

# Lutheran Campus Ministry Saskatoon



May 2011

## *To think slowly, to eat slowly....*

In response to the oft-heard assertion that theological thinking and theological reflection are only valid if they quickly usher in concrete action of some sort, Eberhard Jungel has this to say: "I gladly confess that it is my fear that I have not been slow enough in my thinking."\* How odd: when the world says, "Don't just stand there - do something!", this deep thinker says, "I have not thought slowly enough."

Urgency is all around us. This has been a year of urgency in Campus Ministry: a year in which worry has threatened to take over, a year in which all of us have felt, at one time or another, the urgent need to act, to plan, to respond.

There has been urgency in the country these last days, a very real urgency in our midst as we rode out the last days of an election campaign and planned to make very important decisions.

There is urgency in the life of a student: Thirteen weeks in a term, thirteen weeks to read and write and think and get things done and attend to the long list of Things That Need Attention Now.

Yet woven through it all is a story that has slowly unfolded, with urgency and haste, but also with maddening slowness and patience, over thousands of years in the millions of years of the story of creation. It is a story that demands slow thinking, patient sticking-with-it that insists somehow that in the mystery of God's self-identification with the crucified one, all the urgent action has already been taken, all the love needed has already been given.

Week after week we come together here at the Campus Centre along with countless saints throughout the world. We gather around the Word and Bread and Wine, in the midst of lives filled with such urgency, and we think slowly. We think

slowly and we eat slow food, we settle into this Mystery that confronts us in the crucified and risen one who lurks in our midst at 1302 College Drive, and who lives across the road in the Arts Building, and the Thorvaldson building, and the Synchrotron, and all over campus. In the panic and the urgency of student life there is a kind of slow thinking that weaves through it all, a slow thinking that simply says again and again that the crucified and risen one is here, wherever 'here' happens to be.



That's the mystery among us. We're faced with all these urgent tasks, yet underlying all of our life is a slow steady thread. It is a thread that won't succumb to those pressures,

a thread that responds to urgency with a message about a salvation *already* won, a thread that moves at its own pace through the paces of our lives. It's the mystery that God Is Love; it's the mystery that God is the Crucified One. It's the mystery that goes with us into the world, opening our eyes to see Christ in our midst, opening us up to others so that we can give ourselves for the good of all.

Take time to think slowly in the days to come. Don't just relax; think slowly. Keep in your mind this mystery of Christ present among us, persistently in our midst, living among us and breathing life into all our days.

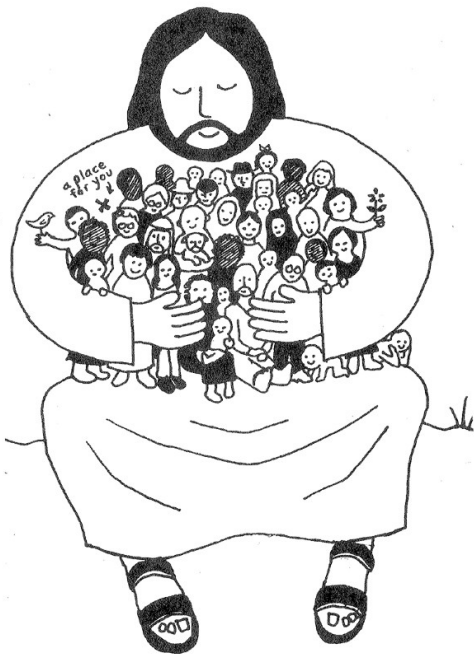
Grace and Peace be with you,

Rev. Paul Sartison  
Chaplain, Lutheran Campus Ministry—Saskatoon

\**God as the Mystery of the World*, trans. Darrell L. Guder (Grand Rapids: William B Eerdmans, 1983), xi.

**Some random student thoughts  
about Lutheran Campus Ministry:**

*"The campus center provides a fantastic ministry to students; it is a welcoming place to study, take a nap, or engage in stimulating conversation. It gives students the opportunity to be part of a community which is focused on the worship of God and the restoration of all creation. The Campus Center is an ever present source of encouragement and delicious cookies."*



"Well, I would say that I find it both comforting and refreshing that the campus centre is one place where gay people can feel safe in a Christian environment, but more importantly, welcomed and accepted."

"I have seen campus ministry as an intimidated first year, busy third and fourth year student and now as a person in the work force. Through all those times, Campus Ministry has always been welcoming and I always feel comfortable there."

**A departing student's thoughts:  
Darkness resounds  
with the Light of the World.**

At campus ministry we spend much time together in prayer and song. Set in the midst of rumbling traffic noises on College Drive, amidst the students walking home from long days, we sing. We sing and pray because the Word of God, Jesus Christ, has come into our midst.

In university we spend much time alone in mental spaces. We grapple with deadlines, with our own wavering powers of concentration, and with our power to recollect and to speak. We each feel alone in a losing battle against the ever-expanding sea of information that university washes over us in great waves. It is in this solitude that anxiety often takes hold. Anxiety tugs at the GPA, points ominously at the unknown future, waves around at all the others that seem brighter, more organized. Anxiety settles around us as we seek our place in the world, and as university stretches that world out ever further around us. I regret the costs I have paid for my anxiety. I have allowed myself far too often to settle in the dark places fixed within my own limits. Under the bright lights of the university and in the exuberance of youth, in the domain of independent thought, I have learned anew the meaning of Adam's reply in Genesis: "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

Set in the midst of rumbling traffic noises on College Drive we sing. At campus ministry we are gathered because Jesus Christ, the Word of God, has come into our midst. I have learned over my years at campus ministry to see the strength in the service of Word and Sacrament. For here is given the Word that takes hold of us. The Word of God welcomes us, sinners, with all our rumbling anxiety. Taking hold of us, the Word dies for us. In this space, where the Word of God takes even our death, I have heard the Word that clothes us in faith. In singing and in prayer, the Word of God encourages, and the darkness resounds with the Light of the World.

- Ole Schenk

*A big thank you to everyone who has joined us for our fundraising dinners and shown your support for Campus Ministry through your presence (and your presents!). This year's fundraising dinner, with special guest Rev. Cheryl Toth, raised \$9,725!*

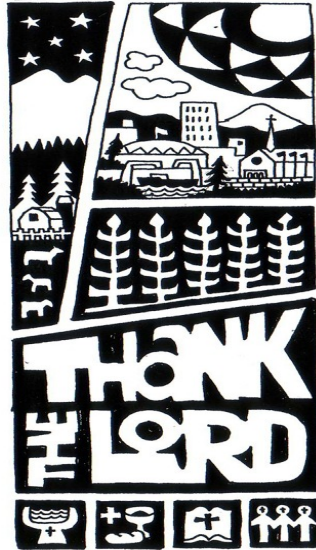
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Saskatchewan Synod of the ELCIC

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Thank you to everyone who donated cookies this year! You kept us welcoming and well-fed right to the end! The students say "thank you!"

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A big thank you to all those who serve in so many ways:

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*\* term ended in December*

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