



# The Eastern Synod Lutheran

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



Mar 16, 2018  
Volume 72



## Liberated by God's Grace ... to be neighbour

The story is so familiar, perhaps too familiar.

A lawyer asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus responds with the question, "What is written in the law?" The lawyer responds correctly, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus responds with a story. A man is attacked by robbers and left near dead. A priest, and then a Levite, see the wounded man and pass by. A Samaritan, however, stops, binds the man's wounds and takes him to an inn where he covers all the expenses until the man is fully recovered. "Which of the three was a neighbour to the man who fell among robbers," Jesus asks. His listener responds, "the one who showed mercy." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Most of us, if encountering a

neighbour in need, will respond with care and mercy. That's what neighbours do. I suspect, however, that if asked to identify our neighbours, we would be inclined to reference a pretty small circle of people with whom we share close bonds of social or geographic kinship. The people who live next door. My colleagues at work. Those who I sit closest to at church.

I suspect the Levite and the priest would respond in similar fashion. Certainly we can assume they did not perceive the wounded man to be a neighbour. How, otherwise, could they have possibly failed to respond to his obvious and urgent need? The Samaritan, on the other hand, clearly did view this man as being his neighbour. Somehow, his circle of kinship had been drawn wide. Where the others had seen the wounded

man as someone to be avoided, the Samaritan saw a neighbour in need; and he responded in kind.

This June, the Eastern Synod Assembly will convene under the theme Liberated by God's Grace ... to be neighbour. We will spend time meeting with, and learning from, neighbours in the community who we may not have previously engaged in a meaningful way. Neighbours of other faith traditions. Neighbours of diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds. Neighbours bearing the weight of extreme poverty and homelessness. As disciples who have been liberated by God's grace, we will seek to draw, sing and pray a wider circle of kinship and neighbourliness. We will seek to do what Jesus asks. "Go and do likewise."

**Bishop Michael Pryse**



*Worship at Synod Assembly 2018 will feature music from the recently published Sing the Circle Wide - Songs of Faith from Around the World which is drawn from the repertoire of Inshallah, a global music choir based at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary and directed by Debbie-Lou Ludolph.*



## Meet Katie Ditschun

*“The church was and has been such a large part of my life.”*

Katie grew up in Brantford, Ontario, where she was baptized, confirmed and married at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church. She was an active member at Faith. Katie says “As a teen I would round up the kids around Christmas and Easter and would organize rehearsals, choose the music, and direct our little choir.”

“Church felt like my family. We didn’t live near my extended family, so the members of Faith seemed to fill in that role. How wonderful to feel like you had multiple grandmothers!”

Katie remembers being very excited to be asked to attend the Global Hunger and Eco-

nomic Justice Seminar when she was 16 years old. She often represented her congregation at national youth gatherings which she says were always a blast.

Katie also remembers attending Sunday school where getting her pin every year was very special. “I can’t recall when I began singing solos but I do remember being encouraged to do so. I would sing often, but especially at celebration services.” When she was about 21, she acted as Interim Organist for about a year. That led to a position as organist and choir director at a small Anglican Church in Burford, Ontario where she worked for a year before moving to Boston with her husband. Katie had begun her BMus degree at Wilfrid Laurier University but completed the degree at Berklee College of Music.

Now living in Alexandria, a small town about an hour south of Ottawa, Katie teaches singing and piano at home and for a private music school in Cornwall as well as being pianist/choir director for Alexandria United Church. Katie has come to realize that as a musician many smaller jobs together make for full time work. She also has her own music and performances, as a soloist, with her trio- The Ditschun Trio, with a professional band- the Supers and with the Georgian House Orchestra as their feature vocalist.

In her own compositions she often writes about her life experiences. “The church was and has been such a large part of my life. Though not overt, I do my best to have faith present in my work.”

Katie will be holding a series of concerts this spring:

**March 23- St. Mark’s, Kingston**

**April 21- Our Saviour, Owen Sound**

**May 4- Faith, Brantford**

**May 6- Zion, Philipsburg**

**May 26- St. Philip’s, Etobicoke**

**June 8- St. Paul’s, Cambridge**

You can also find Katie on Youtube, Instagram and Twitter.

Concert dates and information can also be found on Facebook.



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[easternsynod](https://www.instagram.com/easternsynod)

## Training opportunities

### Learning How to Grow Restorative Churches

A three day classroom training in growing restorative congregations. This training will be on April 27, 28 and May 12, 2018 in Ajax, ON .

This training is offered in partnership with the IIRP and the Eastern Canada District, Christian Missionary Alliance Church.

For more information please view this [flyer](#). To register, contact [Danielle VandenAkker](#).

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### Space is limited for the upcoming Communications for Congregations Workshop.

Trainer-Mirko Petricevic, Director of Communications and Public Affairs, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

Get all the information at [www.easternsynod.org/calendar](http://www.easternsynod.org/calendar) or [click here](#).

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**Liturgry Canada Conference**– see page 5

**National Worship Conference**– see page 6

**Parliament of Religions**– see page 7

### Registration is now open

for the Eastern Synod Assembly  
June 21-24, 2018

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



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.easternsynod.org/content/assembly-2018>

### 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](mailto:dreble@elcic.ca)

### Upcoming Events

March 20– Faith & the Ontario Election

March 21– Final Waterloo Anglican/Lutheran Lenten Series

March 25– Singing with our Neighbours

April 6-8– Lay Spiritual Retreat

April 14– Bloom Where You Are Planted

For more events check out the calendar at

<http://www.easternsynod.org/calendar>



Our thoughts and prayers are with the friends and families of Rev Capt. Bob Bouchard and Rev Fred Haak.

*The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.*

*Psalm 34:18*

We love to share your news. We hunger for your stories. Don't be shy to send your ministry stories directly or through links to other publications or invite me to visit to learn what is happening in your congregation.

[Pastor Riitta](#)



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# Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

March 2018



## Lenten journeys

The seminary community marked Ash Wednesday (above left) grateful for its temporary office space while the seminary building is undergoing major renewal, yet looking forward to returning to the seminary building (above right) in late June. View more photos of the service on [Facebook](#) or [Google](#). If you wish to explore the historical and theological underpinnings of worship, check out [Why Liturgy? A Lenten pilgrimage through Evangelical Lutheran liturgy](#). Mirko Petricevic, the seminary's communications director, launched the visual study guide on Ash Wednesday. The work, which includes academic research and Mirko's personal reflections on his journey back to faith, stems from his theological studies at the seminary.



## Shia-Protestant dialogue

The seminary collaborated with Conrad Grebel University College to host Mohammad Ali Shomali (PhD) for a recent public lecture. About 50 people attended the lecture dubbed Unity of God and Unity in God. Imam Shomali (pictured at left) is founding director of the International Institute for Islamic Studies in Qum, Iran, and the Director of the Islamic Centre of England. View more photos on [Facebook](#) or [Google](#).

## Faith and the Ontario Election

**7 p.m. Tuesday, March 20.** Veteran CBC journalist Robert Fisher is the keynote at this election forum at Mount Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Waterloo. Free, but please [register](#).

## Singing With Our Neighbours

**3 p.m. Sunday, March 25** at Knox Presbyterian Church in Waterloo. Join us for a spirited afternoon! Singing With Our Neighbours featuring [Inshallah](#), the seminary's 130+ voice com-

munity choir, Inshallah Kids, and Mino Ode Kwewak N'gamowak (Good Hearted Women Singers). Click [here](#) for details.

## Communications workshop

**10 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursday, May 10**, at the Eastern Synod office. Mirko Petricevic, the seminary's communications director, will be presenting Communications for congregations: A workshop to help you tell your story. Lunch provided. Free, but please register. Click [here](#) for details.

## Golf tournament

Keep your heads up, golfers. The Friends of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary Golf Tournament returns on Thursday, May 24, 2018. Please stay tuned for registration details. For photos of the 2016 tourney, [click here](#).

## Contact us

Events: Dorinda Kruger Allen, [dkrugerallen@wlu.ca](mailto:dkrugerallen@wlu.ca)  
Seminary stories: Mirko Petricevic, [mpetricevic@wlu.ca](mailto:mpetricevic@wlu.ca)

# LITURGY CANADA

a Rediscovering Liturgy conference

## Real Presence: Sharing the Meal

FOURTH OF FIVE CONFERENCES  
ON RENEWING EUCHARISTIC WORSHIP, FROM *GATHERING* TO *SENDING*

**Saturday, 28 April, 2018, 9:00 to 3:30**

**St John's, Dixie, Anglican Church**

719 Dundas Street (at Cawthra Road), Mississauga



A Rediscovering Liturgy conference designed for parish worship teams — for all who serve in the liturgy.

To register and pay, visit <http://realpresence4.eventbrite.ca> and submit name(s) and the name of the parish. Cost: \$35 per person, or \$125 for a parish team (up to 5; \$25 for each person beyond the first 5); \$25 for students. Lunch is included.

For the list of workshops and directions to St John's, Dixie, visit us at [www.liturgy.ca](http://www.liturgy.ca). Sign-in, coffee, & workshop registration at 9 am.

# National Worship Conference



## Responding to Disaster

Prayer, Song, Presence

July 16–19, 2018

Inn at Laurel Point, Victoria, BC

### SPEAKER

**Lizette Larson-Miller:** Theologian, musician and liturgical writer exploring rites for use with the sick and dying, considerations of sacred space, popular religiosity and contemporary ritual issues.



### LEAD MUSICIAN

**Chad Fothergill:** Organist, composer, writer and doctoral musicology student, researching the Lutheran Cantor tradition in both its Reformation-era and present-day contexts.



**Early Bird Registration** March 1-April 30 \$375

Regular (closes June 15) \$450



For more information visit [www.nationalworshipconference.org](http://www.nationalworshipconference.org)  
or contact your parish office.

## There is Something We Can Do



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