

The

# Mountaineer

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## Easter

### a time to celebrate

by Pastor Krister

The tail end of the month of April 2011 has been a tremendous week in the life of our congregation. And the reason for that is the fact that during this time period, we have celebrated the most important festival of the church year - Easter.

Many people feel that Christmas is the most important event in the church year. But that is not the case. The event the entire Christian faith is centred around is not the birth of a baby in a manger. The event the entire Christian faith is centered around is the new birth for that baby, now as a grown man, which came on Easter Day.

Babies are born every day of the year. Though we all think that the birth of a baby is something special, the fact that Jesus was born is, in itself, not that surprising or earth shattering. What made him prove to humanity that he was, is, and will forever be God's son is what he did on Holy Week. The triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. The Passover meal where Holy Communion was instituted. The agony of the garden where he could have walked away from it all. The crucifixion for our sins. And then, then the Resurrection!!

What a life-saving event the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, is! What a life-saving event it is for us - TODAY! What a show of love from God. To sacrifice His own Son for the love of all humanity. For the love God has for each and every one of us. No wonder we sing the Alleluias and shout for joy. After all, is there a gift more magnificent than this one? I think not.

We journeyed with Christ through Maundy Thursday, suffered with Him on Good Friday. Now, now it is Easter Morning and we stand at the empty tomb and shout out our faith in the words - ***Christ is Risen!***  
***He is Risen indeed!***

# Kairos fights on despite federal funding cuts

from Rev. W. Phil Heinze, Director, Eastern Synod Public Policy and Service Ministries

*Background: Foreign aid and human rights agency KAIROS became the focus of media attention in February when the Federal Minister for International Co-Operation overruled officials of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and vetoed funds supporting KAIROS. But the work of the agency does go on...*

Uniting 11 churches and religious organizations in faithful action for justice and human rights must be like herding a room full of cats. But KAIROS does just that.

Formed 10 years ago as a coalition of coalitions, the churches created a stronger and more unified movement to respond to the harsh realities facing our world.

In 2011, naming and describing a coalition seems easy: the government of the United Kingdom is a recent example, but describing *how* a coalition works is much more complex. KAIROS makes it work by involving key partners throughout the world, and then working with a network of people from across the country - including those in our own KAIROS Grand River network.

And what does this type of coalition do? What has it achieved? Here's what The Presbytery of Newfoundland, United Church of Canada, said in praising KAIROS: "People in our congregations have grown in their understanding of social, human rights, and international development issues through KAIROS resources and programs..."

Our own National Bishop, The Rev. Susan Johnson, spoke plainly when she wrote the Prime Minister:

"For over 35 years, KAIROS has worked faithfully in partnership with the government of Canada to promote development and human rights. CIDA's own assessments indicate that this work

has been effective, accountable and recommended. It remains unclear on what basis the government decided to end this partnership."

She continued: "KAIROS has reapplied for funding. What is most important to us is that this new application receive fair consideration so that the gifts of KAIROS are seen in light of their potential to promote a safe, well-fed and just world. Our church remains convinced that KAIROS has much to offer as a partner in promoting the values that Canadians cherish."(*The fate of the funding reapplication is still unknown.*)

South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu has also asserted that "the initiatives of the Canadian churches through KAIROS have inspired continued faithful ecumenical action not only in Africa, but around the world, to uphold human rights."

Yolanda Becerra of the *Organización Feminina Popular* in Colombia says "the support of KAIROS permits us to implement programs which include legal and health services, community kitchens... that have saved lives and given new opportunities to hundreds of women and their families and communities."

Her organization is typical of the web of approximately 23 world-wide partnerships in Africa, Asia-Pacific, the Caribbean/Latin America, and the Middle East who receive support and advice from KAIROS.

Many of these partners are church-related organizations, while others are citizens' groups and coalitions. All share the KAIROS goals of bringing about social transformation in order to create a more just, peaceful and sustainable world. Those specific goals are to:

- Defend dignity and human rights for all
- Promote sustainable energy policies
- Build right relationships with Indigenous peoples
- Inspire Canadians to seek climate justice
- Link women of courage around the world in common actions to end violence
- Urge companies to respect human rights and ecological integrity
- Join together across denominations in worship that inspires faithful justice

To learn more about this “working coalition of the faithful” see Tim Ehrlich’s *Digital Christian*



## The Digital Christian

By Tim Ehrlich

You may recall hearing the name **KAIROS** in the news when it became a "sensitive" issue for the Canadian government earlier this year (*see related article above*) However, like many others, I was only vaguely aware of what KAIROS is and what it does - so I checked out their website and discovered an active organization focused on environmental ethics and human rights.

You can visit the site at: [www.kairoscanada.org](http://www.kairoscanada.org)

column below. You'll find the KAIROS website noted there.

### The Member Churches:

Anglican Church of Canada

Christian Reformed Church in North America

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

The Presbyterian Church in Canada

United Church of Canada

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

Canadian Religious Conference

Mennonite Central Committee of Canada

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

The next recom-

mendation is a pair of sites. PBS has uploaded to YouTube an excellent documentary in two parts on the life of **Martin Luther**. It provides a unique glimpse into the making of the man who began the Reformation.

Part 1, called *Driven to Defiance* is on the PBS site <http://video.pbs.org/video/1379546586/>

Part 2, called *Reluctant Revolutionary* is on YouTube [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ni1gupkGAW0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ni1gupkGAW0)

Note it wouldn't be advisable to try viewing this if you have a dial-up connection.

This month's third offering is a site about **prayers**. If you are curious about prayers in other traditions here is where you can get a sampling. They are organized in four categories: adoration, celebration, invocation and meditation. They cover several traditions from African traditional to Zoroastrian and, of course, Christian.

Have a look at [www.worldprayer.org](http://www.worldprayer.org)

# Welcome Shawn, Charlotte and Molly!

By Pastor Judi Harris

After several months of searching for a new church home, the Rogers family – Shawn, Charlotte and daughter Molly – joined our congregational family here at Mount. Zion a few months ago.

Recently I had opportunity to spend a delightful 90 minutes in conversation with Shawn, getting to know him and his family and “quizzing” him on their decision to put down roots at Mount. Zion. Here’s a bit of what I discovered:

Shawn and Charlotte have been married about 8 years and live in the Forest Heights neighbourhood of Kitchener. Shawn works in sales for a German-based company that makes heating systems for large vehicles. Although he can do some work from home Shawn also does a lot of traveling and has visited many countries world-wide. Charlotte is employed as a corporate travel agent with Uniglobe in Cambridge. Daughter Molly, almost 5, is a happy student at Driftwood school.

Shawn was raised in the Roman Catholic tradition and Charlotte in the Lutheran Church – Canada. They were looking for a congregation that gave them spiritual nurture, where all were welcomed and fed at the Lord’s Table and where there was some passion for outreach and ministry. And this was what they saw and felt here!

In late fall, when the call went out for persons willing to serve on church council, Shawn decided to let his name stand. Having been elected, at the first council meeting Shawn volunteered to serve as liaison with both the Service and Stewardship committees and is looking forward to making his contribution in both areas. He reports Molly is enjoying Sunday School and predicts that when the timing is right, Charlotte will also find an area in which to serve – not that she hasn’t already done so! Let me explain ...

Remember that large stack of *We Care* bags that were stuffed, blessed and sent on their way before Christmas? And did you wonder why the number of bags had grown this year? I discovered that Charlotte took a whole pile of bags to her work place and invited

others to join her in filling them. Which they did!! Now isn’t that an interesting way to witness and reach out into the community? Think of what could happen if more of us did that next time!



A second significant witness I noted – the Rogers family, wanting to share their faith and their enthusiasm, invited friends to worship with them. Several Sundays ago they filled a whole pew! What if each of us did likewise?

Most assuredly our congregation has been blessed with the arrival of the Rogers family.

They are a wonderful inspiration as they take their place with us in worship and in witness. Take time to introduce yourselves to them and thank God that we are together in mission for others!

## Council Briefs

from March meeting discussions:

- The benefits of using PAR for making offerings were reviewed. Members should be encouraged to participate, and to regularly review their commitments.
- Planning for a new photo directory is underway. Two sittings for photos will be arranged for the end of the summer.
- Tim Ehrlich and Dave Heldman were appointed delegates to the spring meeting of the K-W Conference of the Eastern Synod. Among other business, voting will take place for a Conference Dean.
- Strong support was expressed for Pastor Krister as he undergoes medical treatments. There was enthusiastic discussion of possible ways to help, but it was agreed to seek the pastor’s input before acting on any suggestions.
- A day long Council Retreat is scheduled for May 14.



## Mount Zion Stewardship

by Gerry Roeder, Stewardship Chair

A fully constituted Stewardship Committee is finally in place to address this important topic within our congregation.

Sometimes we tend to automatically associate stewardship with only monetary gifts. But skills, knowledge, abilities, talent and financial resources... all are gifts from God... and everyone's gifts are different. The challenge for us is to identify our gifts and then use them wisely in service to God and others.

To me, being a steward in the Christian context means taking care of all the blessings God has given us. We are stewards of our money when we use our financial gifts to help our Church and the less fortunate in our community. We are also stewards of our church when we use our talents and knowledge and actively participate and volunteer in the life of our congregation.

Our Committee's immediate goals are:

1. **Education of What Stewardship is.** Help the congregation find ways to put stewardship in action in all its forms.
2. Work with the **Finance Committee** to meet our Current and Benevolent objectives.
3. Conduct a **Talent Survey**. This will include finding a way to acquire, store, access and use this information for the benefit of the congregation, the church and the world.

Members of the Stewardship Committee are: Alfred Brunger, Tim Ehrlich, Judi Harris (Council liaison), Shawn Rogers (Council liaison), Mel Schmidt and Gerry Roeder. Speak to any of us to learn more about our activities and plans.

*Thank you, Father, for your marvelous creation that brings joy to our work and acts of service.*

*Amen*

## Pr. Krister's Cancer Treatment

Please be assured that throughout the duration of the cancer treatment Pr. Krister will be available for pastoral care with as little disruption as possible. At all times you can contact him in the normal fashion through the church office (519.886.5820), at home (519.954.7772) or through email

**krister.ulmanis@mzlc.ca\_** Your continued prayers as he goes through this process are much appreciated.

## Thank You!!!

Words cannot begin to express the gratitude I feel for the people of Mt Zion for the support and encouragement you have given me in this battle with cancer. The many well wishes and cards, the food, all the prayers, and the offers of rides when the radiation begins, that have been extended to me have truly been heartwarming and so very much appreciated. For all your love and support – **THANK YOU!!!**

*Pr. Krister*

## Trek 4 Kids



In the spring of 2005, brothers Eric and Devin Martin thru-hiked the entire length of the Bruce Trail (850 km) in 39 days raising \$24,000 for House of Friendship's Summer Camp Sponsorship Program. The program sponsors children from low-income families in our community to attend overnight camps each summer. Eric and Devin called their venture **Trek 4 Kids**.

Since then, House of Friendship has organized an annual **Trek 4 Kids** hike and bike to help fund the Summer Camp Sponsorship program. Trekkers collect pledges (there is no registration fee), and hike, bike and run various distances along the Iron Horse and Laurel Creek Trails in support of local children. We aim to send over 100 children from low-income families to camp each year. Last year Mount Zion raised \$1,158 towards this goal. This year's Trek is on Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup> and we will be participating again. Our Mount Zion Team is increasing and anyone wishing to join or sponsor us, please see either **Margaret Murison or Pastor Judi Harris**.



## Caring Connections

Betty Behm, Parish Nurse

### Does Your Child Consume Energy Drinks? Think Before You Drink!

Last week when I was at the Registered Nurses' Association Annual General Meeting, I learned of a potentially lethal phenomenon currently gaining popularity with our pre-teens, teenagers and college age young adults. The so-called "energy drink" craze is something we need to be aware of and curtail for the health of our young people.

The high-caffeine drinks, which often contain other ingredients like taurine, guarana and ginseng, **could cause "seizures, mania, stroke and sudden death"**, according to the medics, writing in the American journal *Pediatrics*.

After reviewing the effects, adverse consequences and extent of energy-drink consumption among children and young people, they concluded: "Energy drinks have no therapeutic benefit, and many ingredients are understudied and not regulated."

Energy drinks are commonly marketed at youngsters, with makers using action sports like skating, snowboarding and Formula One to attract customers. Many contain three times as much caffeine as a can of cola, while some contain five times the amount, they found.

Youngsters frequently drink several cans in one evening, while some also combine them with alcohol. According to one study cited by the report's authors, energy drinks are regularly consumed by more than a quarter (28 per cent) of 12 to 14-year-olds. Another found that a single can of energy drink would mean seven out of 10 children (aged five to 12) had drunk a potentially dangerous amount of caffeine

The authors urged: "Unless research establishes energy-drink safety in children and adolescents, regulation...is prudent."

For more information see:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/8323369/Energy-drinks-potentially-dangerous-for-children-say-doctors.html>

### Young Mom/Dad's Coffee Hour

will be held on Thursday April 28, 9:30 -10:30 a.m. in the lounge. Please bring a snack for your toddlers. All are welcome so feel free to invite a friend.

### Fit For Life: May 15, 2011

Please join us in the upper parish hall after the service for a fun and informative event. Learn how to stay active throughout the lifespan. **Professor Russ Tupling** will be joining us to share his expertise and stations will be set up where you can try some activities which may be new to you. A light lunch will be served. Dress casually and comfortably so you can participate in the fun. There will be activities for all ages to enjoy.

## Women of Mount Zion

### GIRL'S NIGHT OUT

Friday, May 27 - 6:30

At the home of Anne Woolner  
282 Stoke Dr. Kitchener

Sign up sheet on the bulletin board  
OR

Phone Anne at 743-2277

RSVP by Sunday, May 22 so Chinese Food  
can be ordered  
Cost - \$10.00

Bring an interesting story or joke to share

### Men's Breakfast

The future Men's breakfast dates are as follows

**April 30, May 15, May 29**

In June, July and August we reduce to one meeting per month.

# Together in Worship

Sunday, April 24 **EASTER /  
RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD**

**Holy Communion** 8:45 am

**NO Confirmation**

**NO Sunday Church School**

**Holy Communion** 10:45 am

**Readings:**

Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24,

Colossians 3:1-4, Matthew 28:1-10

Sunday, May 1 **2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Holy Communion** 8:45 am

**Confirmation** 9:50 am

**Sunday Church School** 10:30 am

**Holy Communion** 10:45 am

**Readings:**

Acts 2:14a, 22-32, Psalm 16

1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31

Sunday, May 8 **3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Holy Communion** 8:45 am

**Confirmation** 9:50 am

**Sunday Church School** 10:30 am

**Holy Communion** 10:45 am

**Readings:**

Acts 2:14a, 36-41, Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23, Luke 24:13-35

Sunday, May 15 **4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Holy Communion** 8:45 am

**Confirmation** 9:50 am

**Holy Communion** 10:45 am

**Sunday Church School @ worship**

**Blessing of the Seeds and Soil**

**Readings:**

Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10

Sunday, May 22 **5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**NOTE: Worship begins summer time until**

**September**

**Holy Communion** 10:00 am

**Readings:**

Acts 7:55-60, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14

Sunday, May 29 **6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Holy Communion** 10:00 am

**Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation**

**Readings:**

Acts 17:22-31, Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22, John 14:15-21

There were no baptisms or weddings in the month of April

**Funerals:** The funeral of **Marjorie Erler** was held on April 2, 2011

## News from the National Church

We recently received a lengthy letter from our National Church Council (NCC). While it is too long to print in the pages of the Mountaineer, it contains important information regarding changes and policies in our church. The letter in its entirety is posted on Mount Zion's website...mzlc.ca in the documents section or at

<http://www.elcic.ca/Documents/NCCLettertotheChurch-April32011.pdf>

It is also posted on the narthex bulletin board.

The letter contains information regarding.

A proposal that the ELCIC be re-organized into three synods, that existing conferences be reconfigured into groupings of congregations supported by leadership teams and that conventions of the National Church and synods be held triennially and that National Conventions be smaller in size.

NCC has adopted and plans to recommend that the 2011 National Convention adopt the Proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality. The statement is available at <http://www.elcic.ca/>

Arising from that motion, three other motions have been prepared regarding:

1. Unity of the Church,
2. Presiding at or Blessing Marriages, and
3. Standards for Ordination and Consecration.

