

# Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Cross

## *CrossBeams*

### February 2012

Greetings from Ethiopia! A long time ago, in a movie theatre in a place far far away, I saw a great movie called "Raiders of the Lost Ark". The hero was Indiana Jones and the movie blended biblical history and folklore and "Indy's" quest to locate the Ark of the Covenant and the Holy Grail. I didn't realize until just recently that the one of the places Indiana romped through in his quest is Lalibela in Ethiopia. Lalibela is a Christian pilgrimage center best known for its eleven rock-hewn churches that are World Heritage sites. They call it "*the Petra of Africa*". These 11th century churches are carved into solid rock. They are amazing. Some are still "working" churches and inside the dark corridors, rugs and animal skins cover the floor. Incense is burning. Each church has its own resident Priest, dressed in robes and holding huge ancient crosses made out of solid silver. The majority of Ethiopians are Orthodox Christians, and still uphold centuries old rituals and traditions in worship.



We haven't quite reached the century mark at Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Cross. But our Ministry and our Church stand as testament to the efforts of many and our mission to gather together to worship God and grow, empowered by the Holy Spirit to love and care for each other, and to live Christ's love by witnessing to all.

On **February 26, 2012** we will gather together for our **Annual General Meeting**. This is an important event in our Church as we will review our past year's performance, establish our budget & strategy for 2012, and elect new members to our Governance Council. We'll also be discussing important issues and establish a path forward for our congregation.

It is important that we all prepare for this meeting and attend. Our congregational vision is to be a vibrant and growing congregation unified in sharing the love of Christ through words and actions. An essential action is your attendance and participation at the Annual General Meeting.

I look forward to seeing you there! And I'm certain I'll be happy to be back home in Calgary after my African adventure. I'm not intending in replicating Indiana Jone's escapades but I am looking forward to sharing some pictures of some of those ancient testaments to our Living God. If you have any questions or concerns prior to the AGM, please contact Janis Hoffer, Dane Bridge, Doug Normandin or Dianne Fortier.

*Egzi'abher yibarkih (May God Bless You)*

Scott Christensen

Governance Council Chair

### **Mission**

Gathered by God to worship and grow  
Empowered by Spirit to love and care for each other  
Living Christ's love by witnessing to all.

### **Vision**

To be a vibrant and growing congregation unified in sharing the love of Christ through words and actions.

## Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Cross

10620 Elbow Drive SW

Calgary, AB T2W 1G4

403-255-4792

[churchofthecross@shaw.ca](mailto:churchofthecross@shaw.ca)

[www.churchofthecross.ca](http://www.churchofthecross.ca)



**Visitation Pastor:** William Wiegert

**Minister of Music:** Catherine Glaser-Climie

**Office Administrator:** Dianne Fortier

## Education

### Sunday School News

#### Dates to note:

Feb. 19, 2012 NO Sunday school

#### Youth Events:

Feb. 10th - City-wide youth event at Advent Lutheran, Calgary. Meet at the church at 6:15.

Feb. 25th - Skating party & bring your own picnic lunch (*Bonavista - hosted by Carolyn*). 2 - 4 pm.



## Worship & Music

### Upcoming Worship:

- February 5 Epiphany 5 - Holy Communion - Pastor Bill leading
- February 12 Epiphany 6 - Service of Word and Song
- February 19 Transfiguration of our Lord - Service of Holy Communion - Pastor Bill leading
- February 22 Ash Wednesday Service - 7 pm - Service of Holy Communion and imposition of ashes.
- February 26 Lent 1 - Service of Word and Song Annual Meeting
- March 1 Midweek lenten service - 7 pm



If you are interested in leading worship at a service, please contact Catherine, our Minister of Music at [cglaserclimie@shaw.ca](mailto:cglaserclimie@shaw.ca)



Do you sing or play an instrument? If you would like to offer yours gifts in our worship services, speak to Catherine, our Minister of Music.

**Joy to the World** - on December 11 our ELCOC choir joined together with choirs from our neighborhood churches for our annual "Joy to the World" service at St. Gerard's Roman Catholic Church. This year's featured a new format which included the presentation of stories and two anthem by choirs from St. Andrews Presbyterian, St. Andrews United, St. Gerards Roman Catholic, Southwood United and St. Peter's Anglican, as well as our own choir. The church (*a full house!*) resounded in praise as

the gathered community raised their voices in the singing of carols. This event is a great way to strengthen the bonds of friendship and faith with our fellow Christians. We are exploring the possibility of offering a similar service close to Easter.

The celebration of Christmas is always one of the worship highlights of the year - and this past December was no exception. Our congregation, joined with others to share in the joy of our Savior's birth. We would like to thank those whose leadership made our Christmas services:

**Worship leaders:** Sara Johansson, Cameron Climie, Graeme Clime, Tammy Kozlowski

**Readers:** Hannah Rude, Mikaela Rude, Natalie Rude, Cameron Climie, Jim Johansson, Pearl Schuster, Don Koslowski, Jacqueline Bourque, Doris Urquhart, Lorne Pepler, Alex Rettie, Richard Janzen, and Ellen Kjolberg.

## LENT



The season of Lent will soon be upon us! Following the season of Epiphany, Lent commemorates the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness before his ministry began. Lent invites us to contemplate our own Christian journey and consider the disciplines that we need to become whole.

Lent asks us to deepen our relationship with God. This year, we invite you to join us on a journey with Jesus toward the Cross. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Our service will include confession and forgiveness with the imposition of ashes, and the celebration of Holy Communion. We hope you will be here to begin the Lenten journey.

*Thank You!*

# Social Ministry

## February Cause of the Month

CLWR - Gifts from the Heart -

'A WELL' Project

### WATCH THE WATER RISE !

What is this??? -- A visual view of Water Time at Church of the Cross!



**Well** -- A garden "well" represents our Social Ministry's gift of the month. Through Canadian Lutheran World Relief all your Jan/Feb gifts go to provide a well for an African community. Clean safe water that community will not have to trudge kilometers to carry home.

**Word** - Information about our project and its goal (\$1,750.) appears in the picture frame on the right.

**Water**- On the left is a scored vase. Its level of water indicates our progress toward providing the well. The top of each tape line represents a \$350. step toward a well. Through CLWR our gifts are transformed into clean, accessible water, the most important physical necessity for life and health. Pray for a flood of water. Then week by week use the gift of the month line on your offering envelope to make the water rise.

### WATCH THE WATER RISE!

**News flash** -- an anonymous gift of \$1,750 means we may now provide two African communities with wells.

Our annual **Pancake Supper** will be held on **Ash Wednesday, February 22nd at 6:00 p.m.** All proceeds will be designated to Canadian Lutheran World Relief with members of the Social Ministry Com. supplying all food and drinks.

Our next meeting will be held **February 13, 2012 at 7:00 pm.** All are welcome.

Pearl Schuster



## Message from Our Bishop



My message this month is occasioned by the passing in December, 2011 of Sr. Frieda Kiel, deaconess, who completed her active ministry prior to the birth of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada but who was rostered by a special motion of the ELCIC in convention in 1995. Sr. Frieda was not the first, nor the only, deaconess in our church. We have more. They quietly serve without drawing a lot of attention to themselves. Perhaps that is why most of us in the pews have that questioning look in our eyes when we hear about our

Lutheran deaconesses. They may be few and far between, but they are among us and we want to affirm their ministry.

In the month of February, we are invited to celebrate the life and ministry of Sr. Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess. Her commemoration is marked on February 25th. Why? In the first place, she is remembered for her ministry's sake. In the second place, the church needs to be educated about the role the deaconess community has played for more than a century - both in the churches of western Europe and also in North America. Here is a bit of Sr. Elizabeth's story. She was born in Norway, and took her

deaconess training at the Lovisenberg Deaconess House under the supervision of Mother Katinka Guldberg. Elisabeth spent much of her early career in Troms. On her thirty-second birthday, Sister Elisabeth received a letter from her brother-in-law Gabriel Fedde challenging her to set up a ministry in New York City for Norwegian seamen there. She departed for the United States three months later and arrived in 1883.

Sister Elisabeth firmly established her work beginning on April 19 of the same year with the founding of the Norwegian Relief Society. In the beginning, the Relief Society was a boarding house with three small rooms rented for a price of \$9 per month and located near the Seaman's Church. Sister Elisabeth also made significant efforts at visiting the sick and distressed, often writing in a journal about her experiences.

In 1885, Fedde opened a deaconess house for the training of other women to help in her ministry. Originally, the house consisted of a nine bed hospital that ultimately became Lutheran Medical Center of Brooklyn. After remaining in New York for several years, she left at the request of Lutherans in Minnesota to come and minister to them. She arrived in Minneapolis in 1888 and established the Lutheran Deaconess Home and Hospital of the Lutheran Free Church the next year and helped plan for a third hospital in Chicago. Eventually experiencing a burn-out (perhaps understandably) Sister Elisabeth returned to Norway in 1895 to Ola Sletteb, a suitor whom she had left to conduct her missionary work. The two were married shortly after her return. Elisabeth died on February 25, 1921. We remember Sr. Elisabeth, Sr. Frieda, the deaconess community, and all the unsung saints who from their labors rest, on February 25th. Blessed be their memories!

+Ronald B. Mayan, Bishop

Synod of Alberta and the Territories

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

## BC / ABT Bishops' Communique

January 12, 2012

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the British Columbia Synod and the Synod of Alberta and the Territories,

Grace to you and peace in the light of the one who was, who is and who is to come!

Epiphany is a time of revelation, of 'aha' moments that reveal the incarnate nature of God in Christ. Who is this Jesus? What is he about? The stories of the magi, Jesus' baptism, the turning of water into wine reveal moments when the people of the day stopped and glimpsed and experienced God doing something new in this person named Jesus of Nazareth. In these weeks called 'Time after the Epiphany', all who follow Jesus are invited to see and experience the 'new thing' he invites us into again and again through his teaching and healing ministry in the name of God's revelatory love.

We who follow the way of Christ in the Evangelical Lutheran Church In Canada are also about 'a new thing' that God is doing in our midst, with us and through us. In convention this past summer, our church approved in principle the recommendations of the Structural Renewal Taskforce. No doubt you are aware that one recommendation is to move from a five synod to a three synod wider church expression. This means we of the British Columbia and Alberta and the Territories synods have the opportunity to merge our two synods into one. Representatives from each synod have been exploring and developing the rationale, logistics and implementation of what this endeavour could look like. What follows is a glimpse of our joint committee's work to date which we ask you to prayerfully study in readiness for discussion, debate and vote at our upcoming Synod conventions this spring.

## British Columbia and Alberta & the Territories: One Western Synod

Other than the fact that we have discerned an affectionate nickname for our new synod (Surf 'N' Turf) it is not known as yet what this one Synod will be called. However, we do anticipate a re-structured Synod that would be better equipped to be In Mission for Others by being more flexible, affordable and sustainable as a church of the 21st century needs to be.

Structural renewal, by itself, is not a particularly exciting prospect. Some would liken it to re-arranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. Structural renewal needs to be coupled with and driven by something else. That "something else" is the ELCIC's commitment - confirmed at the Convention in July 2011 - to seek Spiritual renewal. We need to get back to the basics and immerse ourselves in Worship, Prayer, Study, Service, Reading, Giving and Telling. The focus needs to shift from membership to discipleship. We need to create among ourselves an evangelizing culture. With that kind of Spiritual renewal as the driving force, structural renewal that supports a revitalized and revitalizing discipleship will be necessary.

This newly merged Synod would be the geographical size of our current two synods. The whole Synod would be divided into three regional areas. Each regional area would contain one large urban centre. Thus we would have the "North Region" including Edmonton; the 'East Region' including Calgary; and the 'West Region' including Vancouver. Within each Region, congregations would be grouped into Areas (for want of a better term) which may be determined by locale or purpose. Areas would be comprised of no less than 8 congregations and no more than 25. These Areas would replace the current Conference configuration.

The new Synod would employ 5 full-time staff equivalents (down from the current 7) including a Bishop, three Assistants to the Bishop, and an Administrative Assistant. Staffing all positions in this manner to begin a new structure allows for the development of the programs and Area Leadership Teams while focusing on

mission strategies during this time of transition (possibly three years).

Following transition and assessment, this staffing model may be adjusted with respect to the amount of time contracted with each position and with the number of positions. This flexibility may be reflected, for example, with deployed staff - an assistant may be called to serve part-time in a parish or non-parish ministry while serving in a less-than-full-time position for this Synod; or two people may be called to address the portfolio previously held by one person.

At the outset, it is proposed that the Bishop and the Administrative Assistants would be based out of Calgary. Each major centre of the three regions would be the locale for one each of the three Assistants to the Bishop. Each Assistant to the Bishop would have primary responsibility for the Areas in their Region.

Governance of the Synod would be the responsibility of the Synod Council working in conjunction with the Synod Bishop. Following Carver's model, The Synod Council would be responsible for governance and the Synod Bishop would have oversight over the management of Synod operations.

#### **Grass Roots Ministry in Relationship with Others: The Ministry of the Area Leadership Team**

Each Area would have an Area Leadership Team comprised of three members (rostered and lay) where practical and feasible. The Area Leadership Team is envisioned to be responsible for delivering more direct support for mission and ministry at the local level. The Area Leadership Teams are envisioned to be relational in function; focus on empowering creative and effective ministries with and through congregations; and provide pastoral care leadership.

Area Leadership Teams would be provided financial support within the parameters of the allocated Synod budget but would not include compensation for time. They would be equipped for

their ministry by the Assistants to the Bishop and the tenure for service would be three years.

#### **Process, Feedback and Prayer**

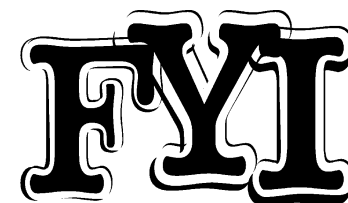
In convention this past summer, a decision was made for us as a national church expression to discern a new path that reflected our current contexts, realities and hopes. Three key words guided this process which are flexible, affordable and sustainable. The process to date has engaged representative from both our Synods in face to face meetings and conference calls. The accompanying documents are the result of all our efforts and are in need of your reflection and perusal. It is our hope that there will be several opportunities for members of our congregations to read them, ask questions, debate their contents in preparation for decisions to be made at our Synod Conventions this spring and summer.

Though the living word of God may be eternal, our contexts are always shifting, especially in 21st century North America. We want to be able to root ourselves in such a way in the Canadian context so as to be able to effectively pass on the faith of our ancestors while opening ourselves to God's promise of 'making all things new'. It is a challenge but we believe and trust that with God's help, it is a challenge for which we have been equipped. May God help us to make it so. We most earnestly request your prayer for our church and its leadership in all roles and guises as we faithfully discern together how our ELCIC is to be transformed.

In the light of Christ,

Bishop Greg Mohr

Bishop Ron Mayan



• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

# M & M

## Mary + Martha Group for Women

Feb 25, 2012 at 10:15 a.m. Book of Romans Bible Study

- Session #2 Study text: Romans 5:1-11
- 'Saved by Grace ... Isn't That Too Good to be True?'
- **Focus:** While we still were sinners, Christ died for us to demonstrate the depth of God's love.

### UPCOMING DATE:

FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 2012 Time T.B.A. World Day of Prayer 2012 - Hosted by Lutheran Church of the Cross!



Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Cross will be host to the World Day of Prayer 2012 With a service from Malaysia entitled "**Let Justice Prevail**"

Please plan to attend - Open to everyone!  
- As Host Church, ELCOC will provide refreshments. Watch for future announcements on volunteer

opportunities.

Contact Marilyn Jonasson if you'd like to be involved.

# Of Interest to you

**Volunteers needed for the Synod Convention 2012.** The Southwestern Conference will be hosting the Synod convention this year, so the local arrangements committee in Camrose are seeking volunteers (*age 13 and older*) for various positions. If you can help out with any of the following positions, please email Sharon at Synod office [svilletard@elcic.ca](mailto:svilletard@elcic.ca).

Registration	Set-up of chairs, etc.	Greeters
Ushers	Ballot counters	Ushers (worship)
First Aid		

The convention dates are: **May 24 - 27<sup>th</sup>** at University of Alberta - Augustana Campus, Camrose.

# Around Town

**MOVIE NIGHTS!!!** CASEA invites adults of all ages to attend any or all of a series of eight monthly "**Movie Nights**" at the FCJ Christian Life Centre. For the third consecutive year- Based on the book, "**FINDING GOD IN THE DARK**" we use contemporary movies, some "Adult" in content, to examine themes of spirituality, this year "**The Love of God**".



### Upcoming movies:

- **MONSOON WEDDING** Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>
- **DEVIL WEARS PRADA** Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>
- **INTO GREAT SILENCE** Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup>

Admission is free. For more information please contact Nola at 403-248-4780, Jim at 403-252-5845, or Lynn at 403-934-5667.

# KAIROS

Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives  
Initiatives canadiennes œcuméniques pour la justice

## Kairos Day 2012

### THE LEAP with Chris Turner

#### *How to Survive and Thrive in the Sustainable Economy*

Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church

4612 Varsity Dr. NW

Saturday, February 11, 9 am - 1 pm

Cost is \$15

Speaker and presenter: Chris Turner - Author of "The Geography of Hope" and "The Leap"

For more information and to register, visit:

[www.kairos-calgary.ca](http://www.kairos-calgary.ca)

## Opportunities to Serve

- Projectionists (power-point operator) - Sunday morning
- Sound Board operator - Sunday morning
- Changing the outside sign - once a week
- Reader for Sunday Morning



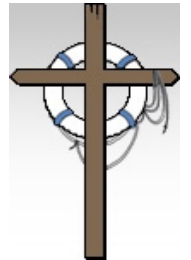
Call the church office if you're interested in any of these ministries.

## Community

- FAIRMONT TIMESHARE FOR SALE (RIVERSIDE)
- SLEEPS UP TO 12 PEOPLE
- GREAT GETAWAY FOR SKIERS
- ONE WEEK PER YEAR, JAN - APRIL (UNIT A & B ) OR TWO WEEKS IF ONLY ONE UNIT USED NEW OWNER MAY BE ABLE TO UPGRADE TO ALTERNATE MONTHS ASKING \$1500.
- CONTACT EDIE GREILACH IF INTERESTED @ 281-1837

## Marriage Having Trouble??

Do you know of someone whose marriage needs some help to survive? If so, please throw them a lifeline and point them to the Retrouvaille programme:



Retrouvaille is a growing international organization, supported by the Roman Catholic Church, and dedicated to helping couples repair their hurting marriages, through a Christian based programme of retreats and follow-up sessions.

The next session in Calgary is scheduled for **February 17-19, 2012**. To obtain information on the programme please consult the local Retrouvaille website or give us a phone call and we'll help you out. [www.helpourmarriagecalgary.com](http://www.helpourmarriagecalgary.com)

Brian and Lee Weatherill, (403) 282-9531  
Retrouvaille Calgary Coordinators  
Members of Hope Lutheran Church, Calgary