

# Eastern Synod Newsletter

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



Nov 17, 2020  
Volume 101

## St David Church Shares Grant With Sharing Place Food Bank

When we, the faith community of St. David Anglican Lutheran church received a surprise gift of a pandemic grant from Canadian Lutheran World Relief, we unanimously agreed to share our blessing.

COVID-19 put a full stop to St David's free Sunday morning breakfast shared with neighbours. With physical distancing and health requirements, we do not have the capacity to re-tweak so are currently not able to gather.

"Many families broke bread with us every week and missing this one meal is a huge hit to their weekly budgets. Not to mention the loss of being able to physically gather with our community," said Rev Lori Pilatzke, Pastor and faith leader at St David. "We pivoted to find ways we could provide support with our community partners." she added.

St David's now hangs masks, free to neighbours, on a Warming Cross located outside their building, corner of Regent and James Streets in Orillia. The church's Outreach committee prepares a simple lunch for the lunch guests at the Lighthouse on Peter Street and the Harmony Centre's free one to one

counselling sessions are back to in person as well as via zoom & phone.

"When we received an unexpected 'pandemic' grant of \$2,400 from Canadian Lutheran World Relief we unanimously supported a motion to give \$1,000 to the Sharing Place Food Bank," said Outreach committee member Sandy Donald.



St. David Anglican Lutheran Church donated money to The Sharing Place this week. From left: Nancy Hannah, Program Coordinator, and Chris Peacock, Executive Director of The Sharing Place and from St. David, Outreach member Sandy Donald and Pastor Lori Pilatzke.



"Right now the food bank is focused on feeding families and focusing on school breakfasts. We always seek ways to partner with others who share our love," she noted.

The Sharing Place Food Bank's 'School Fuel' program is now in 16 schools in Orillia, and feeds over 1,000 children every day.

"There's nothing like a 'global pandemic' to bring us closer together. Our shared goal is to bankrupt the food banks - by making sure that all are fed," added Pastor Lori.

Thank you Canadian Lutheran World Relief for your belief in the mission we share, being the light of Christ as we all 'journey together'.

*Submitted by Lori Pilatzke*

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)

## Financial Update (as of October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020)

Benevolence offerings received by the Synod office during the month of October decreased by 7.2%, compared to October 2019. Over the last ten months of the year, the Year to Date benevolence offerings have decreased by over 6.6% compared to the same period in 2019.

Offerings designated for Canadian Lutheran World Relief saw a decrease in October 2020 over October 2019 by 25.8%. The Year to Date offerings to October declined by 21.7%.

Given the uncertainty of the pandemic and how long it will last, 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.

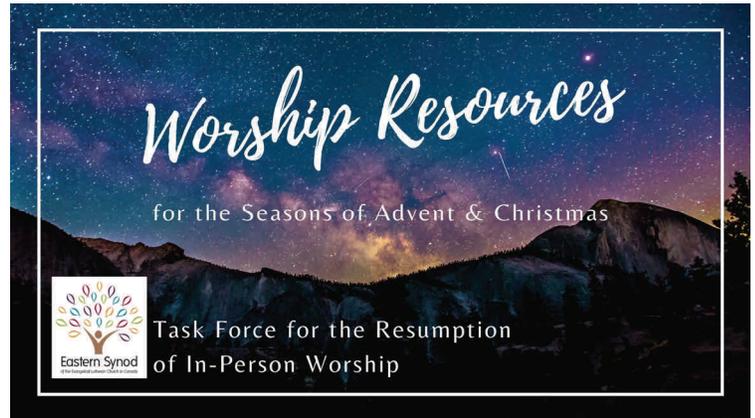
Looking for software for your congregation and don't know where to turn?

Pastor Jun Gao shared this link with us.



[TechSoup Canada | Technology for Nonprofits and Charities](#)

*Synod Council met virtually on Friday and Saturday. Watch for info about the meetings in future issues.*



For several months, the Task Force for the Resumption of In-Person Worship has been working with worship leaders across the Eastern Synod to develop a new series of resources to support congregations during the seasons of Advent & Christmas.

That collection is now being shared with congregations using Box.

Not sure what Box is?

BOX.com is a cloud based storage system that allows users to share resources on any device. Box's secure content management enables us to make a growing number of resources available without bogging down your inbox, or overcrowding our website. If you have questions about how to get started with BOX, or connected with our resource library, please contact [ezehr@elcic.ca](mailto:ezehr@elcic.ca) or [cstubbs@elcic.ca](mailto:cstubbs@elcic.ca).

An introductory video can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/SiD-SK30W38>



Our prayers are with David Whyte and his family as they mourn the loss of both his mother-in-law and father-in-law.

*The LORD is near to the brokenhearted,  
and saves the crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18*

### Advent Series Announcement from ELCA

During the Advent season we often talk a lot about the Holy Land of the past without talking much about the Holy Land of the present. What is going on in Bethlehem today? How are we called to accompany our Palestinian siblings in love, joy, hope, peace, and justice? What does this mean for our own advent journey?

Join ELCA Young Adults and ELCA Peace Not Walls starting Nov 30 for an Advent Pilgrimage in Palestine.



Over the course of the 4 weeks of Advent young adults from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land will lead us on this pilgrimage through story, education, and theological reflection.

Every Monday of Advent we will share a video reflection and every Wednesday of Advent we will share a written blog post, accompanied by discussion questions and actionable items you can use with small groups.

[Register here](#) to receive Advent Pilgrimage in Palestine resources by email and/or to register for our opening educational webinar on Monday, November 30 8:30-9:30pm EST.

Follow at [#AdventInPalestine](#) !

### Our Changing World



2020 is a year that has brought so many challenges and changes. Some will be short-term and others are likely to be profound, changing society for some time to come. As a result, many of us are trying to figure out what this might mean to ourselves, our families, and our communities. Philanthropy and estate planning may not be at the top of your priority list. And yet, back in March, when the pandemic first challenged us, an interesting and unexpected thing happened. Many more people than average began meeting with trusted professional advisors (financial planners, lawyers, etc.). They were concerned about the immediacy of the situation, making sure their affairs were in order and that loved ones would be well cared for. Now, the tide is changing. Instead of reacting out of fear, people are more reflective, thinking more about what is important to them and what difference they can make now and in the future. As people reflect, they are often looking for meaning in their life, and turn to those organizations that are making a difference, such as their Church. Now is the time for the church to be prepared to answer the questions that people will have in achieving their estate planning and philanthropic goals. Continue reading [here](#) to find out about:

- The one thing you can do right now
- A new tool ELFEC will be launching shortly, and
- An upcoming webinar on financial planning - for now and for the future, specially designed for those 50 or better.



Kathryn Smith  
Giving Advisor



## FREE FINANCIAL PLANNING WORKSHOP

**Are You 50 or better? Attend our Free Financial Planning Virtual Workshop Presented by the Canadian Foundation for Economic Education, the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa and ELFEC (Lutheran Foundation)**

Please join us for an informative workshop to answer any questions you may have regarding your finances. Take part in a virtual conversation with a representative from the *Canadian Foundation for Economic Education*, and other seniors in your community, to gain a better understanding of your financial issues and concerns.

**Topics of discussion include:**

- Making estate arrangements
- Moving as housing needs change
- Dealing with attempted fraud or financial abuse
- Caring for a loved one
- Living with long-term illness or disability
- Managing retirement
- Wills and legacy giving



Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Noon – 1:30 p.m. (EST) including opportunities for Q&A

Register for this Virtual Workshop online at:

[https://cfec-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_QsgCKNheRP6lknkJczmdg](https://cfec-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QsgCKNheRP6lknkJczmdg)



ANGLICAN  
DIOCESE of  
OTTAWA



ELFEC  
responsible investing • gift planning

A PROGRAM OF

**CFEE**

SUPPORTED BY

**IG** WEALTH  
MANAGEMENT



# LUTHER

NOVEMBER 2020

## Congratulations to the fall Class of 2020!



Thanks to graduating students and their families; Luther board members; and faculty and staff who participated in our ceremony of thanksgiving and blessing on November 3rd. View the 30-minute video on YouTube.

## New board chair

**Heather Main**, member of Martin Luther University College's Board of Governors, has taken on the role of chair. Fellow board members elected Main to a one-year term during a meeting on Oct. 23. The board also



Heather Main

welcomed new member **Penny Smiley**, and expressed appreciation to outgoing chair **James Phillips** and recently retired principal-dean **Rev. Dr. Mark Harris**.

Main's grandfather, **Rev. Dr. J. Ray Houser**, served as principal of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary (as the school was known before 2018) from 1955 - 1969.

## Search for principal-dean

After the retirement of **Rev. Dr. Mark Harris** this past July, Martin Luther University College is searching for a new principal-dean. The detailed posting and application form are available on the search firm's website.

## Faculty research

Kudos to Luther faculty **Sherry Coman** and **Allen Jorgenson** on their recently published research.

Coman, associate professional faculty, had two timely film reviews published in the Journal of Religion & Film at the University of Nebraska. *I am Greta* is a documentary on climate-change activist Greta Thunberg. *Nomadland* is a drama de-

pecting a woman's journey across America after losing everything in the 2018 recession.

Jorgenson, professor of systematic theology and Luther's assistant dean, is a co-translator of the recently released book *Jesus' Life in Dying: Friedrich Schleiermacher's Pre-Easter Reflections to the Community of the Redeemer*.



Vol. 3 Issue 10 *Luther* is a collection of news from Martin Luther University College in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. **Website:** [luther.wlu.ca](http://luther.wlu.ca) **Events:** Dorinda Kruger [Allen.dkrugerallen@luther.wlu.ca](mailto:Allen.dkrugerallen@luther.wlu.ca) **Stories:** Mirko Petricevic [mpetricevic@luther.wlu.ca](mailto:mpetricevic@luther.wlu.ca)

## Public events

Keep in the loop about our online public events by going to our website [luther.wlu.ca](http://luther.wlu.ca) and scrolling to the timeline at the bottom.

## Love and COVID

Inshallah, the 130+ voice singing community at Luther, is delighted to participate in the online artistic celebration *Love in the Time of COVID!* Tune in to the Wilfrid Laurier University Library's YouTube channel at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 19. Watch the trailer.

