

Eastern Synod Newsletter

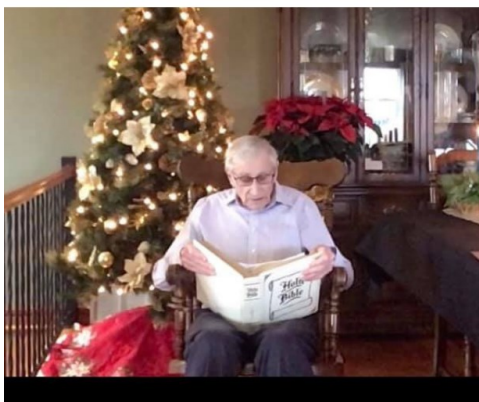
www.easternsynod.org



Jan 18, 2021
Volume 103



A Snapshot
Of Our
Eastern Synod
Life Together
In Worship



We hope that you all had a blessed holiday season.

Above is a collage of pictures of people across the synod.

All of the pictures were gathered from Mediated Worship during
the Season of Christmas.

Behold

I Am Doing A New Thing!

Eastern Synod Assembly 2021

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT Assembly 2021

Eighteenth Convention of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

June 25 - 26, 2021
(electronic meeting format)

The Rev Wendell Caron Grahman
Secretary, Eastern Synod of the ELCIC

Since the beginning of COVID-19, Eastern Synod congregations have committed to praying for our front line workers whose ministry it has been to provide loving care and gospel service to those most vulnerable among us.

As an expression of our collective gratitude for their exceptional service, and on behalf of our entire synodical family, the Eastern Synod council voted to donate \$30,000 to Lutheran Homes Kitchener-Waterloo. These resources, drawn from the income earned by the Lutheran Home Fund, were allocated to provide a \$100 Christmas gift card to each LHKW full-time and part-time employee.

A gift, as LHKW Chief Operating Officer Debbie Riepert reflected, that was greatly appreciated, heartfelt, and built strength among the staff by gladdening their hearts. HR Manager, Beth Jones also shared that at a time of the year when it would be easy to feel alone given the current context, *"the Bishop and Eastern Synod made sure that we were reminded we are supported through prayer, not alone, and that God holds us."*

In an accompanying letter, Bishop Michael Pryse gave thanks for those who have given so freely of themselves to these labours. *"I want you to know that our church sees the care you provide to the frail elderly, as holy and sacred work. It is ministry. It is God's work! On behalf of our church, and on behalf of the wider community that you serve, I want to say thank-you. Thank-you for your faithful and self-sacrificial service. Thank-you for your dedicated and unwavering service to bless and accompany the dear people for whom you care, regardless of circumstances."*

Please continue to pray for our LHKW family, and for all those throughout our Synod whose 'holy and sacred work' it is to love and serve the frail and elderly. May they be encouraged by the promise that their labours are precious in our sight...and in the sight of God!



WEEK of
PRAYER
for CHRISTIAN UNITY
2021

"Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit" (Jn 15:5-9)



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Sunday January 24, 2021
4:00 pm via Facebook Live at the
Salvation Army Agincourt Community Church
<https://www.facebook.com/agincourtcommunitychurch>

RSVP

The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea
Chairperson, The Greater Toronto Area
Christian Council of Churches.

ministtermruc@gmail.com

416-809-6044

*"Abide in my love and you
shall bear much fruit" (Jn 15:5-9)*

Ash Wednesday



Eastern Synod Live-Streamed
Ash Wednesday Worship

Bishop Michael
Preaching & Presiding

Wednesday, February 17
6:30PM EST (7:30PM AST)

Worship Materials & Links
www.easternsynod.org



On Ash Wednesday, Bishop Michael and his Assistants invite you to gather for a Synod-Wide Live-Streamed Worship Service at 6:30pm EST (7:30pm AST). Those gathered for this unique Synod-Wide worship opportunity will be invited to impose their own ashes (if ashes have been provided by their local congregation), or make a sign of the cross using water or simply their finger. All worship materials (including a copy of Bishop Michael's sermon), live-stream links, and other resources will be available on the [Eastern Synod website](http://www.easternsynod.org), and may be printed and shared with those who do not have access or ability to participate in mediated worship. Bishop Michael and Pastors Christie, Doug and Adam look forward to gathering with you as we begin the season of Lent.

[Click here to access the Ash Wednesday resource page.](http://www.easternsynod.org)



A World Interfaith Harmony Week Online Event

Race & Religion: Cultivating Anti-Racist Faith Communities

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Participate in an engaging discussion on race, faith and fostering truly inclusive, anti-racist worship, spaces and faith communities.

Register: <https://raceandreligion.eventbrite.ca>

Information: nmclccanada@gmail.com

* Zoom meeting coordinates will only be sent to those who have registered for this event. *



Mission to Seafarers

submitted by Rev Dan Phannenhour

It is tradition for the mission stations of the world to give gifts to seafarers at Christmas. We begin on December 6 and give to all who arrive in Hamilton between that date and Christmas Day, when the port closes to foreign ship traffic. This year, we gave away about 600 quilts that the sewing group from Faith, Brantford donated to us along with some other gifts that were donated for this purpose. The remainder of the 1100 quilts donated by Faith will be saved for next year.

The Stella Polaris comes to Hamilton once every six or seven weeks from Zelzate, Belgium. When they left Hamilton this time, they were heading for Rio where they were planning to celebrate Christmas.

The following note was received from the crew:

Dear pastor Dan,

On behalf of the crew of Stella Polaris I would like to thank the Mission to Seafarers in Hamilton and everybody involved for your gifts.

Find attached a picture from our Christmas eve on board.

It helps in these difficult times to comfort us.

I wish you and everybody else a merry, hopeful Christmas and a healthy, happy new year.

Joost van Zaane

Master Stella Polaris

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LUTHER

JANUARY 2021

Public offerings

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

< View More >

THURSDAY, JAN. 14, 2021
[Buddhist Wisdom For
Challenging Times](#)

ZOOM
12:30 P.M. - 12:50 P.M.

FRIDAY, JAN. 15, 2021
[Settler Work](#)

ZOOM
12:30 P.M. - 12:50 P.M.

MONDAY, JAN. 18, 2021
[Yoga - Free](#)

VIRTUAL
12:10 P.M. - 12:50 P.M.

TUESDAY, JAN. 19, 2021
[Reflections On Judith, With
Mona Tokarek LaFosse](#)

ZOOM
12:30 P.M. - 12:50 P.M.

All are welcome to participate in events led by faculty

Our campus is deceptively quiet. While the halls and classrooms remain empty, our event schedule is almost as full as ever! And everyone is welcome to join us for events throughout the winter term. We add to our offerings throughout the term, so feel free to visit luther.wlu.ca and scroll to the bottom of the page to access our most up-to-date calendar. Our packed schedule includes: Weekly **Open Door** worship services on Wednesdays at 5 p.m. Each service features different themes, presiders and preachers. Some will be communion services. Have your bread and wine ready at home! Most weekdays at 12:30 p.m. we offer a **Contemplative Pause** to help get centred during our busy days.

Mondays: Free yoga.

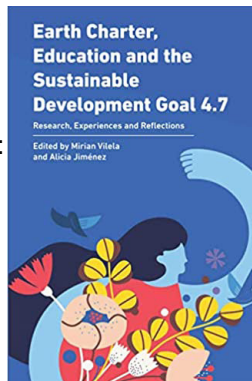
Tuesdays: Reading through the Book of Judith, with Mona Tokarek LaFosse, over 12 weeks.

Wednesdays: Please stay tuned.

Thursdays: Multifaith teachings, with Daniel Maoz (Jewish), Christopher Ross (Buddhist), Selda and Engin Sezen (Muslim).

Fridays: The program alternates between Settler Work, with Allen Jorgenson, and Eco-consciousness with Mary (Joy) Philip. Philip contributed a chapter in the recently published [book](#) on the Earth Charter.

The chapter title "Re-visiting the Earth Charter: Where are We, What did we Choose, Two Decades later?" Visit our [calendar](#) for specific dates, themes, Zoom links and additions to our slate of events.



Addiction workshop

Join us for the workshop Viewing Addiction Through a Holistic Lens: What the Movies and TV Never Taught You. Presenter: Rick Csiernik of King's University College, London, Ont. The virtual workshop (six competency hours) takes place 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 18. Cost is \$125 if registered by Jan. 30 or, afterward, \$150. **Only \$99 for Luther alumni.** Register at bit.ly/GlebeAddictionWorkshop

Consensus

We were honoured to host best-selling author Rabbi Joseph Telushkin as keynote speaker for our inaugural Luther Legacy conference. The event, held in January 2020, resulted in a number of scholarly articles that are [now available](#) online in Consensus: A Canadian Journal of Public Theology.



Joseph Telushkin

Seniors' virtual drop-in

Seniors who are feeling isolated are invited to a weekly virtual drop-in hosted by the [Delton Glebe Counselling Centre](#). Each Tuesday 3-4 p.m., Jan. 19 to March 30. For details, call 519.884.3305 or email glebecounselling@wlu.ca

New research

Laura MacGregor and Allen Jorgenson have received a Louisville Institute Research Project Grant to [study](#) the faith journeys and spiritual care needs of parents raising children with disabilities.

Vol. 4 Issue 1 *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



What can we say about the extraordinary year that was 2020? Lots! But we say it 1,000 words at a time. View our [photos on Flickr](#).

Stay connected

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