



Eastern Synod Newsletter

www.easternsynod.org



Sept 27, 2021
Volume 109

Bishops' Company FOR MISSION

Special Guest: Deacon Sherry Coman

October 19 (1pm) & October 20 (7pm)



Since 2003, the Bishops' Company for Mission, a gathering of lay-people and extra-mile givers, has been convened as a way to support mission opportunities throughout the Synod, above and beyond budgetary means.

Have you ever wondered what exactly the extra funds raised through the Bishop's Company are put towards?

To learn about an exciting new venture, supported by Bishops' Company funding, please join Bishop Pryse and the Bishops' Company this October as we welcome guest presenter, Deacon Sherry Coman. The past 18 months have impressed upon the church how important it is to maintain an online presence and outreach. Deacon Sherry will walk us through the establishment of the Centre for Spirituality and Media at Martin Luther University College and how funds from the Bishops' Company helped to support this creative, new endeavor. She will also address how both our corporate and personal spirituality can find a place for expression online.

The Bishops' Company for Mission will gather online on October 19th at 1 pm with a repeat of the same event on October 20th at 7 pm.

Come be a part of this time of learning and conversation. We look forward to seeing you this fall!

To learn more about the Bishops' Company or to register for one of the events go to easternsynod.org and click on the Bishops' Company banner.

[Click here for an introduction to Deacon Sherry Coman.](#)

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Your Will Can Make A Difference



Thank you! To those who have or are considering supporting the mission of the church with a generous gift to your local congregation or the wider church. We are grateful for your support and generosity. ELFEC has partnered, along with many of Canada's most important charities, with Will Power, a national movement to educate Canadians on the power they have to continue making a difference to their church and communities through their Wills.

Can I Really Make a Difference with My Will?

Common Myths that Get in the Way of Your Will Power

In short, yes. By leaving a gift (also known as a bequest) to your congregation or the wider church in your Will you can make a bigger contribution than you ever thought possible to ensure your community of faith can be responsive to the needs around us – whether physical, mental, environmental, or spiritual. Your philanthropy through your estate planning can make a huge difference.

Many donors believe that they can't support both their loved ones and their favourite cause with their Will. The truth is, just a small percentage of your estate left to charity can have a big impact, while still providing for others such as family. Choosing to support the charity you care about can also reduce and, in some cases, even eliminate the taxes to be paid. A win-win!

Some donors think they need to be wealthy to make a gift to charity in their Will. Actually, no matter the size of your estate, you can be a part of this powerful movement for change. Wondering how your future gift could be used? Find out how ELFEC supports Lutherans wanting to leave a gift in their Will. [Visit ELFEC on Will Power.](#)

Take a look at the free resources and tools on the Will Power website to learn about the [common myths surrounding gifts in Wills](#), [the potential tax benefits](#), and more.

If you have questions about supporting the mission of your congregation or the wider church through ELFEC, please don't hesitate to connect with ELFEC today at ksmith@elfec.ca or by calling 1-888-308-9461 x2. ELFEC is here to help.

Kathryn Smith

Giving Advisor

ksmith@elfec.ca

[1-888-308-9461 x2](tel:1-888-308-9461)

ELFEC is a proud partner in the Will Power movement. You can visit our Will Power page here www.willpower.ca/charities/elfec

Luther certificate builds faith communities' inclusion and disability leadership

Pastors, lay leaders and volunteers who support people with disabilities in congregations and other faith settings are now able to upgrade their skills through Martin Luther University College's new certificate program. No previous degree required. Four courses minimum. The **Certificate in Disability, Inclusive Ministry and Christian Faith** is offered through Wilfrid Laurier University's continuing education office. Visit the [certificate web page](#). View the information [video](#).

**2021 YTD- Summer is over and
we welcome Autumn
Financial Update (as of August 31st, 2021)**

Summer is now over and we welcome the normalcy of getting back into our fall routines. We are cautiously hopeful that this autumn will be a return to a large part of our pre-pandemic lifestyles.

YTD benevolence offerings in August 2021 were down from 2020 by just over 5%. The month of August 2021 was down over August 2020 by almost 37%. Almost all of this reduction is due to an extraordinary, one-time \$41,000 donation that was received in August 2020.

Offerings designated for Canadian Lutheran World Relief that were received by the Synod office saw a decrease of 39% over August 2020 in part due to the donations made to the Lebanon explosion in 2020. There has been an overall increase of 2% on a year to date basis.

We are grateful for the many members and congregations who continue to faithfully remit their offerings on a regular basis. The ministries that you support through your offerings have always been important and continue to be critical as uncertainty remains as to when life will return to a more normal routine.

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, Brantford, 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

Our prayers are with Rev Elina Salonen and her family as they mourn the loss of her mother.



"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Matthew 5:4

Now accepting applications for 2022 Mission Grants

Have you been dreaming about new ways to build relationships, address challenges, establish and strengthen partnerships, and further the mission of God's church?

Once again we are letting you know that we are looking for creative missional initiatives!

What are we seeking?

We are looking for project proposals from congregations, specialized ministries and Ministry Areas. We would like to support initiatives that are about increasing the vitality of your congregations, strengthening discipleship in Jesus Christ, building relationships, are experimental or exploratory in nature, and are aimed at engaging those outside your walls.

The deadline for Compassionate Justice or Long Term applications is September 30, 2021.

Short Term applications may be submitted by either September 30, 2021 or April 30, 2022.

[Click here for more information](#)

Youth and Young Adult Ministry Grants

YAYA grants for the 2022 funding year are now being accepted. The application deadline is September 30th. If you were a grant recipient in 2021, your report or status update is also due on September 30th. For more information on the application process please follow this link. For questions in general, please be in touch with Rev. Christie Morrow-Wolfe

[\(cmorrow-wolfe@elcic.ca\)](mailto:cmorrow-wolfe@elcic.ca)



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SEPTEMBER 2021

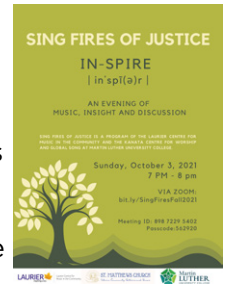
Commissioning service



Our community celebrates as our new principal-dean, Rev. Dr. Kristine Lund, and new members of faculty and staff, are commissioned for service. For more images of the service held at Trillium Lutheran Church on Sept. 19, visit our [Flickr photo album](#). A video recording of the service will also be posted on [Luther's YouTube channel](#).

Sing Fires of Justice

IN-SPIRE, the theme of the next Sing Fires of Justice event, is schedule to take place online Sunday, Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. Zoom details are available on the flyer at right, and on the [online events calendar](#).



Open Door

Join our weekly Open Door gathering Wednesdays at 5 p.m. Most gatherings will be worship services. Some multifaith celebrations. Check the [calendar](#) for details.

thirdspace_

[thirdspace](#) is an alternative worshipping community led by Rev. Anne Anderson at Luther. All welcome to participate in worship Sundays at 10:30 a.m. [Details](#).

Disability certificate

Pastors, lay leaders and volunteers who support people with disabilities in congregations and other faith settings are now able to upgrade their skills through a new continuing-education certificate. No previous courses required. Visit the [certificate web page](#).

Contemplative Pause

Join us for a 20-minute midday contemplative pause each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during the fall term. Various themes. Check the online [events calendar](#). (Note: There will be no programming during the week of Thanksgiving.)

New book by faculty

Congratulations to John Milloy, director of Luther's Centre for Public Ethics ([PublicEthics.ca](#)) on the publication of his new book [Politics and Faith in a Polarized World](#). Published by Novalis.



Suicide prevention

Marilyn Clarke, art therapist at the [Delton Glebe Counselling Centre](#), helped students craft a Garden of Support on the centre's front lawn on Sept. 10. The activity was held in conjunction with the annual World Suicide Prevention Day.

Community and Gratitude

We paid tribute to members of the auxiliary (1913-2020) at our Day of Community and Gratitude. And Bill Gastmeier explained our plan for technology upgrades in the chapel. View [video](#) of the event. Click here to support the [Technology for Remote Learning fund](#).

Vol. 4 Issue 7 *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