



THE EASTERN SYNOD

LUTHERAN

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We are an Easter people

Rev. Douglas Reble
Assistant to the Bishop

A long train ride taken at night is a wonderful experience. One sits in the car wrapped in the soft darkness, listening to the rhythm of the wheels. Tiny pinpoints of light suggest where people have settled in their houses. The rhythm of the wheels slows, and the pinpoints of light increase. Suddenly the darkness is gone and the car is flooded with light as the train pulls into a station. The glare is momentarily blinding. But there is a warm and cozy feeling as you watch the people leave the train and meet family members or friends who have been waiting. Then the whistle blows, the train shudders, and you begin to move again out into the darkness.

This moving from dark to light to dark again reflects the daily rhythms of most people. We wake with the morning light and sleep when darkness descends. Much of our world is a fearful place and our future is unknown. The darkness of uncertainty is all around us, including in the church, but

there are also tiny points of light, small flickers of hope in the night.

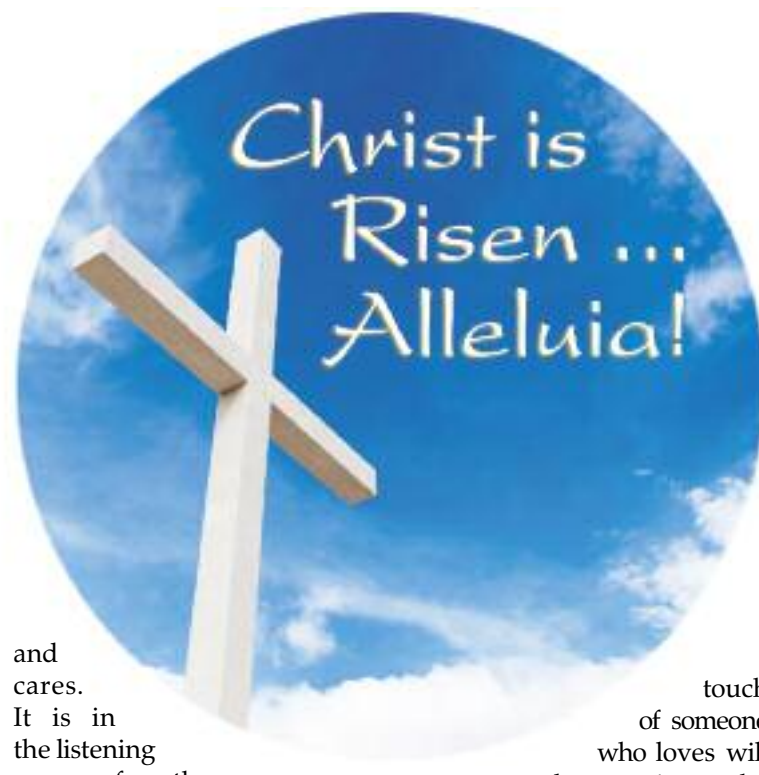
Mary Magdalene lived her life in the night of fear. Often there was little light to show her the way. When she felt at peace, she could sense the light of hope shining dimly in her soul. She moved from darkness to light, always seeking the rays of the sun to brighten her life. When she met Jesus, the darkness was banished. Her life was lived in the sunlight of the love of God.

Mary was one of the women who travelled with Jesus and ministered to him as he taught in the countryside. She heard his message and it gave meaning to her new found hope. At the time of his death the darkness must have filled her soul. But she stayed with her friend to the very end and saw where he was buried. We read of her journey to the tomb and see that just like her life, it moved from darkness to light. The Gospel of John says that while it was yet dark, Mary went to the tomb. Luke says it

all happened at early dawn. Matthew uses the phrase, "as the day was dawning," and Mark says, "very early, when the sun had risen." Each writer has more light radiating on the scene.

It must have been very dark for her as she set out, not only in reality but in her heart and mind. She had no knowledge of how to get past the soldiers, or how to move the gravestone that stood in her way. She had much to overcome before she could reach the body and anoint it with the spices she carried. Mary is walking from darkness to light. As she meets the risen Christ, light floods the scene and her night is lifted. The light of the world has come to shine in the darkness of history.

The light of Easter shines in our world. We see the light of God in the tender caress of a parent and child. It is present in the gentle touch of two lovers who have been together for many years. It is there in the counsellor's office, and in the prison cell, as someone listens



and
cares.

It is in the listening ear of the chaplain. It is experienced in the soothing touch of the nurse in the hours of pain and loneliness. The light of God is in every food bank, in every shelter for the abused and homeless, in the letter written to a politician protesting an injustice, in the eyes of everyone who sheds a tear for another's pain.

The darkness in Mary's soul was lifted by the voice of the risen Christ. The voice and

touch
of someone
who loves will
always pierce the
darkness. Whether that
person is near or far away, if
they are present in thought
and in prayer, then the light of
the love of God will shine. As
the light shines, it brings hope
to the journey of life. We are an
Easter people, living in the
light, rejoicing on the journey
from darkness to light.

A new chapter for *The Eastern Synod Lutheran*

By Beverley Cunningham
Editor

In this information age, we've never seen more rapid progress in communications than in the past 15 years. Since the widespread adoption of the Internet, we have grown accustomed to email and search engines, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Now, in seconds we can share information online, in real time, with the click of a mouse – and the cost is a mere fraction of what it costs to produce a print publication.

This quick, easy, low-cost communication has rendered print journalism a luxury. Most not-for-profit organizations



Beverley Cunningham has enjoyed five years as TESL editor.

now communicate online to take advantage of huge cost savings – and to have a positive environmental impact.

This new reality has created

a shift in our thinking about *The Eastern Synod Lutheran*. In the past few years, we've re-designed our website, making it easier to use. At the same time, we've scaled back the frequency of this newsletter and begun placing more information online.

Beginning in May, *The Eastern Synod Lutheran* (TESL) will make its way to you monthly – in electronic format. It will also be posted on the Synod website (www.eastern-synod.org). We hope that many of you already visit the website regularly and take

continued on page 2...

Now get more news, more often!

By Rev. Riitta Hepomaki
Assistant to the Bishop

The Eastern Synod Lutheran (TESL) will continue – just in a different format!

Many of you may be aware that the synod has been publishing a semi-monthly electronic newsletter, *ENotes*, since 2012. In 2013, we began emailing a printable copy of *ENotes* in the hopes that it could be shared with those who don't have online access.

Starting this May, *TESL* and *ENotes* will be combined into one monthly newsletter that preserves the name, *The Eastern Synod Lutheran*. This publication will be emailed to all pastors and congregations, as well as to current *ENotes*

subscribers. You'll still get all the news, articles, calendars, etc., – but now you'll receive your news 11 times a year!

The Eastern Synod Lutheran will be emailed mid-month and our hope is that it will be attached to congregational newsletters across the synod. To subscribe, send your name and e-mail address to ezehr@elcic.ca.

You may also want to consider subscribing to *Canada Lutheran* magazine to keep up with what's happening in all synods across the country. For information on subscribing to *Canada Lutheran*, visit elcic.ca/clweb/subinfo.html.

A new chapter... *continued from page 1*

advantage of the information posted there, such as advance notice of upcoming events, congregational news, blogs on our synod's key ministries, resources for churches and devotions.

Please continue to send in your articles for consideration. Communications staff will publish as many stories as possible in *TESL*, on the website or in the *Canada Lutheran* magazine. Assistant

to the Bishop Rev. Riitta Hepomaki oversees synod communications and Elizabeth Zehr, a member of the Synod Office staff, will co-ordinate submissions to *TESL* as well as the Eastern Synod pages of *Canada Lutheran* magazine.

We are excited about this move to online news because it will allow us to share your stories continuously, not just a few times a year!

We understand that there

may be an "adjustment period" as you transition to online news. This is to be expected, but we fully anticipate that once you grow accustomed to this new process, you'll wonder how you ever lived without it, just as we once felt about washing machines and snow blowers!

This is my final issue as *TESL* editor and I must take this opportunity to say that it has been a privilege and

delight to get to know so many congregational members, leaders and pastors – from every part of the synod. Keep your wonderful stories flowing to Liz Zehr (ezehr@elcic.ca). I look forward to reading them! Liz will ensure that your news is given a warm welcome to its new online home.

Former editors look back ...

It was all about the people!

By Karen Gastmeier
Editor, 2006 - 2009

Sometimes I found editing *The Eastern Synod Lutheran (TESL)* a somewhat lonely job. I worked alone in my home office, but strangely – in looking back – my fondest memories are of the people. Eventually I met some of you at synod and church gatherings; but there are others I haven't yet met in person. Nevertheless, our email relationships were no less real.

Our contributors constantly

amazed. No one refused my request for an article. Instead the response was, "When do you need it?" And I asked for a lot of articles ... about Christmas, Lent, Easter, same sex blessings, National Church Council and assemblies, to name just a few.

And then there were the congregational stories ... my favourites! These articles truly personified our church's charge to be *In Mission for*

Others. They showed the endlessly varied ways in which we lived that mission ... from acres of wheat grown on behalf of a hungry world, to hundreds of layettes assembled for war- and poverty-stricken areas; from fundraisers for local food banks to filling *We Care bags*.

While I'll always be proud of editing *TESL*, it wouldn't have been possible without the gentle guiding hand of my

supervisor Phil Heinze, then Assistant to the Bishop. He had a lot to teach and I had a lot to learn. We did both at monthly lunches where we reviewed and planned future editions. He was absolutely the best!

I appreciate the efforts of everyone who contributed to *TESL* and this gives me one last chance to say a fond Thank You to all.



invites our readers to send articles, news stories, letters and rebuttals to:

The Eastern Synod Lutheran
74 Weber St. W.
Kitchener, ON N2H 3Z3

Tel. 519.743.1461

Fax 519.743.4291

Email

beverley@cunninghamcommunications.ca

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Letters to the Editor

The Eastern Synod Lutheran welcomes topical letters that include name, address and phone numbers for verification. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Letters are limited to 200 words and may be edited for clarity, style and length.

Write: The Editor, *The Eastern Synod Lutheran*, 74 Weber St. W., Kitchener, Ontario, N2H 3Z3 or e-mail: ezehr@elcic.ca

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New name for a new era

By Ab Lorch

Retired Assistant to the President and the Bishop, 1979-1990

I was an Assistant to the President and the Bishop of the Eastern Synod from 1979-1990. During those years, the Committee for Communication was my responsibility and that included this publication. I was not editor except for a two-year period when we didn't have an editor and Kenn Ward and I served in that capacity.

Looking back, I recall that during the London Convention, there was an effort to stop publication but a positive synod-wide vote kept the paper alive.

And in 1986, after coming into the homes of synod families for more than 100 years as *The Eastern Synod Canada Lutheran*, this paper gave its name to the new national church magazine and *The Eastern Synod Lutheran* became the name of the official publication of the Eastern Synod. It has served us well!

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The Bishop's Journal

Better Together

Over the past few months, I have visited with many congregations and their leaders across the wide breadth of our synod. Presently I am in the midst of a series of meetings with pastors who are working within each of the 16 new ministry areas that will come into existence following this summer's Synod Assembly. Other synod representatives are meeting with other groups, providing special support and training to congregational Council members and church treasurers.

Ministry areas are geographic groupings of congregations that are being invited to work together to fulfil common mission goals, to link hands and share resources, talent and encouragement with one another as partners in ministry. These areas will be led by an area

dean and leadership team who will work with the Bishop's Office in encouraging joint programming and co-operation as well as pastoral care to our rostered ministers.

I've also, in the past few weeks, been delighted to be receiving signed copies of "A Covenant Concerning the Life and Ministry of the Eastern Synod." I am deeply gratified with the response we have had so far, especially since the annual meeting season is just coming to an end at the time of my writing.

But ultimately it's not about who or how many "sign." It's about the kind of church we have promised to be. We have been called into relationship with God and each other, to be in

mission for others. By signing the covenant, we signify our intention to be in partnership and accountable to one another as we engage in that mission.

But it goes beyond our regional and synod partnerships. This past week, I attended a meeting of the National Church Council. A week previous to that, I was part of a nation-wide Canadian Mission consultation and a meeting of the Joint Anglican Lutheran Commission. In each of these gatherings, I experienced the "better together" principle. I experienced, in flesh and blood, what it means to be able to both receive and share the gifts of a wider community.

When I was a kids' camp



Bishop Michael Pryse

counsellor, I used an object lesson where each of the campers was given an individual stick of wood and told to test it for strength. Of course they were all snapped in a second! We then gave everyone another stick and experimented to see how strong our sticks were when

bound and wrapped together. Then they were unbreakable.

In like manner, the individual parts of Christ's body become stronger and more resilient as they become closer and more connected to the whole. We are better together! In a few short months, many of us will experience that connectivity in a special way when we gather for our biennial Synod Assembly. Rhodes Corner and Sault St. Marie; Leamington and Dollard de Ormeaux, Pembroke and Niagara Falls, Waterloo and Magnetewan, Toronto and Chesley. Each individual. All unique. But all part of one body. And all better together!

+ Michael

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

It's much bigger than we thought

By Pastor Deborah Ann Taylor
Mt. Calvary, Ottawa, Ontario

The man seated beside me on an Air Canada flight in January seemed eager for conversation. He'd been rescheduled twice, kept awake for nearly 20 hours and never could sleep on planes. A chat with a total stranger helped pass the time as he endured the interminable delays of travel in a winter of endless storms.

"What are you working on?" he asked me.

"I'm writing a series of articles for our church website about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

and our church's response."

"No kidding. You Catholic?"

"No."

"Anglican?"

"I'm Lutheran," I said.

"We're a small church and we weren't one of the denominations that ran the schools, but we figure this involves us, just the same."

"It's a funny thing," he told me, "but when all that was happening, I had no idea what was going on."

"Why do you think that is?"

"I don't know. It never made the news, I guess. Might have been different if I'd lived

near one of the schools. I've gone to church all my life but I don't remember us talking about it. It just wasn't something that we heard about much and when we did, it wasn't something we thought a lot about until we were made to. My church helped run those schools. But I never had much contact with First Nations people. I never had much reason to think about it. I don't think a whole lot of people did until Harper issued the apology."

"And now?"

"Now I'm horrified. I've

read some of the testimony. When I think about those kids being forced out of their homes and taken away from their parents and being punished for speaking in their own language ... I just don't understand how it could happen. How could any right-minded, church-going person possibly think that forcing children into those schools was anything but wrong? I wish somebody would explain that, because I just don't get it."

My seat-mate was a retired public school teacher who had devoted his life to the education of children. He was also a Christian, a member of one of our partner churches. As such, he was more informed than most about this painful chapter in our collective history. While he understood that not all children raised in a residential school setting reported their experience as negative, he was haunted by the reports of physical, sexual and psychological abuse, cultural degradation and personal trauma brought to light through the work of the

Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

"Even if there weren't any reports of abuse," he said, "the idea that a civil authority could take children from their parents in this way is beyond comprehension. Can you imagine what that would do to a child? To a parent? I have three sons. If those children had been taken out of homes like mine – out of white homes – there would have been hell to pay! But they took how many kids from aboriginal homes? Why wasn't there hell to pay about those kids, too? We need to understand this. We need to figure out why this happened and why so many people – so many good Christian people – thought this was a good idea."

The questions raised by my companion on that flight are not far from those raised in "A response to the work of The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) and the ELCIC's commitment to diversity," a motion passed by the 2012 Eastern Synod Biennial Assembly. Rev. Phil

continued on page 6...



For 116 years, thousands of aboriginal children in Canada were sent to Indian Residential Schools funded by the federal government and run by the churches. They were taken from their families and communities and stripped of language, cultural identity and traditions. Canada's attempt to wipe out aboriginal cultures failed. But it left an urgent need for reconciliation between aboriginal and non-aboriginal peoples.

Bishop Michael Pryse, Rev. Karen Kuhnert and Rev. Phil Heinze attended the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) National Event in Edmonton, March 27 - 30. Each TRC national event is dedicated to one of the Seven Sacred Teachings – love, respect, courage, honesty, wisdom, humility and truth.



Congregational Life



Maryanne Themistocleous cross-stitched a vibrant reproduction of St. Mark's façade as a gift for the congregation's 100th Anniversary.

Soli Deo Gloria Celebration inspires special gift

By Diane Bonfonte
St. Mark's, Kitchener, Ont.

In 1913, German customs and language dominated daily life in Berlin (now Kitchener), Ontario, but on February 2 of that year, our congregation was officially organized in Concordia Hall and named **First English Lutheran Church**.

On that day, mission developer Rev. M.J. Bieber held two English services that included confirmation and baptism. A new generation wanted to worship, teach, socialize and conduct business in English. It was a time of great prosperity and growth, as well as some anxiety and fear. Change took hold and three years later, residents voted for the City of Berlin to be re-named Kitchener.

On February 2, 2014, two

services included 'Thanksgiving of Baptism' – beginning our 102nd year with God's eternal light continuing to draw us around the word, altar and font.

Also, to complete our 100th anniversary celebrations, we unveiled and dedicated the project shown here (which took almost two years to cross-stitch). St. Mark's member, Maryanne Themistocleous, catalogued 2,503 hours, 140,960 stitches – with 47 colours of thread. Now framed and hanging in a main hallway, her gift was dedicated in memory of family – all members of First English and/or St. Mark's. Maryanne's digitalized patterns will be on display (from February until April) along

with photos of her work's progress to completion, including a photo of Maryanne's last stitch (expressing much relief and joy)!

Also, February 5 marked the 75th anniversary of the official opening and dedication of our original building, which opened in 1939. Its front edifice is depicted in this artwork. Former pastor Rev. Dr. J. Maurer remarked, "... this building is a challenge to go forth as a mighty influence in this community" As we begin our 102nd year, St. Mark's continues to respond to these words. Blessed by God's abiding love and grace, we say, *Thanks be to God!*

St. Paul's, Bridgewater, celebrates its history

By Peter C. Oickle

Historian at St. Paul's, Bridgewater, N.S.
Desbrisay Museum Commission Chair

The Desbrisay Museum, Bridgewater, N.S., has joined in the celebrations of two local churches as they recognize significant milestones in their history. St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran is celebrating 160 years, and St. Joseph's Roman Catholic is celebrating 125 years. The two churches have been part of the town since before its incorporation in 1899. The local museum has created an exhibit of artifacts, pictures and other relevant materials from the past of both churches.

St. Paul's was formed in 1854, under the pastorate of Rev. Charles E. Cossman of Zion, Lunenburg. Until that time, Pastor Cossman conducted worship at many sites throughout the county, traveling 3,000 miles or more annually on horseback. By 1854, a large Lutheran population was residing in the Bridgewater area, and they began forming into a parish.

By 1855, Rev. W.W. Bowers arrived to assist Pastor Cossman, and in 1859 the members of St. Paul's entered into a contract with Rev. Bowers, who was recommend-

ed to the county by Rev. W.A. Passavant of Pittsburgh. Rev. Passavant was on his way to Europe, to the General Council, when his ship struck rocks off the coast of Newfoundland. They landed in Halifax, and it was there that he heard of the large Lutheran membership in Lunenburg. On his return to the USA, Rev. Passavant corresponded with Rev. Cossman and was instrumental in sending the young Rev. Bowers.

Rev. Bowers became St. Paul's first pastor in 1859, and services were conducted solely in English. It was for Rev. Bowers that the parsonage on Pleasant Street extension was built. The land was set aside by the Lutheran Land Company, a co-operative of men who had joint ownership of this section of town and reaped financial rewards from sale of lots.

The Lutheran congregation at Bridgewater also helped establish the local non-denominational cemetery, Brookside, which replaced many church graveyards. Dean Wile, an active member of the congregation, conveyed the land to the town and it is

now one of the community's registered municipal heritage sites.

Rev. Bowers resigned from St. Paul's when the U.S. Civil War broke out. As a graduate of the Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg, he had a keen interest in the war news and was eager to return to his homeland. However, he did not remain there long and returned to Bridgewater in the hopes of resuming his duties at St. Paul's. But Rev. Daniel F. Hutchinson had accepted the duties, and thus started a period of great unrest and lawsuits that left their mark on the congregation for years.

During this anniversary year, the congregation will hold several special events. Plans are underway for vignettes in the church and an anniversary dinner.

The congregation was delighted to offer historical artifacts to the museum for its display. The exhibit opened on January 26 and was attended by the community and members of both parishes.

An exquisite sanctuary marks 100 years



A century of worship in a neo-gothic, cathedral-style worship space in downtown Kitchener, Ont., is being observed by St. Matthews' congregation in 2014 and 2015. The cornerstone of this historic structure on the corner of Benton and Charles Streets was laid on May 24, 1914. This year, on May 25, a service of remembrance and celebration will feature former pastors, Rev. Harold Brill and Rev. Shirley Ruller as worship leaders, as well as former music director Jan Overduin at the organ. A time capsule will be buried and a lunch will follow at the Walper Hotel. This promises to be an exciting year as the congregation looks ahead to the next 100 years of its building and worship space, exploring and working toward meeting ministry needs within our current social, economic and spiritual context.

Around the synod

St. John's, Bonnechere, celebrates 150 years!

By Lorna V. Turner
St. John's, Bonnechere, Council Chair



Members of St. John's, Bonnechere, embrace the celebratory spirit (l-r): Rick Schroeder, Council; Dianne Boyle, Council and Anniversary Committee; Pastor Charles Nolting; Marilyn Mundt, Anniversary Committee; Lorna Turner, Council and Anniversary Committee; Michelle Myles, Council; Lois Elie, lifetime member; and Ralph Mundt, Anniversary Committee.

Members of this tiny Ottawa Valley parish are giving ourselves a big round of applause for a job well done!

For our 150th Anniversary, we held a special activity for each month throughout 2013, including special services with Bishops Huras and Pryse as guest speakers. We were also visited by pastors who had previously served the congregation, including Pastor Charles Deckert, Pastor William Brown and Pastor Fred Haak. We had hoped to have Pastor D. Krantz join us as well; unfortunately his health would not permit this.

In November, we celebrated

Martin Luther's birthday by showing a film on his life. The congregation created calendars, history books and bookmarks as memorabilia.

When the church burned in 1981 and was rebuilt, the bell did not get replaced. In 2012, the congregation agreed that, as an Anniversary project, carillon bells would be installed. The new bells rang out on January 1, 2013 – a couple of minutes late – due to an inexperienced bell ringer (- yours truly).

As another special project, we decided to raise donations to dig a well through CLWR's "Gifts from the Heart"

program. Not only did we dig the well, we had surplus funds to purchase a water storage and diversion system as well as a treadle pump.

We also contributed to the Sweater Fund, our local Food Bank and Operation Christmas Child. And by the way – our confirmed membership is 49 members!

It was a busy, fun-filled year and our theme was – "The King of Love My Shepherd Is." Oh how God has loved and provided for us and to us in the past year – just as for the previous 149.

Thanks be to God!

Summer chapel celebrates 50 years!

By Cal Diegel
Christ the King Chapel, Sauble Beach, Ont.

Fifty years ago, Christ the King Chapel, Sauble Beach, was the vision of few with the support of many – and the opposition of some.

The tattered former school was hardly fit for worship. For decades, windows were shuttered and the roof leaked. The locked door was destroyed by vandals. The interior was in ruins and fires had been attempted. A former teacher's chair was the only remaining item in the place, but the building remained strong. Many suggested the rent of a dollar a year was far too much.

The idea of a chapel caught

the imagination of the remaining trustees of SS# 11, Amabel Township, as did the possibility of saving a heritage building – and its story. With their remaining treasury, they restored the building. An appeal to congregations soon had the chapel refurnished and we were ready for worship. Christ the King was dedicated by Canada Synod President Dr. Albert Lotz.

In the past 50 years, many annual improvements have taken place. Pews were installed, the ancient pump organ replaced, electric lights were installed and the chapel enjoyed a succession of gifts

from dozens of congregations.

In 2013, in anticipation of the 50th anniversary, the chapel was completely redecorated, made totally accessible, and an addition was built.

The Association owns a comfortable cottage for its summer leaders. Seminarians from various seminaries have served here. Perhaps their training is our greatest gift to the Church.

Christ the King is located on the Sauble River at Sable Falls, midway between Sauble Beach and Oliphant. It is owned and operated by the Lutheran Association of Sauble Beach, and it is the blessed

Congregational Classifieds


Christ the King, Sauble Beach, ON – Celebrates 50 Years!
Christ the King Chapel, Sauble Beach (at the falls) is open from Easter to Thanksgiving. Service at 10:00 a.m. Join us for Anniversary Sunday, August 17.

Zion, Schwartz, QC – 100th Anniversary May 4
Zion celebrates its 100th Anniversary, Sunday, May 4. Bishop Michael Pryse is guest preacher at the 10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion. A celebratory dinner will follow at Thorne Community Recreation Centre, Ladysmith, at 12:00 noon. Zion's faith community invites former members and friends to join us as we give thanks for God's rich blessings. Dinner tickets (\$15) may still be ordered by phoning 819-453-7881 or 819-647-5316.

St. Matthews, Kitchener, ON – Celebrates May 4
Sunday, May 4, at 4:00 p.m., St. Matthews hosts a hymn sing with Mark Diller-Harder, Peter Nikiforuk and concert with Menno Singers to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Sanctuary. Reception to follow. Tickets \$10. Phone church office at (519) 742-0462.

Summer job opportunity at St. Ansgar, North Toronto
St. Ansgar seeks a Vacation Bible School co-ordinator for its 2014 summer program. Job includes planning, organizing and executing a one-week, half-day program. Please email your resume by April 30, 2014 to admin@stansgar.ca.

St. Paul's, Wallace Twp, ON – Celebrating 150 Years
St. Paul's celebrates its 150th Anniversary on April 27 at 11:00 a.m. Bishop Michael Pryse is guest preacher. Lunch follows the service. All present and previous members, friends and families are welcome to join in this joyous celebration. RSVP to lwp@eastlink.ca or 519-291-3621.



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result of a 50-year-old vision that consisted of three threads:

1. The chapel would be independent. Its members would hail from all Lutherans Church bodies without distinction.
2. It would be a faith ministry maintained by the gifts of its members.
3. It would be lay lead. Twelve individuals form the governance core. Our 2014 Management Committee Chair is Michael Schuster of Hamilton, Ont., and our Trustee Chair is Bud Huth, of Guelph, Ont.

In the past 50 years, we have dedicated ourselves to

proclamation of the gospel – through children's programs, Bible study, fellowship events and Sunday worship. The chapel has hosted weddings and baptisms and increasingly it welcomes many from outside the Lutheran family.

God has been gracious, blessing us with good times as well as challenges that have stretched us.

Our 50th Anniversary Service takes place on August 17, at 10:00 a.m. We welcome all to celebrate with us. Come enjoy the beauty of the Bruce Peninsula, and join us in praise and thanksgiving at Christ the King Chapel.

It's much bigger than we thought

... continued from page 3

Heinze, Director of Public Policy and Service Ministries, explained the rationale behind the motion in these words:

At first, our interest in the work of the TRC came about through our relationship with our ecumenical partners, who had been involved first-hand in running the schools. But it wasn't long before we realized that this is about something much bigger than we thought. This is about the attitudes and cultural beliefs that were at the very root of the residential schools. Our own attitudes and actions contributed to the cultural climate that supported a policy of assimilation based on the repression of aboriginal culture. The more we looked into this, the more we realized that we, too, were responsible.

In passing this motion,

delegates recognized that the question, "How could this happen," is a question about us: What are the attitudes and cultural convictions that led to the establishment of the residential schools? How are these same attitudes and convictions present in our lives today? What is racism and how does it function in society and in church? How can we move toward new relationships with Indigenous people and toward a more diverse and inclusive community of faith?

As our plane taxied toward the gate at the Ottawa airport, I asked the gentleman beside me for permission to share our conversation in my articles. He readily agreed and said, "I think the more we talk about this in our churches, the healthier we will be. It's a hard

conversation to have, but hard conversations, if you have a little faith, tend to bring us to a better place than when we started."

Wise words, indeed, and faithful.

This article is the first of six aimed at exploring these questions. The articles will be published on the Eastern Synod website as a resource for you and your congregation. Each one will evolve from interviews with persons active in the implementation of the 2012 Assembly resolution. You are invited to watch the Synod E-Notes for notice of their publication and to reproduce them for use in your community of faith.

If you do not have access to the internet, and require a printed copy of the articles, please notify Pastor Deborah Ann Taylor at P.O. Box 370, Woodlawn, Ontario K0A 3M0.

SAVE THE DATE: September 24

WLS Women's Auxiliary 101st Annual Meeting!

Waterloo Lutheran Seminary's Women's Auxiliary is hosting its 101st Annual Meeting on September 24 at St. John's, Waterloo, Ont. Our guest speaker is Rev. Dr. Mark Harris who will talk about clinical

training for pastors. Please mark your calendars; all are welcome! This is a great day to meet seminary students and enjoy fellowship, worship and music. For more information, please visit our web-site at

seminary.wlu.ca/womens-auxiliary.php. or contact: Women's Auxiliary President Brenda Stockman: Telephone: 519-747-5840 or E-mail dbstockman@rogers.com

South Dundas Lutheran Community Church born from recent merger... continued from page 8

discussions and meetings were all initiated at the level of the people in the pews, and not the clergy. The pastor attended meetings, but did not have a vote.

The process was guided by the eight-person Partnership Committee with equal representation from St. Peter's and St. Paul's.

This bottom-up approach is also evident in how the pastor is paid. In this church, the people of the church pay for the pastor, and not the wider church organization as is the case in many other denominations.

The merger is largely about financial details and governance. The new entity has one bank account and is in the process of forming a joint council.

Once that joint council is formed, it will still be up to the congregation to continue to ensure that the Lutheran denomination maintains a presence here, into the future.

"This area is the hub of Lutheranism. It is important for us to maintain a presence here," said Pastor Norine Gullons. "This church (St. Paul's) was built in 1875, and St. Peter's in 1865. We are hoping to maintain this history, while moving forward. This process of renewal is so important in the ministry of the congregation."

Outside geographical South Dundas, the nearest Lutheran churches are in Brockville, Ottawa and Montreal.

The South Dundas Lutheran Community Church holds worship in both the

Morrisburg and Williamsburg churches, and maintains one parsonage in Williamsburg. The Morrisburg parsonage was sold in 2007.

They hold one service each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. The location switches monthly between Morrisburg and Williamsburg. Whether the church continues to operate the two buildings and parsonage into the future will be up to the congregation and the new council.

"We thank Pastor Norine Gullons and our Synod Office, under Bishop Michael Pryse for their guidance, encouragement and prayer throughout the process," added Gruetzner. "It was a good process," said Lois Rosenquist, co-ordinator of the Partnership Committee. "I'm glad we were able to meet

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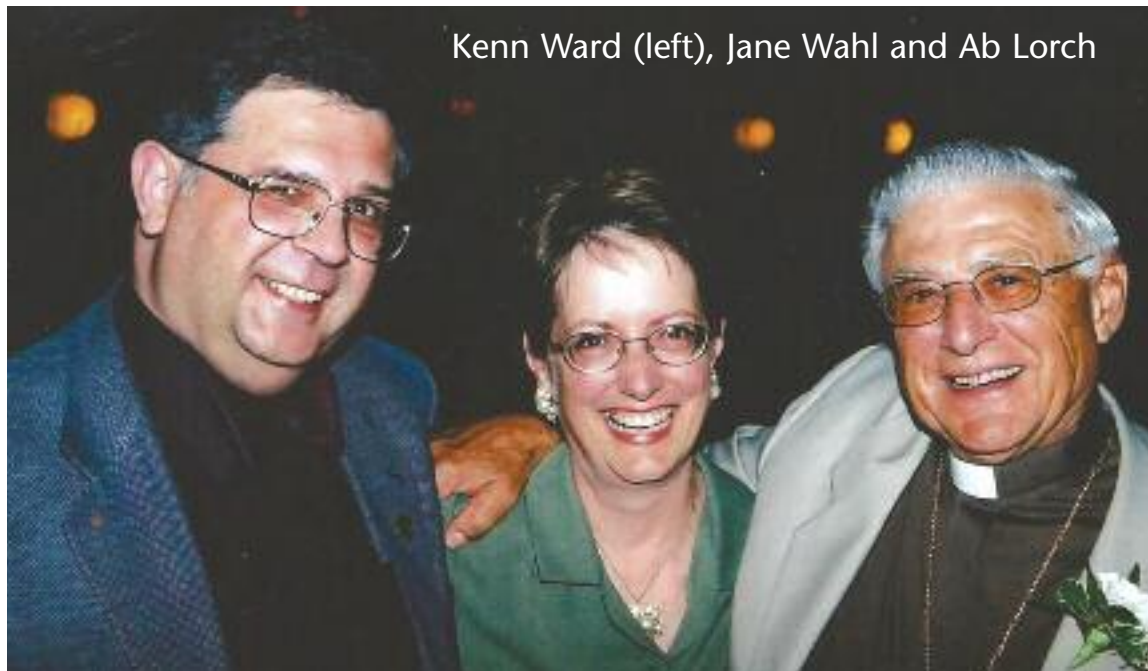
Graphic by Catherine Crivici
Photo on right by Rebecca Comfort
Photo on left by Russel Garlough

St. Paul's, Morrisburg, Ont. (right) and St. Peter's, Williamsburg, Ont.

our goal of becoming one congregation by the end of 2013. We were guided by a timeline we set in the early meetings. Everyone in the group participated and discussions were lively. It was time consuming, but rewarding.

Our congregations have accomplished something special with this renewal."

Former editors look back ... continued from page 2



Kenn Ward (left), Jane Wahl and Ab Lorch

I co-edited the synod's paper in 1981-1982. This was BC (before computers). I could not have done it without the support and able coaching of Ab Lorch. The experience gave me a broad knowledge and appreciation for the people and congregations of the synod as well as the life of the synod, its institutions, staff and committees. In my work as editor of Canada Lutheran that education has proved to be as valuable as the things I later learned in journalism classes at Ryerson. – Kenn Ward, Editor, 1981-1982

Remembering two decades of TESL

By Jane Wahl
Editor, 1983-2003

Challenging times, satisfying times, frustrating times, fun times (even hilarious at times!), but mostly changing times. The beginning of my 20-year tenure at the paper saw huge changes. It was, at that time, *The Canada Lutheran*, the publication of the Eastern Canada Synod of the Lutheran Church in America.

It had traditionally been edited by synod pastors and was a mix of congregational news and theological dissertations. Not only was I the first lay person to take the helm, but also the first woman. And the mandate had changed. It had transitioned to a paper for the people in the pews – by

those people.

When the ELCIC was created, we experienced another change when we offered the name of our publication to the National Church.

Then came desk-top publishing! It was a learning curve for me but gave me much more control over the layouts and content and allowed me to take even more 'ownership' of the publication.

My fondest memories are of the relationships that developed through the years – with bishops, synod staff, Communications Committee members, pastors and all the 'people in the pews' who

contributed articles that formed the heart of the paper. They are all treasured. Some of these relationships have become long-term friendships, and we still get together for regular lunches.

One constant was the perennial battle with the post office and the never-ending changes to their rules for bulk mail, and the struggles with the government for subsidies. It saddens me to hear that the subsidies have disappeared, and along with them, the ability for the synod to continue mailing this paper.

Another sign of the "changing times."

Special Appeals for 2014

Throughout the year, most congregations receive numerous solicitations from charitable agencies requesting financial support for a variety of causes. Some of these requests originate within the synod. Many more come from external sources.

In an effort to provide a responsible means for managing the number of solicitations and to provide some guidance to congregations, sponsors of appeals are required to seek approval from Synod Council before they are permitted to approach congregations directly. Each year, Synod Council reviews these requests and determines which appeals to authorize for

the following year.

In addition to regular benevolence, Canadian Lutheran World Relief and the ELCIC Praise Appeal, Synod Council has authorized the following special appeals for 2014:

- **Outdoor Ministry** – envelope in *The Eastern Synod Lutheran*
- **Lutheran Campus Ministry** – Student Recognition Sunday (September)
- **The Eastern Synod Lutheran**
- **Canadian Missions** – Partners In Mission Program
- **St. Peter's, Kitchener** (Television Ministry Appeal)
- **Edgewood Camp and Conference Centre** – (Kitchener-Waterloo,

London, Hamilton-Niagara, Toronto and Georgian Bay Conferences only) - a three-year redevelopment appeal, subject to approval from the applicable conferences.

- **Youth and Young Adult Endowment Fund** – ongoing appeal in support of Youth and Young Adult ministries

In addition to the synod-wide authorized appeals listed here, each congregation may also identify other causes they wish to support.

Donations to any special appeal are understood to be above and beyond, not in lieu of, regular benevolence offerings.

Report of the Treasurer

2013 Actual: \$1,503,426 (pre-audit)

2012 Actual: \$1,545,323

2013 Budget: \$1,596,300

Thank you, congregations and members across the Eastern Synod, for the partnership you have demonstrated over the past year through your generous offerings designated for the work of the wider church!

These offerings fund a variety of vibrant and important ministries of the Eastern Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, extending the reach of your congregation's mission across Canada and the world. In addition to the \$1,500,000 of offerings that support the synod's operating budget, more than \$340,000 was remitted through the Synod Office for the work of Canadian Lutheran World Relief and another \$39,000 toward the ELCIC Praise Appeal. A special "thank you" to congregations that increased their offerings over 2012 and/or went above and beyond their 2013 commitment!

Although 2013 offerings for regular benevolence decreased from 2012 and fell short of budget, higher than budgeted investment returns combined with several budget lines that were underspent enabled us to end the year in a break-even position. More details about 2013 financial results and the 2014 budget will be available in my reports to the upcoming Spring conference meetings and Assembly 2014.

I look forward to your continued partnership in the year ahead.

Keith Myra
Eastern Synod Treasurer

Pastoral opportunities

The following congregations are seeking a pastor. For more information, please contact Rev. Doug Reble, Assistant to the Bishop. Tel: 519-743-1461 Toll-free: 1-877-373-5242 Email: dreble@elcic.ca.

Atlantic Conference:

All Saints (Newcombville), Bridgewater, NS
Grace Evangelical and Zion Evangelical, Lunenburg, NS
St. John's, Mahone Bay, NS

Ottawa/St. Lawrence Conference:

St. John's, Arnprior, ON
St. Paul's, Monteval, QC

Please visit the synod website www.easternsynod.org for more information and regular updates on pastoral opportunities.

Ministry changes

Jun Gao, St. Paul's, Magnetawan, Ont., to Emmanuel, Toronto, Ont., and St. Paul's, Toronto, Ont.

Tim Hegedus, resigned from roster

Rev. Rebecca Klages, TWC to South Grey Bruce Parish, ON

Philip Mathai, TWC to Mount Zion, Waterloo, Ont.

Revs. Daniela and Thomas Mertz, from St. Paul's, Leamington, ON, to St. John's, Hamilton, ON

Key:
TWC – Temporarily without call

"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people."

Ephesians 1:18



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South Dundas Lutheran Community Church born from recent merger

By Rebecca Comfort
Morrisburg Leader Staff
Reprinted with permission

After years of preparation and effort, the two-point parish of St. Paul's Lutheran, Morrisburg, and St. Peter's Lutheran, in Williamsburg, has merged to become one congregation with a new name, the South Dundas Lutheran Community Church. It officially took effect January 1, 2014.

When a church performs five funerals in a year, and only one baptism, that figure very bluntly depicts the difficult trend churches everywhere are facing.

In these times when the population is aging while people have smaller families, fewer people are finding time for worship in their busy lives.

Churches everywhere are facing the need for renewal through different processes. Locally, these Lutheran churches are the latest to undergo renewal through merger.

Always being a progressive congregation, in fact, the first Lutheran congregation in Canada to admit a female pastor in 1975, St. Paul's conversationally and through various informal meetings initiated discussions about the future of the church in 2010.

Those discussions led to similar discussions and meetings with their sister parish, St. Peter's, as the two-point parish considered how to move forward to sustain a Lutheran presence in the community into the future.

The people in the pews felt strongly that they needed to take action and do something to maintain control over their church's future. The alternative would have been to sit and watch the trend unfold, to the point that they would lose everything, including control over their assets, just trying to keep the doors open.

St. Paul's first attempted to pass a motion to merge with St. Peter's and close St. Paul's, if necessary. It was defeated in early 2011.

Later that year, in October, St. Paul's successfully passed a motion to merge with St. Peter's. This time, the closure of the church, which like the closure of any church is a touchy subject, was omitted from the motion and it received approval.

St. Peter's passed a similar resolution approving the partnership in early 2013. The Bishop's approval followed

later that year.

A Partnership Committee was formed and worked toward a mutually beneficial merger.

"It was the will of the congregation to initiate this process," said Volker Gruetzner, chair of St. Paul's church council.

The Partnership Committee worked diligently and methodically to lessen the impact of the changes on their fellow parishioners.

"We both gave up our names, so we are both on equal footing," said Russel Garlough, chair of the St. Peter's church council.

The new name was also selected, to leave the possibility open for other South Dundas Lutheran churches in Riverside Heights and Dunbar, to join them, if they wish. "We want them to join us," said Gruetzner, adding that goodwill between churches already exists and is more and more necessary for survival.

The Lutheran Church has a bottom-up approach to congregational changes like this one. Meaning that these

continued on page 6...

AUGSBURG FORTRESS
CANADA



Whirl is a brand new three-year curriculum that follows the Revised Common Lectionary. Launching for use in Fall 2014, you can now preview materials by ordering a free sample pack, checking out content online, and participating in sample Sunday on April 27th. Call, or visit us online for more details.



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