashes
- Holy Communion

The theme for this year's messages is "*The Faces of Jesus*". In his life, Jesus revealed himself as God's Son. We'll focus on a number of ways we see this revealed in our lives.

The Wednesday worship services will be preceded by a light supper. The proceeds of the free-will offering for the supper will be given to the Canadian Lutheran World Relief for their work in third-world countries.

You are invited to join us for this fellowship supper and worship on Wednesday, February 17; the Men's Breakfast Group will serve supper (sausages and pancakes).

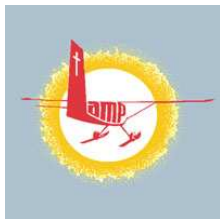
### Relief for Haiti

Lutheran Church-Canada, in coordination with Canadian Lutheran World Relief, is working in partnership with the members of Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance to address basic needs and support rehabilitation efforts in Haiti following the January 12 earthquake. If you wish to support these efforts financially, please make your check out to Bethel and earmark it "*Haiti Relief*". In addition, your prayers on behalf of all are urgently needed.

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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 submissions relevant to Bethel and the church. You can leave your submission in our mail slots at church or email them to lailaklaszus@gmail.com or bucbunch@telus.net. The deadline for the March issue is February 22.



## Forty Years and Still Going Strong

Ron Ludke

Things have greatly changed in the North over the past forty years. The native population has grown dramatically; it's up nearly 45% in the last ten years. Furthermore, the on-reserve Status Indian population continues to grow at a rate of 2.3 percent per year, nearly three times the overall Canadian rate. It is expected to increase by 49 percent before 2021, compared with 11 percent for the Canadian population as a whole.\*

Exploration and development of resources has opened new roads and gravel runways, and brought technology to remote areas. However, these advances do not necessarily mean opportunity or employment for aboriginal people. Instead, in many areas, it has caused a clash of cultures.

In spite of the increase in population, very few aboriginal people have been trained to minister among their own people. Local clergy struggle with the daily hardships of ministering to their people, many of whom suffer from the effects of living in a society where alcoholism, drugs, and suicide are rampant.

LAMP has had to make many adjustments over the past 40 years. Through all of these changes, the ministry God has called us to remains effective. We serve far more people in the North than ever before. Realizing how impossible it would be to hire enough staff to minister in such a vast territory, LAMP recruits and trains over 500 committed volunteers to carry out the work of sharing the light of Jesus with those in remote areas of Canada.

Thankfully, commercial airlines now serve many villages, mainly using the King Air and PC12 aircraft. Often, booking commercial flights for our volunteers is the best option. Fortunately these airlines have been very helpful in providing discount rates for our volunteer missionaries. Because of this we are able to send much larger groups to minister to the large number of children

and youth that attend our Bible Schools and Sports camps.

In addition, LAMP employs a pastor who is also a commercial pilot. Rev. Steve Dreher maintains relationships year-round with the people in Northern communities of Ontario and Manitoba.



As a Missionary/Pilot, he helps organize and deploy volunteers and plays an active role in training both volunteers and local people to minister in remote areas.

Steve says one of his native friends shared these words with him when he left Red Lake, Ontario to return to parish ministry in 1999: *"The North is in your blood. Once the North flows in your veins, you cannot stay away. You will be back."* Steve replies, *"I think, perhaps, my northern friends were right. My years with LAMP were some of the best of my life."* We are very thankful to have Steve back on staff at LAMP!

*\*\*Source of demographic statistics: DIAND's 2005-2006 Report on Plans and Priorities, <http://www.afn.ca/>*



## Epiphany

Gladys Teske

Epiphany "is a Christian feast day that celebrates the revelation of God made Man in the person of Jesus Christ." It especially commemorates the arrival of the Magi from the East and their offerings of gifts and worship to the Christ child.

Bethel now has a set of **'the gifts of the Magi'**! Cradled inside authentic-looking satin-lined wooden chests are samples of real gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They capture the regal spirit of the gifts given by the three kings, Melchior, Balthasar and Caspar, and remind us of why we give gifts on Christmas Day.

Given the increasing reality of a truly global community, may we as Christians during this period of Epiphany, work harder than ever with a sense of the universal brotherhood of believers.

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We have the opportunity, perhaps in ways that have never before existed in the history of the Christian faith, to learn and to demonstrate daily that unity of spirit and of the Spirit to which Jesus calls us and modeled for us. I personally pray for this.



For a number of Jesus' followers —

There is a



in their lives.

***Do you know what it is?***

## **Council Corner**

Marc Berner

You may have read the article in the bulletin about St. Peter's Lutheran Church closing at the end of 2009. While we are saddened by this end of a congregation that has worshipped in Edmonton for over 100 years, we are confident that the Lord has plans for the people, the ministries and the buildings. On January 6, St. Peter's council and Barrie Reeder of The Rock invited Bethel's staff and council and Dr. Glenn Schaeffer from LCC A-BC District to join a discussion over the needs and opportunities that lie ahead.

Even though the congregation of St. Peter's no longer worships at their church on 96<sup>th</sup> St., The Rock and two other Christian churches still use the facilities. Bethel has had a strong relationship with The Rock for many years and we would like to maintain, and even grow, this relationship. Without St. Peter's Church continuing as the owner/administrator of the building, many people were wondering what would happen to the building and the organizations that use it. We don't know yet what the answer is, but Bethel is blessed with a heart for outreach and a desire to serve God. We look to our mission statement, "Sharing the love of Jesus with a hurting world" and to our vision statement and core values to frame the scope of Bethel's potential involvement.

In the meeting with St. Peter's and The Rock, we experienced an inviting and open attitude among all participants and saw strong alignment of their objectives and Bethel's mission. Bethel participated mainly to listen and understand how and where we might provide support, partner with The Rock, serve God, and live out our mission. For The Rock, it is "business as usual" for now, and St. Peter's plans to wrap up their decommissioning by mid March. The desire to maintain the ministries provided by The Rock, Grace Community Church and Oromo (a church serving the Ethiopian community) from the current building was unanimous. Opportunities to serve the McCauley community were also discussed.

We do not yet have any plans or proposals to bring to the congregation, but as St. Peter's winds down we will continue to discuss if and how Bethel can help with the remaining ministries. We want to do this in a way that does not "take over" or "step on toes", and we will definitely seek input and support from the congregation at future Voter's meetings. Please pray for the leaders and servants that are working to understand God's plans for the mission and ministry involving The Rock, the church building and the community, as well as for the members of St. Peter's that they may find joy and Christian community in other congregations.



## Consecration Sunday ... Is Coming!

Pastor Marv

Beginning on February 21, Bethel will embark on a stewardship journey that will teach the Biblical principles of generous giving. This stewardship emphasis is based on the Biblical perspective of the need of the giver “to give” for his/her own spiritual growth, development and well-being. The church, as the body of Christ, is not a social club where members “pay their dues” – we are followers of Jesus who in response to Jesus’ unselfishly giving himself for us, also want to give unselfishly. Therefore, our worship community will be encouraged to move toward proportionate and systematic financial giving. All will be encouraged to prayerfully consider the question: “What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?” This is a discipleship question!

Leading up to Consecration Sunday, we will:

- have a series of Sunday messages that will have as their themes: temptation, trust, the privilege of giving, and thanks-living
- provide opportunity for all who have made a financial contribution to Bethel in 2009 to attend a catered meal. At the meal two things will be highlighted:
  - ⇒ In connection with some exciting opportunities offered to Bethel through St. Peters/The Rock, a member of the Parish Planning Council will present some mission and ministry plans for Bethel in 2010, and
  - ⇒ Pastor Marv will have an educational presentation on “The Missing Piece” in our living as followers of Jesus.

On March 14 (Consecration Sunday), we will invite all in our worship community to make a financial commitment for 2010 by filling out an “Estimate of Giving” card. This is a voluntary decision – the commitment procedure is done in such a way that no one is personally embarrassed if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

Throughout this Stewardship Journey, we will make every effort to keep you informed. Watch for a letter from Marc Berner, our congregational president. I will follow it with a letter (with an RSVP card enclosed) inviting our 2009 financial contributors to one of the catered meals. Listen for announcements in worship. Watch for information in your mailslots as well as the Sunday worship bulletin. Brad Armstrong and Herman Wiebe are working on a special “Thank –You” video for March 14. I’m eagerly looking forward to seeing it.

Lent is the season of the church year when we focus on the cross of Jesus. What commitment he demonstrated by his willingness to die for us! Consecration Sunday is an opportunity to respond so that we can “share the love of Jesus with a hurting world.”



## Welcomed Into the Kingdom

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

### **December**

Berg William Edward Letawsky

### **January**

Faith Ann Stefanic

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

### **November**

Stephen Schwed

### **December**

Roy Eugene Melsness

### **January**

Gordon Anthony Topma



2B&gt;&gt;2010



belong&believe>>believe&belong  
1 Peter 2:9-10

## 2B 2010 Lutheran Church - Canada National Youth Gathering Coming to Edmonton! Michael Gillingham

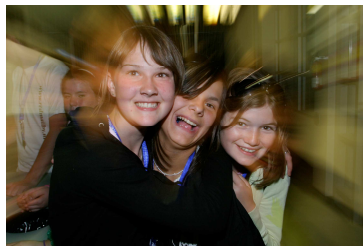
2B 2010, LCC's National Youth Gathering, will be hosted in Edmonton in July 2010. Youth and youth leaders will gather from across Canada



to laugh, learn, study, serve, grow and worship together. The theme of the Gathering is "Belong and Believe + Believe and Belong" and the theme verse is 1 Peter 2: 9 - 10.

Featured speakers and presenters at the Gathering will include Rev. Sye Van Maanen, Lynn Gergens, Joel Habershtock, Lost And Found, These Guys (drama team from the U.S.), Sarah Weymss, Jennifer Jade Kerr, and the Junkyard Poets. (The Junkyard Poets feature Peter Mol and Jared Salte from Bethel).

Youth leaders at the event will have the opportunity to take some training in youth ministry from Rick Lawrence, editor of the popular youth ministry magazine Group. Youth will also have the opportunity to do some learning (music, choir, art, drama, children's ministry), to do some serving at local servant events, and to have some fun (sports, games, Galaxyland, Waterpark at West Edmonton Mall).



The Gathering will be hosted at the University of Alberta and will also spend a day at the campus of Concordia University College of Alberta. Cost for the event is \$450 per person and will include food, lodging and program costs; local participants also have the option of sleeping at home, for a reduced cost of \$320. More information is available at [www.lutheranyouth.ca](http://www.lutheranyouth.ca).

I hope we can have lots of youth from Bethel participate, and I also hope that we can have lots of volunteers from Bethel help out at the event. Let me know if you have further questions.



### Introducing Sara



Hello Bethel! My name is Sara Rolfes. I am 20 years old, currently living in Edmonton. I come from a family of four, consisting of my parents, my younger brother, and myself. I am currently a third-year Religious Studies student at Concordia, and with any luck I only have two more years until graduation. :)

I have recently come back to my faith in Jesus Christ as my Savior and have joined the Lutheran Church. Since March 2009 I have been a regular attendee to Sunday Morning Worship (11 am service) and Wednesday Night Bible Study with the young adults at Bethel.

I believe that God has graciously called me back to faith to serve Him, and as a result I am exploring the possibility of becoming a Director of Parish Services. I am joining the DPS practicum class at Concordia mid-year and have been blessed with a practicum placement here at Bethel. I have already met some of the congregation at various events, and I am looking forward to meeting many others during my practicum time here.

God Bless!



## A Little Bit Goes A Long Way

Deloyce Elle

Do you know how much it costs to educate a child in Alberta for one year? For 2009/2010, schools receive a base rate of \$5,971.00 per child. The amount received increases significantly once a number of factors are calculated into the equation.

Do you know how much it costs to educate a child for one year at Springs of Life Lutheran School in Kibera, Kenya?

A mere \$325. The school receives no government funding, and of the 150 students currently attending, only 10% can afford to pay the fees. So where does the money come from for the school to operate? From outside resources, such as Bethel and other churches, who believe in the value and importance of education for these children.



Springs of Life Lutheran School is a ministry to residents of the Kibera slum. They welcome children who are not able to afford the tuition fees needed to attend public school. In addition to daily Christ-centered instruction, the children receive a meal. The education also extends to the family. Pastor Meeker's wife, Lorna, walks alongside many of the mothers, encouraging them as they work to identify skills that could be used for employment.

This term's Grace Land and Quest 56 mission project is to assist the children at Springs of Life. As we gather our offerings, pictures of these beautiful children will be placed on the bulletin board between Rooms 5 & 6. These pictures were taken during the Springs of Life VBS this past August. While we don't know all of their names, there is joy and comfort that God knows their names and one day we will meet again... here on earth or in heaven.

Please keep Pastor Dennis and Lorna Meeker, the staff of Springs of Life Lutheran School, and the children and their families in your prayers. They all face daily struggles that are incomprehensible for those of us living in the comforts of the western world.



Parents and children, if you are in need of more offering envelopes, please stop by the office or check with a Grace Land or Quest 56 teacher.



## Strathcona Food Bank

Anke Berner

On behalf of the Strathcona Food Bank, I bring thanks and appreciation for Bethel's generous donations over the past year. Your donations helped to build 1449 hampers, feeding 4733 people in Strathcona County. This was a 30 % increase over the numbers served for 2008. The Christmas campaigns were also very successful and the food warehouse is full. However, in the past two weeks we have already had many new clients come in to the Food Bank. The Food Bank collection boxes are located in the left-hand corner of Bethel's kitchen, and the third Sunday of the month has been designated as Food Bank Sunday. Items that are always needed include canned meat, stews, fruits and vegetables, as well as peanut butter and breakfast cereal. The Food Bank also gratefully accepts toiletries, diapers, and pet food.

Naturally it takes many people to operate the Food Bank. Men generally do the heavy lifting in the warehouse and the deliveries from various stores and churches in Sherwood Park. Women usually work in the warehouse sorting the food and building the hampers. If you have three hours to spare during the week (9 AM till noon) and would like to volunteer at the Food Bank, please leave a message for Delores at 780-449-6413. Once again, thank you Bethel Lutheran for all your donations to the Strathcona Food Bank.





## The Story of Our Sanctuary's New Wall Art

George F. Heagle

When Bethel Lutheran Church approached me last winter to provide a design that would both inspire and beautify the sanctuary walls, I was both excited and apprehensive. Excited, because the creative process, needed to develop a meaningful design, is always exhilarating! Nervous, because I was being stretched beyond my conventional thinking box.

The project took several months of meetings and deep thought. This type of work can often become a long and arduous process, but I must say that working closely with Pastor Marv, the Sanctuary Design Committee, and Leanne Habershtock once again proved both outstandingly fruitful and rewarding. During our meetings we were able to incorporate both Old and New Testament symbols that capture the Word of God and reveal the gift of His Holy Spirit to us. It was our desire to create, through art, something that would provoke deep spiritual thought and inspiration. I think, by God's grace, we have succeeded.

Combining my efforts with the wood, the skillful and creative work of Shawn Cunningham with the metal, and the delicate work of Marjan van Eche with the glass, I believe we have transformed the Committee's thoughts into an expressive three-dimensional representation.

The descending Dove surrounded by seven stars represents the Holy Spirit bringing forth the seven gifts of the Spirit. He also comes to us in

the waters of Baptism. In the fire, we are reminded of the Lord speaking to Moses in the burning bush, as well as the day of Pentecost, when God's Spirit fell upon the newborn Church. His Church continues to receive His gifts through the Body and Blood of Jesus in Holy Communion, represented by the fruit-laden grapevine and the wheat sheaves. And as Jesus is the vine, we are the branches that find our source and sustenance in Him; as we abide in Him, He brings forth His fruit in our lives.

On behalf of the other artists as well as myself, we remain deeply grateful for this opportunity to create artwork that will serve as an inspiration to those who attend Bethel Lutheran Church. Thank you for your encouragement and your belief in our vision.



## Nuru Lutheran Media Ministry – Kenya

Pastor Marv

A significant part of this ministry is to work with people in prisons. For example, at the Naivasha maximum security prison (the second largest prison in Kenya with more than 5 000 prisoners), Nuru Lutheran Media Ministries has a strong Bible correspondence program. Recently, over 500 students received certificates of completion. Numbers of students in the program agreed with one of the "graduates:" "We found peace and satisfaction that we cannot equate with anything else in the world – it's good to be here." The Bible correspondence lessons have given them hope which they did not find outside the prisons . . . . And, even though they were prisoners, they were free indeed.

Nuru Lutheran Media Ministries is working in 35 prisons within Kenya sharing the message of justice, peace, hope, and reconciliation through Jesus. The aim of the prison ministry is to empower both the prisoners and the wardens with the Word of God and refer the prisoners to churches once they are released.

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Another prison where this Gospel work is being well received is at Langatta Women’s Prison in Nairobi. More than 7,986 students are currently taking their free Bible correspondence courses. They use the course during their group discussions. One of the prisoners, whose life was transformed by God, used to spy and identify those who should be killed within the illegal sect known as “Mungiki.” Numbers of children are born in this prison and Nuru Lutheran Media Ministries seeks to assist the mothers with clothing and food; the children mostly suffer from cold and malnutrition since the prison department doesn’t care for them.

The motivation for this prison ministry by Nuru Lutheran Media Ministry comes from Hebrews 13:3, “Remember those in prison as if you are one of their fellow prisoners.”

Nuru Lutheran Media Ministries is Bethel’s *Mission of the Month* for January. Please remember them in your prayers. If you wish to support them financially, please make a cheque payable to Bethel and earmark it for the *January Mission of the Month* or for “Nuru”.



## Calling All Closet Singers!!!

Normay Wiebe

Are you a closet singer? Or maybe you used to sing and haven’t for a number of years? Bethel is looking for new people to join our Contemporary Choir this spring. We supply you with both written music and your part on a CD, so that whether you’re a note reader or you sing by ear, we’re here to make it work for you so that you can join us.



We will be presenting a choral collection called “That’s Why We Praise Him” from Brent-



wood Benson Music. It is an expression of praise for what God has done in the heart of a humble writer named Tommy Walker. He is the writer of one of Bethel’s favorite worship songs – *He Knows My Name*. This collection is more than the music, more than the energy...it’s the message. God sent His Son to live, die and rise again. That is the Gospel story...that is our hope...That’s Why We Praise Him. Songs include: Amen • He Knows My Name • Here I Am Again with Never Gonna Stop • How Good And Pleasant • I Fix My Eyes On You • Lord, I Believe In You • Make It Glorious • No Greater Love with Mourning Into Dancing • Only A God Like You • Thank You For Loving Me • That’s Why We Praise Him • When All Is Said And Done

Practices will be Tuesday nights this spring, beginning on Tuesday, Feb. 2 at 7:00PM. We will also meet Feb. 16 & 23, Mar. 2, 9 & 16, and we will be singing in worship services on February 21 and March 21. Please come and join us. Let Normay know, and she will get you music and a CD of your part. (780-417-7757 or [normay.wiebe@bethelchurch.com](mailto:normay.wiebe@bethelchurch.com) )





## In Ministry Together

Steve Dreher

*"Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day, longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy." ~ 2 Timothy 1:2-4 ~*

"The founding mother" of the Happy Quilters was in the hospital. The last time I visited with her was eighteen years ago when she was a younger, healthy woman.

Last week I was in the Ottawa Valley in Canada sharing the ministry of LAMP with a church who has supported LAMP for over 20 years. The ladies quilting group has been very generous in making quilts for me to give to the people of the north. The Happy Quilters have been hand stitching quilts for over 20 years, sending them to Red Lake, Ontario so I can give them as gifts of warmth. Together the Happy Quilters and I have agreed these quilts symbolize the warm gift of God's grace and forgiveness purchased for us in Jesus Christ.

Unfortunately for both of us, while I was visiting and telling the LAMP story to Ronnie's home church, she was in a hospital bed recovering from a fall. I could not leave the area without seeing this dedicated Christian woman. My visit with Ronnie ended with a prayer and her saying to me with tears in her eyes, "You have no idea how much this means to me." To this I responded with, "Yes, I do; that is why I am here." Together, that afternoon we embraced 20 years of joint ministry; a ministry that separated us by hundreds of miles, with only two face-to-face visits, many phone calls and letters, and yet a common purpose to share the love and warmth of the Gospel message to the First Nations people living on isolated Canadian Indian reserves.

The work I do as a missionary is connected to the body of Christ. I am constantly reminded I am not alone. I have Christian brothers and sisters who join with me so together we can fulfill our Lord's great commission to go into all the world, making disciples, baptizing and teaching so all can know God's peace in the forgiveness of sins purchased for us by Jesus' death and resurrection.

I can relate to the words of Paul when he writes to Timothy in chapter 1 verse 4 of his second epistle, "I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night

and day, longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy." It is a joy to be in ministry with those who empower the work to be accomplished.

*Prayer:*

*It is a great privilege, Lord, to be in ministry together with all the Saints. Grant us your Holy Spirit to stay focused to empower, to encourage, to support, and to accomplish your good and perfect will. In Jesus' name. Amen.*



## Come Celebrate With Us in 2010

The year 2010 will mark the 40th anniversary of LAMP and we want to celebrate forty years of carrying the "GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST'S LOVE FOR ALL" to the peoples of the North. Please mark your calendars and join us in celebrating this great milestone. LAMP's Founder, Rev. Les Stahlke, will be the guest speaker at all 40th Anniversary events.

LAMP's 40th Anniversary Banquet  
Canada

Bethel Lutheran Church  
Sherwood Park, Alberta  
Sunday, April 25, 2010

Worship – 3:00 p.m.

Reception – 4:30 p.m.

Banquet – 5:30 p.m.

R.S.V.P. to LAMP office at 780-466-8507  
or office@lampministry.org