

Eastern Synod of the ELCIC Newsletter



April 17, 2014

To find tools and resources for worship, missions, and ministry, visit the Eastern Synod website: www.easternsynod.org

TOGETHER
for the *love* of the world

Registration is now LIVE!

The online registration for Assembly 2014 is now ready to go. You will need to have your travel and rooming arrangements set before you register. To get started go to www.easternsynod.org and click on the Synod Assembly button.

Pastor Makes a Big Splash!

Rev. Tim Dawkins made a big impression at the Ontario Masters Swimming Championships in Windsor recently, winning all three colours of medals in his age group! Pastor Tim came away with a gold in the 1500m freestyle, silver in the 20 m butterfly and bronze in the 800m freestyle.

Temporary Postage Discounts

There is a 5% postal rate discount available to congregations until the end of the year. For more information go to easternsynod.org and click on the Treasurer's/Financial button.

Helpful Tips

Did you know.... That many people, both visitors and members of your congregation, aren't aware that church offerings are eligible for an income tax receipt? Why not post a sign, or add a reminder in your bulletin; let people know to leave their name and address in order to get their receipt!

EVENTS:

Visit the Eastern Synod website for more information on all these events

Atlantic Conference Meeting

April 26, 2014

Northern Conference Meeting

April 26, 2014

Georgian Bay Conference Meeting

May 3, 2014

Kitchener/Waterloo Conference Meeting

May 3, 2014

Ottawa/St. Lawrence Conference Meeting

May 3, 2014

Hamilton/Niagara Conference Meeting

May 10, 2014

London Conference Meeting

May 10, 2014

Toronto Conference Meeting

May 10, 2014

Congregational Treasurer's Workshop

May 10, 2014

Coming Soon!

Money, Values & Me 2014; Stewardship Conference

featuring keynote speaker, Nathan Dungan, President, Share Save Spend

Jeff Pym, Director, Stewardship and Resource Development says:

"I heard Nathan Dungan speak at a conference a few years ago. The messages our kids absorb about money and spending are a little bit terrifying, but his advice for parents and church leaders is both practical and reassuring. He is also a very engaging and entertaining speaker. Plus he's a Lutheran! You will not regret going to hear Nathan speak, and the rest of the program looks like it will be a bonus." For more information, check the events page at easternsynod.org

Wondering what to get Mom this Year...

Why not give her a subscription to the Canada Lutheran. She'll think of you every time she opens the cover!

She'll get all the news, not just from our synod, but from all across Canada.

Why not treat yourself at the same time?

Get Inspired! Learn from Others! Feed Your Soul!

<http://www.elcic.ca/clweb/index.html> or call 1-888.786.6707 (ext. 177)

Ordination

Pamela Kormano's ordination will take place on Saturday, May 10, 2014 at 3 pm. She will be ordained by Bishop Pryse at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Niagara Falls. ON. All are Welcome.

Scholarships

Just a reminder that the deadline for applications is fast approaching.

Please make sure your completed form is here in our office by April 30, 2014.

Good Luck Everyone!

Pastoral Changes

Rev. Martha Tatarnic finishes at St. David's Anglican-Lutheran Church, Orillia on Apr. 30.

Rev. Richard Schwass moves from St. Peter's, Milverton to St. Stephen's, Kitchener at the end of April.

Learning Opportunities

Congregational Treasurer's Workshops.

Designed for Congregational Treasurers, Financial Secretaries, Finance Committee Chairpersons, Pastors (and anyone else who is interested)

Leadership for Healthy Congregations

Saturday, May 31, 2014

Christ the Redeemer, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, QC

For more information go to easternsynod.org and check the events calendar or call 1-877-373-5242

Pastoral Opportunities

The following Congregations are seeking a pastor. For more information, please contact **Rev.**

Douglas Reble,

Assistant to the Bishop

(1-877-373-5242)

Atlantic Conference

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church and Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lunenburg, NS
All Saints, Newcombville
St. John's, Mahone Bay

Ottawa/ St. Lawrence Conference

St. John's, Arnprior
St. Paul, Saint-Laurent

Kitchener/Waterloo Conference

St. Mark's, Kitchener

Toronto Conference

St. David's Anglican-Lutheran Church, Orillia



The theme for the 2014 ELCIC Praise Appeal, *Do Justice, Love Kindness and Walk Humbly with Our God*, comes from Micah 6:8 and outlines what God requires us to do in a way that is both memorable and compelling.

Once again we are encouraging individuals and congregations to contribute generously to the Appeal, which is a significant source of revenue for the ELCIC.

If we meet our Synod-wide goal of \$60,000 in 2014, we will assist our national church to:

- * work in partnership with KAIROS and the Anglican Church of Canada in the areas of homelessness and affordable housing and responsible resource extraction;
- * support refugees around the world and work in many development and relief programs with our partners in the Lutheran World Federation and Canadian Lutheran World Relief;
- * do ministry in indigenous communities in Argentina and Peru with our partner churches.
- * deepen the discipleship of all our members and find new ways to reach out in faith to those around us;
- * build better relationships with other denominations and faiths here in Canada, through the Canadian Council of Churches, and around the world through the World Council of Churches.

Why Mother's Day?

The Praise Appeal was originally an annual project of the Evangelical Lutheran Women (ELW).

We want to honour the legacy of the ELW; the love and care that the women of our church have bestowed so generously upon us through their faithful work for the ELCIC.

Want to get More Involved?

You are invited to participate in this year's artistic project for Praise Appeal.

Encourage your parishioners, friends and family members to express their passion for "justice and kindness" in writing, painting, drawing, dancing or playing.

Please, send your art work or links to your videos to Rev. Riitta Hepomaki by mail:

74 Weber St. W.
Kitchener, ON N2H 3Z3

or email: rhepomaki@elcic.ca

We will publish them throughout the year in our publications. **Art projects received by May 31, 2014 will be featured at Synod Assembly in June.**

Or maybe you would like to use them in your own church bulletins, newsletters or websites.

Donations can be made anytime, just go to:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/dn/6472>

For more information regarding Praise Appeal please visit ELCIC at:

<http://www.elcic.ca/praiseappeal/2014Resources.cfm>

May I Introduce You To.....

Keith Myra, Treasurer



It is a distinct honour and privilege to serve as your treasurer. As difficult as it is for me to believe, it has now been twenty-five years since I was first approached about letting my name stand for nomination! I remember being faced with many of the same types of doubts that Moses experienced when confronted by God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt – what an overwhelming job, especially for one so ill equipped! But just as God provided for Moses, accompanying him throughout his life, truly God has been present, blessing and equipping me through my journey!

As treasurer I have overall responsibility for the synod's finances - as you might expect this encompasses anything and everything with financial implications - budgets, bank accounts, trust funds, deeds, mortgages, contracts, investments, payroll, invoice payment, insurance, financial policies, depositing/recording offerings, processing bequests, etc. Details about the synod's financial affairs must also be reported to synod council, synod assembly, Canada Revenue Agency and several other bodies in a timely fashion. While I provide overall direction and oversight for all of these areas, much of the day to day support, in particular the bookkeeping, is provided by the "Assistant to the Treasurer", a synod office employee role.

As is the case with many jobs, this position is capable of consuming as much time as one has available and is willing to invest! There are always the day to day demands that need to be filled in a timely manner – tasks such as donations or payments requiring special attention; responding to phone and email inquiries from pastors, congregational treasurers and others; preparing reports and presentations and attending a variety of meetings. In addition, there are other opportunities and requirements - for example, developing and monitoring budgets, keeping updated on regulatory changes affecting charities, developing or reviewing synodical financial policies and improving processes/procedures. My retirement last fall from an information technology management position in a large, global financial services institution has made it possible for me to dedicate much of my newly found time, three to five days a week, on these types of activities, tasks that I have found both enjoyable and fulfilling.

In addition to the usual activities I have two specific projects for 2014:

1. Conducting a series of workshops across the synod for congregational treasurers and others involved in the financial affairs of each congregation - these are off to a great start and will continue over the remainder of the year. Watch for the workshop coming to your conference and/or ministry area!
2. Overseeing a major change in the "Assistant to the Treasurer" position - this role is in the process of transitioning from Lynn Becker who served so faithfully for many years to Sue Heimpel and Christine Archer, each of whom will serve on a part-time basis.

I feel blessed to have this opportunity to contribute to and be part of the important ministries that are carried out by the Eastern Synod! I am also extremely thankful for the outstanding sense of partnership that I have enjoyed with Retired Bishop Huras and Bishop Pryse, along with all of the other officers, synod council members, deans, ministry directors and office staff with whom I have interacted over these years. And I am equally grateful for the words of encouragement, support and thanks that I receive from many of you. All of this means a lot to me!