

The Eastern Synod Lutheran

April 21, 2015

Volume 40



you along. Ultimately, camp was what you chose to make it. Camp meant freedom.

It is so important for us maintain and protect places like Camps Edgewood, Lutherlyn and Mush-a-Mush. These are our three beautiful corners of nature far from all the hubbub of daily life, where families can go to commune with God in a joyful space, and our children can learn, on their own, that their faith is something to have fun with. Faith is not only about church on Sunday, or grace at dinner. It is about shouting those crazy songs at the campfire. It is about per-

forming the stories we mostly only hear preached in formal language from the lectern. It is about celebrating God's love for us.

Camp is a place where that celebration unfolds naturally – and it is wonderful thing to watch. Wouldn't it be something if we could work harder to hold on to that joy in the real world of bills and disappointments and family squabbles? God sets us free – by constantly giving us opportunities for new life. God wants us at the campfire, giggling, clapping our hands, and shouting out loud.

God's Backyard

Rev. Joel Crouse

Youth and Young Adults Ministries
Director, Eastern Synod

If you had the chance to go to summer camp as a child, you probably remember it as a magical time. It was a place where you made best friends overnight whispering in the dark in your cabin. You learned to paddle a canoe. You had competitions over who could make the biggest cannonball from the raft in the middle of the lake. Camp was this spirited place away from what was familiar, where you learned to share tight living quarters, and to find your voice in a larger group, without your parents to prod



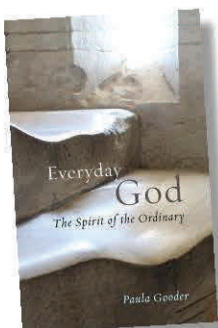
Experience the gift of God's Backyard at one of our Eastern Synod Camps this summer.

Camp Edgewood: <http://www.edgewood-camp.on.ca>

Camp Lutherlyn: <http://www.lutherlyncamp.ca>

Camp Mush-a-Mush: <http://campmush.ca>

Or support our camps with a donation to: <http://www.easternsynod.org/content/donations>



Everyday God

The Spirit of the Ordinary

In this book of reflections, author Paula Gooder explores the longest period of the liturgical year, ordinary time. Through thirty-three meditations on biblical texts, Gooder shows how God breaks into everyday life, transforming it into the most extraordinary existence possible.

ISBN 978-1-4514-9805-9, \$16.00

 AUGSBURG FORTRESS
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NEW!

Four GTA Churches come together to celebrate the Easter Vigil

submitted by Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

On a snowy Holy Saturday evening, four Lutheran and Anglican churches in the north of the GTA came together for the first time at Christ the King - Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Thornhill to celebrate the Easter Vigil together. "At our area meeting last year with the Bishop" notes Pastor Meadows-Helmer, "he challenged us to do more stuff together. Immediately I thought of the Easter Vigil, which I had not yet done since arriving in Thornhill. And then invite the neighboring churches to join in...it'd be a lot more fun!" Around 30 members from the four churches gathered that Saturday, and reading, preaching and presiding parts were divided up. The offering was designated for the Yellow Brick House, a local women's shelter.

(From l-r: Chris King (Emmanuel Anglican, Richmond Hill), Roy Thakurdial (Bethesda Lutheran, Unionville), Sebastian Meadows-Helmer (Christ the King - Dietrich Bonhoeffer Lutheran, Thornhill), Linda Douglas (Zion Lutheran, Maple)

Picture: Stefan Langin



Vacancies

- St. Timothy's, Pembroke
- St. Paul's, Richmond Hill
- Mount Calvary, Ottawa
- Peace Latvian, Ottawa
- First Lutheran, Toronto
- St Marks Midland Anglican-Lutheran
- Grace, Eganville along with the parish of Augsburg/Bonnechere

Justice Tour 2015

Come to pray, engage and learn what faith communities are saying and doing about climate change and poverty.

Find out how your voice can help!

A series of faithful gatherings of concerned Christians in cities across Canada, coordinated by the **Canadian Council of Churches** and **Citizens for Public Justice**.

April 13 | Vancouver

April 14 | Edmonton

April 15 | Saskatoon

April 16 | Winnipeg

May 10 | Kitchener-Waterloo

May 11 | Halifax

May 12 | Montréal

May 13 | Ottawa

Find out more about the Justice Tour here: <http://cpi.ca/justicetour2015>

The Caribbean Canadian Association of Waterloo Region (CCAWR) is celebrating its 40th Anniversary with its first Persons of Distinction Award Dinner on April 25, 2015. The recipients are Mrs. Esselyne Bell and Eastern Synod's own Rev. Dr. Peter Kuhnert.

Mrs. Bell, a member of the association is one of the founding members of the Maranatha Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Rev. Kuhnert was called to serve the Maranatha Lutheran Church in 2005 where "Pastor Pete" and his family were warmly welcomed by the Caribbean community. He worked hard to strengthen their Christian Ministry, their cultural ties and their outreach programmes both here and in Guyana.

Congratulations Pastor Pete!

A Day Of Prayer For Vocations To Rostered Ministry

Members and congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada are invited to celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 26, 2015, as a Day of Prayer for Vocations to Rostered Ministry.

Take the #VocationalSunday Challenge

To encourage conversation around the call to rostered ministry, this year we are introducing a challenge to all rostered ministers to make a 30 second video that starts with: "I first felt the call to rostered ministry when..." and finishes with "My one piece of advice to someone who may be feeling a call to ministry is..."

View the videos at <https://www.facebook.com/CanadianLutherans?>



Your support fights hunger and brings hope to families in Ethiopia.

Please make a gift today.



Canadian Lutheran World Relief
clwr.org/donate

Congratulations Murray Haase

The Mayors' Dinner is held annually to recognize the substantial contributions made by citizens of Kitchener-Waterloo. This year's honouree is Murray Haase, a member of St. Peter's, Kitchener.

Murray is a well-known volunteer, serving on many community projects and helping countless good causes. In 1984 he planned a Dream Home Lottery to aid Big Sisters, raising enough money to get a new headquarters for the organization. Now headed by the Kitchener-Conestoga Rotary Club the lottery has been held annually raising millions of dollars for charities in Kitchener-Waterloo. Murray has also been involved with the Rotary Club's Lobsterfest and Turkey Drive.

A love for sports spurred Murray on to help with some great events in KW such as the Scott Tournament of Hearts, the Brier and the LPGA Golf Tournament. He also helped establish Drayton Entertainment's St. Jacobs Country Playhouse and St. John's-Kilmarnock School. He's helped with fundraising campaigns for both Grand River and St. Mary's Hospital; served as director of the Lutherwood Child and Family Foundation and played a big role in the establishment of Luther Village on the Park.

Congratulations Murray- and thank you!

Report of the Treasurer (To March 31st, 2015)

With the first three months of 2015 now behind us, it's reassuring to see that offerings to Benevolence and Canadian Lutheran World Relief are running somewhat ahead of the pace we set in 2014. The 2.5% increase to Benevolence offerings, although small, is a step in the right direction towards making up for some of the shortfall we experienced last year and in meeting our budget for the current year. Your offerings to Regular (Undesignated) Benevolence, Canadian Lutheran World Relief, the ELCIC Praise Appeal and other synodical/church-wide causes are both urgently required and much appreciated. With each of us doing our part, we can ensure that these important ministry needs are fully funded!

For details on offerings received to date refer to [The Report of the Treasurer](#) or go to <http://www.easternsynod.org/> and click the Treasurers/Financial Info button.

World Interfaith Harmony Week

submitted by John B Voorpostel ,Chair, World Interfaith Harmony Week Toronto Steering Committee

The first week of February was declared World Interfaith Harmony Week by the United Nations in October 2010, and seeks to promote interfaith tolerance, respect and dialogue. Its sponsor, King Abdullah II of Jordan, based it on The Amman Message and The Common Word Initiative, also sponsored by His Majesty.

The international body that governs World Interfaith Harmony Week encourages people to engage in activities that week that promote its ideals of Love of God and Love of The Neighbour, or Love of The Good and Love of the Neighbour.

In the fall of 2012, St Philips Lutheran Church Etobicoke member John Voorpostel met with Pastor Tuula van Gaasbeek to seek counsel and support in starting a steering committee to bring World Interfaith Harmony Week to Toronto. Not only did Tuula give her support but she joined the steering committee as a founding member, giving it a strong Lutheran presence.

Using contacts established in his work with the ethno culturally based business community, John was able to identify key individuals in Toronto's interfaith community, and an inaugural steering committee meeting was held in October of 2012. Joining Pastor Tuula and John were Yasmin Ratansi, an Ismaili Muslim and the first Canadian Muslim woman in the Canadian Parliament, Paul McKenna of the Scarborough Missions, an internationally known interfaith activist known for the Golden Rule Poster, and Father Damien McPherson, who represented the Archdiocese of Toronto.

Committee chair John then expanded the Steering Committee to include Reverend Michelle Singh, a long serving interfaith minister; Leslie Mezei, a revered and internationally known interfaith figure, holocaust survivor and Sufi; Sid Ikeda, a greatly respected member of the Japanese community and Buddhist; Suraj Persad, a Hindu chaplain with a wide ranging ministry that includes the University of Toronto, hospitals and the penal system, and most recently, Khadijah Kanji, a young Muslim woman and passionate advocate for interfaith and social justice.

The Toronto Steering Committee undertook a mission to create and widen awareness of World Interfaith Harmony Week within the GTA, and to help plan, conceptualize, facilitate and co-ordinate its events. To that end it has grown from 2 events in February 2013 and 5 events in 2014 to 8 events in 2015. It also fulfilled its mandate by creating an important interfaith web site, maintains a Facebook page, issues a newsletter, and has obtained official support from the City of Toronto for all three years.

For its efforts in 2015, the Toronto Steering Committee was selected for a Bronze award by the international body. The award comprises a medallion, a cash award of \$5,000, worldwide acknowledgement and an all-expense paid trip to Jordan to meet with King Abdullah II to receive the award at the site of the Baptism of Jesus on Jordan River.

In announcing the award to St Philips on Sunday April 12, John thanked St Philips for their support and participation, and singled out Mark Kieswetter, choir director and the St Philips Choir for their participation in the very first World Interfaith Harmony Week event February 1 2013, and their total support since then. He also credited Toronto's interfaith community and its long standing culture of engagement, dialogue and respect for one another.

John also believes the win will mean that World Interfaith Harmony Week will gain momentum in Toronto and indeed in Canada as it is currently working with parliamentarians to have the first week of February officially declared as World Interfaith Harmony Week in Canada. He has often said, "We are living that saying, there is nothing as powerful as an idea whose time has come".

Indeed, the time for interfaith tolerance, respect and dialogue is here. As Lutherans and Christians, we should all embrace that ideal and you are encouraged to lead interfaith activities in your community. Perhaps you can end up living the saying "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."



MAY 8-10

EDGEWOOD WORK WEEKEND

Camp Edgewood needs your help!

Please join us for our annual work weekend and help Edgewood get ready for an awesome summer season!

You are welcome to stay overnight and enjoy an authentic Edgewood experience, or come for a day or even a few hours! Bring your paint/stain brush, cleaning products, pails, rags, rakes, all the tools you have!



Interested?

Contact

Murray Ziegler

519-634-5426

Registration form is
on the website:

www.edgewood-camp.on.ca

Individuals *and*
groups welcome!

Volunteers needed for
food prep also

Camp Edgewood

49 Memorial Street

Eden Mills, Ontario

N0B 1P0