



Eastern Synod  
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

# The Eastern Synod Lutheran

[www.eastersynod.org](http://www.eastersynod.org)



Dec 15, 2017  
Volume 69



Peace!

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors." (Luke 2:14) According to the gospel the heavenly host praised God with these words in the night when Jesus was born. Today it may appear that the angels' talk about peace remains a pious hope; for peace does not exist even in the area where the shepherds were guarding their sheep on that historic night, let alone other regions of the world.

It's been said that wars begin in people's minds. Therefore peace also has to be born in human minds. There is no peace in the world unless there is peace in people's minds. When Jesus was born, heavenly peace didn't miraculously blanket the earth. The way of the world went on and still goes on as before. Business as usual. It wasn't into the world where peace descended but into people's hearts. In people's hearts peace is born again and again.

On Christmas we celebrate

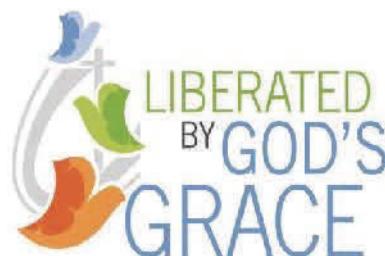
the birth of Jesus. Christmas cards and carols depict Jesus as a child, a newborn baby. I'm sure this is what children need to see and hear. But to adults, who have lived longer, seen more pain and evilness, and made more mistakes, a new born baby may not assure us of peace, freedom or forgiveness. Therefore it is good to remember, even on Christmas, that Jesus started his life in a manger but it ended on the cross and in between he lived a human life with all its joys and sorrows.

A little before his sentence to death, Jesus said to his disciples: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let

them be afraid." It is this promise of peace that we can hold on to in times of trouble and in times of happiness. God's peace agreement will never abate for God is faithful and keeps promises.

Our hope is the same as that which inspired Zechariah to prophesy, "By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Rev. Riitta Hepomaki  
Assistant to the Bishop



OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

## Assembly 2018

*Seventeenth Convention of the Eastern Synod of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada*

June 21 - 24, 2018

Delta Hotels by Marriott Toronto Airport & Conference Centre  
(Formerly International Plaza Hotel)  
Toronto, Ontario

*The Rev Wendell Grahman  
Secretary, Eastern Synod of the ELCIC*

## **Announcement- New Director, Youth and Young Adults Minis- tries**

Bishop Michael Pryse is happy to announce the appointment of the Rev. Christie Morrow to serve as the Eastern Synod Ministry Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministry effective January 1, 2018.

Pastor Morrow succeeds the Rev. Joel Crouse who has served in this capacity since 2008. "I am very much looking forward to working with Pastor Morrow in this new capacity. She will bring a fresh new perspective to this important portfolio and to our synod's leadership team!"

Pastor Morrow had this to say in response to her appointment:

"I am excited and humbled by Bishop Pryse's invitation to serve as the Ministry Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministries in the Eastern Synod. I have been kicking around youth ministry circles for many, many years (too many to count or admit!). Between that and my nearly 15 years of parish ministry experience, I have developed a passion and desire to make people's experience of church real,



relevant and applicable, especially for children and youth and young adults. I love the idea of a faith journey being primarily relational - that in being in relationship with each other we meet and see God on a daily basis. The question that drives me is how do we connect the dots between the relationships in our lives, our relationship with God and how we experience our relationship with God's Church. I am looking forward to making connections

and further unpacking this question as together we seek to serve God and one another."

Pastor Christie currently resides in Stratford, Ontario with her husband, Rev Mark Wolfe and their two daughters Caroline and Lauren.

Pictured above: Christie & Lauren



## **Report of the Treasurer**

(To November 30th, 2017)

With November now behind us, we're quickly approaching the December 31st finish line for the Eastern Synod's 2017 fiscal year. Although we made up some lost ground in November, we still have a way to go to meet our budget requirements for the year.

As of the end of November, offerings received by the synod office in 2017 for Benevolence, Canadian Lutheran World Relief and the ELCIC Praise Appeal were all tracking behind the comparable period for 2016 with declines of 3%, 11%, and 5% respectively. If you or your congregation are able to consider making an additional contribution to any of these causes, your "second mile" gift would be very much appreciated!

For details on offerings remitted for Benevolence, Canadian Lutheran World Relief and the ELCIC Praise Appeal, refer to Report of the Treasurer or go to <http://www.eastersynod.org/> and click the orange Treasurers/Financial Info button.

## **ELCG Reformation Service**

Rev. Dr. Peter Kuhnert

On Wed. Oct. 18, 2017, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana joined the worldwide Lutheran community in celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation.

The service took place in New Amsterdam at Ebenezer Lutheran Church the historic first church of the ELCG, which celebrates its own 274<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The ELCG is the second oldest Lutheran Church in South America after Suriname.

Guest preacher for the Anniversary service was the Rev. Ken Kross from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Suriname. Rev. Kross was joined by his wife, Joan and their daughter, Krystal. Liturgist for the service was Michael Davy Ram, treasurer for the ELCG. Persons from every congregation in the country joined in the new Caribbean Folk Service.

The festivities continued with the sharing of a light meal. Samuel Goolsarran, the long-time ELCG secretary, was the first recipient of ELCG's inaugural Martin Luther Award of Excellence. Mr Goolsarran recently returned from planting a commemorative tree in the Lutherstadt, Wittenberg.

The relationship between the ELCG and Eastern Synod Lutherans had its beginnings in the 1960s, when students from British Guiana completed their theological training at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. Since then, several graduates, including the Revs. Joseph Drepaul and Joseph Habibullah, became pastors of the Eastern Synod. Other students took on leadership positions both in the ELCG and at the United Theological Seminary of the West Indies ( Rev. Geoff Tannassee). Currently, we have former ELCG pastors, Rev. Roy Thakurdyal and Rev. Moses Persaud, serving Eastern Synod congregations.

Eastern Synod pastors who have served in the ELCG include Rev. Barry and Alice Lang, Rev. Jack and Val Frederick, and most recently, Rev. Vivian and Eric Roberts. Several of our Eastern Synod churches continue to have a strong Guyanese character. The Eastern Synod and the ELCG have enjoyed a Sister partner church relationship since 1997. This relationship was fostered by both our own Bishop, Michael Pryse and the ELCG president at the time, Rev. Roy Thakurdyal. This relationship is being renewed by our Synodical Council and the ELCG this year.

Since 2001, Rev. John O'Connor has made annual trips to Guyana for periods of two to three months to teach nursing students at the St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital in Georgetown. A current initiative, in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Health and the Georgetown Public Hospital, is to grow a local psychiatry training program. In support of this ministry initiative, Rev. Dr. Peter Kuhnert has led five groups of medical and nursing volunteers to Guyana, since 2013.

For over 60 years, our two Lutheran churches have prayed for, accompanied, learned and witnessed together to the grace of God active in our lands. In this year of renewal and revisioning, I encourage your congregations to actively pray for our partnership with the ELCG. And I encourage you to envision how God is calling us to be Lutheran together over the next 500 years of the Reformation- witnessing to the grace of God active in our lives, our families, our communities, and our countries. When inspired, please contact the synod office with your words and letters of support for this partnership.

## **GIFTS FROM THE HEART**



Canadian Lutheran  
World Relief



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your church or online  
at [clwr.org/GFTH](http://clwr.org/GFTH).



**Eastern Synod**  
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

## 2018 LEADERSHIP AWARD NOMINATION FORM

(AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED AT THE ASSEMBLY 2018 BANQUET ON JUNE 23, 2018)

Clergy Nomination

(Please check one)

Lay Person Nomination

Outstanding Service to the Eastern Synod

(Please check one)

Outstanding Service to the Wider Community

### NOMINEE DETAILS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Congregation (e.g. Advent, Toronto): \_\_\_\_\_

### \*WHY ARE YOU NOMINATING THIS PERSON?

Attach a brief summary (100 words maximum) indicating how long you have known the nominee and the reasons you believe he/she is a worthy candidate. Include any additional material in support of this nomination (i.e. testimonial letters, publications, media stories, tributes, etc.). Please limit the additional material to items that will provide new information and insight into who the nominee is and the nature of his/her service.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Relationship to the Above Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Daytime Contact Phone Number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Congregation (e.g. Advent, Toronto): \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and return (\*with summary) by **March 1, 2018** to:

### LEADERSHIP AWARD NOMINATIONS

Eastern Synod, ELCIC

74 Weber Street W

Kitchener ON N2H 3Z3

Email: [ccaron@elcic.ca](mailto:ccaron@elcic.ca)

Fax: (519) 743-4291

## Enter the Right Relationships Challenge!

We want to hear from you! The Biennium Reconciliation Initiative Task Force (BRITF) invites congregations and Ministry Areas to respond to the Right Relationships Challenge.

Please share a story about what your congregation or Ministry Area has been doing (or plans to do) walking with Indigenous sisters and brothers to help further Right Relationships. We welcome accounts reflecting different stages and aspects of awareness and relationship building.

To enter, send a completed Challenge Form to the Director of Public Policy and Service Ministries, Katherine Altenburg at [kaltenburg@elcic.ca](mailto:kaltenburg@elcic.ca) by February 2, 2018. The BRI Task Force will select five stories from across the Synod and publish them in The Eastern Synod Lutheran and on the Eastern Synod website.

Your BRITF – Katherine Altenburg, Janaki Bandara, Phil Heinze, Scott Knarr, Mary Thompson, Sherri Wilker

### Right Relationships Challenge Form

Congregation or Ministry Area:

Title of Story:

Name of person submitting story:

Email address:

Story (up to 600 words; up to 3 high quality photographs or other graphics may also be submitted. Please ensure copyright and permission to use graphics and/or photographs for publication):

Our thoughts and prayers are with Rev Lori Pilatzke and her family as they mourn the death of her mother and Rev Kevin Baglole and his family as they mourn the death of his father in law.

To find out about upcoming events around the synod check the [synod calendar](#) on our website <http://www.easternsynod.org/calendar>.

THE FAITHLIFE FINANCIAL DIFFERENCE

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You believe faith and finances go together. So do we. Let's start a new conversation about being wise with money and how generosity is an expression of your faith. To learn more, visit [faithlifefinancial.ca](http://faithlifefinancial.ca).

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## GIFTS FROM THE HEART

IT'S JUST  
WHAT  
THEY  
NEEDED



Change lives this Christmas



Canadian Lutheran  
World Relief

Find your catalogue at  
your church or online  
at [clwr.org/GFTH](http://clwr.org/GFTH).



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

Contact Barb  
[bwiebe@elcic.ca](mailto:bwiebe@elcic.ca)

### Vacancies

Faith, Fergus-Elora

Bethany, Woodstock

St. Ansgar, Toronto

Trinity, Sudbury

Thornhill, Thornhill

For more information please contact  
Rev

Douglas Reble,  
Assistant to the Bishop,  
[dreble@elcic.ca](mailto:dreble@elcic.ca) /1-877-373-5242.



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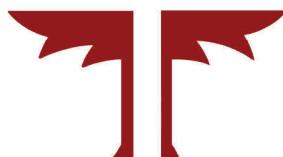
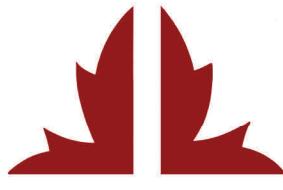
# Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

Advent 2017

## Consensus journal focuses on Reformation, Global South

Only two seminaries serve churches across the ELCIC: In general, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary in Waterloo, Ont., forms pastors for the Eastern Synod while Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon, Sask., serves churches across the rest of Canada.

Twice each year the schools co-publish *Consensus: A Canadian Journal of Public Theology*. To mark the 500th anniversary of the start of the German Reformation the schools created a special two-part journal. The overarching theme for the edition — edited by WLS faculty Mary (Joy) Philip and librarian Greg Sennema —



Mary (Joy) Philip



Greg Sennema

is Reformation: Then, Now and Onward. Available online, each issue includes scholarly articles; studies and observations; sermons and book reviews.

Women from the Global South contributed most of the content in [Vol. 38 Issue 1](#). Articles include “[Luther on Tamar: A Subaltern Response](#),” and “[Reformation Is Germene To African Women: An African Lutheran Woman’s Imagination](#).”

Topics in [Vol. 38 Issue 2](#) include “[The Tough Wedge: Reformation Now and Onward](#)” and “[Faith and the Fellowship, as shown through Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers](#).”

### Study tour to India

From Aug. 18 - Sept. 2, 2018, we plan to lead our first [Interfaith Encounters in India](#) study tour. Open to students and the public. Join us for an info session: 7 p.m., Jan. 16, Mount Zion Lutheran, Waterloo. RSVP [dkrugerallen@wlu.ca](mailto:dkrugerallen@wlu.ca)

### Longest night

The [thirdspace](#) alternative worshipping community at WLS, supported by the Eastern Synod's mission committee, brings hope to those feeling sad and/or lonely at the holidays by joining a longest night service at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 544 Bridgeport Rd. E. in Kitchener. 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 21. All welcome.

### Contact us

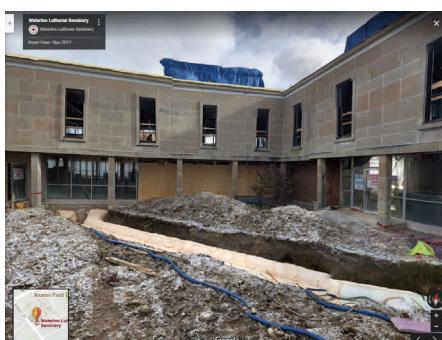
Events: Dorinda Kruger Allen, [dkrugerallen@wlu.ca](mailto:dkrugerallen@wlu.ca)

Seminary stories: Mirko Petricevic, [mpetricevic@wlu.ca](mailto:mpetricevic@wlu.ca)



### Women of the Reformation

We're ever grateful for our Women's Auxiliary! Members gathered at St. John's Lutheran Church in Waterloo recently for fun and fellowship; a seminary update; to take care of business; and for education on women of the Reformation including Katharina von Bora (Katie) played by Pauline Miller (pictured at left). Click [here](#) for more photos.



### Videos and 360s

If you haven't seen our videos and 360-degree photos lately, take a look:

[Courtyard 360](#); [chapel new windows](#); [autumn construction blitz](#); [Inshallah - Salaam Aleikum](#); [Inshallah Kids](#); [Abrahamic Faiths Forum](#); [Open Door service](#); [Interfaith service](#)