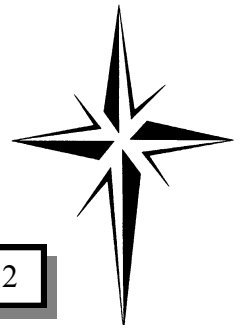


ABUNDANT LIFE NEWSLETTER



Volume 13

No. 2

February, 2012

Mac's Musings

So, I'm reading this book. (I don't know how many times in my life I've said that—quite a few!) When I looked at the back cover notes and saw it was about a “search for community where [the author] can embrace her turbulent love of God and her passion for gorgeous shoes”¹ I knew I had to pick it up.

Seriously, I'm about a third of the way through *Reluctant Pilgrim* and am finding a compelling, poignant tale of Enuma Okoro's experiences between being claimed as Christian through baptism and then living into what it means to be in community. At the outset Okoro confesses: “Being on the sidelines at church is beginning to grow on me... I have spent most of my adult life terribly in love with God and equally at odds with the idea of church.”² I wonder how many more people experience that same dissonance. I wonder how I/we could make a difference.

Last fall, when we ran through the *Back to Church Sunday* initiative, one of the things we talked about was the difference between being a guest and a host. At what point in a person's life in their church community does the transformation take place from being a guest (being welcomed, expecting to be served) to becoming a host (being welcoming, serving other's needs)? Being an introvert myself, I get that being on the periphery can be way more comfortable than being “in the midst.” In a large gathering of mostly unknown people, that's usually where I hang out—the edges, unless or until someone else calls me out of my safety zone and ushers me through my shyness and discomfort. But if I turned that around, and wasn't so *self*-conscious, maybe I'd see that I could be the usher for others.

I have said before what I hope that church community might be—a place where you are known, where you feel safe to be who you are, where you are welcomed and accepted, where you can share your joys and celebrations and your pain and sorrows and will

find gracious accompaniment in either where your doubts and questions are taken seriously. And where you will be called to offer the same to others. The compassionate, faithful, peace-building, reconciling, inclusive heart of Jesus, in the flesh, embodied in the people with whom we've chosen to gather, together offering ourselves and our resources for the good of others, and all of creation in Jesus' name=community.

Maybe that's pie in the sky thinking. When I look around at how many denominations there are, at how many congregations have been started because one group has disagreed with something or someone and gone off to start their own version of community. The history of the church is fraught with schism. Our own ELCIC is experiencing division at the moment over theological and doctrinal differences. Then again, maybe the diversity within the Body of Christ on earth gives more people the opportunity to experience the movement of God's Spirit. I have no idea.

I underlined some sentences in Okoro's book that struck me about what she says about church community: “...being part of the church means giving up a sense of ownership of anything and any sense of individual rights, because ultimately it's about love of the other and taking on the servant posture of a crucified Christ. Though there's that minor detail of how we can't really love ‘the other’ until we learn to love ourselves in a way that mirrors the reality of being made in the image of God. It's scary and definitely not easy. But that's what Christ asks us to do.”³ Selflessness. Self-love. Scary? Yup. Difficult? Uh huh. Doesn't come without pain, sacrifice, scars, fear. And yet, that's our call as Christians. And it promises to be beautiful, and to lead us into an abundance of life. God must be a very patient parent, waiting for us to learn from our messes, for us to grow up out of our tantrums, and to mature beyond our rebellious and self-centred ways. God must be eternally patient!

Continued on Page 4

LEADERSHIP

C.N.N. (COUNCIL NEWS & NOTES)

Annual Meeting—On Sun, Feb 05, you are invited to attend the annual congregational meeting. The meeting will start after a potluck lunch following worship. The printed *Bulletin of Reports* is in your mailboxes. *Your ideas, comments, dreams, and votes are important. Please plan to be there.*

Council Positions—Helen Loeb, chairperson; Jens Frederiksen, vice-chair; Clyde Loeb, secretary; Kyle Kushnier, treasurer; John Templeton and Stephen Stills, members-at-large.

Approved NEST potluck fundraiser (probably at ALL in autumn)

FINANCIAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012

Operations:

Revenue	\$ 147,839.92
Expenses	(147,124.77)
Net income (loss)	\$ <u>715.15</u> ☐

WORSHIP

LENT AND EASTER EVENTS AND SERVICES

Once again, Abundant Life, St. Luke's Zion and Christ Lutheran churches will share hosting and leadership of services and events during Lent and Easter. A schedule is included in this newsletter.

You'll notice that we at ALL will be hosting the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper and Maundy Thursday service. We will also provide leadership at two of the mid-week services. We've also extended the invitation for anyone who wishes, to attend our (outdoor, weather permitting) Easter Sunrise service.

"Peace starts within each one of us. When we have inner peace, we can be at peace with those around us. When our community is in a state of peace, it can share that peace with neighboring communities, and so on. When we feel love and kindness toward others, it not only makes others feel loved and cared for, but it helps us also to develop inner happiness and peace."

(Dalai Lama)

FEBRUARY GOSPEL READINGS

Feb 05 Mark 1:29-39

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals them and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

Feb 12 Mark 1:40-45

Jesus cures a leper and asks him to tell no one but the priest, in accordance with Levitical law. Though Jesus performs miracles, his identity as Messiah will not be understood until the cross.

Feb 19 Mark 9:2-9 (Transfiguration)

Mark's gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what could become apparent to Jesus' followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God's glory manifest in the beloved Son.

Feb 26 Mark 1:9-15 (Lent 1)

The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.

(From *Sundays and Seasons, Year B*, copyright © 2011 Augsburg Fortress.) ☐

GROWING IN FAITH

VERSE OF THE MONTH



"This is my Son, my Chosen;
listen to him!"
(Luke 9:35)

Some things you can do with the verse of the month: Place in a prominent place where you'll see it frequently. Memorize it, repeating it daily (often). Use it as a starting off place for your personal meditations and prayers. Share it with others. Make it the salutation or closing of letters or cards. Use your imagination and use it as the Spirit moves you.

CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

The two classes doing the winter semester will be finished mid-February. Then the Gr 10 class students will be paired with adult mentors. Both youth and mentors in the past have expressed how much they've valued their experiences in this mentorship program. If you are asked to be a mentor to one of the students, I hope

you will prayerfully consider this commitment to share your faith story with a young person.

YOUTH MINISTRY

AUG 16-19, SASKATOON!

CLAY 2.012 marks the 2nd time the Evangelical Lutheran

Church in Canada (ELCIC) and the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC) join forces to bring youth of the nation the ultimate worship and learning experience!

At the gathering we'll explore all of the links in our lives, and how God is involved with them. Check out the site to learn more about the theme and what's involved in a gathering.

Join the CLAY 2.012 Facebook group to share pictures and stories from *Hands On* and to let everyone know how excited you are about HYPERLINK.

It's not too late to register. Email Pastor AM or Kelly and we'll put you on the list.

ALL LIBRARY

Can't get into the garden yet. The golf links, around here anyway, aren't open. Cottage season is a ways off. Maybe you could check out some of the books or videos in our library and while away those still long dark winter evenings with some comforting, challenging, inspiring spiritual fare.

IT'S YOUR CALL!

On Jan 22 the congregation was invited to prayerfully consider individuals in our community they consider to have gifts for rostered ministry (deacons or pastors). Six nominations were received placed in the offering that morning. The next step in the process is a conversation with me, and if the person is willing, their name and information will be forwarded to the synod's Candidacy Committee who will keep in touch with them through a time of discernment.

Now this is not a once in a while nominating activity. As you encounter one another in the life and work of this community, you may notice the qualities and gifts of professional ministry in one another. A high percentage of rostered ministers report having been encouraged by their pastors and the members of their congregations. So don't be afraid to approach someone and tell them you think they have such gifts. And if someone approaches you and says, "Hey, have you ever considered going into ministry?" I'd encourage you to hold onto that thought. It may just be God calling with a message for you. (Pastor AM) ☐

OUTREACH & SERVICE

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS HAMPER PROJECT

The working group recently had a debrief meeting. Thank you letters and receipts for monetary donations will be sent out to businesses/organizations/individuals that participated. Watch for a follow-up article in the next issue of the East St Paul Newsletter.

Plans are already underway for next year's drive. Thanks again to all who helped and donated and took part in any way to make this a successful project. ☐

BUILDING COMMUNITY

GOT PHOTOS?

We'd be happy to use your photographs in the monthly calendar. If you have seasonal themes, landscapes, or other related shots, submit them to Lori T in the office.

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?

If you're interested in membership at ALL, please contact Pastor AM to discuss options. ☐

OTHER NEWS

CAMEROON COMMUNICATIONS

Word is our travellers have arrived safely. If you'd like to hear updates from Cameroon while Kelly Speak is away these four months, add yourself to the email list by contacting Kelly at:

kellymccormack@mymts.net

We hear Kelly and Lisa J have tried to upload a Youtube video they made. We'll keep you posted. In the meantime, you can support women's empowerment in leadership with donations directly to MNO Synod, 201-3657 Roblin Blvd, Winnipeg, MB R3R 0E2, marked "Women in Leadership Trip" OR, through your regular Sunday offering. Mark your envelope "MNO Synod—Women in Leadership."

Kelly will also be visiting the Kids Helping Kids program. You can help orphans with educational and food assistance through Sunday school offerings.



As people of God, we are called to share the good news of Jesus Christ so that all may come to know his love and experience the abundant life he gives.

ENJOY COFFEE AND GREAT COMPANY?

Join us this year. We will be inviting different music groups and hand-picking a speaker to talk about great things they do for the world.

@ **Sam's Place**

159 Henderson

January 30th, March 26th.

7:30 p.m. Opening act

8-9:30 Music and speaker



YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS ON CAMPUS

UofM offices—102D in University Centre, down the hall by Rogers, Mon-Fri.

UofW offices—Interfaith room on Mondays

A great day to stop by would be a **Donut Day!**

U of M is 3rd Wednesdays (Feb. 15, March 21)

U of W is 1st Mondays (Feb 6, Mar 5, Apr 2)

8TH ANNUAL DINNER THEATRE

“Grace Under Fire” Where the Recruits are under fire and the Chaplain is fired up! Come for an evening of fun, food and entertainment @ **Grace Lutheran, 211 Kimberly. Dinner served @ 6:30 pm, Mar 9, 10, 15, 16, & 17.** Tickets are \$25 with a partial tax receipt. Seating is limited, so buy your tickets early! Call 661-2562, ext. 6 to reserve your tickets.

Musings... continued from page 1

Here in our earnest attempts at building a faithful and faith-filled community at ALL, we won't always get it right, individually or collectively. And then it's not only God's patience at work, it's God's grace. But when we do manage to follow Jesus, to embody the light of Christ—to love God, to love ourselves, and to love and serve each other and our neighbours, well, then it's just spectacular!

*Sole deo gratia!*⁴

Pastor Annemarie

¹ Okoro, Enuma. *Reluctant Pilgrim*, A Moody Somewhat Self-Indulgent Introvert's Search for Spiritual Community. (Nashville: Fresh Air Books, © 2010, back cover notes.)

² Ibid., p. 25.

³ Ibid., p. 47.

⁴ Translates: To God alone the glory.

CHURCH SERVICE LV STYLE!

FEB 26, MAR 25, APR 22

One thing to love about Luther Village? Church on the beach! How on earth can we do that? Come see! We're inviting you to warm up winter with worship in the same casual style as we have “beach worship” at LV! @ **Lutheran Church of the Cross, 560 Arlington St, 6:30 pm. Snack to follow.** Guest pastors preach (just like camp), we celebrate communion (just like camp), we sing lots of camp songs with guitars (just like at camp) and we share LV-style hospitality and ministry (just like camp!)

Bring family, friends & neighbours, wear your shorts, LV clothes, flip flops (get your summer pedicure now!), bring a lawn chair or beach blanket if you want! All welcome.

ELCIC STRUCTURAL RENEWAL

MNO and Saskatchewan Synods in consultation

On the MNO Synod's website home page, <http://www.mnosynod.org> is a section titled “Synod Implementation Process.” Here you can find documentation of the consultations between our two synods so far in a plan to merge the two bodies into one larger synod by clicking on the line “[Follow the process here.](#)” You're also invited to offer your comments/ideas in a survey you can fill out at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MNO-SK-Synod-MembershipSurvey>

The deadline to complete the survey is Jan 31/12. Proposals will be brought to the spring conventions of both regional bodies and both need to approve them in order for this plan to proceed to the national level.

The new structures of our denomination will have implications for shared ministries, distribution of resources, leadership models, and more. It's important to have a view of such things beyond our congregational walls which will impact us in as yet unknown ways.

MISSION TRIPS TO NEW ORLEANS, 2012

The Lutheran Men in Mission of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Steinbach are again planning **two trips** to New Orleans in 2012: the first from **Fri, Feb 17—Sun, Feb 26**; the second one from **Fri, Mar 23—Sun, Apr 1.**

We would like to invite members of your congregation (male or female) to join us. The bus has been booked and accommodations have been re-

served. We will be staying at Camp Restore located at 9301 Chef Menteur Hwy, New Orleans, LA.

www.camprestore.org

If you have been thinking about going to New Orleans, now is your opportunity. We have room for 35 volunteers on a first come, first serve basis. Cost is \$400 (covers food and lodging in New Orleans, and helps with bus expense).

We would love to have volunteers, ages 18 and up, from your congregation join us as we prepare for our next mission trip to New Orleans.

The LMM of St. Paul's have been to New Orleans on mission trips for five years now, and we have seen how much help the people there still need. You will not regret your decision to go and do your part in helping rebuild homes, lives and community, and in bringing hope to those in need.

For more information please call Jac Doerksen, at 204-346-2495 or Ben Nickel at 204-371-5104. □



Looking Ahead...

March

- **04** MNO Youth Service, First Lutheran
- Wed. mid-week Lenten services, St. Luke's Zion

April

- **01** Palm Sunday
- **05** Maundy Thursday
- **06** Good Friday
- **08** Resurrection of Our Lord

WE'RE CONNECTED

Check out our **website** at www.abundantlifelutheran.ca. There, you'll find **links** to LUM, NEST, CLWR, Luther Village, MNO Synod, ELCIC (national church site), and the ACC.

We also have a **Facebook page**—Abundant Life Lutheran Church—check it out and “like” us at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Abundant-Life-Lutheran-Church/183565188360963>

ALLC also now has wi-fi.

The password is posted on the table by the offices.

MNO Synod e-newsletter—CrossWord is available @ www.mnosynod.org/crossword.html or contact rscherger@elcic.ca to be on the mailing list.



JANUARY ALL-STARS

WE HERE AT ABUNDANT LIFE are blessed to be a blessing! Many volunteer time, money, or talents to make this church a wonderful home and an expression of God's mission. This month “thanks” for:

- **Council:** To outgoing core leadership (council) members, Audrey Barton, Secretary; Linda Janzen, Treasurer; Jan Hetherington, At-Large.
- **Meal Teams:** To Diana Fast, Corinne Ruml, Jan Hetherington and any others for supplying dinner and service at LUM in January.
- **MOVE:** Thanks to MOVE Team B for worship prep and leadership in January, especially captains, Helen & Randy Loeb.
- **Altar linens:** Thanks to Vi Jacob and Dolores Natyna for cleaning and pressing the altar linens.
- **Jets Raffle:** The KUPIAK family for facilitating this fundraiser and members for supporting it.
- **Christmas Tree:** To all who helped undecorate the Christmas tree and sanctuary.
- **Weekly recycling and trash:** To Al Schultz for getting the bags and bins to the curb for us.

If you know someone who is an ALL STAR, tell anyone on Council and we'll add their names.

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

"I have been writing a long time and have learned some things, not only from my own long hard work, but from a writing class I had for three years. In this class were all kinds of people: prosperous and poor, stenographers, housewives, salesmen, cultivated people and little servant girls who had never been to high school, timid people and bold ones, slow and quick ones. This is what I learned: that everybody is talented, original, and has something important to say." (Brenda Ueland)

Are you the first person in your house to read this newsletter online? Please pass it on to any others in the home, or point out items of interest to youth, readers, artists, teachers, students, etc. Thanks.

LENT AND EASTER

-----Shared Events & Worship Services-----

Shared **SHROVE TUESDAY Pancake Supper**, Feb 21, 6:30 pm

@ **Abundant Life**, 3486 Raleigh St, ½ km north of Hoddinott Rd
Youth Fundraiser, Freewill Offering

Shared **ASH WEDNESDAY Service**, Feb 22, 7:30 pm

@ **Christ Lutheran**, 815 Inkster Blvd, at Sinclair St.

Shared **MID-WEEK SERVICES**, 7:30 pm

All 5 weeks @ **St. Luke's Zion**, 2903 McPhillips, just south of the perimeter
Worship: *Holden Evening Prayer* Theme: *You Shall Love the Lord Your God*



Feb 29	<i>Love God</i> ; leadership by ALL
Mar 07	<i>with heart</i> ; leadership by SLZ
Mar 14	<i>with soul</i> ; leadership by CL
Mar 21	<i>with mind</i> ; leadership by ALL
Mar 28	<i>with strength</i> ; leadership by SLZ, incl Healing Service

*Time for renewal, growing in faith,
and building community.*

Shared **MAUNDY THURSDAY Service**, Apr 05, 7:30 pm

@ **Abundant Life**, 3486 Raleigh St, ½ km north of Hoddinott Rd
Footwashing, Holy Communion

Good Friday – Easter Vigil (see your local listings)

EASTER SUNRISE Service, Apr 08, 6:30 am

All are invited to **Abundant Life**, 3486 Raleigh St, ½ km north of Hoddinott Rd
*Outdoors with bonfire (weather permitting), Communion, bring a lawn chair.
Coffee and croissants following.*

Easter Breakfast – Festive Easter Services (see your local listings)

———— Youth/Young Adult Look! —————

Are you in Grade 7 to 12? This section is for you!

Information for youth and parents is often sent by email. If you are not currently receiving emails from our youth worker, please contact her at [kellymccormack\(at\)mymts.net](mailto:kellymccormack(at)mymts.net) to be added to the list.

HEY YOUTH!

Last Confirmation Classes Mon, Feb. 13

6:30—7:45 pm. Second semester for New Testament and Creeds/Lutheran Heritage.

While Kelly's away...

Brendan Kupiak and Evan Irwin are subbing in as volunteer youth leaders and general go-to persons for youth activities. If you want to get Cameroon updates from Kelly add yourself to the list by emailing her at address above.

JETS PARTY! Feb. 3, 6 pm @ Christ Lutheran, 815 Inkster Blvd.

Want to join in the fun? Everyone is invited to the **JETS RAFFLE EVENING**. Supper will be served at 6 pm followed by us watching the Jets game together. The **draw** for the Jets tickets (game date Feb 23) and Jersey will be made **during the 2nd & 3rd period intermission**. Hope you can join us!

*Remember...
You're always welcome
to bring a friend to
youth events/activities.*

MNO Youth Gathering, Feb 18—20 in Steinbach, Gr 7-12 youth

Registration & \$50 due Feb 5th! All food and activities included.

Reboot your Faith: a Spiritual Bootcamp Different presenters will lead "work outs" for prayer, devotion and worship practices.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Feb 21, 6:30 pm

A joint event of Christ, St Luke's Zion and ALL, @ ALL.
Youth are flipping pancakes!

Online Calendar: <https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=kellyspeak%40gmail.com&ctz=America/Winnipeg>

ABUNDANT LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the Manitoba-Northwestern Ontario Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

3486 Raleigh Street, East St. Paul, MB R2E 1B9

E-mail: allife@mts.net OR allifepastor@mts.net (private)

Telephone: 255-5433 Fax: 669-3667

In the event of a pastoral care emergency, call Pastor Annemarie MacIntosh at 772-6612.

*The office is open Mondays and Thursdays 9 am—3 pm,
admin assistant, Lori Templeton is there to receive enquiries and visitors.*

If you would like more information about Abundant Life Lutheran, please contact the office at 255-5433 or check out our website at www.abundantlifelutheran.ca.