

Eastern Synod of the ELCIC Newsletter



Eastern Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

February 11, 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

Reminder that the deadline for Leadership Award Nominations is fast approaching...for info and nomination forms go to

<http://www.easternsynod.org/story/2013-11-06-2014-leadership-award-nomination-form>.

Prayers and Best Wishes

We remember Rev. Paul Jensen and his wife Linda in our prayers as they grieve the death of Paul's father who passed away January 31, 2014.

Super Job!

The confirmation class at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fisherville, Ont. , with leadership from Pastor Timothy Dawkins, spear-headed a drive for Operation Christmas Child, challenging the congregation to fill 25 shoeboxes for Christmas. We enclosed a copy of this congregational photo and a note in each of the 36 boxes which were filled and forwarded to deserving children in Nicaragua.



EVENTS:

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

Hope Is Here
Feb. 14 -15, 2014

A Day of Continuing Education and Conversation on Faith and Science
Feb. 20, 2014

Bishop's Spiritual Retreat for Clergy
Feb. 23 – 26, 2014

Diaconal Sunday
Feb. 23, 2014

Bishop's Spiritual Retreat for Lay People
Apr. 4 – 6, 2014

Women of Faith K-W Conference Event
Apr. 5, 2014

Volunteers Wanted

Are you computer savvy?

We're looking for people with the know how to help congregations set up their own websites. Can you help? If you are willing and able to help, please contact Rev. Riitta Hepomaki, <mailto:rhpomaki@elcic.ca>

Congregations who would like assistance with a website, please contact Pastor Riitta.



Webpages and registration are now live!

Go to easternsynod.org and click on the Luther Hostel logo.

Ministry Changes

Rev. Philip Mathai began at Mount Zion, Waterloo on Jan. 27, 2014.

Rev. Jun Gao finishes at St. Paul's, Magnetawan on Feb. 16, 2014 and begins at Emmanuel, Toronto on Feb. 17, 2014.

Rev. Dr. Tim Hegedus resigned from roster Jan. 19, 2014.

Reformation, Resistance and Renewal Luther, Bonhoeffer and the Church in Eastern Germany

Waterloo Lutheran Seminary has arranged an amazing study tour. Sixteen days of exploration treading in the footsteps of Luther, Bonhoeffer and other renewers of the church.

This Study Tour can be taken for Academic Credit, Continuing Education or Personal Interest.

Apply online at: www.wlu.ca/seminary/studytourgermany

The registration deadline is March 7, 2014

A friendly reminder to pastors:

Please keep us updated on the best ways to reach you.

Send us your new contact information by email or give us a call.

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)

Northern Conference
Trinity, Sudbury

Toronto Conference
St. Paul's, Richmond Hill
Christ the King, Whitby
Emmanuel, Toronto

Kitchener/Waterloo Conference
St. Stephen's, Kitchener

Atlantic Conference
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church and Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lunenburg, NS

London Conference
Zion, Stratford



Mark Van House
Director, Witness and Evangelism Ministries
Pastor, Peace Lutheran Church, Pickering, ON

As the Witness and Evangelism Ministry Director I'm trying to assist congregations in transforming their current church culture. Lutherans have a reputation, deserved or not, as being reserved when it comes to sharing the Good News. ELCIC Lutherans have not primarily identified with the "Evangelical" moniker, perhaps due to the negative connotations that word has often brought to mind. My work is to help us embrace witness and evangelism. While some congregations may be perceived as friendly, even welcoming, most are not seen as "inviting." One of my primary focuses is to liaison with Michael Harvey (founder of Back to Church Sunday) and the deans of the Eastern Synod Conferences, in order to host seminars by Michael that will help congregations make the transition to being inviting congregations and individuals. 100's of church members and dozens of congregations have attended the 1st round of seminars. In 2014 we hope to have the 2nd round of seminars in all the conferences. Through posts on my Eastern Synod web blog and the Eastern Synod Face Book page, I not only promote Back to Church Sunday but also other programs, websites and materials that will help us transform our church culture. Some examples are:

<http://www.rechurchnow.com/> (rethinking discipleship)

<http://institute.wycliffecollege.ca/> (institute on evangelism)

<http://www.messychurch.org.uk/tags/canada> (Messy Church Canada)

<http://www.freshexpressions.ca/project/reimaginingchurch/>

<http://www.godlyplayresources.com/index.html>

I'm looking forward to 2014 as we move from Back to Church Sunday into BTCS Season of Invitation. My congregation has already embarked on a season of invitation. I hope your congregation members will attend one of the seminars in 2014 and join in the season of invitation. Whether you identify as a congregation that is conservative, liberal, "middle of the road", progressive, etc. a season of invitation is for you. As Kelly Fryer says, "We have what the world needs." – Reclaiming the "L" Word.

Micah 6:8

Mark Van House

Witness & Evangelism Ministry Director, Eastern Synod

markvanhouse@bell.net

<http://easternsynod.org/ministries/witness-and-evangelism/>

Nominations Please!

The Nominating Committee for the Eastern Synod is meeting soon in preparation for next summer's Assembly 2014, June 26-29 in Toronto, Ontario.

The committee is responsible for selecting potential candidates to serve on the Synod Council (Term 2014-2018). Two candidates for each vacant and retiring position are required in advance of the Assembly (biographical details for nominees will be included in the Bulletin of Reports); as usual, further nominations from the floor of the convention are always accepted.

The Nominating Committee (consisting of the Conference Deans and the Synodical Womens' Ministries Liaison, as well as the Synodical Bishop and Secretary) will meet on March 17, 2014. In order for them to have a list of potential names to ask regarding willingness to serve, your assistance in suggesting appropriate people in advance of this meeting is appreciated.

Please forward any suggestions (including their name, contact details, congregation and conference, and some general background information) to your Conference Dean, the Synodical Womens' Ministries Liaison or the Synod Secretary by March 15, 2014.

Learning Opportunities

Becoming a Missional Church/ Becoming a Missional Leader

Date: June 17 to June 19, 2014.

Location: Conrad Grebel University College

Cost: \$430 & HST includes lunches, parking and study materials

For more information/registration, visit <http://www.conciliationservices.ca/>, or contact Nan Cressman at 519-742-1299 x 1.

Congregational Treasurer's Workshops.

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

For more information go to

http://www.easternsynod.org/sites/default/files/content/congregational_treasurer_workshop_-_general_notification.pdf

Congregational Council training in Georgian Bay Conference

Saturday March 8

10 am - 3 pm at Trinity, Walkerton.

To register contact Liz (519) 743-1461

ezehr@elcic.ca