

Eastern Synod of the ELCIC Newsletter



June 5th, 2013

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

EVENTS:
Visit the Eastern Synod website for more info on all these events

Anglican Lutheran Worship Service

Date: Sunday, June 9, 2013 - Pentecost 3 (C)

Where: St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Kitchener

Time: 4:00 p.m.

This will be a worship service of Word and Prayer using the format of Pentecost Lessons and Hymns.

Deepening Understanding for Intercultural Ministry

June 10th – 16th

Toronto School of Theology

Luther Hostel

June 10th – 14th

Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

Fit the Music to the Word

June 14th – 15th

Sisterhood of St. John the Divine, St. John's Convent

Newly Elected Assistant to the Bishop

Dear friends,

It is my very great pleasure to announce to you that the Eastern Synod Council has elected the Rev. Douglas Reble for election as Assistant to the Bishop of the Eastern Synod for a term to August 31, 2014.

Ordained in 1984, Doug has served with great distinction in the St. James Lutheran Parish, New-Dundee/Mannheim, at Grace Lutheran Church, Eganville and most recently at Zion Lutheran Church in Stratford.

He has been an active and tireless participant in the life of the wider church, having chaired the Eastern Synod Stewardship and Candidacy Committees and the Board of Governors of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. He presently serves as a member of the ELCIC National Church Council and the Eastern Synod Examining Committee. He is the ELCIC representative to the Council of General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada and is a corresponding member of the Joint Anglican Lutheran Commission. Most notably, Doug has provided exceptional internship supervision to a large number of WLS students who had the good fortune to work with the Doug and the good people of Zion Church and who are now serving as rostered ministers of this church. In 2010 he was awarded an Eastern Synod Leadership Award in recognition of his exceptional and long-standing service to the wider church.

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Doug, in response to receiving and accepting the call to serve as Assistant to the Bishop, had this to say "I must say that after doing pastoral ministry in a parish setting for 29 years, I was more than surprised to receive this call. God has a way of surprising us. I am humbled and grateful for this opportunity to take up a new challenge in these most interesting times to be and do church. I am blessed to be working in a team ministry with Bishop Michael Pryse and Pastor Riitta Hepomaki and in partnership with the many lay, clergy, and congregations who make up our Eastern Synod family. One thing that won't change, in this new call, is the sense of privilege that it is to serve God and God's people through the church. Yes, the parish may be wider than I'm used to but the call to serve is as strong as ever."

While full particulars of staff assignments in the office will be determined at a later date, I can tell you that Doug will be taking primary responsibility for providing staff support to the Candidacy and Call Process portfolios. He anticipates accepting this call to special service and beginning work on September 15, 2013.

Please remember Doug and family in your prayers, as well as the people of Zion Stratford, as they engage this time of significant transition.

Bishop Michael J. Pryse

Prayers and Best Wishes

Rev. Donald Stroh, our beloved brother and colleague, entered into eternal life peacefully on June 2, 2013, at Freeport Health Centre of Grand River Hospital.

Canadian Lutheran World Relief - 2014 Global Encounter to the Holy Land

Join Canadian Lutheran World Relief for a rich experience that will make a permanent impression on all who participate! CLWR is inviting registrations for a Global Encounter trip to the Holy Land, from February 19 - March 3, 2014.

The encounter will provide an opportunity for participants to meet with CLWR project partners in Palestine and experience some of the religious heritage sights and rich culture of the region. There will be opportunities to spend time in the old city of Jerusalem and participate in a religious pilgrimage to other parts of the West Bank.

A deposit of \$1000 is required by June 30, 2013 to secure your position on the tour. Final costs for all accommodation, travel from your local airport and all meals is expected to not exceed \$6000 in total. Contact Tom Brook, CLWR Community Relations Director, for more information: tbrook@clwr.mb.ca or 1.800.661.2597.

Pastoral Opportunities

The following Congregations are seeking a pastor. For more information, please contact Rev Riitta Hepomaki, Assistant to the Bishop (telephone 1-877-373-5242)

Northern Conference

Trinity, Sudbury

Toronto Conference

St. Paul's, Richmond Hill

Hamilton/Niagara Conference

St. John's, Hamilton

Kitchener/Waterloo Conference

Mount Zion, Waterloo

Georgian Bay Conference

South Grey Bruce Lutheran Parish
St. Peter's, Sullivan and
St. James, Williamsford

Ministry Changes

Rev. Frank Bahr finished at St. John's, Hamilton on May 31st

Rev. Vivian Roberts will finish at Zion, Lunenburg and Grace, First South (Lunenburg Parish) on June 15th

Rev. Lowell Nussey is retiring from Christ the King, Whitby on June 30th



ELCIC **Praise**
A P P E A L

*This year for Praise Appeal Sunday our Eastern Synod goal is to raise \$55 000.00.
We kindly hope that you will help us achieve this goal!
Also remember that Praise Appeal Sunday is coming up on **June 16th, 2013!**
Thank you so much for your generous support. It doesn't go unnoticed.
Below is the letter from Bishop Michael Pryse.*

Dear friends,

I am writing to you today to thank you for your generous participation in the 2012 ELCIC Praise Appeal and to tell you about our synod's plans for 2013 appeal. In 2012 our synod put forward an exceptional effort and raised almost \$125,000! It was a magnificent response of which we can be very proud.

The theme for the 2013 Praise Appeal, "Let the peoples praise you, O God" comes from Psalm 67. The psalmist reminds us of God's graciousness, justice and bounty and calls on all of God's people to "Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you."

Through your gift to the Praise Appeal you support our ministry with international and ecumenical partners. You reach out through Lutheran World Federation as the second largest provider of refugee services in the world, serving one and a half million refugees on a daily basis. You support ministry we are doing in indigenous communities in Argentina and Peru with our partner churches. You work to achieve 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. You support the National Church in its call to Spiritual Renewal, working to deepen the discipleship of all of our members and learning new ways to reach out in faith to those around us. Your financial support of the National Church through the Praise Appeal helps us to accomplish all these things.

In March our Eastern Synod Council designated June 16, 2013, as ELCIC Praise Appeal Sunday and set a challenge goal of \$55,000 for our synod. I am asking every leader in our synod to challenge every member to make "second mile gifts" to help us achieve this goal. We certainly have the means to do so, and as was demonstrated in 2012, we also have the will!

While we would prefer that your gifts be designated through your congregation, you could also make them in direct remittance to the synod or via the Donate link at www.easternsynod.org Helpful resources in making this appeal are available on the ELCIC website www.elcic.ca/praiseappeal . Thank-you for your faithful response to this appeal. May God bless and inspire us to be generous.

Bishop Michael Pryse

COMPANIONSHIP AGREEMENT

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL)

The history of ELCJHL goes back to the first Lutheran-Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, Michael S. Alexander, consecrated on January 21, 1841, but its members and congregations are rooted in the centuries of Christian tradition in the Holy Land. The church has had strong links to Lutheran churches in Germany, but in recent years also to the Nordic countries and the United States.

The church has six congregations in Jerusalem and Ramallah, in Bethlehem, Beit-Sahour and Beit-Jala as well as in Amman. In addition to the normal congregational life – with worship, women and children ministries as well as diaconal and social services – the ELCJHL has a particular educational ministry with five schools serving more than 3000 children. The ELCJHL is also engaged in efforts to strengthen the unity among the churches, as well as in dialogue with Muslims and Jews and in a ministry of reconciliation among people in conflict. The church headquarters are located in the Redeemer's Church in the Old City of Jerusalem.

Purpose of the Partnership

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) and the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada are both part of the universal church of Jesus Christ, and share a common Evangelical-Lutheran heritage as well as an ecumenical vision. For many years there have been links between the two churches, and this agreement is one way to deepen that relationship. The purpose of our partnership is

- To strengthen Christian unity, and deepen the communion between the two churches,
- To strengthen the identity of the local church as part of the universal Church, and
- To promote the mission of our churches in their respective societies.

Commitments

To realize the purpose of the partnership we mutually commit ourselves to:

- Develop and deepen our partnership through
 - Mutual intercession for one another
 - Exchange of information
 - Mutual visits. The ELCJHL and its congregations shall be a natural home for groups from the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and vice versa.
- Engage local congregations in the partnership
- Appoint a contact person to facilitate communication and co-ordination
- Evaluate the partnership after five years.

Commitment to Prayer and Co-operation

Today we commit ourselves to pray for one another and to lift up our churches and people in intercession before God.

Following the signing of this agreement we look forward to a period of deepening our already close relationship and coming even closer to one another.

The Lutheran congregations in the Holy Land have a special place and ministry within the world wide Lutheran family. This partnership agreement is signed at a time of conflict in the Holy Land and with much suffering among its people. We therefore conclude with the words of Psalm 72 as our prayer and our common witness to the risen Lord Jesus Christ:

He will endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations.
He will be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers on the earth.
He will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no-one to help.
He will rescue them from oppression and violence,
For precious is their blood in his sight.

May His Name endure forever, may it continue as long as the sun.
All nations will be blessed through him, and they will call him blessed.
Praise be to his glorious name forever;
May the whole earth be filled with his glory.

We commit our hopes and plans for this partnership to God in prayer.