



Eastern Synod Newsletter

www.easternsynod.org



Mar 18, 2019
Volume 84

ELCIC Women of Faith Fund

The ELCIC Women of Faith Fund provides annual grants that encourage and facilitate the Christ-centred ministry of women within the ELCIC and *In Mission for Others*.

This fund was established in 2011 in recognition of the “significant contribution of the women of the Evangelical Lutheran Women (ELW) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC)”. The fund came from the monies remaining after the dissolution of the ELW. Individuals or groups may make additional donations to the fund.

Grants from the ELCIC Women of Faith Fund will be available on an annual basis. The **deadline for applications is MAY 1**.

Applicants will submit their proposals for review and consideration by the Women of Faith Fund Advisory Committee appointed by National Church Council.

[Women of Faith Fund Grant Application Form](#)

[Women of Faith Fund Reporting Form](#)

[Women of Faith Fund Funding Guidelines](#)

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ELCIC Women of Faith Funds Approved for 2018

Single Parent Family Camp, ABT - \$ 4,300
Making of Quilts for CLWR & Local Charities, BC - \$ 1,500
Hands of Hope Quilting, BC - \$ 750
Kate's Place Quilts, SK - \$ 550
Masibumbane Sewing Project, BC - \$ 1,000
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Quilting Group, BC - \$ 1,500
Lutheran-Anglican Women's Retreat 2018, SK - \$ 500
Sandwiches for the Homeless, ABT - \$ 1,200
Baby Bundles for CLWR, Eastern - \$ 500
Comfort Quilts, BC - \$ 1,000
Sunday Lunch at the Urban Mission, MNO - \$ 750
Transition Kits for the Homeless, MNO - \$ 2,500
Peace Lutheran Church Layettes, BC - \$ 2,500
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Outreach Ministries: Quilts & Blankets, SK - \$ 900
Young Adult Dinners, BC - \$ 1,500
Our Saviour's Lutheran Women's Quilting Group, BC - \$ 1,200
Joy in the Journey – Eastern Synod Women's Retreat, Eastern - \$ 4,000
Uncovering Grief Conference, ABT - \$ 4,000
Quilters and Knitters for Others, BC - \$ 1,200
Faith Outreach Ministry, Eastern - \$ 6,000
Women's Circle, ABT - \$ 3,000
Crafting Ladies Energetically Valuing Enterprise & Relationships (CLEVER), BC – \$ 700
CLWR Sewing Kits, ABT - \$ 750
Trinity Lutheran Church Knotty Knitters, BC - \$ 500
Organizing Justice: A Collaboration with Greater Edmonton Alliance (GEA) - \$ 4,000

Total projects approved amount to \$46,300 from an available \$46,330.



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Will You Share Your Story?

These last few months in my new position as Giving Advisor for ELFEC, have been a real gift. I have started to meet and talk to some of you and hear your stories – why you have remembered the church with your planned gifts. Many of you ask – “What is it that you do?” and “Why do you do what you do?”

Let me share the short answer to the second question – I simply love the church. When attending Synod Assemblies or National Conventions, I am absolutely amazed at the mission the church is carrying out – with Reconciliation initiatives, working with environmental groups, creating public policy documents that reflect our theological understandings and ideas, and carrying out ecumenical conversations, to name a few. On the local front, congregations are opening their doors to refugees, feeding the hungry, creating welcoming spaces for all, and continuing a faithful practice of worship, praise, and prayer. What a gift to be part of this community we call the church. I want to invite others to share in the mission of the church.

And I am not the only one. Others are enthusiastically supporting the

church through planned gifts. Recently I had a conversation with someone who was writing their first will. Besides their family, they wanted to make sure something was left for the church as well. They are grateful for all the church has provided to them over the years and want to be able to support that mission in the future. And then there was the gentleman who explained that he had been blessed throughout his life, his family was well taken care of, and he wanted to know – how could he help the church fulfill its mission – both now and in the future.

That answers a bit of the “why” I do what I do. What is it I do? There are many answers to that question, but the simplest is, I listen to people’s stories and help them determine how they can best make a financial gift to the church to help support its vision and mission. What is your story? I would like to hear it. Contact me directly, or invite me to come to your church to make a presentation about Planned Giving. I would love to listen to you!

For more information about Lutheran Planned Giving or ELFEC, please feel free to contact me.

Kathryn Smith | Giving Advisor | ksmith@elfec.ca 1-888-308-9461

Where Two or Three Are Gathered: Worship for Small Assemblies

The Program Committee for Worship is in the second year of preparing seasonal worship planning resources. Note that the 2019 Lent Worship Orders are available.

This collection of weekly resources are intended to support worship in the congregations and ministries of the ELCIC and partner churches by providing information and ideas supplementary to other print and online sources.

Find them on the Worship Website of the ELCIC under “Worship Planning” at: <http://www.worship.ca>

The Eastern Synod’s 2018 Financial Story (Pre-audit)

Once again in 2018 the Synod’s operating budget supported an impressive list of ministries. For this we are most grateful! However, several financial challenges clouded this picture somewhat. A \$74,000 deficit was realized in 2018 and more than used up small surpluses that had been achieved over each of the previous three years.

For a more detailed review of the past year, click on the link [The Synod’s 2018 Financial Story](#).

Please accept my sincere thanks for your financial gifts to the synod over the past year. They are important and very much appreciated!

Keith Myra, Treasurer



Canadian Lutheran World Relief

Responding to crisis in Central African Republic

Help today: clwr.org/foodcrisis

Does your congregation prepare a newsletter?

Please share it with us, we want to hear what’s happening in your world. With your permission we may want to share your stories with the whole synod .

Please send electronic copies of all your newsletters to Liz, ezehr@elcic.ca. Thanks everyone!

Racial Justice Advisory Committee Update

submitted by Rev Joanna Miller

At Synod Assembly last summer, when you passed Motion 1.4, you created a Racial Justice Advisory Committee to lead our Synod in the work of racial justice awareness, learning, and advocacy. Since then, your committee has been hard at work. Recently, all rostered ministers received a copy of the Working Toward Racial Justice workshop resource that was promised to you at Assembly. This resource can help open up space for conversations about race within congregations and ministry areas. If you haven't heard of an opportunity to participate in one of these workshops in your area, then talk to your pastor or Ministry Area Dean to get something started. As a way to remember to hold our sisters and brothers in the world in our hearts and prayers, pastors will also receive reminders and worship resources to include to mark the International day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (March 21) and National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21) this year and going forward. As a committee, we have been working on creating for ourselves a set of goals that will help us work toward a vision for God's Kingdom lived out

New Appointments

Bishop Pryse is pleased to announce the appointments of the Rev. Robert Wiesner to serve as dean of the Seaway Ministry Area and the Rev. Elina Salonen to serve as dean of the Ottawa Ministry Area. Pastor Wiesner succeeds the Rev. Steve Hoffard who has accepted a new call to ministry in the Central Toronto Ministry Area, while Pastor Salonen succeeds Rev. JoAnne Lam who resigned her position in order to more fully devote herself to other vocational and educational responsibilities.

"I am grateful to both Pastor Hoffard and Pastor Lam for their tenure of service and am looking forward to working with Pastors Wiesner and Salonen in this new capacity."

within our Synod and in our communities. Part of those goals is to create safer space for conversations about race, in our Synod, Ministry Areas and congregations. We would like to provide a point of contact for those who could use some support, advocacy, and/or a listening circle if you have had difficult experiences around race and privilege. It can be especially difficult to experience racism in the church and it is important for everyone to have a place where their story can be heard. If you are looking for support, contact either Katherine Gohm, Director for Public Policy and Service Ministries (kgohm@elcic.ca) or Joanna Miller, RJAC Chair (joanna.e.miller@gmail.com). This committee is dedicated to the work of racial justice. We believe that every person is created in the image of God and, as such, is both valuable and beloved. We believe in God's vision for community, where all voices are heard. And, we recognize that we, in the Eastern Synod, have not yet lived fully into God's vision. Please pray for our work as we seek to lead us into becoming a Synod that better exemplifies God's Kingdom.



Our thoughts and prayers are with Rev Darlyne Rath and her family as they mourn the loss of her mother.

The Lord is near to the broken-hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.

Psalm 34: 18

Daily Devotions

Lutherans Connect provides online devotions seasonally. You can follow them on twitter, facebook or read their blog <https://lclivingourfaith.blogspot.com>

Upcoming Events

Singing With Our Neighbours
March 24, 2019

Lay Spiritual Retreat
March 29– 31, 2019

Fundraiser for Autism Ontario
March 31, 2019

Messy Church Fiesta– Nova Scotia
April 6, 2019

Celebration 30– Owen Sound
April 13, 2019

K-W Women of Faith Event
April 27, 2019

Joy in the Journey Women's
Retreat
May 24-27, 2019

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

Thank You

In 2018 nearly half of the congregations in the Synod gave more to the general benevolence fund than they did in 2017! Of those congregations making a written commitment for general benevolence, more than 40% not only fulfilled it, but exceeded it!! And 35 congregations were able to do both!!!

We are grateful to every individual member and congregation that made a benevolence offering in 2018. But we think the congregations listed here deserve our special thanks for their outstanding contribution to the ministry we share as a Synod.

[Congregations that exceeded their 2018 Benevolence Commitment](#)

[Congregations with Increases to Benevolence \(2018 vs 2017\)](#)

Transitions

Rev Steve Hoffard finished at St. Mark's, Kingston and began at Redeemer, Toronto

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Shamrock Café

As roughly 30,000 people crammed nearby Ezra Avenue on St. Patrick's Day, once again the [thirdspace_community](#) at Luther organized an alcohol-free party called Shamrock Café. Free snacks, games and a visit with our four-legged friends were a big hit!

Workshop: Communications for Young Adults — May 4

Luther's communications director will be leading a workshop May 4 to help your congregation's young adults gain skills they can use to help publicize your church's events. In turn, we hope to help students gain skills they can use to fulfil the 40 volunteer hours required for high school graduation. The workshop is for students entering Grades 9, 10 or 11 in September. Each participant will learn how to make and execute a publicity plan for their congregation's events; create a flyer for one of their church's events; learn how to publicize the event in a comprehensive and co-ordinated way; hear how to pitch



their ideas to an audience of 1 or 100; and tour Luther's renewed building and Laurier's Waterloo campus. Cost \$20, includes refreshments and lunch, T-shirt and a certificate of completion. The workshop is open to students of all denominations. Maximum two per congregation. Supported by the Eastern Synod's Youth and Young Adult Ministries. For details and to register, [click here](#).

Sexual addiction, trauma

The [Delton Glebe Counselling Centre](#) is holding a two-day workshop April 26-27 for therapists wanting guidance in treating betrayal trauma and sexual addiction. Workshop leader: Dr. Kevin Skinner. Registration deadline: March 31. Details and to register, [click here](#).

Inshallah

Join Inshallah at Knox Presbyterian, Waterloo, at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 24 for [Sing- ing With Our Neighbours](#). Special tribute to Jean Becker and Mino Ode Kwewak N'gamowak. Proceeds of free-will offering will go to strengthen Indigenous programs at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Events calendar

Want to stay current about Luther events? Visit our [website](#) and scroll to the timeline at the bottom of the home page, or go to our [events calendar](#).

Vol. 2 Issue 3 *Luther* is a collection of news from Martin Luther University College in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.

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