



# Eastern Synod Newsletter

[www.easternsynod.org](http://www.easternsynod.org)



Feb 13, 2020  
Volume 93

At our 2018 Synod Assembly delegates engaged in some challenging conversations and exercises that identified how racialized differences, and the lack thereof, impacts the life of our church and its congregations. It accentuated the need for a better understanding of who we are as a predominantly white church and how we can engage and welcome a more diverse group of people in a good way.

In support of the ELCIC's strategic goal to foster Reconciled Relationships, the Synod Assembly mandated the establishment of a Racial Justice Advisory Committee to lead us in this important work. The following article highlights some of the actions currently underway to do just that. In addition, we are recognizing February as Black History Month by highlighting some ex-

traordinary men and women who have contributed much to our past and present history both in Canada and the United States.

I encourage you to participate in the online discussion, "PROJECT STORY" and, if you are able, to consider joining our visit to the Buxton, Ontario Historic Site, one of Canada's first Underground Railroad communities that became home and refuge for many of the first slaves to escape the U.S. southern slave owners.

We all have much to learn. Please stay tuned for further news and resources that might assist us in becoming a community of believers that better resembles Christ's body in all its fulsome diversity!

## INTRODUCING PROJECT STORY

Project Story is an ELCIC Eastern Synod Racial Justice Advisory Committee initiative that aims to hear the stories and share the experiences of the voices in our church around race, ethnicity and culture.

Join in the conversation using [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and our [website](#).

Using #ESProjectStory and [prompts provided on our website](#) we're raising the level of engagement in these discussions through you!

Send in your submissions and share the invitation widely!

**The Eastern Synod Racial Justice Advisory Committee  
has established a website.**

<https://rjaceastern.wixsite.com/home>

Like us on Facebook  
[ESynodELCIC](#)

Follow us on Twitter  
[@ESynodECIC](#)

and Instagram [easternsynod](#)

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

*\*... "Black History Month is a time to remember and reflect on important people and events of the past-and the present-and to continue to work toward a better, fairer future."*

The commemoration of Black History Month dates back to 1926, when Harvard-educated African American historian, Carter G. Woodson, proposed setting aside a time devoted to honour the accomplishments of African Americans and, now, includes African Canadians and African descendants around the world. Originally, it was to heighten awareness of Black History in the U.S. For many, it is an opportunity to learn and acknowledge the contributions to the world by African descendants which is not often captured or taught in the annals of universal history.

Our feature this month is, Viola Desmond, businesswoman and civil rights activist in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Her picture appears on the Canadian \$10 banknote released on November 19, 2018. Read more about Viola Desmond at:

[www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/viola-desmond](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/viola-desmond)

### **\*\*Other notable and famous Black Canadians include:**

**Willie Eldon O'Ree**, CM ONB (born October 15, 1935) is a Canadian former professional ice hockey player, known best for being the first black player in the National Hockey League. O'Ree played as a winger for the Boston

Bruins. Often referred to as the "Jackie Robinson of ice hockey" due to breaking the black colour barrier in the sport, and has stated publicly that he had met Jackie Robinson twice in his younger years. He was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in November 2018.

Also in 2018, the NHL instituted the annual Willie O'Ree Community Hero Award in his honour, to "recognize the individual who has worked to make a positive impact on his or her community, culture or society to make people better through hockey."

**Ferguson Arthur "Fergie" Jenkins** CM (born December 13, 1942) is a Canadian former professional baseball pitcher and coach. He played Major League Baseball for the Philadelphia Phillies, Chicago Cubs, Texas Rangers and Boston Red Sox (1965–1983). Jenkins played the majority of his career for the Cubs.

**Lincoln MacCauley Alexander**, PC CC OOnt CD QC (January 21, 1922 – October 19, 2012) was a Canadian lawyer who became the first black Member of Parliament in the House of Commons, the first black federal Cabinet Minister (serving as federal Minister of Labour) and the first black Chair of the Worker's .

**Michaëlle Jean** PC CC CMM COM CD( born September 6, 1957) is a Canadian stateswoman and former journalist who was the third Secretary-General of the Organisation internationale and first Black Governor General of Canada.

### **The first black hockey team from**

### **St. Catharines, Ontario, the St. Catharines Orioles.**

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/hockey/nhl/the-mostly-lost-history-of-the-st-catharines-orioles/>

### **\*\*Notable Historic Black African-Americans Include:**

**Harriet Tubman** (code name: "Moses") born into slavery , was a famous abolitionist renowned for her exploits in guiding her fellow slaves to freedom in the north on the Underground Railroad.

**George Washington Carver** (January, 1864-January 5, 1943); born into slavery, taught at Tuskegee Institute and became one of the most prominent Agricultural scientists and inventors of his time.

**Madam C. J. Walker** (December 23, 1867-May 25, 1919); African-American entrepreneur, Philanthropist and political and social activist.

**Rosa Parks** (February 4, 1913-October 24, 2005); was a civil rights activist who refused to surrender her seat to a white passenger on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama.

**Martin Luther King Jr.** (1929-1968); the most important voice of the American civil rights movement. He was famous for using nonviolent resistance to overcome injustice, and he never got tired of trying to end segregation laws. He also did all he could to make people realize that "all men are created equal." In 1964 he received the Nobel Peace Prize. He was assassinated at the age of 39 years old. *Submitted by Pat Lovell*

Eastern Synod of the ELCIC  
RACIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PRESENTS A WALK THROUGH HISTORY:

COME EXPERIENCE 150 YEARS OF A UNIQUE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD  
COMMUNITY AT BUXTON HISTORIC SITE & MUSEUM IN NORTH BUXTON, ON

21975 Ad Shadd Rd  
North Buxton, ON N0P 1Y0  
Canada  
[View Map](#)



**Join us as we tour this remarkable  
Canadian landmark!**

**Date: Saturday, April 25, 2020**

**Destination:** Buxton National Historic Site &  
Museum

Tour includes return bus ride, soul food lunch and museum  
fee (Gluten free option available)

Bus leaves from **Mount Zion Lutheran Church,**  
29 Westmount Rd., Waterloo, ON at **8:30 am sharp!**  
Lunch and tour begins at **12:00 Noon.**

**Costs:** All inclusive - \$45.00 per person  
Lunch and museum fee only (if driving) - \$30.00 per  
person

**Please register and pay by March 16, 2020**

Click on the link below:

**[Footsteps to Freedom](#)**

**Questions or more information:**

**Pastor Joanna Miller: [joanna.e.miller@gmail.com](mailto:joanna.e.miller@gmail.com)**

**Or: 519-754-2434**

### **Tell us Your Story**

Members of the ELCIC Vision Statement Task Force are working to excavate stories of our faith, life and identity with hopes of gaining new clarity into our work and eventual recommendations. We are seeking your input as we discern together who we are as a church and what God is calling us to be for the future. We want to hear from you. Tell us your story by engaging in an exercise of imagination. We hope you can take a moment to explore the information gathering questions in our online survey <https://form.jotform.com/200365842139050>) and offer your feedback. These questions can be answered individually or in a group. Our hope is to have stories gathered from across the ELCIC - coast to coast to coast. Please note the deadline for responses is March 31, 2020.

### **Diaconal Sunday - February 23**

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) observes the last Sunday in February as Diaconal Sunday, to celebrate and lift up the witness expressed through service (diakonia). Through baptism, all Christians are called to share God's word and to serve our neighbours in Christ's name. It is also a day to recognize and give thanks to God for those who served in public ministry as diaconal ministers. For more information, [please click here.](#)

#### **Transitions**

**Rev Jeff Smith** retired from All Saints, Guelph

#### **Interims**

**Rev Stephen Gross** begins at All Saints, Guelph

### **Upcoming Events**

Bishop's Spiritual Retreat for laypersons  
April 17- 19, 2020

175th Anniversary Celebration  
St. Peter's Heidelberg  
Sunday, May 3, 2020

Generous Giving Practicum  
June 22- 24, 2020

For more information and to see further events click [here.](#)

### **A Cappella Sunday - First Sunday in Lent**

What exactly is A Cappella Sunday?

[Click here to find out.](#)



## **ELFEC Seeks Executive Director**

Due to the pending retirement of our incumbent Executive Director, our Board of Directors is searching for an experienced, dynamic leader who can guide the organization through its next phase of growth.

ELFEC is a faith-based charitable foundation based in Kitchener, Ontario. We have two primary program areas: responsible investing and gift planning.

Interested persons are invited to find more information and submit an application through the [Charity Village website.](#) The application deadline is March 1, 2020, with the successful candidate expected to begin employment on June 1.

<p style="text-align: center;">ST.PETERS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p>	<p>Please join us at St. Peters Lutheran Church Heidelberg, as we gather together to celebrate the 175th anniversary of our church.</p> <p>It will be a great year filled with celebration, with various musical performers on the second Sunday of every month.</p> <p>The main anniversary event will be held on Sunday, May 3, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>We hope to see many former friends and families at this special event to join us in praising the Lord for his many blessings at St. Peters.</p> <p>In Christ Jesus,</p>
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**Thank You For Your Generous Offerings in 2019!**

This report provides a pre-audit summary of offerings for various church-wide causes that were remitted to the synod office by congregations and individuals throughout 2019. In next month's report, *"The Synod's 2019 Financial Story"*, I will provide a more comprehensive financial picture of the past year, including operating fund details (e.g. income, expenditures on synodical ministries and the resulting surplus/deficit) as well as other financial highlights.

Although from time to time we may tend to bemoan our apparent lack of financial and other resources, Bishop Michael and others have reminded us that we are the wealthiest Christians who have ever lived. Once again, as we look back on 2019, it is evident that we as a synod have so much for which to be grateful!

In total, offerings received through the synod office were approximately the same as those received in the previous year. However, when looking more closely at specific designations, as usual, there were a few "ups and downs" in 2019 compared to 2018.

On behalf of the Eastern Synod Council, **"Thank You"** to you, the members and friends of the 182 congregations that comprise our synod, for your generous gifts over the past year. Through this partnership, you fund a variety of vibrant and vital ministries within the Eastern Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, thus extending the reach of your congregation's mission across Canada and the world.

**Benevolence Offerings**

General Benevolence offerings represent the primary source of funding for the synod's operating budget. In 2019 these offerings increased by almost 3%, a most welcome, upward blip when viewed in the context of the more usual year-over-year declines that have formed the overall trend over much of the past quarter century.

*Cont'd on page 6*

## Canadian Lutheran World Relief Offerings

Offerings to Canadian Lutheran World Relief consist of gifts to general/undesignated CLWR and gifts to CWLR special appeals/projects. Unfortunately, the \$13,000 increase in offerings to CLWR special appeals/projects was more than offset by a decrease of \$22,000 in CLWR general/undesignated giving. As a result, total offerings for Canadian Lutheran World Relief decreased by slightly more than 3% in 2019 compared to the previous year.

## Offerings to Other Eastern Synod and ELCIC Ministries

2019 remittances to other designated ministries were generally lower compared to the previous year (refer to "Summary of Total Offerings Received" section below for details). These declines included offerings designated for the ELCIC Reformation Challenge and Martin Luther University College, results that aren't overly surprising given that the major appeals that were initiated several years ago in these areas are now winding down.

## Summary of Total Offerings Received

Offerings to all causes decreased by slightly more than \$10,000 (-0.7%) in 2019 compared to the previous year. Although we would obviously prefer to see an increase, I would suggest that we view these relatively flat results as positive news in light of the significant financial challenges that a number of congregations are facing.

Giving to various designated causes was as follows:

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Regular Benevolence	\$1,393,315	\$1,430,418	2.7%
CLWR Undesignated	\$224,170	\$202,383	-9.7%
CLWR Special Appeals	\$20,202	\$34,088	68.7%
ELCIC Global Mission	\$9,412	\$9,028	-4.1%
ELCIC Reformation Challenge	\$16,418	\$115	-99.3%
ELCIC Praise Appeal	\$3,263	\$2,775	-15.0%
Camps	\$9,947	\$10,720	7.8%
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$1,553	\$4,585	195.2%
Martin Luther Univ College	\$27,654	\$19,790	-28.4%
Other Misc Designated Gifts	\$63,732	\$44,151	-30.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,769,666</b>	<b>\$1,758,053</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>

A detailed listing, [2019 Congregational Remittance Report](#) showing amounts that were remitted by each congregation to each of these causes is posted on the synod web site.

May God continue to bless all of the church-wide ministries that are made possible through our offerings to these most worthy causes!

Keith Myra  
Eastern Synod Treasurer



# LUTHER

February 2020

## Martin Luther's impact

Luther's faculty and emeritus professors are delivering public lectures on Thursdays throughout February. RIM Park, 1:30–3:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$8. Details available at [Shifting Paradigms: Martin Luther's Enduring Global Impact](#). We will make audio recordings available for free online. Email [stayconnected@luther.wlu.ca](mailto:stayconnected@luther.wlu.ca) for link.

## Singing With Our Neighbours

[Inshallah](#), the 140+ voice community choir based at Luther, presents Singing With Our Neighbours at 3 p.m. on March 29, at Knox Presbyterian Church in Waterloo. We will share details as they are confirmed.



## Interfaith harmony

We celebrated an interfaith gathering in Keffer Memorial Chapel as our way of participating in the United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week. Thanks to all who brought a piece of their tradition and shared it with the assembly! View more photos on [Facebook](#) and [Flickr](#). More information on the [WIHW website](#).



## Faith and public life

Former Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne shared how her faith and United Church work influences her life in politics. View photos on [Facebook](#) and [Flickr](#). Stay tuned for details on how to access an online recording of her talk. In her honour, a donation was made to a [Delton Glebe Counselling Centre](#) fund to help pay for counselling for refugees.

## Racism and bigotry

Our thanks to Waterloo Regional Police Service Const. Andre Johnson (photo) and his colleague Const. Del Plummer for their presentation during our recent Abrahamic Faiths Forum. Also thanks to Rev. Jenn Hind-Urquhart, minister at Emmanuel United Church,



Waterloo, for sharing about her congregation's encounters with homophobia, bigotry and violence. See photo albums on [Facebook](#) and [Flickr](#).

## Stay Connected!

In addition to [Luther News](#) (this monthly bulletin you are reading) we publish the quarterly [Luther Alumni News](#) and the occasional [Donor Update](#) bulletin. To subscribe, contact us at [stayconnected@luther.wlu.ca](mailto:stayconnected@luther.wlu.ca)

## Worship with us at Luther

You are welcome to worship with us in throughout the school year during Open Door on Wednesdays at 5 p.m. The [thirdspace](#) community gathers Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

*Vol. 3 Issue 2 Luther is a collection of news from Martin Luther University College in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.*  
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