

The Eastern Synod Lutheran

Aug 19, 2016

Volume 54



Rev Riitta Hepomaki
Assistant to the Bishop

I got an opportunity to take a study leave in Finland this summer. Part of the study leave was to attend a Finns Abroad Seminar. There were more than 80 participants from 13 countries. The three day seminar was filled with interesting lectures held by the best of the researchers and church leaders in Finland. We learned about “Global Migration”, “Religiousness of Immigrants Around the World”, “Religiousness of the Finns in 2016”, “Church membership”, “Emerging Church” and “What it takes to be a church council member”.

One day, we had a much appreciated break from the almost too informative program - a half day tour to a nearby historic site, Svartå Manor (Mustion Linna in Finnish). The Manor was built between 1783 and 1792 and it is the largest

non-ecclesiastic wooden building in Finland.

We had a tour guide, Mr. Jouko Kivirinta, who led us through the gorgeous park (the largest privately owned park in Finland) and the Manor. We learned about trees and plants, architecture, the owners, famous historical persons connected to the Manor, and a piece of industrial history that I’ve never heard about before. One of the owners, Hjalmar Linder, was the richest person in Finland in the early 1900s. The Manor has hosted many important guests in the past two centuries, such as emperors Alexander I and II of Russia, King Gustav III of Sweden, Finnish composer Jean Sibelius, and Swedish artist Louis Sparre.

You can read history from books, but it’s definitely not the same as hearing it from a story teller like Mr. Kivirinta. I marvelled at his knowledge, memory, and vivid language. Sometimes he ran ahead of us to check that the

path was safe and clear for us to walk. Sometimes he let us walk before him while he waited for those who had stopped to take pictures.

“I’m so lucky that I am able to live in this area and that I can spend my time here”, he said. This reminded me of the psalm writer who wrote: One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

I wish I could talk about Jesus and the kingdom of God with the same passion and accuracy as Mr. Kivirinta spoke about the history of Svartå; to draw a thread from the past to the present highlighting the most important events, and bringing the dead to life with the most beautiful, evocative language. He was indeed an entertaining guide but not full of himself. “I don’t own this place”, he said, “but I talk as if I do, because I love it so much.”

Needless to say, I was inspired.

Get Inspired



Eastern Synod Assembly 2016 Resources

Here are some links to the most requested materials from the 2016 Assembly.

[Worship Materials](#)

[Bishop's Report](#)

[Treasurer's Report](#)

[Seminary Report](#)

[Minutes](#)

[Presentations](#)

Looking for something that isn't here? Check the synod website www.easternsynod.org and click the Synod Assembly button.

A few random Assembly pictures for you to enjoy!



Bethany honours Rev. Richard Holm as Honorary Assistant Pastor

submitted by Rev Tanya Ramer

For over 25 years, Richard (Dick) Holm, has been active in the life of Bethany Lutheran in Woodstock, ON. As pastor of the congregation for most of that time, Dick was active in engaging the congregation with what was happening in Woodstock. Dick was busy in the community, through hockey and at the flying club, and everyone knew him as the pastor of Bethany; in fact, there are numerous names in the churches record book of marriages, baptism and funerals of community members who called Dick their pastor, even if Bethany wasn't their church. Upon retirement, Dick and his wife Linda, remained at Bethany and continued to serve the church by helping out on the property committee, refugee task team, Sunday morning AV guy. There is never a job too big or too small that Dick won't help out with – he loves Bethany and he loves Woodstock.

In honour of this special day, the congregation created a wordcloud of all the descriptive words they appreciated about Dick (Helpful, kind, and purpliscious were top attributes). The congregation also planted a Japanese maple on the property to honour Dick through the Reformation Challenge of the ELCIC to plant 500,000 trees by 2017.

We are so thankful for the way both Dick and Linda, continue to share their time, talents, and treasures in Woodstock, and wish them well in their continued retirement.

Pictured at right: Rev Dick Holm and Rev Tanya Ramer

Observations of a Lutherlyn 1st Timer

submitted by Elaine Boone

Driving up Highway 41 last Sunday my daughter and I were feeling a bit anxious, after all we were about to become Camp Lutherlyn 1st timers! My daughter (10) as a camper and myself as Chaplain. We had our list of what to bring and our directions and so we were set.

Our week at Lutherlyn turned out to be a wonderful experience. My daughter is already looking forward to returning next year. And so am I! My daughter made new friends, loved all the counsellors and staff.

The camp experience was full- crafts, sports, activities, campfire, canoeing and swimming, bible study and chapel.

Camp Lutherlyn maybe a bit of a hidden gem or perhaps an overlooked treasure. The week that we attended there were 17 campers. These numbers are low as the camp can accommodate many more. The staff at Lutherlyn is fantastic. All the campers were made to feel that they were special, that they belonged and that they were cared about and for. This is the way the camp experience should be. The enthusiasm and energy of the staff was noteworthy.

My daughter loved the crafts, canoeing (her first experience), the staff, swimming and making new friends.

The kitchen staff at camp is wonderful and the meals are terrific. My daughter was very impressed that there was such careful attention paid to dietary needs.

As chaplain I was in a unique position. I had an opportunity to get to know the campers and the staff, to participate in activities and to watch the fun. It was a true blessing to be at camp for a week. It was a time to talk about God, faith and to live our faith in building community.

This is an experience I would wish for any child. If you have not considered summer camp for your child or a child you know – perhaps this is the time to think about Camp Lutherlyn? You do not have to be Lutheran to attend! The camp is open to all and is truly welcoming. Sometimes a desire to attend might be hampered by financial considerations. Here is a suggestion for congregations! My home Church Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Belleville budgets each year to assist in paying for ½ of the camp fees for children of the congregation. Perhaps other Churches do the same or would consider it?

The camp experience is a special one as my daughter and I discovered this summer. It is a place to make friends and memories, It is a place to learn a little about God. It is worth our support.



Bethany Lutheran, Woodstock, Welcomes Sponsored Family

submitted by Cindy Doering
Communication Chair

Our newest Burmese neighbours, Ree Reh, Re Meh, Mo Meh and Khoe Meh, have been in Woodstock since April 2016 and the Task Team and other members of Bethany have been working hard to make them feel welcome and help them adjust to all the changes that living in Canada brings.

Ree Reh and Re Meh had lived in a Refugee Camp in Thailand for most of their lives and their daughters were both born there. Through the BVOR program, facilitated by CLWR, the family was jointly sponsored by Bethany Lutheran and the Canadian government to be settled in Canada.

The family is gradually adjusting to this huge transition. Their friendly smiles and enthusiasm to learn makes forming caring relationships with them so easy. They bring our congregation such joy!

Ree Reh took English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for the 2 months before summer break and four-

year-old Mo Meh has been learning English from some of the teachers in our congregation, with Re Meh reinforcing the concepts with her considerable knowledge of the English language. Both Ree Reh and Re Meh will be taking ESL in the fall.

Ree Reh was employed as a strawberry picker and did such an amazing job that they are keeping him on to pick raspberries, peas, beans & tomatoes for the summer. Mo Meh is signed up for JK in the fall and attended an orientation to meet her teacher, see her classroom and the playground. Khoe Meh celebrated her 1st birthday with Burmese friends from the New Hamburg area and the Bethany congregation at the church picnic on June 19th.

There have been so many new experiences for the family such as living in an apartment, learning to use the bus system, shopping in a large grocery store, attending parent-child playgroups and visiting the library, a waterpark, the Victoria Day parade, picnics, barbecues, play equipment in the parks and the Canada Day fireworks on July 1st. There has also been the less fun stuff like lots of paperwork, visits to government

offices, doctor & dentist.

The family has also received support from several Nith Valley Lutheran congregations, congregations of other denominations around Oxford County and individuals who have heard of the Bethany task team's sponsorship of the family. Their donations of money & household items and their prayers have helped to make this dream a reality. The Ree Reh family and our congregation thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Ree Reh and Re Meh now feel they have hope for a good life for them and their children - for education, nutritious food, clean water, safety and freedom.

Even though there is not the same feelings of community in their apartment building, as there was in the camp where they lived in Thailand, the family has found an extended family, friends and community in the folks at Bethany. We will continue to surround our newest neighbours with our love and support.



Report of the Treasurer (To July 31st, 2016)

Congregational benevolence remittances during July dipped more than they usually do over the summer months. As a result, benevolence offerings for the first seven months of 2016 are currently tracking almost 2% below receipts for the comparable period in 2015.

Offerings to Canadian Lutheran World Relief are running 5% ahead of last year's pace. 2016 remittances include approximately \$58,000 that has been designated for the Fort McMurray Wildfire Appeal.

More details about 2016 receipts to date, as well as the synod's 2015 audited financial statements are posted in the [Treasurer-Financial Information page](#) on the Eastern Synod web site (www.easternsynod.org).



Faith Evangelical Lutheran
Church

31 Agar Drive
St. Catharines, ON

Sunday, November 6, 2016

10:30 am

Reception to follow

RSVP to
faithstcatharines@yahoo.ca

Or call 905-934-2434

Why Do Church Repairs Take So Long?

Bill Kuehnbaum

orig printed in The Messenger Aug 2016

Used with permission

Our community gardeners reported to Bert that they were getting very low water pressure from our outside tap. Bert asked Ken and Bill to investigate. K & B were already scheduled to meet at the church to take down a few limbs that were shading a couple solar panels and to set the ceiling fans on low speed so they decided to take a few minutes to repair the tap.

They confirmed little water was coming from the tap but when the valve stem was removed the pressure was fine. So all we had to do was install a new valve stem—a 5-minute job. A trip to EMCO taught us that they never heard of our old valve stem but that we were able to buy a whole new unit (\$30). To install the new unit, the old unit needed to be disconnected from the church's water system—an easy job—close the shutoff water line valve and unscrew the old unit. In unscrewing the old unit, the shut-off valve broke away from the copper pipe leaving an open pipe which shot a high-pressure spray of water all over Ken and the furnace room as we frantically looked to shut off the water at the meter. The church was now entirely without water.

After cleaning up both K and the furnace room we needed to get a torch, solder and flux to weld the shutoff valve back onto the copper pipe. Off to Home Hardware—they had a torch and solder but no flux. Off to Canadian Tire to get the three items (\$40). Back to the church to get the soldering done. Need matches to light the torch. The desperate hunt for matches—finally found them in the sacristy. Every time we lit the torch it went out all on its own. Back to Canadian Tire to get a new torch—the exchange lady wouldn't let us test it in the store so we used Ken's trunk as our testing station. Back to the church to finish soldering. A little trickle of water was coming out of the spot to be welded. Opened every tap in the church to try to get all water to drain out of the system. No luck—the main shut off valve must be letting a trickle of water past so no matter how hot we made the torch we could not complete the weld. Had to

leave the church without water while we went to other appointments.

Later that night K & B re-convened with an even hotter torch and an idea for keeping water away from the weld spot. The weld was completed in 5 minutes and the water was turned back on. We dashed around to close all the open taps and discovered that the upstairs washroom sink will not contain the water blasting from 2 open taps so the bathroom floor was covered in water that was dripping into the furnace room. The next 20 minutes was spent on hands and knees mopping up the washroom floor. So after 5 hours, 4 trips to retail stores, one soaked welder, a flooded furnace room and a mopped up washroom floor we completed our 5 minute job and the gardeners had enough pressure to water their plants.



Help improve learning environments for students in Jordan

Please donate today at www.clwr.org/donate



Please join us for our

Reunion Sunday

In celebration of St. Mark's 140th Anniversary

Sunday, September 11th, 2016

10:30 a.m.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Wellesley

Family, Friends and Members past and present are invited to join us for this special celebration service!

Pastor Doug Reble, Assistant to the Bishop, Eastern Synod, will present the sermon.

All are invited to join us for a Potluck Lunch following the Service (Ham and Beverages will be provided by St. Mark's)



*Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens.
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.
Psalm 150: 1b, 6*

Vacancies

New Hamburg, Trinity
Oakville, Grace
Petawawa, St. John's
Pickering, Peace
Sudbury, New Hope
Waterloo, Christ

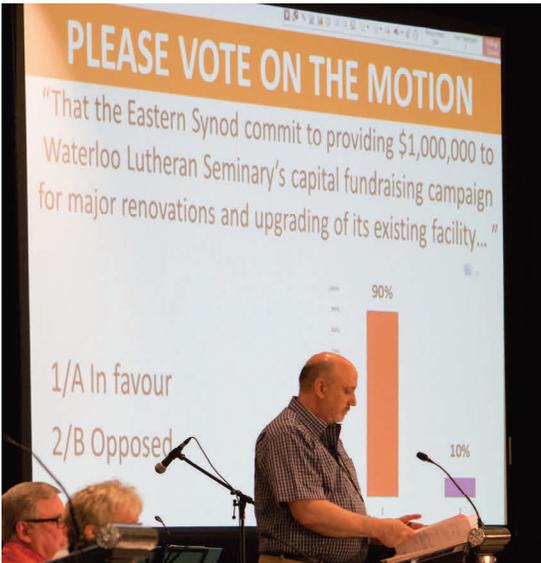
Williamsburg, South Dundas

{ Newcomberville, All Saints
St. Luke's, Rhodes Corner
Upper LaHave, Mount Olivet }

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



Congratulations to our Class of 2016! During convocation, Laurier also honoured David Pfrimmer, former principal-dean, with the Order of Wilfrid Laurier University for his lifelong service to the university and the world. You can view a [video](#) of David delivering his inspiring address, and watch all of our grads crossing the platform (select the video **06-17-2016 2PM**, starting at the 42-minute mark). See more pictures on [our Facebook page](#).



Our heartfelt THANKS to [Eastern Synod Assembly](#) delegates who overwhelmingly voted to commit \$1 million to the seminary's \$9-million renewal and modernization plan!



Check out the [thirdspace_community](#)'s photos on Instagram at [wisthirdspace](#)



Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

Contact us

Events: Dorinda Kruger Allen,
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SAVE THE DATE!

The [Delton Glebe Counselling Centre](#) presents a breakfast gathering at the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery, in Waterloo, 7:30-9 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 20, 2016. Keynote: [Kenneth Pargament](#). Details coming soon.



Leena Jensen, one of our MDiv students, serving at Christ the King Lutheran Chapel in Sauble Falls, Ont., this summer. Check out the [photo album](#).



We shared lots of conversation and learning, some laughs and a little baklava with our Muslim friends during a [Ramadan iftar meal](#).

WATERLOO LUTHERAN SEMINARY

Inspiring Lives
of Meaning
and Service
in God's World

A FEDERATED COLLEGE OF WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY ANNUAL MEETING

The Women's Auxiliary at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary invites you to our annual meeting. Come out and enjoy a wonderful day of worship, music and fellowship. Meet the new seminarians and see the beautiful quilts.

Theme: Branching Out

Keynote speaker: John Milloy, assistant professor and co-director of the seminary's Centre for Public Ethics, presents Faith in the Public Square. How do you bring your faith to the secular world?

Afternoon seminars:

- John Milloy – Faith Perspectives on Physician Assisted Dying
- Dr. Kristine Lund and Janet Howitt from the Delton Glebe Counselling Centre – Supporting Emotional and Spiritual Well-being
- Rodney Said – Palestinian student from Jerusalem who is part of our synod's partnership with Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land

Date: Saturday, October 1, 2016

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (registration begins at 9:30 a.m.)

Location: St. John's Lutheran Church, 22 Willow St., Waterloo

Cost: \$22, includes a catered lunch

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 23, 2016

To register, please request a registration form from Lynda Karn 519-895-8888 or lkarn@rogers.com