



"Some Mohr Jottings"

by Bishop Greg Mohr

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It's not often that one gets to observe a 500th birthday. Maybe that's why we have been commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation for the past year or two! It takes time to reflect, observe, engage and dialogue. This year also marks the 50th Anniversary of official Lutheran-Roman Catholic dialogue.

Reformation commemoration events have been or will be held in many of our synod congregations. Most are using the excellent resources provided by the Lutheran World Federation as well as resources produced jointly by Canadian Lutheran and Roman Catholic consultations.

I have had the distinct privilege of participating in several Lutheran-Roman Catholic events and study sessions. I have been enriched by these worship services and dialogues, and I hope that further joint initiatives will be planned for the coming years.

There are several more synod and regional events planned for this fall. The weekly announcements from synod office try to keep up to date with the various worship and study events. Please contact Kimberly if you would like to add your event to the announcements.

REFORMATION CHALLENGE

Donations may still be made to the Reformation Challenge through to the end of 2017. You can access information about each of the four challenges on the ELCIC website at www.elcic.ca.

ELCIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

I want to draw your attention to two important documents that were adopted by our church at the national convention of the ELCIC. The first is entitled "A Statement to Muslims," and the second is entitled "Encountering People of Other Faiths -- Interfaith Guidelines. I encourage you to read and utilize these documents that are attached below on the website.

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The convention also saw the introduction of the inaugural ELCIC In Mission for Others Leadership Award. Don Storch, a member of our Synod (Lutheran Church of the Cross, Victoria) is the recipient of this year's award.

National Church Council member Jeanie Stann (also a member of Lutheran Church of the Cross, Victoria) had the distinct pleasure of reciting the list of ways by which Don has served the church over the span of many decades. I asked her if I might use portions of her speech and she has kindly agreed. Let us join the National Convention in extending our thanks to Don for his unfailing service to our church and to our Lord.

At the time of Don's confirmation, the following verse was given to him. Joshua 24:15, "Choose you this day whom you will serve, as for me and my house we will serve the Lord. That verse has been a guide for me through all the years since confirmation," he said. Those of us who know Don well know that he is a man of prayer, study of the scriptures and service...

"How can I be of help?" These are words I have heard Don use in so many instances but have also seen him act those words out - from washing dishes in our local congregation on many, many occasions to serving on many committees and boards locally and nationally.

Don is well known because of his involvement with over 30 organizations using his skills as counsellor, mediator and educator. Some of these organizations include:

- o National Church Council - elected in 1997 and served as secretary from 2001 until 2011*
- o 1st president of the Lutheran Student Movement in 1958, now known as the Lutheran Student Association*
- o National Board of the Victorian Order of Nurses Foundation*
- o Our Place Society working to care for Victoria's most vulnerable citizens*
- o Threshold Housing Society serving youth that are at risk of homelessness*

In 2010, Don's work and contributions were recognized with his investiture into the Order of Canada. Today he is recognized as the 1st Recipient of the ELCIC In Mission for Others Leadership Award. Part of this award is a monetary gift which Don has asked to be donated to Shelbourne Community Kitchen in Victoria - a project begun with CECF funds working to provide food security to low income individuals and families. (by Jeanie Stann)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AGAIN!

Yes, I know. We have been talking about Constitution and Bylaws a lot lately. But such will be our lot for a few more years. Our Constitution sub-committee is diligently working at preparing a made-in-BC revision to the newly-approved ELCIC Model Constitution and Bylaws for Congregations. This revision is needed in order to bring the model in line with the changes mandated by the new BC Societies Act. The new Societies Act means that additional changes will need to be made to the Synod's Constitution and Bylaws at the 2018 Synod Convention.

Remember that amendments to congregational Constitutions and Bylaws need to be approved by Synod Council. Please be patient when you send your Constitution and Bylaws in for review. We're doing the best we can to keep up with the demand, and are gradually expanding the team of people able to do these reviews and bring a report to Synod Council.

2018 BC SYNOD CONVENTION: MAY 24-27, LANGLEY

We are delighted that the congregation of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Langley, will be hosting our 2018 BC Synod Convention. The convention will begin on Thursday, May 24 and conclude with morning worship on Sunday, May 27.

TRANSITIONS

Rev. Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford concluded her ministry at First Lutheran, Vancouver, at the end of September and begins her new call on November 1st at Christ the King Lutheran, Surrey.

Rev. Diana Edis has accepted the call to serve St. Paul's, Prince Rupert, and begins her ministry there in the last part of October.

Rev. Denise Doerksen (Anglican priest) has accepted the call to serve Peace, Abbotsford.

Rev. Katrina Vigen has accepted the call to serve Redeemer, Vancouver, and will be concluding her ministry at Ascension, Nelson, in November.

Congregations in various stages of the Call process:

Nelson, Ascension
 Powell River, Faith Lutheran
 Sechelt, Living Faith Lutheran (1/2 time position)
 Vancouver, First Lutheran
 Victoria, Lutheran Church of the Cross (second pastor)
 Victoria, Luther Court, chaplaincy

BISHOP'S SCHEDULE FALL 2017

Sept. 4	Meeting re North Burnaby Centre
5	Study Conference Planning Team
6	Travel to Winnipeg
7	Conference of Bishops meeting
7-9	National Church Council
10	Worship: Redeemer Lutheran, Vancouver
13	Officers Meeting
14	Constitution sub-committee meeting
14	Synod Council teleconference meeting
17	Worship St. Peter's Estonian Lutheran, Vancouver
20	Meeting with Lower Mainland Regional leadership
22-23	Southern Interior Regional Gathering: Peace, Vernon
24	Worship: Faith, Kelowna
28	Univ. of Victoria Chaplaincy lecture series
29	Meeting of Committee for Theological Education and Leadership (CTEL)
30	Vancouver Island Regional Gathering: Hope, Nanaimo

- Oct. 1 Joint Lutheran-Roman Catholic worship service, 2:00 pm at St. Clare's
4 RC-Lutheran planning team meeting
8 Worship: Shepherd of the Valley, Comox
10-13 First Call Program, St. Albert, AB
14 Lower Mainland Regional Gathering: Gloria Dei, North Vancouver
17 Officers Meeting
21 Reformation Hymnfest at Queens Ave United Church, New Westminster
25 Conference of Bishops teleconference meeting
29 Worship: Our Saviour, Prince George
29 Joint Lutheran-Roman Catholic event, Prince George
- Nov. 1 Travel
2-4 Board of Governors, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon
4 Lay Academy presentation/video-recording
7 Synod Council sub-committee teleconference meeting
8 LTS sub-committee teleconference meeting
15 Multi-Faith Summit meeting
16-18 Synod Council meeting
25 Lay Academy event participation
26 Worship: Mt. Olive, Surrey
- Dec. 1-3 Officers Consultation (Synods and National), Winnipeg
7 Synodical Constitution sub-committee
10 Worship: Mt. Olivet, North Vancouver