



The Eastern Synod Lutheran

May 2014

Volume 30



Things Are Not Always As They Appear.

By Pastor Riitta Hepomaki

There was a time that I had to move to the other side of the country without my children because of work. They stayed with their father. This period, as I recall it, was the most miserable time of my life.

I remember my first trip down to Helsinki to see my boys. We didn't have much time; only a couple of hours between my meetings.

We went to Pizza Hut and had dinner together. I remember how I enjoyed listening to them. They talked about their everyday matters. Nothing extraordinary. But every word was special to me at that moment. I felt I was part of their lives. Time flew by fast. And when we were standing at the railway station again, now departing, we found it difficult to say good-bye and so we just stood silent until the older son said:

"Mom, it only looks as if we are parting, but we are not. We are always together, for I pray every day."

And even though we took different trains and travelled to different destinations, I knew that it only looked like we had parted, but we were together; deeply connected. I learned an important lesson.

Things are not always as they appear. We should not judge anyone—not even ourselves—by appearance. It may look like you are not a believer, but you know it's not true, for you pray every day.

It may look like God has abandoned you, but it is not true. You are deeply connected to God.

Your life may be in such a mess that you think that God could not be interested in it. But things are not always as we believe they are. God has come down. He does not avoid us; He comes after us - even to the lowest hell—for He loves sinners.

Jesus calls God "Father". God is like any parent who is missing his or her children, who is counting the days and the hours till He sees them again, who is waiting at the window or at the railway station to see them come home again.

And when they eventually come, He is happy to see them, to listen to them, to have supper with them. He doesn't expect to hear great success stories from us; He is interested in our everyday life. I don't

think that the first thing He would ask was: "What evil have you done?" But if we have heavy thoughts and a bad conscience God is willing to take our burden and forgive.

At that time when I had to live far from my children, I would have given anything to have someone who would have told my boys every day that I loved them; who would have reminded them of my love.

Today I can see that God, in fact, had that same desire. The Gospel reads: "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

Things are not always as they appear. It may look like God is light years away from you, because you feel you don't measure up or fit in the form that people regard as "normal". God is not far away. "The Lord is near to the broken-hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit." You are always together, for you pray every day. You have a deep connection that the world doesn't see or know. The Holy Spirit binds you together. And the Holy Spirit ensures that "nothing or no one can separate you from God's love."



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NEW

What a Planned Gift Can Do

by Jeff Pym

The Eastern Synod lost a great friend and benefactor with the death of Carl M. Dare on April 8 at the age of 96. His obituary can be found [here](#).



Carl Dare built a small cookie business started by his grandfather into the international success known today as Dare Foods Ltd. He was a lifelong member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Kitchener, ON. At his memorial service, family members spoke of Carl's role in building and furnishing the building that St. Peter's occupies today.

Less well known is the story of his many gifts to help young Lutherans pursue post-secondary education. After reading about the Spencer-Barche fund, which has been providing a small number of scholarships annually since the 1980s, Carl offered to donate money annually to create a larger program. Over the past 15 years or so, Eastern Synod Scholarships have been awarded to more than one thousand students.

Throughout this period Mr. Dare insisted that no one know about his role in the program. He was motivated solely by a desire to see Lutheran young people use education as a stepping stone to satisfying professional careers.

In late 2013 Carl made a gift to the Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada (ELFEC) for the purposes of the Eastern Synod Scholarship Fund. That gift ensures that the program will continue through 2014 and 2015.

Another anonymous donor has stepped forward to make smaller contributions to the fund over the past two years. However, the future of the

fund is uncertain beyond 2015.

Few of us can have the impact of a Carl Dare, but anyone can make a planned gift to the church. That gift can fund ministry at the congregational, synodical, institutional or national level.

The following people have arranged a planned gift to the church within the past few years and have given us permission to publish their names. We call them Friends of Lutheran Planned Giving. Our hope is that others, after reading this, might be inspired to make a gift of their own.

In addition to these people there is an equal number of recent donors who have chosen to remain anonymous.

Rudolf and Elizabeth Baumann, Ruthven, ON
Rick Brown and Bonnie Schelter-Brown, Baden, ON
Rick and Pat Davison, Brockville, ON
Karen and Bill Gastmeier, Waterloo, ON
Gail Gilmour, Newcastle, ON
Kristine Lund, Waterloo, ON
Rose Orfanakos, Newmarket, ON
M. J. Perry, Toronto, ON
Krista and Jeff Schott, Wellesley, ON
Garnet Schruder, Sudbury, ON
Don and Brenda Stockman, Waterloo, ON

Joyous Easter, Alleluia!

Submitted by Tom Haight

Faith Lutheran Church and the Deep River Chinese Christian Fellowship celebrated an Easter Vigil to welcome Easter on Saturday evening. Both Mandarin and English were used in prayer and song.

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We moved from lighting the Paschal Candle outside to starting in darkness with only candle light in the church.

Highlights included praying the Lord's Prayer in both languages at the same time. A feeling of being one with another, language did not get in the way of the feeling of being one in Christ.

D.R.C.C.F. sang the first two verses of *Jesus Christ is Risen to Day* in Mandarin, then the last two were sung in English. We all enjoyed singing Alleluia together.

A time of fellowship followed.



Pastoral Vacancies

The following Eastern Synod Congregations are seeking pastors. If you are interested please contact Rev. Douglas Reble, Assistant to the Bishop.

St. John's, Arnprior, ON

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

St. Paul's, Montreal, QC

St. John's, Mahone Bay

St. Mark's, Kitchener, ON

St. Paul's, Magnetawan, ON

St. David's Anglican-Lutheran, Orillia, ON

St. John's, South Porcupine, ON

Ordination

With Bishop Pryse presiding, Rev. Pamela Korman was ordained on Saturday, May 10 at The Church of the Good Shepherd in Niagara Falls.

Congratulations Pamela!



Congregational Treasurer's Workshops

Hosted by Keith Myra,
Synod Council Treasurer

Sat. May 24, 2014
St. John's, Petawawa, ON

Sat. May 31, 2014
Christ the Redeemer, Montreal, QC

Sat. June 14, 2014
Faith, Ottawa, ON

Sat. Sept. 13, 2014
St. Matthew's, Hanover, ON

Sat. Sept. 27, 2014
Trinity, Sudbury, ON

Sat. Oct. 18, 2014
St. Paul's, Bridgewater, NS

Sat. Nov. 1, 2014
Redeemer, London, ON

Sat. Nov. 8, 2014
St. James, New Dundee, ON

go to easternsynod.org for details



A reminder to those who have not yet booked rooms with The International Plaza Hotel. The discounted room rate is only guaranteed till May 23 so please make your reservations before then.

And if you have not yet registered for Assembly 2014 please do so as soon as possible.



The Eastern Synod continues to mourn the loss of one of its own, Rev. Christine Grahlman and we remember her family; Rev. Wendell, Ken and Marne in our thoughts and prayers.

We also remember in our prayers: Sylvia and Pastor Steve Hoffard as they mourn the death of Sylvia's father;

Kara and Pastor Mark Van House as they mourn the death of Kara's brother:

Pastor Mark Urquhart as he mourns the death of his father.

Keith and Rev. Cathy McCaig as they mourn the death of Keith's mother.

Leadership for Healthy Congregations

Hosted by Pastor Riitta Hepomaki & Jeff Pym

Sat. May 31, 2014
Christ the Redeemer, Montreal, QC

Sat. Oct. 4, 2014
Faith, Hamilton, ON

Sat. Oct. 18, 2014
St. Matthew's, Kitchener, ON

Sat. Nov. 15, 2014
St. Mark's, Kingston, ON

To register please contact Liz, 519-743-1461 or email ezehr@elcic.ca.

We hope you have enjoyed this all new Eastern Synod Lutheran!

Please pass it on to anyone who may be interested.

If you would like to add your name to our email list, please send your contact info to ezehr@elcic.ca.

If you wish to have your name removed from our mailing list just send an email with the subject line "Remove" to ezehr@elcic.ca.