

# THE NET

St. Ansgar Lutheran Church  
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*Together we support and minister to each other, our neighbours, and the world,  
guided by the Gospel and in response to God's call.*

NOVEMBER 2010

## PASTOR'S PAGE

It is an exciting - no, difficult - no, terrific - no, disturbing - no, challenging - no, fantastic - (all of the preceding, and then some) time to be involved with St. Ansgar.

As you consider calling another pastor, perhaps in some way sharing pastors between Redeemer and St. Ansgar, perhaps sharing certain ministries, perhaps . . . well, who knows?

Your council is looking at all kinds of possibilities, some of which have never been considered before, and they are exciting, and difficult and challenging and fantastic. What will become of these ideas and plans depends on you, as you consider what ministry St. Ansgar might be doing in the coming years in this part of the city, and how much you pray about it and work to make your vision a reality.

Right now, I'm sure, those who are in discussion with Redeemer don't have much that is solid to share with you. The discussions at the moment are just that - discussions. On the other hand, they wish to get ideas from you, all the members of the congregation, and they will try to share with you the kinds of discussions they are having.

You probably know my personal kick - "Who did you invite to church this week?" By the time your new pastor arrives, you will either be sick of hearing me ask you, or you will have an answer to that question most weeks.

There's a reason for the question. The only way for the church to grow is to have people come to church who aren't coming now. They might be people who are members here but who haven't come in some time. Ask them to come with you. They might be people who haven't been to any church in a long time, if ever. They might be people who have never known what a Lutheran is. Ask them to come with you.

I know who those people are. They are your friends. They are your co-workers. They are your neighbours. They are your relatives. They are NOT strangers you've never talked with before. You know these people. And you think you know how they'll respond to your invitation. ASK THEM ANYWAY!!!

And unless you get a definite "No way," keep asking. A certain man had a feast and invited many. One had just bought a farm, another a team of oxen, and had just gotten married. They turned down the invitation. But there were others willing to come. And there was room for them all.

You will get excuses. That's fine. You will get turned down. That's fine. But very few will come if they're not asked. What's holding you back?

I would like to meet these friends and relatives of yours, and I would like to meet them here at St. Ansgar.

~ Pastor Dick



## **AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES . . .**

As many of you will be aware by now, Pastor Ed has announced that he is leaving Redeemer. While this does not directly impact St. Ansgar, in some regards it also provides an opportunity. From my earlier messages, and announcement, you will recall that we have had discussions with the other congregations in town, a key focus of which was to explore how the Lutheran community in London can do a better job of attracting and serving young families and youth to active participation within our congregations.

One of the options, that had been discussed, was the possibility of hiring a "youth pastor" to serve all of the local congregations. This would involve a commitment from each congregation to support a portion of an additional salary and related costs, as well as materials and other support costs. As each of the congregations has financial concerns, the addition of a new expense was a concern without a firm commitment of support.

With the resignation of Pastor Ed, we have been approached to hold joint discussions with the council of Redeemer to explore the possibility of working together to share a pastor and a youth leader to serve two congregations, without the incurrance of increased expense. Given the overall average age of the congregants in both congregations, we believe this is an opportunity that we need to explore to increase membership and participation levels to ensure the long term viability of both congregations. Given our history of cooperation with Redeemer in regard to confirmation classes, etc., we are confident in our abilities to arrive a workable agreement/arrangement moving forward.

If we are able to establish the working arrangement, it will alter the call process as we will be calling two individuals jointly, looking to establish a pastoral team, that can work together and can serve both congregations effectively.

As you can appreciate, this approach is something new and will take some work and prayer to establish and to ensure works successfully, underpinned by a willingness to try something new and different.

This is also a time for consideration of serving on council, as we have a number of pending vacancies as members come to end of terms, etc. If you are interested in serving, please approach our

nominating committee headed by Frances Tekpetey.

Our budget approval and election meeting will be held on **5 December 2010** after service.

~ Don Anderson

## **STEWARDSHIP NEWS**

On **14 and 21 November** we will be holding our Fall Volunteer Fair. This will give you an opportunity to become or recommit to a Labourer of Love position.

The following positions are available:

Greeter	Usher
Assistant Minister	Lector
Altar Care	Counter
Fellowship Host/Hostess	



New this Fall - Willing to help Serve/Clean up after a funeral lunch.

If you are currently on one of the teams I ask that you confirm your commitment to stay on the team. If you have any questions or would like further info about what is involved in any of the positions feel free to give me a call before the Fair or you can ask us then.

Worship wouldn't be Worship without our Labourers of Love so thank you in advance for your willingness to serve.

We are thrilled to inform you that our Council Approved Mission funds (\$1,000) have been used this year to support 2 tents (for temporary housing) at a cost of \$500 each being sent to Haiti. This is in co ordination with the Friends of the Orphans Canada. These houses are meant as temporary home for a family for up to three years. The tents are 12x12 feet long and 7 feet high.

David Grainger will be going on a Mission trip to the Dominican in February. The Stewardship will be looking for more ways we can help. Stay tuned for more details.

Coming late November early December, the Mitten Tree will be back – we will be collecting mittens and hats for the Whitehills day care. Also we will be joining forces with the other North London Churches to support families in need this Christmas, so watch for the gift tags for the toys for the needy Children.



Now for something really exciting - well I hope you'll think so - *TRAVELLING CHRISTMAS* is coming back to St Ansgar on 4 December. I have been told this was done before and it was so much fun we thought we would do it again. There will be a sign up sheet and more info posted on the board in the Narthex. It promises to be a lot of fun. Donna MacKinnon is co-ordinating this event.

~ Submitted on behalf of the Stewardship Committee by Laurie Rodger

## **LONDON CONFERENCE MEETING TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, WINDSOR ~ 23 OCTOBER 2010**

Attended by Pastor Holm, Laurie Rodger  
Ian Rodger, Don Anderson



### **Lutheran Women**

A report prepared by Eunice Kropf was shared with attendees, as Eunice was at the event for this organization in Cambridge at the same time

There continues to be hope for the continuation of the group in some form. Some staff have retired, with the board assuming some of the administrative roles.

ELW will continue to provide support for ongoing projects, and will continue to accept grace gifts, which can be sent to the ELW office. (cheques should be made payable to ELW). They are looking to establish an endowment fund, to be administered by the ELCIC, under terms negotiated with the church by the ELW board.

The ELW name will not be used moving forward, with the organization expected to be dissolved by the end of 2011, which the board has the authority to do under the charter terms of the organization.

### **London Conference Bylaws**

A copy of the bylaws approved at the spring meeting was shared with participants.

### **Canadian Lutheran World Relief**

A report on recent activities was provided by Tom Brook. CLWR focus is aligned with CIDA activities, predominately in South and Central America and the Caribbean. CLWR is working with the Lutheran World Federation and the ACT Alliance in Haiti, where there are still over 1 million people living in tents in over 1,300 camps throughout the country. Support being provided includes food, shelter as well as psycho-social work and support. Another key effort involves providing water tanks for drinking water to the various camps, including the first load of water. They are also working on building wells and schools. There is a need for

additional support with advocacy efforts with landowners (where camps are located) who are demanding that camps be removed on short notice and the government to provide support for relief efforts.

Key issues for restoration in the country are the lack of infrastructure and a properly functioning government. (elections to be held soon) Reconstruction is also impeded by the need to remove the rubble from collapsed buildings and the lack of equipment for this task.

### **National Church Restructuring**

Linda Grainger reviewed the contents of the report that was prepared by the task force looking in to this issue, based on survey information received from congregations. A copy of the report was provided to attendees. Essentially the report is calling for a review of the current synodical structure with a view to reducing the number of synods nationally. Final report to be provided prior to national convention next year for review and vote at that time.

### **Worship Practises**

A discussion was held regarding different practises employed in the various congregations in the conference. Interestingly, of those in attendance, the majority indicated that multi-media was employed as part of the regular service, reducing paper use and making it easier for many to follow the service, especially visitors. There was some discussion around preaching from the aisle as opposed to the pulpit, employment of "congregational choice" where hymns are selected by worship participants during service, singing of hymns "a capella", even the use of an Elvis impersonator to lead practise. It was an interesting discussion and leads to consideration of employing different techniques to provide variety to service and to increase participation by worship attendees.

### **Synod Anniversary Celebration**

Rev. Karen Kuhnert has volunteered to assemble photos, etc. of events and the various congregations, etc. to reflect the history of the synod over the past 150 years. She would be appreciative of any photos that could be shared, with permission to use them, to assist with this process.

The discussion also underlined the importance of having photos of congregational events, worship, etc. taken to preserve for the future.

The day concluded with a service.





## MEET THE MEMBERS ~ SCOTT AND AMANDA GORDON

Hello Members of St. Ansgar,

We are very pleased to be able to write a little bit about ourselves for you to get to know us better. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your warm welcome.

We joined St. Ansgar in early 2009 after moving to London from Sault Ste. Marie. We lived in Sault Ste. Marie for five years and were married at the Zion Lutheran Church. Prior to our time in the Sault, we lived in the Durham Region, where we met. Scott lived in Bowmanville and Amanda in Newcastle. Scott is a police officer with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and Amanda is an Ontario Certified Teacher (OCT) and an Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) therapist for children with autism.

Amanda was born and raised in the Durham Region. She has one older brother who resides in Toronto. Her parents are retired in Huntsville, enjoying the 'good life'. Scott is the third child to a Canadian father and a German mother. For the most part, Scott grew up in Germany, but has lived in Canada since 1976. He has an older brother in the Ottawa area and an older sister in Surrey, British Columbia.

As a couple, we enjoy traveling, motorcycling, tennis, scuba diving, cycling, walking and spending time with our precious cats. Scott enjoys playing the guitar and his dream has always been to play in a band. This dream has finally come true through St. Ansgar Church. Amanda enjoys gardening and bird watching.

Although one never knows what tomorrow may bring, our wish is to settle in London. London is a very nice place to live and with time, we will make it our home.

Thanks again for welcoming us to your congregation. God bless you all.

~ Scott and Amanda Gordon

## PRAYER PARTNER PROGRAM



It is that time of year when all the Prayer Partners join together at the Prayer Partner Tea and find out who has been praying for them over the past year. This year the tea will be held on **13 November at 1:00 pm**. Currently, as the guest speaker is still to be confirmed, we will call him/her a "Mystery Speaker".

For those who are already in the program, don't forget your small remembrance/gift of about \$10 in value for your prayer partner (with a card enclosed letting them finally know who you are!!).

For those who are not part of the program, here is what is involved. At our tea you will pick a name of someone who is part of the program (and your name will be placed in the "pot") and you will pray for that person over the next year and remember them with cards (sent anonymously of course) at special church festivals and occasions in their life such as birthdays and anniversaries. You will also be there with prayer if something serious such as illness or an accident should occur. Having been through that type of event, it is wonderful to get cards from your Prayer Partner and knowing that you are in that person's prayers all the time, not just for that event is a great comfort. The commitment for this program is not huge in that there are no meetings to attend and the tea is very enjoyable at the end of the year. Prayers and remembrances are all that are asked of each participant.

If you are part of the program and wish to remove yourself from it, please let us know. Or, if you wish to join the program, please let us know.

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## LABOURERS OF LOVE FOR NOVEMBER

	<u>7 NOVEMBER</u>	<u>14 NOVEMBER</u>	<u>21 NOVEMBER</u>	<u>28 NOVEMBER</u>
Holy Communion	YES	NO	YES	NO
Greeters	Gisela Riess	Eva Ludtke	Laurie Rodger	Caedwyn Boyd
Ushers	Scott Gordon Ben Dmyterko	Al Ludtke Francis Tekpetey	Don/Wendy Anderson	Cam Boyd Gisela Riess
Assist Min/Lector	Barb Koontz	Helga Kress	Ron Kropf	Heather Johanson
Altar Care	←----- Barb Chakraborty / Linda Hoose -----→			
Counters	Jeff Haywood Hank Enns	Francis Tekpetey Vera Tonnisen	Ian Rodger Ron Kropf	Kim Dawe Hank Enns

## NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Scouts 7 pm	2 Beavers 6:30 pm	3	4 Cubs 7 pm	5	6
7 Food Bank Sunday  Holy Communion Rovers 7 pm	8 Scouts 7 pm	9 Beavers 6:30 pm	10	11 Cubs 7 pm	12	13 Prayer Tea 1 pm 
14 Rovers 7 pm	15 Scouts 7 pm	16 Beavers 6:30 pm  Forest City Knitters 7 pm	17	18 Women's Group 1 pm  Worship & Music 7 pm  Cubs 7 pm	19	20
21 Holy Communion Rovers 7 pm	22 Scouts 7 pm  *Newsletter items due	23 Beavers 6:30 pm	24	25 Cubs 7 pm  Stewardship 7 pm	26	27
28 Rovers 7 pm	29 Scouts 7 pm	30 Beavers 6:30 pm	<b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b> Dec 4 - Travelling Christmas Dec 5 - Annual Congregation Budget Meeting Dec 12 - Christmas Cantata Dec 19 - Baby Jesus Birthday Party Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Services 4 pm, 7 pm and 10 pm			

## CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER



Linda Grainger (5)  
Don Anderson (16)  
Brigitte Greenslade (28)

Eliot Pridoehl (7)  
Heather Herbert (21)

Rose Zepp (11)  
Heather Johanson (24)

## CELEBRATING A WEDDING ANNIVERSARY IN NOVEMBER

Fred & Rose Zepp (21)

