

Eastern Synod Newsletter

www.easternsynod.org



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Dear Synod family,

Peace to you. I want to say thank you for the opportunity to serve in mission with others in the capacity as Worship Ministries' Director for the past ten years. I am grateful for the worship questions and experiences that have emerged in this past decade which have led us toward faithful and reforming worship practice in our time and place.



I give thanks for Bishop Pryse and his guidance and trust along the way, encouraging me to live into my gifts. I give thanks for the seminary faculty and students, and the synodical team of deans, assistants, staff and ministry directors, with whom I have worked and collaborated during this time. I also want to express my deep thanks to Sara Faulhafer and Kathryn Smith who worked closely with me regarding resources to support congregational worship. I am grateful that over the ten years I was able to travel to every conference/area to offer workshops and learn about local worship practice.



As you know, most of my time in this position was devoted to worship at synod assemblies, which I coordinated with teams of people. From the beginning, Robb Wilson and I worked together. For Robb's gift of imagination and commitment to the intentional shaping of liturgical space and prayerful attention to hospitality and the gospel message, I give thanks. For the planning teams, which included the leadership of Scott Knarr, Matthew Anderson, Kathryn Smith, Jennifer Hoover, Brad Moggach, Sara Faulhafer, Michael Mills, James Brown, Sherry Coman, Jonah Bruce, Cherub Philip, Steve Hoffard, and Jordan Smith, I give thanks. So many others have helped to shape our liturgies with the creation of prayers, dance, art, drama, music, preaching, presiding, and video material— it has truly been “the work of the people” and my joy to serve in this way!

Finally, I give thanks for the appointment of Rev. Hilla Lahtinen and offer my prayers and support as she steps into this position with the many gifts she brings. I will continue to serve the synod through work at Martin Luther University College, and this too I count as a privilege.

With gratitude to you and to God,
Debbie Lou Ludolph, Director of Worship Ministries,
Eastern Synod, ELCIC

Greetings to all Women in the Eastern Synod,

I am happy to announce that all plans have been finalized for the Joy in the Journey Weekend Retreat at Niagara College, May 24-26, 2019. Registration forms and information have been sent to each congregation in the Eastern Synod so look for those to post in your congregations. Please mention this event to the leader of your women's group or any of the ladies in your congregation (young and "young at heart").

A link is provided here [Joy in the Journey Registration etc.](#) Just click on it and it will take you to the Eastern Synod's Women's Ministry Website where you can download the Registration Form, Brochure, Poster and Itinerary and Off-site Trip information. These are all in PDF form, so please make sure you have Adobe Reader on your computer. If you don't have it, you can get a copy of it here [Adobe Reader](#).

It promises to be a fantastic weekend that you don't want to miss! There is a discount for Early Registration, but we have to receive it by **March 31st**.

Blessings,

Cathy Calvin
Director, Women's Ministry, Eastern Synod

Our sympathy and prayers are with Rev Katharina Moeller and her family as they mourn the loss of her husband Burkhard.



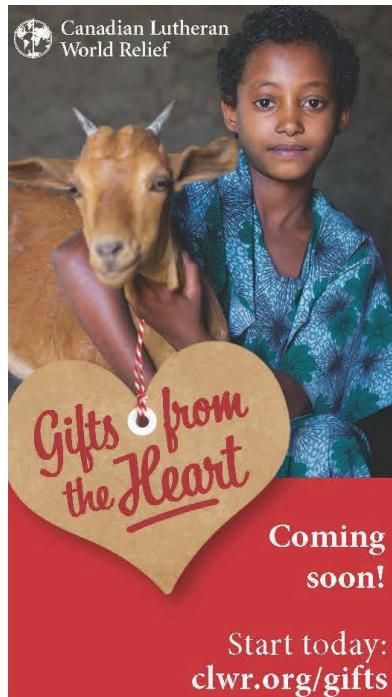
We also pray for the Reverends Joanna, David and Martin Malina and their families as they grieve the loss of husband and father, Rev Jan Malina.



My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
Psalm 73: 26



Want to know more about what Lutherans are doing across the country?
Contact Barb
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Upcoming Events

Liturgy Canada Conference
February 2, 2019

Atlantic Conference for Rostered Ministers
February 10-13, 2019

Bishop's Spiritual Retreat for Clergy
February 24-27, 2019

Lay Spiritual Retreat
March 29– 31, 2019

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

Transitions

Rev Art Hodgeson retired from St. Paul's, Ellice

Rev Rick Pryce began at Rose Bay Parish

Rev Nadine Nicholds finished as dean of GTA West Ministry Area

Rev Rick Kwiatkowski began as dean of GTA West Ministry Area

Interim

Rev Willis Ott finished as interim at Rose Bay Parish

Rev Matthew Anderson finished as interim, St. Michael's Finnish, Montreal

Looking to the Future

Rev Riitta Hepomaki

"Finnish ministry in Montreal is at a crossroads," says Samuli Vuokila, the Chair of the Congregational Council of St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Montreal. "The older demographic of immigrants who settled in Montreal and other places, and took part in congregational activities, is past. Montreal, like other larger cities, now receives Finns primarily as students, as spouses of Canadians, and as transient workers on various forms of contracts."

St. Michael's congregational council, Finnish pastors and pastores to Finns along with other interested persons gathered together to vision possible futures for the congregation and to

seek the best ways forward for ministry in the congregation.

After the productive and inspiring visioning session led by Pastor Matthew Anderson, people from both St. Michael's and St. John Estonian congregation as well as other Lutheran congregations joined in bidding farewell to Pastor Matthew who is moving to the United Kingdom. Pastor Matthew has served St. Michael's Finnish congregation since 2008 and St. John Estonian congregation since 2015.



Below: Pastor Matthew and Pastor Riitta have some fun with the camera.



Pastor Matthew tells the story of the scarf: *Each of seven Finnish women took the project home, and added a section of the scarf using Finnish wool that had some meaning to them and to me. There's blue and white from Finland's 100th anniversary last year. There's grey wool left over from the Finnish veteran's projects. So the scarf represents at least seven households. To my mind, it's a ritual object representing the Finnish community. I LOVE IT.*





Kate's brain

Can you think of a better teaching aid for the Neuroscience of Psychotherapy class than a colour-coded cake illustrating different sections of the human brain? Yes....cake. Red velvet to be exact. Kate Harper, assistant professor (centre), recently treated her students to a lesson they literally digested. For more fun photos, check out the albums on [Facebook](#) and [Flickr](#).

Events calendar

Are you interested in keeping up to date on the dozens of public events Luther hosts each year? Visit our [website](#) and scroll to the timeline at the bottom of the home page, or go to our [events calendar](#). See you soon!

Year in Review 2018

With a name-change and complete renewal of our building, 2018 was a historic year! See our Year in Review in pictures on [Facebook](#) and [Flickr](#).



Strategic planning day

We're always thankful for the work of our board members! They spent a recent Saturday reviewing Luther's strategic plan 2015-2020 and discussing issues for the 2020-2025 plan. Left to right: Susan Heard (treasurer), Andrew Thompson (secretary), Rev. Michael Pryse (bishop), James Phillips (chair), Rev. Mark Harris (principal-dean), and Dave Schnarr. See more photos on [Facebook](#) or [Flickr](#).

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