

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



ANNUAL REPORT September 1, 2010 to August 31, 2011

Annual General Meeting
October 23, 2011 begins at
11:00am with a celebration.

All people active in this congregation
are invited to join in this
celebration of God in our midst.

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Annual General Meeting
of the Congregation of
First Evangelical
Lutheran Church
will take place on
Sunday, October 23rd, 2011 at
12:00pm, for decisions on motions,
in the sanctuary of First Lutheran
Church.

7102 – 14 Avenue SW,
Calgary, Alberta T3H 4G7

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FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, CALGARY
CELEBRATION OF GOD'S WORK AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE AND AGENDA OF MEETING

A Celebration of God's Work will be followed by the Annual General Meeting of the Congregation of First Evangelical Lutheran Church and will take place on Sunday, 23rd October, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary at the church, 7102 – 14 Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta T3H 4G7.

Celebration Activities and AGM Agenda

1. 11:00 a.m. Worship and the Celebration of God's Work
Childcare will be available.
2. 12:00 p.m. — Registration of members and Call to Order
3. Appointment of Tellers, Parliamentarian and Secretary
Motion: That the appointment of (name) Tellers, (name) Parliamentarian and (name) Secretary be approved.
4. Approval of the Agenda
Motion: That the Agenda be approved as circulated.
5. Minutes of the 2009-2010 Annual General Meeting held on Sunday, 24th October, 2010 at 12.30 p.m. in the sanctuary at the church.
 - a. Motion: That the Minutes be approved as circulated.
 - b. Business arising from the Minutes.
6. Reports
 - a. Pastors' Reports
 - b. Council Report
 - c. Treasurer's Report
 - d. Ministries Reports
 - e. Motion: THAT the reports contained in pages 7-14 inclusive be received as submitted.
 - f. Discussion on the reports, if any.
7. Approval of Budget for Fiscal Year 2011/2012
 - a. Motion – THAT the Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year 2011/2012 for First Lutheran Church, as presented in Appendix B, be approved.
8. Appointment of Auditors
 - a. Motion – THAT Dart Bryant be appointed as auditors for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2012.

9. Elections
 - a. Council Positions
 - i. Report of the Nominating Committee —

The Nominating Committee of: Ben Ledene, Judy MacInnes, Betty Sandford, Marty Wittstrom and Glenda Zamzow, after prayerful consideration, have nominated Andrew Kondra and Jill Schultz for Church Council positions. The candidates have been interviewed as required by the nominating committee process and have agreed to serve in this capacity.
 - ii. Motion – THAT, Andrew Kondra and Jill Schultz, whose names have been put forward by the Nominating Committee, be accepted by acclamation into the 2011/12 First Lutheran Council.
 - b. Selection of delegate for Synod Convention.
 - i. Motion – THAT (insert name) be appointed as the delegate to the Synod Convention.
10. Any Other Business
11. Closing Prayer
12. Adjournment

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, CALGARY
CELEBRATION OF GOD'S WORK AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Sunday, 24th October, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Minutes

13. 11:00 a.m. Worship and the Celebration of God's Work. Childcare was available for worship through meeting.
14. 12:00 p.m. — Registration of members and Call to Order. Quorum of 27 exceeded with 55 members and 13 regular attendees from the congregation present.
15. Appointment of Tellers, Parliamentarian and Secretary
Motion: That the appointment of Karen Kromand, Roland Petrowitsch as Tellers, Bob Miller as Parliamentarian and Brenda Petrowitsch as Secretary be approved. MSC
16. Approval of the Agenda
Motion: That the Agenda be approved as circulated with the addition of the election of the Nomination Committee. MSC
17. Minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting held on Sunday, 25th October, 2009 at 12.30 p.m. in the sanctuary at the church.
Motion: That the Minutes be approved as circulated. MSC
Business Arising from the Minutes: None
18. Minutes of the 2009 Special Meeting held on Sunday, 29th November, 2009 at 12.30 p.m. in the sanctuary at the church.
Motion: That the Minutes be approved as circulated. MSC
19. Reports Received
 - a..... Pastor's Report (Appendix B)
 - b..... Congregational Council Report (Appendix C)
 - c..... Treasurer's Report (Appendix D)
 - d..... Other Congregational Reports included in the Annual Report for Sept 2009 – Aug 2010(Appendix E)**Motion:** That the reports contained in Appendices B to E (pages 11 – 20) inclusive be received as submitted. MSC
20. Approval of Budget for Fiscal Year 2010/2011
Motion: That the Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year 2010/2011 for First Lutheran Church, as presented in Appendix F, be approved. MSC
9. Meeting the needs of our growing congregation.
Motion: That First Lutheran Church call an additional Pastor to serve the congregation. MSC

Motion rationale:

- *This entails a long term commitment and an increase in congregational giving.*
- *The role of the new Pastor would be to assist Pastor Julianne in the areas of Youth and Family ministry and would be filled by a seminary graduate in 2011.*
- *This year's budget has a \$15,000 fund to accommodate additional Pastor and in the future \$60,000 would be needed to continue these needs.*

Discussion

- There is a need for a Youth Pastor to accommodate young adults (20-30 years of age). Require a Youth Pastor to focus on the youth and young adult ministry.
- Define growth pattern of the church over the last few years. It is better measured by personal/spirit growth not just numbers. Ministries are diverse. An example, work with refugee families can be seen as growth.

- The congregation sees the need and supports the hiring of a youth pastor. Concern about the right person for the job. Are we limiting ourselves or will the choice be broader. Ideas of flexibility.
- The role of the new pastor will be to assist. Call committee will be setup and approved by Council.
- Explanation of past and need for now. Must have the approval of the congregation in order to have another pastor here. Preference to have a pastor with no limitation of rules. We have to function within the rules in order to call. Require experience as a Youth Pastor. More input by the whole congregation before a decision is made to hire. Is it limited to a Lutheran Pastor? Not necessarily but desired due to theology. A called pastor does need to be within our denomination.
- Funds have been allotted for a new Pastor. Total staffing number is inclusive of this for this year.
- Should we change motion to include a Lutheran Pastor. We are bound by our constitution which means he/she must be a Lutheran Pastor. There is a need for another Pastor as opposed to a youth worker.
- How many individuals would there be available to fill our requirements from Canada? Within our structure, there are not many Pastors coming out of Seminaries available in Canada.
- The motion as written allows for flexibility as required.

10. Appointment of Auditors

Motion: That Dart Bryant be appointed as auditors for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2011. MSC

11. Elections

a. Council Positions

i. Report of the Nominating Committee — Appendix G

Motion: That Tracy Ritchie, Bob Miller, Darren Lyseng, Brent Latimer, Rena Bassit, Lexi Handford, Lou Richards, Andrew Campbell and Oscar Kalinga, whose names have been put forward by the nominating committee, be accepted by acclamation into the 2010/11 First Lutheran Council. MSC

ii. Nominating Committee Election

Ben Ledene will continue on this committee. Betty Sandford, Judy MacInnes and Marty Wittstrom agreed to serve. After a call for nominations from the floor, Glenda Zamzow agreed to serve.

Motion: that Ben Ledene, Betty Sandford, Judy MacInnes, Marty Wittstrom, and Glenda Zamzow serve as the 2011 Nomination Committee. MSC

b. Selection of a delegate for National Convention, July 14-17 in Saskatoon, Sask..

Discussion that only one person from First is allowed to go as delegate. If a clergy person is elected as SW conference representative, no lay person from First can go. The suggestion was made to wait until after the SW conference to see if Pastor Julianne is elected as SW clergy delegate.

c. Selection of three delegates for the SW Conference Convention

Motion: That Karen Kromand and Lou Richards be appointed as the delegates to the SW Conference Convention to be held in Calgary at All Saints Church and if these people are unable to fulfill their duties the council is authorized select alternate members of the congregation. MSC
Council will seek a third representative, preferably a youth.

21. New Business

In anticipation of any National Church decisions around the blessing of same sex unions and/or the acceptance of gay or lesbian pastors, Church Council offered the following motion.

Motion: Should any decisions be made at a National Church convention regarding the blessing of same sex unions and/or the acceptance of a gay or lesbian pastor be approved, then First Lutheran Church would respond by prayer and study for twenty-four months before making a decision or taking action. MSC

22. Other Business: Thanks was given to the Council for their service

23. Closing Prayer: Greg Lingelbach, Council Chair

24. Motion to Adjourn.

PASTORS' REPORTS

Pastor Julianne's Report

For several years this congregation has been wondering and praying for discernment about God's plans for the whole church. It is clear to those looking that God is transforming the church so that it better proclaims and lives out God's redemptive and saving grace for all the world.

We are beginning to see the fruit of this obedience and commitment. Recently I spoke with a national church leader from the United Methodist Church in Nashville who said vibrant congregations today do not measure success based on the number of dollars or people in attendance. Instead, he said in vital congregations a high proportion of those attending worship also were involved in serving others. I smiled and offered a prayer of thanks, because that is who First is. When I look around on a Sunday morning I see many individuals who share their God given gifts and passions in the service to others in our community. That 80/20 rule just doesn't apply to our congregation.

Our congregation has just welcomed and installed Pastor Aaron to join us in the ministries of First Lutheran. At his installation on Sept 11, 2011 we were reminded of the "office of Pastor", the job both he and I are to do: preaching and teaching God's Word, proclaiming the truth of God's forgiveness in Jesus and celebrating Bapt-

isms and Holy Communion with the whole people of God. As I was seeking God's direction over a decade ago, God led me to Ephesians 4:11-13:

"Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ."

Often a report includes an accounting of pastoral acts of preaching and presiding which were done with faith in Christ's promises. My report as lead pastor is this. Well done, First Lutheran! We continue to support and encourage each other in the power of Holy Spirit to grow in faith, to love God and others. We will continue to do so simply because this is the call God has given us.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, we will know the Word and share Him with all people so they experience God's love and together we will serve Jesus Christ daily.

**And we will do that by
living Jesus inside out!
Amen.**

Pastor Aaron's Report

The author of Hebrews offers us these familiar words: "*Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen*" (Heb. 11:1). This faith that we have is such a beautiful gift from God. In faith, we look forward to what God has in store for our congregation and for the church around the world. In faith, we are convinced that our world, our city, our neighbourhoods and even ourselves are in desperate need of God's redemptive and transforming presence. In faith, we are bold to declare the Good News in word and deed. May we continue to move forward in our call to share Jesus Christ with all people, hopeful that God's Word will be heard, and confident that God's people will be served in graciousness, gratitude and generosity. Thank you all sincerely for your invitation to join in your call to be the people of God, here and now. I am excited to serve with you. I pray that God's gift of faith will continue to flourish in us, that we may continue to bear good fruit.

COUNCIL REPORT

The Lord has led us through exciting, challenging, and passionate times here at First this year. It's been a great pleasure to serve on council. The great depth of insight, ideas, and leadership from the council members this year has been amazing.

First had many key achievements over this last year:

- Congregation, staff and council stepped in to serve during Pastor Julianne's sabbatical for her D. Min. Thesis and did a wonderful job.
- The Refugee Committee and its support team accomplished the daunting task of receiving 18 refugees into Canada and helped them integrate into the Calgary community.
- First kept all of its outreach ministries going strong such as Inn from the Cold, Ladies Time Out, Power Zone, Vacation Bible Camp, and Youth Night.
- First worked towards a balanced budget accompanied by the staff's resourcefulness and hard work.
- First issued a call and had it answered by Aaron Schnell. We have a second pastor at First who will focus on youth, young adults and young families.

We all have the great commission: To proclaim the Gospel to all who will listen and let the Spirit of the Lord do the rest. I believe First Lutheran continues to do an awesome job of being a beacon of light in the community to help us with that commission. It will not always be easy as we deal with the today's culture and the worldly forces around us, but I believe God will give us the right tools, talents and resources. A couple verses out of Deuteronomy Chapter 31 come to mind where Moses is telling Joshua he is to lead his people to the Promised Land:

*"Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the presence of all Israel, 'Be strong and courageous, for you must go with this people into the land that the Lord swore to their ancestors to give them, and you must divide it among them as their inheritance. **The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.**'"*

Although this scripture describes the travels of the Israelites, I think it applies to us today as well as we travel through this worldly life.

For His glory always,

Darren Lyseng, Council Chair
Lou Richards, Vice Chair

TREASURER'S REPORT

This section is not available on the web.

Please refer to a print copy to view this report, which can be obtained from the First Lutheran Church Office or in the lobby on Sundays.

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

By Pete Justine

Altar Care

A quiet, behind the scenes job that prepares the altar area for Sunday. Many thanks to the few who do so much.

Ushers

Now being lead by Nicole Nielsen, this ministry continues to grow. Next time you see them, thank these folks for their work welcoming and directing us each Sunday.

Nursery Care

Our Nursery is located up by the office using both rooms E and F. On Sundays, we offer an adult supervised nursery care for children under the age of 3. In the past year, we have also offered occasional support with volunteer youth who assist in care during the heavier 11am service time. This volunteer assistance is to offer a better ratio of care and support for children attending the nursery. We are thankful and blessed to have our care providers, who offer a safe environment for families to come and worship.
– Liz Gahan

Kids' Packs

For families with youngsters, we offer a few options for the children who prefer to stay and worship with their parent. There are Kids' Packs (activity bags) for toddlers that have small, quiet activities inside. We also offer scripture based child bulletins on clipboards for two different age groups (preschool/kindergarten and grade school.)

Thanks to the "Folding

Ladies" who fold, cut and craft an assortment of craft and worship materials throughout the year.

Counters

This behind the scenes crew keeps our offerings and tithes well recorded. Thanks!

I believe there are great things happening here at First Lutheran, and that God has even more in store, both within these walls and overflowing out into our community and the world around us. God has called us all to use our gifts for His glory and to shine the light of God's love, and it is such a blessing to see so many in our community, young and old alike, doing just that in so many ways! We are continually blessed with so many faithful volunteers who continue to serve at First Lutheran Church using their technical, musical and vocal gifts and talents to bless the Lord and our community on our Wednesday youth nights and Sunday morning worship times. I look forward to experiencing all that God has in store for the coming year, worshipping and serving together, as well as hearing new songs and seeing new artistic offerings of worship created from within our midst.

My hope above all is that God would be glorified; that the songs we sing and offerings we create would help the congregation put words and melody to the cries of their hearts, and that we would connect with our Lord and be inspired and refreshed in His presence, blessed to be a blessing.

"Your unfailing love is better than life itself; how I praise you! I will praise you as long as I live, lifting up my hands to you in prayer. You satisfy me more than the richest feast. I will praise you with songs of joy." Psalm 63:3-5

LEARNING MINISTRIES

by Pastor Julianne

And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught and you will overflow with thankfulness. Colossians 2:6-7

Historically, congregations of believers have offered opportunities for all ages to gather together to grow in faith: children at Sunday School, youth in Confirmation and adults in Bible Studies. Adults and youth participating in small groups, engaged together in learning and growing opportunities.

As a congregation committed to the ways God has for us to follow in this time and place, we look for new ways of sharing and learning in our neighbourhood, open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We will continue during 2011/2012 to learn more about God's grace and plans for the world as we work to share our faith stories and exploring God's Word together.

At First Lutheran, we believe all ages must gather together to share in learning and growing in faith and understanding. We are also committed to open engagement of God's Word, expecting the power of the Holy Spirit to be at work in us and through us. As followers of Jesus, we continue to be transformed into the way God has intended. Intentionally seeking to know God more and more is part of this journey. We grow in relationships with others and in service to others as well as spending time seeking God's wisdom in our lives.

Youth group on Wednesday nights, a medley of worship, teaching, discussions, serving, relationship building and fun, is one place teens from Grade 7 to after high school learn about themselves and God. The moment of affirming one's baptism (Confirmation) is a single marker in one's spiritual growth. Last year over 30 youth, 6 mentors and many other adult leaders walked together in this program.

PowerZone

During the 11am service, children 3 years to grade 6 are can participate in Power Zone, our children's Sunday School program, based on the curriculum *Godly Play*. Only entering the 2nd year, we gathered into 3 age appropriate groups: 3-5 year olds, grades 1-3 and grades 4-6. Children explored God's Word creatively through story and creative expression. We continue to fine tune this ministry to including our youth and adult congregational members to participate as volunteers, encouraging faith building experiences for all involved. We are thankful for our team teachers and assistants who volunteer in this ministry. We pray for God's guidance and strength as we focus our attention on building and strengthening relationships with God during this time and the blessings it will offer those attending and serving. –Liz Gahan

Splash by Liz Gahan

The faith building ministry *Splash* continues to reach families. From birth to age three, this ministry is a resource that supports families with practical and enjoyable ways to fulfill their commitment of baptism and raising their child in the Christian faith. *Splash* is offered to those who have been baptized at First between the ages of 1 to 36 months. At baptism, the family receives a *Splash* welcome letter and Christian CD of music that is age appropriate. Each month following, a new Parent Page is sent out, with supportive faith building ideas and information. When the child turns three years old, he or she then receives an invitation to join our Sunday School activities.

This program has reached 46 families since its inception in 2006; of those, five are new families within the past fiscal year. We continue to receive positive feedback from those who are participating and have some of these families participating in Power Zone Sunday School. We are thankful and blessed for the youngest children of God, as they continue building their relationship with Him in this place. –Liz Gahan

SERVING MINISTRIES

Vacation Bible Camp

What a fantastic summer! We held our Summer Beach Bash Vacation Bible Camp twice, once in July and once in August, for four days, Monday to Thursday, and hosted over 100 children from our congregation and surrounding community.

Over the years of offering this program a growing trend has become evident; most of the children that attend this program are not members of our congregation. Our online parent survey indicates that around 85% of our participants are community members. One comment from this survey in particular emphasizes why we continue to see interest in this program: "It is a no pressure way to introduce other families to Christ."

An enormous thank you is due to all volunteers who helped in any capacity and to all our participants who make this program a wonderful success every year. See you again in the summer!

– Jessica Blackwell

Staff Members

Pete – Director of Worship

Local 202 or 403-852-0146 (Cell)
pjustine@first-lutheran-calgary.org

Jessica – Admin. Assistant & VBC Co-ordinator: Local 203

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Pastor Aaron

Local 204 or 403-852-4228 (Cell)
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Liz – Ministry Assistant

Local 205
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Pastor Julianne

Local 206 or 403-852-4225
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Kelly – Property Manager & Bookkeeping:

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Thanks to all who follow God's leading in their lives and serve others in Jesus' name.

Advertising

Outside advertisements include: community newsletters and newspaper advertisements (i.e.: City Lights, Calgary Herald's Faith Calendar) for special events.

Internal Advertisements include: our website, newsletters and bulletins and the outside sign on the corner of 69th and 14th Ave.

As we acknowledge the need to use these resources to connect with those outside of the congregation, we also know the best form of advertising is WORD OF MOUTH. –Liz Gahan

Inn From The Cold

First Lutheran continues to provide a three meals and a safe place to sleep for 15 homeless guests once a month on every second Friday & Saturday.

Some IFTC guests we see repeatedly but others we hope have "gotten back on their feet."

We certainly express our sincere thanks to all the volunteers who have made this monthly program at First so successful. Sign-up sheets are located in the foyer (Sundays) or on the kitchen bulletin board (weekdays.)

Supporting the Greater Church

- Pete and Josanna again led MAD camp at Camp Kuriakos in July.
- Pastor Julianne served on the "possibility thinkers" group for the Bishop, looking at the mission God has given to the church.
- She was elected as a clergy representative the SW Conference at the National Convention and served there on the Reference in Council Committee.
- The budget includes a regular, proportional offering to the work of the Synod.

BELONGING MINISTRIES

By Liz Gahan

During the year we gathered as a congregation and with our surrounding community. In a conscious effort to HOST opportunities to gather monthly without being overwhelming to our already over scheduled lives, we continued to enjoy Game & Movie nights, building relationships and welcoming friends to join in. We gathered and welcomed our Refugee families, including the Sudanese community and choir. First also entertained the City Wide Youth in October and offered a Samaritans Purse Shoe Box Shop for our congregation, Ladies Time Out and others who pass through our foyer. We served as a collection station for the Shoe Box Campaign and collected more boxes than ever before.

As a congregation we enjoyed the start of bimonthly Stay 'n' Play opportunities for families to enjoy potluck lunches and fellowship after the second service. Kicking this opportunity off, we hosted a "dress up as your favorite Bible Character day" and enjoy a hotdog lunch. Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper and creative expression during service (stations with clay, water, oil and ashes.) We experienced Maundy Thursday with an opportunity to serve one another washing feet, and continued with Good Friday's creative service (tactile: crown of thorns, nails and a cross) followed by the celebration of Easter. We continued to celebrate with thankfulness the wonderful serving hearts of our congregation with a Volunteer Appreciation tied into our 2010 Fall Kick Off.

We look forward to another year that reaches those in our surrounding community and within this community of faith, building stronger relationships with a focus of serving God.

Small Groups, meeting regularly for prayer, study and fun, offer everyone a place to belong. Rich in diversity, each group develops its own character and atmosphere. New groups begin throughout the year.

Guy's and Gal's Lunch, held on the third Tuesday of every month, this group continues to meet Downtown (at Regency Palace) for good food, company and conversation. All are welcome! - Tim Blackwell.

Stephen Ministry... Several Caregivers continued to spend hours with their care receivers. This ministry has slowed this year and the group is wondering about God's plans for care in the congregation and community.

Seniors' Soup Social ran on the second Friday of each month from Nov. 2010 to Apr. 2011 at 11:30am and was attended by an average of 16 seniors from the congregation and their friends until about 1:30pm.

Our time was well spent in connection and conversation. Good fellowship and good humour. Each gathering was "themed" for the month or season and tables decorated accordingly. We enjoyed a menu of soup, sandwiches/ hot snacks, cookies or cakes for dessert with tea or coffee, lovingly prepared by Fran, Grant Judy (and equally adoringly devoured.) Expenses were covered by free will offering and donations. We are grateful to Fran Cusworth and Judy MacInnes serving in this Ministry.

The lunches will resume for 2011/12 on Friday Nov. 18 (a week late due to Remembrance Day.) - Fran Cusworth

Hospitality We continued to work toward strengthening our hospitality to others by creating a warm, welcoming environment that reflects a caring faith community whose focus is God's love. It is through us that others will see His love. How? Through pure acts of kindness; offering coffee and beverages is part and parcel of the act of hospitality. Many have shared and blessed us with their offerings of baked goods on occasion. Simply offering yourself by greeting and welcoming others with a smile and an invitation to sign our guest book, giving out a welcome pack or newsletter, inviting others to join in activities, offering the opportunity to serve or join with others in small groups. Each of us are capable. We continue to pray to God that those within our community of faith will offer themselves to be watchful and caring for the new faces God has guided through our doors. - Liz Gahan

REFUGEE COMMITTEE REPORT

(Appendix A for the Annual Report September 1, 2010- August 31, 2011)



In early 2004, James Hoth, Elizabeth Chol and their children began attending First Lutheran Church (FLC). James and Elizabeth are Sudanese, sponsored in 1998 by Immigration Canada to come to Calgary from the Fugnido Refugee camp in Ethiopia. As the members of FLC got to know James and Elizabeth, they learned that most of their respective families were still living in the harsh conditions of the Ethiopian camp. In the summer of 2004, FLC started to investigate its ability to sponsor 11 members of their family. With

the help of Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR), FLC developed a plan for sponsorship (which is a commitment of one year to help and fund the refugees while they get settled and find jobs), and in May 2005, church council approved the formation of the First Lutheran Refugee Committee. With the guidance of CLWR, an initial fundraising budget of \$30,000 was set and in August 2005, Canada Immigration officially acknowledged receipt of FLC's request to sponsor the 11 refugees to come to Calgary.

Canada Immigration indicated that it could take up to 3 years for the refugees to arrive so the committee anticipated arrival in Calgary in 2008. Within the first year the \$30,000 fundraising budget was met. By the spring of 2008, due to two new marriages and 4 new children being born, the 11 refugees had become 17. When the 3 year anniversary came in August 2008 with no news about the status of our refugees, a significant inquiry campaign was made by FLC through CLWR and Canada Immigration in Calgary to advance the process. Finally, in December 2008, our refugees were interviewed by Canada Immigration officials from Nairobi and in May 2009 we received word that all of the refugees were approved for immigration. However, because more than 3 years had passed since the original applications were made and the fact that the group had grown from 11 to 17, Canada Immigration in Nairobi requested that new applications be submitted as soon as possible indicating "that time is of essence as we would like to see them travel this year [2009]". In June 2009 James Hoth travelled to the Fugnido Refugee camp and arranged for new applications and passport photos for all 17 refugees to be completed which were submitted to Nairobi on June 26, 2009.

The final step in the immigration process was the need for the refugees to complete medical examinations. In August, 2009 FLC again requested a status update from Nairobi about when we could expect the medical exams to take place. On September 1, 2009, Canada Immigration in Calgary advised FLC to be patient with Nairobi, as "they are a very busy Post that receives a huge amount of mail and e-mail on a daily basis". On August 5, 2009 our original refugee application passed 4 years of waiting.

On February 3, 2010 FLC was notified that another baby was born into the families that First Lutheran was sponsoring and our sponsorship grew from 17 to 18 souls. At the same time FLC received notice that the families had been contacted and told to get ready for medicals.

As the dates for medicals were firmed up, FLC wired funds to allow the families to travel from the refugee camp to Addis Ababa to have their medicals completed.

With this new information, it was anticipated that the refugees would likely arrive in the summer and so FLC reorganized the Refugee Committee volunteers in charge of the following different roles: Education, Communication, Volunteer Training, Welcome Party, Birthdays and Christmas gifts, Friendly Visitors, Health, Orientation, Finances, Money Lessons, Food and Furniture Donations, Clothing Donations, Housing, Employment.

With a Refugee Fund of approximately \$40,000, the committee began the process of gathering furniture, clothing, and food supplies using some empty commercial space donated by the City of Calgary.

The committee also organized a Sudanese Culture Orientation session in early June to help church members gain a better understanding about the environment and culture from which the new immigrants would be coming .

In early August FLC received official confirmation from Canada Immigration that all 18 refugees had been issued visas for Canada and had been provided airline tickets with 12 to arrive in Calgary on September 8 and the remaining 6 arriving on September 9.

On August 20, 2011 the committee secured one year leases on two properties commencing September 1. One property was a 5 bedroom, 2 bathroom home located at 4008 3 Street NW and the second property was a 2 bedroom apartment at 109A, 4332 Lakeview Drive SW with the plan to have all 13 of James Hoth's relatives living in the 5 bedroom home and all 5 of Elizabeth Chol's relatives living in the apartment.

During the first week of September, the committee organized numerous volunteers to help move all the furniture and food that had been gathered into the house and apartment so that the accommodations would be completely ready for the new immigrants as they arrived in Calgary.

On the eve (September 7) of the first set of refugees arriving in Calgary, a facilitator helped congregation members to look at our "Intentions" and "Expectations" regarding the refugee mission.

On the day that the group of 12 refugees were to arrive in Calgary, there was an early morning interview with the CBC Eyeopener. Later that morning at the airport, both CBC radio and television were on hand to visit with committee members and the refugees as they arrived at the airport. Later in the day the media followed as they moved into their new accommodations. On both arrival days, committee members transported the new immigrants to the church for lunch and a short praise/thanksgiving time before they moved into their homes.

On September 11, the clothing committee hosted a gathering for all 18 refugees at the church to pick through all the donated new and used clothing.

On September 19, FLC celebrated the refugees' arrival with a welcome service/ party that included a local Sudanese Choir, greetings from CLWR, and the Mayor of Calgary. During this celebration the Calgary Sun newspaper attended, took photos, and published an article.

During September through December, FLC guided the new immigrants through numerous meetings, orientation sessions, and medical/dental appointments. For example;

- September 9 - all the refugees had Passport photos taken.
- September 13 - orientation session for all the immigrants at the Margaret Chisholm Resettlement Centre to discuss all of the programs and topics available to them regarding health, hygiene, health services available (inoculations, pregnancy, birth control, etc).
- September 14 - meeting for all the immigrants at the Citizenship and Immigration Canada Office (CIC) located in the Harry Hays Building to get their Interim Federal Health certificates.
- Following this appointment, the immigrants had to go to a Registry Office to apply for Alberta Health cards.
- Numerous medical appointments and follow up lab appointments to treat all kinds of ailments.
- HIV/AIDS information session by the AIDS Calgary Awareness Association at 110, 1603 - 10th Ave SW.
- All the adults attended ILVARC (Immigrant Language and Vocational Assessment – Referral Centre) at 1200, 910 - 7th Avenue S.W. for language assessments.
- Youth and new immigrant info session on drugs and gangs presented by the Calgary Police Service.

Throughout the year there have been frequent medical appointments. FLC provided guidance, rides, and support.

Two children were enrolled in public school in October, one in grade 4 and the other in kindergarten. The remaining five children are preschoolers. All of the adults were tested to discern their level of English by ILVARC – Immigrant Languages and Vocational Assessment. As spaces opened up, all of the adults were enrolled in English classes at various institutions throughout the city.

By early November, it became evident that significant dental work was needed as none of the immigrants had received any kind of dental work and many were suffering some kind of pain. Since the Federal Health program only covered 80% of some dental procedures, an appeal was made for help. A number of dentists and hygienists generously donated time and materials so the 20% cost wasn't a burden to FLC.

In mid-November the process of finding work for the men who could speak English began in earnest and proved to be challenging. Two of the men with minimal English found part time work for a few weeks with Goodwill, but poor English skills became a problem and the committee had to look at alternatives. There are some government and city programs that can be used to help transition new immigrants into jobs, although there are language and age restrictions. "CCIS Bridging Youth to Success" employment training is available for people under the age of 30 and who have reasonable English skills. Unfortunately, two of the men were too old. The current employment situation is as follows:

- One works at Calgary Co-op in customer support and gets approximately 20 hrs per week and has been told that he will get more hours in December when he reaches his one year anniversary.

- Two of the men are working full time (40 hrs per week) for Advantage Loss Prevention Services. These jobs were the result of the job postings placed at Highwood Lutheran Church with their support.
- One of the men works for City Links via assistance received from Alberta Employment and Immigration. His initial 10 month period will expire in November and he is currently working 30 hours per week. He continues to take ESL classes.
- The one man with the least English skills is working part time (20 hrs per week) in the kitchen at the Newport Grill and continues to take ESL classes.

Any attempts to find work for the ladies has failed, due mainly to the need for better English skills. Five women continue to take ESL classes.

The employment situation did allow the immigrants to cover the majority of their living costs with three families all living in one house, but have now reached out for assistance from Calgary Housing. As of September 1, 2011, all of the families in the house and the family group living in the apartment are now living in Calgary Housing units with rent that is percentage of their income.

The current balance in the Refugee Fund is approximately \$6000. This fund is now being used to support an immigration application for another family member of our congregation.

The entire Refugee Committee over the past year was made up of the following; Pastor Julianne, Florence Toth, Brian Toth, Kris Ledene, Ben Ledene, Heather Flaig, Carol Kopchia, Elizabeth Wallace, Brent Latimer, Rainer Tonn, Bob Miller, Ben and Karen Kromand, James Hoth, Elizabeth Chol, Carolyn and Nicole Koch, Cindy Bronconnier, Glenda Zamzow, Lou Richards, and Kim Bell.

This report is respectfully submitted by Florence Toth, Ben Ledene, Brent Latimer and Lou Richards.

Appendices B through E are not available on the web. Print copies can be obtained from the First Lutheran Church Office or in the lobby on Sundays.