



Eastern Synod Newsletter

www.easternsynod.org



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Bishops' Company Lunch

More than seventy people accepted Bishops Huras and Pryse's invitation to the Bishops' Company Luncheon on October 5, 2019, in Kitchener, Ontario. This year's Guest Speaker was Rev Dr. Susan Johnson, National Bishop of the ELCIC. She told about the work of Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and Holy Land (ELCJHL) and the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Argentina and Uruguay (IELU), who are some of our global mission partners.

"Jesus promised that when two or three were gathered in his name, he would be in their midst. He said this as a reminder that faith is, in its essence, profoundly dialogical. Faith cannot go on without talking and without listening to each other. All of our partnerships as a synod, national church, and beyond are ways that we live out this reality," said Bishop Susan.

The Eastern Synod has two global mission partners, the ELCJHL and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana (ELCG).

Through Bishops' Company you can contribute to following ministries:

- Global Mission Companion Program
- Bishop's Ministry Area Visits
- Deans/Ministry Directors Leadership
- Bishop's Discretionary fund

If you'd like to join the Bishops' Company and support these important ministries please contact Liz, ezehr@elcic.ca for more information.



Companionship Consultation in Guyana



Laurie Knott, Eastern Synod Vice Chair and Rev Riitta Hepomaki, Assistant to the Bishop participated in a companionship consultation in Guyana in early October.

They met with the leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana as well as representatives of ELCA Global Mission department and Florida/Bahama Synod for visioning and planning for the future.

The purpose of the meeting was to learn more about each other's churches and seek ways to strengthen our partnerships. Paulina Dasse, Manager for Relationships Latin America and the Caribbean Global Mission Unit ELCA, led the group in discussion about best practices and new commitments.

The full report of the consultation will be posted on the website in the coming weeks.



Left: Paulina Dasse
Right: Laurie Knott, PJ May
and Rev Shirley Jaundoo



Summer Lutheran Youth Camp

Pastor Brian Wilker

Imagine a week of intentional Christian community in a beautiful outdoor setting for the confirmation and high school youth of your congregation.

When Edgewood closed, the group that used to be called Contract Confirmation Camp found a new location to gather – Camp Kintail, which is a beautiful Presbyterian camp on the shores of Lake Huron, 30 km south of Kincardine. What we found there was an incredibly warm welcome by the Kintail staff who have bent over backwards to work with us over the past three years when they could have made much more money renting the camp out to any number of secular groups. We also found wonderfully well-maintained facilities that have greatly expanded the opportunities we are able to provide campers.

All of this has meant that we have been able to grow our camp beyond its “confirmation camp” origins to become a Lutheran Youth Camp with three big priorities: 1. A week of Intentional Christian Community for confirmation age and high school youth; 2. Leadership Development, and; 3. Expanding our camp beyond the twelve congregations it currently serves.

Intentional Christian Community

All churches do their best to bring youth together for learning and activities. Sometimes it's an evening or a sleepover. CLAY brings them together or a wonderful big gathering. The Summer Lutheran Youth Camp brings youth together for six days of worship, learning, fun, eating (lots and lots of eating!), singing, danc-

ing, games, and crafts all with the express purpose of having our youth experience Christian community intentionally for an extended period of time. In other words: confirmation students, high school kids, counsellors, leaders, and pastors all living together as Christians unapologetically and intentionally through joys and challenges, high rope activities and prayer. How often do any of us get that kind of experience? It changes lives.

Leadership Development for our Youth

Perhaps you've seen the recent “35 Under 35” project by Kristina Kuhnert highlighting the amazing ministry by so many ELCIC young adults across the country. (You should check it out at <https://www.facebook.com/ELCICYoungAdults/>) I was moved by how many of those people participated in the camp over the last 22 years that I've been involved. “Hey, I remember them from camp!” is a refrain I repeat over and over again as I go through the list. Counsellors, Activity Directors, Musicians. Our camp goes a long way in helping prepare the leaders of today and tomorrow.

Growth

Over fifty years ago, the camp started by one pastor, Norman Lange, at one congregation, Mount Zion, Waterloo. Today it has grown to twelve congregations, with many more having participated throughout the years. Being at Kintail gives us the opportunity to greatly expand the size of our camp – we could probably accommodate twice as many congregations. That's a lot of Intentional Christian Community!

Providing an experience like this for our youth demands a commitment of time, energy, and passion for this ministry. But I can testify to the value of this work. Building relationships. Empowering leaders. Experiencing the gospel as a lived and meaningful reality. Being accepted just for who you are. This is what Summer Lutheran Youth Camp is all about. And we have room to grow!

Camp takes place each year during the last full week (Sunday to Friday) before Labour Day weekend. If you are a leader or pastor who thinks this might be a ministry for your youth, please contact me, pastor@faithlutheranbrantford.com We are having a planning meeting at All Saints Lutheran/Anglican in Guelph on October 30. We'd love it if you could join us.



Upcoming Events

Annual Auxiliary Meeting
October 19, 2019

Treasurer's Workshop, Toronto
October 26, 2019

Christians Together in Canada
October 26, 2019

Treasurer's Workshop, Hamilton
November 2, 2019

Treasurer Workshop, Bridgewater
November 9, 2019

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

Donations in Kind - Gifts of Securities

Elinor James was in a bind. She did not know what to do. Every year, Elinor had given a sizable donation to her church – this was just who she was. She also knew the congregation counted on that donation to be able to carry out their mission in their small community. But this year, things were a little different. You see, Elinor dearly wanted to take her son and his family on a trip for her 70th birthday. But that meant that her available cash was a little low, and giving her normal donation to the church would make it difficult for her to meet some other obligations as well. What to do?

Elinor was able to find a solution to her issue, and it resulted in a benefit to both her and her congregation. To find out about the tax advantages of donating publicly traded securities, continue reading this latest article on planned giving presented by ELFEC found [here](#).



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Report of the Treasurer (to September 30th, 2019)

At the end of June 2019, Benevolence offerings were tracking almost 9% behind those that had been received for the corresponding period in 2018. As of September 30th, we've made up all of this lost ground, and in fact, have pulled slightly ahead! A big thank you to those congregational treasurers who caught up over the last few months by making remittances and to those who continue to send in their offerings on a regular, monthly basis! Offerings designated for Canadian Lutheran World Relief are tracking about 1% behind last year's pace. For details refer to [Report of the Treasurer](#) or go to <http://www.easternsynod.org/> and click the orange Treasurers/Financial Info button.

2018 audit financial reports can be viewed by clicking on the following link: [2018 Eastern Synod Audited Financial Statements](#).

A series of regional workshops for congregational treasurers and others involved in financial matters has been scheduled for this fall. For details, refer to [2019 Regional Treasurer Workshops](#). In addition to the four workshops that are listed here, a workshop will be held at St. Paul's, Bridgewater on November 9th. For details email the Synod Treasurer (kmyra@elcic.ca).

Want to know more about what Lutherans are doing across the country?

Contact Barb bwiebe@elcic.ca



Webinar: Learning about the Benefits of Donating Gifts of Securities

Did you know that by transferring publicly traded securities to your congregation or another charity, you will experience a greater tax advantage than by donating the same amount in cash? To take advantage of the tax benefit, the donation has to be in-kind – meaning there is a transfer of the shares themselves.

We invite you to find out more about making donations of securities to your congregation, both now or later, in your will. Learn more by joining us for an informative half-hour webinar on Tuesday, November 5, 2019 at 2:30 pm EDT. During the webinar, you will hear from Bill Gastmeier, who makes regular gifts of securities to his congregation and the impact of this for both him and his congregation. You will also find out how ELFEC can help you and your congregation manage this transfer of securities in a smooth and simple manner.

To register, email Krista at kkuehnbaum@elfec.ca.



Worship Outlines

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 next set of documents, prepared by Rev. John Boyd, is now available at worship.ca, or at the following link:

October 20 - November 24

<http://www.worship.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Oct-20-Nov-24-WTOTAG-John-Boyd.pdf>

Transitions

Rev Seth Perry began at St. Mark's, Kingston

Rev Michael Hackbusch completed his chaplaincy at House of Friendship

The Seaway Ministry Area Annual Workshop & Retreat for Rostered Leaders

Sun. Nov. 24, 5pm to noon Wed. Nov. 27, 2019 at Camp Lutherlyn

Share in *Walking by Faith and With the Spirit* through the Walk-a-Mile-Film-Project from Thunder Bay.

\$25 / person covers registration and accommodations.

Participants share in providing food and meal preparation.

To register, or for more information, please send an email

to: sylvia.poetschke@yahoo.com

Interims

Rev Doug Schweyer finished at Transfiguration, Hamilton

Revs Thomas & Daniela Mertz began at Transfiguration, Hamilton

Rev JoAnne Lam began at Anglican Parish of Bearbrook, Navan & Blackburn



LUTHER

October 2019



Faith and the federal election

Nearly 200 people attended our federal election town hall at Mount Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Waterloo, on Oct. 1. Candidates (L-R) Bardish Chagger, Lori Campbell and Mike Morrice participated. Luther's Centre for Public Ethics co-hosted the event, Shaping a Just Canada, with Ottawa-based Citizens for Public Justice.

Swag now available!

And now....the swag you've all been waiting for! Caps, tuques, water bottles, sweatshirts and casual-yet-dressy fleece. Go to bit.ly/LutherSwag for photos of all items, prices and ordering details. **Note: Nov. 1 deadline for Christmas orders.**



Call to Action #83 - Round Two



The Indigenous and settler art exhibition at Luther continues until Nov. 22. Open most weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. To check evening times, please contact

martin@luther.wlu.ca

Circle of Dialogue

Circle of (Indigenous) Dialogue, speaker the Most Rev. Mark MacDonald, the Anglican Church of Canada's National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop, takes place on Tuesday, Nov. 5. [See flyer for details.](#)



Second location for Glebe centre

[Delton Glebe Counselling Centre](#) staff (L-R) Elma Plant, office manager, Kristine Lund, clinical director, and Neta Deonarain-Gear, executive director, opened three additional therapy rooms recently. The site will enable clients to access more evening appointments. It is located on Lester Street, near the main office at the Albert-Seagram corner, above the Beckett music school.



Sing Fires of Justice 2019

Our thanks to the nearly 300 people who participated in Sing Fires of Justice 2019, at First United Church, Waterloo, featuring Abraham Jam!

Vol. 2 Issue 9 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



Training for Treasurers

Taking on responsibilities for congregational financial matters isn't easy! This job is even tougher if you haven't received any recent training or if you aren't aware of a variety of resources that are available to assist you.

Help is on the way! Through funding provided by the Lay Ministry Education Fund, the Eastern Synod is offering a series of regional workshops in Ontario (Ottawa, Toronto, Hamilton, and Stratford) and Nova Scotia (Bridgewater) this fall that will cover a wide variety of financial matters.

**CONGREGATIONAL
TREASURERS,
FINANCIAL
SECRETARIES,
FINANCE
COMMITTEES
CHURCH COUNCILS
PASTORS,
AND OTHERS**

For details on the four Ontario workshops click on the following link [2019 Regional Treasurer Workshops](#). For more information and to register for the Nova Scotia workshop scheduled for St. Paul's, Bridgewater on November 9th, contact the Synod Treasurer, Keith Myra (email: kmyra@elcic.ca).