



THE EASTERN SYNOD

LUTHERAN

FALL 2012 • VOL.27 NO.4

In this Issue

| 2 Lutherans and Mennonites – Why an apology?

| 4 2012 Assembly Highlights

| 7 VBS Soars this summer

ASSEMBLY NEWS – Eastern Synod reaffirms support for National Church

By Karen Gastmeier, Member of the Assembly Local Arrangements Committee and Beverley Cunningham, Editor, *The Eastern Synod Lutheran*

The Eastern Synod's 14th Biennial Assembly held at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ont., July 5 – 8, was an incredible mix of camaraderie, inspiring worship, learning opportunities – and important church business.

As the final ELCIC synod to meet in assembly, Eastern Synod (ES) delegates were informed that our four sister synods had voted not to support the national task force's proposal for structural renewal, causing concern for many attendees. In response, delegates adopted the following motion:

"Should the ELCIC Synods fail

to develop realistic and sustainable proposals for restructuring and should the National Church Council be unable to bring forward restructuring proposals to their Fall 2013 meeting to maintain the ministry of the National Church, National Church Council be called upon to develop a proposal for an orderly process to wind down the current national structure, and appoint an interim secretariat or other means to facilitate the co-operation and collaboration of ELCIC synods in national and international organizations and initiatives in the future."

As everyone absorbed the implications of this potential future reality – that is, our



National Bishop Susan Johnson proclaims us a baptismal people by pouring water in the font during the singing of the opening Kyrie at the Assembly gathering.

synods existing with no national leadership and perhaps no national representation in the global faith community – delegates passed another motion asking Bishop Pryse to encourage our sister synods to continue to support a National Church from sea to sea, and to continue seeking a

new plan that preserves our common evangelical Lutheran voice.

Further evidence of the Eastern Synod's support for the National Church was announced by Bishop Pryse on Saturday. In just a few months, our congregations raised more than \$100,000 for the ELCIC

Praise Appeal – an appeal to help the National Church make up a shortfall in their 2012 budget. National Bishop Susan Johnson was exceedingly appreciative and shared an emotional thank you.

continued on page 4...



A group of eager volunteers ready to meet and greet nearly 400 Eastern Synod delegates welcome Retired Eastern Synod Bishop Bill Huras (centre) to Assembly.

KEEPING THE FAITH Zion celebrates 240 years

By Robert Hirtle

St. John's, Mahone Bay, N.S.

Reporter, The Lunenburg County Progress Bulletin and www.southshorenova.ca

Reprinted with permission.

Near the entrance to the church rests the Triple Locked Chest (left), made of hardwood, lined with iron and secured with three locks, which was brought from Germany by one of the original settlers. The chest was presented to the congregation

on January 23, 1773, by Gottlieb Milch and was used to hold the monies of the church.

They may have been a hale and hearty bunch, but the 409 foreign Protestant families who arrived in Lunenburg from Halifax on a June day way back in 1753 likely had

little idea of what lay in store for them.

For most, who left their native lands bound for Halifax several years before, life had become one big uncertainty.

Under the thumb of their

continued on page 6...



THE LUTHERAN/ANABAPTIST RELATIONSHIP

Why an apology?

The Summer issue of The Eastern Synod Lutheran featured an article titled, "Lutherans and Mennonites study forgiveness and healing." The story mentioned the Lutheran apology to Anabaptist-Mennonites for past wrongdoings, but did not elaborate on those acts or the reason for the apology. At the prompting of our readers, we offer the following insights into why Lutherans felt compelled to apologize and transform the relationship between the two communities. – The Editor

In 2005, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the Mennonite World Conference commissioned a study of the historical relationship between Lutherans and Anabaptist-Mennonites in hopes of ultimately healing centuries of pain that stemmed back to the Augsburg Confession of 1530. As stated in *Healing Memories, Reconciling in Christ: A Lutheran-Mennonite Study Guide for Congregations*, by Margaret Loewen Reimer, former editor of the *Canadian Mennonite* magazine, and Allen Jorgenson, Assistant Dean at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, the Augsburg Confession condemns Anabaptists in at least five different articles. Those condemnations are associated with Mennonite persecution, suffering and martyrdom. The two groups have been separated by theological differ-

ences from that early formative period. Specifically, they disagreed on the question of pacifism and the sacrament of baptism. Lutherans have affirmed the so-called just war theory (which claims that under certain conditions violent action by the state is legitimate), and believe that being a soldier, police officer, etc., is a valid Christian vocation. Anabaptist-Mennonites are pacifists, believing that a Christian is never to employ violence against another human being. Anabaptists (meaning rebaptizers) require a confession of faith by the one being baptized before baptism while Lutherans do not. Martin Luther considered Anabaptist teachings against infant baptism blasphemous. He believed that Anabaptists denied children access to

the Christian community; whereas, Mennonites believe that baptism requires people to recognize their sins and make a conscious decision to become Christian. As a result of the reformers' writings, many Anabaptists were imprisoned and a few executed. Dialogue between the faiths began in 1980 when the Lutheran Church celebrated the 450th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession. In Germany, Lutheran leaders invited bewildered Mennonites to participate in the celebrations. Lutherans had set aside their condemnation of Anabaptists, but Mennonites still suffered from the stories of martyrdom and violence carried through generations. The two groups then commissioned a study to help them take the next steps on a journey toward reconciliation

and healing. An official apology was issued in a special Service of Repentance on July 22, 2010 at the LWF Assembly in Stuttgart, Germany. Bishop Mark Hanson, then-president of LWF described this step as "communion building" and the apology was unanimously endorsed by delegates in a spirit of great humility. For more information on the Lutheran apology to Anabaptist-Mennonites, visit: <http://elcic.ca/Documents/HealingMemoriesOnlineFinal-March21.pdf> or <http://www.lwf-assembly.org/experience/lwi-assembly-news/news-detail/article/461/8/>.

Visit www.easternsynod.org for the story of strong ties between St. Matthew's Lutheran and Cassel Mennonite Church in East Zorra, Ont.

THE EASTERN SYNOD
LUTHERAN

invites our readers to send articles, news stories, letters and rebuttals to:

The Eastern Synod Lutheran
74 Weber St. W.
Kitchener, ON N2H 3Z3
Tel. 519.743.1461
Fax 519.743.4291
Email beverley@cunninghamcommunications.ca

Volume 27, No. 4
Fall 2012

Publisher: Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
Editor: Beverley Cunningham
Synod Staff: Rev. Riitta Hepomaki
Subscription Rate: \$12 per year
Please note that \$12 of your annual offerings to the church will be used to pay for your subscription to this publication.
Circulation: 17,000
Frequency: five issues in 2012
Rate Card: 1st six col. inches @ \$17.50/inch
extra col. inches @ \$15.75/inch

Christmas Issue Material Due:
November 1, 2012
Email material and photographs at 200 dpi or higher or forward material and photos to the above address. Materials may be edited for length and content at the editor's discretion.

Letters to the Editor
The Eastern Synod Lutheran welcomes topical letters that include name, address and phone numbers for verification. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Letters are limited to 200 words and may be edited for clarity, style and length.
Write: The Editor, The Eastern Synod Lutheran, 74 Weber St. W., Kitchener, Ontario, N2H 3Z3 or e-mail: beverley@cunninghamcommunications.ca

Advertising
The Eastern Synod Lutheran accepts advertising as a service to readers and an income source to support the publication. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement by The Eastern Synod Lutheran of advertiser products or services.

PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 40012364 PAP REGISTRATION NO. 9760 RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO THE EASTERN SYNOD LUTHERAN CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT, 74 WEBER ST W., KITCHENER, ON N2H 3Z3

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage.



Printed and mailed by Signal-Star Publishing, Goderich, Ontario N7A 4B6

Moving?
Please email your changes including your ID# to our Mailing List Co-ordinator at the following email address evolunteer@elcic.ca, or use this address change form and include your mailing label on the reverse. We require the ID# to facilitate your change.

Address Changes

Mail to:
Mailing List Co-ordinator
The Eastern Synod Lutheran
74 Weber St. W.
Kitchener, Ontario N2H 3Z3
email: evolunteer@elcic.ca

ID# _____

Name _____

New Address _____

Apartment # _____ Unit # or Suite # _____

City _____

Prov. _____ Postal Code _____



RADICAL CHRISTIAN LIFE
equipping ourselves for social change


GRACE INSTITUTE, Eganville, Ontario, in Partnership With Trinity Institute, Trinity Episcopal, Wall Street, New York



International Theological Conference, Sister Joan Chittister, OSB, Keynote Speaker, will offer tools for making the connection between contemplation and social action.

November 9 (6-9pm) and 10 (8am-5pm), 2012
Live Interactive Webcast
Conference Site: Grace Lutheran Church, Eganville, ON


Registration \$75.00 (includes: materials, refreshments, lunch Saturday)
Information and Registration (613) 628-1392
info@graceinstitute.ca ■ www.graceinstitute.ca



the **Green Thumb**
Kolb's Green Thumb Nursery Ltd.

**Garden Centre
Landscape Design
Landscape Construction**

Co-founder and member of Landscape Ontario



1501 Victoria Street N. Kitchener
519 744 8913 Since 1958
www.kolbsgreenthumb.com

Submit your letter

The Eastern Synod Lutheran welcomes topical letters that include your name, address, phone numbers and congregational membership for verification. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Letters are limited to 200 words and may be edited for clarity, style and length. Email beverley@cunninghamcommunications.ca or write to The Eastern Synod Lutheran, 74 Weber Street West, Kitchener, Ontario N2H 3Z3.

"Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream"

Amos 5:24



D.A. KURT INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.
and Financial Services
604 Belmont Ave W, Kitchener, ON N2M 1N5
Tel: 519-579-5440 Watt: 1-800-339-9935
Email: don@kurt-ins.com Fax: 519-579-0193
www.kurt-ins.com

Great is the glory of the Lord!

We invite your congregation to participate in our Lutheran Church Insurance Program.

The Bishop's Journal

Smaller congregations – and denominations – have choices to make!

In my report to the July 2012 Eastern Synod Assembly I commented as follows concerning the plight of smaller congregations who were experiencing the stress of diminished numbers. I spoke as follows:

The best experts in these questions tell us that smaller congregations who face such challenges – and most of us ARE smaller congregations – have five choices available to us.

1. We can grow! Believe it or not, even today, churches – even Lutheran churches – can grow! Witness the examples of Faith in Port Elgin, Ont., Zion in Stratford, Ont., St. Paul in Bridgewater, N.S., and the almost 10 per cent of synod congregations whose average Sunday attendance – the number that really counts – is actually increasing!
2. We can merge. Sometimes this is the right way to go. I am so proud of the people of Zion and St. Mary's in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., who have effectively worked through a very fine and successful merger process in the past three years. Likewise the people of St. David's Anglican Lutheran in Orillia, Ont. It's been hard

work, but good work; it's been covenant work in support of our common mission and clearly the right way to go in those contexts.

3. We can cluster. It seems that there is an increasing amount of energy being focused on this option in recent years. Witness the work of the South Grey Bruce Lutheran Parish in Northern Ontario, Redeemer and St. Ansgar churches in London, Ont., the people of Lunenburg County in Nova Scotia, St. Timothy's and St. Matthew's in Sudbury, Ont., the Anglican-Lutheran Parish of the Bruce, Ont., or the five Hamilton, Ont.-based congregations I met with just last week to discuss such an option. Clustering, seeing ministry as something that congregations can do together as partners serving a region or area, is a very exciting alternative that's available to many of us.
4. We can move to alternate forms of ministry. We have lay ministers serving congregations in Massey and Denbigh Ontario and in Rose Bay and Feltzen South in Nova Scotia, each

supervised by a pastor who provides occasional word and sacrament ministry. For some, this is absolutely the right option and vibrant ministry can continue and even grow without the presence of a resident pastor.

5. Finally, we can make a choice to die a good death. I think of the legacy of Christ Church in Agincourt, Ont., whose graciousness in death helped bring new ministry to life. I think of St. James' congregation in Normanby Township, Ont., and Shantz Station, just outside Kitchener, Ont., each of whom made a difficult but faithful choice to conclude their ministries and thereby endow resources in the support of others.

But the experts don't say it all. There's a sixth option which sadly seems to be the preferred option in many instances: and that is to die poorly – to slowly decline and expend every last resource available in a fruitless attempt to replicate an experience in time that is never again likely to be repeated. In this instance I won't cite examples, but my rough estimate would be that 20 per cent of our present

congregation are well along the way in following this latter path. That's 40 congregations.

While I don't wish to be alarmist, I believe that smaller denominational bodies such as the ELCIC are faced with similar choices today. We, like many others, are at a critical point in our history. Diminished financial resources have severely limited the ability of our synodical and national church expressions to effectively fulfil the responsibilities that we have assigned to them. I, in particular, am very concerned about our church's inability to continue the strong and vital international work that has made us a globally recognized leader in the inter-Lutheran and broader ecumenical world. This work is presently facing a very real long-term threat.

Circumstances have changed an awful lot since our church was constituted in 1986. In effect, we are functioning with approximately 50 per cent of the funding that was available at that time. Such a situation is no more sustainable for a small denomination than it is for a smaller congregation. Difficult choices and decisions need to be made in a timely fashion. As in congregations, a slavish commitment to maintaining the status quo leads only to the aforementioned "option six": not through conscious choice but by inaction.



+ Michael

While we have not yet identified a way forward that addresses the challenges and aspirations of our national and synodical expressions, we still have an opportunity to get it right, but that opportunity won't last indefinitely. I am still hopeful. I trust that our Church's leaders will be bold and visionary in charting next steps. What remains to be seen, however, is whether the urgency of this present moment has been fully grasped by the broader constituency and whether that sense of urgency will be translated into a willingness to act, clearly and decisively.

Again, the situation's not a whole lot different from that in many congregations. Similarly, we can choose to act or not to act, but make no mistake, a choice will have been made, regardless.

Deepening faith through learning: Grace Institute marks first year

By Pastor Annette Smith, Grace, Eganville, Ont.

I have had many conversations about accessibility to quality continuing education, both for professional clergy and for laypersons wishing to deepen their faith.

In 2010 and 2011 my husband, Tom, and I participated in several Internet webinars / live broadcasts involving presentations by noted scholars, as well as the opportunity to interact with others (even speakers) from all over the globe who were participating in the same manner.

We were enriched by the quality and depth of these presentations and impressed

by the interaction and discussion. We believe that local, contextual discussion along with quality presentations will feed us personally and enrich our ministry, as well as our ecumenical partnerships.

This became the seed that led to the establishment of The Grace Institute. The Institute, in its initial year, has facilitated learning and discussion for clergy and laity through webinars on preaching, a series on the development of the scriptures and a presentation on youth ministry.

The Grace Institute has the following goals:

- to provide learning opportunities, led by professionals in various disciplines of study, clergy and laity (both adults and youth),
- to facilitate local and contextual discussion, and

- to provide the above in a local setting (within a reasonable distance) and at reasonable cost.

We are delighted to be partnering with Trinity Episcopal Institute, Wall Street, New York for our latest

offering: "Radical Christianity" with keynote speakers, Joan Chittister, OSB and Father Richard Rohr.

(See advertisement on page 2.)

“Our task is now to be radical Christian communities in the here and now... we need new wisdom and a new kind of struggle to determine what we must be and do in the midst of these changing times. The question is then: What does it mean to be a radical Christian community in times such as these?” – Joan Chittister

2012 Assembly Highlights

Eastern Synod reaffirms support for National Church continued from page 1

On an uplifting note, worship services throughout the assembly were utterly awe-inspiring! Debbie Lou Ludolph, ES Director of Worship Ministries, organized an amazing array of musicians and artists to “really delve into the Psalms” which was the basis of all the worship events. More than 200 musicians, singers and artists were

involved in diverse worship through music, poetry and art. Additionally, both Waterloo Lutheran Seminary and Edgewood Camp and Conference Centre reported increased numbers and exciting expansion plans. Michael Harvey, co-founder of “Back to Church Sunday” in the United Kingdom, the largest local-church invitation-

al initiative in the world, was a guest speaker. He gave daily presentations on how to be an “inviting” church and attract new members. He believes that many churches call themselves welcoming, but not many call themselves inviting. He encourages congregations to focus on invitation – improving our welcome by

taking it out of church buildings. He says, “It is important to mobilize invitation because God has already prepared people for an invite, but many are afraid to come to a church service on their own.” Michael’s ideas were simple yet powerful, and inspiring to all. An enthusiastic group of 120 volunteers helped the

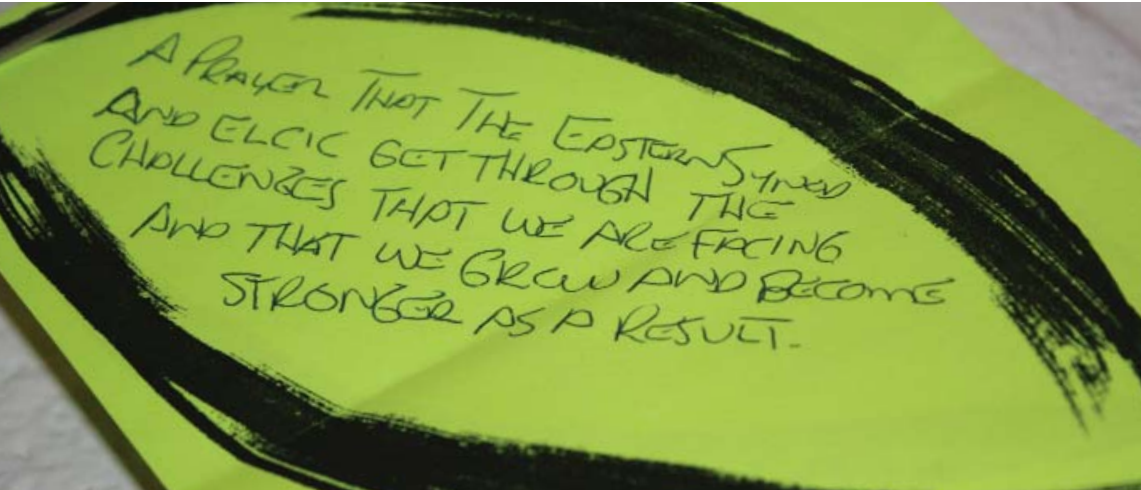
Assembly flow smoothly. They were led by Local Arrangements Chair and Convention Manager, Jeff Smith, pastor at St. Paul’s, Guelph, Ont., and his tiny mascot Thomas the Tank Engine, (a gift from his daughter). Many thanks to all who played a role in making our 14th Biennial Assembly a rich and rewarding experience.




Assembly Highlight – Four new pastors were ordained on July 6 at St. John’s, Waterloo, Ont. Front row (L-R): Pastor Steve Hoffard (serving St. Mark’s, Kingston, Ont.), Rev. Tim Dawkins (serving Redeemer, Fisherville, Ont.). Back row (L-R): Rev. Bruce Thompson (serving Good Shepherd, Brockville, Ont.) and Rev. Ralph Weigold (serving Bethany and St. Peter’s, New Denmark, N.B.).



Special guest speaker, Michael Harvey, is co-founder of “Back to Church Sunday” – a simple initiative that started in Manchester, England, in 2004. The movement is credited with bringing 230,000 British Anglicans back to church.



Delegates had opportunity to write prayers on colourful prayer flags and throughout the assembly, garlands of prayers graced the venue walls. This prayer reflects the uncertainty the ELCIC faces and earnest hope for the future.



Tax-free growth for your savings!
Earn 1.75%* and keep it for yourself.

Manulife Bank’s Tax-Free Advantage Account is a perfect way to save. You will earn this great rate of interest on every dollar in the account. And you can access your savings at any time for any purpose, without incurring fees or taxes.

Ask me how you can open a Tax-Free Advantage Account today.

Don Stockman, Financial Advisor
(519) 747-7727 • (888) 339-5087 • don@stockmanfinancial.com
Manulife Securities Investment Services Inc.

*As at Aug. 10, 2012, the variable annual interest rate of 1.75% is applied to all funds in the account. Interest is calculated daily on the total daily closing balance and paid monthly. Rate is subject to change without notice.

Manulife Bank of Canada is a member of Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation. Visit cdic.ca or call 1-800-461-2342 for details. Tax-Free Advantage Account is offered through Manulife Bank of Canada. Manulife, Manulife Bank, the Manulife Bank For Your Future logo and the Block Design are trademarks of The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company and are used by it, and by its affiliates, under license.

STRONG RELIABLE TRUSTWORTHY FORWARD-THINKING

Manulife Bank
For your future™



Artful Worship – Assembly worship focused on the Psalms and Deborah Pryce (St. Philip’s, Kitchener, Ont.) curated a Psalms Exhibit displayed in Waterloo Lutheran Seminary’s Keffer Chapel. Here, she presents her own acrylic painting titled “Let the Heavens be Glad” which was created especially for this show. With Helen Weber (St. Mark’s, Kitchener), Deborah also designed colourful Assembly banners which were inspired by the synod’s new logo and received rave reviews!.

“Let the Heavens be Glad” ... Artists remarks:

As I watched a rainbow shimmer in the sky and the sun set after a storm tonight, I realized why I don’t often attempt to paint scenery. The sky was breath-taking: constantly changing, colours intensifying in some places and muting in others. How could one possibly attempt to celebrate God’s amazing, immense, wondrous creation in a painting? My attempt seemed feeble at best. And yet the Psalms that celebrate creation and speak of “the heavens being glad, and the earth rejoicing” in celebration of God’s greatness and glory are my favourites. So I forged ahead to join with creation and give thanks for our Awesome God.

– Deborah Pryce



Young Lutherans led an interactive morning worship segment based on Psalm 49 – with a country and western theme!

Congregational Classifieds

St Luke’s, Rhodes Corner, Lun. Co., NS
Music Jams – A Music Jam will be held in the Church Hall, 12713 Rhodes Corner, Hwy 3 on Saturday, Sept.15 and Oct. 13 from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Come and sing, play an instrument or listen. Everyone welcome. Admission: \$2. For info, call 902-543-5871.

135th Anniversary – Sunday, Oct.14 at 3:00 p.m., St. Luke’s celebrates their 135th anniversary. All welcome. A supper reception will follow in the church hall. For info, call 902-543-5871.

Flea Market, Bake Sale and Canteen Luncheon – Saturday, Oct. 27 from 9:00 a.m – 1:00 p.m. in the Church Hall. For info, call 902-543-5871.

St. Peters, Gadshill, ON – Annual Cemetery Sunday
September 16 – 2:00 p.m. All Welcome. Contact Bruce Cook at 519-656-9893 for further details.

Trinity Windsor, ON – 90th Anniversary
September 23 – Join us for worship and a banquet. Worship starts at 3:00 p.m. at the church, 1215 Parent Ave., Windsor (519-977-7787) with banquet following at 5:30 p.m. at the Teutonia Club, 55 Edinborough St., Windsor (519-969-3815). Please contact the church office for more information. We hope you can join us throughout the year, and especially on Sept. 23.

St. Peter’s, Milverton, ON – Harvest Supper
Tuesday, October 16 at the Perth East Recreation Centre from 5:00 p.m.– 7:00 p.m. Adult meal is \$12.00; children 6 – 12: \$6.00; children 5 and under: free. Sponsored by Faith Life Financial.

St. Matthew’s, Rose Bay, NS – 125th Anniversary
A special celebratory service will be held for St. Matthew’s 125th Anniversary on Sunday, October 21at 2:00 p.m.

St. John’s, Waterloo, ON – 175th Anniversary
Friday, October 26 – Join us for dinner at 7:00 p.m. at Golf’s Steak House, Kitchener, beginning with a social hour at 6:00 p.m. Tickets: \$35.

Sunday, October 28 – Bishop Michael Pryse preaches at 10:00 a.m. at the Anniversary/Reformation Service. A catered luncheon follows. Free will offering for the luncheon.

Anyone wishing to attend either of these events should contact St. John’s at the following email address – anniv.175@stjohnslutheran.on.ca.

Peace, Pickering, ON – 50th Anniversary
November 4 at 10:30 a.m. Guests are Bishop Michael Pryse and former pastors. Catered luncheon will follow RSVP: 905-839-3521 or peacepickering@bellnet.ca.

Lutheran Campus Ministry-Waterloo and the Wilfrid Laurier University Chaplain's Office Schedule for 2012/2013:
Spiritual Formation Seminars – Three (3) three-week units led by Sr. Anne Keffer. Cost is \$15.00 per unit. Seminary, Room # 101 from 2:30 - 3:50 p.m.
1st Unit – September 18, 25 and October 2
2nd Unit – October 16, 23 and 30
3rd Unit – November 13, 20 and 27

Each unit will be based on a theme. The aim is to arrive at a better understanding of how one's spiritual life can be nourished and sustained. Please register at pjackc552@gmail.com.

Tuesday Night Cost Suppers – Tuesday nights at 5:30 p.m. in the Seminary Lounge. Meals are prepared by local churches. Cost is \$3.

‘Mysterium’ Gatherings will be held in the Keffer Chapel the third Friday of the month from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. beginning September 21. Ecumenical gatherings which will use ‘ancient’ as well as ‘modern’ elements.

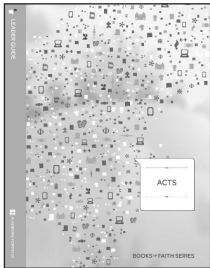
Counselling – offered through the Chaplain's office by appointment. Contact Chaplain Patricia at pjackc552@gmail.com or call 519-502-8381.

Please check out: lutheransconnect.com for the Advent 2012 reflection and the Pentecost 2013 reflection series.

If you will be attending or know someone who will be attending WLU or UofW , please contact Chaplain Patricia at pjackc552@gmail.com.

Email Congregational Classifieds to beverley@cunninghamcommunications.ca by November 1 for the Christmas issue, delivered to homes in early December. Include your name and phone number.

New Adult Studies



Acts
Book of Faith Studies

The Holy Spirit is clearly at work in Acts, pouring out on people from many nations on the day of Pentecost, giving Jesus’ disciples the power to speak boldly, gathering early believers together for worship, and sending out Peter and Paul as missionaries. In this eight session course, participants will examine the beginnings of the church and will find meaningful connections between the early church and the church today.

Leader Guide, 9781451402759, **\$25.50**
Learner Guide, 9781451402742, **\$12.50**



Revelation
Book of Faith Studies

Revelation is a rich book of the Bible to study. God is profoundly concerned with the plight of the world, and faithful even amid the ordeals, tribulations, and plagues of the present and future. God is also exalted in the highest heavens, and brings about a renewed creation. In the end, the promise that Jesus will return is reason for hope, anticipation, and expectation. This eight session study includes selected passages.

Leader Guide, 9781451402773, **\$25.50**
Learner Guide, 9781451402766, **\$12.50**



1-800-265-6397 www.afcanada.com

Augsburg Fortress Bookstore
500 Trillium Dr., Kitchener, ON
(519) 748-2200

Anglican Book Centre
80 Hayden St., Toronto, ON
(416) 924-1332

Obituaries

Rev. Roy Norman Grosz

Rev. Roy Grosz entered eternal life on May 17 at the age of 91.

Husband to Elaine (nee Oswald); father of Jane of Waterloo, Ont., Philip of Kitchener, and Nancy Bergey of Waterloo. Lovingly remembered by granddaughter Leigh (Grant) Lovell; great-grandsons William and Brian; great-granddaughter Elleigh-Jane; extended family member Debbie Gordon and brother-in-law and sister-in-law Kenneth and Marian DeCoppel.

Roy was born in Kitchener, graduated from Waterloo College and Seminary and

was ordained in 1946. He served St. Peter’s, Kitchener and the Heidelberg-Erbsville parishes, before becoming a mission developer for the next 33 years in Oakville, Burlington and Waterloo.

He served on many synodical committees and in many community capacities throughout his ministry. He was the secretary, statistician and necrologist of the Eastern Canada Synod (Eastern Synod) from 1970-1990 and the registrar of its conventions to 2000. He was the editor of *The Canada Lutheran* from 1959-1969. He also served on

the executive board of the synod from 1954-1959 and was a member of the Board of Governors of Waterloo College and Seminary. He was the author of books on Lutheran Church history.

A funeral was held at Christ Lutheran, Waterloo on May 21 followed by a private family interment at St. Peter’s Cemetery, Kitchener.



Mary Becker

Mary Becker, 94, died March 8 in Toronto, Ont. Mary was the widow of Rev. Gerhard Becker (2008), and together

they served congregations in Saskatchewan (Esk, Kandahar), Alberta (Ellerslie), Ontario (Conestoga, St. Jacobs,

Chesley, Bentinck Twp., Guelph, Shantz Station, Kitchener, Waterloo), and British Columbia (Vancouver).

The story continues
www.easternsynod.org

Please visit our website for more news and stories about congregational life.

If you enjoy receiving *The Eastern Synod Lutheran*, please consider donating to help support our rising production costs. Your generosity is truly appreciated!

(An envelope is enclosed for your convenience.)

Keeping the faith continued from page 1

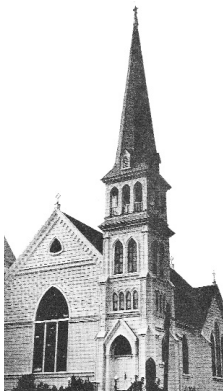
British overseers and in constant fear of attack from French or Indian forces, the new arrivals were left with little to rely on but each other and their unwavering faith in God.

Indeed, it was the promise of not only free land but freedom of religion in the new world that, for most, were the determining factors in their decision to come here in the first place.

Despite those assurances, however, it took nearly two decades after their arrival in Lunenburg for the new settlers, who were primarily of German descent and had worshipped as Lutherans in their homeland, to finally get their own church.

On November 8, 1772, the first pastor, Rev. Friedrich Schultz, dedicated and named Zion Lutheran – originally called Zion’s Lutheran – what is now Canada’s oldest continuing Lutheran congregation.

“Lutherans had to have a



minister and they couldn’t get one. They did everything they possibly could,” recalls unofficial church historian Doug Meisner. “We had the problem, too, at the time, of others – the Calvinists – who wanted to form the Presbyterian Church.”

According to “And They Called It Zion,” which was penned by the late Rev. James Slack for the church’s bicentennial celebration back in 1972, there was some animosity against the Anglicans felt by both the Lutherans and the Calvinists, each group having been promised ministers who would be able to conduct services in their own languages rather than English.

“The Anglican Church was very strongly suspected of trying to convert everyone to the Church of England,” Rev. Slack recalls. “Land had been provided for the Church of

England, a building was erected on this, and a continuous supply of clergy made available – all this, they felt, at public expense. This would evoke jealousy at any time.”

He said that both Lutherans and Calvinists were not keen on the idea that their children would be brought up as members of another denomination, so they began gathering in what became known as “cottage meetings,” worship sessions held out of doors or at people’s houses.

Several attempts to secure a Lutheran pastor from the United States were unsuccessful, arousing even more suspicions, until finally Rev. Schultz arrived in the fall of 1772 after serving several pastorates south of the border.

“He dedicated the first church building, confirmed the first class of catechumens and built the first parsonage,” Mr. Meisner says. “Later on in his life, Rev. Schultz had some difficulties ... and in the course of this they lost a son and the son is buried under the church. He was never the same

after that.”

Mr. Meisner says that the story goes that the younger Schultz was interred underneath the original church’s pulpit, but no pictures or drawings of the building exist that would shed light on exactly what location on the lot that might be.

“So frankly, I don’t think they know where he was buried,” Mr. Meisner says, adding it is doubtful that the pulpit of the current church is situated in the same location as the original.

Rev. Schultz was succeeded by Rev. Johann Gotlieb Schmeisser in 1782 who, according to Rev. Slack, served a “life-long” ministry, marrying the daughter of one of the church elders and serving until his death in 1806.

He was followed by another German native, Rev. Ferdinand Conrad Temme, who also came via the United States and, like his predecessor, served the congregation for the rest of his life.

Overall, 18 pastors have tenured at Zion in its 240-year

history, including current pastor Rev. Vivian Roberts, who is the longest-serving female Lutheran minister in Canada.

The church also boasts six sons of the congregation who have gone on to become pastors, including Rev. Carroll Fritze, Rev. James Dauphinee, Rev. Wilfred Myra, Rev. Keith Crouse, Rev. James Slack Jr. and Rev. Chad Honneyman.

A total of three buildings have stood on the site where the current church stands.

After the congregation outgrew the original structure it was demolished and a second was built in 1841. The present building was erected in 1890, and although the Sunday school was added in 1963, the church itself looks basically the same as it did 120 years ago.

Note: A special 240th Anniversary Worship service will be held at Zion on November 4 at 4:30 p.m. It will be preceded by a community potluck lunch at 1:00 p.m. at a venue to be determined.

VBS Soars this summer!

By Ruth Molzan
VBS Leader at St. Paul's, Leamington, Ont.



St. Paul's Vacation Bible School (VBS) crew leaders, assistant crew leaders and 40 crew members soared into the "SKY" from July 16 to 20 with the theme: "SKY – Anything is Possible with God."

The majority of attendees were from the community and many return year after year. Through songs, Bible stories, an imagination station, games

and videos, the children learned that they can "Trust God."

This year the children donated their pennies to the CLWR "Give a Penny, Save a Life" program which buys mosquito nets to help prevent malaria. By the end of the week, our jar was filled with coins. During the closing program, VBS Coordinator

Heidi Quick announced that \$136.25 had been collected and thanks to everyone's generosity 13 families would benefit from a mosquito net.

As was repeated many times throughout the week, "No matter what – trust God." St. Paul's VBS is *In Mission for Others!*

Three churches worship and picnic together!

By Pastor David Malina
St. Matthews, Kitchener, Ont.

The Victoria Park Pavilion, in Kitchener, Ont., was bursting at the seams on Sunday, June 10 with nearly 250 people from three downtown Lutheran churches: St. Matthews, St. Mark's and St. Peter's.

St. Mark's "Worship Band" led the congregation's song in worship. Members from each of the churches ushered, served communion, read scripture and served as liturgical assistants. And the five Pastors involved – Nancy Kelly, David Malina, Mark Ehlebracht, Katherine Altenburg and Wendell Grahlman – collaborated in a sermon about courage and trust as we follow God's call.

A picnic lunch followed and games for adults and children rounded out this highly spirited event. Enthusiasm for

this joint venture has been building, and members who attended this year were again surprised and pleased at how warmly it was received and experienced by all who attended. This is the second year the churches have gathered together for this event, and organizers hope to continue this new tradition of worshipping together at least once a year. In recent years, and especially with the formation of the Three

Churches Shared Ministry Strategy Committee in May 2011, members have been more intentional about inviting each other to events and organizing more shared gatherings such as the Winter Skating Party, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Men's Breakfast and Confirmation Retreats.

"How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1)



Pastoral opportunities

The following congregations are seeking a pastor. For more information, please contact Rev. Riitta Hepomaki, Assistant to the Bishop. Tel: 519-743-1461 Toll-free: 1-877-373-5242 Email: rhepomaki@elcic.ca.

Atlantic Conference:
St. Paul's, Trinity and St. Matthew's, New Germany, NS

Georgian Bay Conference:
St. Peter's, Sullivan, ON and St. James, Williamsford, ON

Kitchener-Waterloo Conference:
St. John's, Waterloo, ON

London Conference:
St. Peter's, Brodhagen, ON

Toronto Conference:
Agricola, Toronto, ON (bilingual Finnish-English pastor)
Christ, Peterborough, ON
Redeemer, Toronto, ON
St. Paul's, Toronto, ON

Please visit the synod website www.easternsynod.org for more information and regular updates on pastoral opportunities.

Ministry changes

Rev. Ralph Weigold called to Bethany and St. Peter's, New Denmark, NB.
Rev. Tim Dawkins called to Redeemer, Fisherville, ON.
Rev. Rasma Caune to Epiphany, Toronto, ON.

DOING GOOD TOGETHER

By sharing a portion of our profits to help our members, their churches and the charities they care about – we are *doing good together!*

FaithLife Financial is a Christian not-for-profit organization. We help people build solid financial plans based on Christian principles by providing competitive investment and insurance solutions.
Contact us today to become a member!

www.faithlifefinancial.ca | 1-800-563-6237
facebook.com/faithlifefinancial twitter.com/faithlifefin

LIFE INSURANCE | INVESTMENTS | UNIQUE MEMBER BENEFITS

WATERLOO LUTHERAN SEMINARY

All welcome at Women's Auxiliary 99th Annual Meeting

By Brenda Stockman,
WLS Women's Auxiliary President

To all who are wondering what the Waterloo Lutheran Seminary (WLS) Women's Auxiliary is and what we do:

We are a group of women who have been helping students for 100 years! And that is the theme for our 99th annual meeting: "Helping Students for 100 Years!"

Come join us as we celebrate our longevity and accomplishments. Although we are a quiet group, our impact has made a huge difference in the lives of countless students.

Our annual meeting will be held at St. John's, 22 Willow St., Waterloo, Ont.,

on **September 26** from 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Lunch is \$18.

Guest speakers are: Rev. Dr. William Huras, Retired Bishop; Rev. Dr. Richard Crossman, WLS Professor and Principal-Dean Emeritus; and Julia Hendry, Wilfrid Laurier University Archivist.

The Good Hearted Women Singers (Mino Ode Kwewak N'gamow), a native women's drumming group, will perform.

Each of our 2012 ordinands will receive a queen-sized hand-stitched quilt during a special Quilt Presentation Service conducted by Bishop Pryse. This has been a special

tradition for many years. The quilts are made by women's groups at local congregations to celebrate ordination, and many pastors have told us that their quilt has become a treasured keepsake.

More information about the Annual Meeting will be mailed and e-mailed to congregations. Or you can visit our website, www.seminary.wlu.ca, click on "Our Community" and then "Women's Auxiliary." Or call Brenda Stockman at 519-747-5840.

*Please join us ...
all are welcome.*

EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE LIKE NEVER BEFORE

TOUR THE LANDS OF THE BIBLE

WITH LUTHERAN PASTORS SEBASTIAN
AND CAREY MEADOWS-HELMER

AND TOUR LEADER LORNE SMITH

APRIL 28 – MAY 7, 2013



**BOOK YOUR
LIFE-CHANGING
JOURNEY TODAY!**
(800) 565-0451

office@tourmagination.com

www.tourmagination.com/LOBL

Lift a child's spirit

Give the gift of play to children healing from the effects of trauma.

Soccer balls are now available in CLWR's Gifts from the Heart catalogue! Your gift of \$35 will help place soccer balls and pumps in future We Care shipments. They will go to children affected by natural disasters and conflict in countries around the world.

Thank you for
supporting CLWR's
We Care...
program.

Place your order by cheque
(mail to CLWR, 302-393 Portage
Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3B 3H6),
by phone at 1.800.661.2597,
or online at www.clwr.org.



**Canadian Lutheran
World Relief**

302-393 PORTAGE AVENUE
WINNIPEG, MB R3B 3H6
1.800.661.2597 • WWW.CLWR.ORG

facebook.com/CanadianLutheranWorldRelief
twitter.com/CanLWR
youtube.com/CLWRvideo

Trinity Village

Healthy Aging Health Fair

**Thursday, September 20th,
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Trinity Village Care Centre
2727 Kingsway Drive, Kit.
(near Fairview Park Mall)

For more information about
Trinity Village please go to
www.trinityvillage.com



Save the Date:

Christmas Craft & Bake Sale

Saturday, December 1st, 2012

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.



COSTA RICA • Natural Wonders

**February 18 - March 4, 2013 • 15 Days • 29 Meals
Escorted by Peeter Vanker**

With over 25 percent of its land mass protected as national parks and reserves, Costa Rica is one of the world's most beautiful and diverse ecological destinations, boasting a variety of flora and fauna unparalleled anywhere else.

From walking in the rainforest and exploring jungle waterways by boat, to visiting a local school and enjoying a cooking demonstration at a pineapple plantation, then relaxing in soothing hot springs and exploring active volcanoes, this comprehensive tour is designed to introduce you to the myriad of wonders that this tiny nation has to offer.

Join tour leader and local resident Peeter Vanker for this unforgettable journey, and let Craig Travel take care of all the details, so you can concentrate on enjoying every single moment, delighting in the majestic scenery, colorful wildlife and warm and welcoming people who so proudly call this ecological paradise home.



CRAIG TRAVEL
Showing the world to the 50+ traveller for over 40 years.
www.craigtravel.com • 1-800-387-8890 • reservations@craigtravel.com

*Experience
our World*

Reg. 1498987

Lutheran TV Worship
Come Worship With Us

CTV 10:00 am
SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO

September 9
Bishop Susan Johnson
preaching
(Pre-taped from July 8, 2012)

September 23
Pentecost 16

October 14
Thanksgiving Sunday

October 28
Pentecost 21

November 11
All Saints

November 25
Pentecost 25

Your freewill offerings are most welcome to help continue this ministry. Contact us if you wish to sponsor a broadcast in memory or honour of a loved one.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
49 Queen St N, Kitchener,
ON N2H 2G9 (519) 745-4705
Email: stpeters@golden.net