



The Eastern Synod Lutheran

www.eastersynod.org



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“Jesus did not come to save us by changing God’s mind about us. Rather, Jesus came to save us by changing our minds about God. Should I say that one more time?

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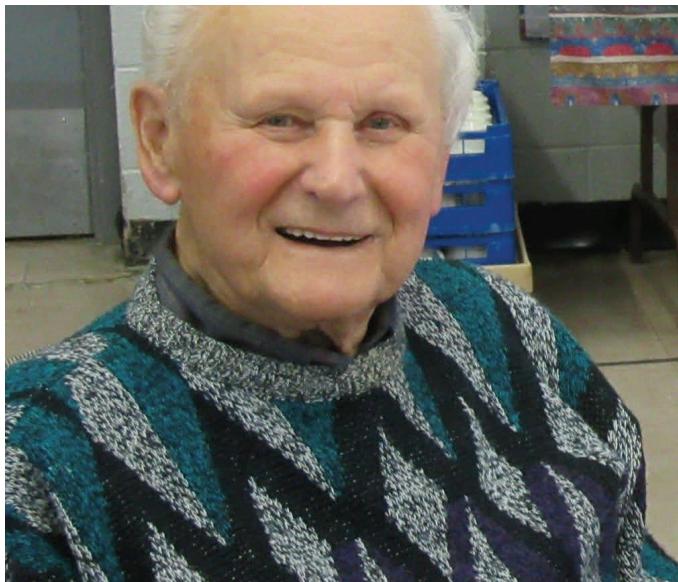
- Rev. Paul Nuechterlein



Thank you Oscar!

Submitted by Muriel Soehner

The 'Lord is My Light' is the inspirational solo selected and offered by Oscar Zarnke on the occasion of his retirement from St. John's Lutheran Church (Waterloo) Choir duties at age 98. Oscar's commitment and dedication to the choir covers 84 years, having started as a boy soprano when he was 14 years old. His career has seen over two dozen Pastors, approximately twelve



organists and two church edifices while belonging to ONE congregation. Over the decades he has attended over 4000 choir rehearsals and untold number of worship services.

On the day of Oscar's official 'retirement' about ten family members who had travelled from out of town worshipped together with Oscar. Special tribute was paid to Oscar by Pastor Fred Ludolph who quipped that he had missed the first eighty years of his choir career! Following the service, an informal reception was held where congratulatory letters were read and speeches were made while people enjoyed cake, coffee and fellowship. It was a joyous occasion in the life of St. John's Waterloo. We say "Thank YOU and may God richly bless you always, Oscar!"

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Canadian Lutheran
World Relief

You have trusted CLWR to provide caring services and practical support to people in need around the world. A Giving Forward gift allows you to bless others as you have been blessed for many years to come.

[Learn more at clwr.org/GivingForward](http://clwr.org/GivingForward)



Vacancies

St. Ansgar, Toronto

Trinity, Sudbury

Thornhill, Thornhill

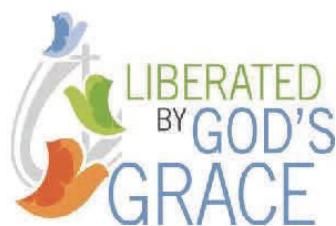
St. Matthew's, Conestogo

For more information please contact

Rev Douglas Reble,

Assistant to the Bishop,

dreble@elcic.ca /1-877-373-5242.



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*



Election of Eastern Synod Delegates to the 2019 ELCIC National Convention will take place at Assembly 2018. A Nominating Package is available on our website (which includes a cover letter, a copy of the nominating policy, and two fillable PDF forms: the Biographical Info Form and the Endorsement Form).

The deadline for the return of the two forms is April 22.

<http://www.eastersynod.org/content/assembly-2018>

Report of the Treasurer
2017 Final (Pre-Audit)

Measured in terms of total offerings that were remitted to the synod for regular (undesignated) benevolence and various designated causes, 2017 wasn't a banner year. Rather, 2017 remittances were consistent with the slowly declining trend that has been evident in the synod's financial statements over the past twenty years or so.

During these challenging financial times, it is especially important that I convey my deepest thanks and appreciation to 184 congregations and to numerous individuals across the synod for the most generous gifts that you have made over the past year. Through this partnership you fund 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. Your gifts are a blessing! And through your generosity we as a synod have been blessed!

This month my report provides a high level summary of offerings designated for various causes that were remitted to the synod by congregations and individuals over the past year. Next month's report will provide a more comprehensive review of the synod's 2017 financial picture - income, expenditures on synodical ministries and the resulting surplus/deficit in the synod's operating fund, as well as other financial highlights from the past year (including several large gifts and bequests that were designated for synodical ministries).

Benevolence Offerings

Benevolence offerings received in 2017 declined by 1.5% or approximately \$22,000 compared to those that were remitted in 2016. Furthermore, the 2017 budget was based on a 1% increase (\$14,000) resulting in a total shortfall of approximately \$36,000. Fortunately we were able to offset this shortfall through under-spending in several areas of the budget and through returns on investments held by the Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada that exceeded budget expectations.

I would like to offer a special thank you to those congregations that added to their benevolence offerings by including a special amount to help cover the synod's cost of sending delegates to the 2017 ELCIC National Convention, an expense that in previous years was a congregational responsibility. You have set a great example of leadership!

Canadian Lutheran World Relief Offerings

In total, undesignated and designated offerings to Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) declined by 10% in 2017 compared to the previous year. 70% of all CLWR offerings were undesignated while the large majority of the remaining 30% of designated offerings were directed towards African famine relief and related causes.

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 below for details). In total, offerings to these other causes were virtually unchanged from 2016 to 2017.

With almost \$83,000 being donated to the ELCIC's Reformation Challenge in 2017, the synod's total over the past two years falls just shy of \$200,000, an amount that excludes funds that were retained by congregations in support of their own refugee sponsorship/resettlement projects. What a tremendous response! 70% of the Reformation Challenge donations that flowed through the synod office over the past two years were designated for scholarships for schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. The amount raised to date from our synod will fund scholarships for 95 students!

Summary of Total Offerings Received

Total offerings remitted to the synod decreased ~\$57,000 (3%) in 2017 compared to the previous year:

	2016	2017	% Change
Regular Benevolence	\$1,458,021	\$1,435,590	-1.5%
CLWR Undesignated	\$222,081	\$201,086	-9.5%
CLWR Special Appeals	\$99,137	\$86,066	-13.2%
ELCIC Global Mission	\$11,582	\$14,438	24.7%
ELCIC Reformation Challenge	\$108,334	\$82,922	-23.5%
ELCIC Praise Appeal	\$10,460	\$8,328	-20.4%
Camps	\$28,122	\$12,082	-57.0%
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$6,378	\$4,013	-37.1%
Waterloo Lutheran Seminary	\$13,010	\$27,464	111.1%
Other Misc Designated Gifts	\$25,484	\$53,592	110.3%
TOTAL	\$1,982,609	\$1,925,581	-2.9%

A detailed listing, [2017 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

A New Church Born

" We are living in a different time, and for this time we need to explore ways of being and doing that may look different from our past."

Willard Metzger...Daring to Dream Again

November 20, 2013 marked the beginning into a journey of dreaming between two congregations in Guelph; St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church and St. David & St. Patrick's Anglican Church. That evening a simple dinner invitation brought representatives from St. Paul's to St. David & St. Patrick's together to share a meal and entertain ecumenical ministry possibilities for the near future. In recent years, the two congregations had extended themselves into the occasional pulpit exchange as well as a yearly shared service. Despite this somewhat limited exposure, commonalities began to emerge particularly with the Church's true mission and outreach into the community. At that November meeting, bold individuals were willing to dream differently. Propelled by possibilities, in addition to financial realities, a proposal to begin talks on a new congregational model between the two churches was agreed upon both on a local level and the Lutheran Eastern Synod and the Niagara Anglican Diocese.

That winter, representatives and clergy from both congregations began to define what that congregational model might look like. Although potential possibilities of ministry as one body drove many of the conversations, one could not ignore the "Lutheran" and "Anglican" labels. Some obstacles were very real. Although the National churches have been in full communion since 2001, as defined in the Waterloo Declaration, governance models are very dif-

ferent. Tradition and personal church attachments also played a role.

A few months later, in April of 2014, Bishop Bird of the Anglican Diocese and Bishop Pryse of the Lutheran Eastern Synod met in Guelph with councils, clergy, and wardens to present their views and answer a list of standing questions. Their support and resources would play a central role and anchor point to conversations moving forward. A formal task force between the two local churches was established and carried these conversations into 2015. Amid many questions, a basic education of specific terms and practices of both churches was begun. It's quite amazing how many assumptions we carry. We had to learn a common language.

In the spring of 2015, both congregations formally voted to enter a two-year partnership agreement and St. David & St. Patrick's moved all of its resources to St. Paul's. This was determined after evaluation of both physical properties and abiding finances. During this time, both communities lived, worked, and prayed together with the hope of creating a permanent shared Anglican-Lutheran ministry that would result in a long-term covenantal and

legal relationship. It truly was a time of an engagement between two individuals.

A dedicated transition team was established which provided a bridge between the two governance models and provided a hub where existing teams or committees could talk and plan. This team was facilitated with support from the Anglican Diocese of Niagara and the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Eventually a Joint Council was formed and ran parallel to the traditional governance models.

Following congregational votes on April 30th, 2017, both churches were excited to announce that they accepted a formal merger agreement that would see a new church born to serve the people of Guelph. This new church is called All Saint's Lutheran Anglican Church. It was one to be celebrated as it created the potential for us all to dream differently in our ministry. It wasn't the fact that we reached some kind of finish line but rather we were at a new epiphany, a new beginning point...a new opportunity in mission.

Brian Janzen
All Saints Lutheran Anglican Church



Grace Lutheran Hamilton joins Give it up for the Earth! during Lent 2018

Christians across Canada are giving up practices that hurt the environment

Grace Lutheran is excited to be participating in Give it up for the Earth!, a Lenten climate change campaign from Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ). Through Give it up for the Earth!, Canadian Christians will commit to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions during the 40 days of Lent from February 13 March 29, 2018. They will also call on the federal government to match and exceed these actions with policy changes that will move Canada further and faster towards international climate change goals.

February 18, 10:30 am: Intro to "Give it up for the Earth! Campaign

February 25, 10:30 am: Guest Speaker: Beth Lorimer, Ecological Justice Coordinator, Kairos

March 4, 10:30 am: Guest Speaker: Hamilton Roundtable on Poverty Reduction

March 11, 10:30 am: Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. David Pfrimmer will be speaking on the impact of taxation on democracy and those who are vulnerable

March 18, 10:30 am: Guest Speaker: Lisa Magliocco, Wesley Urban Ministries, Hamilton, will be giving an update on Syrian refugees in Hamilton and their needs

"We are excited to be involved in the CPJ "Give it up for the Earth" postcard campaign this Lent and to further explore issues facing all of us here in Hamilton" said Pastor Loretta Jaunzarins

Across Canada, over 110 groups (including churches, religious congregations, high schools, universities, and faith-based organizations) are gathering to make their pledges and sign postcards. The postcards are addressed to Minister of the Environment and Climate Change Catherine McKenna. They call on Canada to end subsidies to the fossil fuel industry right way.

"Climate change is increasingly understood as an issue of faith. The way we live in this world is an expression of the belief that we are called to protect and care for the Earth," says Karri Munn-Venn, senior policy analyst at CPJ. "Lent offers an opportunity to make a meaningful sacrifice while also making our voices heard. Even Catherine McKenna, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, was encouraged by the initiative when we presented it to her last year!"

CPJ has already distributed over 15,000 postcards to groups across the country. Later this spring, postcards that have been returned to CPJ will be presented to Minister McKenna.

For more information, contact Pastor Loretta Jaunzarins at info.gchamilton@gmail.com or 905-527-0877. To learn more about CPJ's national campaign, go to www.cpj.ca/for-the-earth or contact Brad Wassink at brad@cpj.ca or 613-232-0275 x. 225.

Greetings & Blessings from Bethesda Lutheran Church in Unionville.

This letter comes to you from the Council of Bethesda and the Executive Trustees of Bethesda Lutheran Cemetery. Our cemetery is over 200 years old and now lies in the centre of the City of Markham at 9423 Kennedy Rd. This cemetery is the final resting place of some of the original Lutheran settlers to the GTA.

Bethesda Lutheran Cemetery as part of Bethesda Lutheran Church in Unionville Ontario and as part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada takes on the global statement of the church "IN MISSION FOR OTHERS"

In keeping with this statement the Cemetery declares that:

We are in mission as a Christian cemetery

We are in mission to serve the Lutheran community of the GTA

We are in mission to serve and be involved with the local Markham community.

We have recently expanded our cemetery and we now have sufficient space for Christian burials for many years to come. As space for burials becomes more and more expensive and harder to find in non-commercial cemeteries we are very happy to be able to offer burial space in a more traditional Christian cemetery. Plots are available for both casket & in-ground cremation interments. Plots are sold on the "next available" space for immediate use or in advance if you have pre-arranged funeral arrangements with a funeral home.

You can learn more about Bethesda Lutheran Cemetery at www.bethesdalutheranchurch.ca

You can contact our Trustee Chairman Lorne Smith directly at 905-472-3906 or lorne.smith@sympatico.ca



Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

February 2018

Veteran CBC journalist heads election forum

Fisher to keynote first of two election events for faith groups

Robert Fisher, long-time Queen's Park journalist whose voice is familiar to regular listeners of CBC Radio, is to be the keynote speaker at Faith and the Ontario Election event at 7 p.m. on March 20 at Mount Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Waterloo.

John Milloy, director of the seminary's Centre for Public Ethics, says the centre is organizing the forum in an effort to encourage faith communities to become involved in the June 7th election.

Fisher, who recently retired from the CBC, will outline some of the election issues of interest to religious communities. Rev. Michael Pryse and Fauzia Mazhar will be the respondents.

The event is free, but please [register online](#).



Queen's Park, above. (Andrew Lupton/CBC) Robert Fisher, right.



As a follow-up, the seminary plans to lead a hands-on workshop on April 9 to help faith communities outline their election strategies. Please stay tuned for details.

More of our coming events

Shia Muslim lecture

7 p.m. Feb. 28 at Conrad Grebel University College. Unity of God and Unity in God. [Details here](#).

Singing With Our Neighbours

3 p.m., March 25. Knox Presbyterian Church. Inshallah/Kids, Mino Ode Kwewak N'gamowak. [Details](#).



Circle of Dialogue

Beverley Jacobs, Indigenous lawyer and activist, speaks about missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, at the Circle of Dialogue on Jan. 31. Click for photos on [Facebook](#) or [Google Drive](#).



Harmony

Gerard Yun plays a Zen Buddhist bamboo flute during the World Interfaith Harmony Week celebration on Feb. 7 — our collaboration with Studies in Islam at Renison U.C. Click for photos: [Facebook](#), [Google Drive](#).

Golf tournament returns

FORE! Keep your heads up, golfers. The Friends of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary Golf Tournament returns on Thursday, May 24, 2018.

We skipped last year's tournament due to the demands of relocating to our temporary office as the seminary building undergoes a \$9-million renewal. Please stay tuned for details.

For more information on the project, visit [reformcapitalcampaign.ca](#). For construction update videos, [click here](#) or visit our [Facebook page](#).

Contact us

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Seminary stories: Mirko Petricevic, mpetricevic@wlu.ca