

CROSS ROADS

CLBI Newsletter

2025
WINTER
ISSUE

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CLBI is a gift, and being that you are reading this, you probably agree.

Students here have been given space to grow and flourish in their faith for generations. When I was 18, CLBI was precisely

what I needed in that season of life. God's word came alive for me as I studied it and lived it out in community. It was a time of rapid expansion of my life with God and I loved every moment of it. If someone would have told me back when I was 18 that I would someday serve as President of CLBI, I would have burst out laughing. My serving in this role for the past 8 years is a true testimony of the Spirit's work of sanctification.

The past year, Jesus extended a gracious invitation to me. An invitation to pass the baton of leadership of CLBI to the next President. At first I shuddered at the thought of leaving my role at the school--how could I abandon the people that I am serving with? As I look back in my journal, I see that slowly over time, the story changed from focusing on me leaving, to being curious about who God was preparing to take my place. In a relay race, it is important to pass the baton when runners are still running well, and I know it is time for some fresh legs for CLBI's next stage.

I have loved having a front-row seat, watching Jesus transform lives at CLBI. Acts 4:13 is a summary of what I have been seeing: "When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus." CLBI is full of beautiful, ordinary people that have been deeply touched by Jesus, and this includes

me. I have grown so much since starting at CLBI in the summer of 2017.

March 2025 was a month of massive transition for CLBI. I finished up my time serving as President, and I am now serving as a Chaplain with the Bethany Group in Camrose, loving on the wonderful residents and staff, helping them to have robust faith in Jesus. In March, Erik Osness began serving as CLBI's new Interim President. The baton has been passed and Jesus knows what he is doing. Please keep Erik in your prayers as he learns all of the hundreds of items that are connected with his new role.

Thank you again for all of your support for me in my time at CLBI. If you are able, please come to CLBI's graduation at 10am on April 26 at Messiah Lutheran in Camrose. After the graduation there is a lunch back at the school, where I look forward to saying thank you face to face for supporting me in my time.

Thanks again,

Dean Rostad

Staff Farewells



Jaime Ocampos
Office Administrator
(on staff 2017-2025)

I have been invested in CLBI since I first came as a student in 2014. I graduated in 2016 and

then worked in the kitchen for five years. In 2021, I moved to the role of Office Administrator and have been here since then. Three of my siblings have attended CLBI, (my younger sister is receiving her diploma this April). My CLBI IMPACT trip was in Brazil, where I met my now husband. Truly, CLBI has been a place of immense growth in my faith and a community where deep friendships have been cultivated. I will always remember my time at CLBI with fondness and cherish many of the friends I have made because of this place.

This past December, a friend sent me a job posting for the Executive Director of Neighbor Aid Center in Camrose and

assured me I was qualified for the job. It took me a few days to even read the job description because I was not ready to entertain the idea of leaving CLBI. However, I felt a nudge to take the risk. I have had a passion for human rights and social justice issues since I was a young child. This led me to get a degree in Global and Development Studies, with a dream of one day working in an organization that makes a difference in the lives of those who are forgotten. Despite my love for CLBI, I realized that I was missing the opportunity for social justice work. So, long story short, when I was offered the position, I took a leap of faith and I accepted it.

Even though I have only been there for a few weeks, and I still really miss CLBI, I know I am where God wants me to be. Being able to work with my amazing assistant and team of volunteers has truly shown me the body of Christ. I am excited to continue being the hands and feet of Jesus in this community.



Tom Francis
Dir. of Maintenance
(on staff 2021-2024)

Greetings! This school year has been interesting, to say the least. At the beginning of the year, I

knew God was calling me to do something more with people. I was not entirely sure what that was, but it felt rooted in my desire to work with the indigenous peoples of Canada.

Being Métis myself, I have felt a growing desire to explore more about my culture and to understand things that can only be found through immersion into parts of myself that I have been reluctant to examine. I ended up getting to teach and create various cultural

things such as Moccasins, Hand Drums, and now ribbon shirts. I have learned to value oral traditions in a way that I never have before. The things I've learned have opened the door to a job within the Battle River School Division. My new title is Indigenous Support Worker and I work alongside a Cree Knowledge Keeper each day teaching land-based learning. I get a front-row seat into things that keep blowing my mind.

My job focuses on working with a select number of First Nations students. I do get to have encounters where God is talked about among the students. Some of the students love Jesus and talk about Him. I could go on, but I'll let this be a great coffee discussion between us sometime. In Cree, there is no word for 'goodbye', but in this case, see you later!

Meet Erik Osness: CLBI's New Interim President



If you don't know who I am, I should probably answer two questions before anything else: I'm 6'7" and I don't play basketball.

Now that we've got that out of the way, my name is Erik Osness, I'm a pastor with the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). I'm delighted to serve at CLBI as Interim President. I'd like to share more about what is happening at CLBI, but I just got here. For now, you might want to know more about who I am.

I grew up in St. Albert, Alberta and attended CLBI from 2007-09. More importantly, my wife's name is Megan (we met at Hastings Lake Bible Camp). We've been married for close to ten years. Dean Rostad officiated our wedding.

After CLBI, I went to the Concordia University of Edmonton (CUE), where I played on the volleyball team and earned a B.A. in religious studies. I then completed an M.A. in Biblical and Christian Studies at CUE while also taking seminary courses in-person and online to complete the requirements for a Master of Divinity.

When I finished my education and training, Megan began a PhD in Counselling Psychology at the University of Alberta. Seven years later, she's almost done! Unfortunately, there wasn't much for pastoral calls in Edmonton at the time. Thankfully, I was eventually called to serve at Hope Lutheran Church from July 2020-October 2023. I then did interim ministry at Valhalla Lutheran Church before receiving an opportunity to go to prison. Since Jesus said we should visit those in prison, and because of an increasing heart for the diverse contexts of urban ministry, I decided prison would

probably stretch me in positive ways. For 8 months, I was a site-based chaplain at Edmonton Institution, a maximum-security federal prison. It was certainly an interesting and eye-opening experience. I got really comfortable with face tattoos. That said, I probably won't get one myself.

A bit more about me: I like to play recreational sports, walk, cook, and pull espresso shots. I'm passionate about understanding ourselves and others better, raising up new leaders in the church, church planting, nurturing healthy habits, finding ways to consume less, and finding ways to cultivate playfulness into everyday life. For me, these passions speak to a greater purpose: restoration through Christ and exploring and sharing of how our souls—whether hidden deep down inside or known with every fiber of our being—cry out to find rest and excellence with our LORD.

Many of my passions to build connections and raise up new leaders for the church align well with CLBI. This, quite honestly, makes me feel like the most blessed person on earth right now. I know this feeling probably won't last, but it's hard not to be filled with joy. I don't think I flourished as a student at CLBI. For me, it was just a start. I've grown up a lot since (that might be a relief to some). Either way, it's humbling to be here now. In the first couple weeks, I've learned quite quickly where some growth edges are. If you're wondering if I'm "CLBI President" material, so am I. But I've been learning to trust in God more and more, and I'm consistently amazed at how Christ weaves together all things for the good, despite my sin.

Grace, mercy, and peace,
Erik Osness

New Faces On Staff



Robyn Bruneau
Office Admin &
Director of Spiritual
Formation

Warm greetings!

I am so honoured and excited to be serving here at CLBI! I will be doing a double role of providing administrative support to the goings on here while nurturing the spiritual life and culture of the college.

I spent the Covid years at Creighton University in Omaha, NB where I studied creative writing and received a combined MA in Christian Spirituality and Spiritual Direction & Directed Retreats. I am also doing ongoing graduate work at the Theology of the Body Institute in Pennsylvania.

My passion is in seeking--and being sought--by the immense and boundless God of the scriptures and opening wide to His constant grace and movement. It is my joy and pleasure to have the opportunity to walk closely alongside both the staff and students here, discerning together how God is at work in their everyday lives and how He is constantly calling them into the fullness of all that He has for them.

Please feel free to visit me on my website (twosparrows.org) to learn more about my family and ministry and even check out some of my creative writing ventures. I'm excited to be entering into the vibrant community that surrounds this college. I'll look forward to meeting many of you over the coming weeks and months.

Bless you all in your love and care for us!



Tyler Adam
Dir. of Maintenance

I am privileged to be asked to be on staff at CLBI. My wife, Danielle, and I felt called to move to Camrose after several years away

and I am excited to come under the role of Director of Operations and Maintenance. I have a heart to steward the campus and a vision for aesthetics so that it can be a place to better serve the body of Christ.

I have been given a heart for the discipleship of men in the church, raising them up and challenging them in humility

and conviction and grounding them in God's word. I am daily reminded, through grief, of the brokenness of our world... but let the joy of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, abound.

As someone who thoroughly enjoys conversations over coffee, I encourage you to come over and chat. Bring your thoughts and ideas of how we can bring life and beauty to our campus! Also, if you have able hands and would love to serve, reach out to me for service opportunities. I'd be honored to have you come alongside me.

I'll put the pot on!

Theology on the Rise

A New Podcast from the CLBI Community



It's November 2024 and a few short-term staff are winding down for the night, watching some YouTube. They come across a Gavin Ortland video talking about theology and Church

history. One of the short-term staff turns to the other and says, "Have you ever thought about starting a podcast?" In that moment a dream was formed.

A month later, myself, Caleb Sherbanuk and Seth Hansen--along with support from CLBI-- nervously released the first ever episode of 'Theology on the Rise.' We have since produced an episode every other week and currently have seven episodes of the podcast on our YouTube Channel.

We named the podcast 'Theology on the Rise' because we want to expose Lutheran theology to the online world and see it 'on the rise' in our generation. We don't claim to be scholars ourselves, but instead seek to interview other scholars, teachers and pastors and help frame their ideas in a palatable way.

In one of our episodes we had the privilege of talking with Sye Van Mannen from Riverbend Lutheran Church. One of the main points that he continued to make was that, "Orthodox [or right] theology will always lead you to the cross of Christ."

Good theology will always lead you to the cross.

This has become a bit of a mantra for us as we continue to make theological content and delve into deep conversations. Looking at scripture, we can easily see this. The Old Testament looks forward to the Messiah to come--the suffering Servant--and the New Testament centres itself around Christ

crucified. It is beautiful to think of the Bible as one univocal witness to Jesus.

We realize that Jesus has always been *for* us. There is no 'New Testament God' and 'Old Testament God'. God's feelings toward us didn't evolve over the 400 years between the OT and NT. He was always bent on saving us. Ever since humanity fell in the garden of Eden, Jesus has been on His way to the cross. And now our Lord Jesus has risen again to new life, defeating sin, death, and the devil and He is still *for* us. This is the theological crux that drives our podcast.

In our few months with this podcast, we have realized that there is a lack of online resources produced by the Lutheran Church, especially in Canada. There is a large Christian presence, yes, but not many that talk about theology, faith and the Christian life from a distinctly Lutheran or even an historically Protestant perspective. We Lutherans have a beautiful and timely message to share with the world and we need to proclaim it! What better way to do that than through a podcast.

It has been a blessing to see these episodes stir up intentional conversation among our peers--particularly among alumni of CLBI--who wouldn't normally look for a theology podcast to follow and listen to, but who tune into 'Theology on the Rise' because they know us. It has been incredible to see the Church's support for our little podcast. We are excited to see what is next for the show. We hope you give us a follow!

Nathan Carlson (Co-creator & Co-host) of Theology on the Rise

Follow 'Theology on the Rise' on Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, Spotify or Apple Podcasts.

Student Spotlight

NAME:

Christina Matte

HOMETOWN:

Stettler, AB

YEAR(S) AT CLBI:

Current First Year Student

WHAT LED YOU TO ATTEND CLBI?

I originally heard about CLBI through my mom and aunt who attended here in the 70's and 80's. Hearing about their time at bible school made me fall in love with the idea of going. I really wanted to build a biblical foundation and grow in my faith before deciding on my career path. After moving to Alberta last year, I decided to go to Youth Surge to see what CLBI was like. The experience confirmed my decision to go as I loved my time here and the strong sense of community.

WHAT IS ONE MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE YOU'VE HAD AT CLBI?

I have had so many memorable moments in community, class, and school events. One experience that really stuck out to me was the Urban Hike in downtown Calgary, where we learned about people experiencing homelessness. I've always had a natural tendency to want to help and serve, and growing up, I noticed that I felt a connection to the homeless. Admittedly, I was nervous at first, not knowing what to expect. I had the chance to talk with a man living on the streets, and he shared his story with me. He wanted to be seen and understood and to help me understand that people in similar situations also deserve to be seen and not ignored or viewed with less value. While expressing this, he was calling himself "dumb" because he never got the chance to go to school, but I saw that he was intelligent--especially emotionally--and gifted. This experience helped me realize how important it is to take the time to listen to other people regardless of where they are in life. There is always something we can learn from each other.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE CONSIDERING CLBI?

Growing up, I struggled to find good friends and build community. When I came to CLBI, I noticed how friendly and open the environment was, and I was able to shed some of my natural shyness and step into meaningful relationships quite quickly, particularly during Fall Hike, near the Rocky Mountains. I have grown so much this year through meaningful fellowship, having open conversations and praying with one another.



Financial Update

Wanda Manson
Director of Finance

We are so thankful for all that God has done this past school year, not the least of which is providing financially through people like you. To help keep student fees as low as possible, we rely heavily on our faithful donors. While student fees only cover around 40% of the total operational expenses, the other 60% comes from donations. So on behalf of all of us at CLBI – THANK YOU!

This past year you have helped us to:

- Provide amazing instructors who desire to teach God's Word.
- Send students to Minnesota, Ecuador, and Mongolia.
- Buy a reliable 14-passenger van to be used for our off-campus adventures.
- Replace all the mattresses in the dorms.

Projects for the summer include:

- Campus-wide painting.
- Installing new flooring on the top floor of Pearson Place (dormitory).
- Outdoor landscaping for better drainage and appearance.

Looking farther ahead, we plan to update the first floor of Hagen Hall (main building), prioritizing easy access to better serve the greater CLBI community. These upgrades will include:

- Installing two easy accessibility washrooms on the ground floor
- Replacing the kitchen range hood.
- Replacing the dishwasher
- Installing new counter tops in the kitchen, as well as new flooring throughout the whole first floor.

In the coming months, there will be a lot going on around the CLBI campus, so please pray for the planning, funding, and completion of these renovations. Stay tuned for more details in the next issue of the Crossroads Newsletter, or by following us on Facebook and Instagram.

I am so encouraged to know that there are people around the world supporting us through prayer and financial gifts. Thank you for being an essential part of our team!

Wanda Manson
Director of Finance

Upcoming Events

APR
26

CLBI GRADUATION CEREMONY

APR 26, 2025 - 10:00am at Messiah Lutheran Church (4810 50 Street)
All are welcome for lunch at CLBI following the ceremony.
Please RSVP to info@clbi.edu or 780-672-4454.

AUG
30

CLBI OPENING SERVICE

AUG 30, 2025 - 4:00pm at Grace Lutheran Church (5306 50 Avenue)
All are welcome for supper at CLBI following the service.
Please RSVP to info@clbi.edu or 780-672-4454.

For more, check out clbi.edu/events.

Donations Update ('24/'25)

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025 (current year)

CONTRIBUTION GOAL:

\$626,370

Current Total Raised:

\$468,833

Approx. 74% as of Feb 28, 2025
(\$157,537 remaining)

74%

100%

75%

50%

25%

DONATE TO CLBI TODAY!

- Etransfer to **finance@clbi.edu**
- Mail-in cheque
(CLBI - 4837 52A St, Camrose AB, T4V 1W5)
- Visit **clbi.edu/give**

DONATE NOW

Prayers

APRIL 2025

- April 2: Jodi Bogstie's Birthday (staff - Director of Food Services)
- April 7: Class-Life in the World (Instructor: Ted Hill)
- April 13: Student Silent Retreat (at Mount St. Francis)
- April 14: Class - Long Obedience Toward Home (Instructor: Ted Hill)
- ~April 15: Danyel Rokos' Birthday (daughter of staff, Dena Rokos)
- April 21: Dwelling Retreat III: Become (at Hastings Lake)
- April 22: Steven Belau's Birthday (staff - Residence Life/Food Services)
- April 25: William Frederickson's Birthday (first year student)
- April 25-26: CLBI Graduation

MAY 2025

- May 7: Emily Halvorson's Birthday (wife of staff, Cullen Halvorson)
- May 9: Ivar Osness's Birthday (fourth year student)
- May 10: Jodi & Myles Bogstie's Anniversary (staff)
- May 12: Erik Osness's Birthday (staff - Interim President)
- May 16: Tyler & Danielle Adam's Anniversary (staff)
- May 18: Cullen & Emily Halvorson's Anniversary (staff)
- May 19: Landon Jack's Birthday (husband of staff, Amy Jack)
- May 20: Ethan Sherbanuk's Birthday (second year student)
- May 23: Finnan Halvorson's Birthday (son of staff, Cullen Halvorson)

- May 26: Jesslyn Rokos' Birthday (daughter of staff, Dena Rokos)

JUNE 2025

- June 3: Zachary Stolee's Birthday (first year student)
- June 3: Myles Bogstie's Birthday (husband of staff, Jodi Bogstie)
- June 11: Megan Osness's Birthday (wife of staff, Erik Osness)
- June 13: Leigha Hansen's Birthday (second year student)
- June 18: Greg & Dena Rokos' Anniversary (staff)

CLBI COMMUNITY

- ~ Jesus' shepherding and provision for all the students as they transition into their summer placements and discern God's leading for next year
- ~ Enduring fruitfulness in the lives of those we served through the Impact Projects
- ~ God's love to be revealed to those that we served here in Camrose through the Watering Hole practicums
- ~ An exciting synergy and unity of purpose among the staff and within all the newly forming staff relationships
- ~ Student enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year
- ~ Growth and commitment of faithful CLBI supporters
- ~ A deepening of CLBI's community connections among youth groups and churches

Announcements

BIRTHS:

(December 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025)

Waheed & Adrianna (Hansen, 2012-2014) Ekailan had a daughter, Rachel Rifah, on February 7

Maia (Berg, 2012-2014) and Grayson Wagner (2012-2014) had twin daughters, Wren Scarlett and Stella Pearl, on February 11

emma (Danielson, 2018-2020) and Austin Bruder (2019-2020) had a son, Callum James, on March 4

MEMORIALS:

(December 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025)

Joyce Bergquist, Arthur Birkholtz, Mildred Bjorgum, Gladys Cole, Otto Gross, Arnold & Ruth Hagan, Audrey Hedlin, Doris Hendrickson, Verneal (Grue) Kallevig, Evelyn Marzolf, Torkel & Alpha Osness, Molly Rose, Ken & Sylvia Wold

Total Memorials: \$3,820

HONORARIUMS:

(December 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025)

Harvey & Marcia Vikse, Rachel Ekailan

Total Memorials: \$2,437

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The most affordable Bible college in Canada.



*Total cost for full year at CLBI: **

\$14,210

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