



Eastern Synod Newsletter

www.easternsynod.org



Jan 20, 2020
Volume 92

Upcoming Staff Transitions in the Synod Office

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to inform you about some forthcoming personnel changes in the synod office.

Pastor Riitta Hepomaki, Assistant to the Bishop, has announced her resignation, commencing March 13, 2020. After 16 years in Canada, Riitta is moving back to Finland to join her husband, who accepted a call in Seinajoki, Finland, at the end of 2019.

Since Riitta joined the synod staff in 2010, she has been a valuable team member and leader. Among her many responsibilities and duties, her greatest passion was to equip and empower the lay leaders of our congregations through developing and facilitating numerous training workshops. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Riitta, as she provided new perspectives that allowed us to learn and grow.

It is with sadness that I announce that Cathy Caron Grahlman has tendered her resignation as Administrative Assistant to the Bishop, effective March 13, 2020. Cathy has been an integral part of the synod office for over 20 years providing warm and professional assistance to the synod and the wider church. Her commitment and dedication are worthy of admiration. We all will miss Cathy's congeniality and empathy, but respect her decision and wish her all the best as she embarks on a new chapter.

And finally, I am announcing that Karen Cross's term of service with the Eastern Synod will conclude effective March 26, 2020. Karen started working in the synod office in 2015 as a part-time Assistant to the Treasurer. We all recognize Karen for her quiet dedication and faithful service and are appreciative for her many contributions to the life of our synod.

In the midst of these departures, I am pleased to introduce Ms. Kim Marcy as the Eastern Synod's Director, Finance and Administration.

As communicated last year, this is a new position in the synod office. Kim will be responsible for the day to day financial functions currently being performed by our Treasurer, Keith Myra (in a volunteer position) and will also be responsible for the operational work of the synod office, including managing the logistics of the synod assembly.

Within the context of our strategic plan, Kim will have primary accountability for helping to facilitate our fourth strategic goal of "Being a Healthy Synod", which allows the Bishop and Assistant to the Bishop roles to focus on the strategic priorities related to vision, leadership and support to the synod community, developing capable leaders, and, connecting the synod community with the wider church through effective partnerships.

Kim is a financial management professional who brings over 20 years of progressive experience and a unique mix of skills in financial operations, business management and senior leadership. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wilfrid Laurier University and a Business Administration diploma from Conestoga College.

Please join me in welcoming Kim to the Eastern Synod!

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ESynodELCIC

Follow us on Twitter
@ESynodECIC

and Instagram easternsynod



Wednesday's Soup=A Hug in a Bowl

submitted by Jean Schaus, Council Chair

A hug in a bowl was born out of a meeting held in March, 2019. The Church Council of Trinity, Walkerton requested ideas to make the church more visible in the community. The purpose was to witness in our church and community: to welcome all, to socialize in a caring and safe setting, to develop friendships and to build a support network.

The first of our soup days happened in September. We meet on the first and 3rd Wednesday of each month. Free will donations are accepted. Funds in excess of expenses are donated to a worthwhile community need.

After 7 sessions we were able to donate a cheque for \$642.00 to the Walkerton and District Food Bank. Average attendance each week is 20 persons. Participants come from Chesley, Cargill, Elmwood, Formosa, Neustadt, Chepstow Hanover and Walkerton.

Two homemade soups are offered each session. Soup is prepared from scratch in the church kitchen and we make sure to have extra for those wishing to try both soups.

Starting at 10:30; coffee, tea, juice, and cookies are offered to enjoy while we have lively conversation, much laughter and a time to socialize with our ecumenical brothers and sisters. Then just before noon soup's on, with crackers, of course.

Thanks to Pastor Catharine for her encouragement and guidance to make this project happen.

It has been exciting and fun to watch this idea grow. We can have fun, food and fellowship and at the same time make a difference in the community with our donations.

Pictured left to right Laurel Martin, Rev. Catharine House, Jean Schaus presenting a cheque to Maryanne Buehlow & Dorothy Froom, representatives of the Walkerton Food Bank.

Upcoming Events

Ordination Service
January 26, 2020

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](#).

Transitions

Rev Annette Smith from Trillium, Waterloo to St. Paul's, Richmond Hill

Rev Catharine House retired from Trinity, Walkerton

Candidate Leanne Darlington began at Zion, Philipsburg

Candidate Pamela McNeil to South Grey Bruce Lutheran Parish

Rev Mira Salmelainen from New Hope, Sudbury to St. Michael's Finnish, Montreal

Interims

Rev Stephen Croft finished at Our Saviour, Dartmouth

Rev Bonnie Schelter- Brown finished at Zion, Philipsburg

Rev Stephen Larson began at Trillium, Waterloo.

On behalf of the



Eastern Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Bishop Michael J. Pryse
cordially invites you to attend the
Synod Ordination Service of

Leanne Margaret Darlington

&

Pamela Erica McNeil

to be held at

Mount Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
29 Westmount Road South, Waterloo, Ontario

Sunday, January 26, 2020
at 3:00 p.m.

Clergy are asked to vest
(Liturgical colour is red)

Vesting Clergy please RSVP by January 20, 2020
to
Cathy Caron Grahlmán
<ccaron@elcic.ca> or (519) 743-1461

Reception to Follow

Our thoughts and prayers are with Rev Lawrence Ehrhardt and his family as they mourn the loss of his wife, Sharon.

We also pray for Rev Richard Schwass and his family as they mourn the loss of his mother, Esther.



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



ELFEC Seeks Executive Director

Due to the pending retirement of our incumbent Executive Director, our Board of Directors is searching for an experienced, dynamic leader who can guide the organization through its next phase of growth.

ELFEC is a faith-based charitable foundation based in Kitchener, Ontario. We have two primary program areas: responsible investing and gift planning.

Interested persons are invited to find more information and submit an application through the [Charity Village website](#). The application deadline is March 1, 2020, with the successful candidate expected to begin employment on June 1.



LUTHER

January 2020

Wynne talk reserved quickly

All seats for former Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne's upcoming talk at Luther on faith and public life were reserved quickly.

Registration has **closed**. To subscribe to our coming events email list, please send a request to

stayconnected@luther.wlu.ca



Interfaith harmony and forum

To participate in the United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week, our Open Door service on Wednesday, Feb. 5 will be an interfaith celebration (not a communion service) starting at 5 p.m. followed by a soup supper at 6 p.m. and Abrahamic Faiths Forum at 7 p.m. More details to come. Please check the [Laurier-Luther](#) calendar or our [Facebook page](#).

Art and Vespers

[Art and Vespers](#), held in conjunction with one of Luther's visual art exhibits, is an annual jazz service focused on a specific theme and enlivened by the expressive arts. This year, we open the exhibition "JOY." Please join us in Keffer Memorial Chapel at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 9.

Year in Review

2019 was another fantastic year at Luther: High enrolment; new board members; Indigenous elders and other speakers; action on climate change and more! Check out the photo albums on [Facebook](#) and/or [Flickr](#)

Vol. 3 Issue 1 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



Luther's enduring global impact

Mark Harris, principal-dean, delivers the first talk in a series of eight lectures being presented by Luther's faculty and emeritus professors. The lectures, offered in co-operation with Third Age Learning Kitchener Waterloo, take place at RIM Park, in Waterloo, beginning at 1:30 p.m. each Thursday through to the end of February. Tickets cost \$8 at the door. For a list of speakers and topics, please visit the Third Age Learning web page for [Shifting Paradigms: Martin Luther's Enduring Global Impact](#).

Worship at Luther

Everyone is welcome to worship with us throughout the school year: Wednesdays at 5 p.m. for Open Door. And [thirdspace](#) gathers on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Stay Connected!

In addition to [Luther News](#) (this monthly bulletin you are reading) we publish the quarterly [Luther Alumni News](#) and the occasional [Donor Update](#) bulletin. To subscribe to any of our newsletters or bulletins, please contact us at stayconnected@luther.wlu.ca

Student wellness

In its ongoing efforts to strengthen emotional and spiritual well-being on campus and beyond, The Delton Glebe Counselling Centre is providing free yoga for students; a support group for students experiencing suicidal thoughts; and a new walk-in clinic. For details, visit the website glebecounselling.ca

