



## St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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September 2019

### 50 Years of St. Peter's on Walnut Street

Jesus said, "I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18a).

50 years ago, St. Peter's moved from the old location on the corner of Ellice and Sherbrook to our new site on Walnut Street. A dedication ceremony took place on Reformation Sunday, October 26, 1969. We will be celebrating the 50-year-milestone on **Sunday, October 20**, with a joint (bilingual) worship service, which will start **at 10:30 AM**. Following the service, a meal will be served in the basement. In order to help us plan with our preparations we ask you to RSVP.

Pastor (and Dean of the NALC mission district in Canada) Mac de Waal will visit us from Outlook, SK, and will participate in the service. During the service we will feature the choir (organized by Linda Lurvey) and other special music. We will dedicate the newly purchased piano for its use in worship; we will also include elements from our regular Thanksgiving service, in which members have an opportunity to express their commitment to Christ and the mission of the church.

An anniversary is also an invitation to reflect on our identity as Christ's church. The wave of immigrants in the 1950s and 1960s has had an impact on the ministry of St. Peter's. We today face our own challenges. As we look at our history and move forward there are at least three questions that I would like for us to explore as a congregation: Where have we come from? Who are we now? Where do we go from here? Every single one of us has a unique connection with St. Peter's. Your voice needs to be heard. There is ample opportunity for our members to come together: to share their stories, to listen to others about what attracts them to St. Peter's, and to learn from one another. I am in the process of putting together a series of discussion forums, in which we can address these questions. More information is coming.

Peter, the namesake of our church, is the rock on which Jesus wanted to build his church. But Christ himself is the sure and unshakable foundation of God's Church and our faith. For our future service and ministry let us continue to put our trust in Him as our Lord and Saviour.

Yours in Christ,  
Bjoern E. Meinhardt, Pastor

## 50 Jahre St. Petri Gemeinde auf der Walnut Street

Jesus sagte: „Ich sage dir auch: Du bist Petrus, und auf diesen Felsen will ich meine Gemeinde bauen“ (Matthäus 16,18a).

Vor 50 Jahre zog die St. Petri-Gemeinde von der Ecke auf Ellice und Sherbrook zu ihrem neuen Standort auf der Walnut Street um. Ein Einweihungsgottesdienst fand damals am Reformationssonntag, dem 26. Oktober 1969, statt. Wir wollen diesen 50-Jahr-Meilenstein am Sonntag, dem **20. Oktober** mit einem gemeinsamen (und zweisprachigen) Gottesdienst feiern, der um **10:30 Uhr** anfangen wird. Nach dem Gottesdienst wird zum gemeinsamen Essen in den Gemeindegarten eingeladen. Um Anmeldung wird gebeten, was uns bei den Vorbereitungen helfen wird.

Pfarrer (und Dekan für den NALC Missionsdistrikt in Kanada) Mac de Waal wird von Outlook, SK, kommen und am Gottesdienst teilnehmen. Während des Gottesdienstes wird der Chor singen (unter der Leitung von Linda Lurvey) und weitere besondere Musik aufgeführt. Wir werden dann auch das vor Kurzem neu gekaufte Piano offiziell für seine Nutzung im Gottesdienst einweihen. Zudem wird der Gottesdienst Elemente enthalten, die wir von unserem Oktober-Danksagungsgottesdienst her kennen; dabei haben Gemeindeglieder die Gelegenheit, ihre Verbundenheit zu Christus und den Missionsaufgaben der Kirche zum Ausdruck zu bringen.

Ein Jubiläum ist auch eine Gelegenheit für uns über unsere Identität als Kirche Christi nachzudenken. Die Welle von Immigranten in den 1950ern und 1960ern hat Auswirkungen auf die Entwicklung in der St. Petri Gemeinde gehabt. Wir begegnen heute unseren eigenen Herausforderungen. Wir schauen auf unsere Geschichte und schreiten in die Zukunft. Bei der Bestandsaufnahme können uns drei Fragen anleiten, die wir als Gemeinde erkunden sollten: Woher kommen wir? Wer sind wir jetzt? Wohin führt unser Weg? Ein Jeder und eine Jede von uns hat eine einzigartige Beziehung mit St. Petri. Was ihr zu erzählen habt, muss gehört werden. Also reichlich Gelegenheit für unsere Gemeindeglieder zusammenzukommen, um ihre Geschichte mitzuteilen, anderen zuzuhören, was sie zur St. Petri Gemeinde gebracht hat, und voneinander zu lernen. Ich bin dabei, eine Diskussionsreihe zusammenzustellen, in der wir diesen Fragen nachgehen. Weitere Informationen folgen.

Petrus, der Namensgeber unserer Gemeinde, ist der Fels, auf dem Jesus seine Kirche bauen wollte. Aber Christus selbst ist das sichere und unerschütterliche Fundament für Gottes Kirche und unseren Glauben. Was unseren zukünftigen Gottesdienst und Dienst angeht, so lasst uns auch weiterhin Ihm vertrauen, der unser Herr und Heiland ist.

In Christo, euer  
Björn E. Meinhardt, Pfarrer

# **Luther Week, Walking by the Spirit with the Fruits of the Spirit**

(Galatians 5:16, 22:22-23)

## **2019 North American Lutheran Church Convocation, Indianapolis, Indiana Delegates Report**

*Submitted by Jerry Roehr*

As delegates Helga and I attended the conference from August 6<sup>th</sup> to August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Besides several other meetings, the convocation was divided in five different events:

- Ventures in Youth Ministry Symposium (August 5<sup>th</sup>)
- Women of the NALC Annual Gathering (August 5<sup>th</sup>)
- Braaten-Benne Lecture in Theology
- Mission Festival
- Convocation

**At the Braaten-Benne Lecture** five different presenters discussed:

- The Holy Spirit and Christian Life
- How the Holy Spirit Disappeared in Lutheranism
- The Work of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament
- The Holy Spirit and Salvation
- The Holy Spirit and the Stuff of Life

### **The Mission Festival Schedule.**

This event provided for questions and answers based on the presentations of representatives in the communication field, the NALC Bishop, the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, the Bishop of Tanzania (2.1 Mill Members), the Bishop of Ethiopia (9.1 Million Members) as well as two representatives from German Lutheran Churches.

There were breakout sessions and in the evening the different Mission Districts met separately. About 30 Canadians gathered under the leadership of Dean Mac de Waal discussing a wide range of topics. I was able to share our partnership in the Kuwala Christian Girls School following which one congregation pledged scholarship support for one student. There are 24 NALC Canadian congregations from Prince George to Winnipeg (a distance of 2,400 km).

### **Convocation.**

This event features greetings from various church groups, agencies and committees, daily communion services, daily devotions with an excellent chaplain. There was a dinner honoring outgoing Bishop John Bradosky and the election of a new Bishop Dan Selbo of California. A more detailed report is attached to this report.

It was uplifting to attend the meetings where “Christ Centered” was proclaimed in every presentation and discussion. A more detailed report can be found in the NALC Newsletter available in the Narthex.

# Gleanings from the NALC Lutheran Week 2019

*by Helga Roehr*

## **Walking by the Spirit with the fruit of the Spirit**

### **Lectures in Theology:**

- Dr. Robert Benne-The Holy Spirit and Christian Life (Faith, Love, Hope) lecture is available (worth getting it for our viewing)
- Rev. Dr. Craig Keener-The Work of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament (healing and miracles which precede churches born in Africa and Asia)
- Dr. Matthew Levering-The Holy Spirit and Salvation (When the church is weak it needs to rediscover itself)
- Rev. Dr. Derek Nelson - The Holy Spirit and the Stuff of Life (connecting to the material world, importance of physical contact)

**Mission Work** -should have an organized vision arrived at by prayer and discussion

1. Where are we now?
2. Where do we want to go? Goal: where does God want us to be?
3. How do we get there?

-Hone in on the vision, write it down, then massage it, keep it in front of you.

-How do we decide who we want to partner with? Ask a lot of questions especially what their purpose is.

**Evangelism** -Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba- “What does the Gospel mean to us? What is the best news you can share that is life changing? The Gospel empowered by the Holy Spirit is unstoppable. Retreat and pray for the renewal of yourself”

**Life to Life Discipleship**-video available free of charge, the message being “a person will grow in a culture of nourishment”.

**Lutherans for Life**-Pro Life from conception to natural death.

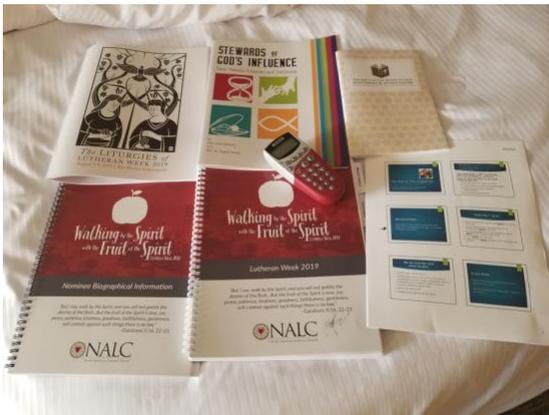
**Canadian Mission District Meeting**- approximately 30 members present. Group led by Dean Mac de Waal. Gerhard was able to share our Kuwala Project. One person responded right away wanting to sponsor a student. They are also organizing a better communication system.

**Personally** it was great to reconnect with Revs. Wendel, Buba and Mac de Waal. Also, Bassam Abdallah who led our pilgrimage trip to Jordan and Israel along with some of our fellow travellers. We also connected with a pastor and his wife from Kansas who we sat with mostly.

**A Luther quote**, “This Life is not righteous, but growth in righteousness; not health, but healing; not being but becoming; not rest but exercise; we are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it; the process is not yet finished, but it is going on; this is not the end, but it is the road; all does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified.”



The NALC meeting had more than 800 participants



Materials for the participants

Members representing some of the 24 congregations in the NALC Canadian Mission District



## **Pastor's Report on the NALC Convocation in Indianapolis (August 5-9)**

In this issue of the newsletter there is a thorough report on the NALC Convocation by St. Peter's lay delegates Jerry and Helga Roehr. Briefly I wish to add a few impressions – without claiming to be extensive. I will limit my views to only a few snapshots.

This was my first attendance at a churchwide NALC convocation and it was a refreshing experience for me. We can be proud (as much as a Lutheran is “allowed to be proud”) to be engaged in a church that is serious about its proclamation of Christ, its rootedness in Scripture, and the observance of its confessional Lutheran heritage. One might think that this should be a given. But as I look around in today's society, I see too many churches and church bodies that seek to conform the church to the world, setting aside Paul's words that we should not “be conformed to the world, but be transformed by ... the will of God” (see Romans 12:2).

One of the highlights of the convocation was the election of a new bishop. The last time, when I participated at an election of a (synodical) bishop in the ELCA, most candidates presented themselves as a company-style CEOs, promoting a business-type model of church. All the candidates who had something to say about the Bible, prayer, or worship did not make it on the second ballot. Fortunately, I experienced none of that in Indianapolis. Each one of the final four contenders, in my mind, would have made a fine bishop. Each one expressed confidence that we have the right equipment available to grow in faith and as a church: through the study of Scripture, by praying, by making worship a regular routine of our discipleship, and by focusing on mission as an important part of our ministry.

On the fourth ballot, Pastor Dan Salbo (from San Jose, CA) was elected bishop. The bishop elect answered the question “What hopes do you have for the mission of the NALC?” as follows: “As a Christ Centered church body my hope is that we will continue to grow in our relationship with Jesus as our Savior and Lord. I hope each member of the NALC will become stronger in their own personal faith-walk with Christ. I hope our preaching and teaching will lift up the name of Jesus. ... My hope is that Christ will be seen in us because we have fallen in love with Him and we have no greater purpose in life than to live for Him. ... Because 'God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,' we must be tireless in our efforts to increase the number of people who come to know Him as Lord.”

There is a high emphasis in the NALC on discipleship. Rightly so. Often, I hear responses by church-goers which show that they are not clear about their faith. For instance, they attended confirmation class because that was “something we did.” Or in worship, they went “through the motions.” As I look at discipleship, there are at least three main aspects: that we know what we believe, explain why we believe, and profess in whom we believe. The NALC has launched its life-to-life discipleship program. Take a look here: [nalclifetolife.org](http://nalclifetolife.org).

Keynote speaker to the assembly was Pastor Gemechis Buba. (Many of you probably remember him from his visit to Winnipeg in the fall of 2013.) Two comments stand out for me from his excellent address. He shared how once, while sitting on a plane, he told his neighbour that he had zero per cent self-confidence but that he had, instead, 100% confidence in Christ. He also urged us that we cannot remain “indoor Christians” (in reference to Jesus' disciples who were staying behind locked doors; see John 20) but that we must become “outdoor Christians” who seek to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to all.

In closing, I want to express how excited I am to be a part of the NALC.



## **Construction is continuing**

*By Jerry Roehr*

Construction of the teacher's residence and St. Peter's Assembly Hall was started and is at the point where the concrete foundations and floors are finished and the walls are being erected. The students are planting and maintaining a vegetable garden and a greenhouse is in the works. A nurse has been hired.

Mark Kinzel, his wife Leslie and I hope to be in Malawi September 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> (for me until the 13<sup>th</sup>). Meetings are planned with the leadership of the school, the students, and the Kuwala Board of Trustees. I am currently trying to make contact with the Bishop or his assistant of the Lutheran Church in Malawi to make them aware of the school. At the time we will be there, the school will have the grand opening of the 2019/2020 school year. David Budnick has agreed to compose a St. Peter's slide presentation for me to take along.

You may remember that we had some extra donations (\$ 1,000.00 plus) and \$ 4,000.00 returned to us from the Canadian Mission District. Currently, the school has a server and overhead projector but not enough computers. Mark and I will discuss if we should use some of this money to assist in purchasing ten computers (hopefully no Malawi duty but Malawi GST) and/or if we should bring such items from Canada.

From our investments, we have withdrawn \$ 50,000.00 and submitted the funds for the fourteen scholarships for the 2019/2020 school year totalling \$ 16,800.00 and have also provided the first progress payment of \$ 30,000.00 for the St. Peter's Assembly Hall.

There is still some concern about the September trip to Malawi as it is reported that the airports in Lilongwe and Blantyre may be closed by anti-Government demonstration August 26<sup>th</sup> to August 30<sup>th</sup>. Demonstrations are also planned for the first week in September. The protesters are demanding that the chief elections officer (a women supreme court judge) must resign because of irregular election results at last May's national elections.

If Memory, from the neighbouring school and also in charge of Kuwala School, and Henry, who is the project engineer, can obtain a Canadian visa, it is planned that both will visit Winnipeg sometime in early October.



Fence around Kuwala School has been completed



Walls of St. Peter's Assembly Hall are being built.

### Preparing for the 50th anniversary of St. Peter's on Walnut

As you may know, this year marks the 50th anniversary of St. Peter's at our Walnut Street location. The dedication took place on Reformation Sunday, October 26, 1969. We will have our anniversary service on Sunday, October 20.

Pastor Meinhardt would like to engage in a conversation with you about the building and your history with St. Peter's. Here are a few questions as examples (our dialogue is not limited to these).

- What was your first impression of the building?
- What is your favourite personal memory of the building?
- Is there an event that stands out for you at the church?
- Looking ahead, what are your hopes and aspirations

#### **St. Peter's Singers** *Sing to the Glory of God!*

Singers of all ages, from both German & English Services, are welcome to join in as we prepare **special music** for our 50th Anniversary service on Oct. 20th. Practises will be held after the English Service on Sept. 22, 29, Oct. 6 & 13th. Please contact the church office for more information.

*"Next to the Word of God, Music is the Greatest Treasure in the World." Martin Luther*

## Upcoming Events

**The Bible Study** on the Gospel of Luke will resume in September. We will meet on the second and fourth Saturday, September 14 and 28, at 10:30AM.

For your preparation: We will look at the chapters that deal with Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem and the events of the first half of Holy Week (Luke 19-21).

For more information please contact Pastor Bjoern (204.792.3346 or [pastormeinhardt@mymts.net](mailto:pastormeinhardt@mymts.net)).

## Important Announcements

*Submitted by Barb Schott*

**A big thank-you** to everyone who helped us out with worship services during Pastor Meinhardt's study leave, conference time and holidays: Pastor Tom Lurvey, Pastor John Cobb, Uwe Schmitz, Paul Bergsagel, Kathleen Thorsteinson, Klaus Albrecht and Gerhard Roehr.

**A call for help on two subcommittees.** If you are interested in helping and participating with your ideas and talents on one or both of the following subcommittees please contact Gudrun in the St. Peter's office 204-775-6477 or Barbara Schott: 204-257-3531 ([b.schott@shaw.ca](mailto:b.schott@shaw.ca)) as soon as possible.

**1. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee.** The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the St. Peter's Church Building will take place on October 20<sup>th</sup> and will be combined with our bilingual Thanksgiving service & luncheon. We are looking for help with:

- \*power point/photo/visual presentation
- \*special contributions/features towards our newsletter
- \*planning for our luncheon/catering
- \*decoration
- \*youth participation and input – time capsule
- \*any ideas you might have for that special commemorative day

### **2. Parking Lot Project Committee**

The issue was raised at our last council meeting on August 19<sup>th</sup> that we need to come up with a church policy and guidelines on how to address the homeless situation in our parking lot: all the belongings and materials and garbage that are continuously left in the area of our shed. We want to do this in a way that is kind and compassionate and in keeping with our Christian values. If you are interested in participating, please contact Gudrun in the St. Peter's office 204-775-6477 or Barbara Schott: 204-257-3531, [b.schott@shaw.ca](mailto:b.schott@shaw.ca)

## Milestone Events

### Celebrating Pastor Meinhardt's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Pastor Meinhardt turned 50 (on July 2<sup>nd</sup>). We celebrated his birthday on July 7<sup>th</sup> with a luncheon at Maxime's restaurant.



**Siegi and Elli Kitzmann are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on September 13. Congratulations dear Elli and Siegi! May the Lord continue to bless you!**



**St. Peter's Intergenerational Church Outing  
*Manitoba Passion Play, La Riviere, Manitoba*  
Saturday, July 6, 2019**

On a beautiful Saturday afternoon in July, 48 St. Peter's members and friends boarded a Fehr-Way Tours bus headed to La Riviere for the Manitoba Passion Play. Fehr-Way had arranged for us a delicious buffet supper along the way at the Country Kitchen Restaurant in Winkler.

The Passion Play site is a natural amphitheatre in the Pembina Valley. They have constructed a set composed of several buildings in an ancient Middle Eastern style. The set also makes ample use of the natural features of the valley. On one side is a garden setting, including a garden tomb set into the side of the hill. On the other side is a bare-topped hill depicting Golgotha. Off to the side is a bandshell housing a live orchestra.

With a large multi-generational cast in period costumes, the actors make the story of Jesus come alive—from his miraculous birth, through his ministry, and finally the events of Holy Week: Jesus' suffering and death on a cross and resurrection. The music supported the action. Some of our folks commented that there were moments that brought them to tears.

We were all grateful that we could ride safely home in the dark on the tour bus. Thank you to Fehr-Way tours and Linda Lurvey for her work organizing such a meaningful outing.



## An Unexpected and Welcome Visit

For those of you who remember the Presber family, who were a part of our congregation in the 1970's, we would like to share that we had an unexpected visit on Wednesday, August 21<sup>st</sup> from Julian Presber, who was the oldest son, and his son Sebastian. Julian and his family live in Luxembourg and were in Winnipeg visiting family and friends. Pastor Bjoern, Gudrun, Heinrich and Barbara were delighted that they happened to be there when Julian and Sebastian found it important to come by St. Peter's which had been such a big part of their lives. Julian extends greetings to our congregation on behalf of his entire family! We can thank God for every good remembrance of our family in Christ -- Phillipians 1 v 3.

### Herewith a Grusswort from Julian Presber:

Ich hab mich sehr gefreut, nach so vielen Jahren (46!) bei einem Aufenthalt in Winnipeg die Skt Peter Kirche wieder zu besuchen, Pfarrer Meinhardt und Frau Neeth kennenzulernen und über die heutige Kirche zu erfahren. Ganz besonders hat mich auch die rein zufällige Begegnung mit Barbara Schott, Sonntagsschulklassenkameradin damals, und ihrem Vater, gefreut. Herzliche Grüße an alle Gemeindeglieder aus der Zeit, die unsere Familie damals kannten. Julian Presber



A visit from Julian and Sebastian Presber.

**Any submissions for the October edition of the St. Peter's Newsletter should be made 10 days prior to the first Sunday of October. So, submissions for the October newsletter should be received by noon on Thursday September 26, 2019. Please send your submissions to Ortrud Oellermann and Kirsten Koch at [stpetersnewsl@gmail.com](mailto:stpetersnewsl@gmail.com)**