



# The Eastern Synod Lutheran

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



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Volume 68



## **“God’s Angry People”**

Over the fall, and depending which lectionary you use, the biblical hero Moses has been the focus of our Old Testament readings. I’ve been reminded that Moses had a temper. He killed an Egyptian whom he saw mistreating a slave. He smashed the tablets of the Law that God had given him, and in the wilderness he struck a rock because he was angry with the people. David, another Old Testament hero, was also an angry man – angry at the prophet Nathan, at his sons, at his enemies.

Just as anger was a part of these people’s lives, it is part of ours. The emotions shown by God – delight in us, joy, sadness, grief, compassion, anger, and all the others – are designed into us as well, because we are made in God’s image. To deny these emotions is unhealthy and limiting.

Yet many of us have difficulty with anger – in opposite ways. I know I do. Some of us express our anger too strongly and readily. Others of us hide our anger, even denying that we

feel it. These two opposite behaviours may arise from a common cause experiencing destructive patterns of dealing with anger.

Those who witness angry outbursts may come to fear anger – other’s anger and their own. Anger may seem like an uncontrollable monster that could overwhelm us if we allow it out – so we keep it under emotional lock and key. We may keep it so well contained, in fact, that we may be unaware it exists. Have you ever asked, “Are you angry?” and received a response of “No, I’m fine” from someone whose body language made it clear in some other way that they were angry? Many people bury their anger and deny it expression because they are trying to be “good Christians.”

Some people seem to think that deeply spiritual people do not become angry. The Bible does not teach this. Moses is a great hero and David described as “a man after the Lord’s own heart” ( 1 Samuel 13:14 ). Their anger did not disqualify them from participating in God’s work. Feeling anger is not wrong. In fact, the Bible directs us to admit and deal with our anger. When we are at odds with a brother or sister, we are to go and be reconciled ( Matthew 5:21-24 ). But scripture also tells us to be slow to anger, as God is slow to anger, and always to be careful to show love.

The issue with anger and any other emotion is how we treat others as we express our feelings. Ephesians tells us to let go of our anger promptly, not

letting the sun go down on it – in other words to deal with today’s hurts today and not to nurse grudges ( Ephesians 4:26 ). But this does not mean we are free to rage at one another or mistreat one another. Matthew 5 says that we are not to insult others or call them names. We can express our anger in ways that frighten others and limit their lives, or we can “speak the truth in love” ( Ephesians 4:15 ). Admitting truthfully what we feel but doing so with care not to belittle another. Ephesians tells us in another place that our words should always “minister grace” to our hearers ( Ephesians 4:29 ). Harsh, demeaning words do not “minister grace” to our hearers.

Training ourselves to deal lovingly with others even when we are angry requires self-control. Self-control is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit, who dwells in all believers. Of course, fruit takes time to grow. If we are addicted to rage or any other negative expression of emotion, we may want to change. If that is the case, we begin where we are, asking God to help us become willing to be shaped by the Holy Spirit within us.

Our emotions are a part of who we are. To be fully human is to feel all of the emotions God has placed within us and to learn to express those emotions in ways that bring life and growth to us and to others.

God’s peace be with you,

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

## Report of the Treasurer (To October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017)



As of the end of October, benevolence offerings received by the synod office in 2017 were tracking almost 5% behind the comparable period for 2016. Although the current situation is disturbing, there is still time before year-end for this situation to improve.

Congregational Treasurers, please ensure that your remittances to the synod office are up to date. If your congregation is able to consider making an additional contribution to benevolence, over and above what you have budgeted, your “second mile” gift would be very much appreciated!

For details on offerings remitted for Benevolence, Canadian Lutheran World Relief and the ELCIC Praise Appeal, refer to [Report of the Treasurer](#) or go to <http://www.easternsynod.org/> and click the orange Treasurers/Financial Info button.

### A Teddy Bear Ministry submitted by Rev Darlyne Rath

For the past year people from St. James, Williamsford have been making quilts and teddy bears to be donated to CLWR. Last month 84 quilts and 219 teddy bears were blessed and sent on their way.

What an extraordinary accomplishment!



### Vacancies

Faith, Fergus-Elora  
Bethany, Woodstock  
For more information  
please contact Rev  
Douglas Reble,  
Assistant to the Bishop,  
[dreble@elcic.ca](mailto:dreble@elcic.ca) /1-877-373  
-5242.

# GIFTS FROM THE HEART



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## Reformation Challenge at Reformation, Kitchener, ON

submitted by Anne Brubacher

We challenged ourselves to plant 150 olive trees before November 1st. We are pleased to say that as of September 1 we collected enough funds to sponsor 150 trees, our goal. When the goal was announced many said it was impossible but the congregation came through!

We had this tree in our narthex & every time someone purchased a tree we added their name on our Maple Leaves.

Thanks for challenging us.

*“Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.”*

— Martin Luther

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



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Want to know more  
about what Lutherans  
are doing across the  
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Contact Barb

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

## 2018 Companion of the Worship Arts Call for Nominations

The Program Committee for Worship, on behalf of the National Bishop, calls for nominations to the Companion of the Worship Arts. This is an honour conferred in recognition of significant contribution to the worship life of the ELCIC at a local, synodical, and national level. The honour recognizes the recipient's ongoing inspiration and encouragement to others, together with service to God through worship, spirituality, and the arts.

Please include these supporting materials with your nomination:

1. Reasons for the nomination; i.e., biographical material with a listing of the person's specific contributions to the worship life of the ELCIC (examples should include national, synodical, and local involvements)
2. An indication, with examples, of the ways the person continues to inspire and encourage others in the worship life of the church
3. A minimum of three letters of support for the nomination from others familiar with the individual's contributions.

The honour will be conferred at the ELCIC/ACC National Worship Conference in Victoria, BC, in 2018. ([www.nationalworshipconference.org](http://www.nationalworshipconference.org)). Current members of the Program Committee for Worship are not eligible for nomination.

**Send nomination materials by February 15, 2018 to**

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8 Jodi Place  
Guelph, ON N1H 7R1  
519-822-4097  
[jeffkatejb@rogers.com](mailto:jeffkatejb@rogers.com)

## Lutherfest500

It was a dark and stormy night but inside the atmosphere was anything but as the Bishops' Company gathered with friends to celebrate under the theme of Reformation on October 14, 2017.

The Bishops' Company was established in 2003 to support special mission activities of the Eastern Synod, primarily in the area of church renewal. Members provide an annual financial gift that can be used to finance projects that aren't included in ever-tighter synodical budgets.

Some of the projects and ministries funded by the Bishops' Company include such things as training for congregational leaders, Bishop's ministry area visits, events bringing leaders from our companion churches in Guyana and the Middle East as well as discretionary gifts to pastors related to unforeseen personal and vocational crises.

If you are interested in the Bishops' Company please contact Jeff Pym, Director of Stewardship and Resource Development [jpym@elfec.ca](mailto:jpym@elfec.ca) or Liz Zehr [ezehr@elcic.ca](mailto:ezehr@elcic.ca).



Pictured above with Bishop Michael Pryse, special guest, Michael Coren spoke passionately about reformation and his own personal faith journey through life.

Below : Bishops' Company dinners offer an opportunity to greet friends, old and new as well as inspirational stories from far and wide.



The Lost Boys, aka Bill Gastmeier, Richard Brubacher and Spencer Reid had the place hopping as they entertained the crowd with their selection of oldies and their own unique brand of humour.



# Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

November 2017

## MMIWG — Bus to Six Nations

To honour the memories of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, on Nov. 25 we are leading a bus tour to Six Nations to view the commemorative art installation *Walking With Our Sisters*. There's no cost to view the exhibition but, to defray the cost of the bus, we require \$10 (students) and \$20 (public) to be paid in advance. Click [here](#) for details.

## Study tour to India

For the past decade we have led study tours to the Holy Land and Germany. From Aug. 18 - Sept. 2, 2018, we plan to lead our first **Interfaith Encounters in India** study tour. Open to students and the public. To learn more about the trip, stay tuned for information on how to register for an information session being planned for January.

## Annual appeal takes a break

We thank everyone who has donated to the [Reform Capital Campaign](#) to raise \$1.5 million toward the seminary's \$9-million renewal. Due to that campaign, we will not be conducting our annual appeal during Advent. We plan to resume the annual appeal next year.

## Worship with us

Each Wednesday throughout the academic year we hold communion services at 5 p.m. And on Sundays at 11 a.m. the [thirdspace](#) alternative worshipping community gathers in Kanata Commons at 190 Lester St. (our temporary offices) All welcome. **Please note:** Locations vary from week to week, so consult our online calendar at [bitly.com/seminaryevents](http://bitly.com/seminaryevents)

## Contact us

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



## Follow the Songlines

Cherub Philip stands in to direct the Inshallah community choir, and the assembly, for one song during *Follow the Songlines* at Waterloo Collegiate Institute on Nov. 5. Along with Inshallah, the Inshallah KIDS! choir and Crossing Borders, a student group which raises awareness and support for refugees and other newcomers to Canada, presented a program to more than 300 people. Together we raised more than \$2,000 for Rohingya refugees fleeing Myanmar (Burma) and Crossing Borders at WCI. Check out our [photo album](#) on Facebook or [YouTube videos](#).

## Ludolph among 30 students honoured

Wilfrid Laurier University's [Graduate Students' Association](#) this month honoured Debbie Lou



Ludolph as one of its 30 most notable members who exemplify a life of leadership and purpose. Ludolph serves as WLS

dean of chapel and the synod's worship ministries director. She is director of the 130+ voice Inshallah community choir which promotes peace and justice through music. Also a seminary PhD candidate, she is honoured for community building. Read about her work at [Kanata Centre for Worship and Global Song](#) and [inshallah.ca](#)



During our interfaith Open Door service on Nov. 8 we welcomed contributions from Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Wiccan traditions. Ahmed (above) performs the special song Muslims offer when announcing the death of a community member. Our thanks to all who offered and received different perspectives on the topic of death and dying.