



# The Eastern Synod Lutheran

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



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## “Thanks For All You Do”

I suspect almost every museum, art gallery, school, and church in the world has a place where they store their lost and found items. I know the four congregations I was privileged to serve certainly did. I have often thought that the “lost and found” name is a complete misnomer. Nothing presently in that box has yet to be “found” certainly not by its true owner and nothing in that box may ever be found or claimed. Every item sits patiently and quietly, week after week, hopelessly separated from its rightful owner. Of course, most of the items are articles of clothing that have been lost or left behind. Gloves, jackets, sweaters, that sort of thing. Sometimes glasses, umbrellas, earrings, sunglasses. Hard to believe, but one colleague told me someone had lost their dentures in his church. Frankly, I think he was just pulling my leg.

I read a few years ago that the Edmonton Public Library’s stash of lost items grew so large that one of the librarians there took it upon herself to begin logging all of the objects found sandwiched in the pages of returned books. Her inventory was fascinating.

Everything from a slice of cooked bacon to a flattened silver turtle made the list. She has found two magnetic hotel door keys, one pair of 3-D glasses, one chicken bone, one French fry, one gummy worm, one St. James Place mortgage card from a Monopoly game, and one cigarette. There was even a colour photograph of Ex-Lax products. Go figure.

This librarian’s greatest find, however, was a 3x5 inch card with five words printed in pencil on it : “ Thanks for all you do. “ Now that is a treasure. Maybe it was just a bookmark, accidentally left behind. But equally possible, maybe it wasn’t. Perhaps that little card was one library user’s gentle appreciation for the poor soul who has to peel a French fry off the page of a tender novel, or scrape a flattened turtle from inside a dictionary. Who’s to say? I can think of plenty of people doing other thankless work who would love to stumble upon a similar sign of grace, just as modest. The restaurant custodian who picks cigarette butts out of the urinal is one. The utility linesman working the night shift to restore power through the latest ice storm is another.

Thanks for all you do. Words on a lost index card that meet the eye of a finder – a message of grace in a sometimes grace-less world – precious meaning received in the index of monotonous routine. How wonderful to feel noticed when we’re down on life or lost in a maze of mundane tasks. Hearing a gracious word from another is almost like being found – being rescued. When we get off track and lose sight of meaningful things and im-

portant relationships, to be retrieved is the most wonderful feeling in the world. The blessing of having someone find or notice refuels our hope. We start to regain our bearings.

I think of the Corinthian Christians trying to form a congregation in the midst of a worldly culture. Excessive eating and drinking and sexual promiscuity were the norm for many in Corinth. Imagine how encouraging it must have felt to receive a hand written note from the Apostle Paul far away, especially when the opening line read : “I always thank God for you.”

The important thing we want to keep in mind is this. Whenever we get lost in some inglorious duties of a given day or find ourselves bereft of meaning because of mindless tasks or unbelievable challenges, we have a God who keeps watch. This God tends to us in moments when we feel forsaken, like unclaimed items in a lost-and-found box. Faith tells us that God does not wait for someone else to reclaim us and get us back on our feet. God initiates the reclamation project and pursues us. Every so often we notice this strong behaviour of God and we say : “Thanks for all you do.” Oh, how those five words must gladden the heart of God!

Peace and Joy be with you,

Rev. Douglas Reble  
Assistant to the Bishop  
Eastern Synod, ELCIC

## The Path to Reconciliation: Anglicans and Lutherans Walk Together in Waterloo

Throughout this past Lent, Anglicans and Lutherans in the Waterloo area joined together to walk the path of reconciliation.

Each Wednesday, All Saints' Anglican Church, St Columba Anglican Church, Christ Lutheran Church and Mount Zion Lutheran gathered together for a speaker series focused on reconciliation and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's call to action #59.

The program began by building an understanding of the Doctrine of Discovery, UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples), the Indian Act and the Residential Schools system.

Our first speaker, Bishop Mark MacDonald, brought insights from Indigenous Spirituality to Christian Theology. The Good Walk or 4 Directional Thinking reminded us that we should experience the Gospel truths from all sides, as one experiences a mountain from all sides when they walk around it.

At the core of Bishop Mark's message is the principle or idea of relationships that are formed through time spent in community. Bishop Mark encouraged all to participate where they can in a blanket exercise, visiting the Six Nations and the Woodland Cultural Center or attending a Pow Wow.

Next, Rev. Tom Patterson from the Diocese of Huron Bridge Builders reminded us of the importance of discovering both our differences and similarities as we come into relationship. The Bridge Builders do this with balanced representation on the working group while being attentive to not force that relationship or for settlers to take over.

Rev. Rosalyn Elm helped the participants to decolonize our Western Theology and use insights from Indigenous Spirituality to create new insights into scripture. Western Theology tends to look from the Fall onward, seeing hu-

manity as sinful, while Indigenous Spirituality looks back to the Garden, proposing that we are living in the Garden of Eden as it is not just spiritual but real.

Through sharing our sacred stories we are also able to better understand our own stories by receiving a new lens in which to experience scripture. Rosalyn poignantly highlighted this with a telling of the Haudenosaunee creation story and using that to interpret Genesis.

To close out our time in Lent together, Deacon Scott Knarr shared tangible examples of reconciliation in action. Deacon Scott has helped develop and participates in a music camp on the Six Nations, which operates both summer camps and Tuesday after-school programming. ([musicforthespirit.ca](http://musicforthespirit.ca))

Scott brought into focus for the group the importance of relationships, of walking reconciliation with one person at a time and that reconciliation cannot be rushed or we will just tip the canoe.

The thread that connected all the various topics and speakers was relationships. The path to reconciliation can only be travelled by mending the broken relationships between settlers and First Nations. This was a powerful insight as we are reminded in the season of Lent that it is through Christ that our broken relationship with God is reconciled and our sins are forgiven.

- Rev. Marty Levesque, Rector  
All Saints Anglican Church,  
Waterloo

*This article appeared in The Huron Church News, May 2018 edition.  
Used with permission.*

## Connecting Our Roots: A Day of Sharing

submitted by Rosemary Hagedorn

On Saturday, May 6, the Huronia Ministry Area of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) sponsored a day of sharing at the Huronia Museum, 549 Little Lake Park Rd. in Midland, Ontario.

More than forty people attended to hear Gertie Beaucage, an Ojibwe Elder from Nippissing First Nation and a member of the Bear Clan, share insight, history and beliefs.

To read the full story go to <http://www.easternsynod.org/faith-in-action/local/connecting-our-roots-day-sharing>



Every two years, the ELCIC and the Anglican Church of Canada host a national gathering of youth and their leaders. CLAY 2018 will take place on August 15-19, 2018 in Thunder Bay, Ontario. To register for threads, please visit:

<https://www.eply.com/clay2018>.  
General information surrounding CLAY 2018 can be found at: [www.claygathering.ca](http://www.claygathering.ca).

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Bishop Pryse made his way to St. James, Williamsford where he joined the band, playing the guitar and the tambourine.

Every four months or so, the children of St. James preside over the entire service and they really enjoyed having him join in the fun.

Everyone left the service feeling like they were involved in praising and thanking God. Hallelujah!



Members and friends of St Peter's Ottawa hosted a chili lunch at a local downtown drop-in centre. This is a part of the ongoing ministry of St Peter's, a downtown congregation, that sees first-hand the devastating effects of poverty and homelessness. One of the lunch guests commented how wonderful it is to get a home cooked meal. Our small acts of kindness can create



huge impact - not only in the lives of the recipients, but even more so by changing our perception of our neighbours.

## An Intergenerational Faith Conversation

submitted by Rev Albert Romkema  
St. John's, Petawawa

We began this Intergenerational Faith History Project, because we wanted to share stories with our youth about the history of our church. We wanted to give them a picture of what the faith-life of our church has been for the adults of our community; how it has supported us in our times of need, and how we are discovering God together as a community of believers. We hoped that the stories we would tell them might trigger their interest and provide a spark for their own journey.

This is what we set out to do, but it is not exactly where this project has headed. After a couple of interviews had been completed between our grade 8 Confirmation students and a few of the more senior members of our congregation, one of the grade 8 students asked enthusiastically, "When are we going to be interviewed?"

I almost fell off my chair with the realization. This project should not just be about recording the stories of faith of our more senior members of the church for our youth, it should be about the stories of our youth too, and how they experience life at St. John's, and what their hopes and dreams are for the church going forward. This needed to be a conversation between generations.

So, we are now providing the opportunity for their stories to be heard as well. It has gone from being an *Intergenerational Faith History Project* to becoming an *Intergenerational Faith Conversation*.

We are creating a series of video-recorded interviews between the younger-older and older-younger generations of our community, ask-

ing questions about our significant past memories, our present experiences of God's presence, and our future hopes and dreams for this community going forward.

The interviews will then be assembled into a short video which we hope will capture how God's mission calls us into activity with each other and the world.

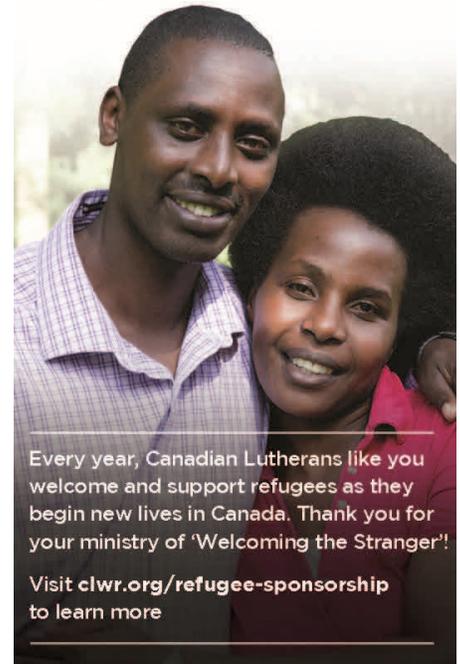
Our grade 8 confirmation class is involved in all levels of this production – interviewing, lighting, set-up, and fund raising. We plan to bring together the whole community perhaps over a meal to view the video. And finally, our hope is also to share this experience with others who might be interested in such an approach.

What I am seeing and hearing so far through these interviews is how wide, and high, and strong, and great is God's mission in the world. We are simply invited to support, realize, engage in, and become part of what God is already doing for us. It is all grace, all of it.



**2018 Eastern Synod Assembly**  
**June 21-24, 2018**  
**Registration is still open.**  
<http://www.easternsynod.org/content/assembly-2018>  
**Looking forward to seeing you there!**

 **Canadian Lutheran World Relief**



### Transitions

**Jennifer Hoover** to Bethany, Woodstock

### Interim Appointments

**Darlyne Rath**– Faith, Port Elgin

**Ralph Weigold**– St. Matthew, Fredericton

**JoAnne Lam**– St. John, Lady-smith/Zion, Schwartz

**Monika Wiesner**– St. Paul, Kitchener (Bridgeport)

**Larry Ehrhardt**– St. Peter, Alice/Bethlehem, Woito/Grace, Rankin

### Vacancies

Conestogo, St. Matthew's  
Kitchener, St. Paul's (Bridgeport)

Port Elgin, Faith

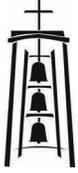
Sudbury, Trinity

Thornhill, Thornhill

Toronto, Redeemer

Toronto, St. Ansgar

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



# Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

May 2018

## Glebe Centre video

Janet Howitt, executive director of the seminary's [Delton Glebe Counselling Centre](#), kicked off a social media experiment for the Greater KW Chamber of Commerce by sharing, in this 20-second Facebook [video](#), her reasons for working at the centre. But we're not going to tell you. You'll have to hear for yourself. The video has been viewed more than 8,500 times!

## Spring convocation

We're looking forward to spring convocation on Thursday, June 14, during which we expect to witness 25 of our students graduate: [MA in Theology](#), Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy (18); [MA-MDiv](#) (1); [BA Christians Studies and Global Citizenship](#) (1); [Graduate Diploma in SC&P](#) (2); and [PhD in Human Relationships](#) (3). Not planning to attend? Stay tuned for details on how to watch the ceremony online. Congrats to our Class of 2018!

## Election commentary

Recent columns about the Ontario election campaign by John Milloy, director of the seminary's Centre for Public Ethics, have been posted online. Often amusing. Always informative. Check them out by clicking on the links for: [An all-candidates' debates survival guide](#); [Tanya Granic Allen's campaign exit opens space for other voices of faith](#); [Ontario is going to have a polarized election, should we care?](#)

## Contact us

Events: Dorinda Kruger Allen, [dkrugerallen@wlu.ca](mailto:dkrugerallen@wlu.ca)

Seminary stories: Mirko Petricevic, [mpetricevic@wlu.ca](mailto:mpetricevic@wlu.ca)



## New faculty welcomed

The seminary's Board of Governors, faculty and staff welcomed Rev. Dr. Gyeong Kim during a lunch at Mount Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, in Waterloo, in April. Kim joined the seminary's faculty on May 1 as assistant professor, Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy. Kim, an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and former certified professional counsellor in the state of Georgia, will teach spiritual wellness; family of origin therapy; and global Christianity.



## Renewal update-

Workers continue to make progress on the [renewal and modernization](#) of the seminary building. Faculty and staff have been in temporary offices on nearby Lester Street. We hope to move back into the building in late June. Clockwise from above: Waterproof membrane installed on chapel roof; board members tour chapel; Dorinda's countdown to our return 'home.'"

## From 'In Mission for Others' to 'In Mission With Others'

submitted by Rev Robert Hutchison



This morning I was drawn into worship with a German evangelical congregation on television. First of all, the lay leader addressed the TV viewers by inviting them to vote for one of three hymns; the chosen one to be sung as the hymn of the day. Secondly the congregation identified itself as a music church, having begun 10 years ago by giving underprivileged children a chance to discover 'the music in their souls'. Several of them played in the band that led worship along with the organ. The sermon invited us to recognize that we are souls. We don't just have a soul. Music affirms that we are souls, alive through God. With much singing the worship was joyful, the only liturgy being the prayer response. The

homemade worship was the real liturgy, the work of the people.

The reason for the church's existence is MISSION! We of the ELCIC are 'in mission for others'. That little word 'for' indicates advocacy rather than involvement. Indeed, we are in mission all over the world and some of it is involvement, but our approach seems to be from a distance; safe, comfortable, freeing us to live in comfort. Following the example of the German 'music congregation' which grew out of its mission to children in need, could we not be in mission 'with' others by finding a need in the community in which we live and fill it? Instead of supporting a food bank – be one. Become a centre for seniors. Be a congregation whose mission is to settle refugees. Hostels for abused people, the homeless, those struggling with dying - I'm sure you could add several more to this list of those in need. Groups of congregations could work together

Congregations whose life is their mission statement continue to grow. Congregations with mission statements write their epitaph. It takes strong pastoral and lay leadership through scriptural nurture and prayer to hear the Spirit's call into mission. We pastors tend to be too wrapped up in liturgy, ritual, and being 'in mission for others' to get involved. Lay people are too willing to have the pastor run the show. Are we able to exit the expressway of busyness and "devote our selves to the apostle's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers", the journey into mission—with others?



Our thoughts and prayers are with Rev Daniela Mertz and her family as they mourn the loss of her mother.

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

*Psalms 34:18*

To find out about upcoming events around the synod check the [synod calendar](#) on our website <http://www.easternsynod.org/calendar>.

Want to know more about what Lutherans are doing across the country?



Contact Barb [bwiebe@elcic.ca](mailto:bwiebe@elcic.ca)

## Report of the Treasurer (To April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018)

Now that we're well into 2018 it's great to report that as of April 30<sup>th</sup> congregational benevolence receipts are off to a nice start, increasing by more than 2% compared to the same period last year.

However, this positive news is offset by the fact that offerings to Canadian Lutheran World Relief and the ELCIC Praise Appeal are lagging quite significantly.

For details refer to

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



## Communication for Congregations.

*"Great presenter. Great participants too!"*

One person's reaction to the recent communications workshop held at the Eastern Synod office.

Thanks to Mirko Petricevic, Director of Communications and Public Affairs, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, for helping us to find more ways to share our ministry stories.



We are looking for an exceptional individual to join ELFEC's professional team as a part-time Lutheran Planned Giving Advisor. Deadline for application is 29th June 2018.

You will find satisfaction in this role if you:

- Feel comfortable working in the environment of a Christian denomination
- Can speak with confidence about money and giving
- Enjoy meeting people in churches and homes
- Are good at cultivating and maintaining professional relationships
- Can work in a coordinated team with minimal direct supervision

If you are interested, please find more [details here](#).



## National Worship Conference

### Responding to Disaster

Prayer, Song, Presence

July 16–19, 2018

Inn at Laurel Point, Victoria, BC

Registration opens March 1.

[nationalworshipconference.org](http://nationalworshipconference.org)