

Eastern Synod Newsletter

www.easternsynod.org



Nov 17, 2021
Volume III

Effective November 1, 2021, all employees, contractors, volunteers and visitors to the Eastern Synod Office will be required to provide proof of full vaccination against COVID-19.

Paper, electronic or QR versions of government issued proof of vaccination will be accepted.

This policy is aligned with the employer's general duty under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* to take every reasonable precaution to protect its workers (broadly defined) and the responsibility to assess the workplace for risks, including that of COVID-19 transmission.

This policy is applied in accordance with the *Ontario Human Rights Code*, *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and any other applicable legislation.

The Synod Office Team has now returned to in-office working patterns.

We welcome guests and visitors by appointment only.

We appreciate your ongoing willingness to contact the Synod Office prior to visiting.

Eastern Synod Office Vaccination Policy

The purpose of this policy is to outline expectations with regard to COVID-19 immunization of employees, contractors, volunteers and visitors when physically present in the Eastern Synod office.

Contingent upon vaccine availability and unless medically contraindicated, it is the expectation that all eligible employees, contractors, volunteers and visitors are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (i.e. against infections caused by SARS-CoV-2).

This policy is aligned with the employer's general duty under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* to take every reasonable precaution to protect its workers (broadly defined) and the responsibility to assess the workplace for risks, including that of COVID-19 transmission.

This policy is applied in accordance with the *Ontario Human Rights Code*, *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and any other applicable legislation.

Regardless of how often or how much time is spent in the Eastern Synod office, this policy applies to:

Employees

Contractors

Volunteers

Visitors

Effective November 1, 2021, all employees, contractors, volunteers and visitors will be required to provide one of the following:

Proof of COVID-19 vaccine administration as per the following requirements:

If the individual has only received the first dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccination series approved by Health Canada, proof that the first dose was administered and, as soon as reasonably possible, proof of administration of the second dose; or

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Proof of all required doses of a COVID-19 vaccine approved by Health Canada

Written proof of a medical reason provided by either a physician or nurse practitioner that sets out:

That the person cannot be vaccinated against COVID-19; **and**

The effective time period for the medical reason (i.e. permanent or time-limited)

Employees, contractors, volunteers and visitors who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons (as per 2 above), may be subject to additional requirements such as COVID-19 testing, redeployment, personal and public health protective measures, work exclusion/leave of absence, termination, or any further measures that may be deemed necessary based on the assessment by the employer of factors including for example, the work/role of the individual, the type of workplace, local epidemiology, etc., and in consideration of the duty to accommodate, as applicable.

This policy may change as the status of the pandemic changes and/or legislation or public health advice changes.

Policy Exceptions:

Exceptions are anticipated to be rare and can be made at the discretion of the Bishop and/or Director of Finance and Administration. Exceptions must be documented, maintained in a file and available for review by the Health and Safety representative.

Key contact for questions: Director of Finance and Administration Kim Marcy, kmarcy@elcic.ca



Bishop Susan Johnson



Rev. Dr. Matthew Anderson

Prayers and Pints

Conversation with the Authors of Two Hot New Books!

2-3 p.m. (ET) November 22, 2021

Register at bit.ly/PrayersAndPints

hosted by the Centre for Spirituality and Media SpiritualityAndMedia.ca



Prayers and Pints

Join us online from 2-3pm (ET) on Monday, Nov. 22 as **National Bishop Susan Johnson** and **Rev. Dr. Matthew Anderson** join Deacon Sherry Coman for an hour of readings, toasts, and warm conversation about *Praying the Catechism, Revised and Expanded Edition*, and *Pairings: the Bible and Booze*. Hosted by the [Centre for Spirituality and Media](#), a collaboration by the Eastern Synod and Martin Luther University College.

[Click Here to register for the virtual Zoom event](#)

2021 YTD-The (only?) Month of Giving Thanks Financial Update (as of October 31st, 2021)

With the celebration of the Thanksgiving holiday this month, it's that time of year when many people take a moment to think about what they are thankful for. It is refreshing to see that, as we have steered through the last eighteen or so months, that many are realizing that being grateful isn't just something to be felt in the month of October. As some studies have shown, developing an 'attitude of gratitude' is one of the simplest ways to improve your satisfaction with life. We, at the Eastern Synod, feel very grateful throughout the entire year for the many members and congregations who continue to faithfully remit their offerings.

Year to date benevolence offerings as of October 2021 was down from 2020 by almost 4%. The month of October 2021 was down over October 2020 by just over 14%.

Offerings designated for Canadian Lutheran World Relief that were received by the Synod office saw an increase of 75% over October 2020 largely due to a significant donation made by a congregation for a special appeal that didn't occur in 2020. There was an increase of 8% on a year to date basis.

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

Ministry Opportunities

Christ the King, Whitby, ON
Christ, Peterborough, ON
St. Peter's, Cambridge, ON
Faith, Port Elgin, ON

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

For more information please contact [Rev Douglas Reble](#), Assistant to the Bishop.

Share your news

We'd love to hear what's happening in your congregations.

Send us your stories and pictures so we can share them across the synod.

ezehr@elcic.ca

Anglicans, Lutherans To Meet For Assembly In 2022

Delegates to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada's National Convention and the Anglican Church of Canada's General Synod will gather together next July, for Assembly 2022.

Inspired by the theme Let there be Greening, delegates, special guests and partners will gather for worship, workshops, special presentations and business sessions.

The agenda for the shared meeting is in the process of being developed. The agenda will include time for meeting separately and for time together to explore and grow into the common life of our Full Communion relationship.

2021 marks the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Waterloo Declaration which brought the two churches into this Full Communion relationship. We may mutually share in each other's celebrations of the Eucharist, share liturgies, and Anglican and Lutheran clergy may serve in either church.

The Assembly 2022 theme will emphasize the importance of nurturing relationships, in particular the relationship between the two churches; with other partners; with one another; and with the Earth, alongside their role and responsibility as churches in the areas of social justice and advocacy.

The logo for Assembly 2022 includes a stylized image of the Earth with an abstract representation of leaves, trees and people. The layering of these elements references their interaction in relationship with one another.

Information on registration will be available in early 2022. Further details will be added to the [Assembly 2022 website](#) as available.

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And [LinkedIn](#)

PRESENTED BY
THE EASTERN SYNOD
YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY COMMITTEE

CALLING ALL UNSTOPPABLE YOUTH

An online watch party of the documentary film
Youth Unstoppable which documents the rise of
the youth climate justice movement.

This event is for youth and young adults who are passionate about climate change and would like to start a movement of climate activists in the Eastern Synod. This film is meant for youth (confirmation age) and older. Come for the movie; stay for the discussion. Supportive adults are also welcome!

December 2 @ 6:30 - 8pm
Virtual Event

Register:
bit.ly/UnstoppableYAYA





LUTHER

NOVEMBER 2021

Congratulations Class of 2021!



We held our fourth virtual convocation service of thanksgiving and blessing during which we recognized 21 graduates including those earning a graduate diploma (two); a BA in Christian Studies and Global Citizenship (one); Master of Divinity (one); MA in Theology, Christian Studies (two); MA in Theology, Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy (12); and PhD in Human Relationships (three). View the [video online](#).

Save the dates

On Nov. 22 at 2 p.m. we host Bishop Susan Johnson and Rev. Dr. Matthew Anderson reading from their new books. [View details](#). On

Dec. 3 at 11 a.m. we launch our new Centre for Spirituality, Disability and Care. Details are forthcoming. Check [events calendar](#).

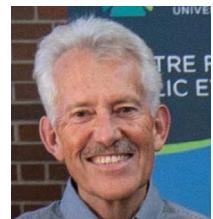


Goose busters

The new frosting on our windows is more than just pretty — it serves a purpose. For the full story, visit the photo [album on Flickr](#).

Board update

Our deepest thanks to the volunteers who recently departed Luther's Board of Governors after their terms expired: Heather Main, Steve Hof-fard, Tom Bishop and Kevin Tuer. And we welcome new board members Jeff Harris and Julianne Barlow. Blessings and best wishes to our new executive members including Dave Schnarr serving as chair. For details, visit our [governance page](#).



Dave Schnarr

New faculty

Rev. Dr. Kristine Lund, principal-dean, is pleased to announce the appointment of Yvonne Bomberly as associate professional faculty. Bomberly is primarily teaching Luther's new course Indigenous Wisdom and Methodologies, which introduces select Indigenous worldviews and ways of knowing in relationship to the task of decolonizing and Indigenizing spiritual care, theology and related academic inquiry. She will also support and contribute to Luther's ongoing collaborations with Indigenous communities. Read the full [announcement](#).



Yvonne Bomberly

Vol. 4 Issue 9 *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