



Eastern Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Eastern Synod Newsletter

www.easternsynod.org



Apr 14, 2021
Volume 106

Easter Around the Synod



L- Zion,
Phillipsburg

R- St. Peter's,
Alice



R- Augsburg,
Brampton

Below- St. Peter,
St. John &
Resurrection,
Ottawa

Below Right-
St. Timothy's,
Pembroke



St. Peter's Lutheran Church Property Redevelopment Will Include Affordable Housing

St. Peter's Lutheran Church congregation recently voted to alter their land holding in support of redeveloping their property at 49 Queen St. N, Kitchener. The re-developed downtown Kitchener site will include up to 40 single, affordable housing apartments on the second and third floors of their existing building. The church's distinctive sanctuary with stained-glass windows and soaring ceiling will undergo renovations but remain in its historic location. This project will continue St. Peter's legacy as a centre of spiritual and community well-being in the Waterloo Region.

"I commend St. Peter's congregation for embarking on this courageous and faith-fueled partnership to bless and serve our neighbours! This is a timely and much needed expression of contemporary discipleship that will extend blessing upon blessing within our community," says Bishop Michael Pryse of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

The need for affordable housing became real for the downtown congregation when they discovered a family of three living in an air vent behind their building. "Three people experiencing homelessness were living directly behind our altar as we worshipped in comfort," says Pastor Mark Ehlebracht.

Founded in 1863 to meet the spiritual needs of German Lutherans who migrated to Kitchener from Europe, St. Peter's has a long history of collaboration with the community. After dialogue with a variety of community partners, the congregation decided to collaborate with Indwell on this supportive housing project.

Indwell is a Christian charity that creates affordable housing communities for people seeking health, wellness and belonging. They serve people experiencing poverty due to a disability, often impacted by mental health, and sometimes complicated by addictions. Founded in 1974, Indwell has been constructing new affordable housing since 2006. They have buildings across Southwestern Ontario in London, Hamilton, Woodstock, Simcoe, and new projects in Kitchener and Mississauga. Indwell is currently repurposing the former St. Mark's Lutheran church property beside Grand River Hospital to create 43 apartments.

"People speak very highly of Indwell as a provider of supportive housing. We hear that they engage meaningfully with their partners, the community, and the municipality as they plan their projects," says Mayor Berry Vrbanovic, who is excited about the St. Peter's project in the heart of Kitchener.

Work towards this new vision for St. Peter's ministry will begin this spring, with design, costings, and community engagement. Once an implementation strategy is in place, construction could begin in 2022. Indwell will implement passive house standards to curtail greenhouse gas emissions and reduce utility costs—savings that are passed on to tenants. St. Peter's and Indwell would operate their programs independently, but envision shared spaces including a community kitchen, programming and social facilities, and an enhanced outdoor courtyard at the heart of the project.

Indwell will manage the affordable housing

units and provide mental health and practical supports to the tenants. "Loving our neighbours as ourselves is fundamentally at the heart of our faith, and of our organization's culture," says Jeff Neven, Executive Director at Indwell. "We are inspired by St. Peter's overwhelming decision to reach out in love to their neighbours, to practically invest in sharing life with people right next door who may have been homeless. We're excited to be taking these next steps towards realizing this vision together."

"Almost 6,000 people are on the list for affordable housing in the region...Government can't provide for this need on our own. We need to create significant partnerships with the private sector and non-profit organizations like Indwell and St. Peter's Church to solve this problem," says Regional Councillor Jim Erb.

"St. Peter's has been blessed to be part of downtown Kitchener for more than 158 years. This redevelopment project is rooted in our commitment to continue giving back to the amazing Waterloo Region community," says St. Peter's Pastor Mark Ehlebracht. The project reinforces the church's motto "there is a place for you here" as they continue widening their welcome to the community.

Sandra Reimer

Below: Found on the back wall at St. Peter's.



OH POOP

IT'S WORSE THAN I THOUGHT!

HOW MY SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT CREATED POSITIVE CHANGE

STELLA BOWLES (M.S.M., O.N.S.) IS A 17 YEAR OLD STUDENT FROM BRIDGEWATER, NOVA SCOTIA. HER SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT PROMPTED A **15.7 MILLION DOLLAR CLEANUP OF THE LAHAVE RIVER**. SHE NOW PRESENTS AT MANY CONFERENCES AND EVENTS, WITH THE HOPE OF INSPIRING OTHER YOUTH TO ACT FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT



REGISTER

[BIT.LY/OHPOOP](https://bit.ly/ohpoop)

APRIL 20

7PM ADT 6PM EDT
5PM CDT 4PM MDT
3PM PDT

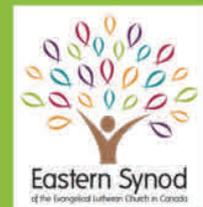


AN EARTH WEEK WEBINAR TALKING ABOUT HOW...

...YOUNG PEOPLE CAN ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE!



THIS EVENT IS CO-SPONSORED BY
THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA
AND
THE EASTERN SYNOD





June 25-26, 2021

(Virtual Meeting Format)

Visit the Assembly Page

Late Registrations Are Still Being Accepted for the Eastern Synod Assembly

[Click here for delegate registration.](#)

If you would like to view the proceedings via Livestream you can register as a visitor– you will be able to watch and listen but you not be able to interact with the proceedings.

[Click here for visitor registration.](#)



One of our church members has a pair of ladies' Organmaster shoes to give away: barely worn- navy blue women's 8.5 medium.

They have been spray sanitized and bagged to ensure safe pickup for the recipient. You can reach her at [this email address.](#)

Ministry Opportunities

- Redeemer, North Bay, ON
- Trinity, Walkerton, ON
- St. Paul's, Magnetawan, ON
- Christ the King, Whitby, ON
- Christ, Peterborough, ON

- St. Matthew, Welland ON & First, Port Colborne, ON

For more information contact Rev Douglas Reble, Assistant to the Bishop dreble@elcic.ca

The Church of St. John the Evangelist, Elora invites applications for the position of Director of Music. For the full posting please [click here.](#)

SAVE THE DATE!

“OK..... Now What: Discerning A Path Forward”
Co-hosted by the Eastern Synod and Martin Luther University College

June 1, 2021 : 6:30 - 8:30 pm EST

Discerning... and dreaming.... About a post-pandemic church!

SONGS FOR THE HOLY OTHER

HYMNS AFFIRMING THE LGBTQIA2S+ COMMUNITY

An online hymn festival
Sunday, April 18, 2021
2:30-4:30pm EDT

Hymns and stories with Cedar Klassen Sherman Hesselgrave and colleagues

For more information or to register, email hymnsocietyso@gmail.com



LUTHER

APRIL 2021



Rev. Dr. Kayko Driedger Hesslein



Cláudio Carvalhaes



El Jones

THE POWER OF WORDS

The impact of **worship language** on the marginalized

April 29 & 30

details & registration at bit.ly/Dubrick2021

Making worship more inclusive

We are pleased to offer a lineup of powerful speakers for this year's Dubrick Summer Institute for Ministry exploring the impact of worship language on the marginalized.

The **Rev. Dr. Kayko Driedger Hesslein** (PhD), is a rostered pastor with the ELCIC who holds the position of Schmieder Fellow at the Lutheran Theological

Seminary, Saskatoon.

Cláudio Carvalhaes is an associate professor of worship at Union Theological Seminary, in New York City. A native Brazilian, he is the editor of *Liturgies from Below*. **El Jones** is a spoken word poet, an educator, journalist, and community activist living in African Nova Scotia. Date: April 29, 30. Fee: \$40. Register at bit.ly/Dubrick2021

Call for racial justice prompts rethink of social media

The death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police in May 2020 prompted widespread street demonstrations, and a corporate advertising [boycott](#) of Facebook due to the platform's role in spreading hate and extremism. We immediately stopped advertising on Facebook and

Instagram, and researched alternative platforms for our community. In late December, as a pilot project, we began posting more regularly on flickr, which we had been using since 2018. Visit our [flickr](#) page where you will be able to like, comment, and share our posts.



ADHD workshops

[The Delton Glebe Counselling Centre](#) is holding two workshops on identifying and remediating signs and symptoms of ADHD. Speaker: Jennifer Tivuluk RP. Dates: May 13, 14; 9 a.m. to noon. Register for one or both days. Day 1: Depression and anxiety. What is ADHD? How to recognize symptoms and differentiate it from other conditions. Day 2: Remediation and case studies. Each session counts toward two competency hours. [Click here to register.](#)



Event recordings online

View recordings of our recent virtual events online. [Indigenous Health Determinants](#): What has COVID-19 taught us about the determinants of health for First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities and how are we called to respond? Also, [Food Sovereignty](#) for First Nations, Métis, & Inuit Peoples on Turtle Island.

Vol. 4 Issue 4 *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 mpetricevic@luther.wlu.ca

Stay connected

To check out all the ways you can stay in the loop with what's happening at Luther, check out our [Stay Connected web page.](#)



Redeemer Lutheran
TORONTO, ONTARIO
*Finding **Life** in Community*

**Community Series:
Food and Land Justice
in a time of Climate Crisis**

Join us for our First Event in the Series:
May 11, 2021 - 7:00 PM

**RESISTING EMPIRE
WITH GENEROUS ABUNDANCE**

*Land and Food
in the Biblical Story*

THE BIBLICAL STORY DEMONSTRATES HOW THE PROBLEMS OF FOOD AND LAND INJUSTICE ARE DEEPLY ROOTED IN HISTORY. THIS SAME STORY PROVIDES STRATEGIES FOR IMAGINATIVELY CREATING A COMMUNITY OF ABUNDANCE, WHERE ALL CREATURES, PLANT, ANIMAL AND HUMAN, CAN FLOURISH.

Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat is a permaculture farmer, writer and activist. She teaches Biblical Studies part-time at Trinity College, University of Toronto, and is the co-author (with Brian Walsh) of *Romans Disarmed: Resisting Empire, Demanding Justice* and *Colossians Remixed: Subverting the Empire*. She speaks widely on issues connected to creation, land and food justice, and lives on a permaculture farm in Cameron, Ontario, with a fluctuating number of people and animals.



<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/resisting-empire-with-generous-abundance-land-and-food-in-biblical-story-tickets-150307356349>