

# Eastern Synod of the ELCIC Newsletter



**Eastern Synod**  
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

**January 13, 2014**

To find tools and resources for worship, missions, and ministry, visit the Eastern Synod website: [www.easternsynod.org](http://www.easternsynod.org)

## Save the Date!

Luther Hostel is coming.... June 2 - 6, 2014.  
More info coming soon.

## Maternity-Pregnancy and Parental Leave Policy

**Great News for New Parents!** Our new Maternity-Pregnancy and Parental Leave Policy is now available on our web site.

## Benevolence Interpretation Materials 2014

New benevolence interpretation materials are now available for download. Congregations are encouraged to print them as part of their annual report or otherwise make them available to members.

To view materials go to <http://easternsynod.org/ministries/stewardship-and-resource-development/>

## Eastern Synod Assembly 2014 info

Lay Credential Forms are now available.

Please visit our website [www.easternsynod.org](http://www.easternsynod.org) and click Synod Assembly.

## Events

Visit the Eastern Synod Website for more information on all these events.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**  
January 18-26, 2014.

**Faith in Film Movie Night**  
January 18, 2014

**I Shall Not Hate- A Journey of Hope Through Faith, Tolerance & Courage**  
January 19, 2014

**Atlantic Pastors' Conference**  
February 9-12

**Hope is Here**  
February 14-15

**Bishop's Retreat For Clergy**  
February 23-26

**Luther Hostel**  
June 2 – 6, 2014

**Eastern Synod Assembly 2014**  
June 26 – 29 2014.

## Congregational Challenge!

Submitted by Rev. Joel Crouse

There was a conversation on the floor of our last Eastern Synod Assembly in 2012 where we talked about the importance of the youth voice on the floor of Assembly.

Our youth are tired of the tokenism we offer them in the life of the church. They are tired of the entertainment slots we give them at our gatherings. They want to be integrated into the life and purpose of the church the same way everyone else is. They don't want to be 'youth delegates'. They want to be delegates.

Consider the motion on the floor of the 2012 Eastern Synod Assembly that spoke to increasing the numbers of youth at Assembly. The Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries spoke against that motion. We do need a larger young adult contingent at our Assemblies. But changing a number in a constitution will do little to make that happen. I applaud the energy and excitement people have for youth, just as I applaud the motives of the mover of that motion on the floor of Assembly 2012. We need that energy, excitement and positive motivation to move youth and young adults more fully into congregational life. That takes work. But imagine what our communities would look like if our youth and young adults were leading worship regularly, leading committee work, serving on council, elected as delegates to Assembly.

Many congregations are getting ready for their Annual General Meetings. This is the time that we vote for delegates going to Assembly this summer in Toronto. This is your moment as a congregation. Will you vote in the same warm body? Or will you actively seek out that young adult (19-35) in your midst who represents that change so many of you called for on the floor of our Eastern Synod Assembly in 2012? This is a choice.

It will take work. But it is God-pleasing work that needs to be done if we want to fairly represent the demographic that exists in the Eastern Synod. Be the change that wants to happen. Like Greta, there are many of our young adult Lutherans watching and waiting for this kind of opportunity.

## 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)

**Toronto Conference**  
Christ the King, Whitby

**Kitchener/Waterloo Conference**  
St. Stephen's, Kitchener

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

**London Conference**  
Zion, Stratford

**Ottawa/ St. Lawrence Conference**  
St. John's, Arnprior

## Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend

God Desires Joyful Marriages! Enrich your relationship by attending a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend. Our next Weekend is scheduled for April 4-6 in Stratford, Ontario. For more information, contact Irene Glab at [IreneGlab@golden.net](mailto:IreneGlab@golden.net) or 519-662-1398. Apply by March 4, 2014 to ensure your reservation. After that date, contact Irene for availability. It's a Weekend you won't forget and never regret!

The many benefits married husbands and wives receive from attending this exciting marriage enrichment Weekend program include:

- communicating on a deeper level
- rekindling their romance
- renewing their commitment to each other.

## **May I Introduce You To.....**

**W. Philip Heinze, Director, Eastern Synod Public Policy and Service Ministries**

### **How many hours/days do you work/month as ministry director?**

I am contracted to work 10% time which would work out to about a half day a week. I don't actually track my hours but I know that I spend at least that much time simply writing and responding to email!!! My estimate is that I spend at least one day a week – likely 6 days or more a month – doing Eastern Synod work. The time is difficult to estimate more closely because being involved in Social Justice issues (Public Policy and Service Ministries) is my ministry as well as my passion as a volunteer. In addition I also represent the Bishop on the Lutheran Homes K-W Board (as well as on a Committee of the Board). Upwards of 3 hours each month are spend in meetings for the Board.

### **What are all the tasks you do as a ministry director?**

From my perspective my two most important tasks are:

- 1) keeping myself as informed as I possibly can regarding the pressing social justice issues of our time; the tools (organizations, charitable activities, advocacy strategies, service agencies, educational resources, workshop opportunities, etc.) that are available to allow individuals and groups to attempt to at least partially address some of these concerns and
- 2) share as much of this information as possible with our constituency – primarily through the use of direct email to congregational leaders and by posting information on the Eastern Synod “Public Policy and Service Ministries Blog” at the Eastern Synod website [[www.easternsynod.org](http://www.easternsynod.org)].

In addition:

- I attend many lectures and workshops where I can continue to learn and engage in conversation with others who share a passion for social justice.
- Plan workshops and events that are related to social justice concerns.
- Write social justice and service ministry articles for The Eastern Synod Lutheran, the Synod website, Public Policy Blog, and congregational newsletters and encourage others to do the same.
- Plan justice and service emphasis and resolutions for Synod Assemblies.
- Facilitate any follow-up Public Policy or Service Ministry action growing out of Synod Assembly motions.

### **What do you really enjoy doing?**

I most enjoy keeping myself informed about social justice concerns and possible actions and sharing that information as broadly as possible. Lots of the other justice work is fun but (from my perspective) those are the most rewarding.

### **What have been some of the key events for you in the past year?**

- On September 6 & 7 our Synod presented a workshop titled Strengthening Faith Communities Through Restorative Practice at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. This was offered through a partnership with The Rev. Bruce Schenk, Director: International Institute for Restorative Practices – Canada. The event was “sold-out” and received high praise. Plans for another Restorative Practices for Faith Communities event is in the offing.
- In response to Assembly 2012 resolution ES 12-06, an ad hoc committee continues to shepherd the congregations of the Eastern Synod in exploring the work of The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) inviting congregations to engage in a process of :
  - confession and repentance of both our current racist attitudes and actions and the part we played in support of the policy of assimilation that denied the integrity of Aboriginal cultures and thereby created and perpetuated the residential school tragedy;
  - committing ourselves to working toward reconciliation and decolonizing the dominant culture;
  - planning to engage in on-going learning, reflection, and discussion based in scripture, the work of the TRC and related resources in order to uncover attitudes that are still present in our selves, church and society that were at the root of the residential schools;
  - after the process of confession, repentance, self-learning, and reflection to humbly respond to invitations from communities that experience the debilitating effects of racism and with communities that live with privilege, to find ways to journey together, confronting the reality of racism.

### **What was the big surprise of the year?**

I was pleasantly surprised by the enthusiastic response to the September Strengthening Faith Communities Through Restorative Practice workshop.

## **An Update for the Inter-church Immigrant Support Group**

The Inter-Church Immigrant Support Group (IISG) is made up of volunteers from Christian churches in Durham region. They aim to assist immigrants and refugees who are new to Durham integrate into the local community.

If you are interested in volunteering with the IISG, they have particular needs for volunteers to:

- visit families and assess needs
- help occasionally with deliveries
- drive newcomers to appointments
- help and encourage with English conversation skills
- help with moving furniture

They also need:

- donations of furniture and household items  
(email [christmd@rogers.com](mailto:christmd@rogers.com) or [iisupportgroup@gmail.com](mailto:iisupportgroup@gmail.com) attn. Eudora to arrange pick up)
- drivers with trucks to occasionally pick up and deliver
- churches to provide and deliver Christmas baskets at the appropriate time of year.

For more information about the Inter-Church Immigrant Support Group, please contact the IISG Coordinator, Eudora Nisbett at [iisupportgroup@gmail.com](mailto:iisupportgroup@gmail.com) or call 905-626-1823.

*excerpt from Christ the King, Whitby newsletter*

## **Prayers and Best Wishes**

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Rev. Norman Lange who passed away on Friday, December 27, 2013.

## **Leadership Awards Nominations**

It's time for the nominations to begin! Is there someone you would like to nominate for a 2014 Leadership Award? Awards are being presented for the following categories:

- Clergy Nomination
- Lay Person Nomination
- Outstanding Service to the Eastern Synod
- Outstanding Service to the wider community

If you would like to nominate someone in one of the four categories, please complete and mail or fax a form by March 1, 2014. To view and print the nomination form, visit the Eastern Synod website.

Forms can be sent to:

**LEADERSHIP AWARD NOMINATIONS**

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