



The Eastern Synod Lutheran

Feb 19, 2016

Volume 49

From Canada To Ethiopia

In January it was my privilege to participate in the CLWR Global Encounter 2016 to Ethiopia. Part of a group of 25 ELCIC and LC-C members from across Canada. These people are passionate about the work of this specialized agency committed to challenging the causes and responding to the consequences of human suffering and poverty. As Vice-President of the CLWR Board as well as being a donor myself, I feel it's important to experience how gifts given to CLWR are used responsibly in serving the needs of others. Thankfully and unequivocally, I can say they most certainly are.

I write this less than two weeks after returning home. I came home feeling overwhelmed emotionally and spiritually. Physically, too, to be honest.

There is so much I could focus on as I write to you now. The warmth and hospitality of the Ethiopian people touched me on many levels. The stark beauty of the Ethiopian landscape. How can I forget the mystery and awe of the Lalibela churches which were hewn from the rock almost a thousand years ago. Some seven storeys high. I was pleased to learn of the peaceful co-existence between Christians and Muslims in this great country, something we don't always see in our world. How could I not mention the Timket celebration that we attended in Addis Ababa. Timket is the celebration of the Epiphany in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church calendar. The event we attended was full of music and dance, a joyous celebration of the God who loves us all, the God who calls for the unity of all people. Of course, the humorous and ironic were well represented. I can laugh, now, as I almost got arrested outside the American Embassy. Shouldn't have taken that photo. Resident of Stratford that I am, listening to the music of Justin Bieber coming out of a little pool hall in Lalibela brought a smile to my face. The global world we live in.

Despite all this, it was why we went in the first place that touched me most of all. To see the work of CLWR. In a part of the world which is so vulnerable, CLWR is making a life-giving difference. Some of you will not know this but Ethiopia is in the midst of one of the worst droughts in its history. Most likely caused by El Nino, this has created extremely dry conditions, which is devastating for the people who depend on the spring and summer rains to grow their crops. More than 10 million people need support. An estimated 400,000 children are at risk of developing severe acute malnutrition this year. And CLWR is there.

Here is some of what we saw : Working with our partners, CLWR is helping to diversify the pastoral livelihoods of target groups in a sustainable way thereby contributing to the enhancement and attainment of food security for the most vulnerable; natural resource conservation practices are being promoted and taught; irrigation schemes are being developed; trees are being planted; farmers, women as well as men, are being trained in best nutrition practices; how to conduct dairy farming and

artificial insemination so herds can be increased and excess product sold to benefit the community. I continue to marvel how just a little bit of water well-directed can produce abundant crops of carrots, tomatoes, potatoes, Swiss chard, garlic, peppers, papaya, apples and so much more.

Let me repeat. CLWR is making a difference, a positive difference, a life-changing difference. That's what we went to see and experience and we most certainly did.

The vision of Canadian Lutheran World Relief is to work for a "world where people live in justice, peace, and dignity, united in diversity, and empowered to achieve their universal rights to basic needs and quality of life." Your prayers and financial gifts allow this to happen. I have seen it firsthand. May they continue. Together, we can make a difference, In the name of the God who loves us all.

Salaam, (peace)
Rev. Douglas Reble,
Assistant to the Bishop, Eastern Synod,
ELCIC



Timket is the celebration of the Epiphany in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church calendar. The event we attended was full of music and dance, a joyous celebration of the God who loves us all, the God who calls for the unity of all people.

How can worship be a response and catalyst to social justice issues and God's mission in the world?

Join us for National Worship Conference at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario from July 24-27, 2016 to explore that question!

Events of the conference:

Mornings will consist of worship and key note speakers

Afternoons will offer participants an opportunity to choose two different workshops to engage in. Topics include: Art & Worship, Biblical Story-telling, Spiritual Roots of Social Justice, Songs of Lament, Media-Enhanced Worship, and Truth and Reconciliation to name just a few. Our workshop leaders are from across Canada and the USA.

Evenings will host fellowship time together, a community dinner on Tuesday evening to celebrate the Companion of the Worships Arts 20th Anniversary, and evening worship.

For more information on the event or to register, please go to:

www.nationalworshipconference.org

Join us on Twitter: @NWCKW

ETHIOPIA DROUGHT APPEAL

*Without urgent help,
millions of people are
in danger of starvation.*

*Please donate today.
clwr.org/donate*



Canadian Lutheran
World Relief

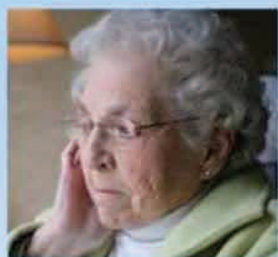
Trinity Village

Well-Being Series 2016

ELDER ABUSE

Workshop for Pastors and Congregational Leaders

What you need to know to recognize
and prevent Elder Abuse



**Thursday
March 10th**
9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
8:30 – Light Breakfast

Workshop leader:
Heather Jackson, M.S.W

Gathering Place
Trinity Village Care Centre
2727 Kingsway Dr., Kitchener

Space is limited.
To register contact Gloria Ryder
519-893-6320 ext. 231
gryder@trinityvillage.com

Funding provided in part by Eastern Synod Mission Grant



Upcoming Events

Consecration service for Scott Knarr
Saturday, February 27, 2016
2 pm
St. Paul's Anglican Church
Six Nations of the Grand River

Ordination Service for JoAnne Lam
Saturday March 12, 2016
7 pm
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church
Ottawa, Ontario

Vacancies

First Lutheran, Toronto
St. Mark's, Midland
South Dundas, Williamsburg
Faith, Port Elgin
Christ, Waterloo
Grace, Oakville
St Matthew's, Sudbury/St Timothy's, Copper Cliff
All Saints, Newcombville/St Luke's, Rhodes Corner/Mount
Olivet, Upper LaHave

For more information please contact Rev. Douglas Reble,
Assistant to the Bishop



Report of the Treasurer 2015 Final (Pre-Audit)

Benevolence Offerings



I am very pleased to report that for the first time since 2007, the synod reported a notable increase in benevolence offerings received from congregations and individuals. Given the declining trend that we have seen in recent years, news of this \$44,000 (3%) increase in support of the synod's various ministries is very much appreciated!

Canadian Lutheran World Relief Offerings

Total offerings to Canadian Lutheran World Relief declined slightly (2%) in 2015 compared to the previous year. Due to meaningful responses to both the Nepal Earthquake (\$50,500) and Syrian Refugee (\$62,600) appeals, offerings to CLWR designated causes almost tripled (from \$53,000 in 2014 to \$149,000 in 2015). This was offset by a decline of more than \$100,000 in non-designated CLWR receipts. (It should be noted that 2014 non-designated CLWR giving included a one-time congregational gift of \$81,000).

Offerings to Other Eastern Synod and ELCIC Causes

Congregations and individuals also designated smaller amounts for ELCIC Global Mission, the ELCIC Praise Appeal, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, our three synodical camps, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Canadian missions, St. Peter's Kitchener Television Ministry as well as several other causes.

Thank you!

"Thank you", congregations of the synod and members, for the partnership you have demonstrated through your generous offerings to the Eastern Synod throughout 2015! 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.

A detailed listing, [2015 Congregational Remittance Report](#), showing amounts remitted by each congregation to these various causes is posted on the synod web site.

Stay tuned for more detailed 2015 financial reporting in the weeks ahead. In the meantime, here is a summary of remittances to the synod's three primary causes over the past year:

Offerings Received			
	Regular Benevolence	Canadian Lutheran World Relief	ELCIC Praise Appeal
2014	\$1,444,484	\$374,304	\$37,166
2015	\$1,488,270	\$368,173	\$10,389
% Change (2015 vs. 2014)	3%	-2%	-72%
2015 Budget (% increase vs. 2014)	1%	na	35%
2015 Budget (\$)	\$1,459,000	na	\$50,000

Keith Myra
Eastern Synod Treasurer



**Eastern Synod Assembly 2016
Watch for Details!**

Registration Information Letter containing Assembly 2016 details and registration instructions to go out late February.

Online Registration expected to open March 1, 2016. (Please note - Lay Delegate Credential forms are no longer in use.)

NEW!!! Election of Eastern Synod Delegates to the 2017 ELCIC National Convention will take place at Assembly 2016. Nominating info and forms will be out next week.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Rev. James Dauphinee who passed away on January 15, 2016.

Pastor Dauphinee celebrated his 75th anniversary of ordination in 2015.



Rev. Claudine Carlson retired on February 7 2016.

We wish her all the best in this new phase of life.

Flashback— Assembly 2014



As the magazine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the mission of **Canada Lutheran** is to engage the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada in a dynamic dialogue in which information, inspiration and ideas are shared in a thoughtful and stimulating way.

To order your subscription contact Barb bwiebe@elcic.ca

To submit a story for consideration to the Eastern Synod pages email it to ezehr@elcic.ca



About 90 local refugee sponsors participated in workshops at the seminary on Jan. 23. They learned about Syrian history and culture, settlement and health services, and dealing with trauma. Organizers: WLS, Canadian Lutheran World Relief, Delton Glebe Counselling Centre, Mennonite Central Committee, MCC Ontario, Bring Back Hope.

Women of Faith Fund honours outstanding student

We congratulate Sydney Marshall, our fourth-year student who is completing a double major in [Christian Studies and Global Citizenship](#) and in Spanish, who is the first recipient of the Women of Faith Scholarship.

Sydney received the \$500 award during a special luncheon in Keffer Chapel on Feb. 5. She is on track to be the first graduate of the seminary's new undergraduate program. Convocation is set for late June.



And we give our heartfelt thanks to the women who made this new scholarship possible. The Women of Faith Scholarship Fund is one of a number of projects flowing from the [Women of Faith Fund](#) which was established in 2011 after the Evangelical Lutheran Women, a national

organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, disbanded.

Our Christian Studies and Global Citizenship Bachelor of Arts program accepted its first students in the fall of 2012. There are 11 students enrolled in the undergrad program.

In addition to our students, each year roughly 242 students from across the Laurier campus take undergrad courses, as electives, at the seminary.

If you'd like to encourage young women in their studies by making a donation to the scholarship fund, please contact the seminary's financial co-ordinator Shwetha Subramanya at ssubramanya@wlu.ca

Physician-assisted Dying: Canada Questions

The seminary's Centre for Public Ethics hosted community leaders — doctors, bioethicists, hospice and palliative care specialists, administrators of government services, staff of religious organizations and others — to discuss physician-assisted dying. [Read the full story](#). At left, Joan Fisk, board chair of the Waterloo Wellington LHIN, chats with David Pfrimmer, centre co-director, during a break.



Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

New web pages

We have several new web pages: [Worship and Music](#), [Centres](#), and [thirdspace](#). You can visit pages for Inshallah, the seminary's spirited 100+ voice community choir, by simply typing inshallah.ca into your web browser. A huge THANKS to **Bill Gastmeier**, Inshallah advisory committee member, for having the foresight to secure the distinctive URL!

Kuhnert at Glebe Centre

The [Delton Glebe Counselling Centre](#), an outreach of the seminary, announces that **Dr. Peter Kuhnert**, is joining the centre for a half day each week. Kuhnert, a physician in the long-term psychiatry unit of Grand River Hospital's Freeport Health Centre and an ordained minister in the ELCIC, will be on hand to consult with therapists, diagnose issues and prescribe medication when needed. Welcome Peter!

Events

[Inshallah](#) presents [Singing With Our Neighbours](#) at Knox Presbyterian Church, 50 Erb St. W. in Waterloo, at 7 p.m. on March 5.

The seminary and Laurier's Office of Aboriginal Initiatives present [Circle of Dialogue: Longhouse Religion and Christianity](#) from 1:30 to 3p.m. on March 15.

We're always planning new events. To keep up to date, please look for our events on WLU's [calendar](#). If you would like to be on our events email list, contact Dorinda Kruger Allen at dkrugerallen@wlu.ca

Contact us

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Seminary stories: Mirko Petricevic, mpetricevic@wlu.ca