



Eastern Synod Women's Ministry



The Columbine



Spring: Time of renewal, time of reflection

Dear Sisters in Christ,

As warmer weather sweeps away colder winter winds, buds emerge and blossoms open in the nooks and crannies of gardens, on roadsides, in forests and parks. The renewal of nature's bounty can prompt reflection and even inspiration. A nice part of the Easter Season is how it blends so well with the renewal of the earth: the new buds, the spring blossoms, the leafing out of trees, and seedlings emerging from our gardens. For farmers, the Easter season coincides with planting time and a welcomed return to the fields.

And so it is with our activities in our church lives as well. Women's groups have traditionally gathered in the Spring to celebrate not only the passing of winter, but to renew acquaintances again that have been lost

over the long winter and to reflect on current issues in our churches and in society. We have three such groups in the Eastern Synod who have arranged Spring Events and they are listed in this newsletter. If you have the day free and are close to one of them, consider attending. The programs are varied and the day looks to be educational as well as entertaining.

Reflection is also a large part of our next Women's Retreat entitled "Joy in the Journey", which will take place May 24-26, 2019. The venue will be in the glorious setting of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, where we will not only see the wondrous emergence of Spring but can reflect on our theme of "Joy". See the article on page 2 for more information and mark the date on your calendars. A

website is in the works to post updates and share information about the weekend and this should be available in the Fall of this year. A bible study on "Finding Joy in the Journey" that can be used in your ladies group or congregation, among other things, will be available on the website. Registration information will be going out by late November by mail as well as email.

So take the time this Spring to savor all that God's creation has for us. And just like the earth, may you find time to renew as well as reflect in all that has been so lovingly provided for us.

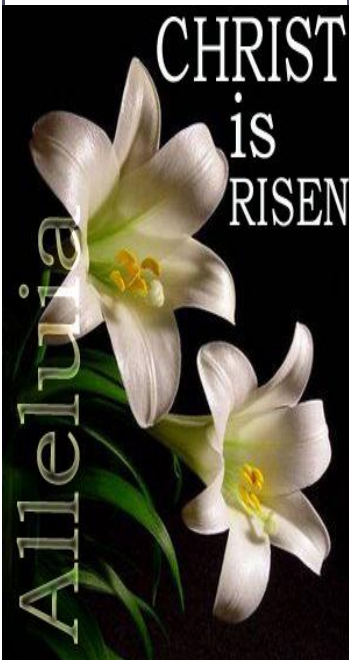
Blessings and Peace

*Cathy Calvin
Ministry Director.*



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Are you ready to find “Joy in the Journey”?

In the beautiful setting of Niagara –on the Lake, Ontario, our next Women’s Ministry Retreat will be held on **May 24—May 26, 2019**. Niagara College is the facility, its residence our home for the weekend.

Planning is still ongoing, but we have engaged a wonderful key-note speaker—**Wendy Farha**. Wendy is a gifted singer, songwriter, musician, comedian & inspirational speaker. She has been writing songs & performing since 1978. Wendy began by



playing in local coffeehouses, churches and hospitals.

A gifted communicator, Wendy shares her songs, stories and her hilarious sense of humor to entertain & inspire her audiences. Wendy’s diagnosis of clinical depression in 2000 and then breast cancer in 2009 has given her an empathy for those suffering from sickness, mental illness, and from the many difficulties we

experience in this life. She will share her music, comedy & her life story - an inspirational, faith-filled message of hope & JOY through her journey which can be



a model for our own journey !!

Our chaplain for the weekend will be Pastor Karen Kuhnert, currently serving St. James, St. Jacobs, ON. We look forward to lively and inspirational worship for the weekend lead by Karen and her worship team. Breakout sessions will include

Bible Study, Arts & Crafts; and Yoga to name a few. A full schedule of the weekend will be available in the Fall this year once all sessions are confirmed. We will offer a couple of off-site trips into the Niagara Area—including a wine tour!

Saturday evening will feature the “Red Shoe Banquet” a themed, fun-filled evening for all. What does “Red Shoes” have to do with it? You have to come and find out! Mark the dates on your calendar and start saving your pennies! Registration forms will be sent out in December, and we are planning to put a website to aid in the registration process.

We look forward to seeing you there!

May 24-26, 2019

Niagara College

Niagara-on-the Lake, ON



JOY

in the JOURNEY

Reformation Challenges Update!

For the past two years, we have been focused on two of the Reformation Challenges set out by the ELCIC for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. We began, back in 2015, the "Toonies for Trees" campaign and encouraged women's or other groups in the congregations to raise money for the planting of 500,000 trees with either Lutheran World Relief efforts or in Jordan and the Holy Land. As of the end of 2017 I am really

pleased to report that we have raised, to date, **\$5,166.20** ! Of that amount, \$2,144.00 was submitted at our HUGS event in May.

My heartfelt thanks to all those women and congregations who contributed. This money can represent over 5,000 trees that can be planted. A valiant effort for all those who participated!

I also know there were other congregations that participated and

planted trees in the areas around their churches and neighborhoods as well.

At the HUGS retreat, 50% of the offering went to the Scholarships for youth in Jordan and the Holy Land to go to the Lutheran Church sponsored school there. The amount sent was \$958.00. Again, thank you to the women at the retreat for their generosity.



Women's Seminary Auxiliary Annual Meeting

Members gathered at St. John's Lutheran Church in Waterloo on Saturday, October 21st for fun and fellowship; a little bit of education; an update on all of the great things happening at the seminary; and taking care of business. Katharina von Bora, played beautifully by Pauline Duench-Miller, even showed up to give her views on the Reformation. A great day for all in attendance.

A reminder that the annual meeting for 2018 will take place on **Saturday, September 22** at St. John's Lutheran Church. Details will be forthcoming the Fall Columbine. Enjoy some pictures from the day.



April's Spring Events

BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED
KW Women of Faith Spring Event

Saturday, April 14, 2018
St. Stephen Lutheran Church
248 Highland Road East, Kitchener, ON

Program for the day presented by the
"Women's Ministry Program Team"

- Registration: 9:30 AM
- Cost: \$15.00 (to cover cost of lunch)
- Program begins at 10:00 am til 3:00 pm
- Offering divided between Women's Ministry and The Women of Faith Scholarship Fund
- Omas Siskona of KW (Stephen Lewis Foundation, Grandmothers to Grandmothers Program) will have a display of books and crafts for purchase.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Register by April 1, 2018
See Registration form for instructions

YOU'RE INVITED TO

The Georgian Bay Women Spring Event 2018

Creating a Dementia Friendly Church Community

Saturday, April 21, 2018

At

St. John's Lutheran Church, Elmwood

9:15 a.m. Registration and coffee

10:00 a.m. Worship- Rev. Hannes Aasa

Roll Call- Monetary Gifts to be shared-
50% Alzheimer Society, 50% to Eastern Synod Women
(Make your cheque payable to Georgian Bay ELW)

11:00 a.m. Guest Speaker-- Steve Musehl
--Executive Director of Alzheimer Society of Grey Bruce

12 noon-- Soup and Sandwich Lunch

Time to shop -Sperling's Church Supply and Fair Trade Coffee, Tea etc.

Following lunch-- Sing Song, Business,

Introduce Fall Event and Announcements

\$10 per person - Everyone Welcome

Please let Grace Osterndorff 519 506 1669 or graceosterndorff@gmail.com
know how many will attend from your church by April 14th.
(Let her know if you have special dietary needs.)

Please invite your Pastor to join us!

Toronto East Women's Spring Event

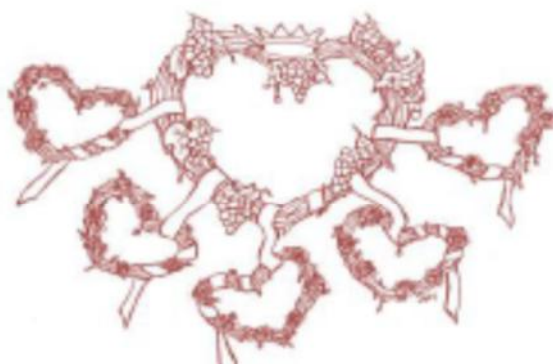


Toronto East Area Women's Gathering

"THE TIES THAT BIND"

"Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony". Colossians 3:14 (NRSV)

Epiphany



Christ the King

Peace

Faith

Christ

Saturday, June 16, 2018

Where:

**Christ the King Lutheran Church
1825 Manning Road, Whitby**



Theatrical Presentation

- 10:00am - Registration & Refreshments
- 10:30am - Opening & Theme Thoughts
- 12:00pm - Lunch & Creative Time
- 1:45pm - Closing

*Join in the fun, visit friends
and make new friendships!*



Special Music

Offering: Non-perishable food items for Deacons Cupboard Food Bank.

Registration Cost: \$5.00

Eastern Synod Women's Ministry

Send your Columbine submissions to the Editor:

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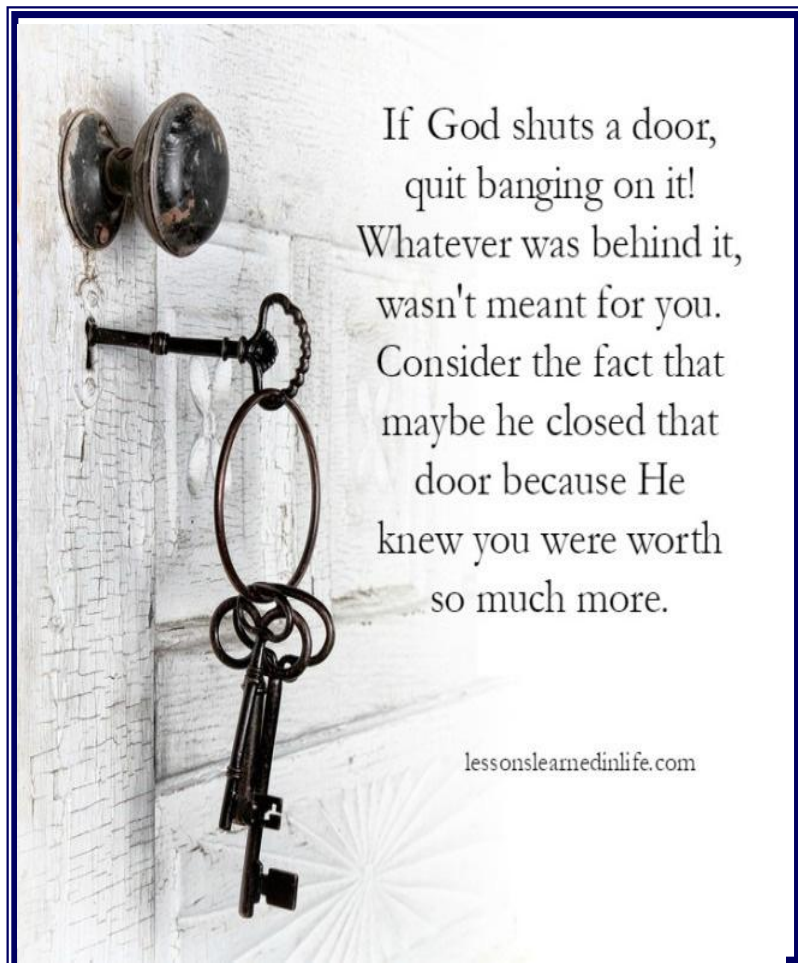
Deadline for the Fall Edition is August 31, 2018

Visit our Facebook Page

[www.facebook.com/
eswomens.ministry](http://www.facebook.com/eswomens.ministry)



Eastern Synod Women's Ministry



If God shuts a door,
quit banging on it!
Whatever was behind it,
wasn't meant for you.
Consider the fact that
maybe he closed that
door because He
knew you were worth
so much more.

lessonslearnedinlife.com

The Last Word

from "Our Daily Bread", January 27, 2018

By Amy Boucher Pye

Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart. [Ecclesiastes 5:2](#)

One day during a university philosophy class, a student made some inflammatory remarks about the professor's views. To the surprise of the other students, the teacher thanked him and moved on to another comment. When he was asked later why he didn't respond to the student, he said, "I'm practicing the discipline of not having to have the last word."

This teacher loved and honored God, and he wanted to embody a humble spirit as he reflected this love. His words remind me of another Teacher—this one from long ago, who wrote the book of Ecclesiastes. Although not addressing how to handle an angry person, he said that when we approach the Lord we should guard our steps and "go near to listen" rather than being quick with our mouths and hasty in our hearts. By doing so we acknowledge that God is the Lord and we are those whom He has created (Ecclesiastes 5:1-2).

Lord, teach me how to pray and how to listen.

How do you approach God? If you sense that your attitude could use some adjustment, why not spend some time considering the majesty and greatness of the Lord? When we ponder His unending wisdom, power, and presence, we can feel awed by His overflowing love for us. With this posture of humility, we too need not have the last word.

Lord God, I want to honor You and I bow before You now in silence.

Teach me how to pray and how to listen.

Carefully chosen words honor God.