

**NADC
PURPOSE
STATEMENT:**

To encourage and challenge the growth of justice, compassion, mercy, and stewardship among God's people in the Christian Reformed Churches of Classis Alberta North

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information on
anything in this
newsletter
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**NEXT NADC Full
Board Meeting:**

Sept. 28, 2017 @
Ebenezer CRC,
Leduc, 7:15PM.

Fabulous Fall Fervor: September is always a time of great excitement and anticipation, with a new school year starting and also a new ministry year for most churches. At Centrepointe, we recently enjoyed our end of summer camp out, which kicks off our ministry year. I then got the ball rolling for community badminton and in my NADC role, Day of Encouragement preparations start building towards the first Saturday in November. We also have a full board NADC meeting in late September that helps deacons share news of what we are anticipating for the coming year as well as to encourage each other with the exciting things happening amongst our diaconates. Many people comment that the sharing portion of the NADC meeting is their favorite part because it is uplifting to hear about the work of God, with His people, all around our Classis. In this edition you will read about some of those ministries, as well as catch up on the latest from the NADC.

- ⇒ **Summers are for fresh food and BBQ's!!** More CAN churches have taken the initiative to create community gardens that not only share food, but share in the growing of it and thus planting and nurturing the seeds of relationship with neighbors. We heard of churches receiving overwhelming responses to new shared garden plots being offered to the community, to the point where one church has already expanded their plots and another church had over 90 % of their plots snapped up by families that were not currently part of their church. These shared interests are great for other ministries like collective kitchens, aspects of families living well and getting community engagement. One church reported that they even have a non church member who is now on the committee for planning, praise God, what a witness! We pray that as the plants grow, so does the interest, the relationships and the opportunity to share in God's renewing plan.
- ⇒ **Compassion Care with Seniors:** Our seniors know how to party too! We hear stories of diaconates joining with groups of seniors for games days, tea socials and birthday parties. It means a lot for seniors to be a part of the fabric of our churches and deacons help out by making sure they are remembered with phone calls, cards for their birthdays and in helping them with things that become more of a challenge, like getting the garden in or routine home maintenance like cleaning rain gutters. With two young children, I know many seniors also cherish having the young ones around to say hello, to sit on their knee and to be able to provide kids with a fresh baked cookie.
- ⇒ **Welcoming the Other/Stranger:** When we take the risk of going outside our own comfort bubbles and trusting in God for direction we, more often than not, are stretched in ways we may not have expected. Sponsoring refugees has been something many churches have done for a long time now and some new churches have also taken on the task in recent years. As churches and families partner to help with money, resettlement and the huge task of navigating a new country, God works in ways that can seem daunting to us. It consistently boggles my brain to understand what it takes for people to overcome challenges of poverty, persecution, trauma, cultural differences, language and more, but they do. God works, both seen and unseen, in peoples lives and we are able to lean on faith, be supported and lifted up in love and find the hope of lives renewed in Christ. Another example of this is the Alpha program that some of the churches have offered. People often have an underlying thirst about faith and spirituality that can be explored in safe environments, with friends that they can walk in relationship with and be discipled. It can also happen on other levels that we hear about from our deacons. Day care programs, summer camps, helping with applications, taxes, ESL classes and helping with navigating our social systems. There are also difficult conversations happening and relationships forming with churches and indigenous groups, as well as the LGBTQ+ community. This brings many unanswered questions, times of uncertainty, lots of need for grace, but also huge opportunity for growth for all involved.

EYE ON IT

Current events in Classis AB North:

DOE (Remember November)

Classis Day of Encouragement, learning and networking, happening this fall at The King's University. November 4, 2017.
www.regonline.ca/DOE2017Edmonton

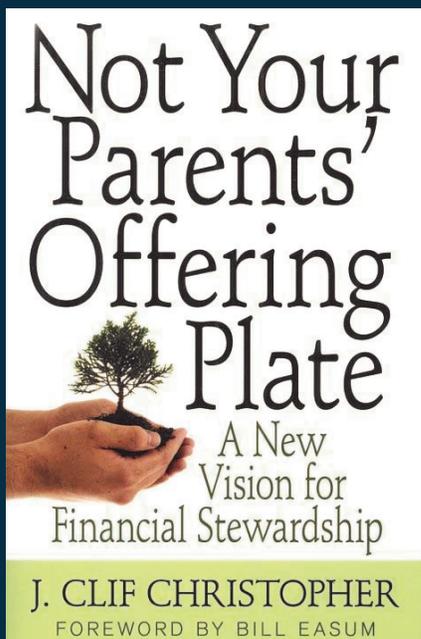
Creators Sacrifice: Open for booking. This is the last year Classis covers travel costs. Contact journadc@gmail.com for more.

Coffee with DMD:

Every second Thursday of the month at the Carrot Café 10 AM and every third Thursday of the month at Second Cup at 7 PM (101 Ave + 75 St).

Classis meetings: This fall will be held at Trinity CRC in Edmonton. October 11 and 12. Five new candidates to examine and other exciting things happening.

Books: An interesting perspective on money and the church. Some of the authors thoughts were brand new for me and I am still mulling them over in my own mind, but certainly raises things to consider. Would be a great diaconal book club book for discussion.



NEW DEACONS WORKSHOP - THURSDAY SEPT. 21 7:30-9:30PM

This Workshop will be at **Wolf Creek CRC** in Lacombe. It is for new deacons but everyone is welcome. Those with experience as a deacon can be very helpful to new deacons and usually we can all learn something together.

Please forward this message to the new deacon chairperson if you are no longer the chairperson. If you are from a central AB church and you cannot attend this workshop because of distance, I am willing to come to you at your convenience.

To help planning please let me know how many deacons would be coming from your diaconate. Thank you, looking forward to seeing you, Harvey Buit.

Central AB, Diaconal Ministries Developer. hdbuit@gmail.com

Summer reading brings fall reflections:

Finding ourselves with some time to relax in the campground with a good book, or on the back deck in the sunshine, summer can be a great time to take in some extended reading. I was happy to take advantage of down time to dig into a few books from the NADC shelf and even get my hands roughed up by constructing a little free library for my front yard. Reading and learning is part of our intellectual and spiritual growth and I love to be able to share that in many different ways. I know many of our churches have libraries in our buildings, the city of Edmonton has a world class free library system and I was really excited to be able to create a small space for shared literary works in my neighborhood.

Already just a few weeks in, books have been coming and going from the little library and it has given me the opportunity to strike up conversations with new neighbors that I have not been able to connect with yet. I encourage you to take advantage of the great resources offered by our churches, denomination, governments and especially friends. If you are in need of a good book let me know. I am always interested to hear what good book you have read recently and what it is that is making you sit back and reflect on what new stories and information you have taken in.

World Renew:

- This summer, Disaster Relief Services was able to work on rebuilding efforts in Fort McMurray. As we have heard and seen already from DRS, the complications of fire versus flood are great and working with government and insurance red tape has been a test of patience. Two houses were worked on over the summer and they had hoped to possibly get commitments for more. We will hear an update on how that went as World Renew DRS will be featured at the upcoming Day of Encouragement for our new lunch time slot. Director Bob Laarman will tell us about the latest news, the workings of DRS and we will also reflect on the anniversary of the Edmonton Tornado that occurred 30 years ago. It was a time that kicked off some of the work that World Renew and NADC does today.
- We praise God for the response from our Classis, and all across Canada, to the famine and droughts reported from Sudan and East Africa. In the ballpark of 750 thousand dollars were raised and then matched by the government.
- New challenges facing relief and recovery agencies seem to arise every week. With the fires in B.C, floods in the US and around the world, there is much work to do to help in the care for God's people and His creation. Go to www.worldrenew.net for more info or to donate to their relief and program efforts. Consider them in your collection schedules for the fall.