



The Eastern Synod Lutheran

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So, it's Autumn. Leaves, flowers, daylight, temperature: all waning. The alternate name "Fall" describes it even better, if not too bluntly.

The norm in this globe's northern hemisphere is to see and experience this season's changes as part of the dying nature of change. However, take the whole globe into perspective – and the southern hemisphere where spring is beginning – and behold! everything, in fact, is being re-created!
Wow!
Everything is changing. Everything is changed.

That notion has been impressed upon me – as my own life has so recently changed: status of vocation, health, activity, marriage...

"God's re-creation of the new day!"
That line is from verse 3 of the song, *Morning Has Broken*.
(If you can, before continuing reading, take a look and listen to the lyrics and the song.)

I've always had a little playful chuckle at the word play of *re-cre-a-tion*: the way the word is written in the line of the hymn's text, each syllable aligned with the note above it to be sung.

Now, eliminate the hyphens and consider the spelling of the word that remains.

Is it now "God's recreation?"

Or is that first hyphen meant to be there: "God's re-creation?"

I once understood that creation was a one-time event (where it is described as part of our faith's story in the book of Genesis). Sometime later, I was reading (I can't remember book or author) that God is, in fact, still creating.

Creation is not a one-time thing. It's still happening. Re-creation.

This morning is another creation, like the first morning.

Curious.

God's re-creation of the new day: is this to say that God's activity is always about resurrection power at work?

The lyrics of the song suggest that re-creation is the intended focus: morning has broken like the first; blackbird has spoken like the first.

Or, interesting...

God's recreation of the new day: is this to say that God is about playfulness and pleasure for each day?

Perhaps the lyrics also suggest that recreation is God's activity due to creation (and re-creation), and at the same time, a playful and delightful result of creation! That's a lovely and hopeful path awaiting us each day.

It has truly been both for me. God's re-creation of life within me and for me, and God's recreative delight to re-create – even when it appeared the opposite was happening.

Morning has broken – not as something shattered and ruined (although life can feel and be

that way), but broken to be born into something new. Again.

God's work is pleasurable recreational play, who takes delight in creation to recreate and renew.

Like the leaves. Green is normal. And... As part of the re-creative cycle, God takes delightful fun in changing their colour to playful and lively hues of red and yellow and orange and brown!

Everything is changed.

I know it's not Easter, and spring buds aren't popping out of a brown earth, but resurrection and rebirth is a constant element in our lives and in our world. Re-creation is God's work, what God is always doing in us, with us and around us.

And! we get to express our own response to God's recreation: to offer our own elation and daily acclaim! and claim what God brings to life in us. And then transformation really takes hold!

Transformation: delightful!

For God's recreation and for God's re-creation.

We are grateful recipients of God's renewing delight, and that empowers us (yea, even compels us!) to live gratefully to, with and for others.

Even as God in Christ has done for us.

We are God's re-creation, sprung fresh from the Word.

We are God's recreation, still existing from Eden's play.

Rev Wendell Caron Grahlmán

Report of the Treasurer

(To September 30th, 2018)

Benevolence offerings received by synod office during the month of September, 2018 were significantly lower than those received during the same month in 2017. As a result, over the entire year we are now running almost 1% behind last year.

Offerings to Canadian Lutheran World Relief and the ELCIC Praise Appeal also continue to lag well behind last year's pace. The decrease in 2018 CLWR offerings is primarily attributable to significant donations that were made in 2017 to the African Famine Relief Appeal (to date there have been no similar large, designated appeals in 2018). For details click on [Report of the Treasurer](#) or go to <http://www.easternsynod.org/> and click the orange Treasurers/Financial Info button.

You may also be interested in the presentations that Treasurer Keith Myra made to delegates at Assembly 2018: [Treasurer's Presentation](#) (a financial review of the past biennium), and the 2018 – 2021 [Budget Presentation](#).

Transitions

Rev Joanna Miller finishes at St. James, Baden/ Zion Philipsburg and begins at St. Matthew's, Conestogo

Interims

Rev Olavi Hepomaki finishes at St. Ansgar, Toronto and begins at St. Luke's, Kitchener

Rev Bonnie Schelter-Brown begins as interim at St. James, Baden

Rev Rick Brown begins as interim at Zion, Philipsburg

Rev Harold Brill finishes as interim at St. Matthew's, Conestogo

CORRECTION:

Rev Mei Sum Lai from Resurrection, Orleans to Temporarily Without Call.

The Program Committee for Worship has produced "Worship Resources for the 100th Anniversary of Remembrance Day" as a resource for congregations to be used on November 11, 2018.

You can find it at http://www.worship.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2018Rembrancedayservice_v2.pdf



Upcoming Events

Bishops' Company Dinner
November 3, 2018

Seaway Ministry Area Retreat
November 4-7, 2018

For more information and to see further events click [here](#).

Vacancies

Eganville, Grace/ Augsburg, St. John's/ Bonnechere, St. John's Kitchener, St. Luke's Richmond Hill, St. Paul's Toronto, Redeemer



Congratulations to Jason Ashby and Leena Jensen who were both ordained September 28, 2018. Jason is serving Faith, Port Elgin while Leena serves St. Peter's, Alice and Grace, Rankin.



Our prayers are with Bishop Susan Johnson and Rev Davis Kaneps and their families as they both mourn the loss of their fathers.

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"Faith and Politics in an Age of Anger"



John Milloy, guest speaker
Bishops' Company Dinner
Saturday, November 3, 6:00 p.m.
Holiday Inn, Kitchener

Online death threats directed at female politicians. Cries of "lock her up" at a community BBQ. Protesters led from the legislature in handcuffs. All of this is happening in Ontario, not just in the U.S. or Europe.

What's going on here? It seems everyone is "mad as hell and not going to take this any more." Politics is more polarized than ever before.

How can people of faith participate in the political process in a constructive way? Do we have a special contribution to make to the public debate around important issues?

John Milloy is a former political staffer, Ontario MPP and cabinet minister. Today he is Director of the Centre for Public Ethics and Assistant Professor of Public Ethics at Martin Luther University College in Waterloo. He teaches at both Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Waterloo. John is also a frequent political commentator, his pieces appearing in national newspapers and online publications.

Join members of the Bishops' Company for Mission for a memorable evening of good food and stimulating ideas.



Tickets \$55 available at <https://form.jotform.com/82633754358263>

The following article written by Rev David Malina, Christ Lutheran, Waterloo was first published on the Worship Ministries site of the Eastern Synod on September 28, 2018. New topics are published to this site each week, and include seasonal resources, information on upcoming events and workshops, the sharing of sermons, prayers and other liturgical components, book reviews, and worship related items from the National Church, the other synods, ecumenical, inter-faith and international sources. You are encouraged to check out the site, add comments, and to contribute your thoughts, ideas, and to share with others what is happening in worship in your context. Find us at <http://easternsynod.org/ministries/worship/>. For more information or to contribute to the conversation, contact Kathryn Smith at: esworshipblog@gmail.com.

God Holds All

I have to admit that my first thought when hearing that the Worship Conference on the theme “Responding to Disaster” – a weighty, serious topic to be sure – would take place in the idyllic, paradise-like vacation-land of Victoria B.C. on Vancouver Island seemed too oxymoronic. Disaster in paradise? We easterners tend to think of Vancouver Island as a must-go-to destination for relaxation, decompression, and exhilarating, inspiring views. Who wants to think of disaster in such a beautiful place as Vancouver Island? We want to escape into a sealed, sanitized, insulated bubble, away from disastrous musings, sadness and heartbreak, at least while on vacation, don't we?

The reality is, of course, disaster can strike anywhere, at any time, when we least expect it, on Van-

couver Island, or anywhere else. It has the power suddenly to shatter our imaginative, sanitized bubbles. As much as we would like to believe we can escape into and insulate ourselves in these falsely-imagined bubbles, even for a short time, the reality is, we can't. The ominous “Tsunami Evacuation Route” signs along the mountainous, winding, pretty road leading into Tofino remind us of this. It's not if, but when disaster will strike. Are we prepared?

The speakers and workshop leaders underlined this message: Are we ready? Are we pastors and worship leaders prepared to offer liturgies and prayers at times of heartbreaking disasters, which help us absorb, process through, and respond to disasters when they eventually happen, both in our personal, individual lives, as well as in our corporate lives.

Keynote speaker Lizette Larson-Miller, Anglican priest and professor at Huron University College, London ON, sharpened our call to be “on the ready”, both internally, and also pastorally and liturgically for when disaster strikes. She also sounded the strong note of God's presence in and through a disaster or tragedy, of trusting God with our expressions of lament, and how all of our prayers and liturgies ultimately lead us to renewed hope in the Holy One, who is in all things, and holds all things – both joy and sorrow, both death and life – together.

Conference musician Chad Fothergill of Temple University, Philadelphia, in one of his presentations, lifted up a memorable statement: “God's world is good, not perfect.” God's world is a messy, complicated place, and in so many ways, a mystery beyond rational explanation. As Job of old stood speechless before the whirlwind of God's pres-

ence, we too stand awestruck and speechless before both the soaring beauty and goodness of God's creation, as well as the heartbreaking, gut-wrenching disasters and tragedies that befall us.

An image that stays in mind from my time on Vancouver Island this past July, arises from my visit to “Cathedral Grove” in Macmillan Provincial Park located in the ancient Douglas Fir forests of the central regions of the island. It is the image of the “nursery log”, or “nursing log”. This image speaks to me of both death and life, held together in one dynamic process. On New Year's Day 1997, an intense wind storm toppled many of the ancient, 800 yr. old, giant, towering Douglas Firs, leaving the forest floor strewn with massive fallen trees, branches and logs. Death was everywhere.

But many of these dead trees and logs became “nursery logs”, providing the necessary moist, nutrient-rich environment for new shoots, new shrubs and plants to take root and grow. The dead and rotting logs became incubators for new life. One could see this happening everywhere. Death and life held together in dynamic tension. One can't exist without the other. We can't escape this.

This pattern in creation mirrors the same pattern in our lives of faith and spirituality, where the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is central. The cross – the nexus of death and new life.

Both the Worship Conference, and the place in which it was held, for me brought together this inexplicable, complicated, messy mix of disaster, tragedy, sorrow, hope, joy and new life, all happening at the same time. And through it all, God holds all in all.



LUTHER

October 2018



Doors Open!

We hosted more than 250 visitors during our grand re-opening event, Doors Open Waterloo Region, on Sept. 15. Many Luther alumni were among the crowd. But for many others, it was their first time in our building. About 60 attended a talk by Terry Montgomery (pictured at left) who was the principal architect for the 14-month renewal project. See event photo albums on [Facebook](#) or [Flickr](#). A special THANKS to The Waterloo Region Record for publishing a [feature story](#), promoting the event, on its Faith page.

Holy Land Study Tour

We will be leading a study tour to the Holy Land in 2019. Join us in Keffer Memorial Chapel at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 6, for an information meeting. The tour takes place April 22 - May 7, 2019. Click [here](#) to view the flyer.

thirdspace_

thirdspace_, the alternative worshipping community based at Luther, meets Sundays at 10:30 a.m. (excluding holiday weekends). All welcome. Click [here](#) to learn more about this dynamic community.

Blessing and capital campaign donor appreciation

Donors to the Reform Capital Campaign, and their families, gathered at Luther on Oct. 12 for a post-renovation blessing of the facility and to receive our gratitude. The campaign raised more than \$1.5 million toward the \$9-million renewal cost. The event took the form of a house blessing. To begin, Indigenous singing and drumming drew the assembly of 100+ to the courtyard. After remarks, a reading and a prayer of blessing, people moved to five other stations throughout the building for more music, readings, remarks and prayers of blessing. View photos on [Facebook](#), [Flickr](#) or a video on [YouTube](#). Photo at top right: Virginia, Dorinda and Sabrina sing and drum in the courtyard. Bottom right: Gary Bott, Laurier staff, finishes installing our donor wall.



Events

You can find all of our events listed [online!](#)

[19](#)
[12:00 PM - 1:00 PM](#)
[Chilling With Dogs](#)

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