



The Eastern Synod Lutheran

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KEEP EVERYONE IN THE CAR

A life ago, sometime between university and going to seminary, I spent three years living in Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories. During that time when I was "trying" on new expressions of spirituality, I belonged to a house church - a small, intimate group of Christians who had chosen an alternate style of "being church". Often we would spend the entire day together worshipping, studying, eating, and learning about each other's struggles.

It's harder for older children to be enthused about such a church when it means they are the only person in their peer group. So it was for my friend's daughter, Sarah. She was a young teen, only 13 or 14 years old.

One Sunday Pete, my friend along with his wife and Sarah picked me up to take me to the house church. I didn't have a car when I lived in the north. Per usual, Sarah was ranting in anticipation of another long, boring day. Pete became so frustrated with her comments that he turned around.

Once in his driveway he said, "Sarah, please get out of the car. I can't listen to your complaining any longer."

"Don't be dumb, Dad. We're going to church," she replied.

"Yes, but you are not coming with us," he retorted. And we sat there until Sarah got out of the car.

As I watched her go, I looked at Pete's face in the rear view mirror. His heart was breaking into a thousand pieces.

Five minutes after we arrived at the house church, he was back in his car on the way home. Peter later told me of his conversation with Sarah.

After apologizing to Sarah, they talked. She explained how hard the house church was for her. She had no one there her age. She believed in God and wanted to worship but the house church wasn't meeting her need.

Pete, along with his wife's blessing, offered to go to a "regular" church

with her on Sunday morning where it might be easier. They went together as a family and eventually joined that congregation. It was a good church home for them.

At Pentecost, which this year is May 15, we celebrate the birth of the church and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Since that first Pentecost we sometimes have worked hard at prescribing for each other how we must be that church or receive that Spirit. "Do it my way or get out of the car," we sometimes seem to say.

My Pentecost prayer is that we will respect all those who travel toward God whatever their route. We are called to be inviting, not demanding. Let's all stay in the car.

Pentecost blessings,

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



LIBERATED
BY GOD'S
GRACE

Have you registered for Assembly yet?

There's still time to book your spot at the 2016 Eastern Synod Convention.

Go to easternsynod.org and click the Synod Assembly button.

For those paying by cheque, please make sure your payment has been sent in.

Questions? Don't hesitate to ask, we're here to help.

Each of us will have a part in determining this gathering's net effect upon the life of our church; whether it will enliven or diminish; build up or tear down.

Bishop Michael J. Pryse



SYNOD COUNCIL TAKES UP THE 2017 REFORMATION CHALLENGE

Submitted by Bonnie Wepler

Last November, Cathy Calvin, former Director of Women's Ministries, visited the Synod Council meeting and spoke about Toonies for Trees, part of the ELCIC's 2017 Reformation Challenge to fund the planting of 500,000 trees. At the end of the meeting, Synod Council members threw money on the table and \$50 was raised – that's enough to plant 50 trees!

In April, Synod Council members again pulled out their wallets, this time in support of the 500 scholarships in ELCJHL schools. Over \$375 was raised!

Wonder what will happen during the November 2016, April 2017 and November 2017 Synod Council meetings ...

Consider issuing your own challenges at church council meetings, congregational AGMs, women's gatherings, youth events.

For updates on the results of the 2017 Reformation Challenge visit <http://elcic.ca/reformationchallenge/>

Vacancies

- First, Toronto
- South Dundas, Williamsburg
- Christ, Waterloo
- Grace, Oakville
- New Hope, Sudbury

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

For more information on these opportunities please visit our website <http://www.easternsynod.org/vacancy>

Let's Keep In Touch.....

Staff here at Synod office regularly send out information to our congregations as well as to pastors and church leaders.

Have you been receiving it?

Each time we send something out via email we get a large number of bounce backs.

Please let us know whenever there is a change to contact information for your congregation, your pastor or your church leaders.

You could be missing out on something important.

And if you haven't been receiving these mailings, please check with us to ensure we have the correct information.

Thanks for your help!



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Have Fun and Raise Funds for Camp Edgewood !

Mark your calendars now for the Eighth Annual Swing Low Golf Tournament in support of Camp Edgewood on June 11, 2016. The tournament will be held at Brookfield Golf Club in Cambridge.

Golf, including a power cart and dinner is \$110. Not a golfer?.... Sponsor a hole or donate a prize or cash.

For registration or to sponsor a hole, email golf@edgewood-camp.on.ca or call/text 519-591-7425.



Upcoming Events

- May 25- L.A.R.C. Day of Renewal
- June 11- Camp Edgewood Golf Tournament
- June 14- Trinity Village Golf Tournament
- June 23-26- Eastern Synod Assembly
- July 24-27- National Worship Conference

I am a MEMBER because...

I can receive Member benefits like a college or university scholarship.



Hannah LaFrance

To learn more visit faithlifefinancial.ca





A Greener Church

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sault Ste Marie, ON has been a Certified Registered Accredited Greening Congregation since 2009.

What does that mean?

To be accredited a congregation should commit to working towards more responsible environmental stewardship in at least five of the following areas:

- Energy Conservation
- Reduce, Reuse and Recycle
- Ground Care and Maintenance
- Become involved in KAIROS's Energy Campaign
- Church Communication
- Religious Education
- Worship and Liturgy

Environmental Justice and Advocacy

Zion's Greening Steward, Bob Schroeder writes "Our Mission as an Environmental Stewardship committee is to gain awareness and information through knowledge, education and environmental initiatives for our congregation, visitors and the public. These initiatives are a part of our discipleship to be stewards of our creation and learning to be disciples working together."

For more information you can access Zion's Master Plan-Stewardship of Creation-Greening report on the churches website <http://www.zionlutheran-ssm.org/Zion%20Evangelical%20Lutheran%20Churchv4.pdf>

For more information about The Greening Congregation Accreditation Program go to <http://www.elcic.ca/Stewardship/Stewardship-of-Creation/Greening-Congregation.cfm>



National Worship Conference July 24-27, 2016 Wilfrid Laurier University Waterloo, ON

Workshops will be led by some of the most exciting names in the church today.

The two keynote speakers are:

Rev. Dr. Stephen M. Larson
The Very Reverend Bruce Jenneker

For all the latest information and registration forms please go to <http://www.nationalworshipconference.org/>

Join Pastor Rasma Caune from Epiphany Lutheran Church Toronto on "The Trail of Martin Luther" • October 12-22, 2016

Embark on an inspirational journey through Germany that follows the epic trail blazed by Martin Luther.

This 2016 personally escorted tour is your opportunity to gain new perspectives, strengthen your faith and return home with treasured memories.



2017 marks the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation



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Further Information about the Eastern Synod Scholarship

The Eastern Synod Scholarship started about twenty years ago from the vision of one individual, namely Mr. Carl Dare. His desire was to help Lutheran youth to achieve higher education. In fact, Mr. Dare provided 99.9% of the money that was handed out over the years in scholarships. Mr. Dare passed away in 2014. He left just enough money to fund scholarships for two more years - 2014 and 2015.

Please note that benevolence offerings have never funded Synod scholarships.

With the Eastern Synod Scholarship fund now exhausted, we will only be able to award a few scholarships annually from the remaining funds, Spencer-Barche and Murray. If you are a person with a passion for higher education who would like to leave a legacy for future students, we would love to work with you! If you (or someone you know) feel that passion, please contact Jeff Pym jpym@elfec.ca or 1.888-308-9461.

Inspiring stories:

Brad and Tracy Mittleholtz never thought they'd be able to make a major charitable gift. When Brad's grandmother died and left a surprisingly large estate, it was a great joy for the couple to direct a gift to the Spencer-Barche Educational Trust Fund. This Eastern Synod-directed scholarship had once helped them both finance post-secondary educations, and they wanted to be sure the scholarship was around for another generation. Brad says it feels great to give back to a fund that once gave him a helping hand. "You need an education to succeed in life, and it's not getting any cheaper. Any help we can give as the church is wonderful and important." (ELFEC Annual Report 2014, abbreviation)

Martin Hinrichs-Pymm is profoundly grateful for the Synod Scholarship, which was by far the most generous award he received. "It's overwhelming how generous people can be – offering to help young people they don't even know. I so appreciate this award, and will honour it always as a practicing Lutheran." (ELFEC Annual Report 2015, abbreviation)

Blessings!

Rev. Riitta Hepomaki
Assistant to the Bishop

PICK UP SOME SWAG

The youth and young adults committee, in collaboration with the three Eastern Synod camps have organized some swag for synod convention. Clergy and delegates attending the convention should bring cash (pay what you can, \$20 minimum) in order to pick up a shirt and show support for our outdoor youth ministry programs. Edgewood, Lutherlyn, and Mush-A-Mush are also planning to send young adults to the convention to show our enthusiasm for youth ministry and to discuss ways we might collaborate further.



Outdoor Ministry T-shirt
concept art.





Debbie Lou Ludolph, director of the seminary's choir Inshallah, hugs a member of Mino Ode Kwewak N'Gamowak drum group at the end of a [fundraising concert](#) at St. John's Lutheran Church, in Waterloo, May 10. Performers raised more than \$20,000 for Attawapiskat First Nation youth.



Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

Events

Visit our current Art on the Wall exhibition: [A Time to Pray](#) by Ala Al-Thibeh. Inspired by a journey to Istanbul, the works of graphite, glass and plywood explore identity and community. Weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. until May 26.

MLU College

As [reported in January](#), work is underway to change Waterloo Lutheran Seminary's name. In 2015 the seminary's Board of Governors approved changing our name to Martin Luther University. Then in April, after receiving new information from Ontario's Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, the Board approved changing the name to Martin Luther University College because "university college" is the province's category under which the seminary best fits.

Contact us

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

Glebe counselling centre continues to grow

Near-daily news coverage of mental health concerns has planted the importance of emotional well-being firmly into our national consciousness.

So it's little wonder that the Delton Glebe Counselling Centre, a community outreach project by the seminary, continues to grow. On average, each month more than 140 clients receive counselling at the centre to strengthen their **emotional and spiritual well-being**.

Named in honour of the late Rev. Dr. Delton Glebe, who served as professor and seminary principal-dean, therapists at the centre are specially equipped to address clients' concerns from a spirituality perspective if the client chooses. The centre offers counselling for individuals, couples, families, children and

groups. It also offers play and art therapy. Clients mainly come to the centre to seek help dealing with anxiety, depression, relationship issues and addictions.

The centre also supports many people who have suffered trauma as children. The centre operates out of a home at the corner of Albert Street and Seagram Drive in Waterloo.

The Eastern Synod, which owns the building, has partnered with us by providing the space at no cost beyond the seminary's

initial outlay of \$100,000 for renovations, plus ongoing maintenance.

The Glebe Centre is not only a resource for the broader community, but for the Eastern Synod family as well. For more information, visit glebecounselling.ca or call (519) 884-3305.



Selda Sezen (centre), a seminary doctoral student, listens during our recent [Forum on Culture, Faith and Domestic Violence](#). The Glebe Centre contributes to events serving students and the broader community.

Prompting discussion on physician-assisted dying

David Pfrimmer and John Milloy, co-directors of our Centre for Public Ethics, have had columns on physician-assisted dying published by NationalNewswatch and the *Waterloo Region Record*: [Bill C-14 is about more than individual rights](#); [A good death? Reflections on physician-assisted dying](#); and [Advanced directives: The parliamentary committee on assisted dying got it wrong](#)