



The Eastern Synod Lutheran

www.easternsynod.org



June 22, 2017
Volume 64



Bishop Susan Johnson

I hope you have been following along with the updates to the ELCIC Reformation Challenge. The 2017 National Convention will mark two years since our church officially began the ELCIC Reformation Challenge (elcic.ca/reformationChallenge). Not only is the Reformation Challenge making a difference for others, it is making a difference in our church as we work together and stretch ourselves in generosity as a church *In Mission for Others*.

What was proposed as modest goals grew into something that would stretch and amaze us as ELCIC members and congregations and synods looked for creative ways to be engaged in this initiative. In November 2016, our church reached our goal to sponsor 500 refugees and we continue to make significant progress in the other three areas of the challenge.

I want to draw your attention to one of the four areas of the Refor-

mation Challenge – to raise \$500,000.00 for the Endowment Fund of the Lutheran World Federation. The LWF is more than just a very important partner. Like all members, congregations and synods are part of the ELCIC, WE are ALL part of the LWF! We are part of a global communion of churches and together we do important ministry around the world. Ministry like caring for two and a half million refugees on a daily basis; having an ongoing dialogue with Catholics at the international level that enabled us to have joint common prayer commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in Lund, Sweden last October; advocating for human rights and peace with justice; encouraging the development and capacity of sister churches who are smaller and with fewer resources than we have. The list goes on and on.

Like many churches and communions of churches these days, the LWF is facing challenges of sustainability. One way the LWF is trying to meet this challenge is by growing its endowment fund. As the fund grows, it provides more annual interest to supplement other forms of financial support to enable its ministry, OUR ministry, to continue.

While we have not met our full goal, we have been able to raise more than \$150,000.00 for the LWF Endowment Fund. I want to thank the Eastern Synod, because it is through your generosity and sense of partnership that we have reached this high mark. The Eastern Synod was blessed with a generous bequest, and chose to

tithe what it has received with the ministry of the wider church. Knowing that raising money for an endowment fund was probably going to be the hardest challenge, the Synod Council designated these funds to this part of the Reformation Challenge. I can't thank you enough for this incredible generosity! I can, however, share with you the thanks of Rev. Dr. Martin Junge, General Secretary of the LWF. In a letter to me he wrote: *We are enormously grateful for the contributions raised through your Reformation Challenge. Your church has been a great inspiration to us (and to others) in our creative approaches to supporting the Endowment Fund. Please pass on my gratitude to all the colleagues who have helped with this campaign.*

Thank you Eastern Synod! Your participation in the Reformation Challenge has demonstrated Spirited Discipleship, Healthy Church, Compassionate Justice and Effective Partnership – all adding up to being a church *In Mission for Others!*

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus. I Corinthians 1:4

Would you like to receive updates on the ELCIC's Reformation Challenge directly via email? If so, please send an email to info@elcic.ca with "Subscribe - Reformation Challenge" in the subject line.

2000 Trees Planted

submitted by Dorothy Emmerson

On Saturday April 22th 2017 – Earth Day – some 70 youth and adults from The Bay Area Lutheran Churches turned out at Bow Park Farm, just outside of Brantford ON, to plant 2000 trees. Bow Park Farm is almost completely surrounded by the Grand River. This project was sanctioned by the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) and the trees were purchased from them with funds donated by members of the churches involved.

The trees were planted in a valley and along the banks of the Grand River on the farm, as prevention against erosion and to help stabilize the river bank.

After some of the planting was finished, participants enjoyed a potluck lunch and some fun and fellowship, then went back out to plant some more. Planting didn't quite get finished that day but over the next week the last of the trees did get planted.

This planting was part of the ELCIC Reformation Challenge to plant 500,000 trees world-wide.

Below: Rev Daniela Mertz digs in and gets planting.



A musical play sponsored by, and in support of, Canadian Lutheran World Relief. Visit onetrunktreatre.com for details.

MISSION POTLUCK



 Canadian Lutheran World Relief

Vacancies

Faith, Brantford
Faith, Fergus-Elora
St. Matthew's, Kitchener
St. Peter's, Ottawa
Advent, Toronto
St. James, St. Jacobs
Bethany, Woodstock

For further information please contact Rev Douglas Reble, Assistant to the Bishop, dreble@elcic.ca or call 1-877-373-5242.

Report of the Treasurer (To May 31st, 2017)

Benevolence offerings received during the month of May bounced back, making up for a shortfall that occurred in April. As a result, as of May 31st, benevolence offerings are now tracking at budget, about 1% more than the amount received for the corresponding period in the previous year.

Receipts to Canadian Lutheran World Relief are running about 6% ahead of last year. REMINDER: For every dollar donated prior to June 30th to CLWR's "Stop the Famine Together Appeal" the Government of Canada will contribute an equivalent amount to the Famine Relief Fund to help alleviate the food crisis that is currently occurring in a number of African countries.

For details refer to [Report of the Treasurer](#) or go to <http://www.easternsynod.org/> and click the orange Treasurers/Financial Info button.

Women's Auxiliary Waterloo Lutheran Seminary Annual Meeting

October 21, 2017
St. John's Lutheran Church
22 Willow St.
Waterloo, ON

10am-4pm

Registration 9:30 am

Theme: Women of the Reformation

Guest Speaker: Rev Henry Fischer "Queen Maria of Hungary, A Supporter of the Reformation" also: "Meet Katharina von Borra, wife of Martin Luther."

Come out and enjoy a wonderful day of worship, a Luther Hymn Sing and fellowship. Meet the new Seminary students and see the beautiful quilts.

Cost for registration and lunch is \$22.

To register contact Mrs. Lynda Karn by October 13, 2017
email: lkarn@rogers.com



A Jew, a Muslim and a Christian walk into a Tibetan Temple....

submitted by Iris Schweiger

The Jew says, "I brought my guitar."

The Muslim says, "I brought some dancers."

The Christian says, "We could all perform together."

And that's what they did. That is the punch line. This is no joke, though, and it has a happy ending.

On the last Sunday in April, the *Etobicoke Lakeshore Faith Community Leaders* welcomed the public to attend the *First Interfaith Festival* held in the area. From a spark of an idea two years ago, a project grew to fruition with the help of many volunteers. The doors to the Tibetan Canadian Cultural Centre on 40 Titan Road opened early in the afternoon so that participants could deepen their understanding of and celebrate the richly diverse faiths in the GTA.

The *Interfaith Festival* was for anyone – people of faith and no faith, some searching and others sure, and everyone who grasps that harmonious living is central to the "Golden Rule": "treat others how you

would like to be treated." Performances representing Jewish, Muslim-Sufi, Buddhist, Christian and Indigenous traditions were at the core of the program. Information tables and refreshments with a cultural flavour rounded out these unique opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds to engage in conversation, learn about each other, and build bridges.

Today, these celebratory meetings have become more and more relevant as world leaders try to instil fear of the unknown into diverse peoples who have until now coexisted harmoniously. Yet, at the base of all understanding is the acceptance of the individual regardless of colour, creed or culture. Children have the innate ability to play with any person they meet. If questioned, they will not point out the differences; instead, they will just talk about the fun they had together. A couple of weeks ago, *The Toronto Star* featured an article about a black boy and a white boy. One of the boys had gotten a crew cut. The other boy followed suit in order to fool their teacher. Both boys were convinced that, due to the haircut, they would look exactly the same and therefore their teacher would not be able to tell them apart.

Unfortunately, that ship of ignorant bliss has sailed for most of us, yet generally behaviour is learned and can be undone if good examples are given. Jesus, during his lifetime, consistently challenged learned behaviour. His life modelled the removal of man-made obstacles. He saw and accepted the person as a child loved by God his own Father. Jesus gave us the opportunity to follow him in leading the way.

In a couple of weeks, the next *Faith Community Leaders* meeting will take place to evaluate this past festival experience. Inspired by the event, it seems imperative to continue along this path so as to reach even more people. Here is to our ongoing inter-faith growth and celebration!



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[ESynodELCIC](https://www.facebook.com/ESynodELCIC)



Follow us on Twitter
[@ESynodELCIC](https://twitter.com/ESynodELCIC)



Bishop's dinner raises funds to support new Canadians.

submitted by Dorothy Frook

The Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board hosted a fundraiser dinner May 17th at the Hanover Columbus Centre.

With the support of many local businesses and community members, the evening raised more than \$5,000. Funds will be used to support newcomers to Canada in our local area, including support for the Arden Language Centre, an ESL school for adults in Owen Sound.

Those in attendance included Senator Ralph Wolf Thistle from the Métis Nation of Ontario; Bev Eckensweiler, Chair of the BGCDSB; Rev. Catharine House, Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Walkerton and a member of the Brockton Area Refugee Team; Bishop Daniel Miehms, Bishop of Peterborough and former Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Hamilton and Fr. Gary Schlack, Pastor of Holy Family Parish Hanover.

Afternoon with the Bishop

submitted by Deborah Lindeman

On Saturday, April 29th, the Bay Area congregations (Hamilton, Burlington, Brantford, Fisherville) had a fun-filled afternoon in commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. About 150 attendees and performers were at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Hamilton to partake in the festivities and meet our guest of honour, Bishop Michael Pryse. At 2:00 the entertainment began which included a mass choir; Latvian folk dancers, singers, and kolkle players; a skit based on the "To Tell the Truth" game show where we had to determine which of the Martin Luthers was the "real" Martin Luther; and a game of Martin Luther trivia (the winning table members each took home a Playmobil Little Luther). Bishop Pryse spoke to us about what Luther would say to us if he was alive today: "God's grace sets us free!" He then gave us an overview of the history of the churches in the Bay Area, with the 1950s and 60s being extremely active. The world is changing though and we need to reflect on how we are going to change with it so that we continue to minister to our communities. God's grace will set us free to take risks for the sake of the Gospel! People went home with a song in their hearts and renewed conviction to find ways to proclaim God's Word in the Hamilton area.

Spring Cleaning

Summer is here; but there's one more spring cleaning task to be done- more verification than beautification.

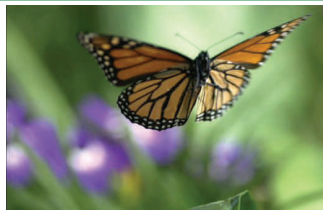
Please take a few minutes to check that the information we at synod office have in our data base is correct.

For congregations that means mailing address, phone and email as well as names and contact information for church leaders. Please also take a look at the information posted on our website, are the service times still correct? Have there been any other changes that should be noted?

For rostered ministers, and this is most important for our retired friends, please ensure that we have your correct address, phone number and email information.

We want to make sure that those wanting and needing updates and information from synod office receive them.

Thank you for your help.
Eastern Synod Office Staff



Our thoughts and prayers are with the Crouse family as they mourn the loss of Grethe, wife of Rev Keith Crouse and mother of Rev Joel Crouse.

A Farewell Prayer

Rev Fred Ludolph

Let us thank God for every summer of camp ministry, for every term of school and every weekend retreat that happened at Edgewood.



Let us thank God for every camper, student, or adult who played, sought the grace of God and grew in faith and maturity at Edgewood.

Let us thank God for the young people and adults who volunteered or worked at Edgewood, offering and honing their skills and passion for ministry through Edgewood's programs.

Let us thank God for the beauty of Edgewood, it's waters, trees, meadows and creatures-the oxygen its forests provide and the carbon they hold, and every gift of creation that is sheltered there.

And having given thanks, let us rededicate ourselves to discipleship and ministry to which God will surely call us.

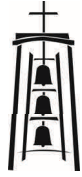
GARAGE / RUMMAGE SALE

SATURDAY JUNE 24TH
9 am to 2 pm

CAMP EDGEWOOD
49 Memorial St. Eden Mills

Edgewood will hold a garage/rummage sale of supplies, equipment, tools, books, and some furnishings. Contents are being sold to prepare for the sale of the Edgewood Property.

Come for a walk, a visit, and pick up a treasure while you are with us!

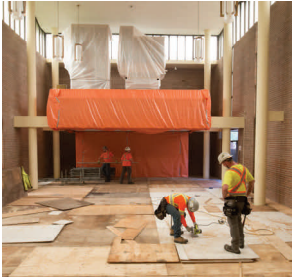


Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

June 2017

Renewal Roundups

What's happening within the seminary walls as our \$9-million renewal project unfolds? Visit our [YouTube channel](#) for regular video-slideshow updates. And for details on this historic transformation, visit [reformcapitalcampaign.ca](#)



Save the dates
October 26 — Second annual Delton Glebe Counselling Centre gala breakfast. Keynote by [Carrie Doehring](#) of the ILIFF School of Theology.
September 17 — Sing Fires of Justice featuring [Tom Jackson](#), noted Indigenous Canadian singer and actor. Stay tuned for details.

Publications

The seminary's Centre for Public Ethics recently released two new titles by professor emeritus of public ethics, and former principal-dean, David Pfrimmer. [The Art of Dying Well: Medical Assistance in Dying in Canada, a Public Theological Primer](#), and [Faith in the Public Commons](#) are available online.

Summer office hours
The seminary office will close at noon on Fridays to August 25 inclusive. Our office hours for Mondays to Thursdays remain 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Also, the seminary will be closed Friday, June 30th in observance of the July 1st holiday.

Contact us

Events: Dorinda Kruger Allen, dkrugerallen@wlu.ca
Seminary stories: Mirko Petricevic, mpetricevic@wlu.ca



See photos of our Class of 2017 on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#)!

Holy Land Study Tours: Nurturing relationships

During two weeks this spring, we conducted another successful [Holy Land Study Tour](#). It's a program that has borne much fruit since we began running the tours every second year since the first one in 2007. Usually about two dozen people — including seminary students, members of the wider community, and two or three faculty members — participate in each tour. People can participate as students doing coursework for academic credit, or as continuing education students.



Over the course of about two weeks, students visit traditional religious sites in Israel and Palestine. One of the main purposes of the study tours is to nurture relationships with fellow Lutheran Christians, and others, in the Holy Land. Participants also visit and learn about projects funded by CWLR; worship with Palestinian Lutherans; attend a service in a Reform synagogue; meet with the bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, and learn about the complex relationship between Jews, Christians, and Muslims in the Holy Land.

During this spring's Holy Land Study Tour, Debbie Lou Ludolph (centre left) and Inshallah choir members present Bishop Munib Younan, of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, a copy of *Sing the Circle Wide*. Ludolph was inspired to start the choir while participating in the seminary's first study tour in 2007. Rodney Said (right) a WLS student from Jerusalem, holds the bachelor's degree he received on June 13.



In short, pilgrims demonstrate solidarity with people working toward peace. Next tour: April-May 2019.