



Eastern Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Eastern Synod Newsletter

www.easternsynod.org



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Volume 114

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Join The Challenge
with our Racial Justice Committee

Dear friends,

We challenge all members of the Synod to engage with Black History Month. Every week, during the month of February, you will receive resources included with your weekly Synod Newsletter, that will help you. However, you might choose to read a book by a Black author, watch a documentary or video, listen to a podcast, etc.... then, discuss it with someone - tell your pastor what you learned! Ask your pastor what they are doing this month to engage with Black History Month!

Send an email to our [Racial Justice Committee](#) about your thoughts or whatever comments you may have. Whatever you do, just do something! We would love to hear from you!

This week, we encourage you to explore the theme of EARLY HISTORY. To begin, you may consider learning about the following areas:

Septimius Severis, Roman Emperor

Saint Augustine

City of Oakville

Odera Igbokwe, Artist

Jody Absy, Artist

For more information and links to all the weekly resources, please visit the [Black History Month](#) page on the Eastern Synod website.

2021 Eastern Synod Offerings Remain Steady During Pandemic

Eastern Synod congregations were no strangers to the continued uncertainty of 2021. Our church doors continued to open and close throughout the year which had many pivoting between virtual and in person worship. With pandemic routines continuing into another year, many felt even wearier and wondered if this up and down year would ever end. Within the Eastern Synod office, we realized we needed to continue to rally together to maintain our support to congregations, just as they have so faithfully supported us. We were extremely grateful to receive the generous financial gifts that our congregations provided, especially considering they were edging towards two years of challenges themselves. There is light at the end of this pandemic tunnel. Here's hoping that by the time 2023 rolls around we no longer have words in our vocabulary like 'stay at home order', 'outbreak', 'social distancing', and 'self quarantine'.

Benevolence Offerings

General Benevolence represents the primary source of funding for the Synod's operating budget. Although total benevolence offerings received by the Synod in 2021 declined by 5% compared to the previous year, 3% of the decline was attributable to a large one-time donation in 2020 from the windup of a private foundation. We are thankful for the amazing support of those individuals and congregations who continued providing to the Synod in such an uncertain time. We feel truly blessed!

Canadian Lutheran World Relief Offerings

Offerings to the Canadian Lutheran World Relief organization consist of gifts for general/undesignated causes and gifts for special appeals/projects. For the year ending 2021, remittances to CLWR general causes were flat compared to the previous year while gifts to CLWR special appeals increased significantly, due primarily to the floods in British Columbia, the crisis in Haiti and the Myanmar appeals.

Offerings to Other Eastern Synod and ELCIC Ministries

As is shown in the table below, most of the remittances to the remaining ministries increased in 2021 over 2020.

Summary of Total Offerings Received in 2021 (Pre-Audit)

	2020	2021	% Change
Regular Benevolence	\$ 1,369,044	\$ 1,303,252	-5%
CLWR Undesignated	\$ 166,342	\$ 165,648	0%
CLWR Special Appeals	\$ 9,382	\$ 47,010	401%
ELCIC Global Mission	\$ 6,231	\$ 12,536	101%
ELCIC Other	\$ 410	\$ 470	15%
Outdoor Ministries -Camps	\$ 10,571	\$ 4,643	-56%
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$ 300	\$ 2,295	665%
Martin Luther University College	\$ 13,240	\$ 18,600	40%
Other Misc. Designated Gifts	\$ 39,797	\$ 47,248	19%
Total	\$ 1,615,317	\$ 1,601,702	-1%

A detailed listing, [2021 Congregational Remittance Report](#) showing the breakdown of each congregation's remittances is posted on the Eastern Synod website.

Thank you for your generous support of the Synod. We are truly grateful! Without you, we would not be able to maintain and grow our ministries. We pray that everyone stays safe and realizes that we will get through this challenging time together as a team.

Kim Marcy,
Director, Finance and Administration

While in Glasgow, they were gathered in daily partnership with 28 other LWF Youth Delegates who participated in the COP online from around the world.

Together these diverse delegates provided invaluable insights, research and action from their home countries.

Together these international young adults built ecumenical bridges and pushed political interventions so that global leaders would commit to higher ambition for environmental targets in support of our collective well being, and specifically more vulnerable nations and people.

Be encouraged to watch the recording of this Zoom event. Please share this article and the recording with people of all ages in your congregation. In addition, sign up now for the February 19th Zoom and learn from Jeff Buhse (Winnipeg, MB), Erika Rodning (Edmonton, AB) and Kata Kuhnert (Inuvik, NWT) and their peers from around the world.

Our own Canadian LWF Youth and Young Adults have ably challenged and equipped political leaders in Lima, Peru; Paris, France; Madrid, Spain and Glasgow, Scotland on behalf of all the ELCIC, LWF and peoples of the world. They are still challenging and equipping our church.

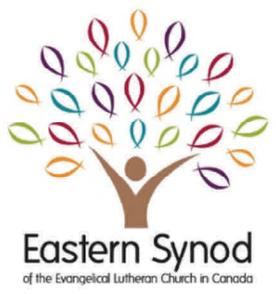
Being the intergenerational church together gives us the possibility of utilizing our internationality locally. We can all serve in climate care globally, even from our homes.

If you or a young person you know is interested in becoming involved in a Climate Justice movement in the Eastern Synod, please be in touch with Rev. Christie Morrow-Wolfe (cmorrow-wolfe@elcic.ca).

Written by: Karen & Katarina Kuhnert for the Two Rivers Ministry Area Newsletter, February 2022



[Click here](#) to listen to a recording of the **Finding Your Voice- Youth Climate Action Event held January 27, 2022.**

**2022-2023
SCHOLARSHIPS**

Now Available

CLICK HERE TO APPLY

Save the Date

Palm Sunday Service

This year the Eastern Synod in conjunction with St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Kitchener will be holding a synod wide Palm Sunday Service.

Watch for more details!

Ministry Opportunities

Christ, Peterborough

St. Peter's, Cambridge

Faith, Lutheran/ St. Peter's Anglican, Elliot Lake

Lutheran & Anglican Ministries of the Bruce

St. John's, Montreal

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

2022 Spiritual Retreats- Almost Full--- Just a few spaces left!

[The Bishop's Spiritual Retreat for Rostered Leaders](#) at Mt. Carmel, Niagara Falls ON has been postponed and will now take place **March 27-30, 2022**.

[Atlantic Ministry Area Rostered Leaders Conference](#) at White Point, Nova Scotia has been postponed and will now take place **April 24-27, 2022**.

[The Bishop's Spiritual Retreat for Lay People](#) at Mt. Carmel, Niagara Falls, ON will be convened as previously scheduled, from **April 1-3, 2022**.

If you have any questions please contact [Liz](#) (Atlantic Rostered Retreat) or [Cindy](#) (Rostered Retreat) at the Synod Office.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

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Art on the Wall

Visit the art exhibition *Unmasking, Breathing, Moving Forward*, which is on display at Luther until April 22. The exhibition highlights the voices of racialized and Indigenous artists. For exhibition hours and important details on how to view the exhibition in person, please visit the Kanata Centre for Worship and Global Song's [web page](#). To view the online exhibition, visit the [album on Flickr](#). To comment, like or share images, simply sign up for a free Flickr account. If you were not able to participate in Art and Vespers on Feb. 13, please visit the Kanata Centre's [web page](#) where, after the video is edited, we will post a link to the video on [Luther's YouTube channel](#).

Open Door - International Women's Day

We invite you to join us for Open Door at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9, for special guest speaker Dr. Musimbi Kanyoro, former head of the Lutheran World Federation's Women in Church and Society desk, and former president of the Global Fund for Women. This year's International Women's Day theme (March 8) is "break the bias." [Please register in advance](#).

Student needs

Luther has partnered with the Laurier Students' Public Interest Research Group (LSPIRG) to provide students with free food, classroom supplies, hygiene products and other items. In mid-February the Distro (as the project is called) saw a high of 160 students at its weekly Distro. Many of the program's supplies are running low. We would appreciate any help you might be able to offer.

Some items most needed include:

- pasta and sauce
- peanut butter
- juice
- toiletries
- toilet paper

Donations can be dropped off at Luther, corner of Bricker Avenue and Albert Street in Waterloo. Bins are provided at the Bricker Avenue entrance and the entrance at the base of the bell tower. If you are a visitor to campus, please complete Laurier's visitor [screening assessment form](#) before arriving on campus and wear a mask while dropping off your donation.

Distro can also accept financial donations on Luther's [donor page](#). From the options provided choose 'other' and, in the space provided, enter "distro."

For more information contact Anne Anderson, community pastor, at ananderson@luther.wlu.ca

Workshop: Ambiguous Grief and Loss

[The Delton Glebe Counselling Centre](#), a community service provided by Martin Luther University College, is holding a one-day online workshop on March 31, 2022, exploring the impact of ambiguous grief on our personal lives, relationships and professional lives. Speakers will explore the myth of closure; the wide-ranging impact of this grief on our lives; and will provide tools to process this loss and start the healing process. **Speaker:** Dr. Pauline Boss, author of [The Myth of Closure – Ambiguous Loss in a time of Pandemic and Change](#) **Speaker:** Pamela Loughton, PhD candidate at Luther. **Professional development:** Five hours total (2.5 for the morning session and 2.5 hours for the afternoon). For the detailed fee structure, please visit the registration page: <https://event-wizard.com/AmbiguousGrief/0/register/>

Public events at Luther

Luther holds dozens of public events each academic term. Please join us for learning, reflection and/or worship! View our public offerings on the [public events calendar](#).

