



"Some Mohr Jottings"

by Bishop Greg Mohr

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BC Synod - 80 East 10th Ave, New Westminster BC V3L 4R5
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Medical Leave

I am scheduled for day surgery on January 15 in order to repair a hernia. While such surgeries are usually fairly straightforward, the doctor has advised that I should prepare to be away from work for 2 weeks. Accordingly, I plan to be back at work on the 29th.

In my absence, Kimberly will direct your e-mail or phone inquiries to the Synod Council Officers. You may also contact Rev. Cliff Reinhardt, Secretary of the Synod, directly at 604-874-2212 (Spirit of Life Lutheran Church, Vancouver) or prspiritlife@shaw.ca.

LUMS

After approximately 20 years of ministering in Vancouver's downtown eastside, Lutheran Urban Mission Society is bringing its "street priest" ministry to a close. Letters from the board chair and treasurer were recently circulated to BC Synod congregations outlining the reasons behind this decision.

Please keep Pastors Brian Heinrich and Matthew Senf in your prayers as they seek God's guidance on what this transition means for them. Let us also give thanks for the many staff, volunteers, church members and a host of others who participated in the ministry of LUMS these many years. And let us say a prayer for those children of God in the downtown eastside who sought out LUMS as a place of welcome and hospitality, a place of hope and joyful proclamation.

OMG

Earlier this month I attended the ELCA and ELCIC bishops' study week. There were very fine presentations by three guest speakers who explored the topic of the "none of the above" respondents - those who, when surveyed, do not indicate an affiliation with any religious group. I found one of the presenters to be particularly insightful. Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen is an ELCA pastor who started "OMG: Center for Theological Conversation." As her brochure states, "At OMG, people are free to explore questions about faith, their religion, the Bible, and God. Faith and questioning are entirely compatible." You can check out some of Anna's blogs at www.omgcenter.com.

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Renewal and Redevelopment

There are 3 congregations ready to participate in the new round of Guiding Team meetings as well as 4 pastors who begin their new clergy cohort.

The first session for these new pastors takes place on Friday, January 24, while the new Guiding Teams meet on Saturday, January 25. Thank you to Mt. Olive, Surrey, for being such gracious hosts for these gatherings.

Caring for All Creation: Land, Water, Our Natural Community

Plans for a fascinating series are quickly coming together. Brochures and registration materials will soon be distributed, but I wanted to give you a “heads up” about this initiative, which is co-sponsored by the Chester Ronning Center for the Study of Religion and Public Life (Camrose, AB), the BC Synod of the ELCIC, and the Faith and Society Committee of the BC Synod. This series begins March 3 in Vancouver and March 4 in Victoria.

To quote from the proposal: “This series is premised on having to create a caring community that supports each other as we take on the big tasks of seeing, thinking, and acting in new ways. So we will gather every two weeks as large groups (one in Vancouver and one in Victoria) - and over a shared meal - to reflect about the various aspects that caring for our land, water and communities implies, by knowing and learning from each other and our lands. The sessions will combine table discussions, and brief talks by the facilitators and guest speakers. It will address the head, the heart and our hands. In the weeks in between the large group gatherings, participants will meet in smaller groups to deepen their understandings of the issue, centered upon what their own land, water and community are calling them to. The facilitators will provide a guideline of suggested readings and experiential activities for each small group to engage in.”

There is a possibility that the large group sessions will be videotaped or livestreamed so that groups from outside these two centers may also participate in this event. We'll keep you posted.

Congregations in Transition

Emmaus, Burnaby, has scheduled a Call meeting for Sunday, January 26th, while Hills of Peace, Kamloops, has scheduled their Call meeting for Sunday, Feb 2nd.

Gloria Dei, North Vancouver, is currently interviewing candidates.

Grace, Victoria and Good Shepherd, Victoria are engaged in conversations as to how their two congregations might work more closely together. Rev. Jim Hill has been appointed as Interim minister at Grace.

Ascension, Nelson, has entered into the initial stages of the Call process.

COMING EVENTS:

Study Conference for Rostered Ministers and Lay Professionals

March 9-12, 2014 - Charis Camp, Chilliwack, BC

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Steven Paulson from Luther Seminary, Minneapolis

BC Synod Convention

May 29 to June 1, 2014 - Prince George, BC

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dittmar Mundel, Associate Director of The Chester Ronning Center for the Study of Religion and Public Life

BC Synod Confirmation Camp

June 30 to July 5 - Nanoose Bay Camp

National Worship Conference (Lutheran and Anglican)

July 20-23, 2014 - Edmonton, AB

CLAY (Canadian Lutheran and Anglican Youth Gathering)

August 14-17, 2014 - Kamloops, BC

Bishop's Schedule for Winter/Spring 2014

Jan	2-7	ELCIC/ELCA Bishops' continuing education event, Savannah, Georgia
	9	CTEL teleconference meeting
	10	Synod Council teleconference meeting
	12	Worship: Emmanuel, Surrey; 6 th Anniversary
	14	Study Conference teleconference planning meeting
	15-28	Medical leave
	26	Call meeting: Emmaus, Burnaby (Stephen Holmes will attend on my behalf)
	28	Meeting re Renewal process
	30	Meeting
Feb	1	Meeting with Good Shepherd and Grace, Victoria, church councils
	2	Joint worship service: Good Shepherd and Grace, Victoria
	5	Officers' meeting
	6	Meeting
	16	Worship: King of Life, Coquitlam
	23	Worship: yet to be determined
	27-1	Synod Council meeting
Mar	1	Consecration of Anglican Bishop, New Westminster Diocese, Vancouver
	2	Consecration of Anglican Bishop, Diocese of British Columbia, Victoria
	6	Conference of Bishops, Winnipeg
	6-8	National Church Council meeting, Winnipeg
	9-12	Study Conference
	16	Worship: Christ, Kelowna; 65 th Anniversary
	18	Western Synod Examining Committee; Saskatoon
		[weekend of March 22-23 or 29-30: Mom's 90 th birthday celebration; Camrose, AB]
Apr	1-2	(tentative) CTEL meeting
	4-6	Lutheran Theological Seminary, Board of Governors' meeting; Saskatoon, SK
	13	Worship: yet to be determined
	20	EASTER; worship: yet to be determined
	27	Worship: Grace, Dawson Creek

May 29-June 1 BC Synod Convention, Prince George