



Eastern Synod Newsletter

www.easternsynod.org



Sept 17, 2020
Volume 99

Welcome to our Newest Congregation!

Peace Christian Church: A Lutheran Fellowship, of Chatham, Ontario, one of the newest congregations of the Eastern Synod, celebrated "Membership Sunday" on August 23. The outdoor Service at the home of Daniel Whittal and Rachel Schwarz allowed family groups to keep physical distance. Interim pastor Paul Sodtke presided over the celebration which received one youth and two adults by Affirmation of Baptism, and



then invited the entire assembly to renew their commitment.

The Service was the culmination of a series of steps, in which the

congregation became incorporated as a not-for-profit, applied for charitable status, adopted a constitution that was later approved by Synod Council, and was formally accepted as a congregation of the Eastern Synod. Confirmation instruction plus a series of online studies about the basics of Lutheranism were also part of the preparation.

Following the Service and lunch, the first official congregational meeting as an ELCIC congregation was convened. People who wished signed on as charter members, and a Church Council was elected. We are a small but enthusiastic group, and grateful for the support of the bishop and the Eastern Synod Council. *Submitted by Rev Paul Sodtke.*



Like us on Facebook
[ESynodELCIC](https://www.facebook.com/ESynodELCIC)

Follow us on Twitter
[@ESynodECIC](https://twitter.com/ESynodECIC)

and Instagram [easternsynod](https://www.instagram.com/easternsynod)

\$41,000 Donation Boosts August Benevolence Offerings

Financial Update (as of August 31st, 2020)

Thanks to a very generous donation of \$41,000 from the windup of a private foundation, benevolence offerings received by the Synod office during the month of August increased by 7%, compared to August, 2019. (Without this extraordinary one-time gift, there would have been a 30% decrease.) Over the first eight months of the year, the Year to Date offerings have decreased by over 5% compared to the same period in 2019.

Offerings designated for Canadian Lutheran World Relief have continued to show a decrease. The Year to Date offerings have declined on a much more significant scale, with August results showing a 27% decline.

As the months go by and we still feel uncertain as to when this pandemic will end, we are not surprised with these negative results. Given this uncertainty, we still feel very grateful for the many members and congregations who are continuing to help fund synodical and other church-wide ministries by faithfully remitting their offerings on a regular basis. These ministries that you support through your offerings have always been important, and as the months during this pandemic stretch on, they are even more critical.

For details, refer to [Financial Update](#) on the synod website.

Upcoming Zoom Info Sessions

As congregations prepare to and/or begin resuming in-person worship, we would like to invite you to join us for another series of ZOOM Info Sessions. Similar to the sessions offered in August, this series will offer a combination of small group and large group discussion. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and share ideas/resources. Registration will be limited to one Rostered Minister and Council Member per congregation. Please pre-register by choosing your preferred session below:

[September 28 @ 1pm EST](#)

[September 29 @ 10am EST](#)

[September 30 @ 6:30pm EST](#)

[October 1 @ 1pm EST](#)

Mission Grant Application Deadline Extended

In light of the fact that most of our congregations are currently consumed with the process of navigating their way back to gathering physically for worship. It is our belief, that a deadline extension will allow some breathing room for congregational leaders.

Also, applications for funding of electronic equipment will now be considered.

The new deadline for Mission Grant applications will be October 30, 2020.

[Click here for more details.](#)

The deadline for YAYA grants remains the same, September 30, 2020.

[View video here.](#)

[Click here for more information.](#)

Rev Hilla Lahtinen, Director of Worship Ministries would like to share the following resource link:

<https://congregationsong.org/guide-hymnals-at-home/?fbclid=IwAR0KFA76GsSzJ2cv4RrLmTyjaG6iHMnKKesp163d9oVVsl4RRx-7VqMnBTA>

Would you like to be part of the Bishops' Company for Mission – October, 2020.

Please sign up for one of the sessions below. A Zoom link will be sent to you along with instructions as to how to join online. See you in October!

Oct 14 (7 pm) - <https://form.jotform.com/202255272457050>

Oct 21 (1 pm) - <https://form.jotform.com/202255237812248>

Oct 31 (1 pm) - <https://form.jotform.com/202256122620239>

Questions? Check out this video for more details. <https://easternsynod.org/bishops-company/>



LUTHER

September 2020



EVENTS

Welcome back to the school year! Although we mostly won't be able to gather in person for the foreseeable future (except for thirdspace_ worship), we invite you to join us for many online events. Weekday offerings include Open Door (details below) and the midday Contemplative Pause series, which explores various themes. For details on these and other events, visit luther.wlu.ca and scroll to the bottom of the page.

Open Door

Our weekly Open Door communion services will run Wednesdays from 5 –5:40 p.m.

Link: bit.ly/LutherODFall2020

Passcode: 867295

Meeting # 886 1517 4573

The last Wednesday of each month will be a non-communion solidarity gathering — themes include Indigenous/reconciliation, racism, violence against women.

Glebe Breakfast

Join us (online) for the 5th annual [Delton Glebe Counselling Centre](#) Breakfast on the theme: Grief, loss, ritual and hope in the time of COVID. Panellists: Susan Cadell, PhD (grief and loss); Rev. John Lougheed (rituals); Matthew Bailey-Dick, PhD (hope). Tickets cost \$50 each or \$360 for group of eight. [Register here.](#)

Sunday worship

Connect with the [thirdspace](#) community on Sunday mornings. Rev. Anne Anderson leads liturgy for the alternative worshipping community starting at 10:30 a.m. Participate in person at Luther (outdoors during September), or on [Facebook](#), or rough the Zoom video chat platform. To join through Zoom, please email Anne.

Vol. 3 Issue 8 Luther is a collection of news from Martin Luther University College in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. Website: luther.wlu.ca Events: Dorinda Kruger Allen dkrugerallen@luther.wlu.ca Stories: Mirko Petricevic, mpe-tricevic@luther.wlu.ca

In-person counselling

The [Delton Glebe Counselling Centre](#) has resumed in-person counselling sessions. Call 519.884.3305 or email glebecentre@wlu.ca. If in crisis, please call 1.844.437.3247

Friendship Gardens

This past summer the Congregational Council of St. John's, Petawawa applied for, and received, a grant from Renfrew County to construct a Community Garden at St. John's. The application was for 12 raised planter boxes, fence enclosed, located behind our church building. Our Property Committee has done a wonderful job this summer of constructing these gardens and the fencing – not a small task. Because of the lateness of the grant application, we planted 4 of the 12 boxes this summer.

It is our intention to grow vegetables in these gardens in the coming years, and to donate them to our local food banks and others who may appreciate receiving fresh vegetables during growing season. We would also like to integrate the gardens into our Youth and Sunday School programs. At least a few of these planter boxes will be planted and cared for by our youth and Sunday School participants.

On Sunday, September 6, we held our first service since March, an outdoor service. Here we blessed our Friendship Gardens and presented the first fruits of our gardens to a representative from the Petawawa Pantry Food Bank.



Individuals present behind the vegetable table are (l-r) Rev. Albert Romkema (Pastor), Terry Hampel (Property Chair), Wade Green (Council Chair), Anne Smith (Friendship Garden Committee), Don Bunn (Grant Writer).