



# The Eastern Synod Lutheran

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



Jan 16, 2018  
Volume 70



## **A Little New Year Risk Taking** Rev Christie Morrow-Wolfe

I'm sure the vast host of parenting experts would have much to say about my decision to put my tiny, three year old daughter on a 30 year old wooden toboggan and give her a good push down a short but rather steep hill - a hill that emptied out onto a road. Yes, I'm sure the parenting experts would have much to say about that! Luckily (and in defense of my questionable judgment) the snow plough had done its job by kicking up enough of a bank that she wasn't getting near the road and I was watching like a mama hawk for any passing motorists (and timing the pushes down that hill accordingly).

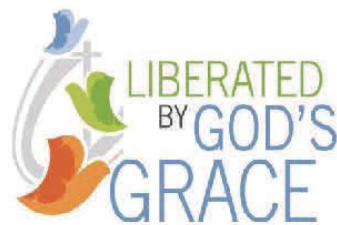
But truthfully, hearing my daughter laugh with abandon and call out "again, Mommy! Again!" and having that time with her in the snow under a brilliant blue sky was worth a little bit of risk taking. For what must have been the millionth time since becoming a parent, I marveled at how it's the simple things that mean the most and bring the most joy. As I played in the snow with her and was wit-

ness to her sheer delight, I felt blessed... blessed that God has given me the gift of this child; blessed that I have the privilege of watching her grow and learn and delight in God's creation; blessed that we are on this journey together.

I'm not a big maker of resolutions, but as we begin this New Year, I do so with a desire to be more intentional to pause and give thanks for the holy in the ordinary; to give thanks to God for the brilliant blue sky, the warm sun on my face and the squeals of delight from my favourite three year old in the background. Our journey of faith with the God who loves us is not meant to be complicated. It's meant to be as simple as the prophet Micah reminds us: 'to do justice; to love kindness and to walk humbly with God.' Too often we seem to buy into what the

world around us tries to sell us about life and happiness and we end up tripping over ourselves and head down a path that usually ends up being a dead end and not very life-giving. This year, I'd like to ask God to help me be more mindful – to live more in the moment so that my days can be witness to the love and grace of God that I see in creation, hear in the laughter and delight of my family and encounter in the faces of those I meet.

I pray the same for you in this New Year too – that we would all be blessed by the numerous ways we see God daily and that we would not only pause in the moment, but that we would find ways to talk about and share these encounters with others, as together we seek to 'do justice; love kindness and walk humbly with God.' Happy New Year!



## **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*

## Never Too Late

Even though it arrived in early January, I guessed that the envelope contained a Christmas card. The return address indicated that it was from a person in their nineties who has been on our list of planned gift donors for several years. Inside the card was a cheque designated for the work of Lutheran Planned Giving. The note in the card said, "I am late, but it is never too late to think of those who have influenced my life and my beliefs."

Who influenced your life and your beliefs? Parents, grandparents or baptismal sponsor? Pastor, Sunday School teacher, camp counsellor or youth group leader? Congregational elder, choir director or some other layperson?

It is never too late to think about those people and give thanks for their influence. One way to remember them is to make a special tribute gift to the church in their honour. A gift can take the form of a cheque, a donation of invest-

ments or a gift in your will.

To learn more about how to make a gift recognizing the important people in your life, contact Jeff Pym at [jpym@elfec.ca](mailto:jpym@elfec.ca) or 1-888-308-9461.

The following Friends of Lutheran Planned Giving have come forward within the past year, told us about their gift, and given us permission to publish their names. Our hope is that you, after seeing a familiar name on the list, might be inspired by their example to make a gift of your own.

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Robert Ahrens      | Burlington, ON  |
| Elsabe Coetzer     | Waterloo, ON    |
| Harold Kaufman     | New Hamburg, ON |
| Laurie & Jim Knott | Waterloo, ON    |
| Heather Main       | Mississauga, ON |
| Neil Main          | Waterloo, ON    |
| Jeanne Wittig      | Elmira, ON      |

In addition to these donors there are six others who have chosen to remain anonymous.

Our church is blessed by the presence of all givers—known and unknown—and the abundance of their gifts. We give thanks to God for their faithful living and generous giving.

**GIFTS  
FROM THE  
HEART**

 Canadian Lutheran  
World Relief

## THANK YOU! IT'S JUST WHAT THEY NEEDED

You gave the perfect gift this Christmas when you gave a *Gift from the Heart*. Gifts like "Women in Business" provide young women like these South Sudanese refugees with a business start-up kits and valuable training in business management, bookkeeping and marketing.

Visit [clwr.org/GFTH](http://clwr.org/GFTH)



## Vacancies

St. Ansgar, Toronto  
Trinity, Sudbury  
Thornhill, Thornhill

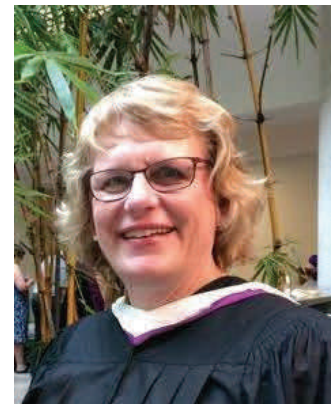
For more information please contact  
Rev Douglas Reble,  
Assistant to the Bishop,  
[dreble@elcic.ca](mailto:dreble@elcic.ca) /1-877-373-5242.

## WORSHIP BLOG COORDINATOR

Recently graduating from Waterloo Lutheran Seminary with an MA in Theology, Kathryn is passionate about how worshipping together and singing together helps to build relationships and grow community. As part of the synodical worship ministries work, Kathryn will help develop a network across our Ministry Areas, our synod and our national church to communicate regarding worship initiatives and questions.

Kathryn is involved in her local congregation All Saints Lutheran-Anglican as the chair of the Worship and Music committee and synodically she has been a part of the worship planning team for the last two assemblies. Kathryn is the Eastern Synod representative on the ELCIC Program Committee for Worship. As well, she sings in the Inshallah choir, based out of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, where she was involved in the production of the Inshallah songbook, *Sing the Circle Wide: Songs of faith from around the world*.

To ask questions, send information, comment and share resources, email [esworshipblog@gmail.com](mailto:esworshipblog@gmail.com).



Kathryn Smith

Our thoughts and prayers are with Rev. Olaf Poulsen and his family as they mourn the loss of his father and with Rev. Chris Krejlgard and his family as they mourn the death of his father.



# Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

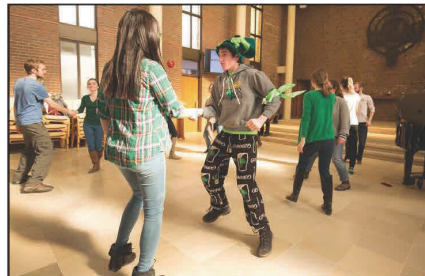
January 2018



Claudia Ramirez, Ruth Smith, Erin Snider and Susan Howard graduated with master's degrees in theology, in the field of spiritual care and psychotherapy, in June.



The region's leaders attended the Delton Glebe Counselling Centre's friend-raising breakfast in October.



thirdspace\_ community, supported by the synod's missions committee, hosted an alcohol-free event on St. Patrick's Day.



Elder Myeengun Henry shares at our Circle of Dialogue on protecting water. The event, by the Centre for Public Ethics, was held in January.



Inshallah, the seminary's 130+ voice choir, promotes peace and justice through music. A project of the Kanata Centre for Worship and Global Song, Inshallah assembled Christians, Muslims, Indigenous people and others in March.



Workers stand by to fasten canopy steel for our new entrance on Bricker Avenue.

## Our year in pictures

The past year at the seminary has arguably been one of the most exciting in our history: A \$9-million building renewal; the [reformcapitalcampaign.ca](http://reformcapitalcampaign.ca); and preparing for our renaming to Martin Luther University College. And in addition to graduating great students, our centres presented more than 50 public events to promote engaged citizenship and strengthen bonds between cultures. This page is simply too small to display evidence of all we achieved in 2017. See more on Facebook or Google Drive. And for the most up-to-date information on our events, visit our online event calendar at [bit.ly/seminaryevents](http://bit.ly/seminaryevents)



## 2018 LEADERSHIP AWARD NOMINATION FORM

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

- (Please check one) ☐ Clergy Nomination
- ☐ Lay Person Nomination
- (Please check one) ☐ Outstanding Service to the Eastern Synod
- ☐ 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  
Fax: (519) 743-4291

For the school year: 2018-2019

# Murray Scholarship



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

The **Murray Scholarship** was established in 2012. A donation was made by the congregation of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in New Hamburg, Ontario to create this scholarship in honour of their long-time organist, Ms. Murray. The purpose is to support students who are either studying music or are otherwise musically oriented. These funds are available for the school year 2018-2019.

## Eligibility

The following general guidelines will apply to awards:

Recipients of awards from the Synod Scholarship Fund must be **members of Eastern Synod congregations** who are engaged in or about to engage in full-time post-secondary school studies. Students must be enrolled in a music program OR actively involved in music within their local congregation. Preference will be given to *first year* students.

The Selection Committee will consider the following factors:

- Christian character
- Financial need
- Vocational promise / Academic achievement
- Dedicated participation in the Church – specifically in the area of music
- Dedicated participation in the Community

Previous recipients of the Murray Scholarship are eligible to apply for subsequent grants.

## Filing an Application

Each applicant will be responsible for ensuring that the following are submitted to the Selection Committee by the **deadline of Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018:**

The enclosed **application form** with **Financial Statement**.

**Two Letters of Reference**. One letter should be from your pastor.

A photocopy of **transcripts** from your mid-term marks.

Successful applicants will receive **notification of awards by August 2018**. Awards will be paid at the beginning of October 2018, subject to verification of full-time enrollment.

## Now it is up to you!

If you have any questions, please contact the Eastern Synod Office at (519) 743-1461 or 1-877-373-5242.

**NOTE: LATE OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

Send your scanned application by email to Stephanie Clayton @ [sclayton@elcic.ca](mailto:sclayton@elcic.ca), OR mail a hardcopy to:

Scholarships  
c/o Eastern Synod  
74 Weber St W., Kitchener, ON N2H 3Z3

**Application forms are available on our website at**

**<http://www.easternsynod.org/resource/murray-scholarship-application>**