



THE EASTERN SYNOD

LUTHERAN

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In this Issue | 3 The Bishop's Journal | 4 Introducing prayer flags | 5 Celebrating women's ordination | 7 ELFEC distributes \$3 million

Does your congregation have a vision?

By Janet Weber

St. Paul's, Cambridge, Ont.
Member of the Eastern Synod Council

In these rapidly changing times, many congregations are asking questions such as *What is God's vision for our congregation?* or *What is God calling us to do, in this place, in this time?*

Questions like these are also being asked by our Eastern Synod and National Church Councils. We know that we have a common mission – we exist to be *In Mission for Others*. We are seeking to spread God's love in our local communities and throughout the world, in many and various ways.

As members of the Eastern Synod, we have a Vision Statement (see right) that is a starting point for congregations and other ministry groups to help us identify ways we can respond to the needs of others. Our Vision Statement names five mission priorities: spirited discipleship,

diversity, compassionate justice, a focused framework and effective partnerships.

Resources have been developed to help us explore these mission priorities including a short skit that can be used to introduce them. The skit can be used in worship, at a congregational gathering or with small groups. Suggestions for small group discussion are also available to help begin the conversation. *Hearts for Ministry Devotions* is a series of 12 meditations available to be used with Church Council, seniors' groups, choirs, Sunday school teachers and all committees.

Resources can be accessed through the synod website: www.easternsynod.org. Click on *About Us*, then *Our Vision Statement*. At the bottom of the page, select *Hearts for Ministry*



Janet Weber

which will lead to these tools.

We pray that your congregation or ministry group will embrace our five mission priorities. May God bless us and our ministries as we journey toward the vision that God has for our church.

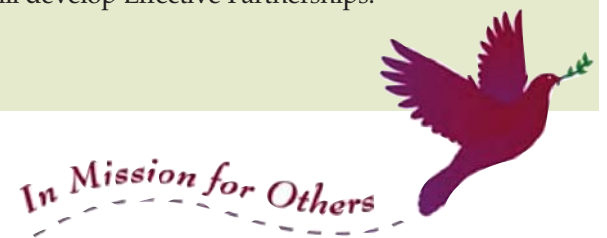
Our Vision:

We are a Church in Mission for Others

Through the Gospel, God calls the whole church to be engaged in mission in response to the needs of others, celebrating what God has done and continues to do through us. Relying on the gifts of the Spirit, we will develop ministries that will inspire and equip us to care for others through the mission work of the synod, conferences, congregations, and specialized ministries. As members of the Eastern Synod, we will help one another to embrace our vocations as ministers of the Gospel.

Our 5 Mission Priorities

- We will practice Spirited Discipleship.
- We will welcome Diversity.
- We will demonstrate Compassionate Justice.
- We will establish a Focused Framework.
- We will develop Effective Partnerships.



Praying for others – at Queen's Park

By Rev. Phil Heinze,

Eastern Synod Director, Public Policy and Service Ministries



Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition Chair Rev. Dr. Susan Eagle (left) watches as Bishop Pryse adds a pebble of hope to a bowl as a symbol of strengthening the foundation of justice in our world.

Rev. Dr. Susan Eagle, Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition (ISARC) Chair and a United Church clergyperson assembled concerned faith people from Toronto and surrounding areas in front of the Ontario Legislature on Budget Day, April 24, to pray for others. They also called on the government to craft a budget that protects the common good, values individuals and their livelihood, and helps lift the burden on the poor, rather than increasing it while shielding the wealthiest from additional responsibility.

Bishop Michael Pryse was one of the faith group leaders who led the prayers for others. Prayers were offered for all those who hunger because they are poor; all those who are homeless; for children

without adequate care and early education; all those who are impoverished by too low wages; for fairness in taxation, that each citizen might rightly contribute to building a stronger society; for equitable treatment for everyone employed in this province; for corporations - that they may truly become contributors to society's well-being; for people of faith that we may act with compassion and justice with our whole lives; and for justice and respect for every person in the province of Ontario, whatever their situation.

As each faith leader concluded their prayers, they added a pebble to a bowl at the podium while those gathered said: "We add this pebble of

continued on page 6...

Lutherans and Mennonites study forgiveness and healing

By Pastor Joanna Miller
Zion, Phillipsburg, Ont.

Lutherans and Mennonites from four congregations joined together to complete a four-session study about the Lutheran Apology to Anabaptists for past wrongs and the forgiveness and reconciliation that has been found. Pastor Olavi Hepomaki of St. James, Baden, Ont., and Pastor Joanna Miller of Zion, Phillipsburg, Ont., were approached by the pastors of Steinman Mennonite and Wilmot Mennonite Churches to see if they were interested in participating together in this study. A discussion between the four pastors ensued regarding the planning and execution of the study as a Lenten offering in all four congregations. A group of approximately 30 attendees met successively in each church for one evening's session.

Participants enjoyed learning about Reformation history, the meaning of forgiveness and the new relationship between the two churches as we move forward



Pastors at four Southwestern Ontario churches led a unique study program, "Healing Memories, Reconciling in Christ," during Lent. (L-R) Pastors Dave Rogalsky (Wilmot Mennonite, New Hamburg) Olavi Hepomaki (St. James, Baden), Joanna Miller (Zion, Phillipsburg) and Ilene Bergen (Steinmann Mennonite, Baden) helped participants from both denominations come to a greater understanding of Anabaptist and Lutheran history, faith and beliefs.

together. Because Lutherans and Mennonites live in close proximity and in large numbers in Wilmot Township, many expressed an appreciation for a greater understanding of the faith and beliefs of their Anabaptist\Lutheran brothers and sisters, among whom they have grown, lived, and often married. It is the hope of all participants that this is the beginning of a good, long relationship between Lutheran and Mennonite congregations in the area.

For more information about the study, "Healing Memories, Reconciling in Christ," see the ELCIC website (www.elcic.ca). We encourage you to seek out your Anabaptist brothers and sisters to get to know each other!



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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Genesis 9:16



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The Bishop's Journal

We dare to share because we care

Bishop Pryse issued the following pastoral letter to the Eastern Synod on March 24, 2012.

Could you run your household on 45 per cent of your 1986 income? It's unlikely. And yet, that is precisely the case for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. While offerings to the most local expression of the Church – congregations – have kept pace with the rate of inflation, further remittances to synods and the National Church have dropped dramatically. We have all, both congregationally and synodically, been holding our purses close, to the point where our beloved Church is greatly diminished in its capacity to be all that we would want or hope it to be. It needs to stop.

In March, I sat through a meeting where our National Church leaders were informed that several of their synodical funding partners would be drastically reducing their offerings in support of an already diminished budget. In

the face of this reality, the National Church Council was reluctantly put in the position of having to end several programs that are vital to maintaining a national denominational identity.

The National Church Council made major cuts to our global mission program, cut the planned giving program, and shaved many other program areas. The only reason worship and youth programming were not cut was because Council passed a deficit budget. But that can't continue. Although there were no staff cuts, National Office staff has already been reduced by one third in the past four years. To its credit, the Council refused to pass its cuts along to national and international partners such as KAIROS, the Canadian Council of Churches, Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches. I was so proud of our leaders. They cut themselves, rather than hurt others.

That is why I returned

home determined to do what I could to turn the tide. I challenged our Synod Council, conference deans and ministry directors to join me in raising \$100,000 of Praise Appeal funding for the ELCIC. Every penny will go to make up for our negligence in supporting the national and international ministries of our Church; not a penny to the synod. To a person they were enthusiastically supportive!

As such, we have designated Pentecost Sunday, May 27, 2012, as ELCIC Praise Appeal Sunday. We have challenged ourselves to make up for the shortfalls in our ELCIC budget. We must do it and we can do it! *We dare to share because we care!*

I am asking every leader in our synod to challenge every member to make "second mile gifts" to fix this very fixable situation. We have the means to do so and we know it. What remains to be demonstrated is whether we have the will to do so, and I think we do.

For the past three years, our

synod has increased its annual benevolence offerings to the ELCIC by one per cent of our total income, with a goal of eventually reaching 25 per cent and beyond. We have a long way to go but are moving up steadily at a time when other synods are making drastic cuts that are having a profoundly negative impact on our church's ability to do the work we have asked it to do. That means that we need to do better – and quicker.

My wife, Lois, and I will be making a significant gift in support of this appeal and we challenge you to do likewise. While we would prefer that you provide gifts through your congregation, designated to the "ELCIC Praise Appeal," you can also send designated gifts directly to the synod or contribute via the "Donate" link on our website (at www.easternsynod.org).

Don't rob Peter to pay Paul by altering your regular gifts in support of your congregation, church-wide benevolence or CLWR! We're talking extra-



+ Michael

designated gifts. And if we do it, I am sure that when our National Bishop Susan joins us in Waterloo in early July, we will be able to report that we have filled the gap and that the \$100,000 shortfall has been made up! And if it's not, dear delegates, be sure that I will be passing the hat for pledges until it is made up! I mean it. Be forewarned!

The internship bridge – Connecting the ELCIC east and west

By Anna Thede and Agnes Cassleman on behalf of the Internship Committee
St. Peter's, Ottawa, Ont.

Each year, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary (WLS) and the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon (LTS), look for churches that are willing and able to be internship sites for seminarians. The directors of contextual education, working together with bishops and pastors, look for sites and supervisors who will provide excellent learning experiences.

There are many reasons a congregation, agency and pastor would choose to take on an intern:

- It's a growth experience for the congregation and supervising pastor and brings new vitality and energy to a congregation or agency's life.
- Internships help develop strong leaders. Leaders need to be supported as they seek to follow God's call and build up the church.
- Interns contribute signifi-

cantly to the congregations in which they are placed.

The Holy Spirit guides congregations and agencies in this vital ministry.

The internship of Anna Thede at St. Peter's, Ottawa, bridges east and west in providing a unique internship experience.

At St. Peter's, three paths converged for the 2011-12 academic year: St. Peter's offered itself as a potential internship site to WLS. LTS was in need of a seventh internship site for an affiliate student. And Anna, a candidate for rostered ministry from the ELCIC Synod of Alberta and the Territories attending Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, was ready to intern. As a result, St. Peter's, LTS, and Anna are sharing a journey of learning, witnessing and formation.

Rev. Dr. Barton Beglo,

pastor at St. Peter's, and Anna began their journey as supervisor and intern by attending a Fall Internship Retreat hosted by LTS in Saskatoon. In Ottawa, the internship program was discussed, supported, and promoted by members of the lay Internship Committee. The four members of this committee work together with Anna, Dr. Beglo and the wider congregation to ensure that meaningful and challenging learning experiences are presented and reflected on.

In March 2012, LTS's Academic Dean Rev. Dr. Gordon Jensen and Chair of Theology William Hordern travelled to St. Peter's for a site visit. Dr. Jensen met with Dr. Beglo, Anna and the Internship Committee to talk about her internship, the program and the relationship between the seminary and the wider church community. As



St. Peter's Internship Committee encourages other congregations to consider supporting the internship program and benefiting from this unique faith experience. Committee members and advisors include (L – R): Dr. Crystal Sissons, Dr. Barton Beglo, Agnes Casselman, Intern Anna Thede, Jean Ringhofer and Dr. Gordon Jensen (LTS Saskatoon). Missing from photo: George McLaughlin.

part of Dr. Jensen's time in Ottawa, he also preached and attended a Bible study – part of a series written by Anna. His visit strengthened St. Peter's new partnership with LTS.

When reflecting on this internship, we see it as an amazing and wondrous event! A student from the Alberta and the Territories Synod attending Lutheran Theological Seminary in

Gettysburg, interning through LTS-Saskatoon, learning and contributing to worship at St. Peter's, Ottawa. This is the work of the Holy Spirit bringing the Church together – from all over this country and beyond. Doing God's work in the formation of a gifted young church leader. Bridging indeed!



Congregational Life

From Tibet to Woodstock, Bethany adopts prayer flags

By Ron Thomson

Woodstock Sentinel-Review
Reprinted with permission

Bethany Lutheran Church [Woodstock, Ont.] was surrounded by colour during Pentecost this year.

Colourful prayer flags were displayed outside the church May 27 to cap off the flag project, which started off in Tibet last year.

Bethany parishioner Esther Mueller went on a trip to Tibet with her husband last year and became captivated by the Buddhist prayer flags.

"The first time I saw them in real life they were just hanging," Mueller said. "The wind wasn't blowing and they were beautiful. When the wind starts blowing you can see them flutter. You almost feel energy in them. I just found them fascinating."

She brought some prayer flags home and the church decided to adopt the idea.

"I have the original prayer flags that we got there and some people were just fascinated," Mueller said. "Then all of a sudden somebody said we should do that for our church."

"It's Buddhism so we had to kind of do our own twist on that."

The project started off a few



The congregation of Bethany, Woodstock, Ont., has been busy making prayer flags. About 60 have been made so far and the flags were displayed outside the church May 27.

months ago and more than 60 flags have already been created, with more on the way.

"We got together as a group and we made a few," Mueller said. "Then we talked about it in church and about how they are Bethany's Christian prayer flags."

The project picked up steam from there. Mueller said the flags have brought the church together and everyone is participating in the project.

"It has been really great because the whole congregation has kind of bought into the whole concept. It's a great project because mostly it's women who do those things like crafts, but now the men are helping to hang them up outside. It's something we can do then we give it over to another committee so it involves the whole church like that."

Mueller said it feels neat

having first seen prayer flags in Tibet and now seeing them in her church. Better yet, she said it's great to see how the congregation has responded to the flags.

"These prayer flags have brought a different energy into our church and it will be interesting to see what happens when they are taken out of the building."

The church put the flags outside to share them with the

community with the hope they will spread compassion throughout the community.

"It is believed that when they flutter in the wind it creates positive vibrations," Mueller said. "In Tibet, it's believed the wind reads the messages and it spreads the message all over. Everyone who is touched by the wind is getting goodwill and compassion from Bethany. It's supposed to affect the whole community because Bethany is spreading love and compassion. We have taken a Buddhist tradition and made Bethany's own version of it."

In Tibet, the prayer flags are very traditional; at Bethany Lutheran Church, not so much. Each flag is different and the congregation got to flex its creative muscles to create unique flags.

"It's amazing the creativity that has come out of our congregation," Mueller said. "Some of them are absolutely beautiful and some are drawn by young kids. Some are pieces of art and some are just beautiful with positive messages on them. Everybody loves them."

Creating God's community

By Pastor Karen Jenkins

St. Luke's, Ridgeway, Ont.

The fourth annual winter retreat for Niagara and Hamilton area youth was held in late February at First Lutheran, Port Colborne, Ont. It was a time for fun, fellowship, prayer and devotion for the 20 combined leaders and youth who gathered under the theme: Just Build It!: Creating God's Community on Earth.

The event began on Friday night and we got to know each other better by playing "ice-breakers." Pastor Julio Romero from Trinity, Fort Erie, Ont., introduced our theme by telling us about the hardships of life in his home country, El Salvador. The youth learned that much of what we take for granted in Canada, such as clean water, adequate housing and basic education is lacking

in El Salvador. They discovered how hard it is to build a community by trying to create one from a deck of cards. Then we gathered 'round for evening worship in which we blessed each other and recognized the gifts we are to each other. We ended the day by watching the movie, *The Princess Bride*, enjoying popcorn, cookies and juice, of course!

Saturday began with pancakes, bacon and sausage and then morning worship led by Pastor Karen Jenkins of St. Luke's Ridgeway, Ont. We discovered what the Bible has to share about living in community with one another. We learned that there are many scripture passages that deal with treating each other

with respect, following the 10 commandments and looking out for each other's welfare. The rest of the morning was spent drawing, cutting and pasting as we built houses, stores, recreation facilities, schools, churches and transportation stations to create our communities.

After lunch, we enjoyed a scavenger hunt that First Lutheran's pastor, Tom Arth, organized to help us get to know Port Colborne's main street better. Then we returned to our community-building project to paint the roads, bicycle paths, farmland and mountains to set off our two towns. This "ideal" community-building exercise provided valuable lessons about how God wants us to be



Youth from the Niagara and Hamilton, Ont., areas work on a community-building project to learn what God is calling us to create to serve the needs of all.

in community with each other and what God is calling us to build to serve the needs of all.

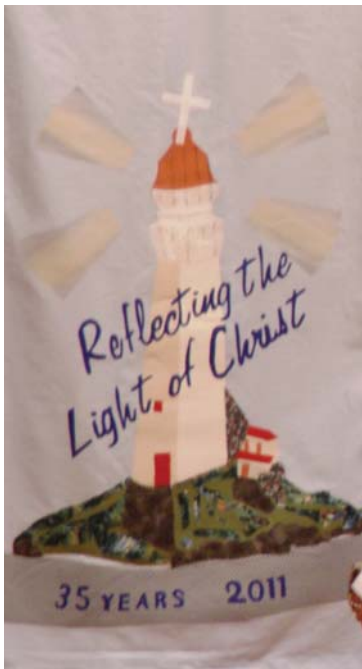
The day ended with a "make-your-own-sub" dinner and concluding worship in which we gathered around the

altar to share the Lord's Supper before bidding each other goodbye. Stay tuned for more information, as another fun and enlightening youth event is planned for early June.

Around the synod

Celebrating 35 years of ordination for women

By Eric A. Roberts
Lunenburg Parish, N.S.



Late last November, 44 ordained Anglican and Lutheran women gathered in Lunenburg, N.S., for a three-day celebration of the 35th anniversary of women's ordination in the two churches. The event theme was "Reflecting the light of Christ." Most of the women were Anglican priests, but some notable Lutherans attended as well. Pastor Vivian Roberts (Lunenburg Parish) served on the organizing committee and celebrated her 35th anniversary of ordination just four days after the event. Bishop Elaine Sauer (Manitoba/Northwestern

Ontario Synod) preached at the celebratory Eucharist held at St. John Anglican in Lunenburg. And Pastor Kimber McNabb (Resurrection, Halifax) led one of the event workshops. The group received greetings from ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson and Eastern Synod Bishop Michael Pryse. A 40th anniversary celebration is being planned for 2016 in the London, Ont., region.

Photos by Eric Roberts.

Celebrating Earth Day

By Wilma Seville
St. John's, Hamilton, Ont.

On April 22, St. John's, Hamilton, Ont., joined hundreds of congregations around the world in celebrating Earth Day – a day that inspires positive environmental action to preserve God's creation for future generations. As the elevator was out of commission, in order to conserve human energy, the service was held in the downstairs church hall – three steps instead of many. The worship theme reinforced how mankind is responsible for the care of our precious planet. Pastor Frank Bahr's sermon emphasized that we, as individuals, must be responsible to change how we treat the environment.

It was wonderful to see the children participate by reading from the Word of God. Congregational member, Emma Begert, used a "show and tell" method to deliver the children's message and it was very well done. An overhead screen presented the order of service and featured the words of the hymns and responsive readings – a welcome change which the congregation seemed to enjoy! This very interesting way of holding "church" was followed by various families demonstrating how to recycle, how to use solar energy and other worthwhile ways to become stewards of God's creation.

A light lunch was served with food purchased from local sources within a radius of 200 km. At this time of year, that was a difficult thing to do and the committee is to be commended for the excellent job they did in helping us celebrate Earth Day. Learn more about Earth Day at www.earthday.ca and more about the ELCIC's Stewardship of Creation program at elcic.ca/Stewardship/Stewardship-of-Creation/default.cfm.

Congregational Classifieds

St. James, Elmira, Ont. – Part-Time Position Available

St. James is looking for an engaging person to fill the Christian Education Coordinator position. The position requires approximately 12 hours per week. A detailed job description and compensation is available by calling the Church Office at 519-669-5591 or by emailing saintjames@golden.net. Only perspective candidates will be contacted for interviews.

St Luke's Music Jams – Rhodes Corner, Lun. Co., N.S.

A Music Jam will be held in the Church Hall, 12713 Rhodes Corner, Hwy 3 on Saturday, June 16 from 2 – 5 p.m. Come and sing, play an instrument or listen. Everyone welcome. Admission: \$2. For info, call 902-543-5871.

St. Matthew's, Rose Bay, N.S. – Special Events

The Ernst Family in Concert

Sunday, June 17 at 2:30 p.m. Freewill Offering. Proceeds to Church Paint Fund.

Strawberry Social

Wednesday, July 4 11:00 a.m – 1:00 p.m. at Riverport Community Centre. Sandwiches, sweets, strawberry desserts, bowls of fresh strawberries, beverages. Sponsored by St. Matthew's.

Blueberry Social

Wednesday, August 22 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Riverport Community Centre. Sandwiches, sweets, blueberry desserts, bowls of fresh blueberries, beverages. Sponsored by St. Matthew's.

125th Anniversary Celebration

A special celebratory service will be held for St. Matthew's 125th Anniversary on Sunday, October 21 at 2:00 p.m. More details in the next issue of *The Eastern Synod Lutheran*.

Zion, Maple, Ont. – Cemetery Memorial, Picnic & BBQ

All friends and past members are invited to our annual Cemetery Memorial Service on June 24 at 10:30 a.m. which will be followed by our annual Picnic/BBQ and a time for sharing, remembering and fun. Everyone is welcome.

Zion, Lunenburg, N.S. – 240th Anniversary

Zion is celebrating its 240th birthday! The foreign protestants who immigrated to Lunenburg founded Zion in 1772. Edmund Brownless (a participant in the annual Boxwood Festival) and Zion are collaborating on a Foreign Protestant Worship Service. Reflecting worship in 1772, in both German and English; some period instruments will be used. All are invited to join the congregation on July 29, 11:00 a.m. for this one-of-a-kind worship experience. Period dress is welcomed! Visitors to Lunenburg can also visit Zion in July and August, Monday – Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. as well as worship Sundays at 11:00 a.m. (More information about the service can be found at www.facebook.com/#!/edmundbrownless)

St. James, Normanby Twp., Ont. – Cemetery Memorial Service

The St. James Lauderbach Cemetery annual Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, August 19 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, contact Russel Pletsch at 519-327-8554 or email rpletsch@wightman.ca.

Email Congregational Classifieds to beverley@cunninghamcommunications.ca by August 1 for the Fall issue, delivered to homes in early September. Include your name and phone number.

The story continues

www.easternsynod.org

Thank you for all the submissions to *The Eastern Synod Lutheran* this month. We received many more articles than we could publish in this issue. We have posted additional congregational news on the Eastern Synod website. Visit www.easternsynod.org soon to read more stories about what's happening in congregations around the synod.

Edgewood: A steadfast mission and growing ministry

By Fred Ludolph

Executive Director, Edgewood Camp and Conference Centre

Mission and ministry are two words we encounter a great deal in the church, often in the same sentence. As we use them so often, I'll risk telling you what I think they might mean for us. Mission is discovering, living into, and sharing the gracious love of God we know through Jesus Christ. Ministry is what we do to live out that mission.

Mission never changes or ends, whereas ministries come and go, prosper and fail, grow – change – and evolve into something else. Ministries respond to needs, and then find other needs to meet. They are not permanent.

Saying this is easy, but if your church is closing, or your project ending – it takes some grace, forgiveness, letting go, and FAITH to make your way through. To help, let me share a few stories of ministries ending that were able to support a growing ministry.

ALYF (A Life - get it?) – Anglican Lutheran Youth Fellowship in Kitchener-Waterloo held a number of excellent youth events and retreats over many years, but their following dwindled and leaders moved on to other projects. ALYF ended; however, it still had funds remaining. It gave those funds to Camp Edgewood to purchase a data projector and a new sound system. Now we have new, working equipment for our own programs and for renting to retreat groups. Thank you ALYF!

In 2011, two synod congregations closed. Meadowvale, Mississauga, Ont., ended its ministry and invited Edgewood and other congregations to choose items from the church that might support their ministries. Edgewood

received coffee mugs, two coffee makers, tea towels, dish cloths and an excellent piano. After we had chosen and packed the items, congregational representative and frequent Edgewood Camp first aider, Carole Verscheuren, handed me an envelope saying, "We also wanted to give you this." It was a cheque for \$7,000, part of the congregation's remaining funds. These funds provided new ministry by supporting our common mission through the ministry of Edgewood.

St. James, Normanby Township, ended its congregational ministry in 2011. In January 2012, Edgewood Camp received a cheque made possible by the sale of items from St. James. Thank you, St. James, for your spirit of mission and ministry.

Edgewood Camp and Conference Centre has been a synod ministry since 1944. We began as a summer camp, but following the call of mission our ministry is now year-round. On a daily basis, we host public school environmental programs, Catholic school day retreats, congregational retreats, training sessions and leadership workshops for high school and community groups. Our mission has never changed, but our ministry has grown – from summer to year-round; from Lutheran to interdenominational and interfaith; from serving the Lutheran community to serving our non-profit partners, people of faith and people who have yet to discover faith. We are in mission with you, for you, and for others through ever-changing and growing ministry.

Edgewood extends sincere thanks to



High school students who use Edgewood daily enjoy the excellent piano donated by Meadowvale. The pianist is playing classical music while her friends offer a raucous chorus of a camp favourite, "Brown Squirrel"!

61 congregations who supported us with donations in 2011. Special thanks to the following congregations that gave gifts of \$1,000 or more:

- Our Saviour, Owen Sound
- Zion, Stratford
- St. James, Elmira
- St. Peter's, Kitchener
- St. John's, Waterloo
- St. James, North Easthope,
- Meadowvale, Mississauga
- St. Paul, Neustadt
- St. Ansgar, London.

We are also grateful for the ministry of volunteers: the congenial congregation of the annual men's work weekend in May; adopt a cabin congregations; summer camp nurses, chaplains, and volunteers; board and committee members; and the ever supportive community of Eden Mills.

What is Edgewood's next ministry project? A two-stage redevelopment plan. We have just received concept drawings for a new retreat centre. Accommodating 35 guests, it will offer spacious activity and dining areas, small group lounges, and it will feature money-saving environmental features. It will serve many of our existing groups and provide the kind of space and amenities that groups who currently pass us by are looking for.

How can you participate in this exciting ministry project? As an individual, you can consider making a major gift or providing security through an investment in the ELCIC's LIFE fund. As a congregation of the Toronto, Georgian Bay, London, K-W, or Hamilton/Niagara confer-

ences, you can commit to a gift of at least \$2,000 a year for the next three years through the annual Eastern Synod Lutheran Camp Appeal. That would make a combined annual gift of about \$220,000 a year! There are hands-on ways to help as well: painting, landscaping, clean up, gifts in kind or gifts of skill that can make monetary donations go further.

Edgewood is looking forward to the challenge and excitement of this new project. One day it will be completed, operating and serving our mission. What then? Mission is never complete. There will be new projects for us to undertake together as supporters of outdoor ministry.

Lutheran Student House

177 Albert St., Waterloo, Ont.

Applications for residency at the Lutheran Student House are being accepted for the 2012 spring/summer term and the 2012/2013 fall/winter term. This is a large two-story home at the corner of Albert St. and Seagram Dr. The Lutheran Student House is on the edge of WLU and three blocks from U of W.

The Lutheran Student House is a non-profit student residence ministry of Lutheran Campus Ministry where residents live in an intentional spiritual community. The cost for the summer term is \$215/month or \$860 for the term. The cost for the fall/winter term is \$430 per month or \$1,720 per term. This includes cable and high speed internet.

For more information, contact Anne Woolner
Email: annewoolner@hotmail
Tel: 519-743-2277 Or visit the website:
www.lutheransconnect.com.

Praying for others – at Queen's Park.

... continued from page 1

hope that this legislature may see justice." The intent was that these pebbles become one more stone in the foundation of compassion and fairness, a pledge to justice and a commitment to those in need, a foundation of hope in every human heart that an inclusive community

shall prevail.

In addition to Dr. Eagle and Bishop Pryse, the following faith group leaders participated: Pandit Suraj Persad, Hindu Community; Sean Hillman, Buddhist Community; Rev. Maggie Helwig, Anglican Diocese of Toronto; Jehan Bagli, Zoroastrian

Community; Rabbi Stephen Wise, Shaarei-Beth El Congregation; Rev. Jeffrey Brown, Unitarian Universalist and Imam Habeeb Alli, Canadian Council of Imams.

Lutheran Foundation distributes \$3 million

By Jeff Pym
ELFEC Secretary-Treasurer



The ELFEC Board plans to implement a Responsible Investment policy and invest in companies that make a positive contribution to society. Board members include: Back row (l-r): Rev. Dr. Mark Harris, Rev. Dr. David Pfrimmer, Susan Heard, Wendell Schlumberger and Laurie Kitchen. Front row: Bill Kuehnbaum, Dr. Janina Vanderpost and Allan Greve.

“We have distributed more than \$3.2 million to Lutheran organizations in the past four years,” Laurie Kitchen, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada (ELFEC) reported recently. At ELFEC’s Annual General Meeting on March 16, Ms Kitchen explained that the amount included grants to the Eastern Synod as well as to congregations, church camps and other institutions.

Another part of the total was paid to congregational investment partners as investment income on assets managed by ELFEC. Since 2009, the foundation has welcomed a total of six congregational partners. Ms Kitchen reported that ELFEC hopes to attract many more partners and welcomes inquiries

from congregations across the synod.

The foundation’s president also announced that as of the end of 2011, ELFEC was managing 92 distinct named funds with a total value in excess of \$11.7 million.

In other business, ELFEC members heard a presentation by Gunnela Hahn, Head of Responsible Investment for the Church of Sweden. Speaking via Skype from California, Ms. Hahn described her church’s efforts to invest in companies that make a positive contribution to society. The investment policy also screens out companies that don’t perform well on environmental, social and governance measures.

According to Hahn, Responsible Investment (RI) is compatible with good financial performance. “Some of our

funds have met market benchmarks and others have exceeded them,” she told ELFEC members. “These days, Responsible Investment has become mainstream. We have found it lowers risk and expands our ideas about what kinds of companies to invest in.”

Following the presentation, the members passed a motion asking the ELFEC board to “create and implement an appropriate RI policy that reflects our church’s commitment to compassionate justice and ethical stewardship and to provide a progress report to the members at the next Annual General Meeting.”

More information on the foundation can be found at the organization’s website, www.elfec.ca.

Report of the Treasurer

Regular Benevolence Offerings, Mar 31, 2012

	Total	Per Household
Offerings received to date in 2012	209,958	\$8.04
Offerings received last year same period	232,705	\$8.92
Change from 2011 to 2012	-10%	
Minimum Goal for 2012	1,580,500	\$60.56
Challenge Goal for 2012	1,730,500	\$66.30

Note to Congregational Treasurers: Please ensure that congregational benevolence offerings are remitted monthly. Thank you.

Pastoral opportunities

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

- Atlantic Conference:**
St. Paul’s, Trinity and St. Matthew’s, New Germany, NS
- Hamilton/Niagara Conference:**
Redeemer, Fisherville, ON
- London Conference:**
St. Peter’s and St. James, Sullivan/Williamsford, ON
St. Peter’s, Brodhagen, ON

Ottawa-St. Lawrence Conference:
Latvian Trinity Evangelical, Montreal, QC and Peace Latvian Evangelical, Ottawa, ON (Latvian-English bilingual shared call)

Toronto Conference:
Christ, Peterborough, ON

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

Ministry changes

- Rev. Tuula Van Gaasbeek**, Agricola, Toronto, ON to St. Philip’s, Etobicoke, ON
- Rev. Thomas Doherty**, TWC to Holy Cross, Newmarket, ON
- Rev. Martin Malina**, Zion Pembroke, ON to Faith, Ottawa, ON
- Rev. Vihtori Leskela**, ELCF to St. Matthew’s /St. Timothy’s, Sudbury/Copper Cliff, ON
- Ordinand Bruce Thomson** to Good Shepherd, Brockville, ON
- Ordinand Steve Hoffard** to St. Mark’s, Kingston, ON
- Rev. William Gustafson** from Northfield and District Lutheran Parish NS to retired.

Key: TWC – Temporarily without call ELCF – Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland

Interested in a new way to serve?

The Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada (ELFEC) is in the business of growing generosity. As a federally incorporated public foundation and registered charity, ELFEC works at the intersection of faith and finance.

We are looking for a few qualified and committed people to join our volunteer Board of Directors. Our goals are to deepen the Board’s technical capabilities in a few key areas, while making it better resemble the diverse communities we serve.

We would like to hear from you if you have the energy and experience to contribute to our mission.

You can learn more about ELFEC at <http://elfec.ca/>. Choose “About Us” from the main menu and then click on “Serving on the Board” for detailed information on how to put your name forward for consideration as a potential director.

The deadline for submitting expressions of interest is July 13, 2012.



Photo by Jonathan Ernst for Lutheran World Relief

Give a Penny, Save a Life

Calling all Sunday Schools, youth groups, and everyone with a fat penny jar!

Make the most “cents” of your last pennies before they go out of circulation. Donate them to CLWR for mosquito nets—one of the safest and most effective ways to prevent malaria.

\$10 is all it takes to provide a net to a family in the worst-affected areas of the world.

Every 60 seconds a child dies from malaria in Africa. Over 3 billion people are at risk.

Donate today by cheque or credit card and make your pennies count!

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Two churches in one

By Alex Consiglio

Staff writer and photographer, *The Mississauga News*
Reprinted with permission

Rev. Susan Climo of Mississauga's Peace Lutheran Church took another sip of coffee and then got "a kick in the butt from the Holy Spirit" a few weeks ago while having breakfast.

Distraught over the closing of her church in the Square One Shopping Centre, Climo says God's hand has been at

work over the last few weeks. During that time she's managed to meet her soul sister, Rev. Judith Alltree of Mississauga's Anglican Church of the Holy Spirit.

"It's not just a coincidence we met and were both in need," Climo said today at Alltree's church, where Climo's small congregation will now gather for worship.

Climo held her last service at the Square One location last Sunday. This week, her congregation had to vacate the premises so the mall could use the space to expand its food court. The Peace Lutheran congregation worshipped there for 37 years.

"I was just sipping my coffee and something told me I had to get right over to the closest

church and ask for help," said Climo, who was told the Anglican leaders of Mississauga were meeting.

When Climo crashed the party and told her story of woe, Alltree immediately stepped up and offered her church as a place of worship.

"We're really struggling with finances and our own congregation is dwindling, so when Susan told her story, I knew we'd be a good fit and be able to help each other," said Alltree, whose congregation of 70 has warmly welcomed Climo's smaller congregation of 30.

"By joining our congregations, it gives us both a boost and it's how God wanted it to happen," said Alltree, who calls the alliance a "spiritual synergy."

The two congregations will share Alltree's church, each providing a separate Sunday service while teaming up for a combined service once a month.

Steven Viera, a member of

Climo's congregation for the past three years, says this type of relationship isn't seen very often and is a testament to true Christianity.

"Some of our traditions and small details of our services may be different, but we're all worshipping the same God. Us coming together shows Christianity should not be denomination based, it should be people coming together as one," said Viera.

Viera says Alltree's Anglican congregation has been welcoming and the friendship is proof members of both groups are comprised of humble human beings striving towards the same goal — to put God first.

Climo says she's relieved to have found a new, permanent home, considering her search was going nowhere due to the high costs of rent in Mississauga.

"God is up to something really cool here and I think there's more to come," said Climo.



Pastor Susan Climo hands out communion at her first service in her new home at Mississauga's Anglican Church of the Holy Spirit.

Resources for Ministry



Evangelism in the Inventive Age

NEW!

We live in times of significant cultural change. This has created a new context for evangelism. Previous methods not only do not work, they are often counter-productive. For most Christians the issue of converting other people or sharing their faith is a troubled endeavor. Very few are in a comfortable place of natural invitation, faithful integration, and hopefulness in sharing faith. This book will create a new perspective on evangelism for the ordinary person who has extraordinary questions.

ISBN 9781451400946, \$16.50



Unlocking the Growth

NEW!

This book teaches the power of invitation. It may sound simple, but we are so caught up in our busy church lives that we have missed it.

In 2004 Michael Harvey gave up a high-flying job in London to teach church leaders to see new possibilities, using an approach that has quickly become established as **Back to Church Sunday**. Michael likes to challenge churches of all sizes to double their congregation in a day. The basics are simple: Invite your friends and become an inviting church; develop a mind-set open to what God might do; work on creating a welcoming environment; learn from mistakes; help people to know God.

ISBN 9780857211989, \$14.95



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Come Worship With Us



June 10
Pentecost 2

June 24
Pentecost 4

July 8
Pentecost 6
(Pre-taped from Feb. 5, 2012)

July 22
Pentecost 8
(Pre-taped from Feb. 19, 2012)

July 29
Pre-empted for
CTV Summer Olympics

August 12
Pre-empted for
CTV Summer Olympics

August 26
Pentecost 13 (Pre-taped from
Jan. 15, 2012)

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Trinity Village

18th Annual Charity

Golf Tournament

Tuesday, August 21, 2012
Rockway Golf Course

Tournament Format

A scramble format will be used and each team of four golfers will combine their skills for a single team score. To keep the game rolling along, once a golfer has reached double par they have to pick up the ball and move to the next hole. Individual skill tests will challenge all the golfers!

Cost: \$125

Registration & BBQ Lunch: 12:00 p.m.

For more information go to
www.trinityvillage.com