



Eastern Synod Newsletter

www.easternsynod.org



Dec 18, 2019
Volume 91

Dear friends and colleagues,

Grace and peace be unto you from God our Father and from our Saviour Jesus Christ, whose birth we prepare to celebrate and herald!

In just a few short days the aisles of our churches will have again been fully transformed into the road to Bethlehem; our chancels into stables and our altars into mangers. And we ourselves, God willing, will also have been changed – if only for a few brief moments - into reverent shepherds and gift bearing magi. Advent will have again done its job and all will be rightly and fittingly prepared for this special celebration of the birth of our Saviour.

The rituals of advent and Christmas - like all rituals – can help us to see with new eyes. They bring us within touching distance of a spiritual dimension of which we are often quite unaware. They can draw us toward a renewed encounter with the one whose birth we celebrate. And isn't that the point of the whole Christmas exercise?

For if the babe does not again take flesh in us today, the Bethlehem star is but an optical illusion leading to nothing. If we are not empowered to offer a gift to the one in need, then there are no wise men searching. If there is no praise or joy within our hearts, then there are no angels singing; no shepherds watching.

The Christmas season bids us enter more deeply into of the story of the message of grace, love and forgiveness that has been revealed to us in Christ Jesus! Don't let the opportunity pass! May the blessing of the coming Christ-child rest abundantly upon you, and those who are dear to you. May Christ be born anew within each one of us!

With prayers and all best wishes,

+Michael

Epiphany Worship Orders

The Program Committee for Worship of the ELCIC has commissioned *Where Two or Three are Gathered: Worship for Small Assemblies*, a series of worship outlines for the seasons of the church year using Evangelical Lutheran Worship as the primary resource. Each week's worship orders include options for Holy Communion and Service of the Word. The worship orders for Epiphany are now available on worship.ca. They were prepared by Rev. Hilla Lahtinen, the Worship Ministry Director for the Eastern Synod.



*Merry
Christmas!*

WARM WISHES FROM THE
EASTERN SYNOD OF THE ELCIC

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New Partnership in Whitby

submitted by Abbie Jack

Christ the King is thrilled to be growing through their new partnership with Fairport Montessori Academy. This past spring, the Whitby Ontario church opened its doors to the Montessori school and underwent intensive construction to transform the traditional styled church into a space to share with the Montessori school.

The sanctuary is now a very flexible, open space which accommodates two classrooms and yet fully functions as a worship space on Sunday and a smaller chapel during the week. Comfortable chairs replaced pews for innovative set-ups. More classrooms, an updated kitchen and new bathrooms complete the basement.

On September 14th, the official ribbon was cut while community, church and school members gathered in anticipation. There was so much excitement in the air! The grand opening included face painting, balloon artistry, a live DJ and even a jumping castle for kids.

Reverend Suzanne Nevile, Pastor of Christ the King, is especially excited about the new part-

nership with the school. "Using the church building every day of the week is a great way to be good stewards. We have been called to use our blessings for good things and this is a great partnership," she said.

Traditionally, Lutherans have placed a high priority on education and what better way to see this endorsed. Christ the King is and will continue to learn how to share the building, she said. The important thing is that we are welcoming and excited to be sharing the space.

Rev. Eric Vuorinen who attended the official opening of the school and "re-opening" of the church commented: This is the way forward. Christ the King's partnership with the school could be the proto-type for church buildings of the future.

Pastor Nevile summed it up best: "When you have a church as passionate and hopeful as ours and a school as dedicated and enthusiastic as Fairport Montessori working together in the community, only great things can happen."



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Upcoming Events

Atlantic Conference for rostered leaders

February 2- 5, 2020

Bishop's Spiritual Retreat
for rostered leaders

February 9- 12, 2020

Bishop's Spiritual Retreat
for laypersons

April 17- 19, 2020

For more information and to see further events click [here](#).

Offerings Picking Up Momentum As Year-end Approaches

Report of the Treasurer To November 30th, 2019

As we head towards the end of the year, as of November 30th, Benevolence offerings continue to track slightly ahead (+1.5%) of those received in 2018. Offerings designated for Canadian Lutheran World Relief also improved somewhat last month, but are still running almost 4% below last year on a year-to-date basis. With the continued support of your congregation we can continue the positive momentum that has been generated over the last few months and end 2019 on a positive note! For details refer to [Report of the Treasurer](#) or go to <http://www.easternsynod.org/> and click the orange Treasurers/Financial Info button.

Transitions

Rev Jonah Bruce began at New Denmark Parish

Rev Fred Ludolph finished at Trillium, Waterloo and began at St. Peter's, Neustadt.



LUTHER

December 2019



Sounds of support!

What a joy it was for an Inshallah ensemble to sing at TheMuseum on Dec. 6 during the CBC Kitchener-Waterloo Sounds of the Season broadcast supporting The Food Bank of Waterloo Region. More photos: [Facebook](#), [Flickr](#).



Santa's (auxiliary) elves

THANKS to members of our auxiliary who decked our halls for the Christmas season! See more photos on [Facebook](#) and [Flickr](#).

Vol. 2 Issue 11 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

Lecture series: Martin Luther's enduring global impact

In co-operation with [Third Age Learning Kitchener Waterloo](#), Luther's faculty and emeritus professors are presenting the eight-lecture series [Shifting Paradigms: Martin Luther's Enduring Global Impact](#). Feel free to attend just one lecture, several or all of them. The series is to run at RIM Park, in Waterloo, 1:30-3:30 p.m. on Thursday afternoons. View the [flyer](#).



The schedule is:

- Jan. 9 — Martin Luther: Setting the Stage; by Rev. Dr. Mark Harris
- Jan. 16 — Martin Luther's Life and Career: A Scholar in Turbulent Times; by Rev. Dr. Robert Kelly
- Jan. 23 — Everything New is Old Again: Tradition and Innovation in Luther's Theology and Religious Practice; Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson

- Jan. 30 — Luther's Musical Dialectic: Singing Faithfully into Context; by Debbie Lou Ludolph
- Feb. 6 — When Doing the Right Thing Doesn't Make You Right: Martin Luther's (Very Public) Ethics; by Rev. Dr. David Pfrimmer
- Feb. 13 — Martin Luther and Care of the Soul; by Rev. Dr. Kristine Lund
- Feb. 20 — Martin Luther and Anti-Semitism; by Dr. Daniel Maoz

- Feb. 27 — Martin Luther in Global Context; by Dr. Mary Philip (aka Joy)

For lecture descriptions, visit the web page bit.ly/LutherLectures2020

For ticket purchasing details, visit bit.ly/LutherTicketDetails

And for more information, visit bit.ly/ContactTAL

Luther Window

submitted by Dennis Becker

On Reformation Sunday, October 27, 2019, Faith Lutheran Church, Oshawa, dedicated a new stained glass window commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. When the anniversary appeared on the horizon, Faith council looked at ways that we could honour, remember and carry the Reformation story forward. After much discussion, it was decided to commission a stained glass window of Martin Luther nailing the 95 theses on the Castle Church door in Wittenberg. We contracted a Toronto artist, Heather Marrocco to do the work.

The project had some major delays due to difficulties in getting some of the glass, personal and medical issues with the glazier, but it finally came together. It did take an all-nighter to get the window installed for October 27. (The installation was complete about 45 minutes before worship began!)

The window not only enhances our worship space, but is a great talking point for residents of Faith Place who use the room for various functions.

Faith Council (minus two members) plus pastor at the dedication of the new stained glass window.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Rev Colin Cameron and his family as they mourn the loss of his mother.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Matthew 5:4



In Mission for Others

submitted by Evelyn Swanson

In order to be in mission for others we must have faith and a strong belief in our Saviour. We must share our faith with others. In order to do this we must know what faith is and how it came to be part of our life.

Faith is our trust in God. It is also in the patience it takes to wait to see what God wants us to do. This gift of faith has been given to us by Christ and we are taught to do the job of a disciple, both the big jobs, and the small.

With this in mind I realized that I was in fact doing just that as I share the devotions daily with a friend.

Early this year my elderly friend's husband died. Soon after his funeral I suggested to her that she should phone me daily and we would have a devotion time. We use the Eternity for Today and the Living Bible.

My friend is 94 years old and is deaf and blind. She really enjoys the time that we have together each day. She hears both the bible and the story and then we spend a few minutes talking about them. Since her husband died she has also moved into a nursing home and has had a difficult time accepting that change in her life. This has also been part of our discussion each day. She now has begun to accept this move. Sharing in mission for others is itself a way of spreading God's word. My friend hopes others will do as we are doing.





**Martin
LUTHER**
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University**

SHIFTING PARADIGMS

Martin Luther's enduring global impact

A series of eight lectures by Luther's faculty and emeritus faculty

JAN. 9

Martin Luther: Setting the Stage

Rev. Dr. Mark Harris, Principal-Dean



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Martin Luther's Life and Career: A Scholar in Turbulent Times

Rev. Dr. Robert Kelly, Professor Emeritus



JAN. 23

**Everything New is Old Again: Tradition and Innovation
in Luther's Theology and Religious Practice**

Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson, Professor of Systematic Theology



JAN. 30

Luther's Musical Dialectic: Singing Faithfully into Context

Debbie Lou Ludolph, Dean of Chapel



FEB. 6

**When Doing the Right Thing Doesn't Make You Right:
Martin Luther's (Very Public) Ethics**

Rev. Dr. David Pfrimmer, Professor Emeritus



FEB. 13

Martin Luther and Care of the Soul

Rev. Dr. Kritsine Lund, Director, Spiritual Care & Psychotherapy



FEB. 20

Martin Luther and Anti-Semitism

Dr. Daniel Maoz, Jewish Scholar in Residence



FEB. 27

Martin Luther in Global Context

Dr. Mary Philip (aka Joy), Associate Professor



WHEN

Thursdays 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
From Jan. 9 – Feb. 27, 2020

WHERE

RIM Park (Forbes Family Room)
2001 University Ave E, Waterloo,
N2K 4K4

TOPICS

For lecture descriptions, visit the
Third Age Learning web page at
bit.ly/LutherLectures2020

TICKETS

Attend the lecture(s) of your
choice, or the entire series.
See ticket purchasing details at
bit.ly/LutherTicketDetails

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

See the website bit.ly/ContactTAL