



The Eastern Synod Lutheran



Feb 15, 2017
Volume 60



Welcome!

When driving to work this morning I heard a story on the radio about welcome signs that people in Elmira and Kitchener area are putting out in front of their houses. The signs say: "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbour" written in French, English and Arabic. Obviously, they are seen not only in Elmira and Kitchener but all over the province. In the Morning Edition a couple of individuals were interviewed and asked why they wanted to post the sign on their lawns. All of them seemed to be concerned about the current political climate in terms of immigrants and Muslims. None of them have been political activists before, but they all felt satisfaction in showing solidarity and acceptance by posting this 24" by 18" sign on their property.

In my previous editorial in November I wrote about a safety

pin campaign. I still have a safety pin on my jacket. You may ask if it has made any difference. It has. I don't think it has changed the world, not even my neighborhood, but it has changed me. It reminds me of the values that I stand for. In my opinion there is no room for discrimination and hate in the Christian faith.

*No importa de dónde eres,
estamos contentos que seas
nuestro vecino.*

*No matter where you are
from, we're glad you're
our neighbor.*

*لا يهم اين ولدتم، و لكننا
سعداء انكم جيراننا.*

While writing this article, I received an email from David Martin, Executive Minister of Mennonite Church of Eastern Canada. He writes:

This welcome campaign was initiated by Immanuel Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg, VA. First Mennonite Church in Kitchener and MCEC are collaborating to bring this Welcome Sign Campaign immanuelmennonite.wordpress.com to Canada. The signs are also available in a number of other languages and are not copyrighted. Immanuel Mennonite is hoping this initiative will give voice across North America to our Mennonite faith and values. MCEC will also be inviting the other Area

Churches in MC Canada to join in this initiative. This is an initiative that strongly resonates with MCEC's focus on ReLearning Community and God's call to reach out to share our faith and values with our neighbours. Join us in making a statement in your neighbourhood.

If you would like to place an order for signs, Eastern Synod congregations and their members are welcome to contact Joan Schooley jschooley@mcec.ca at the MCEC office. Signs can be picked up at the MCEC offices at 50 Kent Avenue in Kitchener. If you want to have your own signs printed by a local print shop, please go to the Welcome Sign Campaign immanuelmennonite.wordpress.com website and download the pdf version of the sign and take it to your printer. Signs are available in a combination of English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Somali, Armenian, German, Hindi, Chinese, and Japanese. Note that Immanuel Mennonite Church would welcome knowing where the campaign is being picked up.

On this Valentine's day eve my love quote comes from the book of Deuteronomy:

You shall love the stranger, for you were once strangers in the land of Egypt. (Deut.10: 19)

Rev Riitta Hepomaki
Assistant to the Bishop

Educational Opportunity

A new Northwestern University Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) is now available for free on the internet. The course is called "Luther and the West" and offers an educational resource for this year's celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. The course is taught by Christine Helmer, who is an internationally known Luther scholar, and Professor of Religious Studies and German at Northwestern University in Evanston, USA.

This course is about the impact that Martin Luther, the Protestant reformer, had on major ideas in the history of the west. You will encounter ideas such as freedom and slavery, biblical interpretation and anti-Judaism, politics and economics. In addition to Luther, you will meet important thinkers, such as Baruch Spinoza, Immanuel Kant, and Martin Luther King Jr. The course includes 36 video lectures by Professor Helmer, in addition to many texts by Luther and others that you can download for free. You can connect with other learners in discussing the course material.

The promotional video provides information about the course. The link is <https://vimeo.com/183541655>

The course link is <https://www.coursera.org/learn/luther-and-the-west>

The bitly URL is <http://bit.ly/2ki9OFe>

Apple Tree Workshops

Three workshops are schedule for the upcoming weeks:

March 4 at Mount Zion, Waterloo

March 25 at St. Paul's, Neustadt

April 1 at Christ the King, Whitby

Contact Liz to register
ezehr@elcic.ca or call 519-743-1461

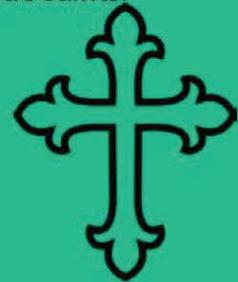
Raising Funds for Refugees

submitted by Jean Schaus

On Saturday February 4, 100 people gathered to attend the Have a Heart for BART Musical Variety Program and Valentine Tea in support of the Brockton Area Refugee Team (BART). Our goal is to bring a family of New Canadians to the Brockton Area. BART is an ecumenical project in the Brockton Area. The event raised 1500.00. The entire proceeds were presented to BART.

Pictured below from left to right Pastor Catharine House, Ivan House Co-treasurer for BART, Dale Watke Chairperson of Trinity, presenting the cheque, Yvonne Carroll Fund Raising Co-chair for BART and Len Kraemer Co-chair of BART.

The Rev'd Dr Matt Anderson of Montreal, invites you along on a tour of Iona, Whithorn, Holy Island and other sacred sites of the Celtic Saints!



View the promo video

<https://vimeo.com/201478675>

H.U.G.S. Helping Us Grow Spiritually

A weekend retreat for women of all ages. Sponsored by Women's Ministry of the Eastern Synod.

May 26-28, 2017



The event takes place at the Kempenfelt Conference Centre located just off Hwy 400 in Innisfill, ON (Just outside Barrie). Two guest speakers will be featured; Ruth Smith Meyer, an inspirational writer and speaker and Brenda Byers, a story teller by profession.

The conference centre, on beautiful Lake Kempenfelt, is situated perfectly for outdoor activities which are included in the weekend (weather permitting).

For registration information check the calendar on the Eastern Synod website at easternsynod.org

The cost for the weekend including meals is \$250.00 per person based on double-occupancy. If you do not wish to share a room you can elect to have a single room for an additional \$100.00 for the weekend.

Every woman welcome.



**Report of the Treasurer
2016 Final (Pre-Audit)**



“Thank you”, congregations of the synod and members, for the partnership you have demonstrated through your generous offerings to the Eastern Synod throughout 2016! Your offerings support a variety of vibrant and important ministries of the Eastern Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, extending the reach of your congregation’s mission across Canada and the world.

This month’s report provides a high level summary of offerings designated for various causes that were remitted to the synod by congregations and individuals in 2016. Next month’s report will provide a more comprehensive review of the synod’s 2016 operating fund (income, expenditures on synodical ministries and the resulting surplus/deficit) as well as other financial highlights from the past year.

Benevolence Offerings

Benevolence offerings received in 2016 declined by 2% or approximately \$30,000 compared to those that were remitted in 2015. The 2016 budget had anticipated a 1% decrease (\$15,000) after accounting for several “one-time” amounts that were received in 2015.

Canadian Lutheran World Relief Offerings

Total offerings to Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) declined 13% in 2016 compared to the previous year. Although undesignated CLWR offerings increased marginally, there was a steep decline in giving to designated causes. The designated cause attracting the most donations in 2016 was the Fort McMurray Wildfire Appeal (~\$66,000).

Offerings to Other Eastern Synod and ELCIC Ministries

In addition to Benevolence and CLWR, congregations and individuals also designated lesser amounts to support a variety of other ministries (see Summary of Offerings Received section for details). Due to donations that totalled in excess of \$118,000 for the ELCIC Reformation Challenge (an appeal that started in 2016), total offerings for these other ministries increased 37% in 2016.

Summary of Total Offerings Received

Total offerings remitted to the synod decreased ~\$22,000 (1%) in 2016 compared to the previous year:

	2015	2016	% Change
Regular Benevolence	1,488,270	1,458,021	-2.0%
CLWR Undesignated	220,012	222,081	0.9%
CLWR Special Appeals	148,161	99,137	-33.1%
ELCIC Global Mission	15,876	11,582	-27.0%
ELCIC Reformation Challenge	0	108,334	
ELCIC Praise Appeal	10,389	10,460	0.7%
Camps	46,977	28,122	-40.1%
Lutheran Campus Ministry	5,757	6,378	10.8%
Waterloo Lutheran Seminary	10,063	13,010	29.3%
Other Misc Designated Gifts	59,264	25,484	-57.0%
TOTAL	2,004,769	1,982,609	-1.1%

A detailed listing, [2016 Congregational Remittance Report](#) showing amounts that were remitted by each congregation to each of these causes is posted on the synod web site.

Keith Myra
Eastern Synod Treasurer

Happy 60th Anniversary

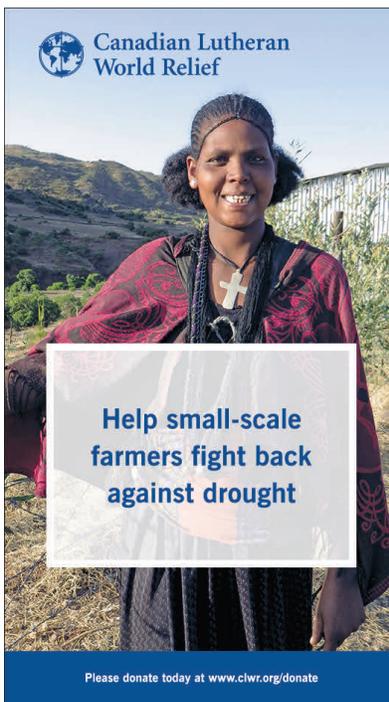
submitted by Alan Bluhm

On Saturday September 10th the Congregation of Reformation, Kitchener held a dinner to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of its formation with 54 members in attendance including nine of the charter members.

There are still 12 charter members in the Congregation, 9 who are still active. One charter member is Earl Brum who was on the planning committee and a member of the first Church Council when chartered on April 1st. 1956. Former Pastor Dale Finch, Honourary Pastor Ab Lorch and current Interim Pastor Stephen Gross were also in attendance.

During the 60 years, Reformation has had five full time Pastors, five Interim Pastors and 27 students who did their field placements at Reformation.

There was much reminiscing about the past 60 years as members shared their experiences at Reformation. The members enjoyed the informal setting and look forward to the future at Reformation.



Bridging Communities Through Song

Saturday, March 4, 2017

1 pm—3 pm

For more information go to

<http://www.easternsynod.org/calendar>

Vacancies

Faith, Brantford

St. Matthew, Fredericton

St. Matthew's, Kitchener

St. Peter's, Ottawa

Peace, Pickering

Advent, Toronto

For further information please contact

Rev Douglas Reble, Assistant to the Bishop, dreble@elcic.ca or call

1-877-373-5242.



Diaconal Sunday

February 26, 2017

Resources now available at
<http://elcic.ca/Leadership/For-Ministers/DiaconalSunday.cfm>



Bishop's Lay Spiritual Retreat

March 31– April 2

Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre

Niagara Falls To register go to

<http://www.easternsynod.org/calendar>

REFORMATION 500

A Tribute To Martin Luther

500 years of faith,
Faith that had changed
The church and the world forever.

The year was 1517,
The day October, 31,
When Martin Luther nailed his 95
theses
On the door of the church.

The theses spoke against
The corrupt practices of the church;
Luther was asked to renounce his
views,
But he refused and stood his ground.

Matters weren't right then,
But each thought the other
Should take the initiative,
To right the wrongs done.

Luther's action gave birth to the
Reformation,
And his deeds seem to echo the
words of St. Paul,
*Follow my example as I follow
The example of Christ.*

What courage did Luther have!
He did that which was right,
Fearing God more than fearing man.

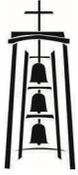
Luther stood by a purpose true,
And he heeded God's command;
He had a purpose firm,
And ne'er hesitated to make it known.

We've been blessed by
Luther's life and work,
For he'd done more
Than any other reformer had.

John Muttiah
Christ the King, Whitby, Ontario.

Would you like to receive updates
on the ELCIC's Reformation Chal-
lenge directly via email?

If so, please send an email
to info@elcic.ca with
"Subscribe - Reformation Chal-
lenge" in the subject line.



Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

February 2017

Local Heroes



Inshallah Kids made their debut St. John's Lutheran church, Waterloo, in November.

As a result of the recent murders in a Quebec mosque and the new U.S. administration's proposed immigration ban, CTV Kitchener News highlighted our Inshallah Kids interfaith harmony choir as [Local Heroes](#).

A project of the Kanata Centre for Worship and Global Song, Inshallah Kids was born out of the Inshallah

community choir's 10th anniversary and the desire to sing the circle wider. So far 20 children, ages three to 11, have joined the group. They include Muslims, Christians, and children who do not come from a faith tradition background. All are welcome to gather in Keffer Chapel on Mondays, 6:30 p.m. For more details, please contact [Debbie Lou Ludolph](#).

Art and Vespers



Our thanks to everyone who participated in the Art and Vespers service in Keffer Chapel on Sunday, Feb. 12. Featured artists included Mustafa Kaya (traditional Turkish water marbling) and Sarah Granskou (puppets, stories and song). Brad Moggach and friends jazz ensemble. You can still view the accompanying exhibition, entitled [The Crack Where the Light Gets In](#), until Feb. 22 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and some weeknights (excluding statutory holidays). Free.

Sharing our parish stories

In an effort to support Eastern Synod congregations and clergy, and our partners in the Anglican Church of Canada in the Maritimes, our communications director Mirko Petricevic presented a series of communications workshops at the Atlantic Pastors' Conference in Nova Scotia Feb. 7-8. Our thanks to Bishop Pryse and Riitta Hepomaki,



assistant to the bishop, for inviting us to help pastors spread good news. Rev. Rick Pryce, pastor of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lunenburg, N.S. (pictured), was one of nearly 20 people involved.

Glebe Lunch & Learn

All welcome to the [Delton Glebe Counselling Centre's](#) lunch and learn series. Next session Jungian Depth Psychology: Dream Analysis; Monday, March 6; noon to 12:50 p.m.; seminary Room 201. Bring your lunch. Light refreshments will be provided.

Office closures

In order to help us prepare to vacate the seminary building by the end of April, ahead of construction for our \$9-million renewal and modernization project, we will be closing the seminary office at noon on Fridays until further notice. For more about our renewal project, see the June 2016 [TESL](#).

Contact us

Events: Dorinda Kruger Allen, dkrugerallen@wlu.ca

Seminary stories: Mirko Petricevic, mpetricevic@wlu.ca