



EPIPHANY – Caring for Others

From the Pastor's Pen

If you've been in my office recently, you'll have noticed right away that someone has been in and scattered papers, documents, files and piles of books all over my desk, a table, the top of the filing cabinet and even the couch. The odd thing is that if you look at my desk at home, which couples as a table in the master bedroom, you'll see that the same gnome has been at work. People who look after offices, such as office administrators, would take one look at my office and immediately think, "he's a piler, not a filer". And they're right. My only request to those who have an itchy finger to get at those piles is "Please, don't". I do pretty much know where everything is in there and if you shift it around, I am much more confused than normal. I'm pretty sure it must have been someone like me who created the saying, "A clean desk is the sign of a sick mind". Some days I feel like it's my only defense. Yet I know myself well enough to understand that whether I'm under a time crunch, working on several things at once or have some space to slow down a bit, other than rearranging pictures or furniture, the overall appearance of my office desk doesn't change much.

I have taken one of the books from off the pile on my filing cabinet to relocate it on one of the piles I have at home in the hopes of reading it – soon. I was leafing through it looking at the titles on the tops of the pages when one of them caught my eye, "open source spirituality". Now there's a term I hadn't seen or heard before! I mean, I've heard of the term open source, but, "open source spirituality"?

LARGE PRINT COPIES OF THIS NEWSLETTER ARE AVAILABLE

The author confirmed what I thought, that the term open source comes from the world of technology. The author, Brian McLaren, says that in 1998, some software developers, instead of keeping their codes secret as proprietary information under their control, offered them to the general public and invited willing volunteers to participate in their ongoing development and adaptation. He also writes that a similar development also took place in developing the internet in the late 1960's and open – source methodology has played an expanding role in the development of the Internet in the years since, especially in projects like Wikipedia and You Tube. I don't know much about how it all works, except people do tell me that I am on You Tube – dancing – at the 2009 Grey Cup Festival, in Calgary. Good luck finding it!

Anyway, my interest here is in the term "open source spirituality". So often the church has spoken and acted as if she is the sole proprietor of all things spiritual, rather than advocating "open source spirituality". Open source spirituality would open us to the spiritual experiences of those around us. If we practice open source spirituality more and more of us would open our lives to be sources of inspiration and examples for one another of the spiritual life in Jesus Christ, being and becoming for one another the body of Christ. We would be fulfilling, says Brian McLaren, the unfulfilled promise of the Reformation with its open source concept of "the priesthood of all believers".

We all benefit from the open source methodology of the internet, including having the opportunity to develop our own new website, just being launched. Take a look around and invite others to do the same. And all of us can wake up to the people around us, whose lives embody – not perfectly – but authentically – practices of the spiritual life. And all of us, pilers and filers, extroverts and introverts, analysers and promoters, Type A, B or C personalities can aspire to become an open source of embodied spiritual practices for the benefit of others.

Peace, Pastor Ron.



HOSANNA has a new website! It will be launched in the next few days, so keep checking

for our new presence, same address: www.hosannalutheran.ab.ca!

Hosanna's Future Directions Input:

Progress Update

Our mission at HOSANNA Lutheran Church is to equip God's people of all ages for Christian witness and service through worship, learning, fellowship, and spiritual care. In the January Newsletter, the Future Directions Task Force introduced the process that will build on where we are now and explore the directions we feel called into. On a slightly delayed schedule, we are now well into consultation with Hosanna's committees, review of important Biblical and church contexts, and **three special opportunities for Hosanna members to provide input** (aside from sharing your thoughts at any time with any members of the task force—see names below).

The **congregational survey** is in your mailbox and on the web (www.surveymonkey.com/s/hosanna), with a **deadline of Monday, February 7!** Each family member is invited to complete the survey, so extra copies are available on the black counter in the narthex. If you use the web-based survey, please return your paper copy to the stack on the counter and pick up the short web survey directions.

Later in February, the task force and some other congregational leaders would like to have **up to 100 one-on-one conversations** with people in the congregation. The task force hopes, if you are asked, you will happily share a half hour of your time to talk with someone about your experience at Hosanna.

Early in March, **you will be invited to attend a small group discussion** focusing on future hopes and dreams for the congregation. Again, the task force hopes that everyone will feel called to share in this experience.

Your contributions will help the task force to advise Church Council before mid-April, and Church Council to bring recommendations to the congregation by the end of April. As the Rev Dr Gordon Jensen recently wrote about Martin Luther's "marks of the church," the church is marked "by its proclamation and the life-creating actions of the gospel, empowering us to bring—and be—the good news to others."

We welcome your informal comments at any time: task force members are Morley Becker, Carl Betke, Ursula Buller, Ron Fortin, Katherine (K. T.) Hennig, Rick Hernder, Margaret Sadler, Ron Smith, Chris Vandermeer, with Pastor Ron Flamand as staff liaison participant.

PEOPLE: NEWS & NOTES

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Those who have been ill, at home or in hospital, and have asked for our public prayers:

Pastor John Anderson, Pastor Richard Reimer, Anneliese Salomon, Rollande Richards, Mike Preiksaitis, Penny Madsen, Hilda Schweitzer, Jodi Rudolph, Ollie Hennig.

Those who grieve: Friends and family of David Jahns

The recently baptized:

Jan. 9: Jordan Arthur Francis Schmidke, son of Crystal Denine & Andrew Schmidke; Zoë Grace Zinken, daughter of Juli & Phil Zinken.



Prayer Request

To request prayer for yourself or for others, contact our Prayer Chain leaders:

Del Bennett or
Pastor Ron 780-484-3932

If you are interested in being part of the Prayer Chain, or finding out more about it, please contact Del.

We have chosen to continue growing our lives together.

Please join us in celebrating our marriage

On Sunday, the 20th of February 2011,

14:00 hours (2 PM)

Hosanna Lutheran Church

Ursula Buller and Clifford Charles Guebert

Immediately following the ceremony, you are invited to a time of fellowship in Hosanna's Peace Hall.

No Gifts – Please –

Education & Family Ministries

Epiphany – Caring for Others

Sunday School

Sunday School is back and full of activity after a busy Advent/Christmas season. Some upcoming events:

- ★ **It's a Party! Celebrating Random Acts of Kindness** - On Sunday, February 13th, the Sunday School invites Hosanna's seniors to join them in the Peace Hall between services for food, fun and fellowship.
- ★ Lent Activity Day – Sunday, March 13th is the first Sunday in Lent and this means Lent Activity Day at Sunday School. Special activities - including crafts, music, snack and fun! – will take place during the regular Sunday School time from 10 – 11am and set the mood for this season in which we learn what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

For the remainder of the Sunday School year, the children's offerings will go toward supporting the work of Canadian Lutheran World Relief. By supporting mission projects throughout the year, the children learn stewardship while **caring for others** (Hosanna's theme for Epiphany).

Take time to visit our library for families in the north end of the church. Books and videos for children of all ages and their parents are available to read on the comfy couches in the room or to check out on the honour system. A couple of new acquisitions this month that you might like to have a look at are:

- ★ "It's a Meaningful Life" (Veggie Tales DVD) – when Stewart gets a chance to have the life he always wanted, will he finally find all he's been looking for? Find out in this story of wonder and a lesson in being content.
- ★ "The Comic Book Bible" – comic-style illustrations bring Bible stories to life with humour and dialogue that will appeal to 8-12 year olds.

Adult Education Opportunities

FEBRUARY ADULT FORUMS

February 6 *Future*

Directions Task Force:

Come explore with the Task Force some of the ideas emerging from early input into the process. Some ideas come from the

years. She'll be missed during her "mat leave".

THANK YOU TO:

- ★ Doug and Colleen Jahns – for leading the Book of Faith Bible Study series on Galatians during Adult Forum time.
- ★ Johanna Borle – for leading the "People of Faith" Bible Study series
- ★ Lori Betke – for her leadership with the Adult Forum Committee for a number of

We are looking for someone who might be willing to lead the next study in the "People of Faith" series. The four week study comes with a leader guide to aid in your preparation. Dates and times for the study are negotiable (the group was meeting every second week on Tuesdays but that is not set in stone!). Please speak to Sonja if you would like to challenge yourself a bit this year or to look at the resources.

Women's Bible Study

This month's study is Friday, February 18, 7:30pm at Trina Uwiera's home. We continue our study of key events in the Old Testament. Bring along your Bible (any version) and your sweet tooth! All women invited - new people are always welcome.

Year-Long Bible Reading Plan – starting the first Sunday in Lent (March 13)

Did you know? Martin Luther used to read through the Bible twice a year!

Beginning March 13th, the first Sunday in Lent, we'd like to invite you to follow Luther's example of daily scripture reading and focus on the Word of God each day for the next year. The Lutheran Study Bible suggests three different "paths" which allows you to choose the one most appropriate to your interests, reading ability, and time available. Generally there is a close connection



between the readings listed for each path so that discussion and interaction between people reading different paths can still take place.

- ★ Challenge Path – six days a week, read through two to four chapters of a book of the Bible, alternating between the New and Old Testaments. In addition to the readings at worship, Sunday readings will vary and include readings from Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and short books such as Ruth, Jonah and Esther.
- ★ Survey Path – shorter scriptural references usually closely connected with those of the Challenge Path. Weekly themes connect the readings.
- ★ Sampler Path – generally shorter portions of the Challenge path selections which condense the Bible’s message with a few verses each day.

We’ll publish the scripture readings in the newsletter and in the bulletin each week (and perhaps on our new website) to help you keep on track. Any Bible will do – you do not have to own the Lutheran Study Bible! Committees may wish to use one of the readings for the day for their devotions at meetings. Ask around – find out who else is following the reading plan. Talk about what you have read and how you are discovering the Bible’s meaning for our lives – maybe you’ll want to get together with others on a regular basis to share your insights.

Join the Adult Forum on March 13 where Pastor Ron will introduce us to *lectio divina*, a traditional practice of prayer and scriptural reading intended to promote communion with God and to increase in the knowledge of God's Word. You might also want to take part in the Thursday morning Bible study “Making Sense of Scripture” to learn more about the Book of Faith before delving into the Bible. What better way to start a year-long program of Bible reading! We will also make available a few of the “Making Sense of Scripture: Big Questions About the Book of Faith” books for you to borrow from our library. Please sign one out and return it promptly (no more than a week or two) so that others have a chance to read it.

The Lutheran Study Bibles have arrived. If you ordered one, please see Sonja Carmichael to pick it up. Cost is \$25.50, payable with a cheque made out to Hosanna Lutheran Church (please mark “Lutheran Study Bible” in the memo line and give directly to Sonja – do NOT put it in the offering plate)

Friday Night Flicks

Mark your calendars for Friday February 18, 7:00 pm. Stay tuned for the title of the film to be announced but it is sure to be interesting and thought provoking! Popcorn and drinks provided – bring a friend or two!



Fellowship Time for Parents

Parents of children of all ages have been meeting about once a month for a time of fellowship and to help support each other in raising faith-filled children. This month there will be no meeting scheduled but feel free to come down to the family library and check out some of the library books and videos for children and parents. (New to the library is “Child of God you are growing up”, a book about baptism written by Don Johnson for parents to read to their children.)

Vacation Bible School

Already? Well not quite yet but planning will be getting underway shortly. Mark your calendars and make your summer plans around VBS - the first week of July. We’ll be looking for volunteers of all ages to help with our craft and activity centres, drama, music, snacks, and all kinds of other things to make this a fun and exciting week for kids - and adults too! Stay tuned for more info or talk to Sonja to let her know you are interested in helping.

ENVIRONMENTAL REFLECTION: If you're feeling "slow" in the middle of the long winter, reflect on this!

HIPPOCRATES (460-377 B.C.E)

Claim to Fame: The first true physician.

Environmental Impact: Back then, everyone agreed that sickness was caused by God (or the gods).

Hippocrates introduced the radical notion that diseases could be caught from the environment.

His *Treatise on Air, Water, and Places* looked at the effect of the environment on people throughout Europe and Asia, and noted that people needed to pay more attention to what was in their food and water.

With proper attention to diet and environment, he wrote, many diseases could be prevented.

Thanks to these seemingly simple concepts, both personal health and environmental awareness took a giant leap forward.

Hippocrates' Famous Quote:

"Everything in excess is opposed to nature."

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 2011		1 10-3 Mdlk Painters 1:30 Staff mtg 6:30 Scouts
6 <i>ICPM Lunch</i> 9:00 Holy Communion 10 Sunday School 10:15 Youth Forum Adult Forum <i>Future Directions</i> 11:15 Worship	7 6-7 AA comm. mtg 7:00 Stephen Ministers 1 8:00 AA's Johanna and	8 10-3 Mdlk Painters 10:00 Stephen Ministers 2 1:30 Staff mtg 6:30 Scouts Pastor Ron away - -
13 9:00 Worship 10 Sunday School 10:15 Youth Forum Adult Forum: <i>Pilgrimages</i> "Sweetheart cookie Day" 11:15 Holy Communion	14 6-7 AA comm. mtg 8:00 AA's	15 10-3 Mdlk Painters 1:30 Staff mtg 6:30 Scouts 7:00 Stephen Ministers Education
20 9:00 Holy Communion 10 Sunday School 10:15 No Youth or Adult Forum / Fellowship time: Youth serve muffins 11:15 Worship 2:00 Buller/Guebert wedding and reception	21 Family Day 8:00 AA's	22 10-3 Mdlk Painters 10:30 Worship at Terra Losa 1:30 Staff mtg 6:30 Scouts
27 9:00 Worship 10 Sunday School 10:15 Youth Forum Adult Forum: <i>Oil Sands - Social Ministry Committee</i> 11:15 Holy Communion	28 6:00 AA comm. mtg 8:00 AA's	

WED.	THURS.	FRIDAY	SAT.
2 9:30 Quilters 1-3 Food bank 6:00 Council mtg 7 SoMinAdCom mtg 7:30 Stewardship	3 10-11:30 Bible study 2-3 Food bank distribution 7:30 Choir rehearsal	4 6-6:45 S.S. coordinators 7:00 Youth event: skating	5 8-9:30 12 Step group 6-7:30 Serving at JPWC
9 9:30 Quilters 1-3 Food bank 7:00 Passing on the Faith mtg.	10 2-3 Food bank distribution 7:30 Choir rehearsal	11	12 8-9:30 12 Step group 10-12 Dancers 3:30 Soup making at Hos.
16 9:30 Quilters 1-3 Food bank 4:30 Seniors meet w. supper at 5:00 6-8 MS Group 7:00 Council mtg ?	17 2-3 Food bank distribution 7:30 Choir rehearsal	18 6-6:45 S.S. coord. 7:00 Youth Event: movie 7:00 Friday night Flicks	19 8-9:30 12 Step group 6-7:30 Serving at JPWC
23 9:30 Quilters 1-3 Food bank NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	24 10-11:30 Bible study 2-3 Food bank distribution 7:30 Choir rehearsal	25	26 8-9:30 12 Step group 10-12 Dancers 6-7:30 Serving at JPWC

STAFF AWAY: Johanna will be away Feb. 7-21. PASTOR RON is also away during those weeks, at the Synod Study Conference and then on a brief vacation break; he returns Friday Feb. 18. Thank you to those who have volunteered to be in the office. However, there may NOT be someone here at all times to answer the phone or the door. In an emergency, try the church office phone first, and leave a message; the office answering machine will be checked regularly.

When is Enough, Enough?

Snow.....this year, we have seen record amounts in our cities. Enough already, say the citizens. But is it enough? Ask our farmers who have struggled with low water tables for years and need the moisture the melting snow will add to their fields to ensure bountiful harvests.

Rain.....2010 also brought us a rainy summer. Enough already, say the citizens. We want sunshine. But is it enough? Again, ask the farmers. They need the rain to grow their crops. But, too much rain at harvest is not good.....so when is enough, enough?

Sunshine and warm temperatures.....everyone wants great weather for vacations. However, our forests in BC were tinder dry and huge tracts of land were burned. Closer to home, we saw wild fires east of Edmonton drive people from their homes. So, when is enough, enough?

The same question can be asked of us as stewards for our Lord. When *is* enough, enough?

Is coming to church on Sunday morning and putting an envelope in the offering plate enough? Is teaching our children about our faith in Sunday School enough? Is volunteering to assist during worship enough? Is singing in the choir enough? Is sitting on a committee enough? Is volunteering to help with an inner city project enough? Perhaps.

The answer to these questions is not for anyone else to answer. It is up to YOU to answer. But what we, your fellow Stewards at Hosanna, challenge you, is to reflect on your answer and perhaps, over the next year, say to yourself that enough is ***not*** enough and to challenge yourself to grow. Challenge yourself to find ways to grow in faith as stewards. To not be content to say, enough is enough.

Cindy Schriener,
on behalf of your Stewardship Committee
Margaret Sadler (recorder), Dennis Heise (council liaison), Chris Terry, Ron Propp, Pastor Ron and Mark Vogel (environmental steward)



THANK YOU, Hosanna Quilters

Thank you so much for showing us how you reuse and recycle.
Thank you also for helping us to make our own pillows. A \$100 gift was given to the El Salvador students in your honour.
Diane Omerzu, for Meadowlark Playschool

SENIORS CORNER

Snow, snow, and more snow! That is why the January meeting was cancelled. Better days ahead!

The next Seniors supper is February 16^h 4:30 pm.

At the meeting, there will be an election of two officers. Del Bennett will continue to schedule great entertainment. Vi and Roy Bowdige will continue in Membership, Barry Couling as Vice-president and Rick Hernder said he will continue as Treasurer. That leaves the offices of President and Secretary open. If you feel you can fill either one, please consider it.

Del Bennet is delighted to announce that on the program that night is Rev. Dale Olson, Director for Mission Effectiveness with the Good Samaritan Society. Recent meetings have been pretty good so do come out if you can. If you are not presently on the Seniors supper phone list, and wish to attend, please call Vi Bowdige by Feb. 14th at 780-484-7292 to reserve a plate.

Youth Group News

The Alberta Synod YOUTH GATHERING May 20-23, 2011
"OUT OF THE BOX!"

Here's some exciting news about the WHO and WHAT of the gathering:
+ BISHOP Ron Mayan and/or Assistant Bishop Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer will be with us for part of the Gathering.
+ "THE BEAM TEAM" = a band out of Edmonton will be with us to bring great music for the gathering.
+ Special time will be reserved for activities and workshops that will lead us in realizing how significant we are in our circles of friends – in church, school, community and world. As a child of God, we have the spirit and power of God within us to make a difference.

There's lots to do! Camp Caroline has an indoor pool, hot tub, picturesque stream, campfire area, sand volleyball, basketball courts, a brand-new gymnasium, field sports area, ping-pong, foosball, indoor table games, a canteen(chocolate bars, etc) and much much more!!

COSTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

EARLY BIRD - \$280.00 must be postmarked by March 1st

LATE WORM - \$300.00 anything postmarked after March 1 is considered LATE

ABSOLUTE FINAL REGISTRATION DEADLINE WILL BE MAY 1ST.

There will be a *non-refundable deposit of \$50/participant.*

There will be an information meeting February 6, 2011 during Youth Forum time for all those who are interested in attending



Friday February 4, 2011 – Skating in Hawrelak Park @ 7:00-9:00

We'll meet at the church and then head over to Hawrelak park for some good old fashioned skating. We'll finish off the evening with hot chocolate and a devotion back at the church.

Sunday February 6, 2011 - Youth Gathering Information Meeting @ 10:15

For all those who are interested in attending the Synod Youth Gathering from May 20-23, 2011.

Sunday February 13, 2011 - Youth Forum @ 10:15

Bring your Bibles as we continue our exploration of the Old Testament.

Friday February 18, 2011 – Movie Night @ 7:00-9:30

We'll meet at the church and watch a movie on the big screen. There will be lots of snacks to enjoy, so leave some room after dinner!

Sunday February 20, 2011 - Muffin Morning @ 10:00 (No Youth Forum)

After a long hiatus, the youth are back with their marvelous muffins!

Sunday February 27, 2011 - Youth Forum @ 10:15

Bring your Bibles and come ready to move further into the Old Testament.

LOOKING AHEAD:

If you like to plan ahead, this is the section for you! These are the **TENTATIVE** dates for youth related events in November. Please mark your calendars and book off work so that you can attend.

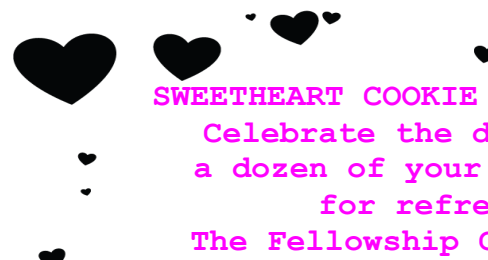
Youth Events—March 11 & 25

Muffin Mornings—March 27

Fundraising Events—March 8 (Shrove Tuesday)

NEEDED:

1. **VOLUNTEERS** – We can always use an extra helping hand! If you are interested in working with the youth this year please contact Lindsay for more information.
2. **MUFFIN MAKERS** – We need about 4 people to make 2 dozen muffins each for our muffin morning on Sunday, **February 20, 2011**. Please sign up on the youth bulletin board if you are able to bring muffins on that day, or e-mail lindsay@hosannalutheran.ab.ca.
3. **E-MAIL LIST** – I would love to be able to send out an e-newsletter to parents of youth each month, so if you have an e-mail address please write it down and drop it in my mailbox. Let's stay in touch!
4. **DRIVERS** – We rely on the help of parents in this area. If you are able to any time throughout the year, please sign up on the youth bulletin board or contact Lindsay.



SWEETHEART COOKIE DAY February 13th
Celebrate the day by bringing
a dozen of your favorite cookies
for refreshments.
The Fellowship Committee

COMMUNITY MEAL UPDATE

A big thank-you to our league of volunteers and donors who kicked off 2011 with a successful community meal. The United Way provided coats to compliment your kind donations. A hearty hot meal of ham, scalloped potatoes, carrots, salad, and hot raisin dessert was enjoyed by approximately 85 guests. In addition to the January meal our volunteers have been donating their time and talents to ensuring that Hosanna's commitment to the 4 Churches promise is fulfilled: to provide soup and sandwiches to JPHW every Sat. through out Jan., Feb., and March. Check the black counter to see how you can be part of this exciting ministry.

Mark your calendars our next community meal is March 19.



LET'S GO TO THE LIBRARY!

This is a memory that is common to many of us from our childhoods. There was sure to be an exciting afternoon or evening ahead whenever Mom or Dad uttered these words in our vicinity. A time of exploring

among the many rows of books, looking for just the right one to take home and read in bed that night, lay ahead of us. Nowadays, going to the library may for many people simply mean clicking on a link on the internet and downloading a book onto their e-reader. How times have changed! However, one thing is still constant - the sense of anticipation and excitement that one gets starting a new book, venturing off into another world, however briefly that may be.

One of the projects of the Education Committee this year is to work on adding to the adult library collection in the Social Room. We hope to add some new bookcases, as well as undertaking a book donation drive from members of the congregation. This will allow us to build on the excellent foundation that has been carefully built by Natalie Hohn, the Hosanna librarian, to whom we are all much indebted for her wonderful efforts and commitment. The Committee is looking forward to working with Natalie in the months ahead, and we hope you will feel free to offer us feedback and suggestions as this project develops.

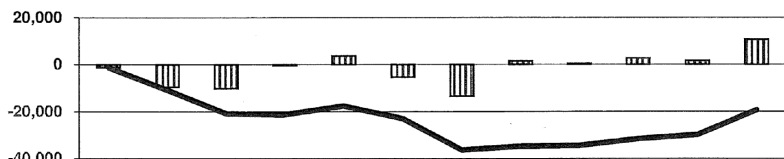
Our vision for the Social Room Library includes an area where people can sit in comfortable chairs with a coffee and browse through the materials (say goodbye brown couches!), amidst the cozy, comforting feeling of having bookshelves filled with bright and stimulating titles around you, and if you wish, to then take a book out for reading at home. And, there will be no "shushing" librarians around to make you feel nervous.

Let's go to the library!

The Education Committee

Receipts Minus Expenses 2010

short \$19,305 for the year - anniversary offering (\$4,489) brings this to \$14,816



Monthly Shortage	-1,220	-9,504	-10,055	-436	3,705	-5,370	-13,401	1,595	299	2,683	1,705	10,694
Cumulative Shortage	-1,220	-10,724	-20,779	-21,215	-17,510	-22,880	-36,282	-34,686	-34,387	-31,705	-30,000	-19,305

BITS AND PIECES:

- Please, **NO MORE** ink cartridge or cell phones. The Food Bank has stopped taking them, so we just toss them in the garbage!
- **HAPPENINGS AT HOSANNA** - this is a weekly e-mail update that is available each Thursday. It gives the scripture lessons, who is serving at the services, and a reminder of any special events that are happening. If you would like to be added to the subscriber list for the Happenings, please contact John Campbell.

What's Happening With WEICOP?

Taxes is what's happening with Weicop! As in - Make Tax Time Pay- to be more precise. This is a program operated by the Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation (E4C) that sets up roughly 30 sites around the City of Edmonton where low income individuals can get their tax returns completed and e-filed for free by trained volunteers. As recently as two years ago, there were no sites in West Edmonton for this program. Last year a site was set up at the Jasper Place Wellness Centre. However, there was still a great need for more sites, and the E4C was anxious to find other groups interested in West Edmonton.

The West Edmonton Interfaith Coalition On Poverty (Weicop) was approached by the E4C to see about setting up a site. The group agreed last fall to organize a site, which will be at Trinity United. Weicop is however responsible to supply the volunteers to act as tax return preparers, and others to help people fill out benefit application forms for programs available from the City of Edmonton and the Province of Alberta (such as a pass that allows qualified income levels to have free access to all City of Edmonton recreational facilities).

The site will be operated at Trinity on the last two Thursdays of both March and April. Training is available (and in fact is mandatory) for both the tax preparers and the benefit specialists. Training sessions are available throughout February at various locations in the City, on both weekday evenings and weekends. Volunteers are also needed to assist with hospitality duties at the site. You can volunteer for one out of those four evenings, or for all four of them, as you may wish. All equipment, including lap tops, is supplied by the E4C.

This is an amazing opportunity to really make an impact in someone's life who is less fortunate than yourself. God is calling each of us to make a difference in our community. Please give prayerful consideration to this as an opportunity for you to be that difference.

For more information, or to volunteer, please contact John Campbell.

John Campbell
Hosanna Representative to Weicop

"BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS"

LETTER FROM Jasper Place Wellness Center

Dear Hosanna Lutheran church

Thank you for your recent donation of \$1000.00. The last several months have been very eventful for the Jasper Place Wellness Centre.....We've been busy with the new apartment building. Along with your donations, the province of Alberta, and the Federal Government, the Canora Place apartment building will soon be a reality. Thirty chronically homeless individuals will soon find permanent housing with onsite support. We are hoping the building will be complete in February. Its on 153 St between Stony Plain Road and 102 Ave, just north of the centre. The grand opening will be in March.

Housing continues to be the biggest strength of the JPWC where on any given day over 140 formerly chronic homeless people are receiving support in their new homes from a member of our housing first team. The chronic homeless population this team serves have mental illnesses, all types of addictions, histories of abuse, come from broken homes and shattered lives, have given up hope, are lost and along, destroyed by shame and guilt, physically sick and extremely isolated from the rest of us. Most will never work a normal 9-5 job and may need years to recover from the multiple illnesses and abuse: they have suffered.

The drop in centre is still a going concern with hundreds of people accessing its services. Unlike Canora Place or the Housing First Team, the drop in centre operates completely on donations. The drop in centre is an opportunity for people of faith to make a difference in people's lives, and we are proud to have witnessed God do just that, many times over. Your contribution goes toward keeping the rent paid, the lights on and staff paid so we can continue helping homeless people and all members of our community that desire a better life. We are fully persuaded that a meaningful relationship can transform their lives and we pursue that goal daily.

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support. We thank Jesus for you and your help as we serve people here in west Edmonton.

HOSANNA LUTHERAN Church 9009-163 St. T5R 2N8

Phone: 780-484-3932 E-mail: office@hosannalutheran.ab.ca

Website: <http://www.hosannalutheran.ab.ca>

OUR MISSION: *Hosanna Lutheran Church equips God=s people of all ages for Christian witness and service through worship, learning, fellowship and spiritual care.*

OUR VISION: *Empowered by dynamic & creative liturgical Lutheran worship, Hosanna Lutheran Church will lead Edmonton in equipping Christians for spiritual growth & service.*

OUR STAFF:

Rev. Ron Flamand / ron.flamand@hosannalutheran.ab.ca

Sonja Carmichael, Director for Education & Family Ministries
sonja@hosannalutheran.ab.ca

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